

THE VOICE of St. Matthew's

Volume 92, No. 9 - September 3, 2023

Come Visit the PRAY GROUND!

New at St. Matthew's this fall!

There is now a section of the worship space, near the east small chapel, where pew chairs have been removed and a carpet placed for flexible seating for young children during worship. It will be a place for young kids to engage in drawing, writing, blocks and other activities during the worship service, and close enough to the altar so they can see what is happening during worship. We are going to try it out beginning September 3, and adjust as the weeks go on. The purpose is to keep kids engaged and in church, allowing them to participate and be present for the liturgy. And for the parents, if the kids are engaged and content, it will allow them to be, too! If you have young children, we invite your family to try it out!



But Jesus called the little children to him and said to his followers, "Let the little children come to me. Don't stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to people who are like these little children."

Luke 18:16, International Children's Bible

Q: "But... don't we have a nursery?"

A: Yes we do! Parents are welcome to use the nursery at any time. But one of the ways children learn how to be in church is by being in church. Children experience worship with all of their senses (the rest of us do too, by the way!) Even when it looks like they are not paying perfect attention, they are picking up the sights, smells and sounds of the sanctuary. This new space means that kids can be cared for AND absorb as much of the worship service as possible.

Fall Services Times

Begin September 10
8:30 and 11:00 am
Worship Services with
Holy Communion

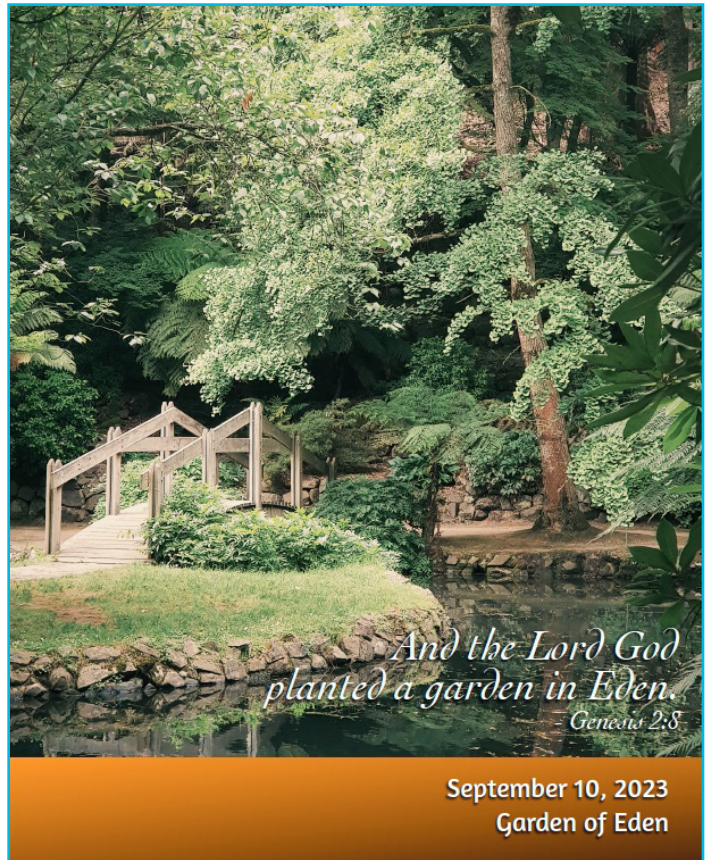
Pastor's Voice
New at St. Matthew's this Fall:
One Story in Worship
(Narrative Lectionary)

Starting this September through May, there will be only one scripture reading, and one focus for our Sunday worship and preaching. The readings will follow the biblical story, from Genesis through the patriarchs, kings and prophets in the Old Testament, to Christmas and Easter, and finish with readings from the early Church in the New Testament.

Our hope as Pastors is to help you to better know the whole story of the Bible: how our Creator God helped one group of people from its beginning, led them out of slavery, bonded with them through an unbreakable promise, helped them through wars and exile, and through a promised Savior surprised the world with love. Those who believed Jesus is Lord and Savior, became a part of a new community. They wanted to love others as Christ loved us. This is the Christian community to which we belong. And this is our sacred story. We get to hear this good news every Sunday in worship and we get to share it with others.

Each Sunday, we will focus on one story within the overall biblical story. We hope you'll better understand where in the bigger story we are each Sunday and how it connects with the other weeks. We hope your faith will be enriched as you hear the many and varied ways God has been at work in the world and in people's lives.

We will be following the Narrative Lectionary, a bible overview, designed by Luther Seminary professors in 2010. As the title conveys, the readings were selected to create more of a narrative for us to follow. It has a four



The Narrative Lectionary is a set calendar of Scripture readings that can be used in worship. In comparison to some other lectionaries, the Narrative Lectionary narrows the number of readings per Sunday (and other festival days) to one main "preaching" or focus text, instead of three to four passages. The main purpose for using the Narrative Lectionary in a congregational context is to increase biblical literacy in worshippers.

St. Matthew's Mission Statement

Called to fulfill the Great Commission, St. Matthew's Welcomes all to faith in Jesus Christ, Nurtures our faith journey, Equips us to serve others, and Sends us into the world to make a difference in Jesus' name.

The Voice of St. Matthew's

The newsletter of St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church
Karen Natterstad, Interim Lead Pastor
Ann Williams, Associate Pastor

1615 N. Wauwatosa Avenue, Wauwatosa, WI 53213
414-774-0441; E-mail: office@stmattslutheran.org
Visit our website: www.StMattsLutheran.org

Sunday worship at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

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year cycle, selecting different passages from the Old Testament and focusing on one Gospel per year. We are going to try one cycle.

Be open. That's our hope too. Worship may feel a bit different with only one reading (and no reading from a Gospel until December, and no standing for the reading either). Look for a Bible in the pew rack. We're going to invite you to open a book and follow along as the scripture is read outloud. We promise to give you the page number. Or, if you're really open to trying something new, bring your own Bible with you to worship so you can write in its margins what inspires you.

We've been hearing from many of you that you want to deepen your faith and expand your biblical knowledge. We hope following the Narrative Lectionary in worship will produce both.

On the journey with you,
Pastor Karen, Interim Lead Pastor



This Fall: BYOB (Bring your own Bible) to worship--or use one at church

Upcoming Events

**PLEASE
NOTE**

Fall Service Times

Begin September 10

8:30 and 11:00 am Worship Services
with Holy Communion

**You and your pet are invited
to a Pet Blessing with
Wauwatosa Avenue United
Methodist Church (WAUMC)
Saturday, Sept. 9th, 9:00-11:00am**



Receive a blessing with anointing for your pet from pastors of St. Matt's and WAUMC in the WAUMC courtyard on Wauwatosa Ave. Visit the St. Matt's parking lot for fellowship time with coffee and donuts. Donations accepted for the Humane Society's Pets for Life program. The Wisconsin Humane Society's Pets for Life program reaches animals and families in underserved Milwaukee neighborhoods with little to no access to pet care resources, serving the 53206 & 53205 communities. All are welcome!



In the Beginning...
**Sunday School
Starts on Rally
Day, Sept. 10th!**
*Rally Day Celebration
at 8:30 Service*

Our Rally Day theme this year is *In the Beginning*, as we begin a new year of Sunday School, confirmation, choirs, adult ed, and other programs. Not only is it back-to-Sunday-School time for 3-year-olds – 8th graders on Sunday, September 10th, but all classes will literally start “in the beginning” with lessons on the creation story; even the narrative lectionary that we’ll be using in worship focuses on part of the creation story.

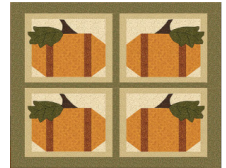
We’ll welcome in the new Sunday School year with a children’s message and skit at the 8:30 service. Following the worship service, 1st-5th graders will go to Fellowship Hall for a Big Group and all other children will go to their Sunday School classrooms. Teachers and room numbers will be listed in the bulletin on September 10th, and letters were sent to Sunday school families in late August.

If your children attended Sunday School last year, or if you are a member or a prospective member, your child will be automatically registered for Sunday School. *Read more about Sunday School on page 8.*

Kick off the 20th season of the *Stitches of Love Quilt Ministry* this Fall!

We are excited to announce the 2023-2024 season of the Stitches of Love Quilt Ministry will be our 20th year! Wonderful quilts and blankets, along with other projects have blessed so many! We invite YOU to kick off our special season this fall on **Saturday, September 16th** in Fellowship Hall. Invite a friend and come help with simple tasks during this work day scheduled from 9:00am-1:00pm. Bring your own lunch and beverage, come when your schedule allows and fellowship with others. Tasks to complete are: completing fabric bags for Allies for Teens gift distribution this Christmas, simple pinning and tying to complete quilts, inventory of quilts and sewing quilts together. All levels are welcome as there are plenty of tasks for all! Please contact Bev Etzelmueller at 262-250-3969 or bevetz@sbcglobal.net with questions.

QUILT BLITZ
Saturday, Sept. 16
9:00-1:00 pm
Fellowship Hall



Men: You're Invited to the **MEN'S BREAKFAST** on **September 23, 7:30 to 9:00am**

Enjoy a morning of good food (including bacon!), great fellowship, and an inspirational message *Meet fellow men of St. Matthew's and feel free to invite your friends! Free will offering accepted*
Speaker: Allen Ruppel

Allen Ruppel is the founder of Unity in Motion and served as the organization's Executive Director for the first 20 years.

Allen built the program from a karate class to a non-profit corporation that works with Milwaukee central city youth starting as early as K4 and supports them all the way through post-secondary education offering numerous programs and services.

Allen is also Co-Founder and President of the Unity



in Hope School System Inc. (started in 2019) operating in the poorest area of Islamabad, Pakistan. His past experience includes over 15 years as a manager at Northwestern Mutual and time in the US Navy on board a nuclear submarine.

Join us on Sept. 23 for a great breakfast and an interesting speaker.



St. Matthew's Church Business

Call Committee gains two new members *Work continues in search for new lead pastor for St. Matthew's*

It is with regret that, due to work and family obligations, Natalie Sadjak and Michael Wolaver have had to resign from the Call Committee. They both have been valuable members of the team, bringing their perspective and insight to our search for St. Matt's new lead pastor. The committee will miss them and the positive leadership and energy they brought to the team. We, as a Church Council and congregation, appreciate all their time, effort, and dedication to their commitment to finding the right candidate for our congregation and offer prayers of thanksgiving for their faithful service to the Call Committee.

I am happy to announce that Kristen Charlson and Robert Mochel have graciously agreed to join the Call Committee in its continued search. We look forward to working together as we interview and evaluate potential candidates in the coming weeks. We will continue to be tenacious and hopeful in our efforts to find the right candidate who has a blend of experience, vision and passion for ministry that meets the personality of our congregation. Please pray for the Call Committee and its search.

Diane DuBois, Council President

Call Committee: Brian Due (Chair), Nancy Bowen, Kristen Charlson, Andy Cherney, Diane DuBois, and Robert Mochel

Church Council Update

- The Council finished reading and discussing "Reclaiming the 'L' Word" led by Pastor Ann. It was an enlightening read about our identity and calling as Lutherans.
- The staff and council met together in July and learned more about the staff's goals, challenges, and successes in ministry and to better understand how we contribute to the mission and vision of St. Matthew's.
- The council continues to examine the 2020 visioning goals and wants to hear your opinion! Stay tuned for a chance to share your thoughts on St. Matthew's!

Carly Crave, Council Secretary

St. Matthew's Church Council: Diane DuBois, Carl Johnson, Fred Heim, Michael Wolaver, Laura Hyland, Carly Crave, Pam Stokke-Ceci.

OFH Run Ride Walk is September 30 Help us to raise \$10,000 from St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Join Team OFH for our 16th annual Family Ride Run Walk fundraiser: A morning of road and trail bike ride, walking and running routes, followed by a picnic lunch and fellowship. Together, we hope to raise \$160K for grants to our Ministry Partners serving neighborhoods experiencing material poverty in the Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA! St. Matthew's raised about \$7,000 last year; this year our goal is \$10,000! Can you help us reach it?

On Saturday, September 30, Ride Run Walk participants and volunteers will gather at four different event sites across southeast Wisconsin. (You will select your event site as part of registration.)

Registration closes Monday 9/25 @ 11:59 pm! After this deadline, we can't guarantee that you will get a box lunch or t-shirt at the event. Register by 9/8 at noon to get your church's team name on the back of your shirt.

FOUR SITE OPTIONS:

Each site offers a road and/or trail bike ride unless otherwise noted, a 5K fun run, 2-mile walk, and fellowship-only participant and volunteer options.

- Dousman: Meets at Cory Municipal Park
- Grafton: Meets at Grace Lutheran Church, Grafton
- Kenosha: Meets at Petrifying Springs Park
- Milwaukee: Meets at Washington Park
no bike rides

Pay-what-you-can registration includes a free event t-shirt, picnic lunch, and access to our online fundraising platform.

St. Matthew's participation we know of so far:

Julia Murphy will be in Grafton on her bike. Carl Johnson will be running at Washington Park. Beth Schulz and a group will be walking at Washington Park. You are welcome to join them! Gretchen Hauge is the site manager for the Washington Park location.

Hope you can join us to help raise \$10,000 for OFH!

Are you going through a difficult time?

Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who listen, care, encourage and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are going through a tough time. The challenge can be big or small...the care you'll receive is confidential, free and very helpful. Talk to Pastor Ann or Sue Swing for more information.



Thanks to Beth Schulz for serving as St. Matthew's OFH Ride Run Walk Ambassador!



Scan me!



Adult Education

It's time to start reading for St. Matthew's First Fridays Book Discussion Group!

You decide which books you wish to read for the discussions you wish to participate in

Friday, Oct. 6 [A Prayer for Owen Meany](#) by John Irving, 627 pages

Friday, Nov. 3 [That Good Night: Life and Medicine in the Eleventh Hour](#) by Sunita Puri, 301 pages

Friday, Dec. 1 [American Dirt: A Novel](#), by Jeanine Cummins, 386 pages

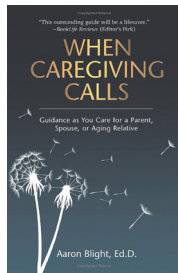
Discussions begin at 7pm on the dates listed.

Questions? Contact Fred Heim, book group facilitator. Church office staff can provide contact information if needed.

Caregiver Discussion Group

**Tuesday Evenings - October 3, 17, 31 & Nov. 14
7:00-8:15 P.M.**

If you're involved in caregiving, the chances are high that your life will be changed by the experience. Maybe you're finding yourself emotional or stressed out. Or, the caregiving may be overwhelming your relationship with your loved one. If you are looking for a place to share and be supported please come to this newly created Caregiver Discussion Group. Our discussion will be focused on material from the book, *When Caregiving Calls* by Aaron Blight. The chapters are very short with topics such as Relationship, Family, Time, Stress, Emotions and Faith. The purpose of this group is to listen and affirm one another in the joys and challenges of our unique caregiving journeys. To learn more please contact Sue Swing; sueswing@sbcglobal.net



An ongoing group with an open welcome:

Living After Loss: Grief Education and Support
Mondays from 1:00-2:30 at St. Matthew's
Contact Candy Romano 414-687-2196

Coming in October

Sunday Morning Women's
Group Returns on October 1st!

New Member Classes Begin
Sunday, October 8th!



Adult Faith Formation - Sunday Mornings 9:45-10:45

All are Welcome! Come when you can!

Our Adult Faith Formation hour supports the faith growth of our church and on line community. This is a weekly opportunity to engage your mind in faith related topics, meet others with similar interests and connect with your church community. We gather on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45 A.M. September-May. The goals of our program are to:

- Increase Biblical Literacy
- Educate on religious matters
- Provide practical advice on daily Christian life

We are always looking for new ideas to share and potential speakers. Please contact Sue Swing; sueswing@sbcglobal.net with your suggestions.

September 10

The Narrative Lectionary

Pastor Karen will describe what this is, and why we are now using it on Sundays during worship. "We get to hear this good news every Sunday in worship and we get to share it with others." (see pastor's Voice, pg 2)

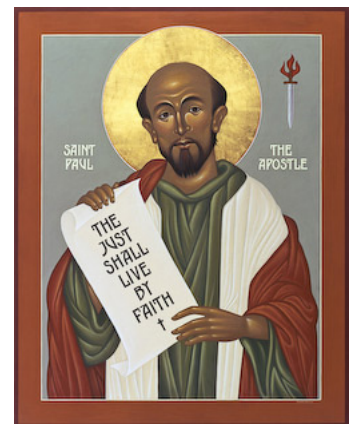
September 17

To be announced

September 24

Meeting Paul Anew with Dan Bice

In recent years, Paul has been accused of being a misogynist, a homophobe, an anti-Semite, a prude and an apologist for slavery. But many of these allegations are based on a misunderstanding of which books in the New Testament were actually written by Paul. This is the first of a series of classes taught by Dan Bice this year on Paul, who along with Jesus founded Christianity. After the adult education forum, there will be a meeting for those interested in traveling with Dan to Greece, Turkey and Rome in the spring to follow the footsteps of Paul.



(See page 11 for information on how you can be part of this trip!)

Why Music?

Music has been a part of the lives of human beings throughout history and in cultures all over the world. It has been used by people to express things that defy simple definition and to transcend more common methods of communication. As infants, lullabies sooth us to sleep. As children, our play is alive with simple story songs and rhymes. As adults we sing about our history and legends; our loves and dreams. Music and rhythm wind around and through our lives adding depth and enriching our experiences. God put this desire and ability in us and commands us to use it when we worship.

You're Invited! Contact John at Church with any questions. Visit the SMLC Music Web site for all the detailed information and schedules. <https://www.stmattslutheran.org/music-ministry>



For Children

How Music Helps Children Grow

St. Matthew's Music Ministry is dedicated to the fundamental skills-based disciplines of musical training. Jeff Reeves, Amy Dankwardt, Heide Hughes, Dara Greene, and John Paradowski work with our young children. Singing does so much!



Singing provides an emotional release for children.

It develops their sense of security and provides a way to express feelings that they might not be able to verbalize. When children sing spontaneously and invent their own songs, it inspires imagination.

Singing encourages language development.

The development of communication and language is at the heart of children's learning. Singing encourages communication and increases vocabulary. Songs have very clear articulation and develop awareness of rhyme and meter.

Singing provides the best foundation for children's musical development.

When children sing songs by ear, they are building musical memory. Later, as children learn to read and write music, singing helps to develop the musical ear. Through singing, children learn to hear the pitch before singing it and understand its relation to those around it.

Singing in choirs fosters musical artistry and develops a sense of community.

Choirs help to shape children's aesthetic sensitivity. They take pride in their accomplishment together—and form lasting relationships with other children.

Come Join us to Sing

Praise Kids!

starts Thursday, September 28 at 4:00 to 4:50

This group helps to teach our youngest about God, the Church and family through musical games, activities, learning time and singing.

New Creation Choir

starts Wednesday, September 27 at 5:45 to 6:30

For grades 3-6 the New Creation Choir sings God's praises.

New Generation Choir

starts Wednesday, October 4 at 6:30 to 7:00

For 7th through 12th grades the New Generation Choir is a great opportunity for our youth to share their voices.

Come Join us to Ring

Godsbells

starts Wednesday, September 27 at 6:30 to 7:00

For 3rd through 6th grade this ensemble offers a great way to meet new friends, serve your church, and have fun learning about music and how to ring chimes and handbells.

Righteous Ringers

starts Tuesday, October 17 at 7:00 to 7:50

This is the experienced handbell choir for the older youth, 7th through 12th grades.

Join the Senior Choir! Now under new leadership

Senior Choir resumes August 31 at 7:15 with Dr. Alexa Doebele. We welcome Alexa who will be joining us as our Interim Senior Choir Director this Fall.

Dr. Doebele is a professor of music and director of choral activities at Concordia University in Mequon. She conducts 3 choirs, in addition to teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in music education, conducting, and choral literature. Dr. Doebele is a member of Kingo Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Shorewood. We are most happy she will be sharing her faith and music with the singers and congregation.

"Greetings, past, current, and future Senior Choir members! By now you've likely heard that I will be serving St. Matthew's as the Interim Senior Choir Director. I am looking forward to meeting you all! Whether you have been singing with the Senior Choir in recent years, or you sang with the choir many years ago and haven't since, or you've never sung with the choir before, I invite you to join us." Alexa



What are the EmbELLishments? Could I do that?

You've seen them in ringing action and are you thinking, "I want to try that." We have the chance for you to give it a ring. The Tuesday morning handbell choir, The EmbELLishments, always welcomes new ringers. Have you ever wanted to give it a try? This is your chance. This handbell choir meets every Tuesday at 9:30-10:15, starting September 26. We have fun as we learn new music and the techniques of handbell ringing. Contact John if you have any ringing questions.

A Final Note:

One of the most wonderful rewards of being part of a musical ensemble is the opportunity to create something more beautiful than any one musician could create alone. When you contribute your talents to the musical and spiritual life of the church, you help enrich our collective congregation and nurture the spirit of all. We invite everyone to come and sing praises to our Lord this Fall Season.

We look forward to seeing many of you join in all the activity of serving our Lord and giving thanks through God's gift of music.

If you have any questions, please contact the music staff:
John Paradowski, JRPmuzik@yahoo.net
Jeff Reeves, JReeveswk@yahoo.com
Dr. Alexa Doebele, treblemakr@gmail.com



Come Join us to Ring

The Embellishments starts Tuesday, September 26 at 9:30 to 10:15

The Tuesday morning handbell choir is always looking for new ringers to join the handbell fun. No experience needed!

Bells Angels starts Thursday, August 31 at **NEW TIME** from 6:00 to 7:15

If you have musical experience and are willing to learn the handbell world fast, speak to John.

Come Join us to Sing

Senior Choir meets each Thursday, beginning August 31, at **NEW TIME** from 7:15 to 8:45

It is never too late to join the singing; all vocal parts are welcome!



Sunday School begins Rally Day, September 10

Sunday School FAQ's

With the Sunday School year beginning, we thought we'd address some of the frequently asked questions that families often have as Sunday School gets underway. If you have a question that's not on the FAQ list, please contact Gretchen Hauge (ghauge@me.com).

When and for Whom? Sunday School runs from September 10th through May 19th. Sunday School begins at 9:45 ends at 10:45. We have Sunday School classes for 3-year-olds (as of Sept. 1, 2023) through 8th graders.

How will I know what class my child is in? Letters with Sunday school details will be sent to families by the first week of September. Teachers and room numbers will also be listed in the bulletin on September 10th.

Do I need to register for Sunday School? If your child attended Sunday School last year, or if you are a member, your child will be automatically registered for Sunday School. If you're not a member of St. Matthew's but would like your child to attend Sunday School, call the church office or sign up at this link:

Why should I send my child to Sunday School? Aside from learning Bible stories in an interactive and developmentally appropriate way, children get to know others from St. Matthew's, helping to connect them to God's family.

Can I help with Sunday School? Yes! Periodically we need help with snacks, crafts, or other projects. We also need substitute teachers on an occasional basis. If you would like to volunteer, contact Lynne Thomas (lynne@stmattslutheran.org) or Gretchen Hauge (ghauge@me.com)



Attention Parents! (and parents-to-be)

There is a baptism Class coming up, Sept. 24

These classes will be offered about four times per year and taught by one of the pastors. The purpose of the class will be to:

- learn about the theology behind this sacrament
- be prepared for the commitment made during the baptism itself
- know how to make baptism part of your family life at home
- ask questions about god parents, scheduling the date and other details
- meet other parents who are raising children in the church

If you want to have your child baptized or if you are expecting a child, mark your calendar!

Sept. 24th 2023
January 14th 2024
April 7th 2024

Baptismal Anniversaries for September

During baptism, the congregation makes a promise to pray for those baptized. To help us to offer prayers in a more intentional way, we list some of those baptized in September at St. Matthew's for the last few years.

August Clark Due	September 11, 2022
Tori Giselle Thomas	September 26, 2020
Amelia Cathleen Bush	September 27, 2020
Ainsley Rae Neve	September 15, 2019
Sloane Kaye Leto	September 29, 2019
Yara Reese Tanem	September 25, 2016

Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. John 3:5



Youth

St. Matt's Youth, would you like to earn money and help people?

St. Matthew's Youth Services Directory now being updated

Youth, now is your chance to be listed in this directory that members of the congregation use to find youth to perform the following types of services. You and the person needing help negotiate the pay to be earned.

Pet Care
Yard Work
Raking
Snow shoveling
Child Care - babysitting

NEW:

Sign up online at this link:
<https://bit.ly/3xYhVln-YouthDirectory>

Be part of the Youth Services Directory!

Scan me!



Deadline for sign-up is September 30, 2023.
 Directory available in mid-October.

Privacy protections: This directory is given out by digitally by .pdf to members only, and we ask members to keep our youth's personal information protected. If you wish to pass along a youth's information to friends and others outside of our congregation, please ask their permission first.



Coming on October 8th: Sunday Morning High School Youth Group!

All high school students are welcome and encouraged to come to the Youth Room on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45 starting **Sunday, October 8th** for games, conversation, service projects, and food. This is a great and fun way to stay connected to other kids at St. Matt's!



Confirmation for 7th & 8th Grades Begins on September 13th

Confirmation classes for 7th and 8th graders will take place on Wednesday nights from 7:00 – 8:15 beginning on September 13th. Parents are asked to attend this first class on September 13th, which will include an orientation. Classes will continue through Lent and end on April 10th.

As usual, our confirmation program includes big group lessons followed by small group time, with fellowship or service nights happening periodically. If your child is an 8th grader who did not participate in confirmation last year, they are welcome to participate this year, but we ask that you let us know before September 13th by contacting Pastor Karen or Gretchen Hauge or by calling the church office.

9th Grade Confirmation Starts on Wednesday, September 27th

Confirmation for 9th graders who have completed 7th and 8th grade confirmation classes will happen on Wednesday nights from 7:00 – 8:15 from September 27th through November 8th. The classes will focus on what it means to be a person of faith by looking at the five promises that are made by parents and sponsors at baptism and affirmed by each confirmand at the confirmation service:

- To live among God's faithful people
- To hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper
- To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed
- To serve all people following the example of Jesus
- To strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

The 9th grade class will be confirmed at a service on Sunday, November 12th at 1:30 in the afternoon. (If you are a 9th grader who has not participated in confirmation previously, but you are interested in being part of our confirmation program, please talk to either of the pastors, or Gretchen Hauge, or contact the church office).



SAINTS

St. Matthew's Saints Older Adult Ministry- Join us each month this fall! Haven't come before? All are welcome

**Wednesday, September 20
"Planning Your Care in Later Life"**

Andy Bethke, a Milwaukee County Social Worker with the Aging and Disability Resource Center Learn about Medicare, Medicaid and other benefits, Advance directives, funeral planning and other life organizing, home safety and housing, long term care, help at home and getting help somewhere else. So much to know! And how Milwaukee County can help you!

**Wednesday, October 18
"Mystery Program" ☺**

**Wednesday , November 15
"Music That Makes Us Smile"
with Greg Jenks**

We all know that music has the power to affect our emotional experiences and during these divisive times that we find ourselves, what better way to forget about all of that than to listen to music that makes us feel good. This presentation will sample a number of different songs via video guaranteed to put a smile on your face. We'll discuss the bands and artists that recorded the uplifting tunes while also spending a little time discussing the chemical processes in the brain that produce those positive responses.

**Wednesday, December 13
(one week earlier than usual)
Elm Grove Women's Club Choir,
directed by Pat Engelhardt**

The choir sings beautiful arrangements of traditional carols and some fun new carols.

Sign Up at the Welcome Center or in the church office. Box lunches are ordered from City Market; suggested donation is \$11 each.

VBS Food Donations Appreciated! Ongoing Donations are Needed

Thank you to everyone who donated to the VBS food drive! The food was taken to Tosa Cares Food Pantry, which is located in Mt. Zion Lutheran Church and serves people from Tosa and surrounding neighborhoods. The staff at Tosa Cares was especially grateful for this infusion of healthy food as the number of people needing support continues to rise.



In fact, since 2019-2020, they've nearly doubled the number of families they serve to a total of over 300 families every seven weeks. At the same time, expenses have climbed significantly, forcing them to tap into reserves and cut back on what they provide for families. So your donations are more important now than ever!

Tosa Cares is also looking for volunteers, especially routine volunteers who can help 1-2 times a month. (Weekday and weekend opportunities). Intermittent volunteers are welcome too. If you have questions about Tosa Cares or are interested in volunteering, please contact St. Matthew's member and Tosa Cares Volunteer Coordinator Kristin Hanson at krumbiegelhanson@gmail.com.

Just a reminder that you can bring healthy non-perishable food each and every Sunday to the food collection area under the coat rack across from the office. Donations will be split between the Tosa Cares and Cross Lutheran's Food Pantry, which is also experiencing increased need. Food will be delivered to the pantries about once a month to be used on scheduled food distribution dates.



Drew Burgoyne, Chief Meteorologist at CBS58-TV, gave an exciting presentation about weather in Wisconsin at the August Saints gathering. Behind him on the table is the result of an experiment he performed, one of two dramatic events that day. More than 50 people attended, including many children.

L'Arche Community Update

Sense of community grows through monthly meetings focused on acceptance and each person's unique value

The group currently known as "Friends Focused on Forming Community" has been making big strides in its journey towards becoming a L'Arche Community in Milwaukee. St. Matthew's church has played a vital role in this development by contributing space for our monthly gatherings as well as unwavering support. Each month we are blessed by the presence of one or more members of St. Matt's who take time to explore some of the deeper meanings of community as we continue to grow.

L'Arche International recently released its new charter, a map guiding the Federation toward the future. Please consider this statement from the charter.

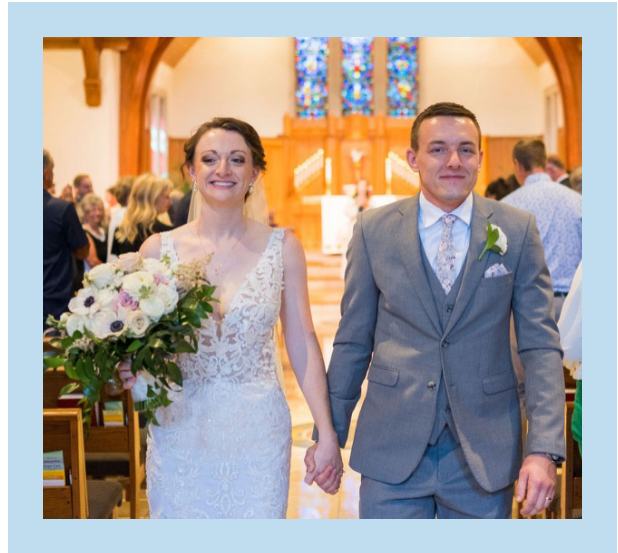
Our guiding insight: Mutual relationships among people with and without intellectual disabilities transform us by revealing the unique value of every person. This experience is a sign in the world that all belong.

Next time you encounter a person with an intellectual disability at church, at the grocery store, or out in the community, take a moment to reflect on what this person brings to our world.

God created each of us, in this time and place, with our weaknesses and gifts, for a reason. God did not make mistakes.

We meet the third Sunday of the month from 3:30-4:30pm at St. Matthew's to deepen our understanding of this concept by sharing life, stories, prayer, and joy. All are welcome.

For more information call Julia Murphy, 414-453-9367.



Congratulations and God's blessings to Laura Crave and Aaron Staats, who were married on July 28, with Pastor Ann as the officiant.

Bulletin Board

Upcoming Healing Prayer Opportunities:

Sunday, September 17 after the 8:30 worship service

Sunday, October 22 during the 11:00 worship service

Sunday, November 12 after the 11:00 worship service

All those desiring private healing prayers for themselves or others are welcome to attend.

For the Caregiver: Dementia Education Workshops

offered by Lutheran Home & Harwood Place. You will learn about:

- Dementia and the differences in types and stages
- Techniques to interact with someone
- Communication
- Caregiver struggles and taking care of yourself

Thursday, September 21, 5:30-7:30pm

Tuesday, October 17, 5:30-7:30pm

Location is The Elaine's Hope Community Room, at 76th and North Avenue. Enter the 76th St. parking lot just north of North Avenue. Proceed east to Elaine's Hope Circle drive. RSVP to Stephanie Leanes, Director of Caregiver Support at 414-258-6171, ext. 726.

Follow in the footsteps of St. Paul during a 10- to 11-day journey to the Mediterranean with fellow Lutherans in April 2024. Among the cities to be visited will be Athens, Corinth, Ephesus and Heraklion, and there will be a three-day cruise to Mykonos, Santorini and Patmos. One of our adult educators, Dan Bice, will lead the trip, which will be organized by AMI Travel as well as local guides. The trip has room for 25 individuals. If you or someone you know might be interested in going, please contact Dan at daniel.m.bice@gmail.com or at (414) 313-6684. Or, meet with Dan after the September 24th adult faith formation class.



Attendees at a monthly gathering. This image was submitted to L'Arche USA along with our application to begin the Reflection Stage of our development.



St. Matthew's

Ev. Lutheran Church † ELCA
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin
www.stmattslutheran.org

PERIODICALS RATE

Mail Carrier: Please deliver by September 2, 2023.

The Voice of St. Matthew's

We are called to welcome, nurture, equip and send

Next issue of the VOICE is dated October 1, 2023.

Vacation Bible School 2023 "Mending God's World"

It was an exciting week of learning how to mend God's world, and daily themes were taught and caught by singing, skits, crafts, games and stories. Our teachers and helpers are crucial to the annual success of this program! Thank you, to those who volunteered one day, or all week, to give the 120+ children a memorable week. Go in peace - Serve the Lord!

