

Welcome to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

February 18, 2024



Welcome to worship We worship as we live — in the name, and under the guidance, of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are now beginning the season of Lent. May we listen for Jesus' voice, rest in his care and share his love with others.

Holy Communion: All are welcome to come forward at the time of communion to receive God's gift of grace. Gluten free wafers as well as juice are available for those with specific dietary needs. Juice is available as an alternative to wine, in the center of each communion tray. Speak to an usher if you need assistance coming forward.

A large-print bulletin is available from an usher. If it's helpful to you or someone you are worshiping with, please take one.

Name Tag Sunday today: Please put on a name tag this morning so that we may become better acquainted with each other.

Flowers at the altar are given by Dale & Dollie Kirchner in honor of Mark & Anjeni Kirchner's wedding anniversary.

Children receiving their First Communion today: These children learned about the sacrament of Holy Communion at a class last month. We welcome them to the Lord's table today along with their families.

8:30 Service: Zoey McCullough 11:00 service: Archer Ordonez and Naomi Gordon

Guest Preacher Today: We are pleased to welcome Pastor Marilyn Miller as our guest preacher. Pastor Marilyn served at our partner congregation, Reformation Lutheran Church in Milwaukee, as well as leading the MICA group, working for justice. She is co-director of Leading for Racial Equity, LLC, making use of her gifts of leadership and teaching, to lead workshops and training sessions, working with organizations to address their journey toward greater racial equity. Please make her feel welcome.

Greetings from Our New Pastor, The Rev. Kevin Kretzmann Farrar:

Hello, St. Matthew's! I am overjoyed to be called to be your new lead pastor! I start on February 28. I've had the pleasure of meeting some of you already and look forward to getting to know all of you. Not only do I look forward to joining St. Matthew's as a pastor but also as a parent. I am excited to raise my daughter, Zoë, and our second child (due in May) in such a faithful, supportive church. I cannot wait to join your community! -Pr. Kevin

Guest Preacher Next Sunday: We welcome back The Rev. Frank Janzow next Sunday, February 25 at both the 8:30 and 11:00 am services. His visits, which often include guitar playing and singing, and his meaningful sermons, have been welcomed by many.

Bulletin Insert for Sunday, February 18, 2024

Sunday Morning Adult Faith Formation in the next few weeks:

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.

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What Happened to Monks and Nuns After the Reformation? With David Zersen

Travel together to monasteries and nunneries where Lutheran spirituality still exists in creative ways.

A Special Series: The Israel-Hamas war: Understanding the ongoing crisis

On Oct. 7, members of the terrorist group Hamas launched a surprise attack on Israel, killing 1,200 people and kidnapping 200 others. In retaliation, Israeli forces have laid siege to Gaza, where the death toll has now reached 28,000.

What are we to make of all this? At the center of the hostilities are issues of land, millenniums of history and two Abrahamic faiths. Beginning Feb. 25, St. Matthew's will hold three adult forums with religious leaders from our community to provide perspective and background on the conflict:

Feb 25: The ancient roots of the current hostilities

March 3: A Muslim perspective on the Israel-Hamas war

March 17: A Jewish perspective on the Israel-Hamas war

February & March KFC & DOC dates: Join Us for Children's Ministry!

Parents of children in grades 1-5, consider bringing your child for Children's Ministry gatherings. (See the dates below) We will gather for an afternoon of fellowship and fun. Join us for pizza and a game of Capture the Flag. Please bring \$5/child for lunch.

Disciples of Christ (4th & 5th grades) Sunday, March 10, 12:00-2:00 pm

Kids for Christ (1st-3rd grades) Sunday, March 3, 12:00-2pm

Midweek Evening Adult Bible Study--Wednesdays 6pm-7pm

For inquiring and spiritual minds, stop by for a midweek session of "God Talk." Adults of all ages, genders, couples, singles all are welcome as we journey through the bible with a new topic and scripture each week. ELCA materials are a starting point. Come for the snacks, stay for the theology!

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

This is the first and greatest commandment." - Jesus

"Be excellent to each other." - Bill Preston, Esquire; Ted Theodore Logan

Women's Retreat planned March 8-10 at Cedar Valley Retreat Center. A registration flyer is at the Welcome Center, or, contact Sue Swing; sueswing@sbcglobal.net for more info. Sign up now, as there is limited space available. There's also a Saturday-only option for attending. Guest presenter for the weekend is Danette Braun of Abundance Life Coaching.

Lenten Wednesdays begin this week! Join your St. Matthew's family on Wednesday evenings, February 21 – March 20

Morning:

10:00-11:00 am Bible Study with Pastor Ann Williams



Evening:

5:15-6:15 pm Dinner in Fellowship Hall to benefit the Youth Mission Trip
6:15-7:00 pm Family Lenten Time for parents & children with Donna Manke
6:00-7:00 pm Bible Study for adults (*see description on reverse side*)
5:45-6:30 pm New Creation Choir
6:30-7:00 pm New Generation Choir
7:15 pm Midweek Lenten Taizé Service (30 min.)

Lenten Dinners Begin February 21st *Fundraiser for Youth Mission Trip to New Orleans*
Dinner will be served by Mission Trip youth each Wednesday in Lent (February 21st – March 20th) from 5:15 to 6:15 - perfect timing if you are attending the Lenten Family Time, the Adult Bible Study, kids and youth choirs, and the mid-week Lenten service. Suggested donation for the dinner is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children aged 3-10.

Here are three great reasons to join us:

1. Enjoy a healthy, delicious meal without cooking or cleaning up.
2. Spend time in fellowship with St. Matthew's family.
3. Support the Youth Mission Trip to New Orleans.

Menus for each week are:

February 21st: Ravioli Bake, salad, bread
February 28th: Tacos, fruit, vegetables and dip
March 6th: Breakfast! – Breakfast burritos, fruit, sausage, French toast sticks, fruit
March 13th: Baked Potato Bar, salad, fruit
March 20th: Chili, corn bread, fruit, veggies & dip

Parents and Younger Children, Come Join Us on Wednesday nights!

Lenten Family Time, Wednesday evenings, 6:15 - 7:00 p.m.

February 21 - March 20, 2024 -- There are stories, songs, projects, prayer and brief worship, led by Donna Gardner Manke. Children 3rd grade and younger are encouraged to attend with their parents. It's going to be fun. Come join us!

Check out the Lenten Table in the Upper Commons for a free Lenten devotional book for our forty-day journey to the cross and other materials to help you observe this holy season.

Outreach for Hope Lenten Devotions Available beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 14: "Bridges of Hope: Reflections on the Power of Partnership" is the theme of the stories of thriving partnership in congregations and ministries across our synod, by our Ministry partners, supporters and staff. Look for the devotions on their website:

outreachforhope.org/Lenten-devotions

First Fridays Book Group Discussion

We meet on the first Friday of each month for a discussion, beginning at 7:00 pm in the Upper Room at church. You can come just for the books you choose to read with us! Or come to all of them. You're sure to enjoy the discussion.

March 1 *Rules of Civility*, by Amor Towles, 335 pages

April 5 *Janesville: An American Story*, by Amy Goldstein, 351 pages

May 3 *The Sweetness of Forgetting* by Kristin Harmel, 367 pages

June 7 *Remarkably Bright Creatures: A Novel* by Shelby Van Pelt, 360 pages

Lutheran Campus Ministry offers a SUDS and SONGS Fundraiser, a hymn sing led by local church musicians, with classic Wisconsin food and homebrewed root beer and beer. It will be held at Lake Park Lutheran Church, 2647 N. Stowell Ave. in Milwaukee on Friday, February 23 from 6:00-8:30 pm Tickets are \$25, suggested donations. Buy tickets at LCM-IN-MKE.org Come join a fun evening for a great cause.

A Need for Child Care: Jenni Reinke, daughter of Fred and Rita Reinke, is seeking in-home daycare for 6 month old baby girl, 3 days a week about 20-24 hours total....days and hours flexible. Another option would be a Nanny for both the 6 month old and her 2 year old big sister...15-18 hours per week, days and hours flexible. Please contact Jenni Reinke if you can offer resources or suggestions. jenni.reinke@gmail.com or 414-793-5879 and feel free to leave a message.

Thank you to our Assistants for worship services today!

(It's possible some of these people have switched dates since the bulletin was printed on Thursday morning. "Open" means this spot was not filled when bulletin was printed.)

Volunteer Host: Ruth Kallio-Mielke.

Acolytes: (8:30) Isabella Rizzo. (11:00) Claire Foley, Hannah Malloy.

Coffee Hosts: Susan Bisswurm, Sue Swing.

Communion Preparers: (8:30) Robin Bloczynski, Nancy Bowen. (11:00) Rosalind Rouse.

Communion Assistants: (8:30) Karla Baiert, Jen Richter. (11:00) Robin Grady.

Greeters: (8:30) Tyler Goeckermann, Dollie Kirchner, Marian Benz. (11:00) Ethan Antczak, Debra & Allan Land, Judith Holmes.

Lay Readers: (8:30) Bill Richter. (11:00) Darla Hium.

Ushers: (8:30) Dan Gordon, Mary Ann Gordon, Claudia & Dale Renaud, Flash Gordon (*captain*) (11:00) Lila Thomas, Steve Mielke.

Lay Assistant: (8:30) Joanne Ziarek.

Welcome Center Host: (8:30) Diann Lebow.

Library Assistant: Betsy Daniels.

Stephen Minister: *open*.

Worship Technology: (8:30) Michael Knutson, David Locher. (9:45) Dave McCullough. (11:00) Stephen Skaife, Brian Smith.