

Welcome to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

March 3, 2024



LENT

Welcome to worship We worship as we live — in the name, and under the guidance, of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. As we journey through 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.

Altar flowers are given by the staff of St. Matthew's in welcome to Pastor Kevin Kretzmann Farrar.

Welcome, Pastor Kevin! Today is Pastor Kevin Kretzmann Farrar's first Sunday as lead pastor of St. Matthew's. We are excited to get to know him, and he looks forward to getting to know you.

Are you gluten free? Come to today's meeting about Communion distribution for people who are gluten free. What are we doing that works? What could be better? What might your suggestions be? This meeting will be held today, March 3, at 9:45 am in the Conference Room. We want to be certain we are welcoming all to communion and meeting everyone's safety and health needs.

Name Tags: To help Pastor Kevin learn people's names, we will offer name tags each week. It will be a great help to him in connecting names and faces as he begins his ministry here.

Women's Group meets today at 9:45 am in the Youth Room. The theme will be "retreat," what retreats mean and different ways to experience them in our busy lives.

Caregiver Group The next gathering of the Caregivers Group will be Tuesday, March 5th from 6:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M. Join us for a little learning, listening, laughter and lots of support! All are welcome!

Deborah Circle will be meeting on Tuesday, March 12 at 12:30 pm in the Upper Room at church.

Daylight Saving Time begins next weekend. Turn your clocks ahead next Saturday evening, March 9, before going to bed so that you can arrive for church on time next Sunday morning.

Bulletin Insert for Sunday, March 3, 2024

Sunday Morning Adult Faith Formation in the next few weeks:

All are Welcome. Come when you can! We gather Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45 A.M.

The 2nd of three sessions is offered today

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:

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

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

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

Sign-up in advance appreciated through church office, office@stmattslutheran.org

Saints Gathering for March: "Bach's Birthday Bash" Concert!

Wednesday, March 20 beginning at 11:15 am in the Upper Commons/Sanctuary Internationally renowned organist Curt Sather will perform great works of Johann Sebastian Bach. Curt, who calls Bach the greatest composer for the organ, said, "There is something so, so religious, so spiritual about it that has always connected with me more than any other composer." Bach was "divinely inspired," he said. Rumor has it the St. Matthew's Organist, whom you may know, will be joining in the recital performing movements of Bach's Brandenburg Concertos transcribed for Organ and Piano. Invite your friends as this concert is free to the public and all are welcome to enjoy the great music of Johann Sebastian Bach. Sign up at the Welcome Center or in the church office so that we may know your luncheon choice (Vegetable Stack, Cranberry Turkey, or Black Forest Ham box lunch, suggested donation \$12 each). All are welcome! You don't need to be a "Saint" to attend this special concert.

Middle School Game Day, March 17th, 12:00-2:00

If you're in middle school, it's your lucky day! There will be games, pizza, and maybe even a surprise at the end of the rainbow! We'll start at noon with lunch and end the fun at 2:00. Please bring \$5 for pizza.

YTD Financial Results as of:	02/25/24
General Fund Receipts	\$144,665
General Fund Budget (total monthly)	\$178,626
Over/(Under) Budget	(\$33,961)
Benevolence Disbursements	\$20,881
Building Fund Balance	\$177,586

Join your St. Matthew's family on Wednesdays, March 6, 13 and 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
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 each Wednesday night *Fundraiser for Youth Mission Trip to New Orleans*
Dinner will be served by Mission Trip youth from 5:15 to 6:15. Suggested donation for the dinner is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children aged 3-10. Enjoy a healthy, delicious meal without cooking or cleaning up. Menus for each week are:

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

Midweek Evening Adult Bible Study--Wednesdays 6pm-7pm, Upper Room

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

Parents and Younger Children, Come Join Us on Wednesday nights for Lenten Family Time, Wednesday evenings, 6:15 - 7:00 p.m. March 6, 13 and 20 -- 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. Come join us!

Easter Flowers! Help beautify the church for Easter Sunday, March 31. Pick up an order form at the Welcome Center or across from the church office, fill it out and turn it in with your payment either in the offering plate or in the church office. OR order online on our website home page and pay through our giving page. Help us to fill the front of the church with flowers on that glorious Easter Morning. There is also the opportunity to give to our Lenten Benevolence, which is the Scholarship fund for El Salvadoran and Tanzanian partners. Details in the commons. Order a flower, and add a benevolence gift, if you can. **The deadline for orders is March 17.**

Lent & Holy Week Offerings to Support Scholarship Programs in El Salvador and Tanzania ***Can you Pledge a Dollar a Day for the 40 Days of Lent to Give a Child an Education?***

Offerings collected during Lent and Holy Week this year will be used to help students in our partner parishes in El Salvador and Tanzania. These families live in a reality where an education is out of reach because of their poverty. You can help end this cycle by pledging a dollar (or more!) per day for the 40 days of Lent – a Lenten discipline that can help young people in El Salvador and Tanzania imagine a different future – one that can give them hope and lift them out of poverty.

Beer Barons of St. Matthew's - No Skills Required

The Beer Barons have had an excellent turnout the first two months and look to break "liquid bread" yet again in March. As always, drinking is not required, but the Beer Barons invite men of St. Matthew's to meet other men where they're at. **Thursday, March 21st**, we'll be at J&B's Blue Ribbon Bar and Grill, co-owned by St. Matthew's Bliesner family, at 5230 W. Bluemound Rd. from 8-10pm. We'll be gathered in the back hall.

MICAH Health Summit 2024: MICAH, elected officials, community members, organizations and health systems will work together to restore health services to the Metcalfe Park area, whose residents have some of the worst health outcomes in Milwaukee. Please join Conor Williams and others from St. Matthew's to attend this summit on Thursday, March 21, at 5:00 pm at Hephatha Lutheran Church, 1720 W. Locust Street. There will be vendors and light refreshments following the summit. Email Conor about your availability to attend at conorw1@icloud.com

Valparaiso University Chorale and Chamber Orchestra will give a concert at on Monday, March 4, 2024 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Waukesha, beginning at 7:00 pm This concert is free and open to the public. The conductor is Dr. Marin Jacobson and the organist is Dr. John Schwandt. This is an opportunity to hear music performed by talented college students.

Thank you to our Assistants for worship services today!

Volunteer Host: Pam Stokke-Ceci

Acolytes: (8:30) Kateri Kirchner. (11:00) *open*. **Coffee Hosts:** Jim & Karie Clement.

Communion Preparers : (8 :30) Anne-Marie & Grant Nickel. (11 :00) Siena Petersen, Maya Tanel. **Communion Assistants :** (8 :30) Karla Baierl, Tim Goetsch. (11 :00) Julie Schmidt, Roz Rouse.

Greeters : (8 :30) Diann Lebow. (11:00) Mark Young, Sarah & Matt Frets, Karen Johnson.

Lay Readers: (8:30) Jan Johnson. (11:00) Linda Young.

Ushers: (8:30) Don Birschel, Jennifer Kramer, Daniel Zello, Paul Kramer, *captain*. (11:00) Margaret Bartlett & William Kisamo, Tom Templeman.

Lay Assistant: (8:30) Conor Williams.

Welcome Center Host: (8:30) Dee Birschel.

Stephen Minister: Leah Phillippi.

Worship Technology: (8:30) Dave McCullough, Bill Richter. (9:45) Brian Smith. (11:00) Ed Bross, Brian Smith.

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Pastoral Staff: Kevin Kretzmann Farrar, Lead Pastor; Ann Williams, Associate Pastor

Adult Ministries: Sue Swing

Youth Ministries & Children's Education: Gretchen Haugse, Lynne Thomas

Children's Minister: Donna Gardner Manke.

Music Minister: John Paradowski.

Senior Choir Director: Alexa Doebele.

Music Staff: Jeff Reeves, Amy Dankwardt, Heide Hughes

Technology Coordinator: Brian Smith.

Custodial Staff: Marsha Olson, Dave Fagerberg, Bob Gardner.

Church Administrator: Al Van Lith.

Office Staff: Bridget Smith, Sonja Mohr.



Link thru your smart phone camera to give to St. Matthew's