

THE VOICE of St. Matthew's

Volume 92, No. 4 - April 2, 2023



St. Matthew's Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 2 - 8:30 and 11:00am services

Recall the joyous procession into Jerusalem of Jesus on a donkey surrounded by shouts of "Hosanna, Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!"

Maunder Thursday, April 6 - 10:00am & 7:00pm

Confession, forgiveness, and Holy Communion, followed by healing services. Morning and evening services are the same.

Good Friday, April 7

10:00am Children's Good Friday Service Children and parents (and grandparents!) are invited to gather in Fellowship Hall for a craft, then enjoy an egg hunt - bring a basket or bag - and then end with an age-appropriate Good Friday worship service in the church.

7:00pm Good Friday Worship Service

A dramatic service of light into darkness with special music and a Good Friday message of hope.

Easter Festival Services, Sunday, April 9 - 8:30 and 11:00am

Join the faith community of St. Matthew's as we gather to celebrate our hope and promise of Easter with choirs, brass, handbells and joyous hymns. Holy Communion is celebrated at both services. Join us after 8:30 worship or before the 11:00am service for a Easter breakfast with treats with proceeds benefiting our youth and Youth Mission Trip this summer.

Pastor's Voice

Humble Yourself; Surrender and Trust

Holy Week is here! This means that some of the best liturgies of the church year are about to take place. Pastor Karen and I are writing sermons, there are extra music rehearsals, extra bulletins and special decorations for each service. The staff and a host of members are working together to make sure Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday are beautiful, meaningful experiences for everyone who shows up. We're getting ready—so I wanted you to get ready too.

Mark your calendar for the 6th, 7th and 9th of April. Plan on attending all three of The Great Three Days (technically, it's one worship service!) Start preparing your heart and mind now for all that these days hold. Use your imagination when you hear the dramatic stories of Jesus' betrayal, arrest, death and resurrection. Try to picture each scene in detail. Let the mystery of Holy Week surround you—Easter morning will be all the more joyful for it. Oh! And one last way to get ready... decide now that you'll get your feet washed.



Foot washing on Maundy Thursday hasn't been an annual tradition at Saint Matthew's while I've been here (I think we've done it once since I arrived). This year, we decided—reluctantly—to try it. I will freely admit that I love a good pedicure, but the only reason I feel ok about letting a stranger touch my feet is because I've paid a lot of money for it. The truth is, washing feet during worship is odd and awkward and embarrassing. But, Beloved, that's kind of the point. Serving people can be awkward. Receiving the generosity of others is sometimes embarrassing. Trying to live in the world as a disciple of Jesus may put you in some odd situations. The experience of foot washing encapsulates what it means to follow Jesus; it requires surrender, humility and trust. Martin Luther preached about the importance of foot washing in a sermon he gave on Maundy Thursday. He reminds us that not only did Jesus command it, but this ritual is all the more important because it is one of the last things Jesus said before his death:

"this washing of feet happened nearly in the last hour before Christ's departure from this world. Now it is certain that we remember and cherish the last wishes of our dying friends more earnestly and dutifully than any other of their words and deeds; for when it comes to dying, pleasantries and jestings are at an end, and the words then spoken are full of sincerity and earnestness."

Be brave this year. Humble yourself. Surrender and trust.

Pastor Ann Williams

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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POT OF GOLD Dinner Auction - March 17



What a memorable congregational event was enjoyed by many on St. Patrick's Day, The Pot of Gold Youth Mission Trip Dinner Auction. A great amount of money was raised for the youth mission trip (exact amount to be shared when available), a delicious meal was enjoyed, entertainment was provided, and dozens of auction items were competed over and bid upon with highest bidders winning the items. Thanks to the Mission trip youth and families for their work and creativity, and thanks to YOU, the people of St. Matthew's, for continuing to support these youth mission trips so generously as you are so well known for doing.



Holy Week and Easter

New Member Classes Start Soon!

God has given us the gift of Christian community. It provides for two of our most basic needs. The church can be a place to belong and a place to become. If you have had an opportunity to worship with us and would like to learn more about St. Matthew's please consider attending our membership classes in April. Classes will be held on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45. Dates are April 16, 23, 30. New Members will be received on Sunday, May 7th at the 8:30 service.

Living After Loss: Grief Education and Support Mondays from 1:00-2:30pm at St. Matthew's, April 17-May 22

"I know the heartbreak of loss, and while I know we don't get over it, we can grow around our pain and experience peace again."

After suffering a profound loss, Candy Romano became quite familiar with grief. Until then, she had not felt such deep despair and anguish and didn't know where to turn. After some time spent reading, leaning on loved ones and seeking support through counseling she felt called to do something to honor her grief and help others. She completed a comprehensive grief training program led by renowned Grief Expert David Kessler and now is offering an opportunity for anyone interested to participate in a 6-week grief education & support class.

Please contact Candy Romano directly for more information.

**candacedromano@gmail.com
414-687-2196**



The Easter Breakfast is Back! Fundraiser for Youth Mission Trip

Join us for breakfast on Easter Sunday, April 9, from 9:30-10:45am. There will be plenty of table room in Fellowship Hall to enjoy pastries, fruit, and other breakfast items. Youth who are participating in this summer's Run to Rebuild Mission Trip to Hazard, Kentucky will be involved in prepping and serving for the breakfast. We appreciate your support!

There is still time to purchase Easter Flowers for the display at church on Easter Morning! Deadline is Monday 4/3, 9am

Pick up a flower order form at the Lenten table, Welcome Center, or outside the church office, or order online on our website. Please pay for your flowers at the time you order them. We also offer a Lenten benevolence option in \$10 increments, which will be directed toward our ELCA Good Gifts well project, to purchase two wells to provide fresh drinking water to those who need it. Questions? Ask Sonja, Al, or Bridget in the church office. Deadline: Monday morning, April 3 by 9 am. Flower and benevolence designations will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

Order from our website: www.stmattslutheran.org

Order Flowers for Easter Morning

We'll express our joy in the resurrection of our Lord on Easter by remembering our loved ones or honoring those we appreciate. In lieu of plants, a contribution may be given to our Lenten benevolence providing two wells for fresh water through ELCA good gifts.

All Easter flowers and benevolences will be listed in the Easter bulletin.

Choose from hyacinths, daffodils, lilies, tulips, azaleas and hydrangeas. [Click here to place your order online](#), or pick-up a flower order form at church.



Reformation Good Friday Neighborhood Walk - You're invited to attend this annual tradition with Pastor Karen

Carpool from St. Matthew's parking lot

Reformation Lutheran Church invites you to its 2023 Good Friday Neighborhood Walk. Like the stations of the cross, our group will stop at sites in the community that demonstrate signs of despair and transformation. We will read Scripture, and the group will sing and pray together, lifting high the symbol of the cross in our heart of the city neighborhood.

The walk begins at 3:15 PM on Friday, April 7th after a brief time of fellowship inside the church located at 3806 W. Lisbon Avenue. The walk lasts approximately 45 minutes and will conclude at the church. The walk and church facility/restrooms are wheelchair accessible. The walk is suitable for all ages. Pastor Karen Natterstad plans to attend this event. Meet in the St. Matthew's parking lot at 2:45 if you'd like to carpool and attend.

We hope to see you as together we witness to God's presence in our community!

Holy Week and Easter

Good Friday Easter Egg Hunt

Join us Good Friday at St. Matthew's for our annual Good Friday Easter Egg hunt. We will meet at 10am in the Fellowship Hall. A craft will be available as we await the start of the egg hunt. We will then gather in the Sanctuary for worship. We are asking for donations of (wrapped) candy filled Easter Eggs. Looking forward to seeing you all!! Donna Gardner Manke



Easter Eggs Needed!

We are asking for donations of wrapped candy-filled Easter eggs for the Good Friday easter egg hunt. Please bring them by Wednesday, April 5.

Our Lenten Offerings will provide TWO water wells through ELCA Good Gifts

*Giving Goal: \$5,000 or two water wells
Current giving is at \$2,349 (as of 3/17)*

For \$2500, a community can receive a simple water well, through the ELCA World Hunger and its partners. Through one well, as many as 500 families will gain access to clean, safe water. The community will be healthier. People will spend less money on medical expenses and more on food and education. And instead of spending hours each day gathering water for the family, women and children will have more time for work or school.

Make your donation online at: stmatthlutheran.org "Give" page

Or, drop cash, bills or change, in the 5 gallon water bottle displayed in the Commons.



Carl Johnson makes a donation to the Well Project during the Mission Trip Auction Dinner on March 17.

All women are invited to the Women Together in Prayer (WTIP) Breakfast Sat April 22, 2023 from 9-11am

The women's ministry called Women Together In Prayer (WTIP) is hosting the Annual spring breakfast on Saturday April 22, 2023 at St. Matt's Lutheran Church from 9-11am. Plan to join the ministry, or attend the breakfast only, you do not have to be a current member to attend, all are welcome. Bring a friend or make one here!



As we continue to find our new normal at church as a congregation, we anticipate a new twist to this silent prayer partner ministry to increase relationship building. The theme of our Breakfast speaker will be how friends are jewels. Please bring a jewelry gem/crystal/stone that represents a personality trait of yourself. Contact Kait McCullough to pick a prayer partner for the upcoming year if you'd like. kaitmccullough@gmail.com.

Women's Group Meets 1st Sunday of the Month from 9:45-10:45 Next Meetings on April 2nd & May 7th

In the March Women's Group meeting we had a great discussion about special things we do for lent. Some of us gave something up, others added something, and many talked about being intentional with spending time with God. As Easter approaches make sure to take a moment to think about how you'll be a little more intentional with lent this season and why it's important to you. For more information on the Women's Group please stop in if you can. We meet in the Youth Room next to Fellowship Hall and all are always welcome! Questions? Reach out to Katie Nickel; katiernickel@gmail.com.

The men's breakfast in March featured guest speaker Mike Reinicker who gave a riveting account of his life-threatening health crisis and how it has affected his faith. The men's breakfasts are known for generous amounts of breakfast entrées, especially bacon.



Thanks to Jerry Wirtz, Mike Thomae, Scott Villmow and Brian Due for helping to prepare the food.

Adult Education

Sunday Morning Adult Education All are Welcome! Come when you can!

Our Adult Education program continues to support the faith growth of our church and online 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 adult education program are to:

- **Increase Biblical Literacy**
- **Educate on religious matters**
- **Provide practical advice on daily Christian life**
- **Offer outreach information and opportunities to serve**

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

April 2 The Water Will Hold You: Water Stories and Themes in Lent with Pastor Karen

Lent is a time of renewal. We focus on the death and resurrection of Jesus - and in turn focus on our own death and resurrection found in baptism. In this session, Pastors will review additional baptismal promises such as an identity, forgiveness, and gifts to sustain us. These promises are meant to hold us, like floating in water.

April 16 Social Ministry

April 23 St. Matthew's Garden Crew: Why We Garden

Gardening is a passion that many of us look forward to each year as winter draws to a close. Some would say that they garden as a form of exercise. It can be a social experience or a solitary prayerful ritual. Be part of this fun and timely conversation with the St. Matthew's Garden Crew.

April 30 "Clobber" Passages

The Bible contains several verses in the Old and New Testaments that are used to bash the LGBTQ+ community. What are these passages, and how might we understand them today? We will also review Bible passages that invite us to extend our welcome and work for justice. Led by Dan Bice

Can You Support Our Scholarship Program for El Salvador?

Pan de Vida, our sister parish in El Salvador, is asking for our help to make sure the children of their congregation have the opportunity to attend school. Many families in the congregation struggle to get by, and the costs of education are out of reach for them. Yet education is what lifts kids out of poverty.



We invite you to be part of the scholarship program to expand opportunity for the kids of Pan de Vida. There are 39 students, ranging from kindergarten through university who need assistance.

Tuition costs by grade level are:

- Grade School - \$200 - \$250
- Middle School - \$300 - \$350
- High School - \$450
- University - \$1600

We welcome one-time or ongoing donations of any amount. Education is a gift of the future to these families. We appreciate your support of the Pan de Vida Scholarship Fund!. If you have any questions, please talk to Gretchen Haugse.



At two recent adult education sessions, Jay McDivitt shared information about welcoming all people, and intentionally learning to welcome those who may identify as LGBTQia+.

The large crowds at each session as well as the excellent questions and feedback indicate broad interest in continuing these conversations with curiosity, courage and compassion.



Please consider being a Sunday morning volunteer

First of all, thank you to all our worship volunteers. Every Sunday morning, we need over 30 volunteers to be part of our services. Your help is greatly needed.

We are just closing out our first full year of in person services. During this time, we have had many changes and updates to our processes. There have also been many people who have decided to temporarily put their volunteering on hold. If this is you, please consider joining us in volunteering regularly again.

Shortly, we will be scheduling our volunteers for April 16 to June 4, 2023. We have needed more people in a lot of areas with regards to volunteers and we are always looking for more help, in all areas. Here is a list of positions where we need some help.

- **Acolytes**
- **Ushers**
- **Communion Preparers**
- **Communion Assistants**
- **Readers**
- **Lay Assistants**
- **Greeters**
- **Coffee Hosts**
- **Camera Operators**

For those of you already in our system, we will be scheduling based on your identified availability. For those who asked to be put on hold until you felt comfortable coming back to service, please let Al VAN Lith know at al@stmattslutheran.org if you would like to be added back onto the volunteers lists.

And for those who have not volunteered before but would like to volunteer for a position, feel free to contact the office and we can set you up for a position that best fits your abilities.

Your time spent volunteering here at St. Matthew's makes us who we are. Please join in serving our church family!

Roz Rouse works with Brian Smith to record a recent adult education session in the Upper Room.



Jonathan and Eli Schaar handle the tech booth during a recent worship service, live streaming as well as managing the screens in the worship space.



CareNet – one of the recipients of the Quilting Ministry donations

We have mentioned in previous articles some of the organizations where St Matthew's Quilting Ministry Stitches of Love handiwork is distributed after the Mother's Day blessing of quilts each spring. We would like to highlight one of those organizations: Care-Net is a free and confidential pregnancy center in Milwaukee.

Stitches of Love provides clients comforting quilts with fun, colorful designs. New babies are wrapped in love. This Mother's Day more quilts will be blessed and we will

be creating more at the next quilting ministry work day. Please join us and bring a friend or two to Fellowship Hall from 9am-1pm on Saturday, April 15th. Bring your own lunch and help to craft more of these fun and colorful quilts. Easy tasks and all are welcome! For any questions, please contact Bev Etzelmueller at 262-250-3969 or bevetz@sbcglobal.net. See you there!

**Join us for the next
Quilt Ministry Blitz
Saturday, April 15
9:00am - 1:00pm
St. Matt's Fellowship Hall**



Even though Saints (Older Adults) are not meeting during Lent, are planning team is busy working out some great programs and guests coming up in the next few months. Stay tuned for more information!

Looking forward to May 17, here's the topic:

Smart Moves:

Getting Down-sized and Organized

Studies show clutter can add stress to our everyday lives. The stress can impact our physical and emotional well-being. This presentation gives tips on sorting through the "stuff and treasures" so we can gain peace of mind. We'll learn how to best downsize papers, books, photos, collectibles, tools, furniture; you name it. Our speaker will be Certified Senior Move Manager Melinda Stuart, whose firm Smart Moves was founded in 2003 to help seniors transition through the many choices and chores involved in downsizing and moving. She is a member of the National Association of Senior and Specialty Move Managers.

As usual, a box lunch will be available at a suggested donation of \$11/person. Guests and friends are welcome always. Sign up at the Welcome Center or in the church office.

The Drama of the Journey through Holy Week

Holy Week is among the many activities in the Christian calendar and is one of the most celebrated by Catholics and Protestants alike. Christian nations all over the world unite during this time, each with their own unique way of celebrating Christ's death and resurrection.

Earliest references to the celebration and observance of Holy Week are found in the Apostolical Constitutions in the latter half of the 3rd and 4th century. The celebration of the Holy Week varies within church traditions. Some would focus only on the last week of Jesus' life; some celebrate on a wider scope the Passion of The Christ.

Palm Sunday

Holy Week starts with Sunday to commemorate Christ's Passion.

Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday is a Christian festival commemorating Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem. It is customary in many countries to celebrate



Palm Sunday with a special blessing of palm leaves, or in some other countries, olive branches. The blessing usually takes place outside the church which also includes the reading of the Gospel that tells of how Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and how people greeted him with palm leaves. This is followed by a march into the church with constant waving of the blessed palm leaves and branches. Included in the Palm Sunday Service is the reading of the Passion and the sequence of events of Jesus' capture, suffering and death.

Holy Days

Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, and Holy Wednesday recount certain events following the days between Jesus' entry into Jerusalem up to the Last Supper.

Holy Monday tells the story of a few days after Jesus' raised Lazarus from the dead, Jesus visits the man's home. Lazarus's sister Mary is criticized, by Judas, when she anoints the feet of Jesus with costly perfume. [John 12:1-11]

Holy Tuesday continues the John text where Jesus announces that his death will be an exaltation. A voice from heaven speaks to the crowd again stating God's name will be glorified when his death draws people to new life. [John 12:20-36]

Holy Wednesday At the Last Supper, Jesus identifies Judas as the one who will betray him and sends him on his way. [John 13:21-32]

The Three Days

Maundy Thursday is when Jesus gives a new commandment of love by washing the feet of his disciples and urges them to do the same for one another.



Good Friday recounts the Messiah's crucifixion and his death on the cross.

Holy Saturday, the day before Easter, is the time for preparations. This day remembers when Jesus' body is laid on his tomb.

Easter Sunday marks the culmination not only of the Holy Week but also of the whole year and is considered the most important day of the church year and celebrates the resurrection of the Christ Jesus.

Easter Festive Worship Services 8:30 & 11:00 Services

Our Alleluias return in splendor and light this Easter. With brass and bells and singing voices strong we will celebrate our Risen Lord. Our Jesus who was put to death for us is now alive. Our journey from death to



Resurrection is now finished. Our Lord is Risen! Risen indeed!

The Senior Choir, Bells Angels, and Brass will lead us at our festive 8:30 and 11:00 Communion Services where we truly say, "This is the feast of victory for our God!"

Filled with hope, we go forth to share the news that Christ is risen! Alleluia!

John Paradowski
Minister of Music

St. Matthew’s congregation to support Equipping the Saints Greater Milwaukee Synod Mission Appeal
Chris Kent and Andrew Cherney are our congregation’s co-chairs

“Equipping the Saints for the work of ministry; Building up the Body of Christ.” -Ephesians 4:12

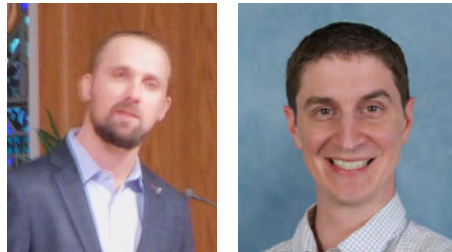
The Equipping the Saints mission appeal is a bold plan to build and strengthen our life and work together in mission in our synod and beyond. Events surrounding us underline the need to step out with curiosity, courage, and compassion to collaborate in new, creative, and innovative ways to “follow Jesus, form communities, and love all.”

What is the purpose of the “Equipping the Saints” Mission Appeal?

Innovation & Collaboration (\$1.2 million)

- Grants to congregations for innovative projects to reach more people in the name of Jesus
- Collaboration grants through Outreach for Hope to build partnerships among congregations, organizations, and communities
- Synod staffing for Innovation and Collaboration
- Missional Tithe to ELCA Holy Innovations (5%) and Lutheran Social Services Refugee Resettlement (5%)

Equipping the Saints MISSION APPEAL Begins April 16th



**Co-Chairs
Chris Kent & Andrew Cherney**

Leadership (\$1.1 million)

- Racial Equity Organizer to develop Anti-Racism strategies with at least 50 congregations
- Lutheran Campus Ministry long-term funding strategy
- Support ministry candidates from diverse backgrounds (people of color, LGBTQIA+)
- Support for rostered ministers with professional development and wellness grants
- Missional Tithe to Global Companions in Tanzania and El Salvador to support leadership development

Beginning on April 16, you will learn more about this campaign and the good work that will be accomplished through the gifts shared. Andy Cherney and Chris Kent have volunteered to co-chair this appeal, and they invite you to learn more about it and keep an open mind as we seek to support the important initiatives listed above.

Pastor Frank Janzow will be our guest preacher on April 16 at both services. He serves as one of the campaign leaders, sharing with many synod congregations the importance of the appeal and the work outlines in the initiatives.

There are 119 congregations in the Greater Milwaukee Synod, which are the church homes of 63,179 baptized Lutherans in southeastern Wisconsin.

We look forward to hearing from Pastor Janzow and to learning more about how we can participate in this Greater Milwaukee Synod appeal challenge. (More information online at <https://www.equippingthesaintsgms.org>)

Each time there is a new baptism: “We promise to support your parents...”

During the rite of baptism on Sunday mornings, 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 during recent months in the last three years at St. Matthew’s. May their lives be blessed through your prayers.

Gavin Robert Freund
Corinne Reynolds McCarthy
Samuel David Seagren
Harrison Robert Paul Bullis

April 3, 2022
April 24, 2022
April 7, 2019
April 7, 2019



Vacation Bible School 2023: July 31 – August 4

As you prep your summer calendar, be certain to save July 31 – August 4 for Vacation Bible School. Those entering Jr. K through 5th grades will gather mornings for a week of fellowship and fun. We certainly will need youth and adult volunteers, so please save the dates! Registration will begin in the late spring.



No Sunday School on Sunday, April 9th, Easter Sunday

St. Matt's Church Council Highlights (March)

After a successful Council and Staff retreat in February, the council members and staff are scheduling future meetings together in upcoming months to continue the work of understanding what our separate roles are, where they intersect, and how they together encourage the ministry of the church.

We continue to see engagement in ministry in the church-- in worship attendance, financial support, and other ministries, such as the recent adult education sessions led by Jay McDivitt on Pronouns. More than 75 people participated in this discussion! Please keep the council and staff in your prayers as we see this momentum in ministry and discern where the Spirit is leading us.

The Call Committee is interviewing candidates and is encouraged by the response generated from the updated Ministry Site Profile.

The Lutheran A Cappella Choir of Milwaukee collaborates with The Heritage Chorale in spring concerts, April 21 and 23

A special event in music this spring is the collaboration of two talented choirs to perform the Robert Ray Gospel Mass along with familiar praise and inspiration spirituals, in two concerts: Friday, April 21 at 7:30pm at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Greendale (6705 Northway), and on Sunday, April 23 at 3:00pm at Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, 8424 W. Center St., Milwaukee. Tickets are \$15 general admission and students free with student ID. Thomas Ajack is the Artistic Director who has programmed this special concert. Come and enjoy! More information at lutheranacappella.org

Erickson Scholarship Applicants Apply now for scholarship consideration

It is time to apply or renew your application for a scholarship from the Rev. Gary and Susan Erickson scholarship Fund for the 2023-2024 school year. Eligibility is based on:

- 1) Students studying at a theological seminary;
- 2) Students enrolled in a bachelor of arts music program with intent to work in church related music;
- 3) Students enrolled in ELCA college or any Lutheran college.

Applications can be found at the church office or online at www.stmattslutheran.org or request the document by email to office@stmattslutheran.org Any questions regarding the scholarship or application may be addressed to Al Van Lith or Nancy Herrell. The deadline for applications is **June 15, 2023**.

Betr Earth Textile Recycling Bin to return to St. Matthew's in May

The Social Ministry has asked us to encourage people to save up their textile recycling for later this spring, when the large bin at the main entrance will return.

BETR collects gently used clothing and shoes for men, women, children and infants. All items should be clean and in relatively good condition. Desired items include:

- **Shirts, blouses, t-shirts and other tops**
- **Skirts, pants, jeans and shorts**
- **Dresses and suits**
- **Paired shoes, boots, purses and belts**

While we are looking for wearable clothing, we will accept items with small tears, or that are lightly stained. BETR Earth also accepts clean household items such as sheets, blankets, comforters, towels, curtains and tablecloths.

Items should be packaged up in plastic bags. Help to keep items out of landfills, as they will be recycled as much as possible.

Please do not bring these items until we begin the collection later this spring, as we don't have storage space for donations.

Collection Period: May 1-31, 2023

Undie Sunday Thank You



So many wonderful women's and men's underwear items were collected in February and March for Guest House and for The Benedict Center Sisters' program. Thanks to the many people who brought in good quality items like socks, underpants, briefs, boxers, bras, even pajamas. Your generosity makes a difference.

St. Matt's 1st Fridays Book Group

You decide which books you wish to read for the discussions you wish to participate in. Discussions begin at 7pm on the dates listed, held at St. Matthew's.

- April 14** All Creatures Great and Small, by James Herriot, 448 pages
2nd Friday
- May 5** Raft of Stars: A Novel by Andrew J. Graf, 304 pages
- June 2** West With Giraffes: A Novel, by Lynda Rutledge, 371 pages

Upcoming Healing Services

Those desiring special healing prayers for themselves and/or other are invited to come forward, along with their support persons or family members.

- Thursday, April 6 (Maundy Thursday)**
During morning and evening services
- Sunday, May 7** After 8:30 service
- Sunday, June 11** In Worship 9:30 am

Thank you, Julia Murphy!



Julia Murphy was recognized in March and thanked for her five years of serving as our Older Adults Ministries coordinator. Those people in attendance had an opportunity to share some cake and their thanks with Julia on March 12. Please keep Julia's new project in your prayers, which is beginning a L'Arche community in Milwaukee. More information on this online (L'Archeusa.org)



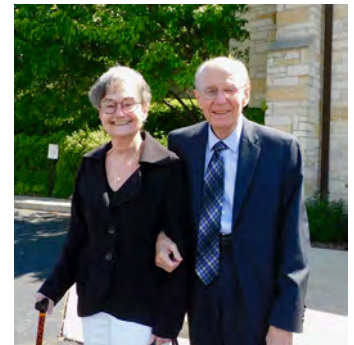
Our Church Family

Deann Gjenvick died on March 10, 2023. Deann was a nurse during her working years, but caretaking and hard work was part of who she was. She was always busy. Being generous and giving was also part of her identity, and most of all, she was a beloved child of God, and worked hard to live up to that blessing, dedicating her life and her work to the glory of God. Her family of three grown children, four grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren (and counting) made her eyes light up and her life full. Her later years, since Larry died in 2017, were spent at Heritage Elm Grove Memory Care Center, where she lived a peaceful life, with daughter Krista visiting her almost daily. Deann was active at St. Matthew's as part of the Meal ministry, especially Just One More meal ministry when it was hosted at St. Matthew's, and also being part of the Senior Choir for many years. She and Larry took care of all the plants at St. Matthew's for several years. Whatever job needed doing, they would work on it together. We give thanks for Deann's life and for her strong faith and witness through her words and deeds.



"Thank you, Meal for Special Need Volunteers!"

We can't say thank you enough for the meal ministry we have been receiving! I think it probably saved my sanity. I was trying to care for Myron, do a number of unaccustomed things around here that he usually does/did, cope with car problems and work on the move, which was already in progress when disaster came upon us. If I'd had to prepare nourishing meals in addition I'm not sure I could have coped. So the meals were life-saving in two ways! It was humbling to realize that several of the folks providing meals were unknown to us. I realize, of course, that they are people who want to help, but it's lovely to receive help from people I don't know. I feel like we made some new friends through this time. St. Matthew's is wonderful in many ways, and this is certainly one of them.



Annette & Myron Olson in a photo taken last summer

Annette & Myron Olson"



St. Matthew's

Ev. Lutheran Church † ELCA

Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

www.stmattslutheran.org

PERIODICALS RATE

Mail Carrier: Please deliver by April 1, 2023.

The Voice of St. Matthew's

We are called to welcome, nurture, equip and send

Next issue of the VOICE is dated May 7, 2023.



Praise Kids Children's Choir



Middle School Game Day



Presentation on Children's Emotions:
(L-R) Kayla Celata, Patti Foley & Laura Crave



Senior Choir Sunday morning warm-up



Grace Note Quartet singing
"Prayer of the Children"



Chris Zello on clarinet
accompanying the Senior Choir



New Creation Choir