

THE VOICE of St. Matthew's

Volume 93, No. 5 - May 5, 2024

Celebrating the Future of St. Matthew's: The Installation of Lead Pastor Kevin Kretzmann Farrar



St. Matthew's has been blessed with several wonderful pastors through the years, and many joined us on April 14 for Pastor Kevin's installation. From left to right, Pastor Margaret Schoewe, Pastor Ann Williams, Lead Pastor Kevin Kretzmann Farrar, The Reverend Bishop Paul Erickson of the ELCA Greater Milwaukee Synod, Pastor Christopher J.P. Manke, and Pastor Emeritus Gary Erickson.

Our Pastor's Voice Community, Support and Welcome

Of all the wonderful memories from the Sunday of my installation, I will most cherish the memory of being surrounded by the St. Matthew's community and you all laid hands on me and prayed for me. This memory comes with a feeling of being loved, supported, and cared for by the St. Matthew's community. It is my hope that everyone enters St. Matthew's doors also experiences this sort of love, support, and care. Based on the conversations that I have been participating in with council and staff, it is my conviction that our church's leadership feels the same way as I do.

Our staff and council recently met to reflect on the survey and listening sessions that were ongoing throughout the Fall and Winter. In this discussion, we observed the following key themes emerged:

- St. Matthew's is a church that values community. There is an appetite for continued opportunities to grow in community, including participation in small groups
- St. Matthew's is a church that values children, youth, and their families.
- St. Matthew's is a church that values practicing inclusion and welcome

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

Kevin Kretzmann Farrar, Lead Pastor
Ann Williams, Associate Pastor

414-774-0441; E-mail: office@stmattslutheran.org

Visit our website: www.StMattsLutheran.org

Sunday worship at 8:30 and 11:00 am

Summer Sunday Worship at 9:30 am

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A Column from Our New Lead Pastor



During the 8:30 am Installation service on April 14, worshippers lay their hands on Pastor Kevin in blessing as Bishop Paul Erickson led a prayer.

- St. Matthew's is a church that values being a good partner to our ministry partners and a church that lives out practices of outreach and service to those in need.
- St. Matthew's is a church that values worship and music

In other words, you want to be a part of a church that offers the sort of love, care, and support that I felt at my installation.

I recently read an article in The Atlantic by Derek Thompson titled "The True Cost of the Churchgoing Bust" that speaks to the essential role of the church providing community. Thompson, a self-identified agnostic, reflects on how there's not really a non-religious replacement in our society for the loving, supportive, caring community that people find in churches and other religious communities—and Americans are missing what comes with a lack of participation in a religious community.

Articles like Thompson remind me of the imperative of St. Matthew's not only remaining a hospitable community to those of us reading this letter but also bringing others into the sort of community that I felt at my installation. I am eager to explore with you how we might continue to grow in these practices of community, mutual support, and welcome.

-Pr. Kevin

Upcoming Events



**Summer Worship Schedule
Begins on May 26
(Memorial Day Weekend)
ONE service at 9:30 am
All Together for Summer!
Every Sunday: 9:30 am**

St. Matt's Summer Meet-Ups!

It was fun last year--let's do it again!

All are welcome to join in any of these meet-ups to chat in a casual location, outdoors when possible, enjoying a beverage or some food. Thanks to Beth Schulz and Chris Schroeder for arranging these dates and welcoming everyone. We encourage people to come on out and give it a try. Look for a St. Matt's Sign on the table to identify the group.



Here are the first three dates. You can pick up a list of all the dates at church on a yellow half-sheet.

May 22 (Wed.), Ally's Powerhouse, 11:30 - 1 p.m.

June 5 (Wed.), Colectivo, 68th & Wells, 9-11 a.m.

June 20 (Thur.), Landing at Hoyt Park, 4:30 - ??

We look forward to meeting new people and enjoying some time outdoors.

Graduating Seniors to be Celebrated on June 2nd!

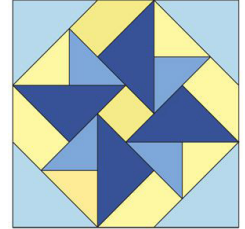
On Sunday, June 2nd, at the 9:30 worship service, we will recognize and celebrate St. Matthew's Class of 2024, with a cake reception to follow. We have been blessed by the service and participation of this group of young people. They have sung and rung in our choirs, acted in pageants and dramas, assisted in Sunday School and VBS, and participated in mission trips and other service events. We will miss them as they begin a new chapter full of opportunities and discovery, and we wish them Godspeed on all that awaits them!



Colorful quilts to fill our pew chairs on Mother's Day, May 12

It's our Quilt Blessing Sunday

Where did the years go? Our quilt ministry with an enthusiastic group of ladies gathered 20 years ago to venture into making baby quilts to share with those in need of warmth. The goal was to make a tub full of quilts to distribute. We made 75 blankets that first year in 2004. We have grown to an average of 100+ quilts each year. The members of the group have changed, but the goal has always been to share our talents. We have members who sew, ladies to cut fabric and several others to tie the quilts. We have something for everyone. We have gone beyond the walls of St. Matt's with making paraments for the mission group traveling to Tanzania, collecting and shipping warm clothing to the school at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, and even sewn American flag patches on boys' winter jackets to pass along to Nehemiah House along with reaching out to many needs within Milwaukee area. *Join us as the quilt are blessed on May 12, Mother's Day, at both services. Photos in the next issue.*



Stepping On Class (safety from falls) to be offered beginning May 28

Tuesdays, May 28 through July 9, 2024
9:45 - 11:45 am

*St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Upper Room
Cost is free (donations recommended)*

Stepping On will help to reduce your risk falls. You will learn how to identify fall risk factors, how to get up safely from a fall, sitting and standing strength and balance exercises, strategies to help you stay independent and active, and how footwear, medication and vision can affect your risk for falling



Is Stepping On for you?

- 60 and older
- Live independently
- walk without assistance or with a cane, or use a walker outdoors only
- Have fallen or are fearful of falling
- Are cognitively aware

Questions? Contact Kimberly Lombard, program facilitator, by calling 414-805-8744 or email kimberly.lombard@froedtert.com

Register for this workshop series by calling 414-777-7700, option 4 or visit froedtert.com/classes. **The registration deadline is May 20.**

Connect with others in faith and fellowship in the month of May!

Friday, May 3rd

Game Night: Game Night is Friday May, 3rd from 6:00-9:00 pm at St. Matthew's! Bring a game, snack and a friend! Sign up at the Welcome Center or contact Bill Richter; wrichter1977@gmail.com. All are welcome!

First Fridays Book Group Discussion

Discussion begins at 7:00 pm in the Upper Room.
May 3 The Sweetness of Forgetting by Kristin Harmel
June 7 Remarkably Bright Creatures: by Shelby Van Pelt

Tuesday, May 7th

Volleyball: St. Matt's member, Sarah Frets, has organized a St. Matt's volleyball team. The season starts on Tuesday, May 7th at 7:15 pm at Classic Lanes in Oak Creek. Subs may be needed and fan support is highly encouraged! For more info please contact Sarah; sebolgert@gmail.com.

Thursday, May 16, 8:00-10:00pm

Beer Barons of St. Matthew's - Thursday, May 16th at Lion's Tail Brewing Co., 8520 W. North Ave. The Beer Barons of St. Matthew's is a group of men who generally make good decisions, looking to break "liquid bread" with other men who are also blessed and broken. Drinking beer is not required, but feel free to join us! *See photo below of April gathering*

Wednesday, May 22nd

Lunch at Ally's Powerhouse 11:30am-1:00pm

Wednesday Evening Bible Study continues!

Wednesdays, May 1, 8, 15, 22
Bible Study at church from 6:00-7:00 PM.
We are continuing our look into 1st & 2nd Samuel.
The group is open and welcoming with lots of sharing, humor and good snacks!



April 18th's Beer Barons Gathering at Tosa Tap Room

Musical May Moments

The music never stops, but we do come to the end of the choir season. I'd like to thank all the singers, ringers, and instrumentalists who share their gifts with all. To our parents, grandparents, families and friends who bring the little ones to rehearsals and services, THANK YOU! To our adult ringers, singers, and instrumentalists, who are dedicated to share the Good News through music, THANK YOU! What a blessing to all when we share what we have first been given.



On **May 5 at the 11:00 service** we welcome Dr. Sharon Hansen, who comes in from Phoenix, AZ to direct the Senior Choir for a week. Sharon was the UWM director of Choral studies.

On **May 12 at the 8:30 service** our Senior Choir will combine with the **Adult Choir of Trinity Episcopal Church** to share an anthem for the special day. Then our Senior Choir will walk over to Trinity Church to sing for their 10:00 service. It's a great way to share our music with the ecumenical community.

John Paradowski, Minister of Music

THANK YOU, Volunteers at St. Matthew's

This is a big THANK YOU to all those who volunteer every Sunday morning at St. Matthew's. Your services to St. Matt's are so important! Serving as a volunteer on Sunday morning is a gift to the church. Being able to be part of the worship service is personally fulfilling every time.

Every Sunday morning, we need over 40 volunteers to provide a quality service to our congregation. Each position is very important and integral to the flow of our services. Worship Technology, Ushers, Lay Readers, Communion Help, Greeters and Acolytes, all are needed to make the services run smoothly. If someone doesn't come, we need to find a person to fill that position.

Soon, there will be an email sent from MSP requesting conflicts for the summer schedule, which will run 5/26/2024 through 9/1/2024. This will allow you to identify any conflicts on any given Sunday. Please make sure you respond to let us know your conflicts before we run the schedule.

If you have any questions or need help with MSP, please send an email to office@stmattslutheran.org.

Again, thank you to all the volunteers for your work and dedication to St. Matthew's.

Ruth Kallio Mielke and Roz Rouse are two volunteers who serve in a number of areas.





Renewing Our Building for Continued Ministry

We Need Your Help to Revitalize Our Building!

Have you noticed that the carpet is looking old and tattered? How the parking lot is bumpy? Have you wondered if the Bride's Chapel area could be a more family friendly space? And those nagging roof leaks? We need your support to help us fix all that.

We are beginning an exciting new chapter at St Matthew's. Our recent Lenten Season and Easter attendance greatly exceeded that in 2023. We are seeing new interest and participation in programming, and we are planning for a wave of baptisms in the next several months. We are blessed by full staffing, strong programs, and no mortgage.

Our building needs to keep pace with the vitality and optimism of our mission. We have deferred work for several years, and now is the time to revitalize the look and feel of our building so that it reflects the inviting, hopeful, family-friendly and resilient message of our faith.

We have a list of projects to fulfill this goal including new carpets, repave the parking lot, correct the roof leaks, updates to doors and windows, improve security, cameras, lighting, and listening devices, and other projects. We expect this work to cost approximately \$300,000.

We are beginning our Special Appeal to raise money for these improvements in May 2024, and the plan is to complete all the work in 2024 and 2025. We are seeking pledges, with one half paid in 2024 and second half in 2025.

Please watch for the announcements and pledge forms to be distributed in May and help us to keep St Matt's looking sharp and feeling fresh!

Carl Johnson, Congregational President

Building Renewal 2024-2025



St Matthew's Lutheran Church

See! I make all things new. Revelation 21:5

Special Appeal for Church Building Updates:

- Receive a mailing explaining the needs, as well as a pledge card
- Learn about scope of work needed and why this appeal is necessary
- Pledge a donation to be given over two years, one half in 2024 and one half in 2025
- The projects are planned for both 2024 and 2025.
- Watch your emails, Sunday bulletin and future issues of the VOICE for more information.



Carpeting throughout the two main staircases and Upper level is over twenty years old and showing its age. Bumps and ridges from long use are tripping hazards as well as being unsightly.

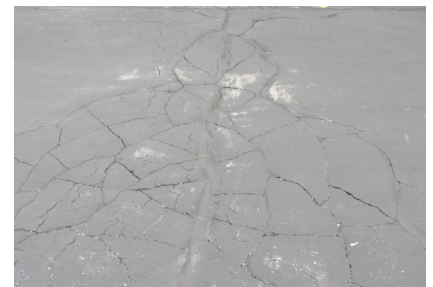


Resurfacing our main parking lot will repair large and numerous cracks that are dangerous to people walking into the building, especially in wet or snowy weather.



The source of longtime rain leakage in the east entryway has finally been diagnosed, and we look forward to fixing it.

The two-room Bride's Chapel adjacent to the worship space was beautifully decorated twenty years ago, well before it began to be used by families with small children during worship. Now its bathroom is showing its age and is not ADA-compliant.



Adult Faith Formation 9:45-10:45 am Sundays

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 am.

May 5 - Breaking Barriers: Mental Health & Faith

In honor of Mental Health Awareness Month, join us for a transformative presentation on navigating mental health with faith. Discover how to access free resources, utilize Stephen Ministry, and seek professional help. Learn to debunk myths, explore the intersection of spirituality and well-being, and break down barriers together. Presented by St. Matthew's member, Katie Nickel

May 12 - Our Building Renewal Plan

What is it? Why do we need to do this now? What is the scope of the projects and when will they be completed? Please join Carl Johnson and others who will give you all the answers you need to understand our latest needs.

May 19 - How Lutherans Founded Parish Nursing Presented by David Zersen

Parish Nursing is a specialty practice recognized by the American Nursing Association that combines nursing with health ministry, emphasizing health and healing in a faith community. Simply said, it's a practice through which many religious groups serve the health needs of their members. Started by the Lutheran Church in Germany as Gemeindegewestern (parish nurses), the movement developed independently in Lutheran churches in the U.S. and now has spread to denominations and institutions worldwide.



Dan Bice, Pastor Kevin and Conor Williams led a follow-up session on the Israel - Hamas conflict. Pastor Kevin gave his perspective after spending a few weeks in the Holy Land several years ago. The three presenters took questions and comments from the attendees, allowing people to respond to all the information given in previous adult education sessions on this topic.

SAINTS

St. Matthew's Older Adults Ministry

Wednesday, May 15 beginning at 11:30am
"Joys of Birding – Wehr the Birds Are"
Presented by Holly Walz, Park Naturalist at Wehr Nature Center

From beginning birder as a child to present day full-fledged adult bird nerd, Holly will bring stories and photographs from her life experiences watching birds, personally and professionally.



Come to learn about birds found in the Milwaukee area - from our everyday Wisconsin State Bird the American Robin, to the migrating warblers that pass through on their way to nesting sites far and wide, to oddities that pop in from time to time.

Can you identify birds when you see them? What if you can hear the bird but cannot find it anywhere? Find out where birds are found in their habitat - from the highs to the lows, evergreen or coniferous, and wet to dry. Learn to identify them from field marks, calls, and songs. We'll use ornithologist tips and tricks from the field to learn the locals.

Bring your own birding questions.



Saints is St. Matthew's Older Adults Ministry which meets monthly for fellowship, devotion, entertainment and a box lunch (suggested donation \$12). Sign up in advance is appreciated, by 9am of the Monday before the gathering. All older adults are welcome, as well as friends from outside our congregation.

At the April Saints gathering, Dr. Stephen Hauser, a retired local university professor, was an engaging and fascinating speaker who told stories about how baseball began in Milwaukee, going all the way back to the mid-1800s to an entrepreneur named Rufus King.



Children's Ministry

First through Fifth Graders Join us for Kids for Christ and Disciples of Christ

Both groups will meet on Sunday, May 5th from 12-2pm. Join us for Pizza, Capture the Flag and other fun games. Cost is \$5. Friends are always welcome! To sign up: Call the church office at 414-774-0441 or email Donna at donnagm@me.com

Sunday School: 3 Sundays remain

The last day of Sunday School this year is May 19th. Thanks to our teachers, helpers and shepherds. We appreciate you!

Baptism Anniversaries

“We Promise to Pray for You...”

Several times each month, babies, children and adults are baptized during our worship services. During the service of baptism, after the person is baptized, the congregation welcomes him or her and promises to pray for him or her during his/her faith development. We list May baptisms for the past few years, and ask for your prayers and support for the spiritual growth of these little ones.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Sophia Sisouvanh | May 14, 2023 |
| Finn Ryan Gintoft | May 1, 2022 |
| Josephine Colette Yentz | May 1, 2022 |
| Everest Stanley Benson | May 15, 2022 |
| Lincoln Otto Krajcik | May 29, 2022 |
| Andrew Byrne | May 26, 2019 |
| Samuel Greenley | May 27, 2018 |
| Maxton Ehlers | May 27, 2018 |



(Above) Mary West, Patti Foley, Bev & Kristen Etzelmuller organized the donated clothing for the Clothing Swap. (on right) Jen Richter speaks to Elise Georgesen.



Vacation Bible School 2024: July 29 – August 2, mornings

As you prep your summer calendar, be certain to save July 29 – August 2 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 soon.

2024 VBS Volunteer Registration

Sign Up NOW to be part of the fun as a volunteer Join us July 29th -August 2nd from 8:45-11:45 and volunteer for a faith and fun-filled week. Click on the link below and fill out the form no later than July 15th. An individual form needs to be submitted for each volunteer. Youth volunteers must be entering 6th grade or older. If you have any questions, you can call the church office at 414-774-0441 or email donnagm@me.com. Thank you for helping with this amazing ministry!

<https://tinyurl.com/msd8km2m>



Charlotte Cherney, Zoey McCullough and Cassi Locher enjoyed the Good Friday Children's service.

Noah & Donna Manke led the Good Friday Children's Service.



Donna Manke gathered the children after the Egg Hunt for a child-friendly Good Friday worship service.



The Day of Pentecost is Sunday, May 19 - Being Sent

On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit comes to us and we are sent; sent to proclaim the message and sent to serve.

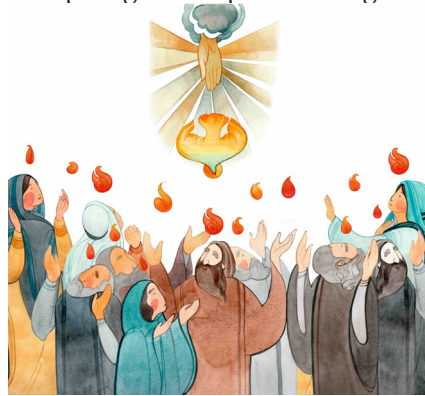
Called to fulfill the Great Commission, St. Matthew’s welcomes all to faith in Jesus Christ, nurtures our faith journey, equips us to serve others, and sends us into the world to make a difference in Jesus’ name.

Since the Holy Spirit conveyed power and authority to the apostles, transforming them from twelve frightened followers into a band of bold evangelists, Pentecost is known as “the birthday of the Church.” And its details are dramatically set down in the Acts of the Apostles [2:1-6]

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues.

**Pentecost
Worship
May 19th
8:30 & 11:00 am**

The Spirit gives us power and gifts to send us out to proclaim the Word. Following in the steps of Jesus, we celebrate those gifts and encourage each other to share the good news.



The Gifts of the Spirit

Wisdom is the gift of knowledge about divine matters, particularly about the will of God.

Understanding helps us to see beyond the surface to find meaning in the mystery of our human life. This gift helps us to see how our faith unites us to God and to one another.

Counsel directs our attention to God as the source of loving values. Counsel helps us assist others in finding which course to take.

Courage helps us to do what we know is right - even when we are afraid.

Knowledge is the insight into what we ought to believe and what is not worthy of belief.

Reverence leads us to respect and give honor to God and to others.

As it happens, the Holy Spirit visited the apostles on the Jewish feast of Pentecost, a long-established festival of thanksgiving for the first fruits of the wheat harvest. The Church’s transformation of this Jewish feast into a Christian festival was, in a way, related to the belief that the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles was the first fruits of a new harvesting – of souls.

John R. Paradowski, Minister of Music

FRIENDS OF L’ARCHE MILWAUKEE Update

Identity Statement: We are an inspired, healing community of friends with diverse gifts – WOW!

Mission Statement: Together we will welcome all, nurture growth, and create a community of joy!

Imagine a group of people, with and without disabilities, sitting in a circle in the Upper Room, working together to formulate these statements. If you were lucky enough to be there, you would have heard stories, maybe shed a few tears, and perhaps gained a new insight into what community, at its deepest level, could look like. Those of us who signed up for the two sessions required to craft these statements had no idea of the ride we were in for.

And we are just beginning.

In February, we were given the green light by L’Arche USA to move to the next stage of formation called the Exploration Stage. We are now tasked with becoming an official not-for-profit organization with the State of Wisconsin, forming a board of directors, and investigating the possible ways our group can best serve people with disabilities in Wauwatosa and the greater Milwaukee area. In addition, we continue to hold monthly gatherings where we invite all, deepen relationships, and move toward our dream of bringing L’Arche to our area – a community where people with and without disabilities share life.

The best part about moving to the next stage of formation is being able to change the name of our group to (drum roll please): Friends of L’Arche Milwaukee

We meet the third Sunday of the month from 3:30-4:30pm at St. Matthew’s to deepen our understanding of true community by sharing life, stories, prayer, and joy. All are welcome. For more information contact Julia Murphy 414-453-9367.



Attendees at the February 2024 monthly gathering where we unveiled our new name.

Annual Mother's Day Diaper Collection is Now in Progress:

Bring Diapers to St. Matt's through Mother's Day, May 12th

Donations of diapers (all sizes), unscented diaper wipes, and diaper rash creams are needed by our central city partners. These items will be shared by Reformation Lutheran Church at their Baby Fair on May 18th and by Cross Lutheran at their food pantry.



According to a study by the National Diaper Bank Network, nearly 1 in 2 families struggle to pay for diapers, up from 1 in 3 several years ago. In Milwaukee, diapers are

harder to access in communities of color, and they are not covered by low income assistance programs like SNAP and WIC.

Donations are needed by Sunday, May 12th and can be left in the collection area under the coat rack across from the office. Thanks so much for your generosity!



June 1st: Ray Of Hope Run In memory of Brenda Ray and others who bravely endured ovarian cancer

Are you interested taking a run or walk through Hoyt Park and supporting a good cause? Would you help to support a fundraiser for education and research of

ovarian cancer? Please join us June 1st for the Ray of Hope Run. Registration is open on rayofhopefun.org.

Ray of Hope is a non-profit organization established in 2018 in response to the need for more advocacy for ovarian cancer awareness. Our organization was founded in memory of long time St. Matthew's member Brenda Ray. Our "Be Brave" mantra came to life because of Brenda Ray. When her two daughters were growing up, Brenda would sing them a bedtime song. The main message, and recurring lyric throughout the song was "be brave little one." While Brenda used those lyrics to encourage her daughters to be brave, she also set an amazing example of bravery throughout her entire life.

"Be Brave" not only encompasses Brenda's bravery, but the bravery of all women and their families who have been affected by ovarian cancer. Women around the world continue to be brave and resilient in the fight against ovarian cancer, and their bravery should not go unnoticed.

Please join us on June 1. Sign up on the website: rayofhopefun.com

Tosa Cares -- We Are Seeking Donations to continue our support of 300 families in Wauwatosa

Tosa Cares Food Pantry is celebrating its 16th Anniversary of serving Wauwatosa. Economic instability, job losses and rising costs of living have pushed more families to seek assistance from Tosa Cares than ever before. The number of families we serve regularly has increased from 188 in 2019 to 313 in 2023.



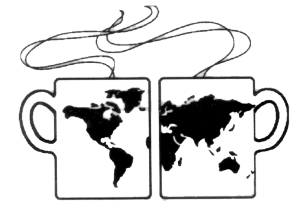
With your support, we have risen to meet this increased demand, but we need additional resources to continue our mission to serve our guests. Any contribution allows us to continue building a community where every neighbor knows the warmth of a helping hand. Scan the QR code at the right to learn more or to make an online donation. Thanks for considering!



Cash Donations are especially needed at TOSA CARES due to the high volume of clients, to purchase items not donated.

Your Support of Mt Meru Coffee Is especially needed now due to weather challenges

Just as we have experienced some changes in our weather this past year, so have the coffee farmers in the Mt. Meru region of Tanzania in East Africa. This has affected the size of coffee harvests this past year so your purchase of Mt. Meru coffee is more important than ever.



We stock the standard coffee in regular and decaf, grind or bean, in 12 oz. bags for \$12. We also try to keep our Peaberry coffee in stock. This is a regular coffee in 12 oz. bags for \$18 and is less acidic than the standard regular. Besides our flavored coffees there are other sizes and packaging options available for order. Stop by the coffee cart for more information.

Remember, all coffee served at St. Matthew's during the coffee hour or other functions is Mt. Meru. Justice never tasted so good!

The Installation of Lead Pastor Kevin Kretzmann Farrar



Brian Due, Call Committee Chairperson, participated in the Installation service.



Pastor Kevin leads the congregation in prayer.

Pastor Kevin addresses the congregation after his installation, thanking everyone for the warm welcome.



John & Kristen Charlson and Marion Heinz helped to make the reception between services a celebration. Laura Hyland and her family, as well as many cookie bakers, also added to the effort to make it special.



The Senior Choir, directed by Alexa Doebele, sang at both services.



Bishop Paul Erickson, who leads the Greater Milwaukee Synod of the ELCA, was the preacher of the day.

Bulletin Board

Summer Office Hours:

Office Closes Fridays at Noon

Beginning on Friday, May 24, summer office hours will begin, when the church office closes at noon on Fridays. Monday through Thursday are full days (8:00-4:30), with only Friday having reduced hours.

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 2024-2025 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, 2024**.

Upcoming Healing Prayer Opportunities:

Sunday, May 26, after the 9:30 am worship service

Sunday, June 16, during the 9:30 worship service

Sunday, July 21, after the 9:30 am worship service

Sunday, August 18, during 9:30 am worship service

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

Eat at Jose's Blue Sombrero & Support the Youth Mission Trip to New Orleans!

Planning to eat at Jose's Blue Sombrero in the village? Then stop in the office to buy some gift certificates to pay for your meal. The certificates cost \$5 a piece and are worth \$5 toward the food that you purchase. St. Matthew's earns \$1 for every certificate, which supports the Youth Mission Trip.

Certificates are available in the office. Thanks for your support!



Our Church Family

We rejoice in the birth of **Amelia Kay**, daughter of **Karen & Kevin Rinka**. She is the granddaughter of **Donna & Jim Koeble**. Amelia was born at 34 weeks, so please keep her in your prayers as she grows stronger everyday.

Roger Kriel died on March 30, surrounded by his family. We remember his beloved wife **Darlene**. They were married for 65 years. A funeral service was held on April 5 at Schmidt & Bartelt in Wauwatosa.

Join us for worship on Sunday, May 26, when **Dave & Judy Holmes** will provide a cake for the coffee time in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary. Congratulations, Dave & Judy!

New Members were received into the congregation on April 28th. Watch for a listing along with photos of these new members in the June issue of The VOICE.

High school seniors are invited to share their photos and a paragraph of their high school activities and future plans, to be included in summer issues of the VOICE. We look forward to reading about these young people during a very exciting time in their lives. If you have a high school senior who would like to be included in this layout, send a photo and bio to: office@stmattslutheran.org by June 10th.

Yes, we'll pray for you.. or someone you know...

The Prayer Chain continues to faithfully pray for the needs of the congregation and community. If you would like the Prayer Chain to be praying for your needs, please contact the church office at 414-774-0441. You may also e-mail the church at office@stmattslutheran.org with a prayer request or if you wish to join the prayer chain.

Thanks to Pastor Chris Manke for sharing his album of Installation Sunday photos. It is wonderful to have so many photos of this special day at St. Matthew's. Some are included in this issue of The Voice.

Adam Procell spoke at the Men's Breakfast on April 20, sharing his compelling story. Now the Director of Partners in Hope, Adam turned his life around after gang life, crime and prison. In prison he felt the presence of God, leading him to mentor and support many adults who have been incarcerated, and the importance of making good choices.





St. Matthew's

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

PERIODICALS RATE

Mail Carrier: Please deliver by May 4, 2024.

The Voice of St. Matthew's

We are called to welcome, nurture, equip and send

Next issue of the VOICE is dated June 2, 2024.

Scenes from Installation Day - April 14



Kristin Hanson, Pastor Kevin, Joyce Biehn and Gretchen Hauge.



Banner created by Sunday School children in honor of Pastor Kevin.



(Left to right) Pastor Alissa Kretzmann Farrar (Pastor Kevin's spouse), and Pastor Kevin's parents, Cathy & Michael Farrar.



Pastor Kevin and daughter Zoë



Eileen Lund, Pastor Margaret Schoewe, Linda Levengood



Retired pastors Randy Koeller and Carl Lund.



Remember Summer Worship Schedule begins May 26
All summer long, one worship service at 9:30 am