

# Welcome to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

October 29, 2023



**It's Reformation Sunday**, when we celebrate our heritage and the life of Martin Luther, a German pastor, theologian and reformer whose work and writings led to the formation of today's Lutheran church.

## ***Keys to the Reformation***

Justification by faith, according to Luther and the other Protestant reformers, is the key to the Scripture, the Christian faith and the Reformation. It means simply taking hold of God's promise [that's faith] that God accepts us as righteous because of Christ [that's justification].

**Righteousness of God:** the perfect goodness of God by which he justifies us through faith. The three Reformation *Solas* [Sola is Latin for "alone."]

- **By Scripture alone** - only God's Word is our sure guide for faith and life, not the teachings or traditions of the Church.
- **By faith alone** - only faith or trust in God's promises, not our efforts, receives God's justification.
- **By grace alone** - only through God's undeserved love are we made righteous, not also through the merits of humans - saints or otherwise.

**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.

**Altar flowers** are provided by Deb & John Schilling in honor of their wedding anniversary.

**We thank our instrumentalists today:** Robert Hughes, Steve Winters, Sal Terrasi, Dave Mikec, Jack Dankwardt.

**Today's Adult Forum:** (9:45 am in the Upper Room)

**October 29 -- Luther, We Hardly Knew You** (*Focus for REFORMATION SUNDAY!*)

Reformation Sunday has always been a time to celebrate those emphases in Luther's theology that we cherish today: Faith Alone, Grace Alone, Scripture Alone. However, the great man's voluminous writings (69 volumes in the American Edition), can surprise us with his crude language, antisemitic remarks and condescending critiques of regional minority groups. Dr. David Zersen will share information based on his research that he has published in a number of journals. Come and learn whether you really know Brother Martin.

**Daylight Saving Time ends next weekend.** Set clocks back one hour before retiring on Saturday evening, November 4.

# Bulletin Insert for Sunday, October 29, 2023

## Fall Stewardship Campaign – “I Love Our Church”

Please take a moment to consider God’s blessings in your life. Then reflect on how St. Matthew’s Church has most supported you or what it is you love about our church! Soon, you’ll receive a stewardship mailing through USPS. Everyone in this community matters. Every act of serving, each gift is valuable. Pledges will be blessed during worship on Nov. 12th to become support for God’s work through St. Matthew’s in the coming year.

*I Love Our Church*



*Every time I think of you,  
I give thanks to my God. Phil. 1:3*

**Stewardship Timeline: Week of Oct. 30 – Stewardship Mailing to your home**

**Sunday, November 12 – Consecration Sunday** - Pledges blessed in worship services

Three Items to Complete for your Stewardship Packet (online or hard copy)

**Pledge card**

<https://tinyurl.com/Pledge2024>

**Activities and Ministries Form**

<https://tinyurl.com/Act-Min>

**Information Update**

<https://tinyurl.com/StewUpdate2024>

**Congregational Survey:** If you haven’t yet taken the survey sent out by email this week, you can take it now by using your smartphone and this QR code. Our church council is taking the pulse of the congregation by gathering these responses. Thank you for your participation and input. *Please complete by November 12.*



*We Want Your Opinion*



**Upcoming Adult Education:** *Join us, and let’s learn together!* We’ll gather at 9:45 am in the Upper Room each week.

### **November 5 -- All Saints Reflection**

Join us for a reflective presentation on grief shared by Candy Romano. Candy is a certified grief educator who offers grief support groups here weekly. She does it to honor her sister, who died on All Saints Day 5 years ago. The Healing Prayer Ministry will also be present to offer care and healing.

### **November 12 -- What is a Prophet Pastor Karen and Pastor Ann**

With 15 books of the Bible named after prophets, and the prophets quoted 77 times in the Gospels and 98 times in the rest of the New Testament, you might be curious about their role among God’s people. Not only will we talk about the prophetic voices in the Bible, but also what it means to offer a prophetic word today. Because in Acts 2, Peter declares that all God’s people will become prophets—or interpreters—of the word and the world.

**New Member Classes continue today – Choir Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Education wing**

Classes will be held on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45.

**October 22nd, October 29th and November 5th**

New Members will be received on Sunday, November 12th at the 8:30 service. If you have any questions, please contact [sueswing@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sueswing@sbcglobal.net), the pastors or the church office.

**All Saints Sunday – November 5<sup>th</sup> Remembering with Thanksgiving**

During our **All Saints Sunday Remembrance** on November 5<sup>th</sup> we will hold up those whose lives have walked the paths before us and beside us in faith. There are Remembrance Cards available on the table at the top of the Grand Central staircase for you to fill out and drop off at the Welcome Center where you can list names of those who have touched your life. We will use those cards to be held up in prayer on that Sunday.

**Women's Group Meets First Sunday of the Month from 9:45-10:45 - Sunday, Nov. 5**

All ages are represented and we benefit greatly from the faith, wisdom and laughter that is shared in this hour. All are welcome! Come when you can!

**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. See the website, under 'Adult Ministry' for the complete list.

November 3: *That Good Night: Life and Medicine in the Eleventh Hour*, By Sunita Puri

**Kids for Christ and Disciples of Christ – Attention Parents of 1<sup>st</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> graders**

Let's gather for Food, Games, Prayer, and Fun! Join Donna Gardner Manke in the youth room for pizza. We will then play Capture the Flag in the education wing. Please join us. Call the church office to sign up 414-774-0441 (or sign up thru the church emails). It is helpful to know numbers, so we have enough food. Friends are welcome! Cost is \$5.00

**KFC: 1st -3rd graders are invited to join us for Kids for Christ!**

Sunday, Nov 5th 12-2pm

**DOC: 4th – 5th graders are invited to join us for Disciples of Christ!**

Sunday, Nov 19th 12-2pm

**The Youth Services Directory is now available** for members of St. Matthew's to find young people willing to help with babysitting, yard work, snow removal and other tasks, at a rate of pay negotiated mutually. The list of young people is laid out on a spreadsheet, and can be picked up in the church office, or emailed to you on request. Please remember that this is meant to be used by members of St. Matthew's, and if you wish to pass along a young person's name to someone else, the parents of the young person should be asked for permission. Thanks!

## Reformation Needs Your Help!

There are two ways that we can help Reformation serve their neighborhood in the coming weeks:

- 1) Donate household products to be given out to neighbors at their monthly SONshine Pantry. They are especially in need of Cleaning items.
- 2) Donate diapers (all sizes) for the Reformation Baby Fest on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Please check out the details of these needs at this link, or pick up a list at the Welcome Center or across from the church office.



QR Code connects  
to a linked list.

## City Tins for Sale, November 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>!

### *Proceeds Support Youth Mission Trip*

It's City Tins time again! Youth at St. Matthew's will be selling the tins from November 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> to raise money for the youth mission trip.

City Tins are filled with 20 or more coaster gift cards, each worth \$10 off a \$30 tab at different venues in a variety of Wisconsin cities, as well as the Twin Cities in Minnesota. The cost of the tins, which make perfect birthday or Christmas gifts, is \$30.

You can pre-order City Tins at the display in the Commons or by ordering online from November 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>. (Watch the bulletin and weekly emails for more details).

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

## Mt Meru Coffee:

Our Mission -Living the gospel by building economic justice and respect together with Mt. Meru coffee farmers. For over 23 years the Mt. Meru Coffee Project has partnered with the coffee growers of Mt. Meru. Along with the Diocese of Meru and the Greater Milwaukee Synod we have maintained a keen and constant focus on staying true to our calling in Christ: walking with our partner farmers in Tanzania to build respect and economic justice. Your purchase is more important than ever. It will enable us to maintain and increase our purchase of coffee from Mt. Meru growers paying them more than they would get at market prices.



YTD Financial Results as of:	10/22/23
General Fund Receipts	\$742,439
General Fund Budget (total monthly)	\$758,709
Over/(Under) Budget	(\$16,270)
 Benevolence Disbursements	 \$127,217
 Building Fund Balance	 \$200,108

## **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:** Al Van Lith.

**Acolytes:** (8:30) Kateri Kirchner, Michael Knutson. (11:00) Jacob Dahlgren, Chase Slager.

**Coffee Hosts:** Laura Hyland.

**Communion Preparers:** (8:30) Lila Welch, Chris Sponnick Weber. (11:00) Lois Marks, Maya Tanel.

**Communion Assistants:** (8:30) Nancy Bowen, Tim Goetsch, Marion Heinz, Joanne Ziarek. (11:00) Joyce Biehn, Jan Johnson, Donna McAllister.

**Greeters:** (8:30) Betsy & Chris Daniels, Linda Merklein. (11:00) Paul Kramer, Diann Lebow, Matt & Sarah Frets.

**Lay Readers:** (8:30) Laura Crave Staats. (11:00) Ginger Wooster.

**Ushers:** (8:30) Connor Meier, Claudia & Dale Renaud, Jim Bowen, *captain*. (11:00) Jacob Bartlett, Tom Templeman.

**Lay Assistant:** (8:30) Annette Olson.

**Welcome Center Host:** (8:30) Erin & Rob Weileder.

**Library Assistant:** Judith Holmes.

**Stephen Minister:** Carl Johnson.

**Worship Technology:** (8:30) Levi Kirchner, David Locher. (9:45) Ed Bross. (11:00) Owen Schaar, Stephen Skaife.

***Are you on the list of assistants??** If not, please consider helping on a Sunday morning with one of these tasks. It's a great way to get involved, meet people, and contribute to the Sunday morning worship experience for our church. Scheduling can be worked into your own schedule, and switching dates can always be arranged if you end up with a personal schedule change. Contact Al Van Lith at [al@stmattslutheran.org](mailto:al@stmattslutheran.org).*

Pastoral Staff: Karen Natterstad, Interim Lead; Ann Williams, Associate Pastor

Volunteer Ministries/Small Groups/Adult Education: Sue Swing

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

Children's Minister: Donna Gardner Manke.

Music Minister: John Paradowski.

Interim Senior Choir Director: Alexa Doebele.

Music Staff: Jeff Reeves, Amy Dankwardt, Heide Hughes

Technology Coordinator: Brian Smith.

Library Coordinator (volunteer) Linda Wunderlich.

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