

Welcome to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

March 12, 2023



Welcome to worship on the third Sunday in Lent. A warm welcome to visitors joining us today.

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. Speak to an usher if you need assistance coming forward.

Repairers of the Breach bag lunches will be assembled during the Education Hour, beginning about 9:45am, in the main kitchen on the lower level. Additional helpers are always welcome.

Today's Adult Education, 9:45-10:45 am in the Upper Room

Pronouns: Being a Welcoming People, Part 2 with Jay McDivitt

Our Adult Ed session this past Sunday was well-received and fascinating to the large crowd that attended, and we ran out of time to address some areas of interest. So on this Sunday, March 12 at 9:45 am, we'll take a deeper look at the handout from Reconciling Works, the organization that helps congregations in the ELCA (our larger church body) to become more welcoming communities.

We'll continue the conversation about terminology in the handout. Come with your questions. We are pleased to welcome back Jay McDivitt to lead our learning at this second session. Jay is a former ELCA pastor, now an attorney, who shared in this past Sunday's session some of his experiences leading congregations who were discerning how to intentionally welcome and celebrate the gifts of all of God's people.

At the end of this Sunday's session, there will be conversation about where the Holy Spirit is leading St. Matthew's and what else we might like to learn as we strive to grow in Christian love with curiosity, courage and compassion.

Pot of Gold Derby Dinner Auction: Friday March 17: This fun event for adults and kids includes auction bidding, good food, entertainment and activities for the kids!

5:30-6:30: Bid on a wide variety of auction items, including four vacation rentals

6:30: Feast on classic derby foods, such as chicken strips and dipping sauces, Kentucky Hot Brown sandwiches, meatballs in barbecue sauce, beer cheese dip, salad and Kentucky desserts. *Vegetarian options available*

7:20: Entertainment and announcement of auction winners

Suggested donation for the dinner is \$10 for adults (12 and up) and \$5 for kids (3-11). All proceeds benefit the Youth Run to Rebuild Mission Trip to Kentucky.

Sign up at the Welcome Center or online at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/PotofGoldDerby>



Bulletin Insert for Sunday, March 12, 2023

A Celebration to give thanks for five years of service by Julia Murphy to be held on March 12, 9:45 am during coffee time Our Saints Older Adults Ministry Coordinator, Julia Murphy, has resigned from that position effective with the new year. Julia Murphy has led the Saints for over five years, and shown careful leadership during the pandemic challenges. We are especially thankful for the thoughtful leadership she provided for our whole congregation in 'returning to worship' safely as vaccines became more widely available. Please join us for cake and give thanks for Julia's work these past five years.

Deborah Circle will meet this Tuesday, March 14, beginning at 12:30 pm in the Upper Room.

Parents Night Out - Thursday, March 23rd 5:00-8:00pm *Back by Popular Demand!* Dave & Dana Wurzburger will host this fun dinner at Cafe Hollander for the parents while the kids are fed and cared for at St. Matthew's church. Childcare will be provided by some of the grandparents of St. Matthew's. They are looking forward to this truly intergenerational event! There is no cost for the meal/childcare that is provided to the kids. Older siblings welcome to volunteer as childcare workers! Sign up with Sue Swing; sueswing@sbcglobal.net or at the Welcome Center at church.

Lenten Wednesdays, each week through March 29

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| 10:00 – 11:00am | Bible Study with Pastor Ann Williams |
| 5:30-6:20pm | Dinner in Fellowship Hall to benefit Youth Mission Trip
<i>Menu for 3-15: Pulled chicken sandwiches, salad, fruit</i>
Suggested donation is \$8 for ages 11+ and \$5 for ages 3-10 |
| 6:15-7:00pm | Family Lenten Time for parents and children with Donna Manke
Stories, songs, projects, prayer and brief worship
Children 3 rd grade and younger are encouraged to attend |
| 5:45-6:30 | New Creation Choir Rehearsal |
| 6:30-7:00 | New Generation Choir Rehearsal |
| 7:15pm | Midweek Lenten Service
A simple and beautiful service; a time to meditate and pray
<i>"We who are thirsty ask for the life-giving water that Jesus provides"</i> |



Disciples of Christ Today! DOC is 4th – 5th graders, who are invited to join us today, **Sunday March 12, 12-2pm** We will gather in the youth room for pizza. We will then play big group games including Capture the Flag in the education wing. Please join us for this time of Fellowship and fun. (It is helpful to know numbers, so we have enough food) Friends are welcome! Cost is \$5.00.

Easter Eggs Needed! Looking Ahead to Good Friday, April 7: We are asking for donations of wrapped candy-filled Easter eggs for the Good Friday easter egg hunt. Empty eggs are available outside the church office right now, and filled eggs can be returned to the same place.

Puzzle Swap! NEW! Plan to participate in this new event on Sunday, March 26th. Share those puzzles you've finished, and pick up a new one for those cold and cloudy spring days when you can't yet be outside too long. Sponsored by the Social Ministry Committee

Could you help provide food for the Wednesday Lenten meals? Help the Youth Mission trip group keep costs down for the meals by donating food. Go to our website, and scroll down to the Lenten Wednesday nights box. Look for a signup to attend the meal, as well as a signup to provide food, listing what is needed for the next meal. In most cases, the food needs to be at church on the Sunday before the Wednesday night, for planning and preparing ahead. Thanks for your support!

This year's underwear collection is now underway, which benefits the clients of the Guest House (men) and The Benedict Center Sisters Program (for women). Here's a listing of what we are collecting:

Men's briefs or boxer briefs (sizes S, M, L, XL, 2X and 3X)

Men's Socks, size 6-12

Women's panties, sizes 4-24

Women's Bras, sizes 34A - 42C

Women's Socks

Women's Pajamas and long underwear, sizes up to 2X

Bring your donations to the wooden collection box outside the church office. **Remember the option to ORDER ONLINE at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/bdhus9us>**

Looking Ahead: Adult Education, 9:45-10:45 am

March 19

Caregiver Sunday

Caregivers work hard and often go unrecognized. Gather with other caregivers for sharing and support. All are welcome. With Pastor Ann & Sue Swing

March 26

"Thirty-Eight to Remember: Six to Surprise Us"

Increasingly the Christian community is paying special attention to women who served their Lord in creative ways through the centuries. Both the ELCA and the LCMS commemorate on specific days of the year thirty-eight women from around the world. How many of them do you know? Dr. David Zersen will surprise us with the stories of six of them.

Time to purchase Easter Flowers for the display at church on Easter Morning! 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: Palm Sunday, April 2nd. Flower and benevolence designations will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

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 2nd Fri. **All Creatures Great and Small**, by James Herriot, 448 pages
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.

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.

YTD Financial Results as of:	03/05/23
General Fund Receipts	\$190,794
General Fund Budget	\$230,773
Over/(Under) Budget	(\$39,980)
 Benevolence Disbursements	 \$23,149
 Building Fund Balance	 \$191,902

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.
Music Staff: David Mohr, Jeff Reeves, Amy Dankwardt, Heide Hughes
Technology Coordinator: Brian Smith.
Library Coordinator (volunteer) Linda Wunderlich.
Custodial Staff: Marsha Olson, Dave Fagerberg, Bob Gardner.
Office Staff: Al Van Lith, Bridget Smith, Sonja Mohr



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