

# Welcome to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

March 5, 2023



**Welcome to worship on the second 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.

**First Communion:** (11:00) We welcome Quinn Steinberg and Evelyn & Simone Georgeson and their families as they receive their First Communion.

**A library book** has been given to the church library by Dee & Don Birschel in honor of Gavin Bratz's 11<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Today's Adult Education, 9:45-10:45 am - March 5 – in the Upper Room**

***"My Pronouns are What and Who Now?"*** Navigating the Changing Landscape of Being a Welcoming People The last few decades have seen a rapid shift in acceptance and welcome of people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, marital statuses, and family structures. For those longing to be included and celebrated, it may feel like there is a long way to go, and things aren't changing quickly enough. For those who want things to stay the same, it may feel very frustrating and even infuriating to see emerging generations welcoming and celebrating identities and lifestyles that were once widely considered taboo and wrong. Join Jay McDivitt (he/him/his), a former ELCA pastor of two Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregations, as he welcomes your questions and wades into the sometimes murky waters of "All Are Welcome." He is not an expert in all things LGBTQIA+\* (yes, we can talk about all that, too). He is a church leader who has worked to help congregations sing and live the promise that "All Are Welcome," while fumbling and failing countless times along the way as new challenges emerge. We'll talk about pronouns, the difference between sexual orientation and gender identity, and pretty much anything else you want to discuss (time permitting). This will be a safe place to bring all your hard, silly, confusing, even accidentally offensive questions, starting with the assumption that we are a people of Grace who are committed to growing in compassion, curiosity, and courage together.

**Parents Night Out - Thursday, March 23rd 5:00-8:00pm Back by Popular Demand!**

Dave & Dana Wurzbarger 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](mailto:sueswing@sbcglobal.net) or at the Welcome Center at church.

## Bulletin Insert for Sunday, March 5, 2023

### **Men's Breakfast - Saturday, March 11th 7:30-9:00am – Sign Up at Welcome Center**

Enjoy a hearty breakfast with the men & friends of St. Matthew's at 7:30 a.m. The breakfast will be followed by a powerful faith sharing & testimony given by St. Matt's member, Mike Reinicker. *"My wife and I both received a cancer diagnosis in the same year. My cancer diagnosis was supposed to be non urgent and curable without much risk. Find out how I ended up on a ventilator for 10 days and was given only a 5% chance to survive. I will talk about how this experience brought us closer to God and showed me how God works through each and every one of us."* Sign up at the Welcome Center.

**Women's Group Meets First Sunday of the Month from 9:45-10:45 - Sunday, March 5th & Sunday, April 2nd** In February Katie Nickel led the discussion on Mental Health and we had some time in small groups to share our stories and resource ideas with one another. We will continue this topic in March and encourage all women to stop in. 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!

**Julia Murphy resigns from Saints Coordinator position - A Celebration to give thanks for her ministry 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.

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### **Lenten Wednesdays, each week through March 29**

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



## **Kids for Christ and Disciples of Christ are Back**

**KFC:** 1st -3rd graders are invited to join us for Kids for Christ! **Sunday, March 5 12-2pm**  
**DOC:** 4th – 5th graders are invited to join us for Kids for Christ. **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. Call the church office to sign up. (It is helpful to know numbers, so we have enough food) Friends are welcome! Cost is \$5.00.

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

### **March 12**

#### **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.

### **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.

**B’Gosh ‘n Begorrah, It’s Back! Youth Dinner Auction Planned for March 17<sup>th</sup>!** It’s your lucky night! For the first time in three years, we’re planning a Dinner Auction for the Youth Mission Trip on Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. *Details coming soon! It’s always a great evening!*

#### **Auction Items are Welcome**

We are always looking for interesting items to offer at our dinner auction fundraiser. Do you work for a business that would consider donating a product or a gift certificate? Do you have a skill or service you could contribute? Vacation rentals are also a welcome item. All donations in good condition are appreciated. Please talk to Gretchen Haugse if you can help.



**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 26<sup>th</sup>. 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 sign up to attend the meal, as well as a sign up to provide food. 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.

### **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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Selling a used car?** Consider giving Joy a call at 414-400-3644. She trusts that the Holy Spirit will intervene in connecting her with a good used vehicle. Thank you.

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