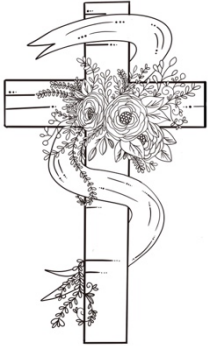


Welcome to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

April 30, 2023



Christ is risen! Alleluia! Welcome, one and all, as we continue to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Friends, we welcome you in the name of the one God who has defeated death forever by raising Jesus from the tomb. Guests, please fill out a yellow welcome card and hand it to an usher.

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.

Altar flowers have been provided by Dale and Dollie Kirchner in honor of their 61st wedding anniversary.

Adult Education: 9:45-10:45am Today: **"Clobber" Passages** The Bible contains several verses in the Old and New Testaments that are used to bash the LBGTQ+ 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**

What is "Equipping the Saints" Synod Mission Appeal? Our thanks to Andy Cherney and Chris Kent, who have been sharing information through weekly Temple Talks about the Synod's Equipping the Saints Mission Appeal. Our Synod (group of area ELCA churches, approx. 120 in southeastern Wisconsin) has been running this fundraising program for the last 18 months or so, and they are already about halfway to the \$2.3 million goal for a two-pronged plan: a) Innovation and Collaboration, and b) Leadership. There is a well-thought-out plan for how this money will be used to benefit our own synod as well as our partner synods in Tanzania and El Salvador. On May 14th, we will welcome Bishop Paul Erickson as guest preacher, and there will be an opportunity to make a commitment gift to this appeal during worship services. Check out this website for more information:
<https://www.equippingthesaintsgms.org>

Thanks for Supporting the Youth Mission Trip!!

A huge thank you to all of you who have supported the *Run to Rebuild* Mission Trip over the past weeks. Thank you for attending, donating to, or bidding on items for the Pot of Gold Derby Dinner Auction. It was a fun event and successful fundraiser, thanks to you! Thanks also for joining us for Lenten Dinners and the Easter Breakfast, which are also Mission Trip fundraisers.

We are so grateful for all the ways that the congregation upholds these annual weeks of service that are so meaningful to the youth who participate.

Bulletin Insert for Sunday, April 30, 2023

Next week's Adult Education: 9:45-10:45am May 7 "Welcoming All"

The conversation continues. What can we continue to learn that could help us expand our welcome to those in the LGBTQ community? Using guidance from the ELCA's Reconciling Works, we'll learn about the community building benefit of engaging in "one to one" visits. We'll also preview the 2009 ELCA Social Statement on Human Sexuality. This 48 page document is the ELCA's official guidance on key matters, such as marriage, family, same-gender relationships, protection of children and youth, and more.

Women's Group Meets 1st Sunday of the Month from 9:45-10:45 - Next Meeting

May 7th All women are welcome to stop by the women's group whenever you are available. There is good conversation, sharing and discussion. We are excited to have Pastor Ann join us for a talk and discussion. We meet in the Youth Room next to Fellowship Hall and all are always welcome! Questions? Reach out to Katie Nickel; katiernickel@gmail.com.

Save your textile recycling for the month of May, when **Betr Earth Textile Recycling** will have a collection box at our parking lot entrance for gently used textiles and shoes. 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.

Combined KFC & DOC –Sunday, May 7th, 12:00-2:00pm

First – Fifth Graders: It's time for us to gather for Food, Games, Prayer, and Fun!

Join Donna Manke in the youth room for pizza. We will then play Capture the Flag in the education wing. Please join us for this time of fellowship and fun. Call the church office to sign up. 414-774-0441 (It is helpful to know numbers, so we have enough food)

Friends are welcome! Cost is \$5.00

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.

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

Watch for the new reading list for next year, which will come out this summer.

Our Older Adult Ministries Group: SAINTS:

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.

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.

Now is the time for volunteers to sign up! 2023 VBS Volunteer Registration

Join us July 31st – August 4th from 8:45-11:45 and volunteer for a faithful and fun-filled week. Click on the link below and fill out the form no later than July 16th. An individual form needs to be submitted for each volunteer. If you have any questions, you can call the church office at 414-774-0441 or email Donna Gardner Manke at donnagm@me.com. Looking forward to having you join our team!

Go to our website for an easy way to access this link to sign up to help.

<https://forms.gle/Eq2KrSZfB3aVYtHM8>

Special offer from Mt. Meru Coffee

Our spring special offering from the Mt. Meru coffee project is available now for just a short time. This special roast is from the Makumira area farms and uses a lighter Vienna roast to extract its rich flavors. This flavor blend includes dark chocolate, citrus and coffee blossom. This coffee is \$15 for 12 oz. and because of limited quantities is available by special order only. Remember our premium Peaberry coffee is in stock. This blend is lightly roasted to bring out its special flavor and is less acidic than regular coffee. It is available for \$15 for 12 oz. In drip grind or bean.

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.

Sunday, May 7 After 8:30 service

Sunday, June 11 In Worship 9:30 am

During the Month of May:

- May 7** 8:30, Receive New Members
9:45, New member reception
9:45, Welcoming All – Adult Education
9:45, Women's Group
12:00-2:00, KFC/DOC Children's ministry
- May 14** Bishop Paul Erickson is our Guest Preacher
Mother's Day and Blessing of the Quilts
8:30, 3- & 4-year-olds lead Table Prayer
Equipping the Saints Mission Appeal Synod Pledge opportunity
- May 21** Music Sunday 8:30 and 11:00 am for Bells Angels and Senior Choir
Last day of Sunday School
9:45, Retirement Reception for David Mohr, Senior Choir director
- May 28** Summer Worship Schedule Begins
One Worship service at 9:30 am

YTD Financial Results as of:	04/24/23
General Fund Receipts	\$320,831
General Fund Budget (total monthly)	\$316,048
Over/(Under) Budget	\$4,783
 Benevolence Disbursements	 \$40,225
 ELCA - Lenten Water Project Collected	 \$12,000
 Building Fund Balance	 \$194,467

Pastoral Staff: Karen Natterstad, Interim Lead;
Ann Williams, Associate Pastor
Volunteer Ministries/Small Groups/Adult Education: Sue Swing
Youth Ministries & Children's Education: Gretchen Hauge, 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