

Welcome to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

May 14, 2023



Welcome to worship on this beautiful spring day that the Lord has made! Happy Mother's Day to all mothers and women! Welcome to worship, as we praise the God who calls forth love in all relationships. 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.

Flowers at the altar are given by Pam Stokke-Ceci and Joe Ceci in memory of their mothers, Bev Stokke and Shirley Ceci.

We are pleased to welcome our ELCA Greater Milwaukee Synod Bishop Paul Erickson as our guest preacher today. Bishop Erickson has spent much of his ministry working in cross-cultural settings and has traveled extensively to visit global companions in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Tanzania. He feels called to lead the church as it explores ways to move forward with curiosity, courage, compassion, and collaboration.

Adult Education: 9:45-10:45am in the Upper Room: "Q & A" with Bishop Paul Erickson – Bishop Paul is active in our community, synod and greater churchwide body (ELCA). Join Pastor Karen and Bishop Paul in the Upper Room and bring your questions.

What is "Equipping the Saints" Synod Mission Appeal? Today we welcome Andy Cherney, who will share a message about the synod 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 halfway to the \$2.3 million goal for a two-pronged plan: a) Innovation and Collaboration, and b) Leadership. 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. **On May 14th**, 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>

Stitches of Love Quilting Ministry Blessing today Today you are surrounded by the many quilts and blankets created by our quilting ministry group this year. These quilts will be blessed today and then distributed to several organizations including: The Linus Project, Milwaukee Women's Center, Kathy's House, The Lutheran Home, CareNet; Pine Ridge Reservation, Ronald McDonald House, Allies for Teens in Foster Care. 139 blankets and quilts were completed this year, as well as 9 receiving blankets given to baptism families at St. Matthew's, 57 pillowcases, 3 bed runners, and 10 Christmas bags to Allies for Teens. Bev Etzelmueller is the leader of this group, now in its 19th year at St. Matthew's. Everyone is welcome to join the ministry, which meets four times a year.

Bulletin Insert for Sunday, May 14, 2023

Child for Baptism: Sophie Taylor Sisouvanh, child of Amanda Johnson and Patrick Sisouvanh, West Allis, was born July 11, 2022. Pastor Ann Williams will officiate at the baptism between the worship services. Sponsors are Anthony Burns and Koryn Warren.



Bridging the Gap so Our Mission Trip Youth Can Get to Kentucky!

June 18-24, 2023 People of St. Matthew's, through your ongoing support of the Youth Mission Trips year after year you help make this opportunity possible for the youth of St. Matthew's. With this year's trip coming up in just over a month (June 18-24) and after reviewing our budget based on recent fundraisers, we are coming to you with a special ask. As we all know, costs of just about everything have gone up in the past few years, and that also holds true for Mission Trip costs. **To keep this meaningful experience affordable for our youth, we are hoping that you will consider helping us close our funding gap by making a donation of any amount to the Youth Mission Trip to Kentucky.** Check out our bulletin board in the commons where you will find more information about the work we will be doing in Kentucky in June as well donation envelopes for those of you wishing to make a contribution.

Our Older Adult Ministries Group: SAINTS:

This week, Wednesday, May 17: "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.

Music Sunday is Sunday, May 21st: At both services, Bells Angels, the Senior Choir and brass will be presenting special music highlighting the gift of music and the talents of our musicians. Please join us to share in this wonderful gift of music and thank all our choirs and many musicians in the congregation for their dedication and service the entire year.

Choir Director David Mohr to retire after 35 years

Join us for a reception in his honor on Music Sunday, May 21st

Calling his tenure "an honor and a privilege" David Mohr will retire from leading St. Matthew's Senior Choir this spring. We will honor Dave on "Music Sunday," an annual tradition at St. Matthew's, on Sunday, May 21st. A Farewell Reception will be hosted during coffee time (9:45am) with special treats by members of the choir.

Textile recycling: For the month of May, **Betr Earth Textile Recycling** now has 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.

Annual Mother's Day Diaper Collection:

Our annual Mother's Day Diaper Collection is happening now!

We're collecting diapers of all sizes (newborn through pull-ups) as well as unscented diaper wipes and diaper rash creams to St. Matt's May 7th through June 4th. These needed items will be shared with our partner Reformation Lutheran Church and will be distributed at their Baby Fair on June 10, which offers safe sleep information and provides support to young parents. The cost of diapers is prohibitive to many families. Diapers are not covered by low income assistance programs like SNAP and WIC. Additionally, if you have **baby clothes** or other **baby items** those are also welcome. Please leave donations in the collection area outside the church office. (If you have any large items that you wish to donate, please call 414-614-3440 Nancy Bowen.) Thank you.

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>

Thank you for your support of the Mt. Meru Coffee Project.

Your purchase helps provide sustainable incomes for the farmers growing these coffees.

While we try to maintain an inventory of the basic coffee in drip grind and bean and the Peaberry coffee in drip and bean, there are many other products available which can be ordered if not in stock. These include our Spring Blend and four choices of flavored coffee which are Butter Pecan, French Vanilla, Hazelnut and Chocolate Raspberry, premium sampler packs that feature six coffees, single serve "K" cups that fit many coffee makers, four pound packages of coffee and "Perfect Pot" packages for 12 cup coffee makers.

Stop by the coffee cart during the coffee hour for more information or to place an order.

Partners With Meru Logo Clothing Sale during May: Check out this link for your opportunity to order and purchase clothing items with the Greater Milwaukee Synod/Meru Diocese partnership logo: <https://www.partnerswithmeru.org/events> Dates of the sale are May 12-22.

During the Month of May:

- 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, Senior Choir, brass
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
- June 4** **Worship at 9:30 am**
Recognition of High School Graduates

YTD Financial Results as of: 05/07/23	
General Fund Receipts	\$357,333
General Fund Budget (total monthly)	\$395,111
Over/(Under) Budget	(\$37,778)
 Benevolence Disbursements	 \$63,988
 ELCA - Lenten Water Project Collected	 \$12,500
 Building Fund Balance	 \$194,949

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