

# Welcome to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

September 24, 2023



We welcome everyone to St. Matthew's, where all may share in worshiping God and growing in faith.

Members and guests, we're so glad you're here, for your presence expands and enlivens our worship. Let us praise God together! Guests, please fill out a yellow welcome card and hand it to an usher or place it in the offering plate.

**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.

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

**A library book** is given to the church library by Leslie & Pat Gardner in honor of Paige's birthday.

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

In recent years, the apostle Paul has been accused of being many things, including a misogynist, a homophobe, an anti-Semite, a prude and an apologist for slavery. But is this a fair understanding of what Paul actually wrote? This is the first of a series of classes taught by Dan Bice this year on Paul, who along with Jesus founded Christianity.

## **Following the Footsteps of Paul - A Trip Opportunity**

Those interested in learning more about a planned 11-day trip in the spring to retrace some of Paul's missionary journeys in Greece, Turkey and Rome will meet in the Upper Room after the adult forum at 10:45 a.m. Sunday. Dan Bice will discuss the itinerary, dates, estimated cost and other details of the pilgrimage. In the past, Dan has helped lead four group trips to Israel and one to Martin Luther's homeland in Germany along with AMi Travel.

*Attention Parents! (and parents-to-be)* **There is a baptism Class today, Sept. 24 at 9:45 am.** These classes will be offered about four times per year and taught by one of the pastors. If you want to have your child baptized or if you are expecting a child, we hope you will attend. Location is the conference room adjacent to the church office near the main entrance.

**Blood Drive on Monday, October 2 at St. Matthew's!** We need YOU to make it successful. Runs from 2:00 – 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Use the code on the right to sign up now, or there is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center. Save three lives with each donation.



## Bulletin Insert for Sunday, September 24, 2023

### OFH Run Ride Walk is September 30

#### Help us to raise \$10,000 from St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Together, we hope to raise \$160K for grants to our Ministry Partners serving neighborhoods experiencing material poverty in the Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA! St. Matthew's raised about \$7,000 last year; this year our goal is \$10,000! Can you help us reach it? *Want to walk at Washington Park?* You can carpool/caravan to the walking site with Beth Schulz if you meet in the St. Matthew's parking lot at 9:00 am on Saturday Sept. 30. *Visit Beth Schulz in the Upper Commons near the worship entrance to learn more.*



SCAN ME

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

#### October 1: The Life of Moses as a Guide to Personal Transformation

As we follow Moses we find places of spiritual transformation; where the Spirit of God moved him from behaviors motivated by fear and self-protection to trust in God. Using this insight from the life of Moses we will reflect on his evolving relationship with God and how that can inform our own spiritual journeys. Led by Stephen Ministry Leaders Carl Johnson and Sue Swing

#### October 8: Guest Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Timothy Wengert; Perspective on Human Sexuality and the ELCA Social Statement of 2009

If you weren't already aware of this, the ELCA (the larger church body to which we belong) has many Social statements about real-world issues and topics. One of them is the 2009 Social Statement on Human Sexuality. It is many pages long! (You can find it on the ELCA.org website - do a search there) As you can imagine there was much effort, discussion, and faithful discernment that went into this document. We are excited to have as our guest a member of the committee that produced this Social Statement. Tim Wengert is also the brother of Chris Davis, a member of St. Matthew's. Tim Wengert is emeritus professor of church history at the United Lutheran Seminary (Philadelphia). He is also a prolific author, editor, and co-author. Please come to this session to hear this speaker with a unique perspective on how our larger church body is interpreting God's call for us to welcome all.

**Mt Meru Coffee:** Beginning October 1st prices will be increasing on Mt. Meru coffee. The last increase was in 2011 and, of course, costs have increased considerably since then. These increases will enable the Mt. Meru Project to continue to pay the farmers in Mt. Meru Tanzania more than they would normally get if they sold their coffee based on regular world market prices. Thank you for your continued support. Stop by the coffee cart on Sunday morning if you have questions.



## **Volunteer Needed!**

Replenish the Quiet Sacs that are used by children in worship 2 times per month. Takes about 1 hour and you can come in anytime that works in your schedule when church is open. Contact Sue Swing; [sueswing@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sueswing@sbcglobal.net)

**Help Wanted:** Can you help with Coffee Hour two or three times a year? Work with fun people and support one of our most important fellowship ministries! If you are willing to serve a few times per year please contact Sue Swing; [sueswing@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sueswing@sbcglobal.net) or sign up at the Coffee Table today!

**Children's and Youth Choirs are beginning *this week*** – *This is a great opportunity and join in the music-making.* Adults, youth and children are all welcome in one or more of our choirs, both singing and handbell choirs. All the information about our choirs is on our website:

**[StMattsLutheran.org/music-ministry](http://StMattsLutheran.org/music-ministry)**

Find out which choir is for you or your children, and when they will begin. Questions? Ask John Paradowski or Jeff Reeves, or call the church office.

**Adult Bell Ringers:** EmBELLishments bell choir begins on September 26 at 9:30! Want more information, or have questions? Talk to John Paradowski.



**Music Ministry  
Web Page**

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

It's time for us to 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 for this time of fellowship and fun. 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, Oct 8th 12-2pm

Sunday, Nov 5th 12-2pm

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

Sunday, Oct 1st 12-2pm

Sunday, Nov 12th 12-2pm

## **First Fridays Book Group Discussion**

### ***We're back, beginning Friday, October 6***

The weather is getting colder, and it's becoming the best time of year to sit down and read a good book! And we have a reading list full of them. 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.

**October 6**     *A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving, 627 pages.

## Caregiver Discussion Group

Tuesday Evenings - October 3, 17, 31 & November 14 -- 7:00-8:15 P.M.

If you're involved in caregiving, the chances are high that your life will be changed by the experience. Maybe you're finding yourself emotional or stressed out. Or, the caregiving may be overwhelming your relationship with your loved one. If you are looking for a place to share and be supported please come to this newly created Caregiver Discussion Group. Our discussion will be focused on material from the book, **When Caregiving Calls by Aaron Blight**. The chapters are very short with topics such as Relationship, Family, Time, Stress, Emotions and Faith. The purpose of this group is to listen and affirm one another in the joys and challenges of our unique caregiving journeys. To learn more please contact Sue Swing; [sueswing@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sueswing@sbcglobal.net)

## Coming on October 8th: Sunday Morning High School Youth Group!

All high school students are welcome and encouraged to come to the Youth Room on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45 starting **Sunday, October 8th** for games, conversation, service projects, and food. This is a great and fun way to stay connected to other kids at St. Matt's!

### Upcoming Dates:

Tuesday, September 26, 9:30-10:15, Embellishments Bell Choir

6:30pm – Women's Prayer Walk

Wednesday, September 27, 5:45-6:30 – New Creation Choir

6:30-7:00 – Godsbells

7:00 – 8:15 – 9<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation

7:00-8:15 – 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation

Thursday, September 28, 4:00-4:50, Praise Kids children's choir

Saturday, September 30, Morning, Outreach for Hope Ride Run Walk

Monday, October 2 – Blood Drive at St. Matthew's

Wednesday, October 4 – 6:30-7:00 - New Generation Choir

Friday, October 6 – 7:00 pm - First Fridays Book Discussion Group

Tuesday, October 10 – 12:30 pm - Deborah Circle

## St. Matt's Youth, would you like to earn money and help people?

### ***St. Matthew's Youth Services Directory now being updated***

Youth, now is your chance to be listed in this directory that members of the congregation use to find youth to perform the following types of services. You and the person needing help negotiate the pay to be earned.

**Privacy protections:** This directory is given out by digitally by .pdf to members only, and we ask members to keep our youth's personal information protected. If you wish to pass along a youth's information to friends and others outside of our congregation, please ask their permission first.

**Pet Care**

**Yard Work**

**Child Care - babysitting**

**Raking**

**Snow shoveling**

**Sign up online at this link: <https://bit.ly/3xYhvlN-YouthDirectory>**

Deadline for sign-up extended to October 8, 2023. Directory available in October.

## 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:** Flash Gordon.

**Acolytes:** (8:30) Chase Assenheimer, Tyler Goeckermann. (11:00) Hannah Malloy, Chase Slager.

**Coffee Hosts:** Mike & Sarah Ebenhoe.

**Communion Preparers:** (8:30) Ruth Kallio-Mielke, Grant Nickel. (11:00) Margaret Crawford, Chris Weber Spornick.

**Communion Assistants:** (8:30) Jim & Nancy Bowen, Chuck Crook. (11:00) Alice Rudebusch, Ginger Wooster.

**Greeters:** (8:30) Linda Merklein, Heather & Toby Manternach, *open spot*. (11:00) Youa Reinicker, Randall Koeller, Carl & Eileen Lund.

**Lay Readers:** (8:30) Nancy Bowen, Laura Crave, Laura Lange. (11:00) Connie Malloy, Robin Schrank, Joy Wedel.

**Ushers:** (8:30) Chloe Eckdale-Dudley, Brad Iding, John Richter, John & Sue Voigt, Joe Chiesa (*captain*). (11:00) Steve Mielke, *open position*.

**Lay Assistant:** (8:30) Anne-Marie Nickel.

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

**Library Assistant:** Jill Wickham.

**Stephen Minister:** Sue Swing.

**Worship Technology:** (8:30) Michael Knutson, Dave McCullough. (9:45) *open position*. (11:00) Ed Bross, Owen Schaar.

YTD Financial Results as of: 09/17/23	
General Fund Receipts	\$657,151
General Fund Budget (total monthly)	\$661,385
Over/(Under) Budget	(\$4,234)
Benevolence Disbursements	\$115,864
Building Fund Balance	\$195,229

***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