

Call Committee Update

October 1, 2023



The Call Committee was formed and trained by the Synod in the fall of 2021. In December 2021, the Call Committee received its first pool of candidates, and to date, it has received and interviewed 19 vetted candidates from the Synod. Of those, two of the candidates withdrew their names from consideration. We also had two candidates with whom we conducted multiple interviews, and each time, we thought we had found our candidate of choice. However, this process is a two-way discernment, and in each case, the candidates prayerfully discerned that, after going through the process, they still felt that God was calling them to continue in their current ministries. While disappointed, we firmly believed in each case that God's hand was guiding this process, that He had another plan for us, and that we needed to continue interviewing.

Another factor that has prolonged the process not only for us but for churches across America is the shortage of ordained pastors not only in the ELCA but also in all denominations. Bishop Paul Erickson has informed us that approximately 500 ELCA pastors are retiring each year while only 200 men and women are graduating from seminary each year. Despite this, the Call Committee is committed to finding the right pastor for St. Matt's, not just fill the spot. We continue to believe that God is working through us and continue to pray for His guidance in our search. We will continue to be tenacious and hopeful in our efforts to call a candidate who has the blend of experience, vision and passion for ministry we seek and who will walk alongside us in our faith journey.

This has been a lengthy journey in search of our new lead pastor – one that has not occurred at St. Matt's for fifty years. More recently, the search for a full-time associate pastor in the early 2000's took nearly two years. There is a synodical process which we must follow in obtaining candidates.

(continued)

In recent conversations with Bishop Erickson and Pr. Kristin Nielsen, the Assistant to the Bishop for Congregations in Mission, we have been assured that they will also continue to be diligent in their vetting of candidates for us and will support us in any way they can. As Pastor Gary Erickson said in his sermon for our 100th anniversary, it's in God's own hands...in Kairos time.

It is with regret that, due to family obligations and increased job responsibilities that often take him out-of-town, Andy Cherney has resigned from the Call Committee. He has been a valuable member of the team, bringing his perspective and insight to our search for St. Matt's new lead pastor. The committee will miss him and the positive leadership and energy he brought to the team. We, as a Church Council and congregation, appreciate all his time, effort, and dedication to his commitment in finding the right candidate for our congregation and offer prayers of thanksgiving for his faithful service.

I am happy to announce the David Celata has graciously agreed to join the Call Committee in its continued search for a new lead pastor. The Call Committee looks forward to working together as we interview and evaluate potential candidates as they become available. We invite the congregation to continue to join us in prayer as we move forward in our search for a lead pastor.

Blessings,

Diane DuBois

Brian Due

Council President

Call Committee Chair

Call Committee:

Brian Due (Chair)

David Celata

Kristen Charlson

Nancy Bowen

Robert Mochel

Diane DuBois

Welcome to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

October 1, 2023



We welcome everyone to St. Matthew's, where all may share in worshipping 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 worshipping with, please take one.

Name Tag Sundays are back! Please put on a name tag this morning so that we may become better acquainted with each other.

A library book is given to the church library by Leslie & Pat Gardner in honor of the 11th birthdays of Owen, Lucas and Mackenzie.

Altar flowers are given by Leslie & Pat Gardner in honor the 11th birthdays of their grandchildren, Owen, Lucas and Mackenzie.

Today's Adult Forum: (9:45 am in the Upper Room) 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

Women's Group Fall Kickoff today: Join us today in the Youth Room at 9:45am. Our mission: support women in their faith journeys, cultivate relationships, serve the community and each other, and expand knowledge of the world through the guidance of Jesus. If you haven't come before, now's a great time to join us!

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.
Sign-ups are down; we need you!



Bulletin Insert for Sunday, October 1, 2023

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 8: **Special 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.

October 15

MICAH: Milwaukee Inner City Congregations Allied for Hope

Join us on Oct 15th to learn more about MICAH - Milwaukee Inner-city Congregations Allied for Hope. MICAH is a multi-racial, interfaith organization committed to justice issues of greatest importance to Milwaukee residents. MICAH is 34 years old and is made up of 40 congregations, including St. Matthew's, committed to honoring Micah 6:8. *"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."* We will welcome Lisa Jones, Executive Director of MICAH. We will be lifting up MICAH's "We All Belong" campaign which seeks to challenge Christian nationalism in our country. And we will share developments of Wauwatosa MICAH Task Force made up of four Tosa churches working for the common good in our municipality.

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.



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 or sign up at the Coffee Table today!

Deborah Circle will meet on Tuesday, October 10 at 12:30 pm in the Upper Room.

Kids for Christ and Disciples of Christ – Attention Parents of 1st thru 5th 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 19th 12-2pm

First Fridays Book Group Discussion

We're back, beginning Friday, October 6

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. See the website, under 'Adult Ministry' for the complete list.

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 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

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!

A Family Need in our Congregation: A young mother in our congregation is in need of help with young children, a 3-year-old girl and a 20-month-old boy. While the mother is home, her medical condition does not allow her to lift her children and fully care for them. The family is seeking to hire help, in their home on the west side of Tosa, for as many hours as possible, between the hours of 7:30am & 6:30pm, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. If you could help out, please contact Andrea at 608.432.9441 or by email at andreabwells@gmail.com It would be a blessing for our congregation to be able to give this family support in their time of need.

NAMI Walk at the Zoo! Saturday, October 7. Ready to help build a community of care and support for those living with mental health conditions? Sign up as a team, or on your own. There is no cost to register, but we encourage you to raise support from your friends, family and co-workers. Here's the website for more info and to register:

<https://namisoutheastwi.org>

Walk or run for someone you know, or join the "Remembering Eric & Doris Kloth" team in memory of two members of St. Matthew's.

All Saints Sunday – November 5th Remembering with Thanksgiving

During our **All Saints Sunday Remembrance** on November 5th we will hold up those whose lives have walked the paths before us and beside us in faith. There are Remembrance Cards available for you to fill out and drop off at the Welcome Center where you can list names of those who have touched your life. We will use those cards to be held up in prayer on that Sunday.

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.

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, October 22 during the 11:00 worship service

Sunday, November 12 after the 11:00 worship service

Sunday, December 10 after the 8:30 worship service

Check out the Healing Prayer Pew card in the rack in front of you for more information on St. Matthew's Healing prayer ministry and how you can participate.

Altar Flower & Library Book Sign-Up: You are invited to sign up for altar flowers or a library book for a special occasion which will be noted in the bulletin. Flowers are \$35 and will be ordered from Alfa Flower shop by the office staff. Please make out a check and mark it for altar flowers. You can sign up to donate a book to the library. A book will be chosen for the occasion and you will be notified of which book was chosen. Library books are \$20. This is a great way to support St. Matthew's worship and library ministries in a meaningful way. The Sign-up Book is at the Welcome Center.

Thank you to our Assistants for worship services today!

("Open" means this spot was not filled when bulletin was printed.)

Volunteer Host: Al Van Lith.

Acolytes: (8:30) Grace & Clare Kasdorf. (11:00) Jacob Dahlgren, Hannah Malloy.

Coffee Hosts: John & Kristen Charlson.

Communion Preparers: (8:30) Carrie Ralfs, Lila Welch. (11:00) *Open positions.*

Communion Assistants: (8:30) Marian Benz, Marion Heinz, Rita Reinke. (11:00) Robin Grady.

Greeters: (8:30) Jenny Acompanado, Dollie Kirchner, Bob & Theresa Zwaska. (11:00) Jacob Dahlgren, Joyce Biehn, Debra & Allan Land.

Lay Readers: Caleb Cherney, Avery Herrell, Carson Herrell.

Ushers: (8:30) Cooper Catalano, Kateri Kirchner, Levi Kirchner, Don Birschel, Jim Bowen. (11:00) Mark Bjorgo, Zachary Peterson, Tom Templeman.

Lay Assistant: (8:30) Jan Johnson.

Welcome Center Host: (8:30) *open position.*

Library Assistant: Bridget Smith.

Stephen Minister: Leah Philippi.

Worship Technology: (8:30) *open.* (9:45) Brian Smith. (11:00) Ed Bross, Stephen Skaife.

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.*

YTD Financial Results as of:	09/24/23
General Fund Receipts	\$665,282
General Fund Budget (total monthly)	\$661,385
Over/(Under) Budget	\$3,897
 Benevolence Disbursements	 \$115,864
 Building Fund Balance	 \$195,817

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