

St. Matthew's Weekly Bulletin Update

Welcome to Worship at St. Matthew's September 1, 2019



Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome to worship as we move from summer into fall. May we be blessed in one another's presence and in the presence of our Savior.

Introduction for the Day: *Invited and inviting - that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at the banquet table of the Lord. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.*

Communion: All baptized Christians who celebrate the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine are invited to the Lord's Table at all

services. Gluten-free wafers are available if you ask your communion server. Those who desire juice instead of regular wine, please tell this to the communion assistant. Due to the weight of the communion trays, you may be asked to take your glass of wine from the tray as it is presented to you.

Prayer Cards are collected by the pastors at the time of the Hymn of the Day (after the sermon). If you want the pastor to include your prayer request at the time of the prayers, you may wish to prepare a card now so that it is ready at the time they are picked up. Please make sure you have permission from those you are listing by name on the prayer cards.

Why are some people wearing nametags? We wear nametags on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month in order for us to know more people on Sunday mornings.

Hunger Baskets to be passed today: When the offering plates are passed later in the service, it is followed by a basket for a special collection. This second collection will be directed toward local and world hunger. Thank you for your faith-filled response to this opportunity.

Summer Worship Schedule is: 7:30am, 8:30am and 10:15am through Labor Day weekend.

Fall Worship Schedule begins September 8, with worship services at 7:30, 8:30 and 11:00 and Sunday School/Education Hour running from 9:45-10:45am.

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

Bulletin Announcements - September 1, 2019



Sunday School Starts on Rally Day, September 8th! Special Rally Day Celebration at 8:30 Service It's back-to-Sunday-School time for 3-year-olds – 8th graders on Sunday, September 8th. We'll welcome in the new Sunday School year with a children's message and skit at the 8:30 service.

Following the worship service, children will go to their Sunday School classes. Teachers and room numbers will be listed in the bulletin on September 8th, and parents of 3, 4, and 5-year-olds will receive letters the week of September 1st with class assignment information. If your child attended Sunday School last year, or if you are a member or a prospective member, your child will be automatically registered for Sunday School. All children are welcome, so if you are not a member but would like your child to attend Sunday School, please call the office to register. If you have any questions about Sunday School, please talk to Gretchen Hauge.

Tosa Green Summit is September 7: The ninth annual Tosa Green Summit will be held Saturday, September 7, 2019, from 10 am to 1 pm at the Wauwatosa Civic Center, 7725 W. North Avenue. The event is a free informational open house to learn how you can make your community green and sustainable. Over 25 Exhibitors will provide awareness and education on topics ranging from home energy, conservation, water, gardening, transportation, and food. In addition, there will be opportunities to take action with the following recycling stations located in the parking lot from 8 am to 2 pm: MMSD household hazardous waste; Wauwatosa Police Crimestoppers shredding and electronic recycling; Wauwatosa Health Dept. Medicine; and DreamBikes, bicycles. For more information contact Jeff Roznowski at jroznowski@wi.rr.com or 414-803-9500.

Sunday Morning Adult Education is back next week!

**September 8 - 10:00 AM
in the Upper Room**

What do YOU want to know?

The mission of the St. Matthew's Adult Education Program is:

- * **To increase Biblical literacy**
- * **To educate on religious matters in the world today**
- * **To create an awareness of human concerns in our community**

We are welcoming ideas and suggestions to incorporate into some of our Sunday morning adult education classes this year. What is interesting to you? What do you think we need to know as the community of St. Matthew's? Who do you know who is making a difference? How would you like to grow in faith this year? This will be a fun session of brainstorming ideas, trivia and prizes! Please join us for this conversation! All are welcome!

Coming up this week:

Monday, September 2

Labor Day - Office Closed

Tuesday, September 3

10:15, Staff Meeting

11:00, Program Staff Meeting

6:30, Synod Visitor Training

7:00, Lutheran A Cappella Rehearsal

Wednesday:

10:00, Wednesday Bible Study

5:00, Synod Meeting

6:30, Synod Visitor Training

7:00, 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation

Big Group with Parents

Thursday:

6:15, Bells Angels

7:30, Senior Choir Rehearsal

Need help with home repairs, maintenance or pre-sale preparation? St. Matthew's member John Kuhlmann is owner of FOCUS Handyman Services, and is looking forward to making your project his top priority. Please call John at 414-617-1471, or email focushandymanervices@gmail.com.

YTD Financial Results as of:	08/25/19
General Fund Receipts	\$613,494
Hunger Basket Receipts	\$7,900
Benevolence Disbursements	\$155,786
Mortgage Note Balance	\$151,691

Confirmation 2.1 continues this fall!

Beginning in October, deepen your own faith and your understanding of what it means to be Lutheran as we explore the Small Catechism and the basics of Lutheran Theology. We'll be using a helpful guidebook, David Lose's *Making Sense of the Christian Faith*. Copies are available through St. Matthew's for \$13.00, or purchase your own through Amazon. A full fall schedule will be released soon.

The Cross Lutheran Church meal fed 217 people this past Wednesday. THANK YOU to all those who brought food. Thanks also to the people who went to serve.

Servers: Please know that we need 10-12 servers each month to help with the Cross Meal. If you haven't helped before, you are welcome to come; training provided on the spot. It's the fourth Wednesday of each month, leaving St Matthew's by 10:00 or 10:15. You could also meet the group directly at Cross, 1821 N. 16th St. by 10:45 am

\$8000 Match Offered to Cover Costs of Food Shipment to El Salvador!

A generous family at St. Matthew's has offered a match donation to help keep shipments of food going to El Salvador. All donations will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$8,000.00, the cost of one shipment. St. Matthew's goal is to send two shipments per year.

The current shipment should have already arrived for distribution to communities served by the Salvadoran Lutheran Church – communities where hunger is a constant concern. In addition to the day-to-day struggles of poverty, residents of those communities are disproportionately affected by natural disasters, such as floods, hurricanes, droughts, and volcanic eruptions. All donations are greatly appreciated and will have double the impact. Please make checks to St. Matthew's with "El Salvador Food" in the memo line. (Donations can also be made on St. Matthew's website by selecting El Salvador Meals at the Donate Online link). **Thank you for your support of this meal ministry that is so appreciated by the Salvadoran Lutheran Church!**

**Outreach for Hope
Family Bike Ride –
Sept. 7, 2019 –
Ride for a Cause!**

You are running out of time to register for the 2019 Outreach for Hope Family Bike Ride! Register at Ofhbikeride.com. Online registration will still be available until Sept. 4th. Because registration fees defray (but don't completely cover) our event expenses, please consider making your own gift when you register.

The Bike Ride Needs

Volunteers! We need 20 or more volunteers for jobs such as checking in our riders, serving lunch, cheering and directing bike traffic.

You can be a virtual rider and help the cause by making a donation online. Go to the website: www.ofhbikeride.com and you can use a credit card to donate to Outreach for Hope.

Our Bishop, Paul Erickson, writes: *"Let's remember that we're all in this together, whether our neighborhood is urban, suburban or rural. ... we are united in our mission, to support vibrant, life-changing ministries in communities that are confronting the many issues stemming from economic inequalities. I look forward to seeing many of you at one of the three ride locations on Sept. 7."*

**Fall Quilt Blitz comes up on
Saturday, September 14**

St. Matthew's Quilting Ministry "Stitches of Love" will hold a Quilt Blitz on Saturday, September 14 beginning at 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. All women who are interested in quilting, even if you aren't experienced, are welcome to attend. There will be projects you could work on, or you could bring your own project and spend some time working on it among other quilters. Questions can be directed to Bev Etzelmueller through the church office. Bring your lunch if you wish.

Save the date for AIDS Walk Wisconsin & 5K run on Saturday, October 5. Watch the newsletter and bulletin for further information on how to join in raising crucial funds to support the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.

Did you know how easy it is to Give

Online? Go to this website link: <https://www.stmattslutheran.org/give/> You can designate your donation by choosing one of the options, or filling in the open choice.

Look for the new Square Card Reader Kiosk

Look for the cart and the green signs in the Upper Commons. Make a payment, or give an offering; follow the directions at the kiosk. Be sure to give your name during the transaction.

Questions can be directed to Al Van Lith, financial administrator.

Interested in large-print Sunday bulletins?

Do you have vision problems, or is someone you know dealing with that challenge? We create a large print bulletin each week for the Order of Service - the part of the bulletin that lists the parts of the worship service. If this sounds like something you or someone you know would use, call or email the church office to state your interest and which service you generally attend.

Wednesday Bible Study Returns on September 4

"I've never realized there's so much in the Bible that helps me to understand what it's saying."

"This group is vital to my life, not just because we read the bible together, but are community."

"I didn't know Bible Study could be FUN"

These are just a few things shared with Wednesday Bible Study Participants with Pastor Matt. We'll resume our study of the Gospel of Mark on Wednesday, September 4th at 10:00 a.m. Coffee and snacks are a part of our routine, too! Any and all are welcome! We look forward to hanging out together and reading God's Word. Bring your own bible--any translation you like!

St. Matthew's Sunday Morning

Volunteers St. Matthew's uses Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP) an on-line scheduling program to schedule our Sunday morning volunteers. The current schedule runs from September 8 to December 29 and is available on-line. If you would like to become part of the Sunday morning volunteer ministry please contact Al Van Lith; al@stmattslutheran.org or 414-774-0441.

Repairers of the Breach Immediate

Needs: If you would like to donate any of these items, bring them to the ROTB (Repairers of the Breach) collection box outside the church office. Thank you!

Individual oatmeal variety packs

Sturdy Paper plates

Diabetic sugar (equal, sweet'n low)

Paper bowls

Assorted cereal **8 oz. paper cups**

Plastic spoons and forks

Napkins/papertowels **Fresh Fruit**

Laundry Detergent

Men's boxers (Large, XL, 2 XL)

Deodorant **Pine-Sol**

Bleach **Air Freshener**

Men's Jeans (waist 32-42)

Women's jeans (sizes 9-16)

You can order these items through AmazonSmile. Select Amazon Smile when ordering and have your purchases sent directly to Repairers of the Breach. AmazonSmile will donate a portion of your sale back to Repairers to you are really donating twice for each purchase!

Repairers of the Breach

1335 W. Vliet St.

Milwaukee, WI 53205

Thanks to Dick Olson for transporting donations to ROTB as well as delivery of the ROTB bag lunches twice a month.

First Fridays Book Group reveals new year of books!

First discussion begins in October

Fred Heim and Mary Thomae have collaborated and compromised on a schedule as varied as it has ever been. The first book for discussion in October is: **The Accidental President: Harry S. Truman and the Four Months that Changed the World** by A.J. Baime (448 pgs)

Whether or not this piques your interest, at least one or two from the remaining schedule probably will. Pick up a schedule at church (Welcome Center or table across from church office) or find it on our website at this link: **<https://tinyurl.com/FFBookClub2019-20>**

Benedict Center's Women and Justice Luncheon and Morning Conference will be held on Thursday, September 19 at the Italian Community Center. St. Matthew's will have a table at this event, so please speak with Pr. Matt or sign up in the church office if you plan to attend.

2019 LDR Hurricane Response

The situation: As the first major storms of the 2019 season begin, we know that hurricanes and tropical storms can and will leave tens of thousands of people without electricity, wreak havoc with storm damage, and threaten many people with heavy rain and flooding.

Our response: Lutheran Disaster Response is monitoring the situation and is ready to communicate and respond. While the extent of the damage is not yet known, we will stand by our neighbors as they recover from these hurricane and others that the 2019 season may bring.

What you can do:

Pray Please pray for people who have been affected by hurricanes. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need.

Give Your gifts to St. Matthew's and designated for "Hurricane Response" will be used entirely (100 percent) for direct response until it is complete. Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support for those whose lives have been impacted by hurricanes. Thanks for your continued and strong support!

Stephen Ministry

A Stephen Minister is:

- A trained lay volunteer
- A good listener
- Trained in confidentiality
- Supervised for quality care
- Ready to offer God's love through a caring relationship

What Does a Stephen Minister Do?

- Listens
- Encourages
- Keeps confidence
- Prays
- Supports
- Walks beside a hurting person

How to learn more?

- Talk with a Pastor
- Visit the Stephen Ministry Center in the commons
- Write your interest on a blue prayer card and place it in the offering basket

We don't know your need unless you let us know!

"Love one another -- as I have loved you." John 13:34:b



Children's and Youth Ministry

Sunday School Starts September 8th

Sunday School for 3-Year-Olds through 8th grade begins on Sunday, September 8th during the education hour from 9:45 – 10:45. There will be a special celebration for Sunday School children at the 8:30 service on that day.

Letters will be sent to preschool and Kindergarten classes the first week of September with class assignments. If your child attended Sunday School last year, or if you are a member, your child will automatically be registered for Sunday School.

7th & 8th Grade Confirmation begins September 4th

Attention 7th and 8th graders and parents! It's time to plan for fall activities, and we want to make sure that you know about Confirmation class at St. Matthew's. Confirmation class meets most Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30pm beginning September 4 with Pastor Chris Manke and adult small group leaders.

9th Grade Confirmation Classes Begin September 11th

Confirmation for 9th graders begins this fall on Wednesday, September 11th and continues each Wednesday from 7:00 – 8:30 through November 6th. In these nine short sessions – led by Gretchen Hauge and Pastor Matt - we will explore, through various activities and discussions, what it means to live out your faith.

The first session on September 11th will begin with a short meeting for parents and 9th graders from 7:00 – 7:20 to go over the detailed schedule and expectations.

Be Part of our Youth Green Team!

Info Meeting September 23 at Noon

Help us make a difference at St. Matthew's by reducing our carbon footprint. How much can we reduce, repurpose, reuse, and recycle? We want your ideas! The group is open to middle and high school students. To get more information and share your ideas, come to the info meeting on September 23rd at noon. Please bring your ideas and \$5 for lunch!

2019 Youth Mission Trip

“So, where are we going next year?”

That's a great question! To learn the answer, come to the information meeting on Sunday, October 6th at 12:15. The trip will take place next June and is open to all high school youth. Plan on attending this meeting to learn all the details! This annual service trip is a great faith and community building experience as we work together to use our hands to do God's work, our minds to learn more about God's creation, and our hearts to reach out in compassion. Come to the info meeting to find out about next summer's experience!

High School Youth Forum Starts on September 8th

All high school students are welcome and encouraged to come to youth forum on Sunday mornings during the education hour (9:45 – 10:45). We meet in the youth room for conversation, service activities, and, of course, snacks. You and your ideas are always welcome! We hope you will make it your place on Sunday mornings!

Reformation Lutheran Church's Neighborhood Store and Coffee Shop "Most Wanted List"

Clothes

Infant/Toddler to size 6 clothes;
underwear and swimwear for all ages

Baby/Toddler

Strollers, toys, swings, large plastic
outdoor toys

Linens

Bath/hand towels, washcloths, beach
towels, sheets, comforters, bed pillows

Home Goods

Lamps, wall & alarm clocks, decorative
pillows, waste baskets

Accessories

Jewelry and Purses, men's belts and
caps

Outdoor

Small grills

Kitchenware

Pots & pans, kitchen utensils and
towels, silverware

Small Appliances

Fans, coffeemakers, microwaves,
blenders, electric frypans, irons, deep
fryers, toasters, large crockpots, flat
screen TVs, radios, etc.

If you have any of these items, please
bring them to the Education entrance,
the metal shelves marked "For
Reformation Lutheran Church," and
they will be delivered to Reformation's
store. **Thanks to Carri Brewer
for transporting these items to
Reformation on a regular basis.**

The St. Matthew's Meal Outreach Ministry

Guest House: Two or three volunteers
are needed on the second Sunday of
each month to serve dinner to 85 men at
the Guest House, a homeless shelter in
Milwaukee. Seeking volunteers for the
October 13 dinner. Please contact Carl
Johnson by phone or text message at
414-771-1023, or by emailing johnsoncr@
cdmsmith.com to sign-up.

Repairers of the Breach: We supply
100 bag lunches for the homeless twice
a month. We pack the lunches at church
on the **2nd and 4th Sunday mornings at
9:45 a.m.** Volunteers are needed to provide
beverages, fruit, chips and sweets and/or
pack the lunches. Contact Tom Geib (414-
321-3391).

Serenity Inn: Volunteers prepare and
serve 6-8 residents the second Sunday of
each month. Volunteers carpool meeting
at church at 5:15 returning at 7:15.

Coordinator: Rachel Vetter; rcvetter1986@
gmail.com. Next Meal: Sept. 8

Cross Lutheran Lunch Program We serve
300-400 people on the fourth Wednesday
of each month at Cross Lutheran Church,
1821 N. 16th Street. We carpool from
St. Matthew's at 10:15 a.m. and serve
beginning at about 11:00 and returning
to St. Matt's at about 1:00. **Next Meal:
Wednesday, September 25, 2019.** Pick up
a card in worship on the Sunday prior to the
meal to donate food.

Just One More: Volunteers assemble
packaged meals to be picked up by area
churches and programs **each weekday
morning at 9:00 a.m.** Food packing takes
place at 6442 River Parkway, Wauwatosa.
Call the JOMM office at 414-292-5112.

St. Matthew's live streams worship

services: Did you miss a church service that you didn't want to miss? Are you out of town for the weekend? Can't come to church because it's physically too difficult? Check out St. Matthew's Live Stream of Worship Services on Sunday mornings. Go to our website, and click on the "Live Feed" link on the home page, just above the four boxes toward the bottom of the page. (www.stmattslutheran.org) You can also watch most Adult Education classes.

Cross Bread of Healing Clinic Receives OTC medications too!

Thanks to all who have donated unused and expired medications to be received by the pharmacy at the Bread of Healing Clinic! There is a box in the office to drop off unused or expired medications--please bring in bags and in original containers with original RX information.

In addition, the Bread of Healing Clinic is always in need of and will receive over-the-counter medications, including allergy medications (Zyrtec, Allegra, etc), pain relievers, and other OTC drugs. They have encouraged price club shoppers (Sam's/Costco) to purchase these sorts of drugs to save the most on donated OTC drugs.

Thanks also to Tom Wilke, retired pharmacist, who volunteers at the clinic and serves as a driver to safely transport things to Cross.

Caregivers Group meets 2nd and 4th

Monday afternoons - *Sharing joys and challenges* The caregivers group will meet on the following dates at 1 p.m. in the Upper Room. The group is facilitated by Sharon Thiel, and you are welcome to attend. Next meeting: Sept. 9

Envisioning Our Senior Centers: Aging Advisory Council Seeks Your Ideas

The Milwaukee County Dept. on Aging is holding a series of Community Conversations to hear from older adults about your vision for our senior centers. Please join us for one of the following session and help spread the word.

**Tuesday, September 3, 12:00-2:00pm
Washington Park Senior Center
4420 W. Vliet St., Milwaukee**

Online Survey

If you are unable to join us at one of the Community Conversations, you can also fill out an online survey at: county.milwaukee.gov/aging/envision

If you have questions or would like to learn more about this project, check out our website or contact us at 414-289-6546.

Debt Reduction

3-year Pledge period ends

Thank you for the many people who gave to the Debt Reduction Fund each month. We are close to paying off that fund, sometime this year. Many of you are continuing to give to the Debt reduction fund through Simply Giving as you have been. Thank you. Please remember that your Simply Giving contributions are typically set up not to end. In order to stop or adjust a contribution, you will need to either contact the office (414-774-0441 or members@stmattslutheran.org) or go into your Vanco account and adjust the contribution. The Debt Reduction contributions will not stop unless you ask for the payments to end. Speak to AI in the church office for further information or help with adjusting your contribution.

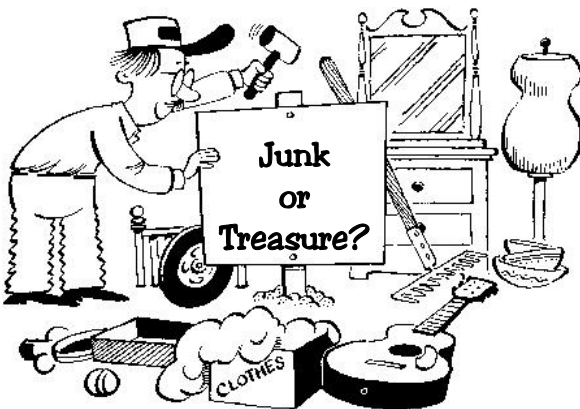
**SAINTS Next meeting:
Wednesday, September 18, 2019
at 11:30am**

Title: "Stories of Our Stuff"
Speakers: Eric Grossmeyer of
Heritage Estate Settlement
"Stories of Our Stuff"

People collect stuff for all sorts of reasons. For some, collecting certain items is a hobby while others find a sentimental value in objects that have been passed down through family. Face it, we all have stuff.

Eric Grossmeyer of Heritage Estate Settlement will share stories of some of the unique and interesting items that he has encountered in his work doing estate sales. He will also conduct a mini "Antiques Road Show," sharing information with us about some of our prized possessions. Do you have a prized autographed baseball card sitting in a drawer? How about that vase that Aunt Betty told you to hang on to because "someday that'll be worth something!" Thirty attendees will have the opportunity to bring one collectible, antique or otherwise unique item for Eric to comment on. Please contact the office (call or stop by) to claim one of the thirty spots. St. Matthew's church office: 414-774-0441

Lunch will follow the presentation.



Women: You're invited to attend the 32nd Annual Convention of the Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women's Organization, "Choose to Make a Difference" on Saturday October 12 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, W156N8131 Pilgraim Road Menomonee Falls. Registration begins at 7:30am; Opening Worship begins at 8:30am.

Special offer for First Time Attenders: Registration fee is \$35. Others will pay \$60. There are no registration refunds, but you can transfer your registration to another person.

To sign up, pick up a form at the Welcome Center, fill it out and send it to Karen Hoffman as directed on the form. Child care will be available but you need to let them know ahead of time the ages of your children.

**Interfaith Conference
of Greater Milwaukee presents
"A Conversation Between
Leadership"**

Tuesday, September 17, 2019
11:30am - 1 pm. Location TBA

We invite you to save the date and join this candid conversation between outgoing executive director Tom Heinen and the newly appointed executive director Pardeep Kaleeka. They will discuss the past 49 years of the Interfaith Conference. Celebrate the coming 50th year and discuss the impact interfaith communities can make on Southeastern Wisconsin in the near future.

What Does Sanctuary Church mean for the ELCA

Since the ELCA's Churchwide Assembly enacted a memorial declaring the ELCA a "Sanctuary" church body, there have been questions and concerns raised across the ELCA and at St. Matthew's as to what this means. We include Bishop Erickson's response to this issue in this week's bulletin. If you desire to have further conversation on what this means, please reach out to any of the pastors.



A Pastoral Message on Becoming a Sanctuary Church Body

(excerpted) One of the more controversial decisions of last week's ELCA Churchwide Assembly, held here in Milwaukee, was the decision to "declare the ELCA a sanctuary church body."

The topic of immigration is certainly a controversial one in today's political climate, one that seems to divide us into increasingly polarized camps, and there are those who believe that these recent actions have placed us firmly into one of these partisan camps.

My deepest hope is that we can remember that our most fundamental call as followers of the risen Christ is to love our neighbors. As I wrote [previously in a letter on immigration], "our call as the Church is simple: we are to love our neighbors. All of them. We are to make that love concrete, risking our own security and privilege to stand with all who are in need. We are to be the Church, reminding one another that we are never alone."

That's what I believe this declaration of being a sanctuary church body is all about. Making our love of neighbor concrete and specific. Some congregations may be in a position to offer physical sanctuary to those seeking refuge from a broken and capricious system; some may be in a position to offer support to those congregations; others may only be in a position to advocate for changes in our immigration laws and policies.

The action by the Churchwide Assembly does not and cannot mandate any synod or congregation to engage in any specific action; it does, however, call us to make our love of neighbor real.

Additional information on Sanctuary Congregations is available from Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services at <https://www.lirs.org/united-sanctuaries-america/>.

I encourage us all to step back from the rhetoric and partial truths that populate social media and the cable news networks to ask this basic question: What does love look like? It cannot simply be an emotional or intellectual response; Jesus invites us to risk concrete, specific acts of love. My prayer is that this question will guide us all as we explore together what it means to be a church clear about our purpose in this conflicted and challenging world.

Bishop Paul Erickson

St Matthew's Music Ministry

When Do the Choirs Start?

Come Join Us in the Music!

Making music benefits us in ways we do not completely understand. One of the most wonderful rewards of being part of a musical ensemble is the opportunity to create something more beautiful than any one musician could create alone. When you contribute your talents to the musical and spiritual life of the church, you help enrich our collective congregation and nurture the spirit of all.

All are welcome to join in singing or ringing. Take a look at the choir schedule and join in praising our Lord.

Senior Choir [adults]

Thursdays starting 8/29 at 7:30

Bells Angels [Adults]

Thursdays starting 9/5 at 6:15

New Creation Choir [3-6 grades]

Wednesdays starting 9/18 at 7:00

Godsbells [4-6 grades]

Wednesdays starting 9/18 at 6:00

The EmBELLishments

Tuesdays starting 9/24 at 9:30

Righteous Ringers [7-12 grades]

Tuesdays starting 9/24 at 7:00

New Generation Choir [7-12 grades]

Wednesdays starting 9/25 at 6:00

Praise Kids! [4/5 year olds/1-2 grades]

Thursdays starting 9/26 at 4:00

Adult singers: St. Matthew's Senior Choir has begun rehearsals

If you count yourself as one of God's children, then we'd love to have you come and join the Senior Choir this fall! We have some beautiful and exciting new music to sing, as well as some familiar anthems from previous years. Rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:00. All voice parts are welcome. If you love to sing, we have a place for you in the Senior Choir! For more information, contact Dave Mohr (davemohr@me.com).

Bells Angels begins this week, on Thursday, September 5 at 6:15pm. This is the advanced adult handbell choir.

Come join us to RING!

You've seen them in action and are thinking, "I want to try that." We have the chance for you to give it a ring. The Tuesday morning handbell choir, The EmBELLishments, is always looking for new ringers to join the handbell fun. Have you ever wanted to give it a try? See what this handbell stuff is all about? This is your chance. This handbell choir meets **every Tuesday at 9:30-10:15, starting September 24.** No experience needed! We have fun as we learn new music and the techniques of handbell ringing. If you have any questions or would like a private lesson in ringing handbells to find out what it is all about, please talk with John Paradowski at the church. 414-774-0441 or JRPmuzik@yahoo.com

ELCA Advocacy Invites You to Advocate for Hunger

Partner leader Linda Radder, Cross Lutheran's Parish nurse, has shared with St. Matthew's the ELCA's call for faithful members to participate in government by sharing opposition to proposed USDA cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)(Food Stamps/FoodShare funding).

The USDA is proposing elimination of 3.1 million children, families, disabled adults and older adults from SNAP benefit access. Currently, SNAP serves 36 million people, most of whom are children or non-independent adults. With this proposal, people in serious need of healthy, life-sustaining food are qualifying for SNAP benefits, yet would be denied access with limits proposed on eligibility requirements.



ELCA Social teachings urge all Lutherans to engage in service and advocacy for our neighbor in need of daily bread. The federal comment period ends on September 23rd. Your voice is essential now!

Share based on the following talking points:

- *The proposed rule is harmful because it increases hunger for families, including the most vulnerable in our communities.
- *The proposal ignores the will of Congress, who addressed SNAP funding in the 2018 Farm Bill.
- *This proposal will harm grocery retailers and agricultural producers by reducing SNAP dollars available to support local economies.
- *This proposal threatens positive health outcomes and learning potential for children.

You can submit comments to the USDA Food Nutrition Service by Sept. 23rd. You can sign up to receive ELCA Advocacy Action Alerts at ELCA.org/advocacy/signup.

You can also write your legislators or reach them at town hall meetings to share your opinions and how your faith impacts your beliefs.

FIRST READING: Proverbs 25:6-7

Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence

or stand in the place of the great;

⁷for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

or Sirach 10:12-18 [not printed]

Psalm 112

SECOND READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that

is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 14:1, 7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸"When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Next Sunday's Readings: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33.

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Tracks 1 and 2
ELCA-R



St. Matthew's Weekly Sign-Up Panel September 1, 2019

If you are interested in any of the following activities/events, please check the appropriate box and place this sheet in the offering plate, or turn it in to the church office. This is your opportunity to be involved in some of St. Matthew's ministries.

- I could help at **Sunday School as a substitute teacher** if needed. Grades I am most experienced with/comfortable leading: _____
- I am interested in being part of the **Centennial Celebration Planning**, serving on the Steering Committee or on one of the sub-committees.
- I'm interested in attending the **Benedict Center "Women and Justice Luncheon"** on Thursday, September 19. Please reserve me a ticket.
- Yes, I'd like to "go green" by receiving my **quarterly contribution statements via email** instead of US mail.
- A **large print order of service bulletin** would be very helpful to me on Sunday mornings.
- Please add my email address to the list of people receiving the **Friday "Bulletin Update,"** a preview of the announcements in the upcoming Sunday's bulletin.

I have a **question** about _____

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

For more information on any of these opportunities, please call or email the church office,
414-774-0441 or office@stmattslutheran.org.



St. Matthew's

Ev. Lutheran Church ✝ ELCA

Vision Statement: Guided by God's Spirit and Grace, we are a community of disciples growing in faith, hope and love in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *(What we want to become)*

Mission Statement: Called to fulfill the Great Commission, St. Matthew's welcomes all to faith in Jesus Christ, nurtures our faith journey, equips us to serve others, and sends us into the world to make a difference in Jesus' name. *(What we are going to do)*

Values: We want to be people who grow in our Spiritual fruitfulness, which is shown through the Fruit of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control. *(Who we want to be)*

Ministers	The People of St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church
Lead Pastor	The Rev. Christopher J.P. Manke
Associate Pastor	The Rev. Matthew Schlake-Kruse
Associate Pastor	The Rev. Ann Williams
Music Minister/Organist/New Generation & Adult Handbell Choirs	John R. Paradowski
Director of Youth Ministries & Children's Education Coordinator	Gretchen Hauge
Volunteer Ministries/Small Groups/Adult Education	Sue Swing
Director of Older Adult Ministries	Julia Murphy
Children's Ministry Coordinator	Donna Gardner Manke
Sunday School Support	Jennifer Dugan
Technology Coordinator	Brian Smith
Library Coordinator (Volunteer)	Linda Wunderlich
Senior Choir Director	David Mohr
Youth Handbell Choirs	Jeffrey Reeves
New Creation Choir	Jeffrey Reeves and John Paradowski; Heide Hughes, accompanist
Praise Kids! Directors (Jr. K-2 grades)	Jeff Reeves and Amy Dankwardt
Financial Administrator	Al Van Lith
Office Assistant	Jill Due
Communications Secretary	Sonja Mohr
Custodian	Marsha Olson
Janitor	Robert Gardner
Janitor	Dave Fagerberg
Pastor Emeritus	The Rev. Gary Erickson