

St. Matthew's Weekly Bulletin Update

Welcome to Worship at St. Matthew's September 15, 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: *The grumbling of the Pharisees and the scribes in today's gospel is our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God wills to seek and to save the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As Paul's first letter to Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.*

Communion: All baptized Christians who celebrate the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine are invited to the Lord's Table at the 11:00 service. 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.

Children for Baptism: (8:30 service)

Eloise Lou Mochel, child of Christine & Robert Mochel, Wauwatosa, was born March 18, 2019. Sponsors are Mark Diedrick and Thomas (TJ) & Lindsey Mochel.

Ainsley Rae Neve, child of Christa & Al Neve of Chicago, was born May 2, 2019. Sponsors are Ben & Nichole Herrell. Dan & Nancy Herrell of our congregation are Ainsley's maternal grandparents.

Nametag Sunday: 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.

A Library book is given to the church library by Chris Herte, Larry Herte and Jodi & Joe Vitello in memory of Val Jasniecki.

2nd Graders Receive Bibles at 8:30 service: This year's 2nd graders will be presented with Bibles today. Following the service, 2nd graders and their parents will attend a class on using their new bibles. We hope that these new and eager young readers will make engagement with scripture a life-long habit!

Sunday School continues today, September 15:

Sunday School Classes run from 9:45-10:45 a.m.



Sunday School classes continue today for 3-year-olds through 8th graders. All children should report to the locations listed below at 9:45 a.m. **First graders and 3rd, 4th and 5th graders will meet Upstairs on the Third floor.** They should look for their guides to know which room. Sunday School ends at 10:45 a.m. **Second graders meet in Fellowship Hall for a Bible class with Pastor Chris.**

Traditional Sunday School

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Room Number</u>
Three-year-olds	Cindy Weiland-Wehrley & Ben Wehrley	Room 101
	Kristin Mainville	Room 103
Four-year-olds	Hannah Kramer	Room 104
	Michele Wolaver and Emma Gifford	Room 105
Senior Kindergarten	Nancy Artus and Anjeni Kirchner	Room 107
	Megan Reuter and Emily Storm	Room 106
Sixth Grade	John Stolte and Joel Freeborn	Rm. 207 (across from Choir Rm.)
Seventh Grade	Lisa Winters	Choir Room
Eighth Grade	Chris Lange	Room 100

Rotational Sunday School, grades 1-5

Location: 3rd floor of Education Bldg. (except 2nd grade, Fellowship Hall)

1st-5th Grade Shepherds:

1st Grade	Katie Asmu & Rob Burmeister
2nd Grade	Joy Meier & Rachel Probst Downey
3rd Grade	Jen Neideen, Sarah Zello, Patti Foley
4th Grade	Erin & Rob Weileder
5th Grade	Nichole Herrell & Anne-Marie Nickel

Questions about Sunday School? Contact Gretchen Haugse, 414-774-0441.

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

Bulletin Announcements - September 15, 2019

Sunday School Started on Rally Day, Sept. 8th!

It's back-to-Sunday-School time for 3-year-olds – 8th graders Teachers and room numbers are listed in the bulletin today. All children are welcome, so if you are not a member but would like your child to attend Sunday School, please stop in to or call the office to register. If you have any questions about Sunday School, please talk to Gretchen Hauge.



Second Graders receive Bibles at 8:30 service:

We are excited for these young people to get into God's Word by reading a Spark Bible meant for their age. Here are the children on our 2nd Grade Sunday School list:

Eli Anderson	Liam McCorkle
Morgan Anderson	Colin Meier
Archer Assenheimer	Jack Mestelle
Lailah Bohringer	James Murray
Colin Celata	Davin Noe
Ryan Clark	Rylie Post
Makenna Downey	Jackson Reuter
Jacob Evans	Finn Ryan
Charlie Frantz	Logan Spiering
Jonathon Haberman	Claire Szaniawski
Noah Haberman	Eleanor Thompson
Landon Herrell	Sierra Thurin
Max Heyer	Weston Ubell
Cecelia Hornung	Henry Wisniewski
Olivia Hunter	Tyler Worden
James Hyland	Isaac Wurzburger
Audrey Jensen	Abby Wurzburger
Jane Malten	Owen Ziemer

A Baptism Class will be held on Thursday, October 3 from 7:00-8:00 in the Upper Room with Pastor Chris. If your family is planning a baptism in the next 3-5 months, it would be great to come to this. Babies are welcome. Letters will be sent to those who have recently had or scheduled a baptism. If you have already attended a class you don't need to attend again.

Serving Opportunity-- Street Angels Meal Prep on Sept. 15th afternoon

St. Matthew's Social Ministry is committed to prepare regular meals for the Street Angels Ministry with the homeless. We need your help to prepare hot and cold meals for 160 people who are housing insecure and in need of support. We need 8-10 volunteers to be able to do this effectively. 1-5:00pm in St. Matt's kitchen. Please sign up in the commons today or contact Nancy Bowen at 414-614-3440 or dancingnancy26@aol.com. Thank you for your help.

To Access St. Matthew's wi-fi, find the network "St. Matthew's Wifi" and use the password **Welcome!**

Coming up this week:

Monday, September 9

6:30, Men's Morning Bible Study

10:15, Staff Meeting

11:00, Program Staff Meeting

6:00, Properth Comm.

7:00, Synod El Salvador Meeting

Tuesday, September 10

7:00, Lutheran A Cappella Rehearsal

Wednesday:

10:00, Wednesday Bible Study

11:30, Saints Gathering

6:00, Godsbells

7:00, New Creation Choir

7:00, 9th grade Confirmation

7:00, 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation

Big Group

Thursday: *Benedict Center Luncheon*

9:00, A Cabella Ringers

9:00, Retired Pastors in Ministry

10:15, Marqu. Companions Advisory Bd.

11:30, Women of Faith

6:15, Bells Angels

7:30, Senior Choir Rehearsal

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.

Adult Education Classes Every Sunday 9:45-10:45am

September 15

Social Ministry Spotlight:

Faith in the Public Square— How then Shall we Live?

As a part of this month's Social Ministry Focus: Being a Public Church, we'll hear about the history of Christian involvement in society and politics, ranging from middle Ages European history to German resistance against Nazism and exploring the ELCA's Social Statement: Church and Society, which helps us discern how to respond to our neighbors' needs as people of faith in ways that are public and true to our religious values!

Led by Pastor Matt Schlake-Kruse

Sunday, September 22

Meeting Adam and Eve All Over Again

Everybody knows the story of Genesis 2-3, but Jews and Christians have been reading this text for millennia yet reaching very different conclusions. Christians believe the story of Adam and Eve is a crucial scripture about original sin and the fall of man. Jewish scholars treat it as a minor text that makes no mention of original sin. Who is right? What does the Bible actually say? And why have the two faiths split so decisively over this story?

Led by Dan Bice

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 focushandyman@gmail.com

**Lead Free Summit, Thursday,
September 26 at Hephatha
Lutheran Church, 6:00-7:30pm**

In Milwaukee's poorest zip code (53206) 19.9% of children tested at over the limit of safe levels of lead. Long time exposure has resulted in higher lead levels for Milwaukee than Flint, Michigan. In 2018 parishioners and pastoral leaders at Hephatha Church, partnered with Interfaith Earth Network to start a lead education program which grew to include advocacy, action and related workforce development, becoming the Coalition on Lead Emergency (COLE). Health Commissioner Kowalik and City Alders will be present to respond to a city budget proposal for free lead filters and education kits to birthing mothers in Milwaukee. The address is 1720 W. Locust St. Doors open at 5:30; choir at 5:45; Summit at 6 pm ; and refreshments and info at 7:30pm

Ongoing Collection for Guest

House: We have a list of ongoing needs for the Guest House. Please consider picking up one or two of these items when you're shopping and drop them off in the box outside the church office. Thanks for your support of this important ministry.

Spray deodorant	Shampoo
Body Wash	Foot Powder
Cologne or aftershave	Laundry Bags
Men's watches	Men's wallets

Cross Lutheran Bridges Tutoring Program needs you! Make a meal or build a tutoring relationship with a young student.

As the Bridges Tutoring Program prepares to start a new school year, you are invited to consider serving as a partner and relationship builder with a young person at Cross Lutheran. Tutoring Sessions are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Dinner is served at 6:00 p.m. and tutoring follows until 8 p.m.. It is possible to tutor one night or both. The responsibility of tutors is to help students learn, review content, and explain how to problem solve and check completed work. You can be a positive influence on helping students develop study skills and organization techniques to help improve their academic performance.

The program begins in earnest on September 12th--it's not too late to meet with Coordinator Isabelle Barry and learn about the goals for this year's program. Please contact vicarisabelle@crosslutheranmke.org or call her at 414.349.2716

We also are **committed to make meals for the 2nd Tuesday and Thursday** of each month beginning in October. **If you'd like to make a meal for 20 to share, contact Pastor Matt.**

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
meets each week at 10am in the Upper
Room.**

"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. 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!

Cross Lutheran Church Monthly Meal 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. The next meal will be on September 25.

Looking for a house sitter this Winter?

If you're looking for a house sitter while you stay in your Winter home, I'm your person! I've been an active member of St. Matthew's since 2008 and house sitter since 2017. I'd be happy to stay in your home, bring in the mail and handle other tasks for as long as you need. References available upon request. Contact Jennifer Wills at jenniferwills1@me.com or 262-483-1848.

**El Salvador Visit Planned for January
Information Meeting September 29th**

The next congregational visit to El Salvador is planned for early January, 2020 and is open to adults and college-aged youth. This trip will include new experiences and connections as well as service at our partner ministry, Casa Esperanza, which continues to serve those who are overlooked or forgotten.

If you would like to be part of this eye-opening, heart-opening, and perspective-expanding experience, please talk to Gretchen Hauge or Pastor Chris.

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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>

YTD Financial Results as of: 09/08/19

General Fund Receipts	\$658,816
Hunger Basket Receipts	\$8,311
Benevolence Disbursements	\$201,766
Mortgage Note Balance	\$138,418

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.

Sunday morning volunteers needed! Volunteers are needed in these 3 areas. You can be scheduled to serve when it is convenient for you!

Communion Preparers - Work in teams of 3 to prepare communion and clean up after.

Coffee Hosts - Prepare coffee and set out treats in between 8:30 & 11:00 services.

Ushers (11:00) - Greet worshipers and help with collecting the offering. 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.

A note about your valuable items: A reminder to our members and guests that each week as you come to church, any valuable items should be kept with you and not left in coat pockets or in an unlocked space.

Stephen Ministry

We all need a concerned, caring person at difficult times in our lives but during those times it seems that everyone has advice. Most often, it isn't advice we need -- it's just someone who will listen and help us sort things out.

Our congregation has 14 trained lay people, Stephen Ministers, who offer a ministry of Christian caring here at St. Matthew's. They are prepared to provide care simply by listening instead of telling you what to do. The conversations are completely confidential. Being heard can bring a great sense of relief and clarity to a situation or relationship.

To ask a few questions and learn more talk with a Stephen Leader, Pastor Ann or visit the Stephen Ministry Center and talk with a Stephen Minister from 9:45-10:45 any Sunday. Or, write your question and contact info on a blue prayer card or on the Stephen Ministry card located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate.



Children's and Youth Ministry

Children's Ministry Groups are BACK!
Come be a part of KFC/DOC for fun at church with your friends!

All children in grades 1-5 are welcome to be a part of Kids for Christ (grades 1-3) and Disciples of Christ (grades 4-5), along with friends. At these meetings, we usually eat pizza (bring \$5), play games and talk, and have a devotional time.

KFC: Sunday, Oct. 6, 12:15-2:00 p.m.

DOC: Sunday, Oct. 20, 12:15-2:00 p.m.

These groups are led by Donna Gardner Manke. Come and join us! It is helpful to sign up by calling the church office, 774-0441, so that we have an idea of how many are coming.

7th & 8th Grade Confirmation

meets weekly. Confirmation class meets most Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30pm with Pastor Chris Manke and adult small group leaders. See Pr Chris if you have any questions.

October 2 - Big Group (Of Tents & Kings)

October 9 - Big Group (Psalms & Wisdom)

Oct. 16 - BigGroup (Prophets)

Oct. 23 - Servant Night (Food Collection)

9th Grade Confirmation Classes

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

The Confirmation Service for this class will be on Sunday, November 10 at 1:30 in the afternoon.

Be Part of our Youth Green Team!

Info Meeting September 22 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 22nd 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 meets

weekly 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 8 clothes;
underwear and for all ages;
Winter coats, snowsuits, snow pants

Baby/Toddler

Strollers, toys, swings

Linens

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

Home Goods

Lamps, wall & alarm clocks, decorative
pillows, waste baskets, curtains and
drapes, shower curtains/liners/rings

Accessories

Jewelry and Purses, men's belts and
Sports caps, wallets

Kitchenware

Pots & pans, kitchen utensils and
towels, silverware

Small Appliances

Coffeemakers (including Keurigs),
microwaves, blenders, electric frypans,
irons, deep and air fryers, toasters,
large crockpots, flat screen TVs, etc.

Hospitality Supplies

Coffee, Keurig K-Cups, creamer, sugar

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*

The St. Matthew's Meal Outreach Ministry

Guest House: Many thanks to the Youth Group
for organizing volunteers to serve dinner on
September 8: Jennifer Wills, Ben Wherley, and
the Andreas Family (Jennifer, Shad, and Rowan).
We greatly appreciated Pastor Chris joining
us to share his talents with the kitchen and the
camera! 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
December 8 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: October 13.

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.**
. Call the JOMM office at 414-292-5112. They
are moving and may be adjusting their usual
schedule.

Lutheran Disaster Response:

The path of Hurricane Dorian has caused severe damage, unpredictable wind speeds and impact, and continues to impact the lives of many, especially those grieving the loss of loved ones and homes.

Lutheran Disaster Response is working to provide relief and recovery to survivors of recent hurricanes, and stands ready for other storms the season may bring. Your gifts 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.

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 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.

Connect:

To learn more about the situation and the ELCA's response:

Sign up to receive Lutheran Disaster Response alerts.

Check the Lutheran Disaster Response blog.

Like Lutheran Disaster Response on Facebook and follow @ELCALDR on Twitter.

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.

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

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.

AIDS Walk Wisconsin serves the entire state with life-saving medical, dental and mental health care, as well as social service programs like food pantries and housing assistance for people living with HIV/AIDS. People with HIV in Wisconsin live longer than in any other state in the nation because of organizations like ARCW.

Register online at aidswalkwis.org

It will be a fun day!

Praise Kids! New Season starts Sept. 26 at 4:00 to 5:00 Our youngest members of our church can join in singing praises to our Lord. Praise Kids! offers all children who are age 4 [Jr. Kindergarten] through 2nd grade a chance in being part of the children's ministry of the church. This group helps to teach our youngest about God, the Church and Family through musical games, activities, learning time and singing. The 4 and 5 year-olds move about and learn basic musical skills through songs and games. The 1st and 2nd graders learn about musical concepts and terms in chairs as in a classroom setting all while having a good time singing. **Praise Kids! is held on Thursday afternoons, starting September 26, from 4:00 to 5:00.** Jeff Reeves and Amy Dankwardt lead our singers in age appropriate music education activities and singing.

WHY PRAISE KIDS? Praise Kids nurtures

- ♪ **musical growth** ♪ **spiritual growth**
- ♪ **understanding of self and others**
- ♪ **a relationship with God**
- ♪ **...and Praise Kids is just plain fun!**

The group will sing for worship once a month through Christmas, and then break until Mid-January. For more information please contact Jeff Reeves at the church.

\$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.

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.

**Women's Book Discussion
Wednesday Nights -**

7:00-8:00 PM

October 2 - November 6

PRAYER

**Does It Make Any Difference?
by Philip Yancey**

Philip Yancey probes the very heartbeat of our relationship with God: prayer. What is prayer? Does it change God's mind or ours or both? This book is an invitation to communicate with God who invites us into an eternal partnership through prayer. Polls reveal that 90 percent of people pray. Yet prayer, which should be the most nourishing and uplifting time of the believer's day, can also be frustrating, confusing, and fraught with mystery.

Is God listening?

Why should God care about me?

If God knows everything, what's the point of prayer?

Why do answers to prayer seem so inconsistent?

Why does God sometimes seem close and sometimes seem far away?

How can I make prayer more satisfying?

Sign up today at the Welcome Center or contact Sue Swing; sueswing@sbcglobal.net

St Matthew's Music Ministry

When Do the Choirs Start?

Attention Young People!

There are 2 choirs beginning this week
New Creation Choir, for children in grades 3-6, meets from 7-8 pm each Wednesday. They have a lot of fun together and learn about music and contribute their talents to worship services with music. You can sign up on our website, or contact John Paradowski. **Godsbells**, our first bell choir for young people, **is for grades 4-6**, and meets on Wednesdays beginning at 6 pm, before New Creation Choir. You can sign up on our website (look for 'Choirs and Ensembles' page).

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

Senior Choir started *Thursdays*
7:30-9:00pm

Bells Angels started *Thursdays*,
6:15-7:25pm

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).

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

**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 Pilgrim 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 (or the table outside the church office), 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.



FIRST READING: Exodus 32:7-14

The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” ⁹The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

¹¹But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” ¹⁴And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Psalm 51:1-10

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy

because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-10

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ⁴“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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 Weekly Sign-Up Panel September 15, 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'm interested in attending the **Benedict Center "Women and Justice Luncheon"** on Thursday, September 19. Please reserve me a ticket.
- I'm interested in helping to serve on Sunday mornings in the following area:
_____ **Communion Preparer (11:00)** _____ **Coffee Hosts**
_____ **Ushers at 11:00 am service**
- A **large print order of service bulletin** would be very helpful to me on Sunday mornings. Service I attend: _____7:30 _____8:30 _____11:00
- Yes, I'd like to "go green" by receiving my **quarterly contribution statements via email** instead of US mail.
- 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.