

# St. Matthew's Weekly Bulletin Update

## Welcome to Worship at St. Matthew's September 8, 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:** *Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship today, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of the Christ in the blessed sacrament and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life" - to choose life in God as our own.*

**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 7:30 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.

**Rally Sunday nametags!** Please put on a nametag today in order for all of us to know more people on Sunday mornings.

**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.

**Flowers at the altar** are given by Trudy Zauner in honor of her great granddaughter's 1st birthday. Her name is "Livvy Gertrude."

**A Library book or DVD is** given to the church library by Abby Chiesa in honor of Emily Chiesa's 21st birthday.

**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.



## Sunday School Classes Begin Today 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Sunday School classes begin today for 3-year-olds through 8th graders. All children should report to the locations listed below at 9:45 a.m. ***First through 5th graders will meet in the Fellowship Hall downstairs.*** Sunday School ends at 10:45 a.m.

## RALLY DAY

### 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 Sarah Gifford	Room 105
Senior Kindergarten	Nancy Artus and Anjeni Kirchner	Room 107
	Megan Reuter	Room 106
Sixth Grade	John Stolte, 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: Fellowship Hall

#### 1st-5th Grade Shepherds:

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

## WELCOME BACK TO SUNDAY SCHOOL!

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

# 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 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

# St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

## Bulletin Announcements - September 8, 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 should have received letters in the mail giving their classroom assignment. 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. *There will be a table set up in the hallway down from the office with Sunday School staff and volunteers to help you and your child find the right class.*

### **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.

**Adult Education Today  
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 9

6:30, Men's Morning Bible Study  
9:30, LaLeche League Meeting  
10:15, Staff Meeting  
11:00, Program Staff Meeting  
6:00, Human Resources Comm.  
7:00, Church Council Meeting

### Tuesday, September 10

3:20, Daisy Scout Meeting (Locher)  
7:00, Stephen Ministry  
7:00, Lutheran A Cappella Rehearsal

### Wednesday:

10:00, Wednesday Bible Study  
7:00, 9th grade Confirmation with parents  
7:00, 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation  
Big Group

### Thursday:

9:00, Stephen Ministry  
6:00, Synod Opioid Task Force Mtg.  
6:15, Bells Angels  
7:30, Senior Choir Rehearsal

### Saturday:

Outreach for Hope Bike Ride: More info at  
<https://outreachforhope.org/bike-ride-2/>

### 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 services@](mailto:focushandyman services@)

**Deborah Circle** will meet on Tuesday, September 10 at 12:30 in the Upper Room. Elaine will show a DVD: *Meeting God in Quiet Places*.

### 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!

**The Prayer Chain** continues to faithfully pray for the needs of the congregation and community. If you would like the Prayer Chain to be praying for your needs, please use the blue cards in the pews or contact the church office at 414-774-0441. You may also e-mail the church at [stmattswi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stmattswi@sbcglobal.net) or [sonjamohr@me.com](mailto:sonjamohr@me.com) with a prayer request or if you wish to join the prayer chain.

### 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.

**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.

**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 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.

**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.

**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.

**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](mailto: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 Haugse or Pastor Chris.

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

**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.

### **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.

YTD Financial Results as of:	09/01/19
General Fund Receipts	\$631,885
Hunger Basket Receipts	\$8,270
Benevolence Disbursements	\$155,786
Mortgage Note Balance	\$138,418

## **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

## 2nd Graders to Receive Bibles

This year's 2nd graders will be presented with Bibles at the 8:30 worship service on September 15th. 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!

## 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. Don't forget the weekend retreat, next Friday Sept. 13 at 7pm --- Saturday, Sept. 14 at 10 am.

## 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.*

***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 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 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 6 clothes;  
underwear and 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: 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.** Food packing takes  
place at 6442 River Parkway, Wauwatosa.  
Call the JOMM office at 414-292-5112.

### **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.

**Needed! A volunteer to re-fill Quiet Sacs** used in worship 2 times per month. This can be done whenever church is open and whenever it works in your schedule. All supplies are provided. Time commitment is about 1 1/2-2 hours per month. This is a great volunteer task to do with your kids. Contact Sue Swing; [sueswing@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sueswing@sbcglobal.net)

**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

### **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](mailto: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.

**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](mailto:sueswing@sbcglobal.net)

**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.

# 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

**FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

**Psalm 1**

**SECOND READING: Philemon 1-21**

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, <sup>2</sup>to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God <sup>5</sup>because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. <sup>7</sup>I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

<sup>8</sup>For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, <sup>9</sup>yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I am appealing to you for my child,

Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup>Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. <sup>12</sup>I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup>I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; <sup>14</sup>but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup>Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup>If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup>Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

**GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33**

Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup>saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-10; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10.

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ELCA-R



# St. Matthew's Weekly Sign-Up Panel

## September 8, 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: \_\_\_\_\_
- Yes, I could work on **replenishing the Quiet Sacs** two times a month at a convenient time for me. Please contact me with details.
- 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**                   \_\_\_\_\_ **Coffee Hosts**  
   \_\_\_\_\_ **Ushers at 11:00am 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.



# 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