But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. Malachi 4:2a
Our Pastor's Voice

“Living Thankfully”

Last year for Thanksgiving our family conducted an experiment. I wanted my small children to understand something about giving thanks. Don’t misunderstand me… my husband and I have been trying our best to teach them things like table manners and basic conversational skills year-round. (We’ve gotten pretty mixed results so far). I think saying “please pass me the salad” and “thank you for helping me” are good, right and respectful things to do. At the same time, I think saying “thank you” and being thankful are two different things. Hence our experiment with the “Thankful Jar.”

I put a big jar, small strips of paper and a pen on the kitchen counter for the whole month of November. I then announced at dinner that everyone was required to write down the things/people/places/events for which they were thankful until Thanksgiving Day. I tried to make it sound exciting. “Let’s see how many we can get! Won’t this be fun?” I received blank looks and grumbles in return. The first thing I did not anticipate was that this would be a lot of work on my part. I had to remind people everyday to write something, ANYTHING on the provided pieces of paper. I had to be patient with my daughter while she hemmed and hawed and asked how to spell words when I just wanted to get out the door. Many strips of paper were “wasted” with nothing more than scribbles by my then-three-year-old-son and I suspected my husband wasn’t participating at all. I was sure this was a failed experiment. “Why does gratitude feel like pulling teeth?” I wondered out loud. So much for being thankful.

Slowly, very, very slowly, something changed. The jar became full to the brim. I didn’t have to bribe or beg anymore. I started thinking of things I wanted to write down as they happened not just in hindsight at the end of the day. And then it hit me; gratitude is a practice. It is learned through doing gratitude, day in and day out. You are not born with it. It is not a product of a charmed life. Knowing deep in your bones that everything in this life is a gracious gift from God and being thankful for that gift is a way of seeing and being that you practice yourself into… and it gets easier the more and more you do it. Thanks be to God that we are given endless opportunity to practice.

On Thanksgiving Day when my kids were done with their meal in about ten minutes and I wanted to linger at the table and enjoy some of my favorite foods, we got out the jar…

“I am thankful for my baby brother”
“I am thankful for laughing hard”
“Thank you God for the sunset tonight”
“I am thankful for good food to eat”
“I’m thankful for my bed on a cold night”
“I’m thankful we have insurance”
“Thanks for noodles!”
“I’m always thankful when someone else makes dinner! Thank you for the money to eat out!”
“I’m thankful for the crossing guard that keeps me safe”

Everything is a gift. I knew it deep in my bones that day while sitting at a table littered with little scraps of paper.

Pastor Ann Williams

The photo on the front page was taken by Pr. Chris Manke while on his sabbatical trip to Tanzania in August 2016.
Upcoming Events

Baptism Class offered on November 21
There will be a baptism class offered by Pastor Matt on Monday, November 21 at 6:30 p.m. Families planning a baptism in the next few months are invited to attend to learn about how baptism is performed at St. Matthew’s, and what it means for your child’s future in the church.

Come to Thanksgiving Eve Worship
7:00 on Wednesday Nov. 23rd
Join Us for an Evening Service Giving Thanks to God
As winter darkness crosses the land, the nation takes time to offer thanks for the harvest and the abundant resources of this land. While this holiday witnesses many households gathering for a festive meal, Christians recognize that the source of all good things is the God who feeds the birds and clothes the grass of the field. As we share these gifts, we are knit together into a community whose mission is among those who are poor and in need. We offer thanks to God for the bounty of the land and seek to share these riches with all in need. Please bring a food item to share with the hungry. The Adult, Youth and Children’s Choirs will be combining forces to sing a wonderful anthem combining He Has the Whole World in His Hand and This is My Father’s World.

Pie Social follows Thanksgiving Worship
A great social time together for all
Following this year’s Thanksgiving Eve Service on November 23rd, the Fellowship Committee will host the annual Pie Social! Come hungry and bring a pie to share (Any variety is welcome). The Fellowship Team will provide Coffee, Milk, Whipped Cream, and Ice Cream! All are invited to stay for pie after worship. If you are planning to bring a pie, please let the church office know so we can get a preliminary count!

TOY SWAP!
The annual Toy Swap is Nov. 20
St. Matthew’s will again be holding its annual toy swap on Sunday November 20 at 9:45 in Fellowship Hall. Clean out those closets and donate toys that your children or grandchildren are no longer using. Bring them to church ahead the week before the swap. (leave them outside the office). Toys can also be brought the day of the swap.
Our congregation will then “swap” for toys their family can use. If you have nothing to swap, feel free to browse the toy selection and consider a monetary donation. Leftover toys are donated to a local charity; just in time for Christmas. Items such as children’s books, DVDs, sports equipment, baby equipment are also welcome.

We celebrate the End of the Church Year
Christ the King Sunday...of Crosses and Crowns - Sunday, November 20
The long season of Pentecost come to a close this Sunday when we celebrate the Festival of Christ the King. We have been hearing these many weeks about Jesus’ ministry of preaching, teaching, and healing, and he has been equipping his disciples to do the same. We will hear this Sunday of the kingdom and of its king who rules the earth and will come again to sit in judgment and glory. But don’t be fooled about what kind of king this is. Remember this is a King who will hear, ‘If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself,’ this King will be given sour wine on a sponge, this King will be heckled by the crowd, this King will be executed wearing not a jeweled crown, but a crown of piercing thorns.
We hear at different times different emphasis on the cross and the crown. Truly both concepts are needed to speak faithfully of Christ, and both help us understand the human experience and condition. Only a faith that confesses a Savior who is both crucified and exalted is worth proclaiming and living. Christ has not merely told us of crosses and crowns, he has shown us.
This Sunday is a celebration as it turns us to the great season of preparation and waiting; Advent, when the stories of the prophets and the coming birth can be made fresh and anew in our lives and hearts once again.
For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. -Psalm 95:3
John R. Paradowski, Minister of Music
Adult Learning

Sunday Mornings, 9:45-10:45
Join us on Sunday mornings to learn and grow in faith with other adults. Childcare is always available in the church nursery. You do not need to be a Bible expert to come to adult ed... just come when you can, stay for as long as you can and enjoy learning something new every Sunday!

November 13
Sabbatical Talk
So what was Pastor Chris doing in July, August & September when he was on sabbatical? Come and find out as he shares how this time helped his ministry. He will share some of his tales from his travels, a few pictures along the way, and how this journey of his will impact his ministry.

Presented by Pastor Christopher Manke

November 20
Stained Glass Stories
Al Van Lith and Pastor Chris will not only share reflections about our beautiful stained glass windows that were installed in 1951, but will also share a newly revised resource that was originally created for the 1951 window dedication. An unveiling of the revised stained glass devotional book will take place on this Sunday showcasing the incredible art that adorns St. Matthew’s sanctuary, something we’re sure you will want to own for your own collection.

Presented by Al Van Lith & Pastor Christopher Manke

December 4
Stephen Ministry
Stephen Ministry is a highly effective caring ministry already used in thousands of congregations. Through Stephen Ministry, congregation members receive training to provide emotional and spiritual care to people experiencing grief, divorce, illness, job loss, hospitalization and other life difficulties. Come to this interactive presentation that will explain how Stephen Ministry works and the difference it makes in people’s lives. We’ll also explore the needs for care in our congregation and learn how we can begin Stephen Ministry right here at St. Matthew’s.

Presented by Sue Swing

Spiritual Practices and Contemplative Prayer Class - A privilege and a blessing for St. Matthew’s staff member Sue Swing
For a little over one year it has been a privilege and a huge blessing for me to be a participant in the Grace Institute for Spiritual Formation. I am grateful to the congregation for your support and I look forward to sharing thoughts and spiritual practices that have been meaningful and that may be helpful to others in their faith journey. Here’s a little more about the program...

Grace Institute for Spiritual Formation is a College Ministry program of Luther College with eight quarterly retreats held over two years at Shalom Spirituality Center in Dubuque, IA. Grace Institute for Spiritual Formation was founded in 1999 and is recognized by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as a Life Long Learning Partner. Pastors, professors and spiritual directors provide instruction and opportunity for immersion in core Christian spiritual practices and small group leadership.

If you came to Wednesday night Lenten services last spring you may recall that we engaged in guided Scripture meditation each week. That practice, known as Lectio Divina, is an example of what we learn about and experience at the Grace Institute retreats. Many of these forms of prayer are encountered in a small group environment, with prolonged periods of silence and deep reflection. To some, this probably sounds like your worst nightmare! But there is so much to learn in the practice of silence and discernment.

The pastors and I are in conversation about where we may introduce these contemplative practices into the life of our congregation. Please keep us in your prayers. If you would like to talk more about spiritual practices & contemplative prayer let me know. I would love to chat anytime!

Sue Swing
Adult Education & Volunteer Ministries

Grace Institute for Spiritual Formation
Advent begins
Sunday, November 27th

ADVENT - Worth Waiting For

Waiting is a fact of life. You don’t learn to play a musical instrument overnight. It takes a lot of hard work, and a lot of waiting. The waiting does not mean that you lie down and do nothing. Waiting is not an encouragement to inaction or to indifference and indecision. It takes a lot of work with diligent and regular practice, and persistent hope that refuses to be deterred by having to wait. Waiting for a wedding is a time of eager excitement. A lot has to be done to get ready, and the whole family is wrapped up in the process. Waiting for a baby to arrive makes time look as if it is crawling, especially during the last week or two.

Some things cannot be hurried. The greatest things in life cannot be rushed. Often they are preceded with discipline and study and work. Physical, emotional, mental and spiritual growth does not take place overnight. We can hinder the process, but we cannot hasten it beyond human capacities or divine design. Relationships between people grow and blossom. Friendships and romances are rarely instantaneous.

Waiting patiently on the Lord is a learning process. It becomes a fruitful one when people actually wait on the Lord, hearing and wrestling with his Word, coming under the influence of his Spirit, and remembering his forgiveness, his divine promises, his magnificent providence, and his never-failing love. The patient love of God, remembered with faith in him and constantly revived with prayer to him, enables us to be patient with him and with ourselves.

Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

John R. Paradowski, Minister of Music

Pick up an Advent Calendar and participate in Turn Around Advent

How many of you grew up with Advent Calendars? Those countdowns toward Christmas with 24 different doors to open, and a surprise or chocolate to find? It’s a great memory for many of us growing up! This Advent, the Social Ministry team invites you to pick up a FREE ELCA World Hunger Advent Calendar, and begin a new family tradition: Turn Around Advent. As you open a door each day, start a running collection of items to be donated. Personal care items for our partners at Cross and the Guest House; canned goods for the Food ministries, pocket change for global hunger. Each day, place a new item in your box, and as we come toward Christmas, drop them off in the receptacles at St. Matthew’s— increase your daily spirit of giving!

Help us decorate the church for Advent and Christmas

Come to church on Friday, December 2 beginning at 7 p.m. and help us decorate the Sanctuary and Commons for the Advent season. There is a variety of tasks to do, from decorating trees with special ornaments called Chrismons, to helping to carry the large metal angels that are hung in the sanctuary using the lift to attach the wires to the ceiling. All ages are welcome. It’s helpful to sign up so we know how many are coming; please call the church office, 414-774-0441.

Christmas Pageant to be Presented on Dec. 11th

The simple humility of the birth of Jesus will be presented through drama and song at St. Matthew’s Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 11th. All of our choirs and an intergenerational cast will bring to life the mystery and beauty of the story of the coming of Emmanuel, which means God with us. Come and hear again the message of peace, reconciliation, and love for all that is the essence of the Christmas story. The Pageant will be presented at 8:30, 11:00, and 4:00. If you would like to help with costumes, make-up, props, or snacks, please talk to John Paradowski or Gretchen Haugse.

Christmas Pageant or Program - What’s the Difference? See the article on page 14.
World AIDS Day is December 1st

Earlier this year, the world marked 35 years since the first reported case of what would later come to be known as AIDS. In the intervening time, there have been major strides in awareness, treatment and prevention. However, many people continue to be affected by HIV and AIDS. On Dec. 1, people from around the world will commemorate World AIDS Day to remember all those who have died due to AIDS-related illnesses in the past 35 years and the 36.7 million people worldwide UNAIDS estimates currently live with HIV.

The ELCA joins our neighbors from around the world to observe World AIDS Day. We join the global community around the United Nations’ goals to get to zero: “zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths.” With faith and dedication, the church is committed to moving forward and achieving the goals set forth in the ELCA Strategy on HIV and AIDS.

World AIDS Day worship resources and a copy of the ELCA Strategy on HIV and AIDS will be available at ELCA.org/hiv in November.

Sock it to me!
Undie Sunday is December 4th to benefit Guest House Milwaukee and the Benedict Center’s Sisters Program

Start bringing in new undies on November 20

Once again we are collecting underwear and socks for the men’s homeless shelter run by Guest House, and collecting women’s underwear for the Benedict Center’s Sisters Project.

Guest House offers alcohol and drug abuse, employment, education and other programs to homeless men, all to help them become productive citizens.

Benedict Center’s Sisters Project provides mental health, alcohol and drug abuse, education, employment, food, parenting and anger management programs to women trapped in prostitution on Milwaukee’s near north side.

St. Matthew’s presently provides a monthly meal to Guest House residents. The Benedict Center’s Sister Project was originally located at Reformation Lutheran.

Both of these programs are in critical need for life’s basic clothing – new underwear. The types needed are:

- Men’s briefs, size S, M, L, 2X, 3X
- Men’s disposable razors
- Men’s socks, size 6 – 12
- Cough drops
- Women’s panties size 4 to 24
- Women’s bras size 34A to 42C
- Women’s socks
- Women’s pajamas, all sizes including XL & 2X

The Undie Sunday drive begins on November 20 and ends on December 4th.

We ask for your help! Let’s put our faith into action and overflow the collection bins – which will be visible to all!

Any questions may be directed to Tom Geib 414.321.3391 (for Guest House) or Darla Hium, 414.476.3635 (for Sisters Project).

Chocolate and Coffee for Sale
November 13 & 27 - Shop for Christmas!

LWR Fair Trade Chocolate “Divine Chocolate” - Chocolate made with Fair Trade certified Cocoa beans grown by a farmer owned cooperative in Ghana, is available for purchase the 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month at the Mt. Meru Coffee/LWR Chocolate Project table, in several delicious flavors. Not only do these farmers receive Fair Trade premiums for their cocoa beans, they are part-owners of the Divine Chocolate brand processing co. Bars come in two sizes. This opportunity is brought to us by Rosie Haas, our LWR Divine Chocolate ambassador. Large Bars are $3.50 each and small bars are $1.50 each.

Mt. Meru Coffee - Mmmmm...

Also, Bruce Johnson, our Mt. Meru Coffee Ambassador offers delicious Mt. Meru coffee for sale each 2nd & 4th Sunday. This product which is purchased at a fair price from the local farmers who live in the area of Tanzania where we have a partnership relationship. K-cups for single cup coffee brewing (like Keurigs) are also available. And remember that your purchasing dollars do even more good in 2016, as there are four matching gifts pledges in effect, making each $10 purchase worth an additional $4 to scholarships for Tanzania children. St. Matthew’s is sponsoring. Mmmm, it tastes good, and feels good, too!
A Milwaukee Museum you may not have heard of: The Saints will be visiting it!
The SAINTS are going on a field trip on November 30 to downtown Milwaukee to visit the Chudnow Museum of Yesteryear. It is located near Marquette University. Their brochure says: “The 1920s and 1930s were the beginning of the modern world we know today. Every aspect of life changed, from electricity to automobiles. The Chudnow Museum tells the story of this change to Milwaukee through exhibits, each depicting a different popular site in the city from the time period. Shops we currently have on display include a Speakeasy, H. Graham Grocery Store and Bay View Drug Store.”

We will travel by a coach bus and will be dropped off and picked up at the front door. The only walking will be inside and you may choose what you wish to see. There is an elevator to the upper floor.

Lunch will be served in Fellowship Hall at 11:30 a.m. We will board the bus at 12:30 allowing enough time to get to the museum by 1:00 p.m. If you prefer, you may come after lunch...but must be here by 12:15.

The cost per person for lunch, the bus and the museum will be $15.00. Please sign up at the information area near the library by November 23.

I hope you will join us to “experience Milwaukee between the world wars.” If you would like to learn more before we go their web address is: wwwchudnowmuseum.org.

Jane Sandstrom

**NEXT SAINTS OUTING:**
Wednesday, November 30
Visit to Chudnow Museum of Yesteryear
Lunch at St. Matthew’s at 11:30 a.m.
Bus leaves at 12:30 p.m. $15.00
Sign up at Saints Center near library OR Call Jane Sandstrom
Bishop Paul Erickson was installed on October 8 at St. Matthew’s Ev. Lutheran Church.

Bishop Erickson kneels while Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton reads the installation service liturgy, assisted by Venice Williams of Milwaukee.

The Rev. Bishop Medardo Gomez from our partner synod in El Salvador traveled to Milwaukee to attend the service.

The Rev. Rubén Durán, Director for New Congregational Development, ELCA, was the preacher of the day. He gave a powerful and inspiring message.
Three pastors connected through St. Matthew’s: (left to right) The Rev. Gary Erickson, who served here 38 years, retiring in 2012; The Rev. Roy Nelson, who was a member here before being called to attend seminary to become a pastor; and The Rev. David Shelstad, who served here as associate pastor in the early 1990s prior to Pastor Christopher Manke’s call here.

Bishop Paul Erickson addresses the congregation during the service of installation on October 8.

An exceptional reception was planned by Gretchen Haugse and assisted by (left to right) Vernell Schlienger, Arlene Hastings, Lois Marks, Kristin Hanson, Gretchen Haugse, Lisa Krekling, Izzy Greene, Marion Heinz, Diane DuBois, Abby Gifford, Donna Gifford.

Musicians abounded at the Installation Service, from flutes to timpani, organ, handbells, choirs. The photo above shows instrumentalists Nick White, trumpet, and Abigail Hughes, French horn. John Paradowski, St. Matthew’s Director of Music, as well as the Installation Committee, arranged for a wide variety of music and musicians for the day.

See notes of thanks on page 10.
Thanks for hosting the Bishop’s Installation

A Note of Thanks from The Rev. Bishop Paul D. Erickson:

“To all the saints at St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church: On behalf of all those who participated in yesterday’s installation service, I want to express my sincere gratitude for hosting this special celebration. You are indeed blessed, not only with a wonderful facility and remarkable staff, but with a spirit of openness and generous hospitality that is contagious.

Some of my earliest memories of church are as a young child, going to Sunday School and sitting in the front pew of St. Matthew’s while my father, Rodney Erickson, or Emerson Miller were in the pulpit. Just as you nurtured me in the faith so many years ago, I’m grateful that you continue to nurture countless children, youth and adults as they grow in faith and love and service.

Blessings on your continued ministry among us, and I hope to be able to visit you on a Sunday to join you in worship sometime soon.

In gratitude,
The Rev. Paul D. Erickson, Bishop

A Note of Thanks from Pr. Matt Schlake-Kruse

A huge thank you to all who made the installation of Bishop Paul Erickson a successful event. From the many hands who took on small tasks, to the bakers and servers and chair-setters, from the greeters to the musicians in the brass and choirs to the ushers, for all who made the weekend a great celebration of the Holy Spirit, thank you. Bishop Erickson and the Synod Staff have also shared their appreciation and gratitude with our congregation for the hospitality and warmth of the welcome we shared for our synod.

Many thanks—Pastor Matt

Sunday Morning Volunteers
If you’re not on MSP, you should be!

St. Matthew’s uses Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP) an on-line scheduling program to schedule our Sunday morning volunteers. Every Sunday between 60-80 volunteers are scheduled to serve as:

Volunteers choose the area they would like to serve in, service time preference and frequency of service. Most volunteers find MSP very easy to use and appreciate these great features of the scheduling program:

• Update away dates quickly on-line so you don’t get scheduled when you cannot be here
• Receive automatic email or text message reminders
• Schedules updated with changes in real time
• Ability to check your schedule from anywhere and easily request a substitute when you can’t make one of your scheduled dates
• Guidelines and procedures for ALL Sunday morning ministry positions are available on-line

We are always welcoming new volunteers on Sunday morning. This is a great way to volunteer your time for an important need of the church. And, since you are already at church there is no need to try to plan for extra time in your schedule!

The current schedule runs through December 18.
If you need the log in information, have questions or would like to become part of the Sunday morning volunteer ministry please contact Sue Swing; susswing@sbcglobal.net or 414-774-0441.
Overnight Retreat for Mission Trip Participants is November 18th

An overnight retreat for youth and adults going on next summer’s mission trip to New York will be held from 7:00 p.m. Friday, November 18th – 10:00 a.m. Saturday, November 19th. This get-to-know-you event is an important part of the group building that occurs in the months leading up to the trip next June. If you’re going on the trip, please plan on attending!

Next Monthly Mission Trip Meeting is December 4th

The next monthly meeting of the 2017 Youth Mission Trip to New York will be Sunday, December 4th at 12:15 in Fellowship Hall. All youth planning on going on the trip should plan to attend. Please bring $5 for lunch.

2017 Youth Mission Trip Set for New York City; Sign Up Deadline is NOW!

The sign up deadline for next summer’s mission trip to New York was Sunday, November 6th. If you missed the deadline but are interested in the trip, there may still be room for you. The trip, which will take place June 17th – 25th, is open to all 9th – 12th graders. We will be working in New York City (on the Rockaway Peninsula) with the Friends of Rockaway - a St. Bernard Project affiliate - to rebuild homes that were damaged by Hurricane Sandy in late October, 2012. Friends of Rockaway has completed more than 170 homes in the four years since the storm with much of the hands-on work being done by volunteers. There are still nearly 100 families on their waiting list. If you would like more information, talk to Gretchen Haugse.

7th & 8th Grade Confirmation meets weekly

Here is the upcoming schedule for 7th and 8th graders, Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Contact Pastor Chris if you have questions or concerns.

- Wednesday, Nov. 2: Big Group
- Wednesday, Nov. 9: Big Group
- Wednesday, Nov. 16: Big Group
- Wednesday, Nov. 23: No Class - Thanksgiving Break
- Wednesday, Nov. 30: Service Night

Congratulations to our 9th grade Confirmands who were confirmed in a celebratory afternoon service on November 6. A photo of the class will be shown in the next issue of the Voice.

Middle School Ping Pong Tournament, November 20th

On Sunday, November 20th Fellowship Hall will be transformed into a ping-pong hall with ten tables set for continuous play. Middle School students are welcome to show off their skills or learn new ones at this event. We will start with lunch (nacho bar!) at 12:15 in the youth room and then begin the tournament. The event ends at 2:30. Please bring $5 to cover lunch and non-perishable food items for the food pantry.

Baptismal Anniversaries

During the rite of baptism on Sunday mornings, the congregation makes a promise to pray for those baptized. To help us to offer prayers in a more intentional way, we list some of those baptized in November at St. Matthew’s for the last few years. May their lives be blessed through your prayers.

- Eleanor Griep: November 8, 2015
- Nadia Grace Szafir: November 8, 2015
- William Eli Harris: November 22, 2015
- Madelyn Elizabeth Wagner: November 22, 2015
- Lila Welch: November 22, 2015
- Eliza MacKean Jensen: November 29, 2015
- Stephen Elliott Grade Juech: November 2, 2014
- Audrey Gwendolyn Brogan: November 9, 2014
- Sloane Eva Murray: November 9, 2014
- Aubrey Margaret Reuter: November 16, 2014
- Charlotte Irie Hammelman: November 23, 2014
- Jacob Joseph Wagner: November 10, 2013
- Dustin Wong: November 10, 2013
- Emory Wong: November 10, 2013
- Emma Marie Maertz: November 16, 2013
- Morgan Grace Anderson: November 24, 2013
- Danica Faith McCullough: November 24, 2013
- Emily Grace Hogan: November 11, 2012
- Beckett Michael Hoss: November 11, 2012
- Preston David McCullough: November 11, 2012
- Noah Zachary Zimniewicz: November 25, 2012
- Anjoli MaryAnn Moore: November 13, 2012
- Jaylen Jon Moore: November 13, 2011
- Samuel Leland Wooster: November 27, 2011
Creative Spirit - Tuesdays, November 15 & December 20, 6:00-8:00 pm

Do you need time to finish a project? Would you like to get to know more women at church in a relaxed and comfortable environment? Would you like to devote some time to creating something just for fun?

Join us on the third Tuesday of each month from 6:00-8:00 for an evening of crafting and creating! Bring your own project; scrapbook, laptop with photos to download/organize, fiber arts etc... anything you just aren’t finding time for at home. We provide the space for you to work while you “craft” relationships with other women at St. Matthew’s. Come when you can! Bring a friend! All are welcome!

Women’s Cluster Meeting here at St. Matthew’s in November - You’re invited

The Women of the ELCA (WELCA) will be holding their cluster meeting at St. Matthew’s on Saturday, November 19, from 8:30-12:30. Breakfast will be served. Pastor Ann will provide an opening devotion and Bonnie Lee of Learn for Life Kenya is the featured speaker. All are welcome. There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center.

Women’s Ministry Fall Breakfast on Saturday, October 22nd!

Women & friends enjoyed a delicious breakfast and informational talk on emotional eating and exploring our mindsets and beliefs to help us achieve our weight and health goals. Presented by Dr. Katrina Ubell, physician-turned life coach and St. Matthew’s member.

APPLE PIES are going to be hand-made and sold - get your orders in!

We need volunteers to help make them!
Saturday, November 19

St. Matt’s popular apple pie sale is returning right before Thanksgiving! To raise money for our Women’s Wellness Day in February, we’ll make and sell delicious homemade apple pies. Pies are $12 per pie. Pie pick-up is Saturday, Nov 19 and Sunday, Nov 20. These pies are a great dessert for your holiday feasts and they freeze well too! Volunteers of all skill levels are needed to assemble the pies. Please join us on Saturday, Nov 19 to help slice, chop, measure and package over 100 pies. Sign-up for a shift (10:00 to 11:30 or 11:30 to 1:00) in the Commons or contact Heather Deaton at 414.704.0247 or hdeaton@wi.rr.com for more information. Call the church office to order pies. (414-774-0441)

Attention Crafters!

Creative and crafty members of St. Matthew’s are invited to peruse the stash accumulated during the Caring for Creation craft sessions. Many donations were received, and we organized and used them to the best of our ability, but our energy has waned and, as you know, storage space in our building is at a premium. After we have set aside what can be used by Sunday School and/or Vacation Bible School, we will share the remaining items on a first come first served basis. If you are looking for something specific, please leave a message for Marge Crawford at 414.774.4120. Sunday, November 20th between services, you are invited to take a bag of craft supplies for a free will donation if you have a use for them. Thanks for your past support and interest!

Thanks to Sherri Wirtz, Laura McCarthy, Rita Reinke, and Ann DeWitt for helping with the women’s breakfast!
Our Partnership with Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

The Neighborhood Store becomes Christmas Store

The Neighborhood Store and Coffee Shop has been on hiatus since Reformation moved to its smaller, leased facility at 3806 W. Lisbon Avenue. Neighbors ask, “When will store open?” The answer is in mid-November the store will open as a delightful “Christmas Store” featuring gently used/new toys as well as very specific items for the home. This place will be helpful and hospitable to our neighbors and members, many who are single parents with children.

Can you help? We are looking for:

- Crock pots
- Portable mixers, blenders
- Electric fry pans
- Pots & Pans, or sets
- Electric or manual can openers
- Re-gifted new items
- Silverware sets
- Kitchen towels & hot mitts
- Pillows for sleeping (new)
- Electric or manual can openers
- Gloves (waterproof, children’s and adult)
- Small microwaves
- Dish sets for 4+
- Nail polish kits, cologne
- Rolling baker’s racks for displays
- Toys - no stuffed animals or war toys
- Sports basketball and footballs

The Christmas Store on Lisbon Ave. will be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday afternoons 1 to 4 p.m. beginning in November. Volunteers will stock the store on Mondays. Please call Thaurra Stallings or Marge Johnson at the church at 414-444-0440 if you have questions or can give the store a hand. If you have any of these items to donate, they can be brought to St. Matthew’s Reformation collection area at the southwest entrance of the parking lot.

“It Matters Where You Begin the Story” by Pr. Marilyn Miller, Reformation Lutheran

Like most Milwaukeeans (and others), I was deeply saddened by the Sherman Park neighborhood unrest. However, I was not surprised that it happened. As a matter of fact, I often wondered when it would happen. It’s been almost 50 years since the last civil unrest in Milwaukee. Many in this community are angry, frustrated and in despair. The physical, economic, and emotional chasms are getting wider. We as a community have not addressed this but continue to use band-aid solutions on deep, gaping wounds.

One of the comments that I hear over and over again as a challenge to the Black Lives Matter movement is the retort, “If they care so much about Black lives, why don’t they stop killing each other?” I wish every ethnic group would stop killing their own and every other ethnic group. The truth of the matter is each ethnic group primarily kills people in its own group because those are the people that they are most around. Check the Federal Bureau of Investigation statistics and you will see this is true. Whites kill whites; blacks kill blacks, and the same goes for everyone else.

I’d like to challenge us to dig deeper than pointing out this truth as a way to put the blame back on the other. I want to encourage you to go back and study the history of this country to understand how the chasm of the racial construct was laid out in the very beginning. Racism and classism have to be addressed in all of our institutions and systems if we are going to move our communities into wholeness and equity. Each one of us has to examine our white privilege or internalized racial oppression to see how we have learned to play our parts in maintaining the chasms. Then we have to change how we live and how we behave. If we want a new story for our congregations and communities, we have to make changes together now. God’s story has room for all. Does ours?
Stewardship

Activities & Ministries 2017

Everyone has spiritual gifts that are meant to be shared

“You may feel that, from a human perspective, what you have to offer doesn’t count for much, that it will never be very visible or dramatic. Jesus has made it clear: There is no truth in such a perspective. We serve the Lord of the Gift. The Lord of the Gift can take five fish and two loaves and feed the multitudes. The Lord of the Gift can take a stuttering fugitive named Moses and defy a world-power dictator and his army. The Lord of the Gift can go from a blood-stained cross to an empty tomb. He is a surprisingly resourceful person, the Lord of the Gift. He can take what you have to offer and make a difference that matters for eternity.”

If You Want to Walk on Water You’ve Got to Get Out of the Boat by John Ortberg

As you receive your 2017 Stewardship Packet please:

• Pray and consider what God is calling you to do
• Complete the Activities & Ministries Form
• PUT YOUR INITIALS NEXT TO EVERYTHING you DO want to be involved in. Even if you have already been serving in that area!
• WRITE REMOVE if you DO NOT want to serve in a ministry anymore. It is the only way we know for sure that you don’t want to be scheduled or contacted for something.
• DON’T FORGET to provide a current e-mail address
• Return the Form! To your Route Captain or to Church.

For more information about any of the ministries on the form please contact anyone on the church staff.

Sue Swing, Volunteer Coordinator

‘In Faith We Grow’ Annual Stewardship Program now underway

On October 23, we began this year’s stewardship campaign, ‘In Faith We Grow.’ This year’s campaign uses the familiar route captain approach.

We are blessed with a top-notch staff, volunteers, ever improving facility, numerous ministries, mission trips and benevolence efforts that have a positive impact on ourselves, our church, and our community, both locally and globally.

Our annual stewardship campaign is important in that it helps us determine our volunteers for next year’s ministries and it provides pledge amounts to set the church’s annual budget.

As you complete your commitments for 2017, we ask that you please prayerfully consider how you can help St. Matthew’s continue to be a special place through financial commitments and/or involvement in our many activities and ministries.

Thank you for your continued strong commitment and support of St. Matthew’s!

Curt Brewer, Stewardship Committee Chairperson
414-315-2739; brewer.curtis11@gmail.com

Christmas at St. Matthew’s - Pageant or Program: What’s the Difference?

Every Christmas at St. Matthew’s, the beauty and mystery of the Christmas story is celebrated through drama and music. Our celebrations are on a two-year cycle with the Pageant being presented one year and the Sunday School Christmas Program being presented the next. This year, the Christmas Pageant will be presented on Sunday, December 11th at 8:30, 11:00, and 4:00.

Unlike the Sunday School Christmas Program, which involves all Sunday School students from preschool through middle school, the Christmas Pageant is an intergenerational event that involves Praise Kids, the New Creation, New Generation, and Senior Choirs, and various individuals in the congregation. While many children are a part of the Pageant through their involvement in choirs, Sunday School classes are not directly involved in this year’s production.

The next presentation of the Sunday School Christmas Program will be in December, 2017.

All are invited to experience the Christmas story at this year’s Christmas Pageant!
Thank you!

Notes of Thanks for the God’s Work Our Hands trays of cookies delivered to City Hall and the Wauwatosa Public Library by folks from the Wednesday Morning Bible Study

“To Our Friends at St. Matthew’s Church-
What a lovely surprise! Thank you all for your very generous gift of cookies and brownies for the Library Staff. It didn’t take long for us to finish them off - one thing we have in common here is that we all love to eat.
But more importantly, it is the thought behind the gift that we so appreciate. A kind thought goes so far to make us feel a part of the community and that our work is appreciated.
Sincerely,
Wauwatosa Public Library Staff - All 50 of us!”

From Mayor Kathy Ehley: “Please extend my appreciation to your group of cookie bakers for the vast array of treats. The staff was thrilled and amazed at the variety. Everything was delicious - I can say that because I sacrificed myself to be the taste tester for each type of treat. It was well worth it!
Your generosity and thoughtfulness made everyone’s day.”

Tosa Cares sends thanks for cash donation

“Your donation will make our mission much more achievable in 2016. Cash donations are used to purchase protein products for our clients.
Our next distribution will be held on November 19. At our last distribution for which figures are available, held on August 6, we supplied 150 families with a box of nonperishable food items along with frozen protein products designed to last for a two week period. In addition our clients were able to select canned goods including ketchup and mustard, bread and other baked goods, diapers, baby food, school supplies and summer clothing. Additionally a Wauwatosa Farmer’s Market representative was on hand to help with information rearding accessing fresh produce this growing season. In addition, the eye glass outreach of Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church provided services to our clients.
The need for basic food supply continues to be great in our community, but with your assistance we are empowered to meet those needs. We could not serve the number of people we do without your support.
Kathy Roesch, Director, Tosa Cares.

MICAH Education Task Force, Jane Audette, Chairperson:

“Please accept our humble gratitude for St. Matt’s support of the MICAH Education Task Force Listening Session on Oct. 15 at Greater Galilee Baptist Church. Mary Beth Thays is a member of our task force and has been a huge support in this endeavor. The donation of salad fixings, dessert and water turned some frozen pizza into a lovely meal. Lois Marks acted as one of our wonderful circle facilitators.”

These ‘Grace bags’ were made by a small group as a GWOH project. They are great for anyone needing some TLC or freshening up.

The Mainville and the Wurzburger Families helped with cleaning up the Menomonee River area near Hart Park.
Connecting Christ’s love with military service members, veterans and their families

Our nation continues to endure its longest war at 15 years and counting. Though large-scale deployments of troops to Iraq and Afghanistan have ebbed, people in uniform continue to deploy to more than 30 countries. More than 2 million men and women are veterans of combat deployments since 9/11. Many of them and their families are members of our congregations.

The ELCA cares

In the ELCA Office of the Presiding Bishop, the director of federal chaplaincies has launched the Centurion Connection, a synod- and congregation-based network of people reaching out to military service members, veterans and their families. Twenty synods have an identified local Centurion contact. Using a volunteer network, they use a collaborative website available to all ELCA congregations, elcachaps.com

Centurion contacts offer ideas and resources for how to honor and care for the needs of veterans and their families. They use resources available through the website, including scholarships for seminarians interested in chaplaincy, worship resources and ideas, information on how to deal with post-traumatic stress syndrome, suicide prevention and more. Visit the website for the list of Centurion contacts or check with your synod office.

Our church acts

In concert with a memorial, or proposal, passed at the 2016 Churchwide Assembly, the voices of our church will be raised in prayer to God on the Sunday closest to Veterans Day and other national holidays. We seek ordered civic life and respect for the dignity and worth of each person created in the image of God. We remember the impact of family separation and mobility for veterans, those currently serving and their families. We pray for the right use of power and just pursuit of peace. Through our prayers, we support and encourage the witness of our ELCA pastors in chaplaincy.

Prayer is powerful, and knowing your church remembers you in prayer creates and embodies hope.

There are opportunities for pastors and interested lay leaders to receive training to support active military and veterans. Visit elcachaps.com or talk to a Centurion contact. The church is also discovering among its active and veteran military, people skilled in reaching young people, dealing with pluralism, reacting positively to disasters and other areas of ministry. These are men, women and young adults ready for active roles in congregations and communities. Seek them out in your congregations or through the ELCA Federal Chaplaincy Ministry Updates Facebook page.

Christ’s love is inclusive, active and most effective when we engage all of God’s people in our ministry and service in the world.

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Church History Corner - Symbols of our Faith

God the Holy Spirit

A Dove  The most common symbol of the Spirit is taken from the account of Jesus’ Baptism: a white dove with the three-rayed nimbus.

An Eagle  In rare instances the eagle does duty as a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Irenaeus, in writing about the four living creatures, likens the eagle to “the Spirit hovering with his wings over the Church.” The eagle is depicted on some old baptismal fonts. In some cases this may be intended to show that the eagle like the Spirit renews the life of the baptized Christian, just as according to legend this bird was supposed to renew its youth by flying near the sun and then plunging into water.

Fire or Flames  This symbol of the Spirit comes from the account of the first Christian Pentecost when tongues of fire descended on the disciples (Acts 2:3).

Sanctifier of the Faithful

This phrase, descriptive of part of the work of the Spirit, is found at the beginning of the Great Litany of the Book of Common Prayer. “Sanctify” comes from a Latin word meaning to make holy.

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire, And lighten with celestial fire; Thou the anointing Spirit art, Who dost Thy sev’nfold gifts impart is the translation of an old Latin hymn that through symbolic language tells of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

John R. Paradowski, Minister of Music
The Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Matthew’s will take place on Sunday, January 29, 2017 at 9:45 a.m.

Thanks to all who donated to the BetterEarth Clothing and Shoe recycling drive in October. In case you missed the box this time around, a permanent box is available at St. Pius X in Wauwatosa. Please contact their parish office with questions.

Remember: JOMM is back in Tosa! Consider volunteering for them! 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 their new location: 6442 River Parkway, Wauwatosa. The JOMM office phone is 414-292-5112; speak with Ray Lueck. OR go online to the JOMM website: jomministry.org and click on “volunteer” - you can sign up right there!

“Silver Linings,” the 10th Annual Caring for the Caregiver Conference, Saturday, December 3 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Marquette University Alumni Memorial Union, 1442 W. Wisconsin Ave. Featuring keynote by Stephanie Sue Stein and 12 different breakout session choices, including Conversations Among Caregivers. Registration has already begun. Cost is $15; scholarshipships and respite care funds are available. For more information, call 414-220-8600; or see this website: tinyurl.com/silverlinings2016

“Thank you for participating in this year’s mum sale for Greater Tosa Interfaith. This year our participating congregations sold over 1000 mums and our profit reached a record high of $3432.79! Every week we are getting 1-3 new clients from the Greater Tosa community calling for services. These funds will go a long way in helping serve our communities older adults. A big thanks to all the volunteers that helped to organize the sell the mums. Volunteers are the most important part of our Greater Tosa team. Without our volunteers hundreds of older adults in our community would not be receiving rides to appointments and to grocery shopping.” Amy Dedow, Greater Tosa Interfaith

Have you considered advertising in our newsletter? St. Matthew’s newsletter, The VOICE of St. Matthew’s, is printed 16 times per year at no charge to our congregation, thanks to the advertisers who pay for ads printed in each issue. JS Paluch, a church printing company based in Franklin Park, Illinois, has been providing us with this service for the past five years. We are thankful to the advertisers who make this possible. Would you like to learn more about the possibility of including your business in our newsletter? Contact Sonja Mohr in the church office, who will put you in touch with Paula, our advertising rep at JS Paluch.

Healing Services offered monthly
All are welcome at monthly healing services Healing services are offered monthly at St. Matthew’s at a variety of times to give all the opportunity to come forward for healing prayer for themselves or others. You can share your concern with the pastor/leader at the altar, and then he/she along with the healing ministries will lay on hands and give a special prayer for your concern. Your concern can be general if you don’t wish to share specifically.

Sunday, November 20; after the 11:00 service
Sunday, December 18; during the 11:00 service
Sunday, January 8, 2017; 9:45, during Edu. Hour
Sunday, February 12, 2017; after the 11:00 service

St. Matt’s First Fridays Book Club meets in early December

Have you read the book yet?
The St. Matthew’s book group usually meets on the first Friday of each month. The booklist is available at church or on our website. The next meeting is Friday, December 2 at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew’s, usually meeting in the Upper Room.

December 2: Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson (336 pages)

January 6, 2017: The Jesus Cow: A Novel by Michael Perry (283 pages)

February 3, 2017: Nothing Gold Can Stay: Stories by Ron Rash (256 pages)

Flower Book Sign-Ups Needed
Your Sign-Ups are needed for the altar flower/library book/DVD sign-up notebook! Want to honor a loved one or show someone you care? Designate altar flowers for them, or a library book. Sign up in the Binder at the Information Center. For a donation of $30.00, you may designate altar flowers, or for $15.00 a library book or a DVD for an occasion of your choosing, and this occasion will be listed in the Sunday bulletin. The Library Committee will select the book and a bookplate will be placed in the front of the book. The church office staff orders the flowers from A New Leaf Floral each week. It is best if you pay for your donations on the designated Sunday or before. Place a check in the offering plate and mark its purpose of payment, or drop off your payment in the office during the week. Thanks.
Our Church Family

Scott Falk is recovering from knee surgery. Arvis Kraetsch has recovered from eye surgery.

Congratulations and blessings to:

Allison & Ben Juech on the birth of twins, Emily and Jack on October 19; Ali & Jeb Meier on the birth of Madison June on October 20; Mark & Mary Anderson on the birth of Selma; Karolyn Anderson is a proud grandmother.

Our sympathy is with Jim Sponnick in the death of his brother George in northern Minnesota on October 9.

Darlean Furst died on September 26 in Des Moines, Iowa. She had moved to Des Moines in July 2015 because of health problems to be closer to her daughter and son-in-law. One of the most difficult things about moving to Iowa was leaving St. Matthew’s. When she was no longer able to attend church services, she looked forward to the pastors’ visits to her home. She also missed volunteering in the church office on Monday mornings. She loved her church family and the many friends she made. Darlean and Warren, who died in 1995, were long time members of St. Matthew’s and raised their two children, Sue and Jeff here. Darlean was an active member of St. Matthew’s through those years serving in many ways. Her kindness, friendliness, and caring nature will be remembered by all who knew her. A memorial service is planned for early June 2017 here at St. Matthew’s.

A Note of Thanks:

I would very much like to thank the people of St. Matthew’s for the lovely retirement recognition on Sunday Sept. 18th. I deeply appreciate the gift certificate to our favorite cooking school in Ephraim, The Savory Spoon, along with gift certificates which can be used for lodging, dining or shopping anywhere in Door County. The recognition plaque was also very touching. Thanks too for the many cards I received from parishioners for my retirement. I feel very lucky to still be seeing everyone in the capacity of a fellow parishioner although I’ll miss assisting people as a staff member. Blessings and ‘see you in church’. - Holly Jurss

Friends of Luther Manor “Love Lights” offers opportunity to honor and/or remember family and friends

With each twinkling light on the tree representing a loved one in whose honor or memory a donation has been made, the Friends of Luther Manor Love Lights tree will provide a spectacular symbol of the love in our hearts and shine brightly at Luther Manor throughout the Christmas season. Love Lights donations support programs and services to benefit Luther Manor residents and participants throughout the Luther Manor community.

Please join us for a treelighting ceremony and reception on Thursday, December 8 at 4:30 p.m. at the Luther Manor Welcome Center, 4545 N. 92nd St.

Thanks for your support of Pizzeria Piccola night to benefit Summer 2017 Youth Mission Trip to NYC

Pictured below (left to right) Jynine & Greg Strand; Emma Gifford, Carson & Kelly Kirtley and Mike & Mary Thomae.
PERIODICALS RATE
Mail Carrier: Please deliver by November 12, 2016.
The Voice of St. Matthew’s
We are called to welcome, nurture, equip and send
Next issue of the VOICE is dated December 4, 2016.

Thanks to the Garden Crew for another year of beautiful plants and flowers

Workers photographed on October 22 are:
(Left) Shannon Doberstein; (right) Bob Zwaska (Garden Crew Coordinator) and Jim Sponnick; (below, left to right) Kathy Lichter and Zolbayar Granger; James Neubauer; and Trudy Zauner, Karrie Villa and Joan Tcheng. Thanks to others who helped on that day but were not photographed.
Instruction Page for:

St. Matthew’s Ev. Lutheran Church
#980515
1615 Wauwatosa Ave
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
414-774-0441
Sonja Mohr

Issue Date : November 13, 2016
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Special Instructions:

Quantity Needed = 950

To Be Shipped to:

c/o United Mailing Services Inc.
3655 N. 126th Street, Ste. C
Brookfield, WI 53005

By November 4, 2016