



# THE VOICE

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, AVON, CT Summer 2018

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St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
224 Lovely Street  
Avon, CT 06001-4018  
(860) 673-3301

Website: [www.stmatthewavon.org](http://www.stmatthewavon.org)

Sunday Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

**The office will be closed July 1 -8**  
Office will re-open July 9 at 9:00 a.m.  
**Pastor Julie is always available:**  
**860-371-4030**

**Saturday July 14** - Rolling Hills 5k Run/Walk

**July 11, 18, & 25** - Wednesday Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.

**July 29** - Holy Communion & Healing Prayers 9:00 a.m.

**August 1, 8, & 15** - Wednesday Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.

**August 13** - Red Cross Blood Drive from 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

## LOOKING AHEAD:

**September 3** - Labor Day (office closed)

**September 9** - return to 2 services, 8:30 & 11:00

**September 9** - Sunday School Teacher meeting 9:40 a.m.

**September 16** - Rally Day 9:40 a.m.

## A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

[Jesus said to his disciples] "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." Matthew 10:40.

Members at St. Matthew often talk about the warm atmosphere of the congregation. Perhaps someone reached out to them when they first visited, or the worship and ministries of the church invited them in. The process of welcoming is intentional and is rooted in our faith. In Matthew 10, Jesus equates welcoming another person with welcoming himself, as well as God who sent him. Clearly welcoming matters!

We are extending the St. Matthew welcome in several new ways on Sunday morning. The first is the new bulletin format, which allows for visitors to follow the service with ease. It also accommodates new wording to familiar prayers. New language can speak to new people and can foster a deeper understanding of our worship among new and longtime members alike.

Another way we have been building on the welcoming spirit of St. Matthew is in the variety of songs that Michelle, the choir, and our congregational musicians bring us each week. We are singing traditional hymnody, as well as spirituals and music from around the world. We hear piano and organ, guitar and drums, sax and viola. Not every style is equally loved by all people but singing another person's favorite songs is another great way to show welcome.

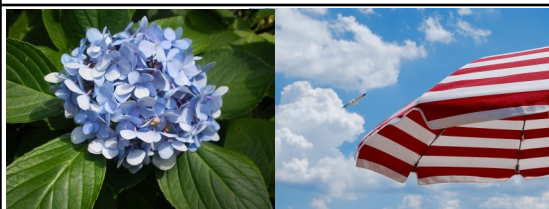
This summer we will try one more way to enlarge our welcome, and that is adding grape juice to the options at communion. We already offer gluten free wafers to anyone who asks; the pastor simply carries them in a separate napkin and distributes them at the same time as the bread. Similarly, to include people who cannot drink wine, we will offer a tray of small cups with white grape juice. The process will be: the pastor gives out the bread, the communion assistant offers a tray with red wine in the individual cups, and then finally the assisting minister offers a tray with white grape juice in the cups. Those who wish to drink from the common cup of wine may come forward as usual at the beginning of the singing of the Lamb of God.

God welcomes everyone—but through our words and actions, we demonstrate that we at St. Matthew are living out that welcome, accommodating the needs and preferences for many kinds of people who come to our church. It's about making a place for someone else. It's about making a place for Jesus.

I am grateful to be in the welcoming business with all of you.

Blessings,

*Pastor Julie*





## EVENING READERS

The Evening Readers are getting together at the home of Lil Baruffi (32 Cope Farms Road, Farmington) on **August 20th at 6:00 p.m.** Please bring a lawn chair and a side, appetizer, or dessert to share. Instead of discussing one book, we are going to do something a little different. **We are going to share a favorite book with the group.** Please choose a book that you love, a book that has had impact in your life, a book that helped on your life's journey: in other words, a book that means 'favorite' to you. We will each have time to talk about our book (up to four minutes!) in whatever way we wish - to say what the book is about, what the book means to us and how it affected our life.

"Bees do have a smell, you know, and if they don't they should, for their feet are dusted with spices from a million flowers."  
— Ray Bradbury, Dandelion Wine



## REGULAR GIVING HELPS

We thank everyone who has supported St. Matthew Lutheran Church in the past year with their time, talents and financial contributions and look forward to support from all our members over the summer. If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions. To learn more or to sign up, contact Terri in the office 860-673-3301 or email: [office@stmatthewavon.org](mailto:office@stmatthewavon.org) or speak to Debbie Steinberg 860-463-9212

## SMLC FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT AT THE END OF MAY 2018:

Five months of the year have passed, and we should have received about 41.7% of our anticipated income. We should have used no more than 41.7% of our budgeted expenses.

Income:	2018 Budget	Income	Percentage Rec'd
Envelope/Regular Giving	\$364,450	\$145,095	39.8%
Tower/Facility Use/Other	<u>\$71,200</u>	<u>\$17,510</u>	24.6%
Total Income Budget	\$435,650	\$162,605	37.3%
Expenses:			
Category:	2018 Budget	Expenditures	Percentage Used
Church Life & Outreach	\$55,500	\$19,321	34.8%
Staff & Office	\$265,350	\$84,691	31.9%
Building & Un-budgeted	<u>\$114,800</u>	<u>\$55,160</u>	48.0%
Total Expense Budget	\$435,650	\$159,172	36.5%



## SUMMER WORSHIP AT ST. MATTHEW

**Summer Sunday Mornings at 9:00 a.m. with Holy Communion:** Began on June 17th, continuing through September 2nd, with Healing Prayers on Sunday, July 29th. We return to two worship services on Sunday, September 9th.

**Summer Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m. with Holy Communion:** Join us for an informal communion service on Wednesday evenings this summer. We will hear stories of faith from a different member of the church each week, consider Paul's letter to the Ephesians, and share communion and refreshments afterward in the Garth! Beginning on July 11th through August 15th.



## NEW ENGLAND SYNOD'S ASSEMBLY

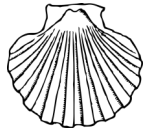
We thoroughly enjoyed attending the Synod Assembly with Pastor Julie and Pastor Bill in Springfield MA. Meeting many new friends, we participated in worship, learned from inspiring speakers, and re-elected Bishop James Hazelwood to serve for another six years. Candidates for the position of Bishop presented moving and interesting commentaries on their histories and views on "Stirring it Up" and we were especially moved by Reverend Carrie Smith of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Jerusalem as she told us about the issues Christians face in Palestine and Israel. Workshop sessions provided spiritual motivation and insights into Muslim theology and traditions. We thank you for the opportunity to join in this grand event. *Barb and Tom Mitchell*



## THROUGH GIFTS LIKE YOURS

According to the ELCA World Hunger Program, St. Matthew Lutheran Church gave the program \$5,312 in 2017. This reflects #4 in congregational giving in the New England Synod!

Your generosity is helping people have sustainable lives. Through gifts like yours, people in over 60 countries have better agricultural resources, access to clean water, nutritious food, education of children, effective ways to earn a living and better health care.

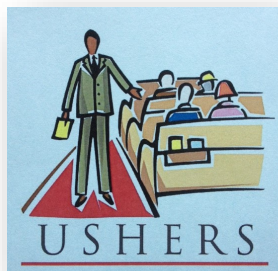


## THE MOUSE

Just when I thought things would wind down for summer, so much has been happening! On May 24 we had Grace @ St. Matthew; special guests from Grace Lutheran in Hartford joined us here for dinner. There was so much good food, so much good fellowship, and so much fun! It couldn't have happened without Carol & George Reider; *George is a great shopper and finder of deals.* They were helped by Ann Eberhard, Deb Brodeur & John Jarzbek, Ellen & Charlie Ericson, Jean & Jim O'Herron, Lisa & George

Spoering, and Sharon Yanke. Please forgive me if I forgot anyone's helping hands; this little mouse does have quite the tiny brain. I should mention Sarah Burns & family for leading Fourth Friday at Grace. People from St. Matthew help serve a meal at Grace Lutheran on the fourth Friday of each month. I saw Maren Parchen here taking boxes of things to Gifts of Love in Avon. Isn't that nice of her to help before she leaves CT again? That whole Parchen clan are special people! Speaking of Gifts of Love – that was one of the Final Four charities that will get a check from St. Matthew Lutheran for \$3,000! Thanks to Pat & Mark Coslett for suggesting that great charity. EVERYONE at St. Matthew that participated in the May Madness campaign deserves a great big thank you! The other charities each getting a check for \$3,000 are the Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance (thanks to Mabel & Rob Howard for the suggestion); ELCA (to benefit Puerto Rico) – thanks to Priscilla Tablante & Debbie Steinberg's suggestion; and, Lutheran World Relief to go where most needed in the world (suggested by Eleanor Swanson). Such a fine example of stewardship; letting go of some of what God has blessed us with! We are blessed that Karen Wright took the lead with the Fellowship Committee on one of my favorite events of the year – the Church Picnic! Lots of people...lots of food...lots of fun! Isn't that what makes life so grand? Food, Fellowship and Fun? So much of that at St. Matthew, but let's not forget our worship life; we've begun the summer worship schedule; just one service at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays. Starting on July 11 and ending on August 15, we will have Wednesday Evening Worship at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to this informal communion service. We will hear stories of faith from a different member of the church each week, consider Paul's letter to the Ephesians, and share communion and refreshments afterward in the Garth! Refreshments afterward in the Garth? I'll be there! See you in church!





## YOUR CHANCE TO SERVE!

We need more ushers!

Anyone is welcome to usher! Individuals, couples, youth, families, mothers/fathers and/or daughters/sons, or any combination can help to fill our teams or be available to try it out as a substitute when the need arises.

Ushering is a great way to help during services as well as to meet and greet other members. We need at least six new ushers to round out our service teams but more are welcome!

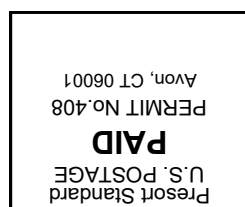
Saint Matthew utilizes "Usher Teams" of four to five people. Each team is assigned to one of the service times and the first, second, third, fourth, or fifth Sunday of each month. A captain leads each team.

We can always use more substitutes too (you would be called during the week and asked to help).

Please call/email Usher Coordinator Kris Jensen at 860-676-9489 or [kjen39489@comcast.net](mailto:kjen39489@comcast.net) to let him know that you can help or sign up in the Carter Gathering Space and someone will contact you.

Thank you!

Electronic Service Requested  
Summer 2018



Non-Profit Organization

SAINT MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH  
224 Lovely Street, Avon, Connecticut 06001-4018

