



THE VOICE

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, AVON, CT June 2019

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

Website: www.stmatthewavon.org

Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

June 2 - Annual Church Picnic – following 11 a.m. service.

June 7-8 - Synod Assembly.

June 9 - Pentecost/Confirmation at 11:00 a.m.
- Summer VOICE Deadline

June 16 - Father's Day.
- **Summer Sunday Worship Schedule begins 9 a.m.**

June 20 - **Thursday evening Worship begins 7:00 p.m. (until August 29th).**

June 22 - Thrivent House of Faith Build 8 a.m.

June 23 - Community Conversation 10 a.m.

June 30 - Healing Prayers.

LOOKING AHEAD:

July 4 - Independence Day / Church Office closed.

July 13 - Rolling Hills 5K at 9:00 a.m.

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

WHO WE ARE AS A COMMUNITY

Thank you all for your participation in the visioning process at St. Matthew! Who we are as a community is a foundational part of our visioning process. In some ways “community” simply refers to St. Matthew as a congregation. We are a local part of the Body of Christ, a group of Christian sisters and brothers who love and support one another in our growing relationship with God. Another aspect of the word “community” includes the surrounding neighborhoods and towns: the town of Avon and the Farmington Valley. This is the community in which we live and whom we, the people of St. Matthew, are called to serve and love. The meaning of community expands to our state, region, country, and world—to the whole human family and indeed to all creation!

People join communities for fulfillment and to lead more authentic lives. It's exciting to envision how we can be a community that offers this. Finding our vision is about hearing what God is calling us to do in our specific time and place. Think about why you came to St. Matthew and why you remain in this community. What are you longing for in this community? What do you think the people of our area are longing for? Hosting events like the Barnstormers and the 5K are ways I have seen this congregation expand our sense of community to include the larger community. Like when Jesus expanded his followers' understanding of the true meaning of the word “neighbor,” I hope we can think of the word “community” on all its levels.

Through the visioning process we've gathered many good ideas. Now it's time to contemplate which initiatives to move forward first and which initiatives you are called to participate in. **Join us at 10 a.m. on June 23rd in the Hall of the Evangelists for our third Community Conversation!** I hope you will prayerfully consider how God is calling you to be involved in expanding the ministries of St. Matthew. As a community with a vision, let us move forward together and manifest the Kingdom in our own unique way!

- Pastor Brian



YOUNG ADULTS St. Matthew's young adult group will not meet for lunch on our typical third Sunday this month.



YOUTH GROUP! In the month of June, youth group will meet our usual first Sunday and third Thursday: Sun. June 2nd at 9:40am and Thurs. June 20th 6:00 p.m.



ROLLING HILLS 5K 2019 St. Matthew's annual 5K road race will take place on Saturday July 13th. Mark your calendars and come out to support this great event! Register online at: rollinghills5k.racewire.com

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Our Treasurer, Debbie Steinberg, and Asst. Treasurer, Dawne Ware, have transitioned to a new cloud based ledger system that allows for collaboration, transparency and increased efficiencies. At the same time, they are reviewing, updating and documenting internal control processes.
- The parsonage renovation is complete after 17 months! Insurance reimbursements are coming in as planned. Our congregation is responsible for the \$10,000 deductible, as well as approximately \$13,600 for upgrades to the heating system and other items identified in a home inspection. The \$13,600 will come from parsonage repairs and maintenance, as well as other line items in the property budget already approved for 2019 in order to repay the \$15,000 loan from Endowment to Property for the project.
- The council approved a new mission statement as part of its vision planning:

St. Matthew Lutheran Church is a worshipping community called to proclaim God's love for all and to grow spiritually together. Challenged by Jesus' example, we strive to connect people of all ages, abilities, and needs, and to nurture them to be disciples of Christ. Guided by the Spirit, we reach out to the wider community and welcome our neighbors to a life of worship, preaching, teaching, Christian care, service, and spiritual growth.



CASAVANT ORGAN UPDATE, PART II

The Casavant Organ at St. Matthew was installed in 1987 at a cost of \$103,350. The value of our organ today is between \$620,000 and \$740,000. The Music and Worship Committee is recommending investing \$7,912.00 for a re-voicing project which will enhance the sound of the instrument and our worship experience.

As explained in the May article in the Voice, the Council is reviewing this proposal. Previous organists, including most recently Michelle Horsley, have avoided using those pipes and have left documentation about the ongoing problem. The current sound of these pipes can be described as strident or piercing. The proposed work to re-voice the 8' Principal and the V Mixture pipes on our Casavant Pipe Organ would give a more balanced sound. The Worship and Music Committee proposes that the repair costs be covered from the Memorial Fund, which is set aside to enhance our worship life. Currently, the balance in the Memorial Fund is \$19,300. The actual work would take about two weeks, and the remainder of the pipes in the organ could still be used during that period.

Thirty-two years ago, our members made a decision that at the time was a significant cost and commitment for the congregation. Over the years, we have all enjoyed the benefits of their decision. Our desire is to keep our Casavant Pipe Organ in the best condition possible. The Worship and Music Committee believes this project would be an investment well worth the cost.

Worship & Music Committee Members: Deb Brodeur, Fred Fenn, Hal Eberhard, Dan Tuve, John Pearson, Jack Pietrick, Jim Holst, Dick Silbereis, Pastor Julie & Pastor Brian



ST MATTHEW READERS!

Our meeting this month is on Monday, June 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the church. We will discuss *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. Our August meeting will be at the Baruffi's house - thanks, Lil and Rick! - at 6:00 pm on August 19th. We don't have a book yet . . . We will announce the book in the summer Voice and in the bulletins.

Contact Debbie Steinberg at 860-463-9212 or deborahsteinberg@mac.com for more info or to be included on the book club email list OR just show up at a meeting - whether you finished the book or not - **WE LOVE VISITORS!**



ADULT FORUM STUDIES JUDAISM

In June our Adult Forum continues its study, *My Neighbor's Faith* with a study of Judaism. On June 9 we will close out our Adult Forum season with a visit from Rabbi Rebekah Mag Goldman of the Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation-Emek Shalom in Simsbury.

- **May 26:** Judaism
- **June 2:** Judaism
- **June 9:** Rabbi Rebekah Mag Goldman



ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC Sunday, June 2, 2019 Immediately following the 11:00 service

Grilled burgers and hot dogs, salads, desserts, and more will be provided by the Fellowship Committee. There's no need to bring any food, but you can bring lawn games to share, if you'd like.

Look for the sign-up sheet in The Carter Gathering Space. Please let us know you are coming, if you can, but last minute attendees are always welcome. We look forward to seeing you there! Contact Karen Wright or anyone on the Fellowship Committee if you have any questions.

GOOD THINGS We have so many wonderful things to be grateful to God for this past month:

- ✦ Pastor Brian and a number of St. Matthew parishioners participated in the annual National Day of Prayer at the Carmon Family Center. Organized by Steve W., this day draws people together across seven different faith traditions as a witness of prayer for our common life.
- ✦ There was standing room only at the Barnstormer and Avon High School choir concert this past month! Five choir members, six Outreach Committee members, and our sexton Roy hosted this community event.
- ✦ Over 50 people participated in two Community Conversations focused on generating input to develop a vision plan for St. Matthew.
- ✦ 14 people got our building and grounds into shape on Church Clean Up day. Organized by our Property Committee, they tackled window washing, clearing out the weeds and brush behind the parsonage, and cleaning the blinds in the parsonage. Thank you to this hard working crew!!
- ✦ Sandy L. and Justine D. hosted our Welcome Lunch for three families joining our church. We welcome Kathy and Steve H., Susan & Joe G., and Kimberly G. and family to St. Matthew!
- ✦ We welcomed five young people to Communion for the first time: Come to the Feast, Mateo, Jake, Reese, Zoe, and Hannah!
- ✦ Our congregation is \$40,000 ahead in giving compared to this time last year. Generous gifts at Easter and one-time gifts for Close the Gap contribute to this solid financial position as we grow our ministries in 2019. We are on target to meet our budget this year but will continue to monitor our finances closely for the remainder of the year and in preparation for next year.

God is good, all the time.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June 2019						1
2 8:30 Worship 9:40 Adult Forum 9:40 Youth Group Meeting 11:00 Holy Communion (+ Baptism: Adaline Harriman) 12:00 CHURCH PICNIC FOLLOWING 11:00 a.m SERVICE	3 2:15 Staff Meeting 7:00 Finance Committee	4 6:30 Confirmation Walk-Through 7:30 Church Council	5	6 10:00 Bible Study	7 Synod Assembly	8 Synod Assembly
9 PENTECOST 8:30 Holy Communion 9:40 Adult Forum 11:00 Holy Communion / Confirmation	10 2:15 Staff Meeting 7:00 Evening Readers	11 7:00 Stewardship Committee	12	13 1:00 Church Historians	14	15
16 SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS: 9:00 Worship / Holy Communion Summer VOICE Deadline	17 2:15 Staff Meeting	18	19	20 THURSDAY EVENING WORSHIP BEGINS. 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 Youth Group Mtg. 7:00 Worship Service	21	22 8:00 Thrivent House of Faith Build
23 9:00 Worship / Holy Communion 10:00 Community Conversation	24 2:15 Staff Meeting 7:00 Worship / Music	25 7:00 Property Committee	26 7:00 Endowment Meeting	27 7:00 Worship Service	28 5:00 Fourth Friday at Grace Lutheran Church	29
30 9:00 Holy Communion and Healing Prayers	Notes:					

Electronic Service Requested
June 2019

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224 Lovely Street, Avon, Connecticut 06001-4018





PERSONAL CARE ITEMS COLLECTION:

The Outreach Committee will be collecting non-consumable items for the food pantry during the month of June. These items include paper towels, toilet paper, soap of all kinds, feminine products, shampoo and conditioner. All items are welcome and will be distributed by Gifts of Love in Avon and the Canton Food Bank.



YOU ARE INVITED TO SYNOD ASSEMBLY!

Join your pastors and voting members Bill P, Missy L, and Kurt S-H at Synod Assembly, June 7-8 in Worcester, MA!

New England Synod

This a great event with worship, storytelling, workshops, and news on what the Holy Spirit is up to in New England. Registrations will be accepted at the door on June 7 & 8, with fees payable by check or credit card only.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, JUNE 9

On Pentecost Sunday, June 9th, four of our young people will be confirmed at the 11 a.m. service. They are:

- **Brady Abbott**
- **Amelia Beaulieu**
- **Reed Krodel**
- **Ben Pascavis**



Join us in surrounding them in prayer and celebrating their affirmation of baptism!



THRIVENT HOUSE OF FAITH BUILD with HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Please join us in helping to build a home in East Hartford! The project will take all summer, but **Saint Matthew will be volunteering on Saturday, June 22 from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm.** No skills are necessary to help; just a willing heart and able hands! If your heart is willing but your hands may not be able, we will also need volunteers to provide

lunches and snacks for the volunteers. **Please sign up in the Carter Gathering Space!** Questions? Please contact Tim Beaulieu.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: The Church Council wishes to thank those members of our congregation who participated in the first two "Community Conversations" as we continue work on our Vision Plan. The Council is planning a Saturday morning retreat in which they will begin to analyze the many ideas shared by our members at those events. Results of the retreat and our initial plans for implementation will be discussed with the congregation at our third "Community Conversation" meeting planned for June 23rd. We hope to see you then!!



The June 23rd "Community Conversation" will be held in the Hall of the Evangelists from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. immediately following our 9:00 a.m. service. (Summer Schedule).



OH, FREEDOM! STORIES OF FAITH FROM ST MATTHEW PARISHIONERS

Thursdays at 7pm, June 20- August 29

Join us to hear fellow St Matthew folks share faith stories and folk music, inspired by readings from the letters to the Galatians and Colossians. The evening includes an informal service of Holy

Communion and is capped off with ice cream in the Garth! It's a great way to get to know others in the community and celebrate the freedom we share in Christ.



BE A PART OF SUNDAY SCHOOL 2019-2020! - The Sunday School program provides a weekly space for building faith, friendship, and service. We invite you to participate in the following for the 2019-2020 year:

Classroom Teaching: Pre-k - Kindergarten, Grades 1-3 & Grades 4-6

Sunday School Coordinator: This individual works with staff on overall scheduling and parent communications throughout the year.

Christmas Pageant Co-Director: Work with the pageant director, the Pastors, and Music Director to organize the 2019 Christmas Pageant.

Other: Would you like to help with youth music? Do you have talents or interests not listed? Let us know - we will find a place for you!

Please contact Meredith Trimble with your interest.



GREATER HARTFORD LUTHERANS IN GERMANY

"In the footsteps of the Reformation"
St. Marks Lutheran Church, Glastonbury

Germany & the Oberammergau Passion Play
June 24 – July 5, 2020

I will be leading a Luther / Oberammergau trip 2020. We have reserved 25 tickets for the July 2nd performance of the Passion Play in Oberammergau. For questions that I can, might be able to, or can't answer, feel free to contact me at 717-575-1173, or pstrhffmn@comcast.net. Pastor Cheryl Hoffman.

For the itinerary: <https://files.constantcontact.com/9dce3bb2101/6bebf8c5-be03-4520-b9b4-3470d851aa88.pdf>

St. Matthew Lutheran Church Mission Statement

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