



# THE VOICE

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

JANUARY 2007

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Avon, CT 06001-4018  
(860) 673-3301  
Website: [www.stmatthewavon.org](http://www.stmatthewavon.org)

Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:40 a.m.  
Adult Forum 9:40 a.m.

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

**January 15** — 7:30 Women  
Gathering

**January 19-20** — Youth Lock-in

**January 21** - Noon - Annual Meeting

**January 22** — 12:00 Noon - Monthly  
Readers

## LOOKING AHEAD:

**February 11** — Youth Sunday

**February 21** — Ash Wednesday

**March 4** — 4:30 p.m. Anniversary  
Organ Recital

## A LETTER FROM PASTOR

Coming soon to a pew near you —The New Red Worship Book — Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW).

We enter a new page in our history as we open this new book together. Why a new book? The Renewing Worship project began in 2001 in response to a growing diversity of worship patterns, resources, styles within the global Lutheran community, and throughout our relationships with other Christians. It will serve the church into the next decades.

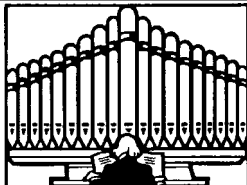
There is an old adage in the church that says ‘as we pray, so we believe.’ So what about the Liturgy? What will we pray? What will we believe? Central to our worship is the proclamation of God’s Word and the use of the Sacraments. ELW supports this ‘service of God’ to us. We now have 10 Settings for Worship available to us (Settings 1 and 2 from LBW now appear as Settings 3 and 4 in ELW). All 150 Psalms are included. Luther’s Small Catechism is found in the back pages...

In a recent staff meeting a comment was made, ‘so we sing, we also believe.’ How will we sing? What will we believe? Lutheran Book of Worship has about 500 hymns. With One Voice contains about 200. ELW has roughly 750 hymns, and serves as a ‘best of’ book - keeping most from both of our current books, plus new choices to keep us fresh. Here are a few selections...God is Here (from With One Voice)...A Mighty Fortress is Our God (now with three versions)...Silent Night (with the option of singing the first verse in German...also are hymns containing Chinese, Korean, Latin, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, and more.)...We are Called (a new one from Renewing Worship). You get the picture. An old hymn I like is back with a new tune. Flip through the pages and explore for yourself.

...There is a lot in this new book (and yes, it will fit in our pew racks). This month our copies of ELW are scheduled to arrive. We plan to begin its use soon. In this addition of the Voice you will find the opportunity to purchase copies for the congregation’s use in honor of those whom you choose. LBW has served us well since the 1970s. We are now invited to be renewed, and upheld in faith by this addition of hymns, liturgies, prayers, and confessions of faith as God continues to meet us in Word and in Sacrament. Believe it!

Finding our new pages together,

*Pastor Geoff Sinibaldo*



## An Anniversary and... Cause for Celebration!

This year, 2007, our Casavant pipe organ, Opus 3627, is TWENTY years old. The organ arrived here at St. Matthew on a frigid Sunday morning in January, 1987. For many weeks, a whole crew of folks worked to install our instrument. The wood cases were built and prepared to receive the pipes. Lighting and wiring were installed and finally a blower hooked up to generate the wind required for the pipes to sing. The console was prepared so the pipes could be told when and what to sing and finally the tonal finishing was complete - each individual pipe (guess how many pipes in all - answer somewhere in this issue of the VOICE!) manipulated until the sound was just right. At last our organ was ready to lead the people at worship.

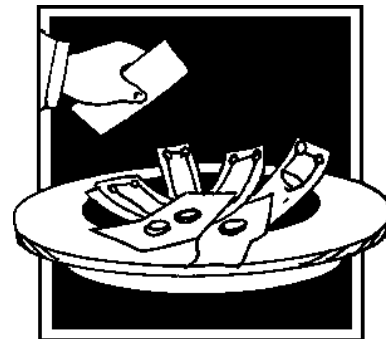
On Sunday, March 1, 1987, our Casavant was dedicated to the Glory of God and we all sang Now Thank We All Our God. God was praised on that day and has been continually for these twenty years.

To celebrate, an organ anniversary recital will be played on Sunday, March 4, 2007 at 4:30 p.m. here at St. Matthew on our King of Instruments. We are honored to have Ezequiel Menendez perform. Dr. Menendez is Director of Music at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Hartford, CT, and a long time friend of St. Matthew going back to the days when he served as musician at the Church of St. Ann here in Avon. Menendez is a thrilling virtuoso performer who loves our Casavant and will treat us to a fabulous afternoon concert. Mark your calendars and set aside Sunday, March 4 at 4:30 p.m.

## Fully Alive for the First Time

In one of his Lake Wobegone stories, Garrison Keillor tells about a Sunday morning in Lake Wobegon Lutheran Church. The sermon has been droning on far too long, and Clarence Bunsen has checked out early. He realizes it's almost time for the offering, so he quietly reaches for his wallet. Upon opening his wallet, Clarence discovers he has no cash. He takes out his pen and hides the checkbook in the middle of his Bible, next to one of the psalms. He begins to scratch out a check for thirty dollars, because he almost had a heart attack that week, and because somebody in the church will count the offering and he wants them to see he gave thirty dollars.

He tries not to be obvious, but a lady to his right sees him. Clarence can tell she thinks he's writing in the pew Bible, so he doesn't look at what he's doing. She gives him a funny stare and turns back to the sermon. Clarence tries to quietly rip the check out of the checkbook, with limited success, still not looking at what he's doing so the lady in the pew won't know he has written out



a check in church. The offering plate comes by, and Clarence proudly puts in the check, only to realize a moment too late that he has just written a check for three hundred dollars. He accidentally wrote three-zero-zero on two different lines when he wasn't looking.

What could he do? On the one hand, he couldn't go downstairs after church and find the deacons counting the collection and say, "Fellows, there's been a mistake. I gave more than I really wanted to." On the other hand, he gave all he had in the checking account and a little more. Perhaps he and his family will have to eat beans and oatmeal for the rest of the month. Clarence thought, even though the contribution was going to a good place. One thing was for sure, notes Keillor. In that moment, Clarence felt fully alive for the first time all day.

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## Assistant to the Organist...

Have you ever wondered what makes the pipe organ the King of Instruments? Well, here is your chance to get up close to our pipe organ, assist the organist during worship, rehearse with Mrs. Robinson before worship and have your own personal tour of all the Kingly attributes of our Casavant. Help to celebrate this awesome anniversary by learning all you can about how the pipe organ works, what makes it possible to have so many different sounds, loud and soft,

high and low, dark and bright and so many more.

This anniversary Assistant to the Organist program begins now in January and will last till Easter - sign up in the large Gathering Space for your chance to "Assist" and for your special private session with Mrs. Robinson. All young people in grades 3 or older and all adults are welcome to take a turn.

*Answer to the question - How Many Pipes? 1005!!!*



## Women Gathering

Women Gathering will meet on January 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Ruth Slocum, 5 Ivoryton Pl., Avon, CT. Call Ruth with any questions at 860-675-4014.



## Monthly Readers

For January we will be reading and discussing *The Devil in the White City - Murder Magic and Madness at the Fair that Changed America*, by Eric Larson. Shirley Slattery will be our hostess at 22 Forest Hill Drive, Simsbury, 651-5967, at noon on January 22. Bring your lunch, questions and come join us.

In February our book will be: *Three Weeks With My Brother* by Nicholas Sparks and Micha Sparks. On Monday, February 26 we'll meet at Ruth Slocum's home, 5 Ivoryton Place, Farmington Woods, Avon, 675-4014. Join us if you can.

## Flowers for Worship

Look for the 2007 Flower Chart posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please sign up for a Sunday or two. Cost is \$30.00. Leave your check in the church office when you sign up. Thank you.

## Come Together with Friends, Old and New!

Are you up for some great talk and delicious food to warm you on a winter evening? Please join other women of St. Matthew at RuBab's – a Creperie in Canton on Friday, January 19. We'll meet at the restaurant at 7 pm. For directions and to let us know to set a place for you, call Ann Discenza at 675-1949.

## Thank You to the Women at St. Matthew Lutheran Church:

Thank you for the Christmas assortment of cookies! Each cookie was delicious. Jamys really liked the cream cheese frosted coconut bar, and Ramona thoroughly enjoyed the lemon frosted lemon cookie.

Merry Christmas & Joyous Holiday Greetings,

Jamys and Ramona

## The Mouse

Hooray for Simsbury... State Champs in Soccer, and hooray for the Hugel boys, who led their team to V-I-C-T-O-R-Y-! Well done, David and Stephen!...

Hooray for Vicar Adrian, he ventured into the forests (of cars) on Rt 44 and found our Christmas Tree, and erected the stand and watched the beautiful decoration and lighting of the St. Matthew Tree on December 17th...

Hooray for Pastor Sinibaldo and Caitlin Nurge who led our staff and students in a glorious retelling of the Nativity story and the birth of our Savior... my friends were very thrilled with the happy way everyone gathered to hear the story... they were visiting from over the ridge in Buckingham...and love being neighbors to St. Matthew, and to me! (smart mice indeed, and such good taste, don't you think?)

Hooray for the joy of Advent Vespers with all our three choirs, and Pastor Sinibaldo as Cantor and Fred Fenn on bassoon and Jeff Stote on violin was amazing... I was smiling through my tears as we all



rejoiced in the Light of the coming Christ... Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve and the beauty of our members and friends, what a package to unwrap for the entire month..

Thanks to our Altar Guild, especially Mary Kinahan and Sonya Gedstad, for the wreaths and chancel decorations too, thanks to Pastor Carter for climbing the ladder to move the Wise Man each week, and to Pastor Sinibaldo for climbing another ladder to hang the glorious wreaths over each of our front entryways...

It was a glorious December, complete with pleasant weather, a full moon and gifts galore! (I got a great pannini maker and my four cheese pannini is really a taste to behold... thanks to Aunt Elsie for remembering me, and all us church mice.)

# JANUARY 2007

Return Service Requested



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

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Geoff T. Simbaldo, Pastor — Church (860) 673-3301 • Home (860) 673-4511

3RD CLASS  
BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 36  
Canton, CT 06019

Non-Profit Organization

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> New Year's Day Office Closed	<b>2</b> 9:30 Staff Meeting 7:00 JOYFUL NOISE 7:00 Finance 7:30 Stewardship	<b>3</b> 9:30 Vicar's Bible Study 6:30 Jr. Confirmation 7:00 Youth Choir Instrument Night 8:00 Senior Choir	<b>4</b> 7:00 Bldg. Committee 7:30 Intern Comm. at Jarka's	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 8:30 Worship 9:40 Sunday School & Adult Forum 11:00 Holy Communion	<b>8</b> 9:30 Staff Meeting  7:00 Fellowship	<b>9</b> 7:00 JOYFUL NOISE 7:30 Church Council	<b>10</b> 9:30 Vicar's Bible Study 10:30 Handicrafters 6:30 Sr. Confirmation 7:00 Youth Choir 7:30 Property 8:00 Senior Choir	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:40 Sunday School & Adult Forum 11:00 Worship  Voice Deadline	<b>15</b> Office Closed  7:30 Women Gathering @ Slocum's	<b>16</b> 9:30 Staff Meeting  7:00 JOYFUL NOISE 7:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>17</b> 9:30 Vicar's Bible Study 2:30 Youth to Zion Soup Kitchen 6:30 Jr. Confirmation 7:00 Youth Choir 8:00 Senior Choir	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  7:00 Women @ RuBab's  Youth Lock-in----->	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 8:30 Worship 9:40 Sunday School & Adult Forum 11:00 Holy Communion Noon - Annual Meeting	<b>22</b> 9:30 Staff Meeting  Noon - Monthly Readers @Slattery's	<b>23</b>  7:00 JOYFUL NOISE	<b>24</b> 9:30 Vicar's Bible Study 10:30 Handicrafters 6:30 Sr. Confirmation 7:00 Youth Choir 8:00 Senior Choir	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:40 Sunday School & Adult Forum 11:00 Worship	<b>29</b> 9:30 Staff Meeting	<b>30</b> 7:00 JOYFUL NOISE	<b>31</b> 9:30 Vicar's Bible Study 6:30 Jr. Confirmation 7:00 Youth Choir 8:00 Senior Choir	<b>JANUARY 2007</b>		