



THE VOICE

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

FEBRUARY 2007

STAFF

William S. Carter, Pastor
Geoff T. Sinibaldo, Pastor
Adrian Bonaro, Vicar
Krysia Robinson, Director of Music
Diane Theriault, Office Administrator
Ellen Gregory, Publisher
Helen Kilburn, Marion and Ken Knaple,
Circulation

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

February 11 — Youth Sunday
February 21 — Ash Wednesday

LOOKING AHEAD:

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

March 7, 14, 21, 28 & April 4 —
Lenten Morning Prayer

March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 — Lenten
Evening Prayer

March 17 — 9 a.m. -12:30 Saturday
Morning Lenten Retreat

A LETTER FROM PASTOR

As we begin to get comfortable in this New Year, I have this to say: This congregation is blessed. You and I are blessed by God. I offer that witness in the world's eyes and ears, and your eyes and ears, from a place of sure and certain knowledge, from a place tempered by thirty five years in ministry, from a place of quiet confidence.

It is a privilege to spend my days, with Pastor Sinibaldo, responding to the Spirit's call to be a pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church. Calling in your homes and visiting in hospital rooms, having you drop in to talk, or setting up an appointment when you feel that could be helpful in your life, using all the connective power of telephone, email, voicemail, we stay connected. I'm thrilled and grateful to meet you in the supermarket and at the gas pump, thrilled to know that our lives in faith and fellowship are interconnected in real life in the growing ministry of this blessed congregation. Word and sacraments are proclaimed and celebrated. Faith is nurtured in educational ministry. Healing Prayers and shawls are blessing ever widening circles of people as our ministry reaches out beyond our growing membership.

I am grateful for your generosity. It is a joy that you return gifts to God, the source of all our abundance. Growth in pledges and extraordinary giving through VISION FOR GROWTH is the hallmark of this New Year, and the exploding hours of lay leadership through Church Council, committees and a myriad of Church gatherings create an abundance of ministry opportunities.

This abundance mirrors the exciting developments in our building seen in a refurbished Sunday School corridor, our new and beautiful Hall of the Four Evangelists, a welcoming Gathering Space, the expanded parking lot with its new Piazza and the new pantry, restrooms, Youth Loft and Upper Room. All are blessings from God in our life of faith lived in the real world, part of the abundant ministry that we share with Christ, the Lord of the Church. Let us live into this abundance together!

See you in church! Soon I hope.

Pastor William Carter

Lent is coming...

...with a wonderful assortment of opportunities to Worship and Study and Pause to Prepare for the Joy of Easter

Sundays are in Lent but not of Lent. We worship each Sunday at 8:30 and 11:00

Ash Wednesday, February 21

9:00 a.m. Lenten Morning Prayer with Imposition of Ashes

7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes

Wednesday Mornings at 9:00 2/28, 3/7, 14, 21, 28, 4/4

Lenten Morning Prayer in the Celtic Tradition with William Butler Yeats

Thursday Evenings at 7:30

Lenten Evening Prayer rooted in the Apostles' Creed
as proclaimer of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ

March 1 "Conceived by the Holy Spirit..."

March 8 "Born of the virgin Mary..."

March 15 "Suffered under Pontius Pilate..."

March 22 "Crucified, died and was buried..."

March 29 "Descended to the dead, and on the third day..."

Saturday Morning Lenten Retreat

March 17th 9:00 - 12:30 A Holy and Celtic Lent with St. Patrick at St. Matthew!

Holy Thursday, April 5th at 7:30 Holy Thursday Eucharist

Good Friday, April 6th

St. Matthew open 9:00a.m. to 9:00p.m. for prayer and meditation

9:30a.m. - 11:30a.m. Children's Retreat

7:30p.m Good Friday Worship with Office of Tenebrae

Easter Sunday Festival Holy Communion at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00

with brass, choirs, and the joy of ALLELUIA!



Cookie Bake and Care Package for St. Matthew College Students and Service Members

It's that time of the year when hungry students are studying hard and are in need of snack support from home. February 11th is the day you can help assemble care packages to send. Watch for a sign-up poster in the Library Lounge where you can sign up to provide cookies, treats or to help pack boxes for mailing after the 11:00 service on February 11th. We will also send packages to our military service members. Parents, please verify that the office has the latest address for your student and/or service member.

Dear Lutheran Church Women,

Thank you for the cookies you sent me for Christmas.

Lenore Ehrhardt



Women Gathering

Women Gathering will meet at Carol Reider's home on Tuesday, February 13 at 7:30 p.m.

I Have a Dollar

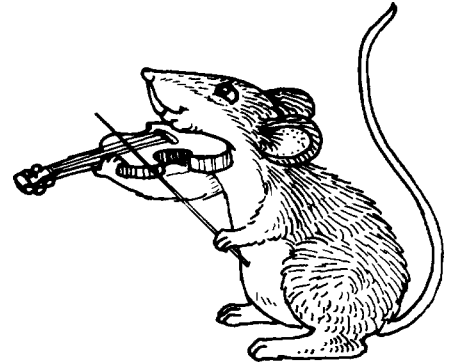
The Junior Sunday School Teacher asked her eight eager children if they would give \$1,000,000 to the missionaries. "YES!" they all screamed!! "Would you give \$1,000?" Again they shouted, "YES!" "How about \$100?" "Oh, YES we would!" they all agreed!!

"Would you give just a dollar to the missionaries?" she asked. The boys exclaimed "YES!" just as before except for Johnny. "Johnny," the teacher said as she noticed the boy clutching his pocket, "why didn't you say "YES" this time?" "Well," he stammered, "I HAVE a dollar."

The Mouse

It is hard to look around and not remember the words from Revelation 21:5, 'See, I am making all things new!' Thanks be to God for the renewal of our space through Vision for Growth, and thanks to those who have gone above and beyond the many facets of construction, meetings, decisions, and plans. Thank you to our Executive Team and Building Committee—Dick Hines, Darrell Pataska, Bill Farquhar, Jeanette Hancock, Sharon Leonard, Doug Peterson, Ben Wright along with our pastors who have shepherded through these past months.

In the midst of big changes, little jobs have not gone unnoticed. Thank you to Phil and Suellen Rogers for fixing the kitchen sink and making sure all of our coffee hour cart and supplies are clean in the midst of dust everywhere in the kitchen. Thank you. Thank you to Rob St. Pierre who fixed the squeaky pews in the sanctuary. Thank you to the Property Committee for their ongoing efforts to maintain and enhance the church property. Thank you to our sexton, Ed Hanson who has adjusted to making our building clean and ready to go amidst the challenges of finding new places for his supplies and how to retrieve them. Great job! Thank you all for your ongoing work.



Coming in March, the celebrations begin...

In the meantime we continue to celebrate each other!

Youth Choir Instrument night was awesome! Nina Kublan played her clarinet and bass clarinet, Brittany Stote; the violin and piano, Allison Zeitler enthusiastically cheered them on as she listened and plans to start learning the recorder soon. Special invited guest, Carolyn Peterson, played flute, alto flute and piccolo. Parents enjoyed the performing and the learning. Thank you for the gifts of filling the air with music and each other with joy.

Our Youth - Miranda Arvidson, Lauren Kraft, David Meckes, Alison Pearson, Catherine Winslow, Stephanie Winslow, along with Cindy Winslow and Vicar Adrian helped serve food at Zion Lutheran Church in Bristol as part of their Soup Kitchen feeding ministry. Thank you for your sharing.

FEBRUARY 2007

Return Service Requested



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

William S. Carter, Pastor — Church (860) 673-3301 • Home (860) 673-6994
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
				1 7:30 Intern Comm. at Metz's	2	3
4 8:30 Worship 9:40 Sunday School & Adult Forum 11:00 Holy Communion 2:30 Youth Advisors 3:00 Youth Bowling	5 9:30 Staff Meeting 7:00 Teachers 7:30 Finance	6 6:30 Fellowship 7:00 JOYFUL NOISE 7:30 Church Council	7 9:30 Vicar's Bible Study 6:30 Sr. Confirmation 7:00 Youth Choir 8:00 Senior Choir	8	9 9:30 Mom & Me @ church	10 Tables of Eight
11 Youth Sunday 8:30 Holy Communion 9:40 Sunday School & Adult Forum 11:00 Holy Communion Voice Deadline	12 9:30 Staff 7:00 Endowment 7:30 Altar Guild	13 7:00 JOYFUL NOISE 7:00 Evangelism 7:30 Worship & Music 7:30 Women Gath'g at Reider's	14 9:30 Vicar's Bible Study 10:30 Handicrafters 6:30 Jr. Confirmation 7:00 Youth Choir 8:00 Senior Choir	15	16 9:30 Mom & Me at Krodel's	17
18 8:30 Worship 9:40 Sunday School & Adult Forum 11:00 Worship	19 Office Closed	20	21 Ash Wednesday 9:00 Lenten Morning Prayer & Imposition of Ashes 9:30 Vicar's Bib.Stdy 7:00 Sr. Choir 7:30 Holy Comm. Sr. Choir follows	22	23	24
25 8:30 Holy Communion 9:40 Sunday School & Adult Forum 11:00 Worship	26 9:30 Staff Meeting Noon - Monthly Readers @Slocum's	27	28 9:00 Lenten Morning Prayer 9:30 Vicar's Bible Study 10:30 Handicrafters	FEBRUARY 2007		

Organ Anniversary Recital Celebrating 20 Years

Dr. Ezequiel Menendez, Organist and Director of Music at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Hartford, will perform our Anniversary Recital, Sunday, March 4 at 4:30 p.m. Menendez is a stunning virtuoso performer who has concertized throughout Europe and the Americas. Please invite your friends and neighbors for this festive event in the life of our congregation. A reception will follow the recital with time for fellowship and the opportunity to greet the artist. Join us for this exciting celebration.

ORGAN ANNIVERSARY RECITAL

Sunday, March 4 at 4:30 p.m.

Dr. Ezequiel Menendez, organist

Assistant to the Organist

There is still opportunity to sign-up to “assist” our organist on a Sunday morning! You will enjoy the chance to sit on the bench with Mrs. Robinson, have your own tour of the “King of Instruments” and learn first hand about the intricacies of leading worship from the organ console. Your own session with our organist will give you the chance to learn all about the pipe organ and its ‘kingly’ attributes. See the sign-up in the large gathering space. Be curious and help to celebrate this exciting 20th anniversary year for our pipe organ. All are welcome grade 3 and up and including all adults. Questions? see Mrs. Robinson. Thanks!

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