



THE VOICE

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

MARCH 2007

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St. Matthew Lutheran Church

224 Lovely Street

Avon, CT 06001-4018

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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:

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

March 7, 14, 21, 28 & April 4 — 9:00
a.m. Lenten Morning Prayer

March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 — 7:30 p.m.
Lenten Gathering

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

LOOKING AHEAD:

April 1 — 9:15-10:30 Palm Sunday
Breakfast.

April 5 — 7:30 p.m. Holy Thursday
Communion

April 6 — 7:30 Good Friday
Tenebrae

April 8 — 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 Easter
Festival with Holy Communion

A LETTER FROM PASTOR

The view out our dining room window overlooks Roaring Brook. Where we see it, the brook is hardly roaring at all - the flow of water has gathered into a small pool. It is in this pool that a small community of ducks has called home. I asked if the ducks typically migrated, to which Tammie assured me that the ducks have lived there since we moved in. Why I have never noticed them until now remains unknown to me.

These ducks look happy. They swim, feed, and quack quite a bit. I have never seen one of them wander off alone; always they stick together in groups of two or three. Even when they are startled, all of them stick together and fly off, and then the next time I look, there they are, eating and swimming and quacking once again. There is a lot to learn from these ducks. Now, I look for them each day.

Lent calls us back into the flowing brook again. We are called out from behind our windows where we have been too busy to notice life passing us by to become part of what is happening. We, like the ducks, are called into our life together, where no one is left on his or her own. When we are startled, we are called together into the quacking voices of prayer. Unsure of our surroundings, we swim side by side. When fear or doubt or sadness get our wings in motion we never fly off alone.

Together in the pond of baptismal waters, we are reminded whose we are, as we gather around Christ's table to eat and drink once more.

Let us swim into the Lenten streams together, as we roar...

QUACK.

Pastor Geoff Sinibaldo

Lent is upon us...

...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

Wednesday Mornings at 9:00 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!

Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday) Worship 8:30 and 11:00 am

Palm Sunday Breakfast 9:15-10:30 a.m.

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!

No Fooling! — The Palm Sunday Breakfast is Back April 1.

Come on Palm Sunday, April 1, 9:15-10:30am (between services) for some fellowship and food provided by our Youth.

Youth can sign-up to help in the back corridor or speak with Vicar Adrian.

Who will be the first person to spill on the new carpet? Come and find out for yourself.

Noon Monthly Readers

Our March book will be *The Book Seller of Kabul* by Asne Seierstad. This book tells "of the plight of Afghan women and the suppressing realities of daily life in today's Afghanistan." On Monday, March 26 at noon we will meet at Debbie Steinberg's home, 12 South Ridge Rd, Farmington, 678-8113. Bring some good discussion questions and a sandwich. We always welcome new readers.

New Council Members Installed and Officers Elected

On February 4, 2007 newly elected Council members were installed. They are: Molly Haglin, Tina Hallenbeck, Meg Kraft, Jim O'Herron and Ken Wieland. They join Kathy Alsgaard, Sim Austin, Bill Farquhar, Sheila Jarka, Sharon Leonard, Darrell Pataska, John Pearson, George Reider, Erik Spoering, Ben Wright, Pastor Sinibaldo and Pastor Carter.

At the February 6th Church Council Meeting, Sim Austin was elected President; Sheila Jarka, Vice President, Sharon Leonard, Secretary and Deb Steinberg, Treasurer.

Good Friday Children's Retreat

Children ages 3 (potty trained) through 4th grade are invited Good Friday Morning (9:30-11:30) to St. Matthew for some games, music, a craft, a snack, and a theme built around, 'Exploring the Upper Room.' Permission forms available in Sunday School or from Pastor Sinibaldo. Hope to see you there!

Fellowship Movie Night

Sign-up in the Gathering Space to come see 'An Inconvenient Truth' Friday, March 23 at 7:00.

We'll be watching the film and discussing it afterwards. Don't forget the popcorn.

Want to talk about ecology issues in greater detail?

Join Vicar Adrian and Pastor Sinibaldo for a four-week evening study in beginning in April:

God's Creation and the New Creation: Living in God's World as Easter People.

It's How You Give

Abraham Lincoln was once hired by a man to sue someone else because they owed him \$2.50. Not a large amount, but in the 1860's it was. Lincoln didn't want to take the case but his client insisted, so Abe asked for a \$10.00 retainer fee up front. His client handed him the \$10. Lincoln then gave the man who owed \$2.50 half of the ten. The man promptly paid his debt and everyone went home happy. It's not what you give, it's HOW you give. God wants us to give of ourselves joyfully without expecting anything in return.

Date Set for New York Bus Trip

Please join St. Matthew family and friends on a trip to New York City on Saturday, May 12. Spend the day on your own seeing the sights, taking in a play or visiting a museum. We depart St. Matthew at 7:45 a.m. and leave New York at 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$30 per person. Sign-up in the Large Gathering Space. Please leave your check on Diane's desk when you sign-up.

The Mouse

Fantastic is the only word for Youth Sunday at St. Matthew this year... in the midst of Epiphany with Christ "showing" himself to the whole world, it was very special to have folks from Youth Ministry at our church SHOW their faith in the living, forgiving Christ at worship... Sydney Pierce and Jeff Stote did amazing work with flute and violin on the Prelude... JOYFUL NOISE was extraordinary in a beautiful and stirring anthem called Sing It Out!, and did they ever... Catherine Winslow had a hard act to follow after the Skit with Jesus on trial for the promises embedded in the Beatitudes, but her Sermon communicated powerfully the call to ministry, to share our faith and our compassion in God's world... well done Vicar Adrian and Mrs. Robinson in their support of our Youth... I loved shaking each and every hand after worship that day!...

The new Worship Book, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, is coming, and at Adult Forum we heard plenty of great stuff... but I'm going to keep looking for the Psalms, I know "they're in there!"... the music is lovely and so easy to catch on to, thanks to Kryisia and our Choirs for making the melodies so inviting and lovely...

Evening Readers

Evening Readers will meet on Tuesday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m. at church to discuss *Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold. Our selection for April is *The Creation* by E.O. Wilson. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at church. All are welcome!

February vacations to someplace warm were abundant, from cruises on the ocean to fun at Disney to long walks on beaches seven miles long (tho' let's hear it for Pastor Sinibaldo who braved winter's chill in February at Luther Seminary to interview intern candidates for next year)... and for those of us who stayed at home in winter's chill, the fireplace, the hot chocolate, the skiing and the sure and certain knowledge that Spring begins THIS month is just perfection... my aged Gouda is delicious this time of year, its strong pure flavors transporting me to warmer climes as I need it... so, I'm a cheese geek... what were you expecting? I'm a mouse!

Pastor Carter brought me a taste of an Italian goat cheese cured in a cave... "put in on one Saint's day, and taken out on another Saint's day"... but I'll stick with my gouda... at least! until he tells me the names of the Saints...

Let's all get together this Lent, as all the saints of God will, worshipping together on Sundays, Wednesday mornings, Thursday evenings, all together praising our God, watching and waiting with Jesus, and anticipating and preparing for Easter JOY!

MARCH 2007

Return Service Requested

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

William S. Carter, Pastor — Church (860) 673-3301 • Home (860) 673-6994
Geoff T. Simbaldo, Pastor — Church (860)-673-3301 • Home (860) 673-4511

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



Non-Profit Organization

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MARCH 2007				1 6:00 Intern Comm. 7:30 Lenten Gathering	2	3
4 8:30 Worship 9:40 Sunday School & Adult Forum 11:00 Holy Communion 4:30 Anniversary Concert	5 9:30 Staff Meeting 7:00 Fellowship 7:00 Finance	6 7:00 JOYFUL NOISE 7:30 Church Council	7 9:00 Lenten Morning Prayer 9:30 Vicar's Bib.Stdy 9:30 Mom & Me 7:00 Youth Choir 8:00 Senior Choir	8 7:30 Lenten Gathering	9 4:00 Youth Winter Retreat 7:00 Women's Night Out @ First and Last Tavern	10
11 Daylight Savings Begins 8:30 Holy Communion 9:40 Sunday School & Adult Forum 11:00 Worship 12:00 Interfaith Brunch Youth Return Voice Deadline	12 9:30 Staff Meeting	13 7:00 JOYFUL NOISE 7:00 Evangelism 7:00 Evening Readers 7:30 Stewardship 7:30 Women Gath'g at Eberhard's	14 9:00 Lenten Morning Prayer 9:30 Vicar's Bib.Stdy 10:30 Handicrafters 7:30 Property 7:00 Youth Choir 8:00 Senior Choir	15 7:30 Lenten Gathering	16 9:30 Mom & Me 8:00 Exec. Comm.	17 9-2:30 Lenten Retreat
18 8:30 Worship 9:40 Sunday School & Adult Forum 11:00 Holy Communion 5:00 Youth Movie & Dinner	19 9:30 Staff Meeting	20 7:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 JOYFUL NOISE 7:00 LSS Adoption 7:00 Evening Readers	21 9:00 Lenten Morning Prayer 9:30 Vicar's Bib.Stdy 7:00 Youth Choir 8:00 Senior Choir	22 7:30 Lenten Gathering	23 7:00 Fellowship Movie Night	24
25 8:30 Holy Communion 9:40 Sunday School & Adult Forum 11:00 Worship	26 9:30 Staff Meeting Noon - Monthly Readers@Steinberg's 7:00 Teachers	27 9:30 Ofc. Helpers 7:00 JOYFUL NOISE	28 9:00 Lenten Morning Prayer 9:30 Vicar's Bib.Stdy 10:30 Handicrafters 7:00 Youth Choir 8:00 Senior Choir	29 7:30 Lenten Gathering	30	31