



THE VOICE

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, AVON, CT June 2011

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St. Matthew Lutheran Church
224 Lovely Street
Avon, CT 06001-4018
(860) 673-3301
Website: www.stmatthewavon.org
Sunday Worship 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Summer Worship 9:00 a.m.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

June 5 - Rite of Confirmation

June 19 - Summer Holy Communion at 9:00 a.m. begins

June 29 - Summer Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. begins

LOOKING AHEAD

July 11-15 - Vacation Bible School

A LETTER FROM PASTOR

In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, the defining type of public religious art across Germany and other parts of northern Europe were retables. Retables were large, ornately decorated frames that enclosed painted panels and identified the most holy parts of sanctuaries in churches. The location of these epic structures either marked the high altar where the Eucharist was celebrated, or the presence of a saint's relic. The panels of these retables were therefore painted with images that displayed either the legacy of the saint, or the crucifixion, the latter service as the backdrop for celebration of the Mass.

As the Reformation got underway, both the traditional beliefs and systems of the church were challenged; during this time the use of religious art was also challenged. As retables were designed for Lutheran churches, such as the ones in Wittenberg and Wiemar, there was a change in their liturgical function. Along with identifying where the holy places in the sanctuary were, the panels were painted with pictures that represented what the congregations believed. Instead of only describing what was holy, these pieces of art prescribed Lutheran theology, making Christian education accessible to all through this pictorial medium. This should come as no surprise since one of the things that Martin Luther is best known for is translating the Bible into German vernacular, thus offering to the public an opportunity for religious education.

This Lutheran emphasis on education is still prevalent today. The Lutheran Educational Conference of America (LECNA) boasts 40 different Lutheran undergraduate institutions affiliated with: the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Lutheran Church-Canada, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, or some other part of the Lutheran tradition. The ELCA alone has 8 seminaries spread across the country. All this goes to say that religious education is important to us Lutherans. We expect quality religious education because the promises of God and life of Jesus Christ are foundational to who we are as people of faith.

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Since my arrival at St. Matthew I have heard countless stories of people who came to the church seeking quality: Sunday School, First Communion, Confirmation, or Vacation Bible School programs, and falling in love with the people of St. Matthew in the process. In this way education is not only a pillar of who we are as Lutherans, but a wonderful outreach and ministry to the families here in the Farmington Valley. As the summer draws near, the gears for both VBS 2011 and Sunday School 2011-2012 have already started turning. I would like you all to prayerfully consider how you can help these wonderful programs that help knit together our community and reach out to those around us.

Pastor David W. Hille

Evening Readers

We will meet on Tuesday, June 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Gathering Space to discuss *Girl With a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier. All are welcome to join us!



Noon Readers

On Tuesday, June 14 we will meet at Shirley Slattery's home, 22 Forest Hill Drive, Simsbury to discuss *Save Me* by Lisa Scottalini. All readers are welcome to join us.

MOUSE

Bong...the chimes are at it again, practicing and sharing their gifts with the children of Leading Tones and Grace Notes this last month at worship...thanks to Fred Fenn, Cindy Winslow, Peggy, Megan, Rachel and Mark Beauregard and Tate Steinberg...nice chiming! And nice clean windows (insides first) thanks to the best efforts of David Betsch, Jim Holst, Jim O'Herron and Dwayne Witter...even the Pastors' offices got done, and a chatty lunch, complete with stories and jokes was part of the day in the Hall of the Evangelists...the amazing Wolf Mielert took the most beautiful day of the past weeks and washed the outside windows of the building...the building...all of them...thanks to a glorious effort by a great guy...Thanks too, to our Archive Workers - Helen Kilburn, Ken and Marion Knaple, Mabel Howard and Ernie Jaschinski...the National Day of Prayer in Avon was lovely, I saw Steve and Beth Wilson, Michelle Davis, Ed Gasser and Pastor Hille in the crowd...the New York Bus Trip was full, every seat I think, happily I rode along unnoticed with Karen and Allie Lauchnor (Allie is home from Clemson!) and heard Mark and Kathy McPherson make all the announcements that needed to be made...Sarah Hernandez and Michelle Davis had a wonderful "Party" for Grace Notes and Leading Tones in May, it was a real treat for me to listen and find a snack...great food to eat at the Taste of St. Matthew too and fun talent...I can hardly wait for the Sanctus Singers' Party at the home of Beth and Steve Wilson...ummmmm, delicious ... and the taste of bread and wine, the body and blood at the Easter Services was amazing, with the trumpet, the music, the anthems, the alleluias back with gusto, and our Pastors' leadership and the reading and assistance of Mark McPherson, Tricia Pearce and Amy Parchen, with Rachel Beauregard and Everett Davis as crucifiers, Miller Parchen with the incense...and the lilies set so magnificently by our Altar Guild...it was memorable...now Confirmation and Pentecost await...I need a nap first!

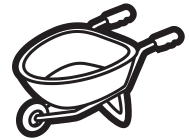


Volunteer Musicians Requested

This summer there will be a series of ten Wednesday evening services at 7:30 p.m. beginning on June 29. These gatherings provide an opportunity for musicians to share their gifts by leading the congregation in two hymns. If you are interested, please add your name and instrument to the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space. We appreciate your considering this offering of your time and talent. Please contact Sarah Hernandez for ideas about hymn selection.

Thank you!

What a Spring Clean-up! 18 people participated: Kris Jensen, Tom Winslow, Ron and Mabel Howard, Molly Hayward, Dave Erb, Kevin and Bruce Reichler, Rick and Lil Baruffi and Jim O'Herron each stayed all day until 3:00; Tom Leonard, Barry Rydberg, Barb Mitchell, Steve and Beth Wilson each gave about two hours of their time. Kim Krodel is doing a great job landscaping the Parsonage. We all enjoyed Stacey Held's coffee cake and Lil's carrot cupcakes. Thanks to all!!!



Summer Wednesday Worship at 7:30 p.m.

This summer our Summer Wednesday Communion Services will begin on Wednesday, June 29th and conclude on Wednesday, August 31st. Pastor Carter and Pastor Hille will take the texts for their sermons those evenings from scripture passages rooted in Biblical places...Cana, Bethphage, Jericho, Mount Moriah, Athens, Mount Nebo, Cesarea Phillipi, Antioch and Rome! (If you counted, that is nine, we need one more...speak to Pastor Carter with your suggestions today!)

See you on Wednesdays!



Go Green and Receive The VOICE by Email Each Month!

Send Diane (dfirn123@sbcglobal.net) your email address and she will add you to the list to receive The VOICE each month in your email box. If you prefer, you can read The VOICE on St. Matthew's web site: www.stmatthewavon.org. Either way, let Diane know and she will remove your name from the paper VOICE mailing to save on postage.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our own George Reider, named "Teacher of the Year" in the MBA program at University of Connecticut both last year and this year.

Well done, George!

Handicrafters

Our group is in need of cotton and flannel sheets for quilts. Please leave your donations in the Cloak Room across from the office door. Thank you so much.

- Eleanor Swanson

Electronic Giving

To assist everyone in making the consistent offerings that are so important to St. Matthew, we ask you to consider making automatic, electronic donations. Please contact Diane in the church office (860-673-3301 or at dfirn123@sbcglobal.net) or Pat LaPierre (lapierrep@earthlink.net) with any questions or to sign-up.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00 Bible Study 7:30 Sanctus Singers	2	3	4
5 8:30 Worship 9:40 Sunday School + Adult Forum 11:00 Holy Comm / Rite of Confirmation Noon - Choir Party	6 9:30 Staff Meeting 7:00 Finance Meeting	7 7:30 Church Council	8 7:30 Sanctus Singers	9	10	11
12 8:30 Holy Communion 9:40 Sun School + Adult Forum 11:00 Worship	13 9:30 Staff Meeting 6:30 Altar Guild Potluck	14 12:00 Noon Readers at Slattery's home	15 10:00 Bible Study	16 7:00 Stewardship	17	18
19 9:00 Holy Communion	20	21 6:30 Property Committee 7:00 Evening Readers	22	23	24	25
26— 9:00 Holy Communion	27	28	29 7:30 Holy Communion	30	29	30 June 2011



SAINT MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH
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~Social~
~Ministry~

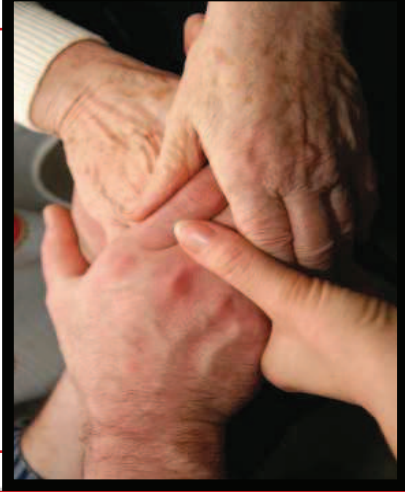
Helping Hands

We at St. Matthew enjoy coming together to help and support one another when in need.

- New Mothers
- Elderly
- Confined to home
- Recently hospitalized
- Social visit

"A friend is one who strengthens you with prayers, blesses you with love and encourages you with hope."

Unknown



Do you periodically have free time during the week? If you have an hour or two to help others please contact

Eleanor Swanson
(860)677-8898

Linda Winterbottom
(860)675-4625

Church
(860)673-3301



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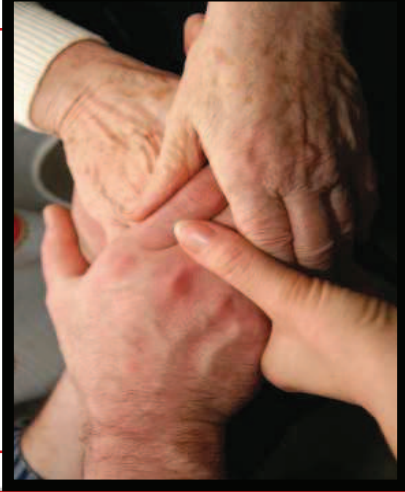
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