



THE VOICE

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, AVON, CT Nov. 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 a.m.

and 11:00 a.m.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

November 5 - NYC Bus Trip

November 27 - Advent Wreath
Workshop 9:40a.m.

November 30 Advent Morning
Prayer 9:00 a.m.

LOOKING AHEAD:

December 7, 14, 21 - Advent Morn-
ing Prayer 9:00 a.m.

December 10, Advent Retreat
9:00a.m. - Noon

December 11 - Advent Cantata,
8:30a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services

December 24 - 5:30 Family Christ-
mas Celebration, 7:30 Candlelight
Christmas Vespers, 10:30 Candles,
Carols and Holy Communion

December 25 - 10:00 a.m. Christ-
mas Eucharist

A LETTER FROM PASTOR

"The Psalms are the first 150 hymns in the front of your hymnal." We hear these words before the reading of a Psalm on Sunday mornings. The Psalms hold a special place in the liturgical life of the church as being the "hymnal" of the Israelites. The words we find in the Psalms are words of thanksgiving, joy, mourning, prayer, request, and hope lifted up to God from his people in Jerusalem, in exile, and beyond.

The Psalms were collected and edited into something resembling their final form in probably the 5th or 4th century. Until that time, these songs were circulated throughout the Israelite community, some written down and others by word of mouth. The words of the Psalms provided the Israelites words for worship during the exile. These were not *just* songs, they were songs that reminded the community of better times. In the midst of their 40 years in the wilderness, the Israelites sang these songs to be reminded of a better time. The familiar words of Psalm 23 elicited images of green pastures and still waters, images of a time when their cups ran over with blessings.

Herein lies a basic understanding to the Psalms, they are to be read in our lives *today*, remembering what *God has done*, while constantly believing in what *God will do* tomorrow. As we journey through this fall, preparing for the upcoming holidays that will be here before we know it, let's take a moment to remember what God has done. On one hand, we can remember the last minute flights and crazy travel schedules that somehow miraculously all came together last year. Remembering that we lived through last year sometimes makes this year easier to handle. On the other hand, let's take a moment to remember all that *God has done* for us throughout our lives, and throughout Jesus' life...and death.

It's no mistake that the word Eucharist is Greek for "Thanksgiving". Let us give thanks this fall for what God has done for us in the past, is doing for us now, and has promised to us in the future through the body and blood of his son, Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

Pastor Daniel W. Hille



St. Matthew Music Notes

by Sarah Hernandez

Special opportunity for Singers who have a lot of love for music, but not a lot of time to rehearse!

The Sanctus Singers will be singing their Advent Cantata on December 11th this year, at both services. This year's piece is ***Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland***, (Come Now, Savior of the Heathens) BWV 61 by Johann Sebastian Bach. It was first performed on December 2, 1714 in Weimar, Germany. This six-movement cantata scored for soprano, alto, tenor and bass, includes solo, soli, and chorale sections, and will be performed in its entirety, in English. We are very fortunate to have Michelle Davis on flute and Fred Fenn on bassoon, which will greatly add to the excitement and celebratory nature of this cantata.

If you are a singer, and would like to join the Sanctus Singers for their Advent Cantata this year, you need simply attend the four rehearsals prior to December 11th (preferably Nov. 16, 30 and Dec. 7 from 7:30-9:00 and a special Saturday, December 3rd rehearsal from 10:30-12:00 with our instrumentalists). I will supply you with a CD so you can practice and learn your part at your own convenience prior to the four rehearsals. This beautiful piece of music will be very powerful with a large choir, not to mention a very gratifying experience of which to be a part.

Come join us as we celebrate and anticipate the coming of Jesus the Savior as we sing ***Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland***. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space if you are interested.

The **Grace Notes** choir is delighted to have expanded with three new members this season! The voices of Reed Krodel, Tessa Brown, and Nicole Tuma have been welcome additions to our choir. If you would like to join Grace Notes or Leading Tones, don't worry, it's never too late! You are welcome at any time of the choir season!

The Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service will take place at Memorial United Methodist Church at 867 W. Avon Rd on Wednesday, November 23rd at 7:30. All singers are welcome to come to the rehearsal before the service and sing with the large ecumenical choirs. There will be a children's choir as well as an adult choir. If you are interested, please contact me and I will be happy to supply you with the music and details. You don't have to be a choir member to participate. This is a nice opportunity, as it doesn't require a big commitment; you simply need to show up that evening and enjoy the music, fellowship and worship!

If you'd like to talk to me about adding your talents to the music ministry here at St. Matthew, feel free to contact me at 860-673-3301, email me at SarahHernandez@StMatthewAvon.org or simply come visit me after the postlude with your questions or ideas.

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord...

Ernestine White, grandmother of David White and great-grandmother of Owen and Audrey

Kristian Jensen, father of Kris Jensen and Debbie Steinberg and grandfather of Louis, Sarah, Alexander, Bessie and Tate Steinberg, and Kelly and Susan Jensen.

Donald Swanson, husband of Eleanor, father of Linda and Drew, and grandfather of Laura, Lauren, Paul and Benjamin

Helena Bonazelli, mother of Deb Brodeur, grandmother of April Brodeur-Fitts and Tim Brodeur, and great-grandmother of Matthew and Jacob Fitts.

Family Advent Wreath Workshop



On Sunday, November 27, the first Sunday of Advent this year, join our Advent Wreath Workshop at 9:40 a.m. for the whole St. Matthew family. Everyone is invited to come and create their own unique Advent wreath in the Hall of the Evangelists. Sign-up sheets will be available at the end of October, outside the church office, to be sure there are enough supplies. Even if you decide at the last minute that you can or want to do this, YOU ARE WELCOME! Watch the Sunday bulletins for more details.

Fellowship Committee

Advent is and means Coming...

Advent begins on Sunday, November 27 and continues December 4, 11, and 18

Watch the lighting of the Advent Wreath at worship

Advent Morning Prayer, each Wednesday in Advent at 9:00 a.m.

November 30th with the Apostle Andrew

December 7th with Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (d. 397)

December 14th with St. John of the Cross (d 1591)

December 21st with Joseph himself, the carpenter

A brief, quiet, spoken service of Morning Prayer in the Celtic Tradition, listening and praying, watching and waiting for the coming of the Savior of the world.

Advent Retreat "What are you Waiting For?"

Saturday, December 10th, 9:00a.m. until noon

Gather with Pastor Carter to find some of the answers to that Advent question, as we all pray and watch and wait...quiet worship, time alone, and the conversations rooted in W.H. Auden and Joseph...as we watch and wait.

Advent Cantata with the St. Matthew Sanctus Singers

Sunday, December 11th at 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. "Come Now, Savior of the Heathens"

Bach's Cantata 61 is composed for Advent in 1714 in the Weimar Court Chapel.

Noon Readers

We will meet on Tuesday, November 8 to discuss *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak at Deb Steinberg's home, 12 South Ridge Rd., Farmington. In December, we will meet on Tuesday, December 6 to discuss *The Christmas Blessing* and *The Christmas Hope* by Donna Van Liere at Judy Haag's home. Bring a sandwich and join us.

Evening Readers

We will meet on Tuesday, November 15 at 7:00 p.m. at church. Watch the bulletin and email for more information.



MOUSE

And the leaves they are a-fallin...not too much color this year unfortunately...but as the Mets, Red Sox and Yankees know...just "wait 'till next year!" If I've learned anything at St. Matthew this year, I've learned the power of hope, when God is praised, thanked and prayed to! It has been a glorious month of worshipping God at St. Matthew, the Leading Tones and Grace Notes and Sanctus Singers and our Chime Ringers, Emma Davis, Molly and Linda Lahaie, Michael Murphy, Shelley Spoering, Cindy Winslow and Allison Zeitler, have all brought joy and hope to our life of faith, and the Prayerfully Giving...Prayerfully Serving Temple Talks by Debbie Steinberg, Sheila Jarka and Peggy Beauregard were inspiring and insightful to me...I'm going to try to give more...I always put most of the coins I find on the floors into the offering plate...this year, I'll do it all...like putting all the valentines in Jamie's room in Pastor's sermon and the Book Group's selection, *The Sweet By and By*...the author was really good, and the food was fantastic...were those chocolate covered A-pricots or apricots? All the mid-week clanging is all but over as the switch from oil to natural gas is all but completed...it sounded like it was right underneath Diane's desk, but it will be ready just in time for the heating season...thanks to Jim O'Herron and his great Property Committee....looking ahead to fall's deepening chill here in New England, and looking ahead to a New Member's Reception and the Installation of our Altar Guild both on the 13th, and an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service at Memorial United Methodist Church on the 23rd...not to mention the liveliness of a new Photo Directory with Gayle Murphy leading the charge with her helpful minions...tho' I'm a little camera shy...(unless they say "cheese")...I just love this place, don't you?

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 4:15 Grace Notes & Leading Tones 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 Church Council	2 10:30 Bible Study 7:30 Sanctus Singers	3	4	5 7:45 NYC Bus Trip
6 8:30 Worship 9:40 Sunday School + Adult Forum 11:00 Holy Comm. 11:00 Baptism	7 9:30 Staff 7:00 Future Planning 7:00 Mutual Ministry	8 Noon Readers at Steinberg's No Choir No Confirmation	9 7:00 Evangelism 7:30 Sanctus Singers 7:30 New Member Orientation	10 7:00 Stewardship 7:00 Fellowship 7:00 Mutual Ministry	11	12
13 8:30 Holy Comm 9:40 Sun School + Adult Forum 11:00 Worship, New Member Reception Install Altar Guild VOICE Deadline	14 9:30 Staff 7:30 Altar Guild 2:00-9:20 Directory Photos	15 4:15 Grace Notes & Leading Tones 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Property Committee 7:00 Worship & Music 7:00 Evening Readers 2:00-9:20 Directory Photos	16 10:00 Bible Study 7:30 Advent Cantata Rehearsal	17 12:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry	18	19
20 8:30 Worship 9:40 Sun School + Adult Forum 11:00 Holy Comm.	21 9:30 Staff	22 No Choir 6:30 Confirmation	23 No Choir 7:30 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship at Memorial United Methodist Church, 867 W. Avon Rd., Avon	24 Office Closed Thanksgiving Day	25 Office Closed	26
27— 8:30 Holy Comm 9:40 Family Advent Wreath Workshop 11:00 Worship	28 9:30 Staff	29 4:15 Grace Notes & Leading Tones 6:30 Confirmation	30 9:00 Advent Morning Prayer 7:30 Advent Cantata Rehearsal		Nov. 2011	



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