



THE VOICE

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, AVON, CT August 2010

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St. Matthew Lutheran Church

224 Lovely Street

Avon, CT 06001-4018

(860) 673-3301

Website: www.stmatthewavon.org

Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

August 4, 11, 18 & 25 - Summer
Wednesdays Holy Communion at 7:30
p.m.

LOOKING AHEAD:

September 1 - 7:30 p.m. Last Wednesday
Holy Communion

September 12 - 9:00 a.m. Holy Com-
munion/125th Anniversary Picnic after
service

September 19 - 8:30 a.m. Worship
9:40 a.m. Teachers Gathering
11:00 Holy Communion

September 26 - 8:30 a.m. Holy Com-
munion
9:40 a.m. Sunday School & Adult
Forum
11:00 a.m. Worship

A LETTER FROM PASTOR

Still the joys of summer linger. Is that a good thing, or onerous, or both?

So many times we seem to like it best when opposites are present. I love the warm days of summer, but am glad for a fan or air conditioning too. I love the excitement of people celebrating together as we did honoring Pastor Sinibaldo and as we will again for our September 12th Anniversary Picnic, but I am glad too for the quiet times of prayer and reading, the re-creation of memories and thoughts and insights. I love the taste of the right comfort food on a plate, but I am glad too to try something entirely new whether it be light or spicy or deeply flavored and taste like the forest floor. (In June I tried a glass of red wine with that description!)

So, we want more summer, and we want it to be cool and have the new starts of Fall. We are often a contradictory lot. Or interesting, or deep, or wise beyond our years?!?! Or simply human? We hate saying good-bye sometimes and yet we are filled with joyful and honest wishes for Godspeed for the families of St. Matthew who will move, as well as the numerous others among us who will face new beginnings in a myriad of ways in the weeks ahead. May God be with us all and may newness wash over each of us with enough shock to wake us to new opportunities, and enough gentleness to allow us to feel refreshed and revitalized for our life together in our families, in our classrooms, in our offices and workplaces, and in our congregation.

Is it two sides often of the same coin, or is it really that we are complex or perhaps indecisive human beings? Or are we all too complicated and too hard to please for our own good? Take an afternoon or a moment of respite on the deck or even at your kitchen table or your office desk to consider one or two of these complicated pairings in your own life. It will be fun I hope, and revealing of the real truth about who you are — amazing gifted person, created in the image of God!

Peace,

Pastor William Carter

A SPECIAL ST. MATTHEW MEMORY

Type it, write it, or email it to the office
(dfirn123@sbcglobal.net)... or think it over and write it up
at the Anniversary Picnic on September 12 and be a published
author!

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Avon, CT
125th Anniversary
1885-2010



Holy Cities, Holy Presence, Holy Communion Summer Wednesdays, at 7:30p.m.

In June and early July we visited:
Home, Wittenberg Germany, Paris
France and Jericho in the Holy Land.

Join us in these Holy Cities...

July 28th, Santa Fe, New Mexico
August 4th, Cana, the Holy Land
August 11th, Jerusalem, the Holy Land
August 18th, Brooklyn, New York
August 25th, Bethany, the Holy Land
September 1st, Rome, Italy

Noon Readers

We will meet on Tuesday, September 14th at Ruth Slocum's to discuss *A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving and *Mennonite in a Little Black Dress* by Rhoda Janzen.

Contact Ruth at 860-675-4014 if you can join us!



Evening Readers

We will meet at the Winslow's for a barbecue/potluck on August 31st at 6:00 p.m. The book for discussion is *Stones into Schools* by Greg Mortenson. All are welcome! Contact Deb Steinberg with any questions at 860-463-9212 or deborahsteinberg@mac.com.

Thanks VBC Staff 2010

Lauren Kraft – Camp Supervisor
Michelle Davis – Music
Annette Haskins – Accompanist
Johanna Ferrone – Games
Chris Kryzwick – Arts & Crafts
Carol Reider – Arts & Crafts
Beth Wilson – Arts & Crafts
Penny Royer – Salamander Assistant
Caroline Wilson – Arts & Crafts Assistant
Melissa Lindquist – Snacks
Ann Eberhard – Staff Snacks
Kim Krodel – Gecko Group Leader
Mariane Tuma – Salamander Group Leader/
Registration
Lisa Anderson – Salamander Group Leader Assistant

Mike Guersch – Bible
Meredith Trimble - Salamander Assistant
Dot Witter - Decorations & Bulletin Boards

Youth Assistants:

Kevin Kryzwick – Games
Tori Kryzwick – Salamanders
Tate Steinberg – Bible
Kendall Held – Games
Emily Guersch – Bible
Anna Zelasko – Arts & Crafts
Nick Zelasko – Games
Meredith Banks – Games
Jessie Banks – Geckos
Maren Parchen – Geckos
Jared Culbertson – Bible/Geckos
Cody Suttmeier – Games
Emily Kane - Bible

Search Committee Appointed. . .

After a fine Special Discernment Meeting of our Church Council on June 29th, a clear consensus was reached to seek a candidate to serve as an Assistant/Associate Pastor with primary responsibilities in Christian Ed, Youth, Fellowship and Social Ministry, and full partnership in the Pastoral Ministry and Worship Life of St. Matthew.

Fourteen names were surfaced and from that talent pool, a committee of seven was chosen and appointed officially at our regular July meeting. The Search Committee members are: Kathy Alsgaard, Sim Austin, Peggy Beauregard, Warren Gedstad, Tom Leonard, Melissa Lindquist and Bill Parchen. They will have their first meeting on Tuesday July 27th, joined by Council President Tricia Pearce and Pastor Carter. Please share your insights with Pastor Carter, or any member of the Search Committee.

Pastor asks for our prayers for him as he guides us into this transition, and for our Church Council, and for our Search Committee. It will not be a swift process, months certainly, but we will continue our ministry and serve Christ well. Thanks to all who have come forward to volunteer to help in many and various ways, and thanks to you who will come forward in the days ahead as we are ministers together in the Church of Jesus Christ!

Dear Friends,

Thanks for the wonderful send off on July 11th. Words cannot express the love and friendship shared in the life of faith we have journeyed together at St. Matthew. Tricia's words of appreciation, Pastor's words of encouragement, the Fellowship Committee's behind the scenes efforts, the great turnout, and the spirit in the room made for a truly inspiring day. Thank you. Thank you for the generous gift and for the stole. I will wear it knowing all the saints of St. Matthew are with me. Thanks for your ongoing partnership in the body of Christ and for the friendship that continues.

In thanksgiving for you,

Geoff, Tammie, Joe & Mia

St. Michael Lutheran Church

5 Oenoke Ridge

New Canaan, CT 06840



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 dfirm123@sbcglobal.net) or Pat LaPierre (lapierrrep@earthlink.net) with any questions or to sign-up.

Go Green and Receive THE VOICE by Email Each Month!

Send Diane(dfirm123@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 website: www.stmatthewavon.org. Either way, let Diane know and she will remove your name from the paper VOICE mailing list to save on postage.

Thank you.

Mouse

It has been toasty! All things considered the summer should be and the breath of freshness from our Air Conditioning (I always capitalize it when it is hot out...) takes the edge off, and lets us relax into summer... Wednesday Evening Holy Communion is taking us to Holy Cities, Holy Presence have shown us insights about Home, Wittenberg, Germany; Paris, France and Jericho to start... it is fun to be with folks who worship whenever it happens... Sunday Mornings have been beautiful, Sarah's playing and the peoples' singing has been terrific (tho it is early!!!) Our Appreciation Gathering for Pastor Sinibaldo was glorious... hope you were there... a packed church with fine preaching and praying and music with a few tears thrown in... in the Hall of the Evangelists, Tricia Pearce, our president followed Pastor Carter's welcome by offering a note of thanks to Pastor Sinibaldo and his family for their precious time with us, and presented him with a lovely check for five thousand dollars from the people of St. Matthew, as well as a stole from our Church Council. He was very grateful and spent a good loooong time receiving the well wishes of scores of folks that morning (I hope he got a doggy bag for some of the delicious food that was served...)...our Fellowship Committee did a bang-up job of having plenty for everyone in a delightfully decorated Hall... I certainly spirited enough fruit and cake to last me for my own vacation snack times...Vacation Bible Camp was staffed by a score of St. Matthew leaders, with music, lessons, crafts, snacks and games for almost 30 children... Dot Witter's decorations were great and the Jungle was present in St. Matthew all week, as they have had a glorious time in the Sunquest Rainforest... thanks to all who came and all who directed all the activities for a great week, and a fun Friday Evening Gathering... So many things are happening, even in the Summer, it just goes to show you -- there is always something great going on at St. Matthew ... Remember Princess SummerFallWinterSpring?... well she is our inspiration in our tiny mouse house... every season is a good season at our church!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 Holy Communion	2	3 7:30 Church Council	4 7:30 Holy Communion Cana	5 7:00 Stewardship	6	7
8 9:00 Holy Communion	9	10	11 7:30 Holy Communion Jerusalem	12	13	14
15 9:00 Holy Communion	16	17	18 7:30 Holy Communion Brooklyn	19	20	21
22 9:00 Holy Communion Baptism	23	24	25 7:30 Holy Communion Bethany	26	27	28
29 9:00 Holy Communion w/ Healing Prayers	30	31 6:00 Evening Readers at Winslow's	Sept. 1 7:30 Holy Communion Rome	August 2010		



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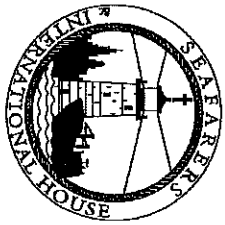
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Seafarers and Sojourners A Reflection for the Season of Pentecost

Scripture

Thus the Lord God showed me: behold, a basket of summer fruit. And he said, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A basket of fruit." Then the Lord said to me, "The end has come upon my people Israel; I will never again pass by them. The song of the temple shall become wailings in that day," says the Lord God. "The dead bodies shall be many; in every place they shall be cast out in silence." Hear this, you who trample upon the needy, and bring the poor of the land to an end, saying, "When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great, and deal deceitfully with false balances, that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and sell the refuse of the wheat?"¹

Meditation

Economic hardship often brings out the less charitable side of humanity. We may be inclined to be generous of spirit and possessions in times of prosperity and affluence. When a recession occurs, however, and threatens our lifestyles, savings and borrowing capacity, we can become fearful and a little mean-spirited. Not only will we imagine ourselves less able to share with the poor, but we will start to resent them as the primary cause of our economic distress.

Nearly two years ago, our summer basket of economic prosperity over-ripened, the market value of our real estate became mushy, our IRAs and other savings vehicles rotted, and we wailed in deep distress about health coverage, immigrants, failed businesses and, of course, taxes.

When will the new moon of assisting the poor be over, we might ask, that investment opportunities may flourish and deficits may shrink, that we may make the warning labels small and the consumer interest rates great and deal with unsubstantiated advertisement claims, that we may repossess all they own, drive them into economic servitude and sell them junk.

Today, Amos would recognize our basket of 2008 summer fruit and likely would see our humanity as perishable.

Yet the Holy Spirit comes to us in ways that we do not entirely understand, imbues us with a sense of God's presence and enables us, as Rev. Dr. Sherman G. Hicks² has stated, to come forward with a desire and effort to "restore and be community", which God first did in the story of Pentecost.³

Seafarers are at the periphery of community. In a period of a year, a seafarer spends nearly all his time at sea in the company of two dozen fellow crewmen, removed from his family, his community, his telephone, his newspaper and his television. It's really lonely! In our current basket of over-ripened summer fruit, the seafarer will be "urged" to forego his right of repatriation (and his boss' obligation to buy his airplane ticket) in order to keep his job. His family will also experience a month or longer delay before the seafarer's wages are wired home, while the ship owner tries to improve cash flow. If the seafarer is injured, the ship owner will feign unavoidable claim processing delays, unless the seafarer agrees to accept a few pennies on the dollar. When you're at the periphery of the community, you're pretty much invisible to society and subject to the whims of the business people "who trample upon the needy".

Seafarers & International House is an ELCA ministry. As such, the 1,041 merchant ships visited last year and the 14,400 seafarers served by our port chaplains in ports from Philadelphia PA to Providence RI represent a mission outreach of many local congregations. Through your prayers and support, we are able to tend to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of seafarers. And together, we are able to be the hands that do God's work.

Prayer

Lord, throughout this season of Pentecost, help us to receive your Holy Spirit and become your disciples, sharing your love in numerous ways with numerous peoples throughout the world, taking care always to see that no one is left unattended or unwanted. We ask these things in the name your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.

1. Amos 8:1-6
2. Executive Director, ELCA Multicultural Program Unit
3. Pentecost Message—A Reflection on Acts 2:1-12. www.elca.org (Growing in Faith, Multicultural Mission)

Seafarers & International House is ELCA mission to seafarers and sojourners in maritime ports from Philadelphia to Providence and in an 84-room guesthouse at 123 East 15th Street, New York, NY 10003.

Telephone 212-677-4800

Website www.sihnyc.org