



THE VOICE

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, AVON, CT October 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 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

October 5—6:30 p.m. Confirmation
Classes begin

October 24—4:00 p.m. Special Organ
Recital at St. Matthew

October 31—Healing Prayers at 8:30
and 11:00 a.m.

LOOKING AHEAD:

November 7: Celebration Luncheon

November 16: Evening Readers

A LETTER FROM PASTOR

I heard a little story recently, and spoke of it at a Wednesday Evening Service this summer, but it bears repeating as we look forward to a Church filled with images that inspire generosity, a Church that moves through the realities of Vision, Faith and Courage, a Church that asks more each year so as to do more to spread the light of Christ each year.

Several centuries ago in a mountain village in Europe, a wealthy nobleman wondered what legacy he should leave the townspeople. He made a good decision. He decided to build them a Church. No one was permitted to see the plans, or the inside of the place until it was completed. Everything had been thought of and included. It was a masterpiece.

But then someone noticed. "Wait a minute! Where are the lamps? It is really quite dark in here. How will the Church be lighted?" The nobleman pointed to some brackets in the walls, and then he gave each family a lamp, which they were to bring with them each time they came to worship.

"Each time you are here", the nobleman said, "the place where you are seated will be lighted. Each time you are not here, that place will be dark. This is to remind you that whenever you fail to come to Church, some part of God's house will be dark."

It is, I think, a helpful story to ponder. About presence and the gifts we offer each Sunday as well. The lamps entrusted to us by Almighty God are manifold. Our voices join the hymns, and prayers; our smiles and greetings lighten the load of all who meet us in the aisle, or share the peace with us, or chat in the Gathering Space or on the Piazza after. The tithes and offerings we place in the plates as the ushers receive the offering support the Ministry Budget of this Church, to not only pay to keep the lights on, but to reach out with courage and Call an Associate Pastor, to support in faith the ministry led by committees and by Staff members, to reach out into our community with vision to present the Gospel of Christ's love and forgiveness ever more persuasively as God's greatest provision for our deepest needs.

What if every member of our Church supported St. Matthew just as you do? What kind of Church would we have? You are the light!

Peace,

Pastor William Carter

St. Matthew History

We hope you enjoyed the Anniversary Picnic and the Historical Display by Helen Kilburn and Marion Knaple. Do you know how many families from St. Matthew in Collinsville who built this sanctuary (financially and physically) are still members? There are more than a dozen: Aliski, Ehrhardt, Konold (Forestiere), Grunewald (Jones), Wiese, Iken, Jaschinski (Poetzsch), Henschke, Longhi, Kilburn, Knaple, Kutz, Mischak, Nurge and Thivierge. Thanks to all of you we are here!

- Connie Kutz (55 year member!)

Evening Readers

Our next meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Gathering Space. Our book for discussion is *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein. All are welcome!



Plan to Attend a Special Organ Recital



By Christoph Schoener of
St. Michaelis Lutheran Church
Hamburg, Germany
on Sunday, October 24 at 4:00 p.m.
at St. Matthew

Thrivent Financial Choice Dollars

In 2009, Thrivent Financial provided \$113 million to help congregations, communities and nonprofit organizations. Members who own Thrivent Financial products are able to choose where some of Thrivent Financial's charitable outreach funds go by directing Choice Dollars. Eligible members are designated Choice Dollars which can be directed to Lutheran organizations you prefer nationwide including our congregation, St. Matthew Lutheran Church. Sign-up is easy. Go to Thrivent.com website, login and register to participate in Choice Dollars. Once registered, you can direct the Choice Dollars that have been designated to you. If you select St. Matthew Lutheran Church, you can allocate dollars on an annual basis or set up a recurring direction where the funds are automatically directed to St. Matthew when the balance reaches \$10 or more. Don't let these Thrivent financial dollars go unused. Visit the website at your next opportunity and designate an organization to receive your funds.

Stewardship Campaign

"Inspiring Generosity". That is the theme for this year's Stewardship campaign. The journey along our Vision for Growth pathway continues with your support. We are inspired by God's word toward a common purpose of serving others using our faith and resources. The economic challenges continue but we hope that your response can again demonstrate the courage that we saw in last year's campaign. Pledges continue to grow, but we have not yet attained full support of our vision. Our budget for 2011 reflects the hope that our Search Committee is successful in finding a new Associate Pastor and that we are able to fully support our operating budget without congregational approval of the use of supplemental funding from our Endowment Fund. Our Stewardship campaign has already started with training which occurred in September. Temple Talks at Sunday worship will be conducted in the month of October, culminating with Commitment Sunday and a celebration luncheon on November 7th. Between now and then, please prayerfully consider your giving for the next year. Thank you for the faithfulness of your giving which supports our ministry together in this community.

- Stewardship Committee



MOUSE

What a day, what a day, what a day...I could say that one hundred and twenty-five times, and it would be right on the mark...I did so love the 125th Anniversary Sunday last month...it is all I can write about...the food was spectacular, it seems everyone brought something; delicious desserts, sandwiches, salads, beverages, even water was in abundance...The Betschs, McPhersons, Krafts and Spoerings did all the heavy lifting, planning and setting up...red table cloths set the perfect tone...in the Gathering Space, Helen Kilburn and Marion Knapple

had some wonderful historical displays, including articles from the late 19th century...I love that St. Matthew's history spans three centuries...began in 1885, the nineteenth, through all of the 20th and now the first decade of the 21st...Worship was fantastic, an Anniversary Litany by Pastor Carter, a glorious anthem by our Sanctus Singers with Michelle Davis on flute and our Choir Chimes folks, and on the last stanza EVERYONE joined in...it was pretty special...helped, I'm sure, by the sea of red...T's and sweatshirts folks had gotten, or red attire from their closets...and I'm sure more than a few specially purchased outfits! Pastor mentioned he thought he was at Busch Stadium at a St. Louis Cardinal's home game, with all the red...Later Mark Coslett mentioned it looked more like Veteran's Stadium in Philadelphia at a Phillies home game...you gotta love these National League fans...Pat and Amy Brintle and Deb Steinberg brought our Hammonnasset Youth Campers back just in time to join in worship and enjoy the feast...Pastor Ted Asta from our new England Synod proclaimed the Gospel and we received the sacrament of the Altar in the Festival Style that the full church required...it was blazingly spectacular and won't soon be forgotten by any of us who were there...my only issue was the dearth of cheese sandwiches, although I did love the PB&J and the pulled pork and a chewy brownie...now it's back to the treadmill for me before I have to see the doctor...how I hate that scale! I did add my Special St. Matthew Memory to the lovely box in the center of the Hall of the Evangelists, I hope you did too...I'm excited about being a published author outside my ghostwriting of the Mouse each month...I love this place and so do you...that was the greatest "take away" of the whole celebration for me...all the St. Matthew Love.

Clergy Happenings

Pastor Kate Schrubba was ordained on August 29 and begins her ministry at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Skandia, Michigan.

Pastor Geoff Sinibaldo will be installed at St. Michael Lutheran Church in New Canaan on Sunday, October 24 at 4:00 p.m.



Cell Tower Update

The last public hearing with the CT Siting Council (CSC) on the proposed AT&T cell tower location behind St. Matthew occurred on Aug. 19. An agreement has been reached with the town of Avon, AT&T, and the neighbors with regard to the location of the cell tower, the design and color of the pole and the design of the cell tower enclosure. A letter has also been sent to the neighbors from St. Matthew that clearly states that a second or subsequent cellular phone tower would not be constructed on the property of the Church. The last issue to be decided by the CSC is the flagpole design. In the agreement with the town, AT&T would build a brown, 110ft. flagpole in the modified compound location requested by St. Matthew. The CSC asked many questions about a flagpole design, which would restrict the number of carriers that can occupy the tower versus a monopole design. Approval of the pole design will be part of the final decision by the CSC after a 30 day waiting period, which ends on Sept. 19. A decision will probably be made in early October. Construction would likely not start before 2011.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 8:30 Worship 9:40 Sunday School + Adult Forum 11:00 Holy Communion Commission Visitors	4 9:30 Staff 7:00 Finance	5 4:15 Grace Notes 5:00 Leading Tones 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 Church Council 7:30 Stewardship Visitor	6 7:30 Sanctus Singers	7 9:30 Office Helpers	8	9 2
10 8:30 Holy Communion 9:40 Sunday School + Adult Forum 11:00 Worship Voice deadline	11 Office Closed	12 4:15 Grace Notes 5:00 Leading Tones 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Evangelism	13 9:30 Staff 7:30 Sanctus Singers	14 7:00 Stewardship	15 9:30 Mom & Me	16
17 8:30 Worship 9:40 Sunday School + Adult Forum 11:00 Holy Communion / Baptism, Bender	18 9:30 Staff 7:00 Endowment	19 4:15 Grace Notes 5:00 Leading Tones 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Property 7:00 Evening Readers	20 7:30 Sanctus Singers	21	22	23
24 8:30 Holy Communion 9:40 SS/Adult Forum 11:00 Worship 4:00 Organ Recital	25 9:30 Staff	26 4:15 Grace Notes 5:00 Leading Tones 7:00 Search Committee	27 7:30 Sanctus Singers	28 7:00 Stewardship	29	30
31— 8:30 Holy Comm w/ Healing Prayers; 9:40 SS/Adult Forum 11:00 Holy Comm w/ Healing Prayers					Oct. 2010	



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