



224 Lovely Street, Avon, CT 06001-4018
(860) 673-3301 www.stmatthewavon.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 5, 12, 19 & 26:

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Communion Service
10:15 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Forum

March 12: Daylight Savings Time Begins

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Jack Pietrick, President	Ellen Ericson
Sheila Jarka, Vice President	Fred Fenn
Meg Kraft, Secretary	Rick Hanson
George Spoering	Kevin Reichler
Pastor Brian Rajcok	George Reider
	Jason Lindquist

STAFF:

Brian Rajcok, Pastor
Sarah Schiener, Director of Music
Paul Martin, Church Administrator
Roy Zurell, Sexton
Steven Smolnik, Publisher



A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

The season of Lent is upon us. It is a season of repentance and spiritual discipline that leads to spiritual renewal and transformation. It is a time to explore our inner life and to dwell with the mystery of God, to focus on the spiritual path and create intentional periods of silence and prayer. As busy as the world can be, I hope we will all be able to slow down during the six weeks of Lent and find time to dedicate to practicing our faith in a more intentional way.

On Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m. during Lent we will have a Taizé style worship service. Taizé is an ecumenical monastery in France which uses a contemplative worship setting with periods of silence and repetitive songs, chants, or mantras. It is a beautiful experience to engage in Taizé style worship and I hope you'll join us during Lent to experience it for yourself.

Our Lenten preaching series during these services will focus on the Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5). St. Paul described that a life rooted in the Spirit will inevitably mature and grow into a life which bears good fruit. According to Galatians 5:22-23: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." As we mature as children of God—as the Holy Spirit takes root in us and manifests in our lives—we will naturally bear this kind of fruit. We will naturally find ourselves more loving, joyous, and peaceful when we are nourished by God's presence. Like a tree naturally bears fruit, so will Christians naturally bear the fruit of the Spirit as we grow toward spiritual maturity. This fruit isn't simply an inward thing either. Each inner fruit manifests in the world in the ways we love God and neighbor, the ways we serve the world, the ways we strive for justice and equity, the ways we offer kindness to all we meet.

This Lent, I hope you will join us Thursday evenings for our contemplative Taizé services where we will explore how a life rooted in the tree that is Christ bears good fruit.

Blessings to you this Lent,

Pastor Brian



ST. MATTHEW MISSION STATEMENT

We Are Here For You A reminder that your pastor is here for you whenever you have a pastoral need. The pastor is fully vaccinated and is making in-person visits. He can also talk and pray with you over the phone, in a Zoom meeting, outside, or socially distanced indoors at church. Please call the office if you have a pastoral need.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church is a worshipping community called to proclaim God's love for all and to grow spiritually together. Challenged by Jesus' example, we strive to connect people of all ages, abilities, and needs, and to nurture them to be disciples of Christ. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we reach out to the wider community and welcome our neighbors to a life of worship, preaching, teaching, Christian care, service, and spiritual growth.



ADULT FORUM

Adult Forum Adult Forum looks forward to some unique offerings in March:

- ◆ March 5 - *Biblical History & Context Part II: The Prophets.*
- ◆ March 12 - New Member Sunday reception.
- ◆ March 19 - Congregational Meeting; NO FORUM.
- ◆ March 26 - TBD.

CHOIR UPDATE

During Lent, the St. Matthew Choir will rehearse on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm, following the midweek services. Anyone who enjoys singing is welcome to join us.

As we draw toward Easter, anyone interested in singing for the special liturgies of Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and/or Easter Sunday may join the choir for rehearsals. Please contact Sarah Schiener if you would like to participate in any of these services.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will meet March 5, 12, and 26 this month. We will not March 19 due to the special congregational meeting that day.

Our Pre-K class uses the Montessori-inspired [Catechesis of the Good Shepherd](#) and the older class uses Dig In's [Life of Jesus](#) curriculum.

Children of all ages are welcome!

Also, Mark you calendars for St. Matthew's Easter Egg Hunt Saturday April 1st!



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will not be meeting for class during Lent. Instead, students are serving as worship leaders in both Sunday and Thursday services. Our final month of class will resume April 16 & 17.



CENTERING PRAYER group continues to meet every Thursday at 2:00 p.m. on Zoom. We are currently reading [Forty Days to a Closer Walk with God: The Practice of Centering Prayer](#) by Rev. J. David Muyskens. All are welcome to try this wonderful contemplative practice!

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

Thursday morning Bible study will meet the first and third Thursday March 2 and March 16. Meetings are at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room. All are welcome!



MEN'S BREAKFAST

St. Matthew's men's breakfast will meet again on Saturday, March 18 at 8:30 a.m. Men of all ages are welcome!



NEW MEMBER SUNDAY!

We will be welcoming several new members to St. Matthew officially on Sunday March 12. We will receive new members at worship and have a special reception following worship in the Gathering Space. We hope you'll join us to welcome the newest members of our St. Matthew family!



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

1. **New Council officers** were elected:

- ◆ President: Jack Pietrick
- ◆ Vice President: Sheila Jarka
- ◆ Secretary: Meg Kraft
- ◆ Treasurer: Deb Steinberg
- ◆ Asst. Treasurer: Amy Pelehach

2. Council discussed and approved the recommendation of the Call Committee and established a Call Vote for Sunday, March 19, 2023.

OFFICE UPDATES



For those waiting on offering envelopes, unfortunately there is more bad news. The shipment was delayed until March. They cannot say when in March, but are hoping to fulfill the order as soon as possible.

I'd like to thank all of the confirmation students and worship leaders for helping to fill all of our upcoming mid-week and Sunday Lenten roles. The organization was nothing short of outstanding on your part.



Looking ahead there will be a sign-up and further organization for the upcoming Palm Sunday breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt. Keep your eye on the weekly constant contact for more information.

Also, make sure to save the date for the Special Congregational Call Meeting to vote on Pastor Brian's call of St. Matthew. We need to have a quorum in attendance and a two-thirds vote to install him as the new permanent Pastor of the congregation. That meeting will be held on Sunday, March 19th immediately following regular service.



EASTER EGG HUNT

Our Confirmation class is sponsoring our Easter Egg Hunt Saturday April 1st! Help spread the word and invite any children you know!

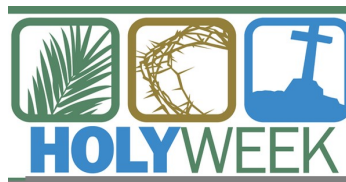
PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Mark your calendars for the Palm Sunday Breakfast on Sunday April 2nd! After worship that morning please join us in the Hall of the Evangelists for the return of St. Matthew's Palm Sunday Breakfast!





HOLY WEEK

- ✝ **Palm Sunday:** 9:00 a.m. Worship, followed by Palm Sunday Breakfast
- ✝ **Maundy Thursday:** 6:00 p.m. Worship
- ✝ **Good Friday:** Noon & 6:00 p.m. Worship
- ✝ **Easter Sunday:** 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. Worship



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
March 2023 			1 9:30 WW Meeting 5:15 WW Meeting	2 10:00 Bible Study 2:00 Centering Prayer 6:00 Mid-Week Lenten Service 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	3	4
5 9:00 Sanctuary Communion Service 10:15 Sunday School & Adult Forum	6	7	8 9:30 WW Meeting 5:15 WW Meeting	9 2:00 Centering Prayer 6:00 Mid-Week Lenten Service 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	10	11
12 Daylight Savings Time begins 9:00 Sanctuary Communion Service 10:15 Sunday School	13 7:00 Finance Committee	14 7:00 Avon Land Trust 7:00 Church Council	15 VOICE Deadline 9:30 WW Meeting 5:15 WW Meeting	16 10:00 Bible Study 2:00 Centering Prayer 6:00 Mid-Week Lenten Service 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 8:30 Men's Breakfast
19 9:00 Sanctuary Communion Service 10:15 Congregational Meeting	20	21	22 9:30 WW Meeting 5:15 WW Meeting	23 2:00 Centering Prayer 6:00 Mid-Week Lenten Service 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	24	25
26 9:00 Sanctuary Communion Service 10:15 Sunday School & Adult Forum	27	28	29 9:30 WW Meeting 5:15 WW Meeting	30 2:00 Centering Prayer 6:00 Mid-Week Lenten Service 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	31	

March 2023

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

Non-Profit Organization

