



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

OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

October 1—29:

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Communion Service
10:20 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Forum

October 15, 22, & 29:

5:00 p.m. Confirmation

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



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.

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Autumn is my favorite season. To me it seems to have the most beautiful days and most ideal temperatures. There are warm days and cool nights and the glorious color changes of the leaves. On many days it's enjoyable to sit outside under the sun shining brightly in a gorgeous blue sky, without the extreme heat of summer or cold of winter. It's the traditional time of harvest and a season where we count our blessings and celebrate gratitude. Nature's beauty and bounty invite us to rest in the peace of God and recall all we have to be thankful for.

This fall I am especially grateful for the community of St. Matthew. I am grateful for the work we are doing together to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with younger generations and for the commitment older generations to grow more deeply in their relationship with God. I am grateful for the work being done on the parsonage and the tremendous generosity of so many in the congregation to make it happen. I am grateful for my Installation which will be happening November 5th and the privilege it is to be your lead pastor. I am grateful for the new Sunday School and Confirmation year and all the children and families we have involved. I am grateful for all the events going on here this fall: Octoberfest, Trunk or Treat, the Installation, the Tag Sale, and Operation Christmas Child to name a few. We are a blessed congregation to have so much happening at a time when many congregations are struggling.

And with great blessing comes great responsibility. We are called to be good stewards of all our gifts, to use our resources to care for God's creation and God's people. We are called to use our dollars, our time, and our talents to further the work of Christ in the world. This month you will be receiving a stewardship letter requesting a commitment to the ministry of St. Matthew for 2024. I hope you will prayerfully discern your financial commitment to the ministry of this congregation and return a pledge card to the church office by Sunday October 29th. I am incredibly grateful for the blessing this congregation is to the surrounding community. We offer a unique gift to the Farmington Valley and I greatly value our ministry together. Thank you for being part of this community of faith and for the positive impact we are making together. Let us continue to dig deep, reach out, and change lives in Christ's name!

In gratitude,
Pastor Brian





SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will meet every Sunday in October, starting after worship at 10:00 a.m. and ending at 11:00 a.m. Also, mark your calendars for *Trunk or Treat* on Friday, October 20th!

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation class is held Sundays at 5:00 p.m. We will not meet the first two weeks of October, but will meet Oct. 15, 22, and 29th.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study meets Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. In the month of October we will meet Oct. 5, 12, and 26. All are welcome!



MEN'S GROUP

Our monthly men's breakfast will be Saturday Oct. 21 at 8:30 a.m. RSVP by Thursday Oct. 18 so we know how many to prepare for. See you there!

CENTERING PRAYER

Centering Prayer group meets on Zoom Thursdays at 2:00 p.m. The group has decided not to read a book together this fall; instead we will pray together and focus our discussion on whatever short devotion is chosen for the day. All are welcome!



SAVE THE DATE: OKTOBERTFEST, SATURDAY, OCT. 14TH

St. Matthew will be holding an Oktoberfest dinner on Saturday, October 14th from 5:30 p.m.— 9:30 p.m. in the Hall of the Evangelists. The evening will include a full course German dinner featuring Sauerbraten, slow roasted pork and bratwurst coupled with spätzle, German potato salad, red cabbage, and sauerkraut. We will get underway with appetizers, authentic adult German

beverages, and other selections. Dessert will be apple strudel and Black Forest cake. We will, of course, be singing a few German songs!

As an adult event, the suggested donation is \$25 per person. Invited guests are welcome. Dollars received beyond cost will be designated for our Grace Lutheran Friday Night Meal Program. Dress is casual, which includes German attire!

Sign-up will be available following the church service for the next two weeks. You may also email the office to RSVP.



PASTOR BRIAN'S INSTALLATION

Pastor Brian will officially be installed as Senior Pastor of St. Matthew on Sunday November 5th at 4:00 p.m. After worship that morning, we'll return to St. Matthew for an afternoon service where Pastor Brian will be installed as lead pastor of St. Matthew. Pastor Rick Kremer from Grace Lutheran in Hartford will be preaching for the occasion. A reception hosted by the Call Committee and Fellowship Committee will follow. We hope you'll join us to support Pastor Brian and celebrate with the St. Matthew community!

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

This year St. Matthew will be hosting the Avon Thanksgiving Eve service on Tuesday November 21st. Congregations in the area come together for an annual Thanksgiving Eve service, usually held the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, and this year is our turn to host. We will host a soup supper at 6:00 p.m. followed by an ecumenical/interfaith worship service at 7:00 p.m. We hope you'll join us!



SAVE THE DATE: TRUNK OR TREAT: OCTOBER 20

On Friday October 20th St. Matthew will host a Trunk-or-Treat event. Tell your children and grandchild! Invite your friends! All are welcome!

We had a solid showing last year and are looking for an even bigger turnout in year two!

If you are interested in volunteering to decorate your car, provide candy, music, or anything to enhance the experience, please contact the office or sign up on the bulletin board.

**UPLIFT THE PARSONAGE UPDATE**

Thank you to all of our members who have generously contributed to our Uplift the Parsonage campaign. The contributions to date have kept pace with the incurred bills. Forthcoming contributions will be critical to addressing our expenses. A lot of improvements have already been completed.

Completed projects include:

- The elimination of the mold in the furnace room which has been professionally addressed and corrected.
- The installation of central air conditioning in the parsonage and apartment.

Projects currently underway include:

- The replacement of the enclosed porch.
- The relocation of the laundry room to the upstairs.
- The pouring of a new cement floor in the garage.

Following the completion of the porch the focus of the project will move inside as the three bathrooms are renovated. Your generosity has and will greatly contribute toward the completion of this project.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- The cell tower closing took place in August and the first of 4 annual payments has been made.
- Repairs and improvements to the parsonage are moving forward, and financial gifts continue to be received.
- Fall ministries are beginning with Rally Day, New member Sunday, Oktoberfest, Fall tag sale, and Operation Christmas Child.
- The new resident brochure was mailed to new residents of the Farmington Valley.

THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS



Do you have insurance with Thrivent? Then you are eligible for a yearly \$250 action team grant! These can be used as seed money for church fundraisers, outreach events, and service projects. If you are a Thrivent member, please email the office and we may be able to utilize your Thrivent action team grant as a way to support ministry events at St. Matthew!

**SAVE THE DATE: TAG SALE, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

If you are interested in helping, please email Ellen Ericson at eegregory3@sbcglobal.net. A sign-up sheet will be placed on the bulletin board in October. Watch for the next meeting announcement. Donation drop off will begin Sunday, Nov.5. Many hands will be needed for this event.

ST. MATTHEW MISSION STATEMENT

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.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <h1 style="margin: 0;">October 2023</h1>						
1 9:00 Sanctuary Communion Service 10:00 Sunday School & Adult Forum	2	3	4 9:30 WW Meeting 5:15 WW Meeting 7:00 Overeater's Anonymous 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	5 10:00 Bible Study 2:00 Centering Prayer	6	7
8 9:00 Sanctuary Communion Service 10:00 Sunday School & Adult Forum	9 Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples' Day	10 7:00 Avon Land Trust	11 9:30 WW Meeting 5:15 WW Meeting 7:00 Overeater's Anonymous 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	12 VOICE Deadline 2:00 Centering Prayer	13	14 5:30 SMLC Oktoberfest
15 9:00 Sanctuary Communion Service 10:00 Sunday School & Adult Forum 5:00 Confirmation	16 7:00 Finance Committee	17 7:00 Church Council	18 9:30 WW Meeting 5:15 WW Meeting 7:00 Overeater's Anonymous 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	19 10:00 Bible Study 2:00 Centering Prayer	20 6:00 SMLC Trunk or Treat!	21 8:30 Men's Breakfast
22 9:00 Sanctuary Communion Service 10:00 Sunday School & Adult Forum 5:00 Confirmation	23	24 6:00 Worship & Music Committee Meeting	25 9:30 WW Meeting 5:15 WW Meeting 7:00 Overeater's Anonymous 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	26 2:00 Centering Prayer	27	28
29 9:00 Sanctuary Communion Service 10:00 Sunday School & Adult Forum 5:00 Confirmation	30	31				

October 2023

