



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 3

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Communion Service
9:45 a.m. Adult Forum
11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Communion Service

April 10 Palm Sunday

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Communion Service
9:45 a.m. Adult Forum
11:00 a.m. Family Worship in the Hall

April 17 Easter Sunday

8:00 a.m. Sanctuary Communion Service
9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Communion Service
11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Communion Service

April 24

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Communion Service
9:45 a.m. Adult Forum
11:00 a.m. Family Worship in the Hall

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

STAFF:

Brian Rajcok, Associate Pastor
Sandra D'Amico, Interim / Transition Pastor
Richard Silbereis, Director of Music
Diane Oates, 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 INTERIM PASTOR



Hello, Saint Matthew's!

I look forward to accompanying you during this interim time between settled pastors.

Soon, we will come together, to listen for your hopes, concerns, and vision for the mission of St. Matthew's ministry. I also currently serve the

mission of Our Saviour's in Fairfield, CT with 1/3 interim capacity, as I will serve your congregation.

Who am I? A Rhode Islander, artist, sailor, pastor, mother and now grandmother of two radiant little girls. In my vocational life before being a pastor, I graduated from Colby College in Maine, raised two wise daughters, created and managed a design firm, and was an adjunct professor of Design Arts at New England Tech for several years. I completely loved my vocation.

However, on the way to applying to graduate school in further design studies, the Holy Spirit swiftly moved my path, away from design and towards serving the people of God and the mission we share. It is something that I truly cannot explain. Doors closed and opened quickly, in a call to serve Christ and Community, where new pathways emerged. I'm glad to have said Yes to the Holy Spirit, and entered onto the journey of pastoral life. My pastoral education was completed at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge MA, where I graduated along with studies at the Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia. I serve both Lutheran and Episcopal ministries. I was ordained as a Lutheran pastor in 2010 and have since served 6 churches: as an intern, a settled pastor, and as intentional interim pastor.

The experience of being a pastor and a church in COVID over the past two years, has been a challenge for many sister churches. God bless all who have sustained us, and may we remember those whom we lost during this tender and difficult time. Despite the difficulties and sorrows of this experience, the adaptations that many congregations created for our gatherings in ministry, have helped churches to become more creative in staying connected: to each other and the faith we share with one another, and in the benevolence that we carry to the neighborhood around us.

Blessed always be, with our ancestors in faith, and our Christian brothers and sisters today; sharing worship, leadership, our purpose in mission, and the gift of faith.

I look forward to meeting you all.

Pastor Sandra D'Amico
Interim / Transition Pastor
NE Synod of the ELCA

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.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE

Midweek Lenten worship will be held through Thursday April 7th at 6:00 p.m., followed by our Lenten book study group on *Unbinding Your Heart: 40 Days of Prayer & Faith Sharing*.

FAMILY WORSHIP

Family Worship will be meeting the second and fourth Sunday of the month, April 10th and 24th. On April 10th we'll learn about Palm Sunday and Jesus' journey during Holy Week. And on April 24th we'll have an outdoor service and celebrate Earth Day. Each week includes a child-focused sermon time, activity, or project. All ages are welcome!

EASTER EGG HUNT

We will be hosting our second annual Easter Egg Hunt for families and friends of St. Matthew and the community on Saturday, April 16 at 10 a.m. on the lawn. Plan on bringing your children, grandchildren and friends to this fun outdoor experience! Bags will be provided. If it rains, we will move indoors.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Outdoor worship will begin on Sunday April 24th at 11:00AM. Thank you to John Jarzbek and Deb Brodeur for offering their time and talent and music equipment to make this service possible.



ADULT FORUM

Adult Forum will meet Sunday April 3 and Sunday April 24. We will not meet Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday. April 3rd Dick Silbereis will present on "Just War Theory." On April 24th a speaker from Hands on Hartford will be joining us.

MEN'S GROUP

The men's group will meet Saturday April 9th at 8:30 a.m. in the Hall of the Evangelists and eat breakfast together! We will discuss readings from Richard Rohr's book *On the Threshold of Transformation: Daily Meditations for Men*.



BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will meet on Thursday April 7th and April 21st at 10:00 a.m. in hybrid fashion, both on Zoom and in the Hall of the Evangelists.

CENTERING PRAYER

Centering prayer group meets every Wednesday at 5:00PM on Zoom. We are currently reading *Without Buddha I Could Not be a Christian* by Paul Knitter. All are welcome to attend, even if you haven't read the book!



FIRST COMMUNION

Fifth grade students are invited to First Communion training on Zoom the evening of Thursday, April 21st at 7:00 p.m. Email Pastor Brian if your child is interested. First Communion Sunday will be Sunday May 8th at the 11:00 a.m. outdoor service.

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

•Synod assembly will be held in June in Worcester, MA. Pastor Brian and Sheila Jarka will attend.

•Payment was made to GameTime for the playground purchase and installation.

•Pastor Sandi joined the Council meeting for the first time. Discussion centered around how to engage members as we transition both with finding a new pastor as well as emerging from Covid restrictions. A transition team will be formed soon to collect information/stories from the congregation and create a profile for prospective pastors. Contact Fred Fenn at journeywriting8@gmail.com if you are interested in being a part of the Transition Team.



EASTER LILIES will adorn the altar on Easter Sunday, April 17 and Sunday, April 24. Place your order on the sign-up on the bulletin board in the narthex or call the church office. Cost is \$18.50 each. Checks should be made payable to St. Matthew Lutheran Church and can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church. **Orders must be received no later than Sunday, April 10.** Lilies may be picked up after the 8:30 service on April 24.

REOPENING TASK FORCE UPDATE:

The Reopening Task Force (RTF) and Church Council, working together, are pleased to announce changes to the Sunday Sanctuary worship practices that have been impacted by Covid. RTF will continue to monitor the Covid infection data for the State of Connecticut and make recommendations accordingly. At this time:

- ◆ Masks are no longer required
 - ◆ In the sanctuary for services.
 - ◆ Entering and exiting the building.
- ◆ Gathering in the Hall of the Evangelists for Fellowship and coffee/ tea
- ◆ Hymnals will be made available in the pews.
- ◆ Singing is encouraged.
- ◆ Social distancing is no longer required.
- ◆ Ropes removed from pews.

We appreciate everyone's patience through this long and trying time of Covid. The RTF will continue to monitor the Covid profile for any changes.

SAVE THE DATES:

⇒ **Sunday, June 5:** Gallery Walk (2:00-4:00), featuring St. Matthew artists:

- Ellen Ericson - paintings
- George Spoering - showing Lisa's artwork
- Janice Davidson - painting on fabric
- John Pearson - photography
- Bob Davidson - miniature handmade furniture & other handmade wooden items

Punch and hors d'oeuvres will be provided. This event is free and open to the public!

⇒ **Sunday, June 12:** Annual Church Picnic (details soon!)

⇒ **Saturday, September 17:** One-day Women's Retreat (9:00-3:00), lunch provided. Led by Anne Fenn & Debbie Steinberg at Debbie's Old Saybrook home. Theme: **Celebration!** Details and sign-up coming soon!

**GOOD THINGS:**

✠ Ash Wednesday was a busy day at St. Matthew. We had two services plus our drive-thru imposition of ashes during the late afternoon. We had 24 people come through our drive-thru, most of whom were non-members. Thank you to our confirmation students who held signs by the roadside to invite those driving by!

- ✠ Thursday evening worship has met throughout the month of March. We've explored what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, following Pastor Martha Reese's book series *Unbinding the Gospel*. We have also gathered after service for a group meeting of Reese's *Unbinding Your Heart: 40 Days of Prayer & Faith Sharing*. Thank you to Fred Fenn and Pastor Brian for co-facilitating this group!
- ✠ Confirmation students have been helping lead worship on Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings throughout Lent. Thank you to our students for their worship leadership!
- ✠ Family Worship met twice in March. We learned about the story of Moses and the Exodus, and even walked through our own Red Sea! Later in the month Family Worship celebrated a baptism and focused our lesson on God's gift of baptism.
- ✠ We welcomed Luca Daniel Senofonte into the Body of Christ through Holy Baptism on Sunday, March 27th at 11:00 a.m. We welcome Luca and his parents Morgan and Daniel to St. Matthew!
- ✠ Pastor Sandi led the first of her community conversations on the transition process on Sunday, March 27th during adult forum. For this event we were also blessed to have coffee hour for the first time in two years!
- ✠ St. Matthew's Care Team ministry met Tuesday, March 29th to plan communion visits to homebound members. This ministry briefly began before the pandemic, and we're excited to get it going again!

God is good. All the time!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
April 2022					1	2
3 8:30 Sanctuary Communion Service 9:45 Adult Forum 11:00 Sanctuary Communion Service	4 Office Closed	5	6 5:00 Centering Prayer	7 10:00 Bible Study 6:00 Midweek Lenten Worship 6:45 Unbinding Your Heart Book Study	8	9 8:30 Men's Breakfast in Hall of the Evangelists
10 Palm Sunday 8:30 Sanctuary Communion Service 11:00 Family Worship in the Hall	11 7:00 Finance Committee	12 2:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 Church Council	13 5:00 Centering Prayer	14 Maundy Thursday 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service	15 Good Friday Office Closed VOICE Deadline 7:00 Good Friday Service	16 10:00 Easter Egg Hunt
17 Easter Sunday 8:00 Sanctuary Communion Service 9:30 Sanctuary Communion Service 11:00 Sanctuary Communion Service	18 Easter Monday	19 2:00 Staff Meeting	20 5:00 Centering Prayer	21 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 First Communion Training via Zoom	22	23
24 8:30 Sanctuary Communion Service 9:45 Adult Forum—Hands on Hartford guest speaker 11:00 Family Worship in the Hall	25 7:00 Confirmation	26 2:00 Staff Meeting	27 5:00 Centering Prayer	28	29	30
Notes:						



April 2022

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





CELEBRATING HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WALKING WITH CHRIST FROM DEATH INTO LIFE

April 10 PALM SUNDAY

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Communion Service

11:00 a.m. Family Worship in the Hall with Palm Sunday Processional & Holy Week Lesson

April 14 MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:00 p.m. A Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Last Supper
A Service of Holy Communion

April 15 GOOD FRIDAY

7:00 p.m. The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion & Tenebrae

April 16 HOLY SATURDAY

10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt
A celebration for the children of St. Matthew and beyond.

April 17 EASTER SUNDAY

8:00 a.m., A Celebration of the Resurrection of Christ with Holy Communion

9:30 a.m. &

11:00 a.m.

