



KEVIN REICHLER

My wife, Linda, and son, Justin, joined St. Matthew in 2004 after Linda exited active duty from the ASAF. I grew up in Avon and had been Baptized and Confirmed at Bethany Lutheran in West Hartford. Linda and I were married and moved to Maine and attended Holy Trinity in Newington, NH. We both taught Sunday School for 6 years, and attended bean suppers every other week, and church picnics. I was Property Chair and worked with the construction crew building the new Sanctuary. I was involved with Habitat for Humanity, locally, in Maine and New Hampshire, as well as three, single week-long builds in Homestead, FL following Hurricane Andrew. My Property chair lasted 5 years up to Linda's Commission and we moved to FL. We again were involved teaching Sunday School at Holy Trinity (south) in Fort Walton and I was nominated to Church Council and chaired Stewardship for 3 years. Our next move brought us back to CT and we attended St. Paul in Cornwall - we again were involved teaching SS and was briefly involved with Church Council as we moved to Avon after one year. After a 41-year career in Education, I retired two years ago this June. During our tenure here at St. Matthew, Linda and I taught two years of Sunday School, served as greeters, and regularly attended adult forum, tables of eight, chili cook-offs, church picnics, and Habitat for Humanity. As a family, we served at Grace Lutheran in Hartford and I have been an usher since 2004.



JACK PIETRICK, Vice President

Jack has been a member of St. Matthew for 44 years. He served as the co-chairperson of the 1987 Organ Committee which selected the Casavant Organ in our sanctuary. He also teamed with Krysia Robinson for many summers at our Vacation Bible School. Jack is in his fifth year of his sixth year term as a Council member. During that time, he has been Council President for two years and is currently serving as Vice President.

Jack and his wife Robin have two daughters who were baptized, confirmed, and married at St. Matthew. They have four grandsons ages 11, 9, 7, and 4 and a 4 year old granddaughter. Jack and his wife Robin enjoy spending time with their grandchildren in Avon and Virginia. As a family, music has always been an important part of their lives.

Jack spent 39 years in education. Nineteen were in the field of music education and the last twenty as an elementary principal. His educational background includes a B. Mus. Ed. from the Hartt School, a M.Ed. in Educational Administration & Supervision from the University of Hartford, and a Sixth Year Certificate and Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from the University of Connecticut. Jack is currently a member of the Property Committee, Chairman of the Mutual Ministry Committee and the Sanctuary Choir. Jack and Robin reside in Avon.



FRED FENN

I am a retired special education teacher. I taught in both northern Vermont and New Hampshire before returning to my native Barkhamsted. Here in Connecticut, I taught at Northwestern Regional #7 High School in Winsted, and then provided independent tutorial services for learning disabled students at The Master's School in West Simsbury.

Anne and I live in Barkhamsted. We have been members of SMLC for about 17 years. We have two grown sons and six grandchildren.

My hobbies include playing bassoon, bass recorder and tin whistle. I also volunteer in the archive department at the Barkhamsted Historical Society.

JASON LINDQUIST, President



I have been a member of the St. Matthew family for 19 years, joining in 2003 with my wife Melissa. We have two daughters Sarah (17) and Hannah (14). Through the years, I have served as a member of the Property Committee, Technology Committee, Intern Committee and Call Committee. I also maintain the church's website, in conjunction with our Church Administrator and our Marketing & Communications Committee. I currently work for Hooker & Holcombe in Bloomfield overseeing operations, including finance, IT and facilities. When not working, I enjoy family time, golfing, exercising, and watching the Red Sox. We currently reside in Plainville with our pup, Cosmo.



GEORGE REIDER

I reside in Farmington with my wife, Carol. We were first members in 1975, upon moving to Connecticut with our four sons. We had several Aetna assignments out of CT between 1980 and our return in 1985.

I have served on council a number of times, including as vice president. I chaired the Land Sale Committee, which allowed for the establishment of our Endowment Fund. Most recently, I have helped develop our growing relationship with Grace

Lutheran in Hartford, including meals for their Friday night community dinners.



BEN WRIGHT

I have been a member at St. Matthew since 1990 when I began attending with my future wife, Karen. A New Englander in heritage, I grew up attending the 1st Congregational Church in Madison, CT, where my ancestors arrived in 1643. I have been a resident of Avon since 1992 and my wife since 1985; we live a little over a mile from St. Matthew on Anvil Drive which is off Chevas Rd. Karen and I have 2 children, Travis, 26, and Emily, 23, who have grown up attending St. Matthew, participating in the youth group, including attending the National Lutheran Youth Gathering in New Orleans (Travis & Dad) and several missionary trips (Emily) including Mississippi and Chicago. Travis is a graduate of UConn and Emily is a Villanova

University graduate. Karen and I were married by Pastor Carter on Dec. 6, 1992. I have previously served two terms on the St. Matthew council, the Property Committee, the Stewardship Committee, on Mutual Ministry, and the Vision for Growth Committee, which initiated the expansion of the church a few years ago. I am a regular reader at Sunday service.

Professionally, I had a long career at Aetna (37 years) in information technology and later in advanced data analytics and healthcare fraud detection. After retiring from Aetna in 2011, I explored Booz Allen Hamilton for a couple of years, Cigna for a couple of years and since 2015, have been employed as a Senior Solutions Architect by SAS Institute, Inc., where I help Government and Commercial clients implement advanced analytics in Enterprise Payment Integrity and other healthcare-related disciplines.

I have found St. Matthew to be the most nourishing of spiritual homes and a solid foundation to my faith and my life. Both in worship and in fellowship I have been nourished here and fulfilled. I believe that St. Matthew should continue to nourish members of all ages by continuing to be firmly rooted in the faith AND in the community by fostering growth, contemplation and remaining relevant in this ever more diverse, astonishing and sometimes appalling world, that God has made and entrusted to us.



GEORGE SPOERING

I have been a member of St. Matthew for about 30 years from when my family and I moved from Long Island to Connecticut in 1992. My 2 adult children, Erik and Karen, were confirmed at St. Matthew and are currently living in Indiana and South Carolina and my 3 grandchildren are living too far away. I served on the church council and on a number of committees since joining the church and was serving on the Evangelism committee, Usher, and Counting team when the pandemic began.

I was working as an IT manager in NYC and then at Cigna with the move to Connecticut. I retired in 2018 after 46 years and have been retired from the US Army Reserve after 38 years of service.

Lisa and I resided in Granby where I am still living now, and I enjoy a variety of outdoor activities including bicycling, hiking, golf, kayaking, and skiing. I am also involved with volunteering within the community.

I welcome the opportunity to continue to serve on council and in the ministries of St. Matthew as we move forward on our journey of faith and outreach.



ELLEN ERICSON

I am a life-long Lutheran. Upon moving to Connecticut from Long Island with my husband, Richard Gregory and our four children, we joined St. Matthew. I taught Sunday School for 10 years, published The Voice for 15 years, served as a Communion Assistant, prepared meals for Grace Lutheran, and started a Grief Support group pre-Covid. In addition to being a long-time member of the Altar Guild, I am also currently serving on the Reopening Task Force and the Communications Committee.

Outside of church, I served as president of the West Hartford Music & Art Club, an organization that provided a scholarship to music and art students furthering their education in their art. Unfortunately, covid forced us to dissolve the club which had been in existence since the 1950s.

I was widowed in 2006. I married Charles Ericson, also a widower, at St. Matthew in 2014.



SHEILA JARKA

I have been a member of this church for 60 years, having been baptized at our old church in Collinsville. I deeply love this church and the congregation. I am so excited to get back on the Council after serving in the past. I am currently serving on both the Outreach and Endowment Committees. I live in the town of Canton with my husband Tim and have two grown children, Emily and Katie. My background includes project management, finance, investment analysis and trading.



MEG KRAFT, Secretary

I joined St. Matthew with my husband David in 1999 after relocating from the west coast with our two young daughters. I have participated in many activities here at the church including as Sunday School teacher and superintendent, worship leader, member on many committees and council member. I recently retired after 25 years as a public school teacher, including 18 in Simsbury, and David and I downsized from our house in Avon to a condo in Farmington. After taking a few years off from leadership positions, I am now ready to join the Council again as we see what God has planned for our congregation.