



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 6

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

March 13

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

March 20

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

March 27

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

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
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 PASTOR

The month of March invites us into the discipline of Lent once again. It is a time to explore 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.

This year during Lent we invite you to sign up to receive a 40-day prayer journal and use it as part of your Lenten discipline. Together we will read the book *Unbinding Your Heart: 40 Days of Prayer & Faith Sharing* by Martha Grace Reese. We will discuss the prayer journal and chapters following mid-week Lenten services, starting the hour after Ash Wednesday service on March 2nd and continuing every Thursday evening throughout Lent.

I hope this Lent will be a fruitful time for you and your relationship with God. It can be challenging to set time aside for prayer, meditation, and spiritual reading. But I pray that this Lent we may all find the time to explore the mystery of God's love and grace, and learn to recognize a little more each day the presence of God which surrounds us and guides us through life.

Blessings,
Pastor Brian



Ash Wednesday is March 2nd and we will have services at 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., with drive-thru imposition of ashes 4:30-5:30 p.m. Our first Lenten book study session will follow

Ash Wednesday service from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Midweek Lenten worship will be held every Thursday starting March 10th at 6:00 p.m. and continue every Thursday through Holy Week. A Lenten book study group will be held from 6:45-7:30 p.m. as we read *Unbinding Your Heart: 40 Days of Prayer & Faith Sharing* by Martha Grace Reese.

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will not be meeting this spring. However, we will continue to have Family Worship twice each month, which we hope is a fulfilling Christian education experience for the whole family.



FAMILY WORSHIP

Family Worship will be meeting the second and fourth Sunday of the month, March 13th and 27th. Each week includes a child-focused sermon time, activity, or project. All ages are welcome!

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Camp will be March 4th-6th at Camp Calumet. Confirmation classes will not be meeting in March, and students are required to help lead worship on Thursday evening or Sunday morning during Lent.



ADULT FORUM

Adult Forum will meet each Sunday in March 9:45-10:45 a.m., except for March 6th while Pastor Brian is with the confirmation class at Camp Calumet. Forum topics are TBD.

MEN'S GROUP

The men's group will meet Saturday March 12th at 8:30 a.m. on Zoom (possibly in-person, depending on the covid situation). This year we are once again reading through Richard Rohr's book *On the Threshold of Transformation: Daily Meditations for Men*.



BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will meet on Thursday, March 3rd and Thursday March, 17th 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 Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. and every Thursday at 2:00 p.m. on Zoom. Contact Pastor Brian or the church office if you'd like to join us. All are welcome!



CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Council elected new officers for 2022: Jason Lindquist, president; Jack Pietrick, vice president; Meg Kraft, secretary; Debbie Steinberg, treasurer; and Amy Pelehach, assistant treasurer. We are grateful for their leadership.

Council agreed that Pastor Sandi D'Amico be brought on as an intentional transitional consultant. She will preach once a month and guide us through the transition and call process. Pastor Brian will continue with his current responsibilities during this time. Jason Lindquist is in the process of drawing up a Covenant listing of responsibilities and compensation. Pastor Sandi will attend the March council meeting.

The Reopening Task Force continues to monitor the current covid situation and will notify Council regarding any changes to their recommendations about masks.

The Council voted to approve the proposal from the Playground Committee to purchase new playground equipment and have it installed. Many thanks to the playground committee for their work on this proposal.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

An audit of the Financial records was performed in a hybrid format during the last week of January. The audit team was headed by Kris Pearson, and also included Dave Erb and Larry Anello. There were no problems found and our books are sound.

Dawne Ware is now chair of Finance, Amy Pelehach is Assistant Treasurer, and Debbie Steinberg is Treasurer. Debbie Brodeur continues in her role of Financial Secretary. This group along with Matt Montminy comprises the Finance Committee. Meg Kraft will join us in March as liaison from Council.

ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY

Our annual meeting was very well attended and organized. Jason Lindquist, president of the Church council, did a fabulous job highlighting this year and tying it all to our vision statement of digging deep, reaching out, and changing lives in Christ's name. All of the committees shared their yearly highlights, including the ongoing process of the Reopening Task Force. There was positive support across the committees as we complimented each other on jobs well done, especially during such changes we have all experienced this past year.

Going forward we have nominated the new members of the Church council and we will all navigate and discern together our next steps in finding a senior pastor and also to determine what we as a church want. We are grateful for the continued support of Pastor Brian and the interim help of Pastor Sandi.

REOPENING TASK FORCE UPDATE

The Reopening Task Force (RTF) continues to closely monitor Covid infection data, including vaccination and positivity rate, in the State of Connecticut.

The Covid positivity rate for the State of CT is now considered to be in a safe range.

New Update:

- Masks are no longer required while sitting in the pew.

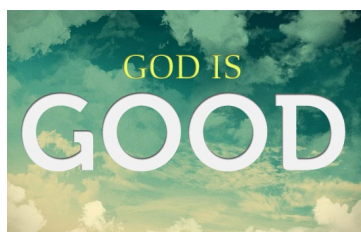
At this time we also ask that you continue to:

- Wear a mask upon entering and exiting the building.
- Social distance, if you are not in a pod.

We appreciate everyone's patience as the COVID profile continues to be monitored for changes and vaccination outcomes continue to evolve.


**SPRING AHEAD!**

Daylight Savings Time starts on Sunday, March 13. Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday, March 12.

**GOOD THINGS:**

- ✚ The playground committee made a decision about which playscape to order and with the input of the Communication & Marketing committee made a decision on its color. We look forward its installation sometime this summer!
- ✚ The congregation collected 450 pounds of food for Hands on Hartford; Thank you for your generosity! Our confirmation class delivered the food to Hands on Hartford this month and was given a tour of the facility. Thank you for donating and giving us such a large gift to bring in!
- ✚ Family Worship gathered in the Hall of the Evangelists and learned about the adventures of Abraham and Sarah and God's promises to them one week, and the story of Joseph and his brothers another.
- ✚ New Council members were officially installed at services on February 6th and the 2022 Council had their first meeting the following week.

God is good. All the time!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
March 2022						
Notes:		1 6:00 Centering Prayer	2 ASH WEDNESDAY 12:00 Sanctuary Service 4:30-5:30 Drive-through Imposition of Ashes. 6:00 Sanctuary Service 7:00 Unbinding Your Heart Book Study	3 10:00 Bible Study 2:00 Centering Prayer	4 Confirmation to Calumet	5 Confirmation to Calumet
6 Confirmation to Calumet 8:30 Sanctuary Communion Service 11:00 Sanctuary Communion Service	7 7:00 Finance Committee	8 2:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Centering Prayer 7:00 Church Council	9	10 2:00 Centering Prayer 6:00 Midweek Lenten Worship 6:45 Unbinding Your Heart Book Study	11	12 8:30 Men's Breakfast via Zoom
13 Daylight Saving Time starts 8:30 Sanctuary Communion Service 9:45 Adult Forum 11:00 Family Worship in the Hall 12:00 Confirmation-Mosaic Event at Emanuel Lutheran	14 7:00 Altar Guild	15 VOICE DEADLINE 2:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Centering Prayer	16	17 St. Patrick's Day 10:00 Bible Study 2:00 Centering Prayer 6:00 Midweek Lenten Worship 6:45 Unbinding Your Heart Book Study	18	19
20 8:30 Sanctuary Communion Service 9:45 Adult Forum 11:00 Sanctuary Communion Service	21	22 6:00 Centering Prayer	23	24 2:00 Centering Prayer 6:00 Midweek Lenten Worship 6:45 Unbinding Your Heart Book Study	25	26
27 8:30 Sanctuary Communion Service 9:45 Adult Forum 11:00 Family Worship in the Sanctuary with Baptism	28	29 2:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Centering Prayer	30	31 2:00 Centering Prayer 6:00 Midweek Lenten Worship 6:45 Unbinding Your Heart Book Study		

March 2022

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Non-Profit Organization

