



224 Lovely Street, Avon, CT 06001-4018  
(860) 673-3301 [www.stmatthewavon.org](http://www.stmatthewavon.org)

### SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### September 4, 11, 18, & 25

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Communion Service

#### September 25: Rally Day/Fellowship Meal

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Communion Service

10:15—11:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:15—11:30 a.m. Adult Forum

#### 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, 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



It's an exciting time at St. Matthew! We are about to begin a new school year with a brand-new playground in our backyard and a fantastic new Sunday School program called Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

We are emerging from the time of pandemic and excited to be worshipping in-person this fall. It is also a time of uncertainty, as we do not know how much longer I will be serving here and who the new senior pastor will be. This month we are also saying goodbye to Church Administrator Diane Oates and Director of Music Dick Silbereis. They have both been crucial to the ministry of St. Matthew and stepped up in many areas during the pandemic and since Pastor Julie left. I personally want to thank them for their friendship, their love and support, and for being so wonderful to work with. Diane's last day will be Friday, September 2nd and Dick's final Sunday will be September 18th. We will miss them both dearly and thank them for their ministry at St. Matthew.

With such endings also come new beginnings, and next month we will welcome Paul Martin as our new Church Administrator and Sarah Schiener as our new Director of Music. We look forward to welcoming Paul the first week of September and to welcoming Sarah on Sunday, September 25th. Roy and I are excited to welcome them to our staff and we look forward to working with them both. I want to extend a huge thank you to our hiring committees and Jack Pietrick who was hiring committee chair. This wouldn't have happened so quickly and smoothly without everyone's diligent work. The future of St. Matthew is in good hands with such involved lay leaders and with our new staff. I hope you'll join me in welcoming Paul and Sarah by being gracious and affirming and supporting them as they adjust to their ministries at St. Matthew.

Blessings to you in this season of goodbyes and new beginnings.

- Pastor Brian



### 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.*

## **CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**



As we move into our fall schedule, we will continue to offer one service on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. This will be available both in-person and through livestream. Education hour will begin at 10:15 a.m. This schedule will begin on Rally Day, September 25th. Look for exciting information as we welcome everyone back for a new year of learning and worshipping together.

The Transition Committee has completed their work on our Ministry Site Profile and is working with our Associate to the Bishop, Pastor Sara Anderson. Once the MSP is submitted, our Call Committee will be ready to begin interviewing potential candidates. During this time, confidentiality is essential for two reasons. One is to protect the candidate, whose congregation may not know that he/she is considering a call to another congregation. The other is to protect the process and allow the Call Committee to do the work we are asking of them.

The Music Director and Office Administrator positions have been filled. Diane Oates has agreed to continue the bookkeeping tasks remotely, as a contracted employee.

## **PASTORAL TRANSITION**

### **TRANSITION CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Senior Pastor Transition: Call Phase Begins

The Transition Team is nearing the completion of our Ministry Site Profile (MSP). Once this is submitted to the synod and available for potential candidates to review, the search phase of the transition will commence. The Church Council, following the guidelines from the synod, has appointed the following members to serve on the Call Committee: Melissa Bender, Charles Ericson, Fred Fenn, Jane Hanson, Sheila Jarka, Nicholas Loucks, Stephanie Montminy, George Reider, Ryan Trimble, Dawne Ware.

As part of this process, the importance of confidentiality must be stressed, to protect not only the members of our committee, but the potential candidates who come to us. Please respect the difficult work and commitment being put forth by the committee members, allowing them to carry out their responsibilities unencumbered.

As a congregation, please continually pray for the members of this group as they begin their journey.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS**

We are grateful that you have remained faithful to pledges over the summer – as of July, we are slightly ahead of our budgeted offering income! Also, we are thrilled to welcome back WW for two meetings a week, which helps our operating income!

## **WOMEN'S RETREAT**

**Saturday, September 17: One spot left!** One-day Women's Retreat (9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.), lunch provided. Led by Anne Fenn & Debbie Steinberg at Debbie's Old Saybrook home. Theme: **Celebration!** Call the office at (860) 673-3301 if you'd like the last spot, or contact Debbie by text, phone, or email – (860) 463-9212/[deborahsteinberg@mac.com](mailto:deborahsteinberg@mac.com). Carpools are being arranged and there is excitement in the air!



## **CENTERING PRAYER**

Centering Prayer group continues to meet every Wednesday at 5:00 pm. 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 begin meeting again for the fall on September 15th and we will meet the first and third Thursday of each month. All are welcome! We look forward to journeying through scripture with you!

**MEN'S BREAKFAST**

St. Matthew's men's breakfast will meet again on Saturday, September 17th at 8:30 a.m. We'll eat and have discussion about Richard Rohr's daily devotional book [On the Threshold of Transformation](#). Men of all ages are welcome!



Adult Forum will meet for the first time of the program year on Sunday, September 25th, Rally Day, at 10:15 a.m. in the Carter Gathering Space for coffee and fellowship with a presentation beginning at 10:30. Pastor Brian, Anne Fenn, and Kevin Reichler have arranged a calendar for the next several months from September 25th through December 18th, each with a different and interesting topic/speaker - from church historians to spiritual conversations around a Richard Rohr book to our young people sharing a presentation about Camp Calumet! Join us Sept. 25th for our first day of forum for the program year!

**RALLY DAY, SUNDAY SCHOOL, & CONFIRMATION:**

***Rally Day is Sunday September 25th! Come celebrate St. Matthew Day and try out our new playground on the first day of Sunday School!!!***

**CONFIRMATION**

Seventh and eighth grade students are invited to join St. Matthews' Confirmation class. Confirmation will be held **Monday evenings** 7:00-8:00 p.m. during the school year. The first evening will be our parent/student meeting on **September 19<sup>th</sup>**. Parents, please attend this first session with your children. We will go over the calendar, requirements, important dates, times we'll need parents to volunteer, and everything else for the year. We look forward to a great Confirmation year!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Our **first day of Sunday School** will be **Rally Day, September 25th!** Sunday School classes will be 10:15-11:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Our **Pre-K** classroom is excited to offer [Catechesis of the Good Shepherd](#), a Montessori-inspired curriculum. Our two older classes, 1st-3rd and 4th-6th may be incorporating this program in future years, but for this year we are utilizing a more traditional Sunday School approach. Register your children on Rally Day or on the church website. We look forward to an awesome year of Sunday School!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED**

Please consider working with our team of Sunday School teachers to help our children grow in the Christian faith. This is such a crucial ministry to the life of a congregation, and you will certainly grow in your faith as well! If you are reading this, please pray about the possibility of being a Sunday School teacher! Contact Pastor Brian or the church office if you have any questions or would like to learn more about what teaching Sunday School entails. Thanks for praying about it!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>September 2022</b>				1	2	3
4 9:00 Sanctuary Communion Service	5 Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED	6	7 9:30 WW Meeting 5:00 Centering Prayer 5:15 WW Meeting	8	9	10
11 9:00 Sanctuary Communion Service	12 7:00 Finance Committee	13 7:00 Avon Land Trust 7:00 Church Council	14 9:30 WW Meeting 5:00 Centering Prayer 5:15 WW Meeting	15 VOICE Deadline 10:00 Bible Study	16	17 8:30 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Women's Retreat
18 9:00 Sanctuary Communion Service	19 1:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 Altar Guild 7:00 Confirmation	20	21 9:30 WW Meeting 5:00 Centering Prayer 5:15 WW Meeting	22	23	24
25 Rally Day & Fellowship Meal 9:00 Sanctuary Communion Service 10:15 Sun. School/Adult Forum	26 7:00 Confirmation	27	28 9:30 WW Meeting 5:00 Centering Prayer 5:15 WW Meeting	29	30	
Notes:						



September 2022

