



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

May 1

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Communion Service
9:45 a.m. Community Conversation
11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Communion Service

May 8 Mother's Day

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Communion Service
9:45 a.m. Adult Forum
11:00 a.m. Outdoor Family Worship & First Communion

May 15

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Communion Service
9:45 a.m. Adult Forum - Author Bill Richards
11:00 a.m. Outdoor Worship

May 22

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Communion Service
9:45 a.m. Community Conversation
11:00 a.m. Outdoor Family Worship

May 29

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

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 PASTOR

Happy Easter!

Easter is not just one Sunday; it is a 50-day season. As they say, "a week of weeks." Coming after the penitence of Lent, Easter is a season of joy! We are a people of joy, and the celebration of Easter is our purpose and mission. We get to tell the world about the wonderful things God has done for all through Jesus Christ. We get to celebrate every Sunday as a mini-Easter. And especially in these next six weeks we get to celebrate a foretaste of the feast to come!

Coinciding with the season of Easter is the beginning of spring. Spring has often been seen as a time of new life, which connects perfectly as a symbol for the new life we have in Christ. This month I encourage you to try a practice: be reminded of Christ every time you see a sign of spring. Whenever you see a flower bursting with new life, remember how Christ burst from the tomb. Every time you see a baby bunny hopping around, remember the joy and new life we have in Christ. When you see the sunshine, remember the light of God that shines in you. When you feel the warmth of a beautiful spring day, remember that God's love wraps you and embraces you.

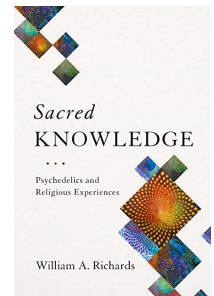
May every sign of spring draw you closer to the divine reality it manifests. And may every remembrance of Christ draw you ever deeper into the presence of God's love.

Blessings to you this Easter season,

Pastor Brian

AUTHOR COMING TO ST. MATTHEW

Pastor Brian's doctoral dissertation focuses on the spiritual and mystical experiences people often report during psychedelic-assisted therapy sessions. This type of therapy can be profoundly healing, and patients often report the spiritual experiences they encounter as the catalyst for such healing. One of Pastor Brian's dissertation advisers is Dr. William A. Richards, an internationally respected leader in the field. Dr. Richards will be coming to St. Matthew the weekend of May 14-15th to lead a lecture on his book Saturday evening, May 14th at 7:00 p.m. The following day Dr. Richards will lead adult forum at 9:45 a.m. We hope you'll come out to this free event to learn more about what the frontiers of psychiatry are teaching us about consciousness, the divine-human connection, and the potential of spiritual experiences to facilitate healing.



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.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Outdoor worship began Sunday April 24th at 11:00 a.m. and will continue every Sunday at 11:00 through June 12th, with the exception of this Sunday, May 1. Thank you to John Jarzbek and Deb Brodeur for offering their time and talent and music equipment to make this service possible.

FIRST COMMUNION

Our fifth-grade students will celebrate their First Communion on Sunday May 8th at 11:00 a.m. during Outdoor Family Worship. All are welcome!

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Sunday will be Pentecost June 5th at 11:00 a.m. during outdoor worship. All are welcome!

ADULT FORUM



- ♦ **May 1:** Pastor Sandi: Transition Discussion
- ♦ **May 8:** The Book of Revelation
- ♦ **May 15:** Dr. Bill Richards
- ♦ **May 22:** Pastor Sandi: Transition Discussion
- ♦ **May 29:** Near Death Experiences

CENTERING PRAYER

Centering Prayer group continues to meet every Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. on Zoom. We are reading Paul Knitter's *Without Buddha I Could not be a Christian*. All are welcome to attend, even if you haven't read the book!



MEN'S GROUP

The men's group will meet Saturday May 21st 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*



BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will meet on Thursday May 5th and May 19th at 10:00 a.m. in hybrid fashion, both on Zoom and in the Hall of the Evangelists.

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- * A Transition Team was formed and approved by council. They will begin meeting with Pastor Sandi soon. Look for communication from this group in the coming month as they begin to survey our congregation and compile our priorities in our search for a new senior pastor.
- * An Internal Auditor's Report for both the operating fund and the endowment fund was completed and no issues were identified. Council approved the reports.
- * The church picnic is being planned by the fellowship committee and will be held on **June 12**. Mark your calendars now! Come and catch up with church friends you haven't seen in awhile!
- * Council approved the distribution of \$2500 from discretionary funds designated by the Endowment committee to be forwarded to the Lutheran Disaster Response fund designated for Ukraine.



SENIOR PASTOR TRANSITION

The church council formally approved a transition committee at its April meeting. This team, guided by Pastor Sandi, will spearhead the tasks of leading us through the transition process, including conducting conversations with the congregation, collection of information and feedback from members and formation of the formal church profile (known as the Ministry Site Profile, MSP) for use by prospective pastors.

The members of the Transition Committee are: Anne Fenn, Amy Parchen, Kris Pearson, Dan Tuve, Ben Wright and Sharon Yanke.

Thank you for your willingness to serve in this important role for St. Matthew!!

CHURCH PICNIC:

Join us for food, fellowship or fun or a combination of all three on Sunday, June 12th following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The picnic will be outside, weather permitting, inside if not. We will be serving traditional picnic foods - burgers, hot dogs, salads, desserts and beverages. Ask a friend to come along if you wish. All are welcome. No need to bring anything. There will be games and activities for all. Sign-ups sheets will be available in May to help us with a head count, but if you decide at the last minute, please join us!

**ST. MATTHEW REST STOP FOR CT CYCLING FUNDRAISER**

On Saturday, May 7, St. Matthew will again host an outdoor rest stop for the Connecticut Cycling Advancement Program's Breakaway Benefit Annual Fundraiser.

Thank you to those who have donated water bottles and to the Fellowship Committee for providing snacks for the young cyclists. All are welcome to greet the cyclists and hand out water bottles and snacks on May 7 at 10:30 a.m.

SAVE THE DATES:

• Ellen Ericson - landscapes, portraits, & sea-scapes	• George Spoering - showing Lisa's artwork
• Janice Davidson - painting on fabric	• John Pearson - photography
• Bob Davidson - miniature handmade furniture & other handmade wooden items	• Jane Hanson - handmade treasures

- ⇒ **Sunday, June 5:** Gallery Walk (2:00-4:00), featuring St. Matthew artists: Refreshments will be provided. This event is free and open to the public!
- ⇒ **Sunday, June 12:** Annual Church Picnic
- ⇒ **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:**


✚ Midweek Lenten worship was led by our confirmation students, who served as ushers, lectors, and assisting ministers.

✚ Midweek Lenten worship was followed by a discussion group of *Unbinding Your Heart*, led by Fred Fenn and Pastor Brian.

✚ Holy Week services were held Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and three services on Easter Sunday. Easter Sunday saw the highest attendance in over two years!

- ✚ St. Matthew youth helped set up for our Easter Egg Hunt for younger children. Thank you Zoey, Peyton, and Mateo!
- ✚ Family Worship met on Palm Sunday and journeyed around the church property to five stations, learning about Jesus' journey through Holy Week.
- ✚ We had our first Outdoor Worship of the year on April 24. Thank you Deb Brodeur and John Jarzbek!
- ✚ St. Matthew's Care Team ministry is starting up after a long hiatus during the pandemic. This team will bring communion to our homebound members.
- ✚ Dick Silbereis, our Director of Music and former Episcopal priest, led an adult forum on Just War Theory on April 3rd. Adult Forum also welcomed a speaker from Hands on Hartford on April 24th.

God is good. All the time!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
May 2022						
1 8:30 Sanctuary Communion Service-Pastor Sandi 9:45 Community Conversation with Pastor Sandi 11:00 Sanctuary Communion Service-Pastor Sandi	2 2:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 Confirmation-Bible Bowl	3	4 5:00 Centering Prayer	5 10:00 Bible Study	6	7 10:30 CT Cycling- Breakaway Benefit Rest Stop
8 Mother's Day 8:30 Sanctuary Communion Service 9:45 Adult Forum 11:00 Family Worship Outdoors- First Communion	9 7:00 Finance Committee	10 2:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 Church Council	11 5:00 Centering Prayer	12	13	14 8:30 Property Clean-Up Day 7:00 Author Bill Richards Lecture
15 8:30 Sanctuary Communion Service 9:45 Adult Forum-Author Bill Richards 11:00 Outdoor Worship	16 VOICE Deadline 2:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 Fellowship Commit- tee 7:00 Altar Guild	17	18 5:00 Centering Prayer	19 10:00 Bible Study	20	21 8:30 Men's Breakfast in the Hall of the Evangelists
22 8:30 Sanctuary Communion Service-Pastor Sandi 9:45 Community Conversation with Pastor Sandi 11:00 Family Worship Outdoors	23	24 2:00 Staff Meeting	25 5:00 Centering Prayer	26	27	28
29 8:30 Sanctuary Communion Service 9:45 Adult Forum-Author Bill Richards 11:00 Outdoor Worship	30 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED	31 2:00 Staff Meeting	Notes: 			

May 2022



CHURCH PROPERTY CLEAN UP DAY SATURDAY MAY 14 AT 8:30 A.M.

Your Property Committee says.....

*Come pruners and gardeners now take up your hoe,
And don't dare to think that there's nowhere to go!
For your church should have pansies all in a row
If the Garth to you is worth saving!
So put down your doughnut, put on your work clothes
For the seasons they are a-changing!*

(With sincere apologies to Bob Dylan)



That's right! **Saturday, May 14** (rain date May 21) is Property cleanup day at St. Matthew. *So come when you can, leave when you have to, skip if you must, it's all part of the plan* (Sorry Dan Fogelberg!).

Doughnuts and coffee will be provided beginning at 8:30 a.m. Here are some of the items on the agenda.

- ⇒ Window washing, inside and out
- ⇒ Flagpole painting
- ⇒ Weeding, pruning (Front, side, back, garth, and parsonage)
- ⇒ Some brush removal.
- ⇒ Smoke detector mounting (Intern appt.)

If you have questions, please contact Ben Wright (860) 751-4886 or speak with Roy Zurell.

NOTE: If anyone can come with a yard trailer, that would be a big help! (We have a landfill pass available).





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



[THANK YOU]

To the members of
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
Avon, Connecticut


from the
New England Synod

of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

In grateful appreciation for giving

\$30,000.00

for Mission Support beyond the congregation for synod and
churchwide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.


Synod Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America


Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America