



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

### SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### June 5 Pentecost

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Communion Service  
11:00 a.m. Outdoor Worship & Confirmation

#### June 12

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Communion Service  
9:45 a.m. Adult Forum—Transition Discussion  
with Pastor Sandi  
11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Communion Service

#### June 19 Father's Day

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Communion Service & New  
Member Sunday

#### June 26

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Communion Service

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS:

|                                  |                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Jason Lindquist, President       | Kevin Reichler      |
| Jack Pietrick, Vice<br>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

On Pentecost Sunday seven of our youth will affirm their Baptism and confirm their Christian faith, becoming adult members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church. Confirmation is an important time in a young person's life and I know our students are looking forward to it. Over the past two years they've been a wonderful group to work with. Together we've navigated the pandemic, Zoom lessons, and wearing masks during in-person gatherings. They've learned about the Bible, the Lutheran tradition, and what it means to be a person of faith. And while Confirmation might seem like an end, the thing they'll soon realize is that Confirmation is much more like a beginning. It's the beginning of relating to God and the church in new ways.

Confirmation doesn't mean you've "graduated" from church. Confirmation doesn't mean you now have all the answers. Confirmation doesn't mean you've reached a point where it's time to stop learning about God and the Christian life. What Confirmation does mean is that you are saying you're happy you're baptized. Confirmation means you want to keep exploring the questions of life, meaning, and God. Confirmation is all about going on the further journey: one that's less structured than before, and where the Holy Spirit leads the way. Some of our students may not be back for a while. They may need to wander a bit before coming home. They may need to venture out and explore what it means to be human in other ways before they return to the faith they were raised in. Others may find new strength in coming to church and find deeper fulfillment in youth group, worship, or teaching Sunday School. Whatever the case, I know God will be with them.

Please keep our Confirmands in your prayers wherever life leads them in the coming years. And may you renew your own sense of discovery and devotion as you continue to explore these same questions of life, God, and the meaning of it all.

Blessings to you this month, *Pastor Brian*

### SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

On Sunday June 19th we will have one worship service at 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary; this will continue throughout the summer. June 12th will be our final day of two services at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

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

**NEW MEMBER SUNDAY** Please join us on Sunday, June 19 at 9 a.m. as we welcome several new members to St. Matthew. Coffee hour and refreshments will follow!

### 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.*



### **ADULT FORUM**

Adult forum will not meet on Pentecost, Sunday June 5th. Pastor Sandi will lead a transition discussion during forum on Sunday June 12th. That will be our final adult forum of the program year, as we move to one service at 9:00 the following Sunday, June 19th. However, there will be a special adult forum sometime this summer when Pastor Brian presents his dissertation research.

### **CENTERING PRAYER**

Centering Prayer group continues to meet every Wednesday at 5:00PM 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** We will have our final men's breakfast of the program year on Saturday, June 18th at 8:30 a.m. We will take off the months of July and August and resume our monthly breakfasts in September. We will discuss readings from Richard Rohr's book *On the Threshold of Transformation: Daily Meditations for Men*.



### **BIBLE STUDY**

Bible Study will meet in-person on Thursday, June 2nd and June 16th at 10:00 a.m. in the Hall of the Evangelists. A Zoom option is also available; please contact Pastor Brian if you'd like to join via Zoom instead.

### **CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

- \* The Transition Team had their first meeting in early May. Work on preparing the CAT began and the congregation will be notified about how to complete the survey. Everyone's voice is important! To keep up with the work of this committee, check out the website, which now has a dedicated page for transition updates.
- \* The Stewardship committee and Council approved up to \$1,700 of the Thrivent Choice Restricted funds to purchase 14 new, lightweight tables for the Hall of the Evangelists.



### **PASTORAL TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE**

The St. Matthew Pastoral Transition Team was formed and met 3 times in May. The process begins with the Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT) survey and other, less formal, methods to gather input from members and others who attend worship. This effort culminates with the creation of a new Ministry Site Profile (MSP) document. The MSP is the method the synod will use to present St. Matthew to potential ministry candidates. The team has engaged with Holy Cow, the service provider that administers the survey, and we expect to go live on or about June 12 for an anticipated 3-week survey collection period. SMLC families will receive several communications about the process, beginning with a postal mail letter (before June 12), as well as a Constant Contact email communication. The team also encourages you to visit [www.stmatthewavon.org/transition](http://www.stmatthewavon.org/transition) where we will update our progress and solicit your input.

The team has 3 initiatives "in-flight": the CAT survey, the MSP writing effort, and the SMLC member communications work. The Transition Team members are: Anne Fenn, Amy Parchen, Kris Pearson, Dan Tuve, Ben Wright (chair & council liaison), and Sharon Yanke. The team is assisted by our Interim Transition Pr. Sandra D'Amico, our synod contact Pr. Sara Anderson, and we are grateful for the unflagging support of Diane Oates! We ask for your prayers that the Holy Spirit may guide us and inform our work.



### **PROPERTY COMMITTEE THANK YOU!**

The Property Committee held our 137th annual property Clean-Up Day on May 14! We made quite a dent in the underbrush on the North side, as well as window washing, garden clean up and flagpole painting, thanks to the efforts of Fred & Anne Fenn, Perry Hasson, John Pearson, Jack Pietrick, Carol Reider, Beth Wilson, Ben Wright, Travis Wright, Pastor Brian, and Roy Zurell.

**REOPENING TASK FORCE**

The Reopening Task Force (RTF) will continue to monitor the Covid infection data for the State of Connecticut and make recommendations accordingly. At this time:

- ◆ Masks are not required for worship or any other events.
- ◆ Social distancing is no longer required.
- ◆ Groups may gather in the Hall of the Evangelists for fellowship, meetings, and other gatherings.
- ◆ Beverages may be served
- ◆ If food is to be served, pre-packaged food is preferable, but not required.

We appreciate everyone's continued patience through this long and trying time of Covid.

**SAVE THE DATES**

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH  
INVITES YOU TO OUR

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

*Gallery Walk*

|   |  |
|---|--|
| • 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         |

Refreshments will be provided. This event is free and open to the public, so invite your friends and neighbors!

⇒ **Sunday, June 12:** Annual Church Picnic, following the 11:00 a.m. worship service.



**Sign-up requested.** Join us for food, fellowship and fun! The picnic will be outside, weather permitting, inside if not. We will be serving traditional picnic foods - burgers, hot dogs, salads, desserts and beverages. There will be games and activities for all. Ask a friend to come along - all are welcome! No need to bring anything. **A sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board outside the church office, to help us with a head count, or you may sign up [here](#).** If you decide to come at the last minute, please join us!

⇒ **Saturday, September 17:** 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!** Details and sign-up coming soon!

**GOOD THINGS:**

- ✠ Pastor Sandi joined St. Matthew May 1st and May 22nd and led adult forum in a community conversation. The Transition Committee has had several meetings and the process is moving forward.
- ✠ Five students received their First Communion on Sunday, May 8th. Congratulations to Caitlin Byrne, Dahlia Codispoti, Devin Cody, Jack Siana, Matthew Yanke and their families!
- ✠ Members of St. Matthew hosted a rest stop for a youth bicycle race on Saturday, May 7th. Thank you to all who donated water or snacks and to those who volunteered to help hand it out!
- ✠ Members of St. Matthew joined together the morning of Saturday, May 14th for property's spring cleanup day. Thank you, Ben Wright and Roy Zurell, for your leadership. We got a lot done and thanks to everyone who attended!
- ✠ Dr. Bill Richards, researcher from Johns Hopkins and a member of Pastor Brian's dissertation committee, came to St. Matthew May 14-15th. His lecture Saturday evening was well attended with about 40 people. A few joined via Zoom and the lecture was also recorded. The following morning Dr. Richards led adult forum with a less formal, just as interesting, discussion.

**God is good. All the time!**

| Sun  | Mon                         | Tue                               | Wed  | Thu  | Fri   | Sat  |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| <b>June 2022</b>   |                             |                                   |  |  |   |  |
| Notes:   |                             |                                   | 1<br>5:00 Centering Prayer                       | 2<br>10:00 Bible Study<br><br>7:00 Transition Team | 3<br>11:00 Rick Krompegal funeral   | 4 11:00 Richard Hines Memorial Service<br><br>5:00 Confirmation Walk-Through |
| 5 Pentecost<br>8:30 Sanctuary Communion Service<br>11:00 Outdoor Worship - Confirmation Celebration<br>2:00 Gallery Walk   | 6<br>7:00 Finance Committee | 7<br>7:00 Church Council          | 8<br>2:00 Staff Meeting<br>5:00 Centering Prayer | 9  | 10  | 11   |
| 12<br>8:30 Sanctuary Communion Service-Pastor Sandi<br>9:45 Adult Forum-Transition Discussion with Pastor Sandi<br>11:00 Sanctuary Communion Service-Pastor Sandi<br>12:00 Church Picnic | 13                          | 14 Flag Day<br>2:00 Staff Meeting | 15 VOICE Deadline<br><br>5:00 Centering Prayer   | 16<br>10:00 Bible Study                            | 17  | 18<br>8:30 Men's Breakfast   |
| 19<br>9:00 Sanctuary Communion Service & New Member Sunday   | 20 Office Closed            | 21 Office Closed                  | 22 Office Closed<br>5:00 Centering Prayer        | 23 Office Closed                                   | 24 Office Closed  | 25   |
| 26<br>9:00 Sanctuary Communion Service   | 27                          | 28<br>2:00 Staff Meeting          | 29<br>5:00 Centering Prayer                      | 30   |  |  |

June 2022

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



To St. Matthew's Lutheran Church,

Your very generous \$2000 donation to the Simsbury Loan Locker is such an amazing gift. As you know, we don't charge for our services but occasionally supplies and/or parts are needed. Your donation will definitely be put to good use.

The volunteers and the entire loan locker community we serve, thank you for your thoughtfulness and kindness. We hope you spread the word of our presence in the community.

Thank you again,

Janie Wallace

volunteer



**SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY OF FARMINGTON, INC.**

COMMUNITY AND SENIOR CENTER  
321 New Britain Avenue • Unionville, CT 06085  
Telephone: (860) 673-1441

May 16, 2022

Reverend Brian Rajcok  
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church  
224 Lovely Street  
Avon, CT 06001

Dear Reverend Rajcok,

Thank you for your very generous donation of \$2,000.00 to Services for the Elderly of Farmington. We are so grateful to churches such as St. Matthew Lutheran for choosing us to share your endowment with us. We feel so blessed!

Services for the Elderly of Farmington's mission is "to assist older citizens with maintaining their desired home lifestyle relative to their meals, transportation, socialization, home medical equipment and maintenance". Services for the Elderly was established in 1965 by two Farmington women, Hope Emery and Dorothy Sinclair, who saw the need to help the seniors in our community. Our small nonprofit, 501(c) (3), provides Meals on Wheels, Congregate Meals, Medical Transportation, Friendly Shopping, a Medical Equipment Program, a "Forget-Me-Not" program, and an AARP Tax Assistance program. This organization works with over 140 volunteers who generously give up their time to make a difference in the life of a senior.

Please know that your gift will make a difference in the lives of countless seniors and their families across the Farmington Valley area.

Thank you again for your charitable donation to Services for the Elderly of Farmington.

Respectfully,

Missy Anthony  
Executive Director

---

Donation Receipt-Keep for your records

Name: Saint Matthew Lutheran Church  
Organization: Services for the Elderly of Farmington, Inc.  
Date Received: 5/16/2022  
Contribution: \$2,000.00 (Check # 2851386567)

No goods or services were provided in exchange for your contribution.

WWW.FARMINGTONSENIORS.ORG • SERVICES@FARMINGTONSENIORS.ORG

A 501 (C) (3) CORPORATION