



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

### SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### October 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Communion Service  
10:15 a.m. Grief Support Group  
10:15 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Forum

#### October 2

11:15 a.m. Blessing of the Animals

#### 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  
Sarah Schiener, Director of Music  
Paul Martin, 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

October is traditional harvest time in the Northern Hemisphere. Our ancestors celebrated this time of year as they gathered the year's bounty from their fields. Many cultures, when harvesting crops, had ceremonies to celebrate all the blessings God had given them during a successful year of farming. This October it feels a bit like we are reaping the harvest of hard work put in over the past two and a half years. It is a good feeling to be meeting for in-person Sunday School again. It is a good feeling to have live-stream equipment and the option of outdoor worship at the ready. It is a good feeling to have new staffing positions filled. It is a good feeling have the MSP completed, the call committee formed, and the congregation primed to call a new senior pastor. This congregation has undergone both the hard work of the pandemic and of a pastoral transition—and the time is ripe for harvesting!



This month you will receive a letter in which we will invite you to make a stewardship pledge to St. Matthew for the coming year. Our stewardship theme this year is "Our Daily Bread". The theme invites us to reflect on the nourishment God has provided each of us in our personal lives and the nourishment God has provided us collectively as a congregation. It invites us to consider how we might share from the bounty the Lord has provided each of us to enhance our life together in this congregation we all love. Please consider what your stewardship pledge for 2023 will be and ask for God's guidance and discernment in making that financial commitment. Together the family of faith at St. Matthew is well positioned to make a positive impact in many lives in the Farmington Valley. To be a place where Christians of all ages are able to grow in faith and love for God and one another. To be a community dedicated to digging deep, reaching out, and changing lives. I hope you will pray about your stewardship pledge and how you can contribute to the bountiful harvest happening in the life of this wonderful congregation. Blessings to you this month!



- 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**



- The Church Council officially adopted the Ministry Site Profile and submitted it to the synod. The Council, Transition Committee and the Call Committee met with Pastor Sara and reviewed the next steps in the process. Once the Call Committee recommends a candidate to the Church Council, and that person is approved, a Congregational meeting will be scheduled for Call vote weekend. Please keep the Call Committee in your prayers in the coming weeks and months as they complete this important work.
- Be sure to stop by the office and say hello our new Office Administrator, Paul Martin and greet our new Music Director, Sarah Schiener.
- As we head into the fall, many programs are starting up again. Watch for announcements and get involved! If you have an idea for an event or program, speak with anyone on council to find out how you

## **PASTORAL TRANSITION**

### **TRANSITION CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The St. Matthew Pastoral Transition Team has completed its work. The Ministry Site Profile (MSP) document has been submitted to the NE Synod, and so the work of the Call Committee can begin in anticipation of pastoral candidates. A copy of the MSP will be on file in the office and may be reviewed in-person if desired by congregation members.

For additional information on the transition process, please feel free to visit the transition page on our website (<https://www.stmatthewavon.org/transition>).

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS**

We ended the summer on budget for offering income, which, combined with lower expenses has helped us stay on track with our net income so far this year. We hope that in this Stewardship season, your generosity will continue in order to support St. Matthew's ministry. Thank you!

### **BLESSINGS OF THE ANIMALS**

On **Sunday October 2nd** St. Matthew will have a blessing of the animals at **11:15 a.m.** on our front lawn. Following morning service you will have time to go home and return with your pets for a special blessing. You may also bring a picture of your beloved animal if riding in the car is not possible. Invite your friends and neighbors and their pets as well!



### **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!

### **TRUNK OR TREAT**

St. Matthew will be hosting a Trunk or Treat event on Friday October 28<sup>th</sup> 6:30—7:30 p.m.. We are currently looking for volunteers to fill their trunks with candy for our guests. Contact Pastor Brian or the church office if you'd like to participate. Also, help spread the word by inviting children from our community to join in on the fun!

### **CONFIRMATION**

Confirmation is being held Sunday evenings 5:00—6:00 p.m. and Monday evenings 7:00—8:00 p.m.. The same material will be covered during both meeting times. Our first meeting was September 18th and 19th. We have 16 students enrolled in confirmation this year and we look forward to a great year!

**THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY**

Thursday morning Bible study is back in session! In October we'll meet Thursday Oct. 6th and Oct. 20th at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room. 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, October 15th 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 IS BACK!!!**

From September through December, SMLC is offering a variety of programs for Adult Forum.

As children head off to Sunday School, adults are invited to meet in the Gathering Space at 10:15 for coffee, refreshments, and a program.

Below is a list of some of our speakers and topics. We hope you find these intriguing!

- ✦ Short film clip on a series called "The Bible Project" – conversation to follow
- ✦ Reading and discussion of excerpts from Richard Rohr's book, *Yes, And...*
- ✦ George and Carol Reider presenting slides from their African trip – (fact: there are more Lutherans in Tanzania than there are in the U.S.)
- ✦ 17th century American poetry and its relevance to scripture – Anne Fenn
- ✦ Pastor Brian sharing his dissertation work
- ✦ Sarah Lindquist and Cole Liljedahl – Camp Calumet
- ✦ Ann Eberhard, Ron Howard, Ernie Jaschinski on St. Matthew's church history
- ✦ Our veterans' faith journeys
- ✦ Pastor Brian – Reformation and Martin Luther

We hope you will join us, live and in-person, to gather, enjoy food and fellowship, and reconnect with your SMLC family.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

We had a great Rally Day on September 25th! Thank you all who attended, and thank you to our teachers: Margaret Byrne, Lanelle Gallo, Kelly O'Connell, Beth Wilson, and Steve Wilson. Sunday School classes are 10:15—11:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Our Pre-K classroom is offering "Catechesis of the Good Shepherd," a Montessori-inspired curriculum. Our older two classes, 1st-3rd and 4th-6th are using Dig-In's "Life of Jesus" curriculum. If you missed Rally Day but would still like to join Sunday School please come anytime!

**JOURNEY THROUGH GRIEF TOGETHER**

St. Matthew is holding a gathering for those in need of grief support or who may be interested in helping provide support from their own experiences. Grief can be present from the loss of a loved one, in the wake of a divorce or other life-altering situations. If you feel the need for support or are interested in helping in this worthy mission, please join us after worship on the five Sundays in October from 10:15—11:15 a.m. (or longer if needed) in the Conference Room. For more information, please contact Ellen Ericson, 860-305-4996 or the church office at 860-673-3301.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>October 2022</b>						1
2 9:00 Sanctuary Communion Service 10:15 Grief Support Group 10:15 Sunday School & Adult Forum 11:15 Blessing of the Animals 5:00 Confirmation	3  7:00 Confirmation	4	5 9:30 WW Meeting  5:00 Centering Prayer 5:15 WW Meeting	6 10:00 Bible Study	7	8
9 9:00 Sanctuary Communion Service 10:15 Grief Support Group 10:15 Sunday School & Adult Forum	10 Columbus Day Indigenous People's Day  7:00 Finance Committee	11  7:00 Avon Land Trust 7:00 Church Council	12 9:30 WW Meeting  5:00 Centering Prayer 5:15 WW Meeting	13	14	15 VOICE Deadline  Confirmation Service Event
16 9:00 Sanctuary Communion Service 10:15 Grief Support Group 10:15 Sunday School & Adult Forum 5:00 Confirmation	17  7:00 Confirmation	18	19 9:30 WW Meeting  5:00 Centering Prayer 5:15 WW Meeting	20 10:00 Bible Study	21	22
23 9:00 Sanctuary Communion Service & Holy Baptism 10:15 Grief Support Group 10:15 Sunday School & Adult Forum	24  7:00 Confirmation	25	26 9:30 WW Meeting  5:00 Centering Prayer 5:15 WW Meeting	27	28	29
30 9:00 Sanctuary Communion Service 10:15 Grief Support Group 10:15 Sunday School & Adult Forum	31 Halloween					

October 2022

