



SAINT MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH
224 LOVELY STREET, ROUTE 177, AVON, CONNECTICUT 06001-4018

The Rev. Julie Reuning-Scherer, Pastor

(860) 673-3301
www.stmatthewavon.org

2018 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

JANUARY 27, 2019

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer with Pastor Julie
2. Recognition of a Quorum (10% of 578 Confirmed Members = 58)
3. Call to Order and Acceptance of Agenda
4. Report of Nominating Committee – Amy Parchen, Sheila Jarka, Joe Pelehach
5. Elections for Church Council
6. Presentation of Report Highlights
 - a. President – Bill Parchen
 - b. Financial Secretary – Deb Brodeur
 - c. Treasurer – Debbie Steinberg
7. Business
 - a. 2019 Endowment Proposal – David Kraft
 - b. 2019 Budget Proposal – Kathy Alsgaard
 - c. Appoint 2019 Nominating Committee
 - d. Council approval of 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes
 - e. Other Business
 - f. Recognitions and Acknowledgements – Pastor Julie
8. Adjournment and Closing Prayer – Pastor Brian

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Annual Congregational Meeting, January 27, 2019

St. Matthew Lutheran Church is a worshipping congregation challenged by God to be an inviting community and to serve others through our Christian faith and our resources.

This past year has seen continued growth and evolution for the people of St. Matthew. Our ministries are varied, robust, and reflect our love of Christ and our commitment to his mission here on Earth. Throughout this year God's presence has been made abundantly clear as we walk with him together on the path laid before us. His blessings are many.

As I conclude my second year as Church Council President, I want to recognize the meaningful contributions that all of us have made to our mission. There are too many people to recognize individually because the ministries of St. Matthew are made possible by the many, not the few. The educators, the worship leaders and attendants, the singers, the musicians, the acolytes, the ushers, the greeters, the Call Committee members, the administrators, the leaders, the coffee makers, the care-takers, the committee members, and all of us are a part of the complex and beautiful tapestry that is St. Matthew. Thank you one and all for your partnership in Christ.

It has also been my honor to serve with our Council and I thank them for their hard work and devotion to this congregation. I want to offer thanks to our Vice President, Melissa Lindquist, our Treasurer, Debbie Steinberg, and our Council Secretary, Louise Talotta, for their hard work. I also want to acknowledge and thank our outgoing Council members Harry Schuh, David Newberry, Jill Brunetti, and Louise Talotta.

Please join me in acknowledging the blessing of Pastor Bill's and Michelle Horsley-Parker's ministries here at St. Matthew. Although Pastor Bill and Michelle are no longer serving at St. Matthew, we all remain connected in the larger body of Christ and share our faith together.

I want to recognize our staff; Terri Bendell, Roy Zurell, Taylor and Madison Blades for their dedication, dependability, and commitment. It is their work that provides the foundation for so many other things to be built upon. Thank you!

Looking forward into 2019, we are all excited to have Dick Silbereis and Pastor Brian join our family. The gifts you bring and the love you share will enrich and fortify our worship and our ministries. Thank you!

Finally, I want to acknowledge Pastor Julie's ministry here at St. Matthew. It has been a joy to work with her over the past two years and learn and grow from her leadership. A couple of Sunday's prior, her sermon centered on the message that each person matters, and specifically that each person matters to God. I think that message also describes what I have seen Pastor Julie emphasize in her ministry. That each of us have a ministry in all that we do. That each of us contribute, each of us is important, and that each of us matter, and that she is here to help us explore and share that ministry together. Thank you, Pastor Julie!

Yours in Christ,

Bill Parchen, Council President

2018 PASTORAL ACTS

BAPTISMS

Sage Noelle Perillo

WEDDINGS

FUNERALS

Pauline Robinson

Carolyn Staub

William Grunewald

Tracy Bonini

Barbara Holtkamp

Ewald Yekel

Robert Brown

ADULT MEMBERS RECEIVED

Kari-Elise Codispoti (Clara, Dahlia, & Eliza)

Justine & Dwight Drefs (Adam & Claire)

Sandy LeBel

MEMBERS TRANSFERRED OUT

Dorothy & Dwayne Witter

CONFIRMED

Alexa Bonini

Charlotte Ferrone

Sarah Lindquist

Shelby Proto

Peter Siana

Lead Pastor's Report

*Prepare your work outside, get everything ready for you in the field; and after that build your house.
Proverbs 24:27.*

Last year in my annual report, I stated that 2017 was a year of getting acquainted. If I were to characterize 2018, I would say it has been a year of getting organized.

First and foremost, this has been a year trained on getting our permanent staff in place. After months of study, our congregation voted last January to fund a full-time program staff person to engage younger generations. We formed a Call/Search Committee in February and in June began to interview lay candidates. As we interviewed, a new candidate emerged: a pastor with our skill set wishing to return to Connecticut after working three years as an Associate Pastor in Pennsylvania. After many months of praying, interviewing, and finally preaching for the entire congregation, in October we called Pastor Brian Rajcok to be our Associate Pastor. Thank you to the members of the call committee; Melissa Bender, Margaret Byrne, Mark Coslett, Fred Fenn, Sheila Jarka, Kelly O'Connell, Bill Parchen, Joe Pelehach, Pastor Julie, Kurt Saenger-Heyl and Debbie Steinberg, chair, for seeing this project through its many unexpected twists and turns!

With the new pastor on the horizon, Pastor Bill White completed his ministry with us the first Sunday in November. Pastor Bill's ministry focusing on pastoral care, adult forum, and worship was a gift to our congregation. Though the job was planned at the outset to be part time and limited in duration, Pastor's Bill's gifts in teaching, leadership, and congregational care supported our ministry a great deal in this 'getting organized' time. I am deeply grateful for his partnership.

At the same time we were interviewing for our second full time position, we were also in transition in our Director of Music position. Michelle Horsley Parker announced her departure in June, and in the two months before her departure, we formed a Musician Search Committee, who finally chose Dick Silbereis. I am grateful for the creativity, inspiration, and genuine soul Michelle brought to her music and leadership in the congregation. Now Dick is bringing his own sense of artistry and spirituality to our worship, working with children and adults alike to prepare music to lift our hearts to God each week. I am thankful for Jack Pietrick, chair, and the members of the Search committee; David Betsch, April Brodeur-Fitts, Meredith Trimble, and Roy Zurell for their insightful and efficient work.

Our communications as a congregation also underwent development this year. We enhanced our Sunday bulletin with a new format, which is not only user friendly, but also communicates context about scripture and music, as well as providing updates in the life of the congregation. We added a Ministry Fair and a subsequent Ministry of the Month table in the Gathering Space to highlight outreach ministries and committees in the church. On Thursday evenings in the summer and on selected Sunday mornings this fall, parishioners shared faith stories, encouraging conversation between parishioners as well as one-way communication from the pulpit. One-on-one visioning coaching with Charlie Ericson and Louise Talotta, both experts on visioning in the corporate world, has helped me to lead a council retreat and prepare to involve the broader congregation in the coming year to establish our congregation's mission for the next 3-5 years.

In addition to all this preparation work, our congregation continued with its ongoing ministries, as we welcomed new members, raised funds for the hunger ministries in the 30 Hour Famine, sponsored the

annual 5K, hosted the Friday meal at Grace with 40 volunteers, supported the faith development of children and adults on Sunday morning, laid on hands in healing prayer, provided fellowship events with food and music, and many other ministries too numerous to name. We launched a new young adult group and the began wearing name tags to know one another better. St. Matthew is a wonderful place to be!

All of this would not be possible without the dedication of our talented staff, Terri Bendell, Roy Zurell, Dick Silbereis, Pastor Brian, and nursery attendants Taylor and Madison Blades, as well as the wisdom and hard work of our lay leadership. I am especially grateful to God for our executive committee, Bill Parchen, Missy Lindquist, Debbie Steinberg and Louise Talotta, as well as property chair Ben Wright, who has gone above beyond the call of duty in working to get our parsonage back in full repair. It is a great blessing to be serving among these leaders and all of members of this gifted congregation! I am eager to see where the Holy Spirit will lead us in the coming year.

Pastor Julie

Associate Pastor Report 2018

"I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers" -Ephesians 1:16

Thank you all for such a warm welcome to St. Matthew! I am excited to begin ministry at this congregation and to be a part of your lives. Thank you for calling me as your Associate Pastor and for the loving welcome you have given me. I'm looking forward to settling in and am excited about what adventures we'll encounter together in 2019!

Blessings,

Pastor Brian

2018 Music Director's Report

It was my pleasure and privilege to become the music director at St. Matthew Lutheran Church on September 1, after a series of interviews and an audition. Pastor Julie and the search committee, with their welcoming and intelligent approach, represented the church community well. It has been a joy for me to work with Pastor and other professional staff members, and, of course, with our many gifted and generous parish musicians, both vocal and instrumental.

Music is many things. I certainly see it as a language which communicates deep meaning. In the choice of hymns, as well as choral and instrumental music, I always try to identify texts and music that express the depths of our encounter with the Sacred. I also aim to co-ordinate the musical elements with the focus of each service's theme and message, and to honor the rich spiritual character of each liturgical season. In addition, I try to thread each service together with a unifying musical theme that subtly can draw out the liturgy's dynamic shape and impart an underlying sense of order, beauty, and peace. I try to lift up some of this in notes on the music which are printed in the service leaflet from time to time.

In my work with the choir, I emphasize that a parish choir is akin to a monastic choir, which regularly and intentionally engages in sacred song as a core element of spiritual life, and whose primary audience is almighty God. The church musician's work is a form of prayer; everyone else (e.g., the congregation) just listens in. In choir rehearsal we, of course, spend time focusing on basic vocal technique and fundamental musicianship. But my chief aim is to provide the choir with texts and music that they can sing with artistic and spiritual integrity, and that enrich their ongoing life and conversation with God.

I thank the choir for their generous and unflagging devotion to the weekly worship of God. I thank the instrumentalists who have so greatly enhanced our worship on a regular basis. I thank Meredith Trimble for her musical leadership with the Sunday School and youth.

A special musical effort was made for the following services:

- Oct. 28: Reformation Sunday.
Music of J.S. Bach with organ and saxophone
- Nov. 18: Peter Jones' *Gloria*, sung by the Adult Choir and the Sunday School
- Nov. 25: Feast of Christ the King.
Music of the Reformation in early Baroque arrangements for choir and wind ensemble
- Dec. 23 A Festive Service of Lessons and Carols, at both Sunday services
- Dec. 24 Christmas music for harp and woodwinds (at the 5:30 and 7:30 services)
Music for choir and organ, with an expanded choir (10:30 service)

Lastly, I have asked the Worship and Music Committee to consider some material aspects of the parish's musical life:

- 1). The organ is in need of some modest tonal work. There are a couple of stops which frankly have a somewhat aggressive tone, and which need to be softened. These particular stops are required to play the music of Bach, for instance; but are unusable without some modification.
- 2). The acoustical environment of the church is overly absorbent. Here again, some modest modifications would enhance the sound of the organ, project the choir's tone more naturally, and, most importantly, enliven the congregation's contribution to worship.

Richard Silbereis
Director of Music

FINANCE COMMITTEE

St. Matthew Lutheran Church is a dynamic congregation and because of the generous giving of our parishioners, we continue to thrive and do God's work. Thank you to all of you for your gifts!

Highlights from 2018:

- Total operating income for 2018 was \$381,826.
- We ended the year with a small surplus of \$445.63.
- Communication Tower revenue increased slightly this year to \$31,496.
- Facility Use had an increase primarily due to Weight Watchers. Total facility use was \$11,945.
- Thrivent Choice Gifts of \$1,854 were received in 2018. These contributions are charitable gifts of Thrivent Financial directed to St. Matthew by members who have Thrivent insurance financial products.
- We contributed \$33,000 to Mission support for the New England Synod and ELCA.
- The congregation provided \$4,808 to World Hunger and Lutheran World Relief.
- Memorials received \$10,104 in contributions throughout the year.
- Outreach Ministries continued to provide meals to Grace Lutheran Church for their community food program. \$927 was provided by our congregation, and volunteers helped to serve meals.
- ELCA Disaster Response was provided with \$2,500 through Endowment.
- The May Madness project netted \$12,000 split 4 ways for additional charities.

The Finance Committee continues to oversee the Sunday offering counting. Deb Brodeur serves as the Finance Secretary developing the monthly income report, and handles the counting process, people and reporting. Many thanks to Deb for all her work and commitment! We would also like to thank the other counters, George & Lisa Spoering, Peggy Beauregard, Lil Baruffi, Pat LaPierre, and all the council members who have so diligently assisted in this task.

The Finance Committee meets the first Monday of the month at 7 pm. Serving on our Finance Committee this year were Lil & Rick Baruffi, Dave Erb, Kathy Alsgaard, Deb Brodeur, Dawne Ware, Pat LaPierre, Debbie Steinberg, Sheila Jarka, and Pastor Julie. Debbie Steinberg serves as our Treasurer and has done a wonderful job at paying our bills and other expenses and aligning with Deb Brodeur on the income report. Thanks, Debbie, for your commitment to St. Matthew!

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen M. Alsgaard
Chairperson

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Income Report for 2018

	Envelopes	Plate	Tower & Building Facility Use	Fund (OCPF)	Memorials	Other Income	Reimburse- ments	Hunger / LWR	Total
Accrued '18	12,560								12,560
January	19,815	2,035	3,456	35	580	381	430	343	27,075
February	20,855	3,245	3,581	90	195	168	441	179	28,754
March	22,575	3,262	3,481	645	1,445	15,525	1,050	456	48,439
April	30,732	5,970	3,381	50	3,647	528	2,330	718	47,355
May	22,071	1,975	3,581	55	1,000	15,076	4,907	424	49,089
June	18,452	1,495	3,520	145	20	0	1,435	329	25,396
July	24,671	3,714	3,608	140	0	32,344	1,425	413	66,315
August	17,136	7,318	3,808	45	485	0	1,299	158	30,249
September	21,388	3,774	4,228	100	100	111	100	425	30,226
October	24,178	9,359	1,025	145	125	5,800	1,040	362	42,034
November	19,819	2,869	3,658	55	2,160	55	740	512	29,868
December	32,618	6,424	6,116	220	347	3,600	3,162	489	52,976
Accrued '19									-9,400
Total Year	286,870	51,440	43,441	1,725	10,104	73,588	18,359	4,808	480,934

Comments

Tower Income \$31,496 and Facility use was \$11,945.

Other Income:

- \$30,000 - March and May from Endowment
- \$32,334 - July Insurance Payment for the claim on the parsonage
- \$9,400 - October and December is prepaid 2019 pledge
- \$1,854 - Thrivent Choice

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Brodeur
Financial Secretary

Saint Matthew Lutheran Church – Summary Financial Information for the Year Ended December 31, 2018

Submitted by: Deborah Steinberg, Treasurer	2018 Actual	2018 Budget				2017 Actual
Operating Income	381,825.59	435,650.00				405,301.35
Expenses:						
Church Life/Outreach:						
Mission Support	33,000.00	36,150.00				35,054.00
Worship and Music	8,901.56	8,900.00				9,504.83
Youth	533.28	1,800.00				401.52
Committees	6,358.99	7,850.00				7,045.43
Miscellaneous	871.86	800.00				624.19
Staff and Office:						
Office	14,468.05	18,100.00				13,777.26
Senior Pastor	97,278.22	97,300.00				87,980.25
Associate Pastor	0.00	45,000.00				2,010.78
Additional Part-time Pastor	12,899.63	13,200.00				9,473.76
Staff	87,060.25	91,750.00				81,504.57
Building and Unbudgeted:						
Property	47,515.98	45,450.00				46,034.10
Insurance	24,685.04	22,250.00				20,356.09
Loan Payments	47,088.00	47,100.00	Loan Bal. at YE	\$332,555.60		47,088.00
Unbudgeted	719.10	0.00				0.00
Total Expenses	381,379.96	435,650.00				360,854.78
Net	445.63	0.00				44,446.57
Cash Reconciliation						
People's United Bank	Bal. @ 1/1/18	Receipts	Disbursements	Int. & 1/1 AJEs	ADJs & CFs	Bal. @ 12/31/18
Cash on Hand	162,633.02	477,774.40	(505,542.53)	74.91		134,939.80
Endowment Fund	0.00	30,000.00	(28,500.00)		(1,500.00)	0.00
Memorial Fund	24,585.56	10,103.65	(9,935.67)			24,753.54
Music	1,546.00	0.00	(400.00)			1,146.00
Hunger/LWR	0.00	4,808.25	(4,808.25)			0.00
Holdover Pledges for 19/18	12,560.00	9,400.00	0.00	(12,560.00)		9,400.00
Communication Tower Tithe	3,000.00	0.00	(3,000.00)			0.00
Women's Wkend at Calumet	0.00	0.00	0.00		(110.00)	(110.00)
Holdover Pr's Disc. Fund	800.00	0.00	0.00	(800.00)	1,100.00	1,100.00
Holdover Youth	4,123.14	0.00	0.00		2,942.19	7,065.33
Outreach/GRACE	650.75	0.00	0.00	(650.75)	2,086.50	2,086.50
Thrivent Choice Receipts	8,586.00	1,854.00	(9,000.00)			1,440.00
Oper. Fuel-'17 Christmas Gift	1,495.00	0.00	0.00	(1,495.00)		0.00
Continuing Ed CF from '17	1,825.00	0.00	0.00	(1,825.00)		0.00
Ongoing Capital Projects	47,777.75	1,725.00	0.00			49,502.75
OCP - Expenditures	(15,355.10)	0.00	(5,413.75)		(1,552.69)	(22,321.54)
Parsonage Repairs-Receipts	0.00	32,333.86	0.00			32,333.86
Prsnge Rprs-Expenditures	0.00	0.00	(31,889.03)			(31,889.03)
Kitchen Rehab (from OCP)	11,052.16	0.00	(12,604.85)		1,552.69	(0.00)
Set Aside for Future Staffing	15,000.00	0.00	0.00			15,000.00
Net Cash: Operating Fund	44,986.76	387,549.64	(399,990.98)	17,405.66	(4,518.69)	45,432.39
	Bal. @ 1/1/18	Receipts	Disbursements	AJEs	TRANSFERS	Bal. @ 12/31/18
On-going Capital Projects (OCP)	32,422.65	1,725.00	(6,966.44)			27,181.21
Parsonage Repairs	0.00	32,333.86	(31,889.03)			444.83

NOTE: The Church Council and the Finance Committee have reviewed and approved this Summary Statement and the Detailed Information that supports this data.

Adult Education, 2018

A series of special guests in the beginning of 2018 were featured: Pastor Ramy Marcos, a student from Egypt at the Hartford Seminary, who presentation focused on Christianity in Egypt; David Dion, highlighting the ministries and connections of the New England Synod of the ELCA; and Susan Pribyson, Executive Director of Gifts of Love in Avon, who outlined that ministry which is supported by St. Matthew. Five Sundays during Lent featured a focus on the topic of forgiveness, in response to requests from participants, based on the book, *What's So Amazing About Grace?* by Philip Yancey. A review of Bishop Hazelwood's document, 'The Church Is Not Dying but Being Born Again,' highlighted the Bishop's perspective on the significant changes within the Lutheran Church in New England and in the Christian Church as a whole. The spring season concluded with a favorite focus, Bible study.

A study of a few of the numerous categories in the Gospel of Luke was the highlight of the last season before Advent, which included the special Call Weekend when we met Pastor Brian. Music Director, Dick Silbereis, was a featured presenter on Luther and Bach, after which Dick played Bach's magnificent Toccata and Fugue in D minor. Studies in Advent were under the heading, Opening the Gifts of Christ. Meetings of congregational interest sometimes take place during this hour, also.

Feedback and suggestions are always welcome!

Sandy Betsch, for the Adult Education Committee

2018 Evangelism Committee Annual Report

Our committee encourages all parishioners at St. Matthew to exhibit a spirit of Evangelism with each Sunday morning greeting and each smile. During our New Member Welcome Luncheons, prospective new members consistently mention the warmth and friendliness of our congregation.

This year we held New Member Welcome Luncheons on April 29th and November 11th. During 2018, we welcomed 10 new members from 4 families into our congregation.

Our Committee continues Evangelism in the form of:

- Pictorial Directory - Thanks to Melissa Lindquist and her committee for their great work in producing a new St. Matthew Directory. Begun last year, the directories were distributed during this past year.
- A Ministry Fair was held on Sunday, March 18th. St. Matthew Ministry Committees were present at their display tables to distribute information and answer questions about their committees. The updated St. Matthew Ministry Booklet was available for distribution at the Ministry Fair.
- "The List" - Thanks to George Spoering for maintaining "The List" of visitors who attend St. Matthew and sign our Guest Book.
- Greeter Schedule - I publish a bi-monthly Greeter Schedule for our services. Thanks to all our greeters who served this year. New greeters are always welcome, especially at the 11:00 service. All that is needed is a warm smile and a firm handshake!
- "Abide in Me" (Time and Talent Sheets) – I receive these sheets from new members and then contact Committee chairs to make the chairs aware of new members' interests in serving on a St. Matthew Committee.
- Members of the congregation now have permanent name tags to wear at worship each Sunday. Thanks to Melissa Lindquist for her work in researching and obtaining the name tags, to Terri Bendell in creating the name tags, and to Dave Betsch for designing and making the beautiful name tag holder.
- Cookie Ministry - Thanks to Lisa Spoering for leading the Cookie Ministry again this year. The members of the Cookie Ministry bake and deliver delicious cookies to visitors who sign our Guest Book or fill out our visitor cards available in the pews.
- Coffee Ministry - Thanks to Suellen & Phil Rogers, who stepped down this year after many years of service leading the Coffee Ministry. Thanks to Deb Brodeur and Deb Steinberg for volunteering to co-chair this ministry.

Thanks to all the Evangelism Committee members who served in 2018: Pastor Julie, Carol Kearns, Melissa Lindquist, George Reider, Harry Schuh, George Spoering, Kurt Saenger-Heyl, and Louise Talotta.

The Evangelism Committee meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. – all are welcome!

2018 Technology Committee Annual Report

The Technology Committee falls under the auspices of the Evangelism Committee.

Thank you to Jason Lindquist for serving as St. Matthew Webmaster for our website (<http://www.stmatthewavon.org/>). Jason redesigned the website this year. Pastor Julie also updated and created new content giving our website a modern look and feel.

Thank you to Terri Bendell for serving as the Administrator of our St. Matthew Facebook page.

The Technology Committee will explore ways to expand our presence on social media in the coming year.

Thanks to the Technology Committee members who served in 2018: Terri Bendell, Pastor Julie, Carol Kearns, Jason Lindquist, Melissa Lindquist, Kurt Saenger-Heyl, Steve Smolnik, and Harry Schuh.

The Technology Committee meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. – all are welcome!

Respectfully Submitted,



Harry Schuh
Evangelism Committee Chair
Technology Committee Chair

Fellowship Annual Report – 2018

- ❖ Chili cook-off - February
- ❖ Women's Calumet retreat – April
- ❖ Kitchen Organization and clean-up - May
- ❖ Annual family picnic - June
- ❖ Rally Day - September
- ❖ Advent pottery painting family workshop – November
- ❖ Christmas caroling led by Pastor Julie – December

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Monthly Evening Readers Book Club – at church
Fellowship meetings every other month – at church

Members of Fellowship Committee: Anne Fenn, Amy Parchen, Sarah DeVito, Missy Lindquist, Karen Wright, Lisa Spoering, Megan Harriman, Gayle Murphy, Stephanie Montminy, Pastor Julie
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"Wherever two or three are gathered in My Name, there am I with them." - Matthew 18:20

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Fenn, chair

2018 Annual Meeting Report

CHURCH HISTORIANS

This is a newly established committee for the purpose of reviewing, documenting, and archiving the past 130+ years of Saint Matthew Lutheran Church. SMLC has had many exciting programs from the beginning. For example there have been anniversary celebrations with dinners, picnics (even a pig roast), “Barbara’s Babies”, book clubs, bowling groups, Greenwood Music Series, literacy program with children from Hartford, Loving Care Closet, Prayer Shawl Ministry, sewing, quilting, Rolling Hills 5K Run/Walk Race, sponsoring missionaries in foreign countries, sponsoring immigrant families new to the area, Sunday School, Youth Groups (missionary trips, bowling, camping, etc.), Vacation Bible School, etc.

This committee would like to receive news articles, photographs, etc. pertaining to SMLC’s early days and current activities that you think would be of interest to us. You may donate articles to the committee, or we would gladly copy them and return the original to you.

Please take time to review what is on display in the Carter Gathering Space. The display changes at various time during the year.

In the future we plan to digitalize SMLC’s historical records.

Members of the committee are Pastor Julie, Ann Eberhard, Shirley Hartje, Mabel Howard, Ron Howard, Ernest Jaschinski, Marion Knaple. New members are always welcome.

Mutual Ministry Committee Annual Report

The Mutual Ministry Committee is a team of Council Members who meet to affirm the mission of the Congregation and the ministry of the staff of St. Matthew Lutheran Church. This is accomplished through sharing, listening, communicating, reviewing and reflecting upon the shared ministry of the Congregation and the staff.

Among the committee’s regular duties:

- Conduct at least two meetings per year with each staff member (usually Spring and Fall) for support and evaluation.
- Provide the Finance Committee and the Church Council with compensation recommendations during the budget process.
- Facilitate positive and clear communications.
- Provide interface between the members of the Congregation and the pastors or employees, to deal with sensitive situations which might not otherwise be resolved in the normal relationship between any pastor, any individual employee and any member.
- Maintain confidentiality and sensitivity.

Six members of Council comprise the Mutual Ministry Committee. Current members include Jill Brunetti, Ann Eberhard, Kurt Saenger-Heyl, Dawne Ware, Ben Wright and Bill Parchen.

Outreach Committee Annual Report

Another year of remarkably generous support from congregational members has allowed the *Outreach Committee* to provide generous support and assistance to the communities we serve. By year end 2018 and over the past 4 years, we have now provided over 5000 meals to Hartford's *Grace Lutheran Church's Friday night community dinners*. In addition, under Pastor Julie and Sarah Burns guidance, St. Matthew members have participated in serving these meals on the fourth Friday of each month. A wonderful and insightful experience. All are invited to join in. In cooperation with the *Farmington Libraries*, *Grace Lutheran* has received hundreds of adult and children books for their *Open Shelves Program*. In celebrating our team effort with *Grace Lutheran*, we had a dinner here at St. Matthew in the spring, serving one of the dishes we prepare for *Grace's Friday evening dinners*. *Grace* and *St. Matthew* members broke bread and sang together. Our *Mitten Tree* in December provided hundreds of mittens, hats and scarves for distribution to *Gifts of Love*, *Avon* and *Hartford's Children and Families Services and Catholic Charities*. It was the largest number of items ever received. Our *Food and Back to School Collections* have provided hundreds of pounds of food and hundreds of items for local food banks and service organizations. The *Endowment Committee and Church Council*, once again, allocated \$2,500 for response to natural disasters here in the states and foreign countries.

Thank you to our committee members who provide ongoing loyal support to the above endeavors throughout the year and to all of you for your ongoing generous financial support and donations which enables our outreach activities.

Respectfully submitted,

The Outreach Committee

Jean & Jim O'Herron, Maggie Anderson-Murphy, Dwayne Witter, Ellen & Charlie Ericson, Shelley Spoering, Sheila Jarka, Ann Eberhard, Carol Kearns & Harry Schuh, Deb Brodeur, Priscilla Tablante, Sarah Burns, Sharon Yanke, Shirley Krompegal and Carol & George Reider

Prayer Shawl Ministry 2018 Annual Report

The Prayer Shawl Ministry began with a group of women who participated in the first Women's Leadership Institute at Hartford Seminary. They began knitting shawls to give to people for a variety of reasons: breast cancer and other illnesses, new mothers, loss of a loved one, etc. Shawls were made for friends, family and anyone they knew who had a need.

If you are interested in making shawls with us, come join our group at 12:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the Conference Room at St. Matthew. Those attending chat, knit or crochet for an hour, catch up on who may need a shawl and finish with devotions. If you can't make it to the church, you are welcome to participate by working at home and leaving your shawls in the church office.

Anyone may also participate in this ministry by letting Ann Eberhard, Sandy Betsch, Pastor Julie or Terri Bendell in the office know if you would like someone to receive a prayer shawl. Thank you to the many people who participated in 2018!

Annual Report of the Property Committee ~ 2018

The Property Committee oversees the maintenance and care of the St. Matthew grounds and buildings. In addition to normal operations, maintenance and repairs, the committee, from time to time, takes on projects that it may originate in response to the condition of the physical plant, to improve operational efficiency/cost, or to implement improvements that may be suggested by other committees, by congregation members, or by members of the Property Committee. Capital Projects are not typically funded in the annual property budget but are approved by the Church Council after consultation with the Endowment and Finance Committees and subject to the availability of funds. Property expenses for 2018 were \$47,516 on a budget of \$45,450. The budget overrun was due to snow removal, lawn service and increased town sewer charges. For 2019, the proposed property budget is \$61,500. This (significant) increase is due to two items. The church building is due for exterior painting (est. \$10,000), and \$7,000 has been included for Parsonage repairs as a result of deferred maintenance. Each of these items will be subject to reconsideration based on the status of income and expenses as the year progresses.

In addition to annual/recurring maintenance, some projects undertaken in 2018 included:

- ❖ In response to a heat loss analysis done by committee member, Clint Harriman, the sanctuary and the Hall of the Evangelists also received upgraded/new insulation (completing a project begun in 2017, again taking advantage of available rebate funding).
- ❖ LED lighting improvements continued in the Hall of the Evangelists, and generally whenever repair/replacement was necessary.
- ❖ A large, dead, white pine tree was removed in front of the church parking area. Three more have been identified and referred to the CT DOT (on Rt 177 right of way) and Eversource (on Greenwood Dr.).
- ❖ The Associate Pastor's office was completely repainted (thank you to Bob Hoffman!), the carpet was cleaned, and new furniture was acquired and assembled by the skilled hands of Roy Zurell and Jack Pietrick.

Parsonage Repair Project

The most significant property event of 2018 was the January failure of the heating system in the parsonage and the resulting systems and water damage to the property. The ensuing remediation, insurance claim evaluation and repair project occupied the Property Committee throughout the year. Once insurance claim approval was received, a subcommittee was established to oversee repairs. Church member Carl Foster graciously took on the role of Project Manager for the project to repair the approximately \$65,000 damage to the property. A Parsonage Strategy group was convened by Council President, Bill Parchen composed of 13 members (from the congregation as well as from Council). This group was established to provide a long-term view for the Parsonage, and immediate guidance for the decision to proceed with repairs. The repair project is nearing completion and it is anticipated that Pastor Brian will be able to take occupancy in February.

There are many people other than the Property Committee who have helped and supported this project. Especially, Pastor Julie, Bill Parchen, Tom Leonard, Debbie Steinberg, the Endowment Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Church Council. Thank you for your support and diligence!

Lastly, the committee hosted a spring clean-up of the property, which with the essential help of volunteers, keeps the property looking good all year round. As always, most of these projects could not have moved forward without the generous monetary and labor contributions of many of the Property Committee members and other parishioners including: Ben Wright (chair), Roy Zurell, Bruno Talotta, Bill Ferrigno, Clint Harriman, John Pearson, Dave Newberry, Prasad Panthagani, and Jack Pietrick. A special thank you to Roy Zurell who, in addition to his staff role as Sexton, has graciously supported Property Committee efforts by taking meeting minutes and attending to countless maintenance/repair items on his own initiative.

For 2019, the committee will continue its energy efficiency lighting and insulation efforts. We'll also work to better evaluate the effects of energy improvements on costs and manage infrastructure expenses, generally. We also plan to extend the church WIFI network to the parsonage to enable the monitoring of temperature, thermostats, smoke/fire alarms and water flow.

Finally, as our infrastructure ages, the Property Committee needs to evaluate, prioritize and plan for the eventual repair or replacement of key systems such as HVAC, etc. The committee will estimate repair/replacement costs and try to evaluate remaining system life, not for immediate budgeting, but to be prepared for the inevitable, eventual expense.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the St. Matthew Lutheran Church Property Committee.
Ben Wright ~ January 2019

Stewardship Annual Report For 2018

Our fall Stewardship Campaign, "Abide in Me" challenges us to believe "I am the vine, and you are the branches. Those who abide in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit." *John 15:5*. Financial stewardship matters. Together we have the opportunity to reflect on what it means to abide in Jesus as branches of the true vine since we are connected to God who provides all we need in everlasting supply. Our giving inspires growth and the fruits of joy, compassion, and gratitude.

This past year we focused on educating, engaging and providing opportunities for members to grow as stewards of God's work:

- 32 personal charity organizations were submitted by the congregation as part of our first 'May Madness' Giving program. Votes were cast and the 'Final Four' charities received gifts of \$3,000 each, totaling \$12,000: ELCA Disaster Response Puerto Rico, Gifts of Love, Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association and Lutheran World Relief.
- Emphasis on online giving and its increase supported greater monthly consistency of revenue.
- 'Financial Snapshots' of intended giving and pledge statuses were shared in the 'Voice'.
- Stewardship members reviewed the book, 'Ask, Pray, Tell', by Charles Lane.
- Faith Stories were shared by members at services during the fall stewardship campaign.
- Sunday school activities tied to the theme 'Abide in Me; during the Intended Giving period.
- Stewardship was one of the financial areas represented at the December financial review meeting for members.

As of January 7, 2019, we have received 96 statements of intended giving; 7 are new, 40 increased (3 pledges were revised and increased twice), 13 decreased and 36 remained the same for a total of \$270,514. This compares to the previous year of 110 pledges totaling an anticipated pledge income of \$279,195.

Tied to the Ministry Budgets for 2019, our continued generosity empowers God's work through our Pastors and staff, music, education, ministries, and other programs and outreach at Saint Matthew. Our giving enables ministry at the local, synodical, and international level.

I would like to especially thank Stephanie Montminy for coordinating Rally Day and creating a beautiful "Fruit of the Vine" bulletin board, Debbie Steinberg for developing and running 'May Madness', Anna Neville for her inspiring graphic design for our campaign theme materials, Terri Bendell for her accurate reporting and ability to keep us all advised of progress through the year and Pastor Julie for her expertise and guidance.

Our Stewardship Committee includes Pastor Julie, Pastor Brian, Terri Bendell, Debbie Steinberg, Priscilla Tablante, Stephanie Montminy and me. We are faithfully dedicated to growing the stewardship ministry at St. Matthew. Our goal is to support the growth of our relationship with Jesus using our time, talents, and finances that God has entrusted to us.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Talotta

Worship and Music

The Worship and Music Committee continued its work this year supporting meaningful and inspiring worship. The first major task was the implementation of a new bulletin format, which allows for greater flexibility for including information and variety in the liturgy, as well as being user friendly for newcomers. The new bulletin was launched in the winter and was well received. Since his arrival as our Music Director, Dick Silbereis has added musical notes which give background on the pieces shared in worship.

In the spring, members of the committee, spearheaded by Jack Pietrick, Roy Zurell, David Betsch, and Michelle Horsley Parker purchased a Kawai baby grand piano for use in our sanctuary. It was in place by Easter and has expanded our musical repertoire in the months following.

A variety of congregational musicians joined in sharing their gifts this year, including April Brodeur-Fitts, Fred Fenn, Sarah Lindquist, Maya Krodel, Robin Pietrick, Stephanie and Joel Reuning-Scherer, and Catherine Ware.

During 2018 the committee spent a portion of each meeting studying the history and theology of worship in a study entitled Worship 101. In continuity with this study, the Worship and Music Committee and staff plans worship that honors that which is familiar in the liturgy, as well as gradually introducing new elements on a seasonal basis. Our new music director Dick Silbereis joined the team this fall and has begun educating the committee about possible upgrades to the organ and sanctuary acoustics.

It is a great pleasure to serve with the dedicated leaders who make worship possible each week: our Altar Guild, worship servers, including ushers, acolytes, assisting ministers, communion assistants, lectors and greeters, and the behind the scenes contributors, the bread bakers, coffee makers, name tag organizers, and staff planners. Thank you to John Pearson, who completed his time as co-chair, and to the members of the committee, Deb Brodeur, Hal Eberhard, Fred Fenn, Jack Pietrick, Dick Silbereis, Debbie Steinberg, and Dan Tuve.

Submitted by *Pastor Julie*

Youth Ministry 2018

Youth ministry in 2018 was led by Pastor Julie, Kurt Saenger-Heyl, and Melissa Lindquist. The youth met on Sunday mornings in February to prepare for the 30 Hour Famine. The youth raised \$500 for World Vision and 11 kids attended the overnight, which included education about world hunger as well as the experience of fasting. Thank you to Peggy Beauregard for heading up the Palm Sunday Breakfast, and to Matt Montminy for leading our 5K; thanks to the youth who participated in these events. This fall, youth gathered for a Sunday morning planning session in October and two No-Leaf November events planned by Charlie Parchen. We welcomed Rick and Jane Hanson to our team of adult leaders and are eager to have Pastor Brian join us in 2019!

Confirmation

Confirmation is a two-year program for 7th and 8th graders at St. Matthew. Last spring the class studied the New Testament, and in the fall an overview of the Old Testament. Highlights included rapping the books of the New and Old Testament, mission trips to the Farmington Valley American Muslim Center to pack meals and to Bushnell Park to give out personal care kits to homeless people at Church By the Pond, and Bible Bowl competitions. Special thanks to Heidi Beaulieu, who has supported Pastor Julie's instruction as a small group leader and Guide in the class, and to the families who have volunteered to make service and fun events part of the curriculum. We are looking forward to another great year in 2019!

SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2018

The Sunday School program is going strong at St. Matthew. We began the year with a goal to bring the families of St. Matthew an “**outstanding team of teachers, creative music opportunities, and a weekly space for faith and friendship in a safe and loving environment.**” Thanks to the support of Pastor Julie, the Council, and the congregation, we have done just that.

By the Numbers

The 2018/19 Sunday School Year has averaged 17 students and 6 teachers. Variations occurred around school breaks and seasonal sports.

The program is supported by a team of eight passionate, inquisitive, and caring volunteer educators who come prepared every Sunday and truly love the children of our congregation. Our Preschool/Kindergarten class has two teachers, and Grades 1-3 and 4-6 have three teachers each. These teachers rotate such that each Sunday is well covered. New this year was the involvement of two members of the congregation’s Young Adult group. Kurt Saenger-Heyl and Travis Wright are our new teachers for Grades 4-6, and that age group in particular has welcomed and benefitted from this fun new demographic in our midst.

Exciting Changes

2018 was an exciting year in that we implemented class composition and programming changes that proved successful.

- **New Class Groups.** Based on enrollment numbers and learning stages, we re-grouped class ages, resulting in the three classes as noted above: Preschool/Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, and Grades 4-6. (Grades 4-6 are enjoying a more “grown up” space upstairs, complete with bean bag seating.)
- **Connecting Theme.** Woven into the lessons for all grade levels was a “Seasons of the Church” theme, led by Pastor Julie. She visited each class to integrate the weekly lessons with how (and why) we worship. The teachers continue this integration each week by visiting the church parlements and checking their color.
- **Special Guests.** Pastor Julie was also on hand for each grade once during the year to get to know our kids and answer their faith questions from the Lutheran perspective in an age-appropriate manner. This will continue into the spring.
- **Letting our Lights Shine.** Our creative teachers thoughtfully tied Sunday lessons to things we can do to make a difference in our communities.
- **Youth Involvement.** Our confirmation and high schoolers are fantastic, talented young adults! We created opportunities for these youth to assist in our programming, for example by leading opening music and helping to direct the Christmas Pageant.

Music Notes

In 2018, Sunday School opening time was used not just for joyful noises but for rehearsing for offertory, anthem, and pageant events. We purposefully kept the 4th through 6th graders involved musically by elevating their participation to include more challenging selections and instrumental accompaniment.

Looking Ahead

Immediately around the corner is an opportunity for the Confirmation class to lead an all-Sunday School group in a play on kindness, as well as an all-ages anthem for which the older students are learning sign language. As we look to the year ahead, we would like to revisit Sunday classes for the Confirmation students, and we hope to find more opportunities to include inter-generational overlap and community service components within our programming. We are also hopeful for a strong Vacation Bible School program, as we view that as a critical element for Sunday School population growth. Finally, we may, under pastoral guidance, explore a new, more experiential curriculum to begin in the fall of 2019.

**St Matthew Lutheran Church
Asset Allocation Worksheet
Endowment Fund**

CHARLES SCHWAB ACCOUNT	12/31/2018 Balance	% of Total Fund	YTD Total \$ Returns	YTD Total % Returns
Cash Account	43,784	5.7%	246	1.0%
Fixed Income Funds	142,636	18.7%	-158	-0.1%
Corporate Bonds	168,077	22.0%	4,564	3.0%
Common Stocks	283,110	37.0%	1,672	0.5%
Growth & Value Funds	38,712	5.1%	-1,335	-3.3%
Small & Mid-Cap Funds	56,486	7.4%	-6,630	-9.0%
International Stock Funds	31,929	4.2%	-8,313	-18.5%
Total Endowment Funds	764,734	100.0%	-9,954	-1.3%

**Endowment Fund
Contributions, Distributions, Expenses
Year 2018**

	Actual	Budget
Contributions	\$18,710	\$0
Expenses: YHB Management Fee	-\$5,877	\$0
Distributions See details below	-\$30,000	(\$60,000)
Net - Contributions, Distributions, Expenses	-\$17,167	(\$60,000)

	Distribution Amount	Distribution Budget
External Distributions		
Grace Lutheran Church, Hartford	5,000.00	5,000.00
Foodshare	2,500.00	2,500.00
Camp Courant	3,000.00	3,000.00
Winchester Youth Service Bureau	3,500.00	3,500.00
McCall Foundation	3,500.00	3,500.00
Funding for Grace Meals	2,500.00	2,500.00
\$1,000 to each of the area food or fuel banks	5,000.00	5,000.00
Bristol Parent/Child Center	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>2,500.00</u>
Church Council Approved Disaster Relief	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>2,500.00</u>
Total External Distributions	30,000.00	30,000.00
Internal Distributions		
Associate Pastor or Lay Minister to be paid in 2019	0.00	30,000.00
Total Distributions	30,000.00	60,000.00

**St Matthew Lutheran Church
Endowment Fund
Distribution Availability Exhibit
12/31/2018**

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Investment Value					
Beginning Balance	\$791,855	\$724,993	\$713,489	\$755,773	\$743,239
Contributions	18,710	300	0	0	0
Distributions	-30,000	-20,000	-30,500	-39,000	-40,000
Expenses	-5,877	-5,644	-5,435	-5,630	-5,646
Investment Return	-9,954	92,206	47,439	2,346	58,180
Ending Balance	\$764,734	\$791,855	\$724,993	\$713,489	\$755,773
Investment Return	-1.3%	12.7%	6.6%	0.3%	7.8%
Inflation Adjusted Principal					
Beginning Balance	\$669,079	\$655,960	\$645,630	\$645,630	\$636,716
CPI (a)	2.6%	2.0%	1.6%	0.0%	1.4%
Ending Balance	\$686,475	\$669,079	\$655,960	\$645,630	\$645,630
Designated Funds					
Staffing					
Beginning Balance	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Distributions					
Subtotal	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Investment Return	0.0%	12.7%	1.6%	0.0%	7.8%
Ending Balance	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Mortgage:					
Beginning Balance	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Additions					
Distributions					
Subtotal	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Investment Return	0.0%	12.7%	1.6%	0.0%	7.8%
Ending Balance	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Available for Distribution	\$48,259	\$122,776	\$69,033	\$67,859	\$110,143

(a) The 2018 CPI statistic is measured from Nov 2017 through Oct 2018