



# St. Matthew's

Ev. Lutheran Church ✠ ELCA

May 13, 2024

Dear Members of St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church:

What a wonderful church building we have! Our building is a place of history, stories, and memories. It is a place of worship, education, fellowship, outreach to our neighboring community, and a place for children and families to grow.

We are seeking your support as we launch a Special Appeal to renew our building and keep it in good condition into the future. Our building needs to keep pace with the vitality and optimism of our mission. We have deferred work for several years, and now is the time to revitalize the look and feel of our building so that it reflects the inviting, hopeful, family-friendly and resilient message of our faith.

Our Building Renewal Program will be part of an exciting new chapter at St. Matthew's. Our recent Lenten Season and Easter attendance greatly exceeded that in 2023. In April, 17 new members joined St. Matthew's! We are seeing new interest and participation in programming, and we are planning for a wave of baptisms in the next several months. We are blessed by full staffing, strong programs, and no mortgage.

We have a list of projects to fulfill this goal: install new carpeting; repave the parking lot; seal the roof leaks; updates to doors and windows; repurpose the Bride's Chapel in a more family friendly area; enhance our worship experience (in-person and on-line) with organ updates, a second video camera and improved listening devices; and other projects. We expect this work to cost approximately \$300,000, and the plan is to complete all the work in 2024 and 2025.

We are beginning our Special Appeal to raise money for these improvements, and we are seeking your pledge of financial support for this work. A pledge form is enclosed, and we ask that you complete the form and return it to the St. Matthew's office by June 16. Join us on June 2 at coffee hour for a celebration of progress to date. We are pleased to report that nearly \$100,000 has already been pledged!

If you missed the discussion of this Special Appeal at the May 12 Adult Education Hour, here is the YouTube link to the Adult Education Playlist where it will be posted after May 12:

<https://bit.ly/4a9JtR5>

Please watch for announcements and progress updates through the summer and the rest of the year. Help us to keep St. Matt's building a resilient place of worship, education, fellowship, outreach to our neighboring community, and a place for children and families to grow.

Sincerely,

Rev. Kevin Kretzmann Farrar  
Lead Pastor

Carl Johnson  
Council President

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#### Pastoral Staff

Kevin Kretzmann Farrar  
Ann Williams

#### Music Staff

John R. Paradowski  
Jeff Reeves  
Alexa Doebele  
Amy Dankwardt  
Heide Hughes

#### Youth and Sunday School Ministries

Gretchen Hauge  
Lynne Thomas

#### Children's Ministries

Donna Gardner Manke

#### Adult Education and Volunteer Ministries

Sue Swing

#### Technology Coordinator

Brian Smith

#### Administrative Staff

Al Van Lith  
Sonja Mohr  
Bridget Smith

#### Custodial Staff

Marsha Olson  
Dave Fagerberg  
Bob Gardner  
Edward Bross (volunteer)

#### Pastor Emeritus

Gary Erickson