

# Welcome to Worship at St. Matthew's

March 13, 2022



Welcome to worship this Sunday in Lent as we journey toward the cross and the empty tomb. Wherever we have been, whatever we have done, our all-loving heavenly Father welcomes us into his arms.

**Holy Communion:** All are welcome to come forward at the time of communion to receive God's gift of grace at the 8:30 service. Let an usher know if you'd like to have communion brought to you because of mobility challenges.

**First Communion Celebration Today:** A special welcome to Harper Carroll who receives her First Holy Communion this morning at the 8:30 service. Harper attended the first communion class on February 13<sup>th</sup> with Gretchen Haugse and Pastor Ann Williams in preparation for this day. Your prayers are appreciated for God's blessing to be upon her as she takes this important step in her faith journey.

**Child for Baptism (11:00): Liam Brooks Bankert**, child of Jaclyn & Joshua Bankert, Wauwatosa, who was born August 8, 2021. Sponsors are Nicolette Amans and Parker Bankert.

**The Return to Worship Task Force announces, through CDC guidance and the advice of a public health expert, that Saint Matthew's will now allow gatherings at church to become mask-optional.**

Our medical advisor, Dr. Danny Thomas, has told us that the risk has been reduced to a more acceptable level due to vaccination and the current caseload. However, you may wish to continue to wear your mask, depending on your health, your own risk assessment, and your concern for the vulnerable in your family. We respect and support both masked and unmasked participants at St. Matthew's.

Since groups that involve children under the age of 5 are not eligible for the vaccine, such as 3K - 5K Sunday school classes and Praise Kids, those children, directors, teachers and leaders will continue to mask through the end of the school year.

One more thing: Dr. Thomas also informed us that it's likely we will need masks again at some point, possibly next fall/winter, depending on virus spread and CDC guidance. In short, keep looking for updates and please continue to be flexible and gracious as we navigate this new reality together. We give thanks for this opportunity and look forward to seeing many smiles at church!

**Name Tag Sunday Today!** We welcome this opportunity to renew acquaintances and match smiles with names.

## Bulletin Announcement Insert – March 13, 2022

### **Today Adult Education at 9:45 a.m. in the Upper Room:**

#### **March 13 - 100th Anniversary**

Come to hear what it took to put together a 400+ page anniversary book that highlights 100 years of history in St. Matthew's. Hear about the volume of information sorted through and how it was determined what to use and what to leave out. The committee will describe how the process started, how the pandemic affected the project and the final product of the beautiful book we have.

### **Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> Spring Ahead!**

**Youth Forum meets today** at 9:45 am in the Youth Room, for youth in 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade, led by Gretchen Haugse.

### **Looking Ahead to Upcoming Adult Education: (9:45-10:45am)**

#### **March 20 Social Ministry “Exploit No More”** A presentation on human trafficking

Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked in countries around the world, including in the United States. In fact, the greater Milwaukee area has one of the highest rates of trafficking activity in the country. It is estimated that human trafficking generates many billions of dollars of profit per year, second only to drug trafficking. Drugs can only be sold once, but a person can be sold over and over.

#### **But there is hope.**

**Exploit No More** offers that hope for those who are trafficked. Josh Beaton, Operations Director for Exploit No More, will present “Human Trafficking 101” on March 20<sup>th</sup> during the Adult Education Forum from 9:45-10:45. The program will cover the definition of human trafficking, breaks down what sex trafficking looks like in our area, and equips the audience with the tools to get involved in the fight to end sexual exploitation and ways it can support Exploit No More in its work because no one is excluded from the fight against sex trafficking! Mark your calendars for this dynamic presentation.

#### **March 27 Discovering the Roots of Christian Hospitality**

Led by Dave Zersen and Karen Natterstad

As we think about Christian Hospitality during this season of Lent, we ask ourselves why it's unique. We'll look back at the original setting and the first practices of hospitality by Christians as they emerged from the Greco-Roman world. What about these first practices of hospitality do we still cherish? How can we capitalize on it today? Then we'll consider the institutional and specialized growth of hospitality initiated by American Churches. Can you name some that have existed in our own neighborhood? How can we share in the practice of hospitality that these institutions offer?

# “Making Room: Renewing Our Practice of Christian Hospitality”

Lent 2022 at St. Matthew's

## Making Room: Hospitality with



Family  
Church  
Neighbor  
Stranger  
Enemy

As we remember and give thanks for the welcome God gives us through Jesus Christ, we share in a ministry of extending that hospitality to family, friends, neighbors, and strangers. We make room by being aware of those around you each day, simply taking notice of who God puts in your path. We make room by adjusting our attitudes or actions. Together we journey to

the cross and make room once again for the welcome God has prepared for us.

### **This Wednesday:** *(and each Wednesday through April 6th)*

Watch for a **midweek worship video** that will arrive in your email inbox, inviting you into reflection and prayer with the weekly theme.

Be part of a **small group conversation** during Lent **through the week of April 4<sup>th</sup>**.

- **At Church: Tuesdays at 10:30 AM**
  - **Wednesdays at 10:00 AM & 6:15 PM**
- **On Zoom: Tuesdays at 7:00 PM** – Zoom link in emails or email the church office to have it sent to you: [office@stmattslutheran.org](mailto:office@stmattslutheran.org)

**Join** us when you can!

### **FAMILY LENTEN TIME: March 9 – April 6, 2022** *Continues this week!*

Parents and younger children, come and join us in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday nights! Join us for the midweek family time, 6:15 to 7:00 each Wednesday. There are stories, songs, projects, prayer, and a brief worship, led by Donna Gardner Manke. Children 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and younger are encouraged to attend with their parents. Participants learn about Bible stories addressing our Lenten theme of HOSPITALITY.

**Lenten offerings** marked for “Lent offering” will be directed toward Ukraine relief through Lutheran Disaster Response and “Exploit No More,” a local organization working to address and prevent human trafficking.

**Undie Sunday underwear collection ends March 13** Benefitting clients of Guest House & Benedict Center's Sisters Project. Thank you for your generosity with this collection! It's been wonderful to see the many varieties of donations come into the collection box. Thanks in advance to Nancy Bowen and Ed Weiskotten for their help with delivering the donated items to the organizations. Please bring in all items by Monday morning, March 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Lutheran Disaster Response is already helping the people of Ukraine** currently under attack by Russia. If you wish to make a donation to support LDR's assistance, you may write a check and mark it "LDR-Ukraine", give through our website at this link: **Stmattslutheran.org/give** or give through the Lutheran Disaster Response website: **Elca.org/ldr** Our prayers for the people of Ukraine are also very much needed.

**Looking Ahead to Good Friday:** We will offer a Good Friday Children's Service at 10:00 on April 15<sup>th</sup>, which will include a craft, worship and the popular egg hunt. We will be needing Easter eggs for the children to find. Empty eggs will be available outside the church office in packs of two-dozen, and we ask for people to take some, fill them with a piece of candy or some sort of treat, tape them closed, and bring them back by Palm Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. Thank you! We're looking forward to an exciting time already!

### **St. Matt's Ground Crew (New!)**

Volunteers are needed who might enjoy helping to manage the St. Matthew's grounds. Skills with trimming bushes and trees, possible landscaping, desired. This newly formed Grounds Crew would work closely with the Garden Team and the Property Committee to care for or improve the landscape on our property. For more information contact Ed Bross: [ecbross@gmail.com](mailto:ecbross@gmail.com), or Pastor Karen: [pastorkaren@stmattslutheran.org](mailto:pastorkaren@stmattslutheran.org)

**Mount Meru Coffee:** We now have Mt. Meru standard coffee in grind and bean, Peaberry Premium Blend which is less acidic, and our four flavored coffees in stock. Stop by and see our selections. The Mt. Meru coffee project supports over 2000 farmers in our synod's partner in Tanzania. Thank you for your purchase.

Pastoral Staff: Karen Natterstad, Interim Lead and Ann Williams, Associate Pastor

Volunteer Ministries/Small Groups/Adult Education: Sue Swing

Youth Ministries & Children's Education: Gretchen Haugse, Lynne Thomas

Children's Minister: Donna Gardner Manke.

Music Minister: John Paradowski.

Music Staff: David Mohr, Jeff Reeves, Amy Dankwardt, Heide Hughes

Older Adults Coordinator: Julia Murphy.

Technology Coordinator: Brian Smith.

Library Coordinator (volunteer) Linda Wunderlich.

Custodial Staff: Marsha Olson, Dave Fagerberg, Bob Gardner.

Office Staff: Al Van Lith, Bridget Smith, Sonja Mohr