

Welcome to Worship at St. Matthew's

March 20, 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 11:00 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 **Jacob Livingston, Sebastian Steinberg, and Carter and Ella Mathis** who receive their First Holy Communion this morning at the 11:00 service. Your prayers are appreciated for God's blessing to be upon them as they take this important step in their faith journey.

Mt. Meru Coffee Tasting This Sunday: French Vanilla! Stop by and try some French Vanilla, one of our four flavored coffees. All are available at \$10 for 10 oz. We also offer our Peaberry coffee at \$15 for 12 oz. and our standard coffees at \$10 for 12 oz. Remember, your purchase helps support our Tanzanian farmers who grow coffee for the Mt. Meru Coffee Project. If you are interested, we have a copy of the Mt. Meru Project annual report for 2021 at the coffee cart. Thank you for your purchase.

Altar flowers are given by Pam & Joe Ceci in celebration of family birthdays.



Easter Flowers: Yes, we are accepting orders for Easter flowers for the display at the altar on Easter morning. Look for a form to orders yours at the Welcome Center, church office, or other places around church. The form will also be included in the regular church emails.

Saint Matthew's worship is now mask-optional. 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.

Keep watching 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!

Bulletin Announcement Insert – March 20, 2022

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

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 20th 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.

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

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?

April 3 Forgotten, Misrepresented, and Marginalized Figures of Early Christianity (Part Two) Led by Dan Bice

Mary Magdalene may be one of the best-known figures in the New Testament, but she is widely misunderstood. Was she a prostitute? A witness to Jesus’ resurrection? An apostle to Jesus? A holder of his secret teachings? His lover? With time, her story has grown and grown. We will scour biblical and extra-biblical sources to find out more about this enigmatic figure of early Christianity. Future topics in this intermittent series: James, the brother of Jesus; and Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Youth Forum meets today at 9:45 am in the Youth Room, for youth in 9th – 12th grade, led by Gretchen Hauge.

“Making Room:
Renewing Our Practice of Christian Hospitality”

Lent 2022 at St. Matthew’s

Making Room: Hospitality with



Family
Church
Neighbor
Stranger
Enemy

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 4th.**

Join us when you can!

Tuesdays at 10:30 AM

Wednesdays at 10:00 AM & 6:15 PM

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 3rd grade and younger are encouraged to attend with their parents.

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.

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Undie Sunday underwear collection – THANK YOU!

The men at Guest House received 239 briefs, 223 pairs of sock and 10 tee shirts. The women at Benedict Center Sisters Program received 150 pairs of panties, 47 bras, 80 pairs of sock and 12 sleepwear sets. Your generosity truly helps the individuals in need and makes Undie Sunday a success for 2022.

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: Filled Easter Eggs Needed! We will offer a Good Friday Children's Service at 10:00 on April 15th, 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 10th. Thank you! We're looking forward to an exciting time already!

High School Students – We Want to Know What YOU Think!

On April 3rd at 1:00, there will be a Zoom listening session for high school kids interested in becoming involved in advocacy. This is a chance for you to join with other teens from Wisconsin and Upper Michigan to talk about what you think and to share your ideas about responding to injustice in the world. It will be followed by another Zoom gathering on May 1st, with the goal of an in-person event in the fall. To register (and take a short survey) go to this link: <https://tinyurl.com/dtaxfu2k> Or you can talk to Gretchen to get more information. The world needs to hear your voices!

Apartment Needed: Andy Cherney's parents are looking to rent an apartment/duplex in the greater Wauwatosa area beginning May 1st. Andy's father has limited mobility, so first-level options would be preferred. If you have any recommendations, please contact Andy at 414.255.4943.

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, or Pastor Karen: pastorkaren@stmattslutheran.org

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