



The Mentor

5900 Seventh Avenue

December 2012

Kenosha, WI 53140

Phone: 262-654-8642

FAX: 262-605-5526

E-Mail: stmatts5900@gmail.com

Webpage: stmatthewskenosha.net

facebook.com/StMatthewsEpiscopalChurchKenosha

Staff

Kay Sutton,
Organist/Choir Director
Abigail Wincek, Parish Administrator
Mary Weiser, Parish Secretary
Jeff Tyree, Facilities Manager
Lynn Heller, RN, Parish Nurse
Carly Jepson, Nursery

The Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The Rt. Rev. Steven A Miller,
Bishop of Milwaukee

St. Matthew's Church

The Rev. Gary Paul Lambert, Interim Rector

Worship Schedule

Sunday	7:30 AM	Holy Eucharist
	10:00 AM	Nursery Care to 1:00 PM
	10:00 AM	Sunday School to 11:15 AM
	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist
Wednesday	9:00 AM	Morning Prayer in the Chapel
	10:00 AM	Bible Study in The Guild Hall

Wardens
Karen Dubiel, Senior Warden
Jamie Cairo, Junior Warden

Vestry
Walter Breach
Michael Brooker
Guida Brown
Eve Hoey
Casey Kalicki
Steve Krzyzanowski
Jan Merkt
Cary Pallin
Elisabeth Westphal

Treasurer
Jon Cushman

A Report from our Interim Rector

Dear Friends in Christ:

I want to begin by saying “Thank You” for all your prayers, well wishes, cards and visits. Saying these last weeks have not been difficult would be a lie. Nevertheless, I have been well lifted up by your prayers and the prayers of many more all over southern Wisconsin and beyond. Prayer has given me such an abundance of God’s grace that I have not experienced any moments of “Why me?” Quite the contrary! I have gone through these last three weeks with a great sense of thanksgiving and blessing, and this grace continues to work. I’ll never forget the words Heather, a family friend, said to me as I went into the operating room, “Remember Gary, God is all over you.” That about sums it up; God was and is all over me, as God is all over each of us.

My own prayer has called out the words of Jesus from the Gospel of Luke (12:48b), “From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required...” How ironic this all sounds doesn’t it? In the midst of loss, there is much that has been gained. God always makes a wonderful something from nothing. Indeed, the Father brought his son from the nothingness of death into the glory of resurrected life. We have a great and awesome God, who through his Son Jesus Christ generously pours his abundance of love and grace upon us all.

I must not forget the second part of what Jesus says, “...much will be required.” The gift of prayer and its blessing, the gift of so many people holding me in their thoughts is a very humbling experience to know. God’s unconditional love comes through to each of us in so many different ways every day of our lives. The requirement, as I understand it, is to give these gifts away; to spread them around and to do so with care and affection with which they were given. What I have come to realize in these past weeks is that this is truly a sacred duty and responsibility and I will do my best to make it so. I owe this to God and God’s people.

My recovery continues with the beginning of out-patient physical therapy tomorrow, as well as a visit to the Doctor’s office to find out how my wound is healing and when the stitches will be out. On the one hand, I am anxious to return to St. Matthew’s. I am doing so well I feel like I am ready to get on the road. On the other hand, there is a process of healing that has its own mind, even though I am somewhat impatient with it. So, as soon as I am given a green light, I hope to begin my return on Sunday morning’s. I do miss each and every one of you because you have grown into my heart and spirit in ways I have come to cherish.

I am told by unimpeachable sources that our Vestry has risen to the occasion and assumed a greater role in the leadership of the parish. I know that our Senior Warden Karen Dubiel and Junior Warden Jamie Cairo have played an instrumental role in this leadership and have worked very tirelessly with the vestry for the good of God in St. Matthew’s. I am very grateful for the gracious hearts and souls of this leadership team and the wardens and vestry certainly deserve the thanks from each and every one of us. So do not forget to offer your thanks when you meet them at church. As my daughter Kara would say, “They really rock!”

Do know that I hold you all in my prayers and will continue to do so. You are the true blessing that is St. Matthew’s Church. Yours are the hands that reach out to make a difference in the life of Kenosha. Yours are the hearts that bring healing to a broken world. May the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of God’s Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Gary

St. Matthew's has been blessed...

with an abundance of supply clergy from the Diocese who have filled in for Fr. Gary on Sundays. The wardens, vestry, staff and congregation give thanks to the priests who have so graciously stepped in: Fr. John Splinter, Fr. Wayne Fehr, Fr. Michael Gray-Fow, and Canon David Pfaff. They have given us their time, food for thought, and blessings each Sunday they joined our church family.

Christmas Service Schedule

The times for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services will be announced as soon as they are in place. All parish members will be notified by email or regular mail at the earliest possible date.

Christmas Pageant

The annual *Children's Christmas Pageant* is Sunday, December 23rd, at 10:30 in the Church. Rachel Lochtefeld is writing and directing the pageant for a cast of children who will be joined by several adults this year. All of our parish family is invited to attend the pageant at the 10:30 AM service on the 23rd.

Practice sessions are as follows: Middle and High School students who are not in Sunday School will meet on Saturdays from 3-4:00 PM in the church on December 1st and 8th. All participants with *speaking* roles should come on Saturday, December 15th from 1-2:00 PM. All participants should come on Saturday, December 22nd from 1-2:00 PM and Sunday, the 23rd at 9:30 AM. Any questions should be directed to Rachel Lochtefeld at 652-6975 or Dawn Christiansen at 652-2067.

Christmas Highlights at St. Matthew's Church

Annual Christmas Pageant December 23rd during the 10:30 AM service

Christmas Service Schedule To Be Announced

Christmas Coffee Hour The G2G Guild is hosting a special coffee hour in the Guild Hall following the 10:30 service on December 23rd. There will be activities for children and holiday treats for all. A sign up sheet is at the back of the church.

Giving Wreaths On Sunday, December 2nd, the *Giving Wreaths* will be on the entry doors of the church. Each wreath will have snowflakes attached with information on the child the gift is intended for. Once again this year the gifts are being given to Women and Children's Horizons for distribution at their shelter. Suggested donations are toys, hats, gloves or mittens that are age appropriate, but please do not include guns or violent toys. This year Women and Children's Horizons staff have requested that donors should not wrap the gifts.

A large bin will be placed at the back of the church for gifts. The gifts will be accepted on December 9 and 16th only. If you have any questions contact Nancy Roeder.

Cookbooks & Ornaments The G2G Guild will be selling cookbooks and ornaments at the back of church during 7:30 and 10:30 AM coffee hours. There is a limited supply for those who did not order items. The cost is \$10 for a cookbook and \$15 for an ornament. Each of these would make a nice gift for friends and family at Christmas.

Singing Rooster Coffee A good supply is on hand for Christmas giving. This Mountain Bleu direct trade, natural coffee is rich and semi sweet – buy it for the taste AND satisfaction because sharing makes the world a better place. The cost is \$10 per bag with 100% of the proceeds returned to farmer communities in Haiti.



Book Club

St. Matthew's Women's Book Club will meet on Sunday, January 13, at 7:00 p.m. at Sarah Rangel's home to discuss *In the Garden of the Beasts* by Erik Larson.

"The rise of Nazi Germany is a well-chronicled time in history, which makes *In the Garden of Beasts* all the more remarkable. Erik Larson has crafted a gripping, deeply-intimate narrative with a climax that reads like the best political thriller, where we are stunned with each turn of the page, even though we already know the outcome." (Shane Hansanuwat, Amazon Book Review)

Please read the book and join the discussion on January 13th.



Stewardship 2013

Pledge cards for 2013 giving are still available either at the back of the church or from the church office. If you have not signed a card for the Operating Fund and/or the Heritage Fund, please do so as soon as possible so the vestry can begin preparing the budget for 2013.

Online Giving

Our parishioners now have the option to give their weekly pledges online through our website:

www.stmatthewskenosha.net

Online giving is a convenient and secure way to stay up-to-date on your pledge whether you're away for the weekend or just want to give in the comfort of your own home! You can make your pledges or offerings via credit or debit card or by automatic withdrawal from your bank account through the secure service of PayPal without the church ever having your account information. There is no charge to you for this service, and you don't need to have a PayPal account to give online. Any questions or concerns can be directed to the church office.



Little Lamb Nursery provides childcare for children up to age 6 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the Guild Hall. Please use the north entrance and bring children to the first floor rooms on the very north side of the building. Carly Jepson is our childcare provider and she is eager to meet all the young children of our parish. Each Sunday a member of the parish assists Carly in the nursery.

The following items are still needed for the nursery:

Match Box cars	puzzles
building blocks	coloring books
Play Dough & old cookie cutters	

Also, they are in need of shelves for the toys. These donations are greatly appreciated by the Christian Formation committee.



Special Music at St. Matthew's

The Choral Arts Society of Southeastern Wisconsin will present a program on Saturday, December 15th at 7:00 PM in the church. A festival of lessons and carols is CAS's most beloved tradition. Members of the community share inspirational scripture readings, and Choral Arts offers cherished Christmas carols and songs. Come, enjoy the true spirit of the season, join in the sing-along, and hear beautiful holiday music. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors, and \$5 for students and can be purchased by calling 262-634-3250. Tickets will also be available at the door on the evening of the concert.



Sunday School at St. Matthew's

Our Sunday School program is growing! We average about 8 kids each week with a program of interactive play, study pertaining to the Sunday Gospel message, and age appropriate activities. Children from age 4K to grade 6 are welcome to attend in the north 1st floor classroom from 10:00 to 11:15 AM. At the close of the session they are escorted across the street to join their families in church. The teachers are now concentrating on all the children learning the Lord's Prayer and all about the sacrament of Holy Communion.

