



The Mentor

Winter 2016

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St. Matthew's Church Mission Statement

St. Matthew's, an historic church rooted in the Episcopal tradition, shares the love of Christ, putting faith into action through worship, prayer and outreach in the downtown community and beyond.

Worship Schedule

Sunday	7:30 AM	Holy Eucharist
	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist
Wednesday	9:00 AM	Healing Service with Holy Eucharist
Saturday	5:00 PM	Evening Prayer with Holy Eucharist

The Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

The Very Rev. Matthew L. Buterbaugh, Rector & Dean of Racine/Kenosha Convocation

The Rev. Robert Bagley, Deacon

Treasurer

Rick Stoddard

Wardens

Debi Rengers, Senior Warden

Ken Specht, Junior Warden

Vestry

Jenny Cobb

Don Gosse

Geoff Greeley

Jennifer McCombe

Kirsten McVey

Amy Parrish

Jim Singer

B. J. VanKammen

Staff

Kay Sutton, Organist/Choir Director

Abigail Wincek, Office Manager

Mary Weiser, Parish Secretary

Jeff Tyree, Facilities Manager

Lynn Heller, RN, Parish Nurse

Franklin Gail, Verger

Leigh Travanty, Sexton

A Pastoral Letter from Fr. Matthew

Dear Friends,

We are in the midst of Advent. Advent is a time of expectation and waiting. Really, though, people aren't good at waiting. Christmas songs started playing weeks ago, and on the second day of Christmas, we'll be commemorating those two turtle doves by bringing out all the Valentine's stuff.

Waiting is not particularly fun, but sometimes it does make things worth it. It's the only logical explanation for why I can see that we eat dessert last. Waiting until Christmas is the thing that makes the religious celebration different than the cultural celebration. I'll admit too that I'm a bit of an Advent grinch when it comes to premature Christmas decorating and music. Yes, that's me saying "Noise noise noise!"

I'm not just being a curmudgeon about it. This is partly because the cultural celebration overshadows everything about Jesus, and partly because I always feel like everyone is tired of celebrating once the day finally rolls around. Even I find it odd singing Christmas carols in January after half the people I know have taken their trees down. Yes, it is still Christmastide, but we're all burnt out before it even starts.

If waiting is the answer during Advent, then how do we wait? Waiting isn't about just sitting on our hands until something happens. We can't just sit in a dark room with noise-blocking earphones until we head out the door for Christmas Eve services. Advent is also a time of preparation. It is a time when we look back and forward at the same time. We look back at the closing of the year and we look forward to the coming of Christ. Beyond that, we look forward to new beginnings and hope.

As much as we don't like to wait, looking forward isn't the easiest thing in the world. Perhaps that's why we don't like to wait. Perhaps waiting is a way to keep ourselves from looking forward. I don't know why this is, but I do know that sometimes it's hard for me to plan beyond major events or milestones. Then, I remember that the new year is coming and there are things that are coming up after that and things that need to be done before those things happen. It catches me off guard every year, and every year I have to shake myself out of it and put the nose to the grindstone.

Advent is a time when we prepare by imagining what the future can look like. It is a time when we prepare ourselves through prayer and good works. It is a time when

we plan for the future and see what kind of world we want Christ to come into. Then we ask ourselves how we can make that world become a reality.

This is that preparation of Advent. Advent forces us to look ahead and prepare even when it feels like we're in the midst of a bunch of other activities. Advent makes us put aside the present time with all its festivities. We are looking ahead to the coming of Christ and remembering that it is his arrival for which we are preparing. It is a time that a seed has been planted but has not yet sprouted.

Waiting is difficult, but preparing can be even more difficult. For this reason, the season of Advent challenges us. It challenges us to put things just beyond our reach and to trust in God's grace.

Blessings and Peace, Fr. Matthew+

GIVING WALL YARN PROJECT

Do you remember the story about the Shoemaker and the Elves?

One evening, the shoemaker left the makings for a pair of shoes on his workbench and when he woke up the next morning, the completed shoes were on the bench. And it happened again and again.

Well, we have had some "elves" come forward. The ladies at Robert E Ellsworth Correction Center in Union Grove have volunteered to be our "elves" for the hats and mittens for The Giving Wall. Ellsworth is a minimum security prison for women. Many of the ladies knit and crochet. They are willing to make as many hats, mittens, scarves, and such, as we want if we supply the yarn. So, what we asking you to do is gather up yarn of any kind or size that you have hiding in your homes. We want you to go through your yarn stashes and see what you no longer want. The yarn that you thought we could use and no longer like. The baby yarn you bought for the baby who is now a teenager. The yarn for a project that you no longer need. The yarn that was the wrong color or the wrong type. Any type, any amount, even partial skeins. This is the yarn we want!

There is a green bin in the back of the sanctuary to place your extra yarn and we have a helper who will take it to Ellsworth for the ladies to transform.

We thank you for helping us to provide yarn for the Giving Wall.

Submitted by Sue Kittleson



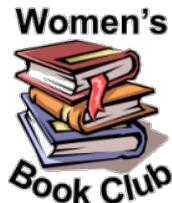
Choir Rehearsal Schedule for the Christmas Season

This year, in addition to our 9:30 a.m. rehearsals, we will have optional rehearsals at Cary Pallin's house, 6221 - 3rd Avenue. They will be on Monday, December 12th at 7:00 p.m. and on Monday, December 19th at 7:00 p.m.

On Christmas Eve (Saturday) warmups for soloists and instrumentalists is at 8:00 p.m.; choir warmup is at 8:45 p.m.; Festival of Music begins at 9:30 p.m.; and the Christmas service begins at 10:00 p.m. There is no choir on Sunday, Christmas Day, and no choir on Sunday, January 1st.

On Sunday, January 8th, choir goes back to their regular schedule of 9:30 a.m. warmup and rehearsal for the 10:30 a.m. services.

Submitted by Kay Sutton



St. Matthew's Women's Book Club will meet on Sunday, January 15, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at Judy Ashley's home to discuss [A Man Called Ove](#) by Fredrik Backman. Book club members, please contact Judy if you are planing to attend or not.

Meet Ove. He's a curmudgeon—the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him “the bitter neighbor from hell.” But must Ove be bitter just because he doesn't walk around with a smile plastered to his face all the time?

A feel-good story in the spirit of [The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry](#) and [Major Pettigrew's Last Stand](#), Fredrik Backman's novel about the angry old man next door is a thoughtful exploration of the profound impact one life has on countless others. “If there was an award for ‘Most Charming Book of the Year,’ this first novel by a Swedish blogger-turned-overnight-sensation would win hands down” (Booklist, starred review).

Please read the book and join the women for discussion, food, and fellowship on January 15, 2017.



Christmas Service Schedule 2016

Saturday, December 24th: Christmas Eve
5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Music
(Note: no 5:00 p.m. Saturday service)

Saturday, December 24th: Christmas Eve
9:30 p.m. Festival of Music
10:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist
(Note: incense will be used)

Sunday, December 25th: Christmas Day
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Music
(Note: only one service on Christmas Day)

Saturday, December 31st: Special New Year's Eve Service at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 1st: New Year's Day
(One Service at 10:00 a.m.)

Office Furniture Donations

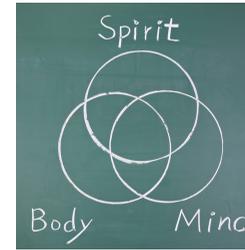
Our Rector's office in the Guild Hall is in of refurnishing. Many meetings are held in this space including those with parishioners and people from the community. The present furniture is outdated and uncomfortable. Especially needed is a love seat and several seating chairs. If you are in the process of redecorating or down-sizing, help to replace the seating arrangement pictured below with your donations. They would be greatly appreciated. Contact the office at 262-654-8642.



St. Matthew's has partnered with *myEoffering* in order to provide you with the convenience of online giving. Online giving refers to a process much like online bill pay, whereby donors opt to have their financial contributions to the church withdrawn directly from their credit, debit, checking, or savings account in lieu of bringing cash or paper checks each Sunday. You need not worry about the security of your financial data as we chose *myEoffering* in part because of their strict security measures.

By setting up recurring donations to be automatically debited from your account, it allows the church to better plan budgets and expenditures and provides a more accurate financial forecast. With more consistent stewardship, our church is able to focus more on the ministry of God.

Signing up is very easy. Go to our church website(stmatthewskenosha.net) and click on the "Give Online" tab. The steps are outlined and you will be able to register an account.



ATTENTION KNITTERS, CROCHETERS, and SEWERS

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY Anyone who wants to make & donate a lap blanket or shawl is welcome to join this ministry. The only rule or guide needed is that you say a prayer for those who will receive them as you start and end each work session. Shawls are given for any reason: illness, stress of a spiritual or mental type, happiness for any reason, wedding, birth, baptism, confirmation. If you think someone needs one, that is a reason for taking one from the blue cabinet in the back of the church. We are planning to bless shawls/blankets the second week in February. God bless you for getting those fingers busy and adding prayers.

EUCHARISTIC VISITORS The visitors are sent out from church the second Sunday of each month. We visit at the request of those who cannot get to church. If you cannot get out regularly during these upcoming winter months, please call the office and we will set up a visit with you. If you know of a shut in, please offer our services and call the office at 654-8642 with their information.

PARISH HEALTH MINISTRY I'm happy to say that this year seems to be a healthy one for our congregation. I have had only a few calls. This is just a reminder that we have this ministry available to anyone in the congregation and their families. Our services vary from phone calls routinely to check on people, referrals to community agencies for assistance with living arrangements, financial aid, assistance with medication, and visits to be sure health is maintained. As we all know, health problems not only have a physical component but there are also mind & spiritual components. That is what we do best. There is no cost for this service. It is a ministry that was started by Jesus and we, at St. Matthew's, are trying to carry it on. If you have a referral call the office at 654-8642 or Lynn @ 262-496-8124.

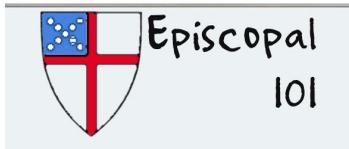
Submitted by,

Lynn Heller, Parish Nurse

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day Services

On Saturday, December 31st, there will be a special New Year's Eve Service at 5:00 p.m. in the church. The service will have readings, music, and a special ritual to honor the past year and the year to come. The service will conclude in time for everyone to continue with their New Year's celebrations.

On Sunday, January 1st, we will celebrate the Feast of the Holy Name with one service at 10:00 a.m.



Inquirers' Class for 2017

For those who are interested in Confirmation, Reception into the Episcopal Church or want to reaffirm their baptismal vows, this class is for you! If you are relatively new to the church, want to learn more about the Church or want to officially join the Church, this class is for you! The Inquirers' Class will meet weekly, starting the week of January 15th and go until May when we will have a Eucharistic celebration with people from other Episcopal Churches in our area and Bishop Miller. More information will be published about this class soon. If you have any questions about the class, please contact the church office at 262-654-8642. A sign-up sheet is at the back of the church with options for date and time.

Food Pantry

In January donations of peanut butter and jelly will be greatly appreciated by the Shalom Center pantry. Help fill the big blue baskets at the back of the church.



Senior Rides

If you are 60 or above, or have a disability, a FREE ride is offered to attend church on Christmas Eve at 5:30 p.m. or 9:30 p.m.; Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m.; and also New Year's Day at 10:00 a.m. Contact the church office, 262-654-8642, by Tuesday, December 20th, if you would like our Senior Project to provide this ride service.

Sunday Transportation to Church

St. Matthew's Senior Project also offers transportation to our shut-ins on a regular basis. If you are a senior age 60 or above, or have a disability, and would like to attend Sunday services, call the office at 262-654-8642 to arrange for transportation.

Senior Lunch - Happy New Year

Our first Sunday of the month Senior Lunch falls on January 1, 2017, New Year's Day. Come celebrate from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. with a free lunch in the Guild Hall. If you are 60 or above, or have a disability call the church office at 262-654-8642 by December 29th to reserve your spot and transportation if needed.



Flowers to the Glory of God

As is the tradition at St. Matthew's Church, parishioners are invited to contribute to the Christmas Flower Fund. The dedications can be in thanksgiving for personally significant occasions in your life, to honor a living family member or friend, or to celebrate the life of a deceased family member or other significant person in your life.

Please detach the form below and, with your donation, give it to an usher, place it in the collection plate, or mail it to the church. All donations must be returned to the church office by Friday, December 16th.

Please print your name and intention as you wish it to appear in the Christmas bulletin insert. Place it and your donation in the offering plate on Sundays or mail it to the church office, 5900 - 7th Avenue, Kenosha WI 53140.

Donor: _____

In memory of: _____

In thanksgiving for: _____

Other intention: _____