

To Know and Share God's Love

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 1, 2024 • 8:00am



FALL PHOTOS—SUNDAY, SEPT. 8

Join us on Sunday, September 8th from 8:50 AM - 11:30 AM for a free fall photo opportunity for your family! Make this the year you order your Christmas cards early because you'll already have a great family photo to share.

Our very own Jackie Baker will be here taking outdoor photos, weather permitting. Rain date TBD if needed.



YOUTH ALPHA, SUNDAYS 5-7 PM

Beginning September 8th, 6-12th graders are invited to join this dynamic program. Each session includes dinner, fun games, and meaningful conversations aimed at helping teens grow in faith and deepen their relationship with Jesus.

Alpha Youth exists to **EQUIP THE CHURCH** to help **RIISING GENERATIONS** discover and develop a **RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS**. We do this by providing transformative **EXPERIENCES AND CURIOUS CONVERSATIONS**.

WELCOME

We know that going to church or to a new church for the first time can be nerve-racking. We want to help make your first experience at St. Matthew's a great one!

If this is your first visit to Saint Matthew's, we welcome you. Please join us between services for coffee, tea and refreshments in the Parish Hall. For more information about our community, visit our website www.stmmts.org. We are so glad you are here!



COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All baptized Christians are welcome to participate in communion. If you would like to receive, simply place one hand on top of the other, palms up, and the priest will place bread in your hand. You may then consume the wafer. If for any reason you prefer to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms across your chest and the priest will give you a blessing. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.

Would you like to learn more about baptism? Please visit our website: stmmts.org/baptism or contact our office via email at Office@stmmts.org or phone at 703-430-2121.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER LIST

The Saint Matthew's intercessory prayer list is for those in or related to our community who are in need of prayer. It is designed so that all members of our community can pray for each other on an ongoing basis. In order to pray for those on the list, simply ask God to be with them and help them in any way needed - God knows what is going on, so we don't need to.

Please pray for the following:

James, Sean, Sieg, Chuck, Lea, Bonnie, Arthur, John G, Glo, Deb, Teresa, Mel, Eric, Debbie, Marshall, Ruth, Remmie, Webster, Julia, Madison, Nora, Robert, Missy, Tom, Lynne, Arianna, Amy, Jackie, Ann, Kay, Jane, Panita, Mary Ann, Sharp Family, Amelia, Kassadi, Samantha, Dawn, Rudy, Kay, Clarissa, Huxsten, Dottie, Jonathan, Ageanna, Becky, RL, Darla, Gerry, Paul, Jenny, Reena, Sarah, Brandi, Barbara, Michael, Peggy, Emmett, Cathleen, Ray, BMR, Asley, Robyn, Emma, Frances, Christy, Nick, Gus, Aldana, Clint, Chealsie, Edgar, Rusty, Anne, Shelby, Kiera, Marty, Verdun, Candace, Kevin, John, Ome, Renee, Grace, Kristina, Fire Victims, Freya, Ava, Steve, Natalie, Kristen, Sophia, Sadie, Shaundra, Larry, Don, Fabiano, Diana, Phil, Luke, John, Brenda, Pete, Valorie, Cathy, Naomi, Dan, Christy, Dennis, Diane, Brent, Mary, Judy, and Sybil.

If you or someone you care about are in need of Pastoral Care, please call 703-430-2121.

8 AM SERVICE

The Word of God

Opening Prayer	
Acclamation and Collect for Purity	355
Gloria	356
Collect of the Day (contemporary)	Insert
Lessons	
First Reading • Song of Solomon 2:8-13	
Psalm • 45:1-2, 7-10	
Second Reading • James 1:17-27	
Gospel • Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23	
Sermon	The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.
Nicene Creed	358
Prayers of the People, Form III	387
Confession of Sin and Absolution	359-360
Peace	360
Announcements & Welcome	

The Holy Communion

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

(An offertory plate is not passed at this service. If you wish to make a donation, the collection plate can be found at the back of the church, or donations are accepted online at www.stmtts.org/give)

*All things come of thee, O Lord,
And of thine own have we given thee.*

Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer A	361
The Lord's Prayer	364
Breaking of the Bread	364
Invitation to Communion	364
Communion of the People	
Post-Communion Prayer	365
Blessing	
Procession into the World	366

The Word of God

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Opening Songs (stand through the Gospel)

Song • My Jesus

Song • Cornerstone

Gospel • Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Sermon

The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.

Prayers of the People

Peace

Announcements & Welcome

The Holy Communion

Offertory

(An offertory plate is not passed at this service. If you wish to make a donation, the collection plate can be found at the back of the church, or donations are accepted online at www.stmtts.org/give)

Great Thanksgiving (stand through Communion)

Eucharistic Prayer

Sanctus • Wholly Yours

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Song • Scars

Closing Prayer (stand through dismissal)

Blessing

Closing Song • What a Friend

Dismissal

11 AM SERVICE

The Word of God

Processional Hymn • #494 • Crown Him with Many Crowns
(vs. 1, 2, 3, & 5)

Acclamation and Collect for Purity 355

Gloria • S280

Collect of the Day (Contemporary) Insert

Lessons

First Reading • Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Psalms • 45:1-2, 7-10

Second Reading • James 1:17-27

Gospel • Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Sermon The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.

Nicene Creed 358

Prayers of the People

Confession of Sin and Absolution 359-360

Peace 360

Announcements & Welcome

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem • A Round of Praise Douglas A. Wagner

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Doxology • Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer A 361

Sanctus • Hymnal • S114

The Lord's Prayer 364

Breaking of the Bread 364

Invitation to Communion

Communion of the People

Communion Hymn • #510 • Come Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove
(vs. 1, 2, 3, & 4)

Post-Communion Prayer 365

Blessing

Procession into the World • #561 • Stand Up, Stand Up, for Jesus
(vs. 1, 2, & 4)

Dismissal 366



DONUTS&DISCOVERY
Bite Into Faith, One Donut at a Time

DONUTS & DISCOVERY SUNDAYS AT 9:30AM

Middle and high school students are invited to start Sunday mornings with a treat and some thought-provoking conversations at Donuts and Discovery. Join us for donuts and engaging faith discussions tailored just for you. It's the perfect way to connect with friends, explore big questions, and deepen your understanding of faith.

SEPTEMBER
YOUTH EVENTS
FOR STUDENTS IN 6-12TH GRADE

FALL YOUTH FUN & SERVICE Sunday, September 8—Magician's Workshop Escape Room

Meet at St. Matt's at 11AM
Estimated return at 1:30PM
Cost: \$10

Save the date:
September 29—Beetlejuice 2
October 20—Trunk or Treat
October 27—Anna Sudha Kitchen

Stay updated with all
the youth happenings
by using Band App!
Scan the QR code, or
visit the website:



STMTTS.ORG/YOUTHEVENTS

FAITH FACTORY KIDS
EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:30 AM
PRESCHOOL - 5TH GRADE

FAITH FACTORY STARTS TODAY STMTTS.ORG/FAITHFACTORY

Faith Factory is St. Matthew's Sunday morning programming for preschool - fifth grade students. It's a chance for kids to learn about God's love for them through Bible stories, relationship building, singing songs, art projects, & more!
Register using the link above.



KIDS SUNDAY FUN

Join us for worship and then enjoy fun and games or a special treat on Sundays at 10:30AM!
September 8—Puzzles & Games
September 15—Apple Sack Races
September 22—Pajama Day



TRUNK OR TREAT
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2PM-5PM
Save the date. Details coming soon.



OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES STMTTS.ORG/OUTREACH

Outreach is one of the hallmarks of our shared life together at St. Matt's, and one of the many ways we share God's love in our community. We have lots of ways to participate and lead. Will you prayerfully consider how you might be called to serve?

Among the many opportunities, we are seeking a Thanksgiving Bag Manager, LINK Liaison, and Vegetable Garden Lead. Training is provided, and positions can be shared with a friend.

To learn more, please visit stmtts.org/outreach or contact Kristin Drummond at office@stmtts.org.



BACKPACK BUDDIES STERLINGHELP.ORG

Backpack Buddies returns for the 2024-2025 school year with our first pack on Sunday, September 1 at 10:30AM.

Backpack Buddies collects donations of non-perishable items: oatmeal, fruit cups, granola bars, tuna & more.

Learn more about the feeding children in our community by visiting the link above or contact Hilary at Hilary.Hultman-Lee@hrtsterling.org.



FLOWER MINISTRY

Our Celebration Garden continues to be a source of beautiful flowers. Each week, these flowers are elegantly arranged by dedicated volunteers.

Do you know someone whose day would be brightened and blessed by receiving a vase of colorful fresh flowers? Visit stmtts.org/FlowerRequest or email garden@stmtts.org with your name, recipient's name, and the Sunday you'd like to pick up your arrangement.



JOIN OUR NEW EFM CLASS THIS SEPTEMBER!

EfM is a small group program where participants read, study, and discuss ways to live into their theological beliefs and to be an example of the heart and hands of Christ.

www.stmtts.org/efm

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY STMTTS.ORG/EFM

EfM is a small-group program that provides an education in the content of the Christian tradition. Participants are invited to share their insights and discoveries through weekly reading and discussions. Visit the website or contact us for more information. Seminars will begin on Sept 17.



MEN'S GROUP

SATURDAYS AT 8 AM
IN THE TRAILER & ON ZOOM
mengroup@stmmts.org

MEN'S GROUP SATURDAYS AT 8AM

All men are welcome to meet in the classrooms on the hill for fellowship, Bible study, and encouragement. Contact mengroup@stmmts.org.



APPLE COFFEE HOUR

APPLE TREATS AT COFFEE HOUR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Join us on Sept. 15 at 10:30AM for a selection of apple themed treats and fun conversation during coffee hour.



ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE PETS

PET BLESSING SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 5PM

Save the date for the return of our annual Pet Blessing service. Well behaved pets of all varieties are welcome. Join us on the front lawn for a worship service including communion and pet blessings. It's a great chance to invite friends.



FURNITURE DONATIONS NEEDED

SUPPORT LOCAL TEACHERS

Rolling Ridge Elementary has hired three new teachers from Jamaica and one from Africa. These teachers have secured housing, but need furnishings. If you have furniture in good condition that you are willing to donate, email Malou at Office@stmmts.org with a description, location, & pictures of the item (s).



BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Join Seminarian, Kara Laughlin on Wednesdays at 7PM on September 4 and 11. Then join Fr. Rob on Wednesdays at 7PM and Thursdays at 12PM, starting September 18.

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church



FRIDAY FLASH

Weekly Newsletter

Email office@stmmts.org
to be added to the
distribution list today!

FRIDAY FLASH EMAIL NEWS

Subscribe today at Office@stmmts.org to stay up to date on all the happenings this fall at St. Matt's.



15 PENTECOST



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 17

Revised Common Lectionary
TRACK ONE

September 1, 2024

COLLECT

Traditional

LORD OF ALL POWER AND MIGHT, who art the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of thy Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Contemporary

LORD OF ALL POWER AND MIGHT, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: Song of Solomon 2:8-13

THE VOICE OF MY BELOVED! Look; he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice. My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away."

Refrain

Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever.

Psalm 45:1-2,7-10 *from the Book of Common Prayer*

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 My heart is stirring
with a noble song; let
me recite what I have
fashioned for the king; *
my tongue shall be the
pen of a skilled writer. | 8 Therefore God, your
God, has anointed you *
with the oil of gladness
above your fellows. |
| 2 You are the fairest of
men; * grace flows from
your lips, because God
has blessed you for ever. | 9 All your garments are
fragrant with myrrh,
aloes, and cassia, * and
the music of strings
from ivory palaces
makes you glad. |
| 7 Your throne, O God,
endures for ever and
ever, * a scepter of
righteousness is the
scepter of your king-
dom; you love
righteousness and hate
iniquity. | 10 Kings' daughters stand
among the ladies of the
court; * on your right
hand is the queen,
adorned with the gold
of Ophir. |

SECOND READING: James 1:17-27

EVERY GENEROUS ACT of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick

to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

GOSPEL: Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

NOW WHEN THE PHARISEES and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the

commandment of God and hold to human tradition.” Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”



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THIS WEEK AT ST. MATT'S

Sunday, September 1st

8:00 am - Rite II Worship Service
9:30 am - Festival Worship Service
9:30 am - Faith Factory
9:30 am - Middle & High School Student
10:30 am - Backpack Buddies Packing
11:00 am - Classic Worship Service
2:00 pm - Women's Small Group

Monday, September 2nd

12:00 pm - Social Time with Candace
7:00 pm - Bread of Life
7:30 pm - Free to Live
8:00 pm - Compline (on line)

Tuesday, September 3rd

8:00 am - Celebration Garden Harvest
10:00 am - Staff Meeting
6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
7:00 pm - Band Rehearsal
7:30 pm - Sandwich Generation Small Group
8:00 pm - Compline (on line)

Wednesday, September 4th

12:00 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
7:00 pm - Bible Study with Kara
8:00 pm - Women's NA Group
8:00 pm - Compline (on line)

Thursday, September 5th

11:00 am - Anam Cara (closed group)
7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal
8:00 pm - Compline (on line)

Friday, September 6th

8:00 am - Flower Harvest & Bouquet Creation
9:30 am - Tree of Life Harvest
7:00 pm - Old Dominion Dancers
8:00 pm - Compline (on line)

Saturday, September 7th

8:00 am - Men's Group
6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
7:00 pm - Narcotics Anonymous
8:30 pm - Narcotics Anonymous

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September 2: Vicki Nelson, Kathleen Ecker
September 3rd: Mona Cosgrove
September 4th: Ray Schrock
September 5th: Austin Kane
September 6th: Tom Smith, George DeFilippi, David Hester, Colin Deaso, Ethan Jacks, Sophie Dodd
September 7th: Syd Severino

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

September 4th: Heidi & David Lathrop, Mary & Andy Scherer, Teresa & Phillip Metcalfe

ATTENDANCE

August 25, 2024

Time or Place	Attendance Online	Attendance In-Person
8:00 AM	18	24
9:30 AM	28	164
11:00 AM	16	32
Faith Factory		14
Youth Group		11

HELP SUPPORT

ST. MATTHEW'S MINISTRIES



GIVE ONLINE



stmtts.org/give



venmo



@stmttssterling



CASH OR
CHECK

Checks can be made payable to "St. Matthew's Church"

For more ways to give and information on automatic giving:

stmtts.org/give

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

In-Person & Online

8:00AM | This is a traditional communion service using Rite II from the Book of Common Prayer.

9:30AM | This is a vibrant communion service with our very own live band. If you are looking for a joyous family service with some of the best music around, this is the service for you.

11:00AM | A classic communion service with our fabulous choir. We use Rite II from the Book of Common Prayer.

Compline (evening prayer) Mon.–Fri. at 8pm on Facebook

Online Worship
stmmts.org/live

Sunday services are broadcast on Facebook and YouTube.

St. Matthew's Staff & Vestry

Rector, Rev. C. Robert Merola, Jr.
Rob@stmmts.org

General Manager, Miriam Turner
Office@stmmts.org

Audio, Livestream Coordinators,
Colin Leary and Kaylyn Burakowski

Bookkeeper, Wendy Filler
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Ben Merola
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VESTRY

Robby Stevens, Senior Warden

Andrew Wright, Junior Warden

Craig Dubishar

Bob Henry

Julie Kane

Sharon Muniz

Stephanie Zebrowski

Service Volunteers

Ushers | Fred Brittain, Justin Warnick, Michael Horrigan, Lorenzo Martini, Sharon Ferguson

Lectors | Darrell Breed, John Druva

Eucharistic Ministers/LEMs | Martha Olson, Gerry Wardell

Tellers | Dan Robertson

Altar Guild | Elly Hilz, Adrienne Miller, Anitrus Jones