

To Know and Share God's Love

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 28, 2024 · 8:00am

**COOKOUT AT
FR. ROB & LINDA'S**
WEDNESDAYS IN MAY

COOKOUT AT FR. ROB & LINDA'S

Join Fr. Rob in his gorgeous garden on Wednesday evenings in May from 6PM–8PM, beginning May 8th. Come and enjoy fellowship, fresh air, and great food. Grill items and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share, and a lawn chair or blanket. The entire family is welcome!

Address: 34 Bedford Drive, Sterling VA 20165. Enter through the side gate to the garden.

NEWCOMER'S

RECEPTION

NEWCOMERS WELCOME IN THE GARDEN—WED., MAY 8, 6-8PM

Have you started attending Saint Matthew's in the past year? We'd love to get to know you better. We invite you to join us on Wednesday, May 8, 6PM-8PM at Fr. Rob and Linda's house in their beautiful backyard. We'll grill and enjoy a lovely evening together. Families are welcome. Please enter through the side gate to the garden.

Please RSVP to Miriam@stmmts.org by May 5.

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.stmtts.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: stmtts.org/Baptism or contact our office via email at Office@stmtts.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, Gina, 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, Kyle, Samantha, Dawn, Rudy, Kay, Clarissa, Huxsten, Dottie, Jonathan, Ageanna, Becky, RL, Priscilla, Darla, Gerry, Paul, Jenny, Reena, Sarah, Brandi, Barbara, Michael, Peggy, Emmett, Cathleen, Ray, BMR, Asley, Robyn, Emma, Frances, Christy, Nick, Gus, Jim, Bill, Aldana, Clint, Chealsie, Edgar, Rusty, Anne, Shelby, Marty, Verdun, Candace, Kevin, John, Billie, Brown family, Renee, Grace, Kristina, Wesley, Brice family, Freya, Ava, Steve, and Natalie.

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
Holy God	356
Collect of the Day (contemporary)	Insert
Lessons	
First Reading • Acts 8:26-40	
Psalm • 22:24-30	
Second Reading • 1 John 4:7-21	
Gospel • John 15:1-8	
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

9:30 AM SERVICE

The Word of God

Welcome

Opening Song • Lean on Me

Opening Prayer

Opening Songs (stand through the Gospel)

Song • Lead On, Good Shepherd

Song • Brother

Gospel • John 15:1-8

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.stmmts.org/give)

Great Thanksgiving (stand through Communion)

Eucharistic Prayer

Sanctus

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Song • Thank God I Do

Closing Prayer (stand through dismissal)

Blessing

Closing Song • Carry Me

Dismissal

11 AM SERVICE

The Word of God

Processional Hymn • #657 vs. 1, 2, 3 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	
Acclamation and Collect for Purity	355
Gloria • S280	
Collect of the Day (Contemporary)	Insert
Lessons	
First Reading • Acts 8:26-40	
Psalm • 22:24-30	
Second Reading • 1 John 4:7-21	
Gospel • John 15:1-8	
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 • I Choose Love	Mark A. Miller
Presentation of Tithes and Offerings	
Doxology • Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow	
Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer A	361
Sanctus • Hymnal S129 • Holy, Holy, Holy Lord	
The Lord's Prayer	364
Breaking of the Bread	364
Invitation to Communion	
Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn • Here I Am, Lord	
Post-Communion Prayer	365
Blessing	
Procession into the World • I've Got Peace Like a River	
Dismissal	366



YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

YOUTH GROUP ON SUNDAYS

Donuts and Discovery: Middle and high school students are invited to meet on Sundays at 9:30 AM in classroom four. After a quick welcome, the group will divide for breakout sessions. Each group will enjoy donuts and discussion around a new series, Follow.

Regardless of what you believe, Regardless of how you behave, Jesus invites you to . . . Follow.

Stay updated with all the youth happenings by using Band App! Scan the QR code to join for group updates, chats, & event reminders.



Pickleball Tournament

Sunday, May 5, 1:30 PM

Meet Ben at church for carpooling.

Anna Sudha Volunteer Kitchen

Sunday, May 19, 1PM-3PM
Join Ben at Anna Sudha for volunteer work serving the local community.

Summer Kick-Off

Sunday, June 2, 1PM-3PM

Join Ben at the church for a bonfire and games! There will be wiffleball, pickleball, and more along with burgers and smores. Rising 6th graders are invited! If you can help cook for this event or chaperone let us know through BAND!



2024 YOUTH GROUP SUMMER MISSION TRIP

SUMMER 2024 YOUTH MISSION

STMTTS.ORG/YOUTHMISSION
Have you been thinking about joining the summer youth mission trip, June 23-29? Maybe you're registered, but have questions. Join our Mission Trip Leaders, Ben Merola and Jae Mitchell on **Sunday, April 28 at 10:30AM** for a short Q&A. Meet in classroom four off of the parish hall.

Rising sixth - twelfth graders (and chaperones) are invited. Find details and register at the link above.



CELEBRATE OUR GRADUATES!

SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 5:00 PM
Everyone is invited to join us for a special worship service as we celebrate our 2024 high school, college, and trade graduates.

Graduates and their families are invited for a celebration dinner immediately following the service. Graduates must RSVP by May 19 to Office@stmtts.org if you plan to attend. If you are interested in volunteering at this event, please contact Miriam in the church office.

A green background with a field of crops and a small house. On the right, there is a vertical strip of four small photos showing people at a picnic.

MEMORIAL WEEKEND PICNIC AT ST. MATT'S

MEMORIAL WEEKEND PICNIC SUNDAY, MAY 26, 11:30AM

Save the date as we join together to celebrate the start of summer. We'll worship together at St. Matthew's at 8AM and 10:30AM and then enjoy a picnic lunch and games. See more details in the May newsletter.

If you are willing to help make this a fun filled day, please contact Miriam at Office@stmtts.org.



SUPPORT BACKPACK BUDDIES

BACKPACK BUDDIES/HRTS STERLINGHELP.ORG

Backpack Buddies packs food at 12PM on Tuesdays in the Classroom on the Hill, and the first Sunday of each month at 10:30AM. We also accept donations of shelf-stable, single-serve pantry items (e.g. tuna, snacks, fruit cups).

Share the message of HRTS and follow us on social media @hungerresponse. If you'd like to learn more about how you can help fight childhood hunger in our community, please contact Hilary Hultman-Lee by email at Hilary.Hultman-Lee@hrtsterling.org

A group of four young adults (two men and two women) sitting together and looking at a laptop screen.

COLLEGE-AGE INTERNS WANTED

WE'RE HIRING! STMTTS.ORG/WORKWITHUS

Summer is on the way, and Ben has some incredible plans! St. Matt's is seeking faithful, college age interns who want to be part of a great team to make this an epic summer for our middle and high school aged students. If you know a young adult looking to earn money while having a super fun summer, please encourage them to visit the link above and apply today.

A purple background with a colorful, bubbly graphic that says "SCUBA" and "put it to the test and see".

SUMMER CAMP VBS AT ST. MATT'S

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 22-26, 2024 REGISTER NOW: STMTTS.ORG/VBS

Join us for our favorite Summer Camp Experience, VBS! This summer, kids will dive into an ocean of discovery, learning God is a real friend who loves them forever!

To make VBS an awesome experience for our community, we need many volunteers, both adults and teens. Teen helpers are invited to stay each evening after VBS for special fun activities! Service hour certificates are provided.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

WOMEN'S MINISTRY [STMTTS.ORG/WOMENSGROUPS](https://stmtts.org/womensgroups)

Join the women of St. Matthew's for a volunteer event at **Women Giving Back** TODAY, April 28, 1 - 3:30PM where we will sort and organize clothing. RSVP required using the link above.

Yoga Workshop and Brunch on Saturday, May 18, 9AM - 11AM. Our own Zorana Rouse will lead relaxing yoga and meditation for all ages and abilities. Bring a mat or sit on a chair. A delicious potluck brunch will follow. Please bring a dish to share if you would like, but it is not required. Please register for this event at the link above.

Registration for our **2024 Women's Retreat**, September 20-22, is open. Find details in the May newsletter!



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 mensgroup@stmtts.org.



HELPING HANDS

EMAIL LIST SIGN-UP

HELPING HANDS

One of the ways we support St. Matt's members is by sharing meals after a baby is born, illness, or surgery. Please email Miriam at Office@stmtts.org to be added to the email distribution list, then you choose how often you'd like to participate.



TEMPORARY OFFICE HOURS

OFFICE CLOSED MAY 2

Fr. Rob, Miriam, Kathleen, Ben, and Hilary are excited to attend training in Atlanta, GA on May 1 and May 2. Sue will be in the office on Wednesday, May 1 from 1PM-4PM.



MAY BIBLE STUDY THURSDAYS AT 12 PM

MAY BIBLE STUDY

Join Fr. Rob and friends on Thursdays at noon for discussion on scripture and Sunday's sermon. No meeting May 2 due to staff training.



5 EASTER

Fifth Sunday of Easter



Revised Common Lectionary

Sunday, April 28, 2024

COLLECT

Traditional

O ALMIGHTY GOD, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know thy Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leadeth to eternal life; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Contemporary

ALMIGHTY GOD, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

AN ANGEL OF THE LORD said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand

what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Refrain

Make known the saving deeds that God has done.

Psalm 22:24-30 *from the Book of Common Prayer*

- | | |
|--|---|
| 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; * I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him. | 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: * "May your heart live for ever!" |
|--|---|

- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, * and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; * he rules over the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; * all
- who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; * they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn * the saving deeds that he has done.

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

BELOVED, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been

perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

JESUS SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Scripture Text Bulletin Insert No. RCL 2021-18B-RCL. The Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used by permission. Collects and Psalter translation are from The Book of Common Prayer, 1979.

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THIS WEEK AT ST. MATT'S

Sunday, April 28th

- 8:00 am - Rite II Worship Service
- 9:30 am - Festival Worship Service
- 9:30 am - Faith Factory
- 9:30 am - Middle & High School Groups
- 10:30 am - Youth Mission Trip Meeting
- 10:30 am - Outreach Meeting
- 10:30 am - Pastoral Care Team Meeting
- 11:00 am - Classic Worship Service
- 11:00 am - Faith Factory
- 12:00 pm - Technology Staff Meeting
- 12:30 am - Young Professionals Small Group
- 1:00 pm - Women's Ministry Volunteer
Event: Women Giving Back
- 2:00 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 6:30 pm - Girl Scout Troop 2274

Monday, April 29th

- 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, April 30th

- 9:30 am - All Ages Read Together
- 10:00 am - Staff Meeting
- 12:00 pm - Backpack Buddies Packing
- 6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00 pm - Education for Ministry
- 7:00 pm - Band Rehearsal
- 8:00 pm - Compline (on line)

Wednesday, May 1st

- 12:00 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 8:00 pm - Women's NA Group
- 8:00 pm - Compline (on line)

Thursday, May 2nd (Office Closed)

- 9:30 am - All Ages Read Together
- 11:00 am - Anam Cara (closed group)
- 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal
- 8:00 pm - Compline (on line)

Friday, May 3rd

- 10:00 am - Tentative Memorial Service
- 7:00 pm - Old Dominion Dancers
- 8:00 pm - Compline (on line)

Saturday, May 4th

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- April 28th: Shay Nelson
- April 29th: Mike Brennan, Akila O'Grady, Margaret Wallis, Jamie Lawall, Bella Warnick
- April 30th: Shelli Crockett
- May 1st: Julia Braxton
- May 4th: Miles Bruce

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- April 30th: Sara & Rick Breed
- May 1st: Nikki & Charle Acierto
- May 2nd: Rita & Richard Leslie

ATTENDANCE

April 21, 2024

Time or Place	Attendance Online	Attendance In-Person
8:00 AM	19	23
9:30 AM	34	178
11:00 AM	14	44
Faith Factory		16
Youth Group		12

HELP SUPPORT ST. MATTHEW'S MINISTRIES



GIVE ONLINE



stmmts.org/give



venmo



@stmmtssterling



CASH OR
CHECK

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

For more ways to give and
information on automatic giving:

stmmts.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

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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, Emory Henderson, Michael Horrigan, Lorenzo Martini, Cheryl Gilligan

Lectors | Debbie Majewski, Kevin Fletcher

Eucharistic Ministers/LEMs | Richard Henry, Haley Elliott, Brian Bellamy, Carolyn Wright, Gerry Wardell

Tellers | Dan Robertson

Altar Guild | Elly Hilz, Linda Merola, Sue Reier