

To Know and Share God's Love

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, July 23, 2023**

**HELP US
FILL THE BUS!**

**2023 SCHOOL
SUPPLY DRIVE**



**SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE
[STMMTS.ORG/BACKTOSCHOOL](https://stmmts.org/backtoschool)**

It's that time again - stores are stocking up on school supplies and our teachers are preparing for the next school year!

Help support local school children and teachers by donating items from their list of most requested items. Visit the link above to see the shopping list so you can pick up items while doing your own shopping, or click through to shop online. Items due August 13.

**FLOWER
MINISTRY**



FLOWER BOUQUETS

The Celebration Garden is proud to share our new cut flower ministry. Look at the beautiful hand tied floral bouquets just inside the front doors on Sunday mornings! Pick up a bouquet so you can share the blessing of a beautiful bouquet with a friend, neighbor, or stranger. If you need inspiration, Miriam has a list of St. Matthew's friends that would love to be surprised with a bouquet! Volunteers are also needed. Contact Heidi at Garden@stmmts.org to learn more.

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:

John S, Panita, Deepak, Flood Victims, Vicki, Greg, Mary Ann, Sharp Family, Anthony, Josh, Reatha, Athena, Kathleen, Heriberto, Rosaura, Matthew, Denise, Bellamy Family, Jose, Pete, Annie, MaryLea, Alan, Nishah, Marty, Damar, Jeremy, Kyeron, Abigail, Verdun, Candace, Sieg, Chuck, Lea, Bonnie, Arthur, John G, Gina, Glo, James, Sean, Deb, Teresa, Mel, Eric, Debbie, Marshall, Ginny, Andrew, Bob, Robby, Ron, Earthquake Victims, Train Crash Victims, Kathleen, Jenny, Corinne, AJ, Kassadi, Jordan, Amelia, Michael, Steve, Raven, Kenya, Josiah, Joy, Elizabeth, Rusty, Elizabeth, Michelle, Yutzy family, Sites Family, Frank, Tess, Brian, Mike, Zach, Paine, Arjun, Scotty, Brad, Mary W., Bobby, Elijah, Philip, Myers family, Phil, Terry, Kathy, Pat, Bob, Tonia, Bronwyn, Sanjay, Susanna, Lawrence family, Fabiano, McKeown family, and Viola.

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

8:00 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 • Genesis 28:10-19a	
Psalm • 139:1-11, 22-23	
Second Reading • Romans 8:12-25	
Gospel • Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	
Sermon	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

Offertory	
Presentation of Tithes and Offerings	
<i>All things come of thee, O Lord,</i> <i>And of thine own have we given thee.</i>	
Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer C	369
The Lord's Prayer	364
Breaking of the Bread	364
Invitation to Communion	364
Communion of the People	
Post-Communion Prayer	366
Blessing	
Procession into the World	366

9:30 AM SERVICE

The Word of God

Opening Songs (stand through the Gospel)

Song • Less Like Me

Song • Your Royal Blood

Gospel • Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sermon

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

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Song • Born Again

Closing Prayer (stand through dismissal)

Blessing

Closing Song • I Refuse

Dismissal

11 AM SERVICE

The Word of God

Processional Hymn	
Acclamation and Collect for Purity	355
Gloria • S280	
Collect of the Day (Contemporary)	Insert
Lessons	
First Reading • Genesis 28:10-19a	
Psalm • 139:1-11, 22-23	
Second Reading • Romans 8:12-25	
Gospel • Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	
Sermon	Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.
Nicene Creed	358
Prayers of the People	
Confession and Absolution	360
Peace	360
Announcements & Welcome	

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem	
Presentation of Tithes and Offerings	
Doxology • #380 vs. 3 Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow	
Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer C	369
Sanctus • S130	
The Lord's Prayer	364
Breaking of the Bread	364
Invitation to Communion	
Communion of the People	
Communion Song	
Post-Communion Prayer	365
Blessing	
Procession into the World	
Dismissal	366



HELPING HANDS MINISTRY OFFICE@STMTTS.ORG

Our helping hands ministry provides meals, rides, and assistance with errands to community members. It's an easy way to help when it fits into your schedule. Email Miriam to be added to the distribution list.



HUNGER RESPONSE TEAM OF STERLING - HRTS STERLINGHELP.ORG

HRTS is a new 501c3 started to address the growing needs of our community. Please help us spread the word by asking two friends or co-workers to join you in supporting a Backpack Buddies child. \$9/week provides six meals to a child right here in our community. Share the link above for more information, and ask your employer about corporate matching.



SAVE THE DATE!
SUNDAY, AUGUST 27TH at 5 PM



VBS VOLUNTEER TRAINING SUNDAY, JULY 23, 12PM STMTTS.ORG/VBS

Immediately following the 11am worship service on July 23, all volunteers for this year's VBS are asked to attend a short training session. If you are able, we'd love to have your help with decorating following the meeting.



ST. MATT'S LADIES NIGHT STMTTS.ORG/LADIES NIGHT

Looking for a fun ladies' night out? Join some of your St. Matt's besties for an evening at Tarara Winery and enjoy DC Area's most popular party band Gonzo's Nose! Grab a friend and RSVP below to let us know you're coming, and don't forget to purchase your tickets ahead of time directly from Tarara Winery!

Register at stmtts.org/ladiesnight





WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Join Fr. Rob for a weekly Bible study. We'll meet on Wednesdays in August at 7pm, and finish promptly by 8pm.



**THE GLOBAL
LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**
AUGUST 3 & 4

RSVP TO RESERVE YOUR FREE
SPACE: Office@stmmts.org

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Join us at St. Matthew's for world class leadership training from James Clear, Condoleeza Rice, Henry Cloud, and many more. High schoolers and above are welcome! Email Office@stmmts.org to reserve a free seat at this awesome summit.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL STMMTS.ORG/VBS

VBS is a week long extravaganza that will launch kids on a cosmic quest where they'll have a blast shining Jesus' light on the world. Join us on Sunday, July 30 to celebrate this amazing week!



VOLUNTEER IN THE GARDEN!

Volunteers of all ages are welcome on Tuesdays from 8:30am - 10:30am to work in the garden!

ARE YOU IN YOUR 20'S OR 30'S & LOOKING
TO ENRICH YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE? JOIN US!

Young
Professionals
A.K.A YoPro



CAITLIN.DRONFIELD@STMMTS.ORG

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

We'd love to meet you and we invite you to join our small group. We are meeting the 2nd and 4th Sundays in July. Contact Caitlin for information.



ST. MATT'S WOMENS RETREAT SEPTEMBER 22-24, 2023 STMMTS.ORG/RETREAT

You're invited to join the women of St. Matthew's to enjoy fellowship and relaxation as we cultivate fertile soil into our hearts. We are excited for the weekend's special guest speaker, Rev. Mary Margaret Winn. Visit the link above for details and registration. Space is limited.



VBS YOUTH VOLUNTEER EVENTS

VBS is a special gift we offer our community, and it's powered by volunteers! We like to give special thanks to our middle and high school aged volunteers by inviting them to participate in super fun events each evening after VBS.

When the campers go home, the VBS volunteers get to play! Register to volunteer at stmtts.org/vbs. Don't miss fun events like: karaoke, ice cream, water games, slip n slide kickball and more!



JOURNEY BREAKFAST CLUB SUNDAYS at 9:30AM

Rising 8th -12th graders are invited to come and be who they are, make friends, and have real conversations about God. **Questions? Contact Ron at journey@stmtts.org**



SUMMER FUN - DETAILS & RSVP AT STMTTS.ORG/FOODFUN

Students are invited to make the most out of summer at these fun events. Friends are welcome!

Monday, July 31, 1PM-4PM

Middle and high school students are invited to learn cookie decorating.

Tues., August 1, 8:30 - 10:30AM

Middle and high school students are invited to help with harvesting and watering in the Celebration Garden.

Wednesday, August 2, 9:45AM

8th graders and high school: Kings Dominion Trip. \$45, plus lunch money. Scholarships available.

Friday, August 4, 1PM-4PM

Middle and high school students are invited to arrange flowers from the Celebration Garden then deliver to local seniors.

Monday, August 7, 1PM-6PM

Middle and high school students are invited to go tubing at Watermelon Park. Cost \$25

Tues., August 8 - Wed., August 9

8th graders and high school: End of Summer Retreat - The champion in YOU! See RSVP for cost, times and details.

Thursday, August 17, 9AM-6PM

Middle school students: Mission Event and Museum of the Bible. \$15, plus bag lunch



8 PENTECOST

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 11



Revised Common Lectionary
TRACK ONE

COLLECT

Sunday, July 23, 2023

Traditional

ALMIGHTY GOD, the fountain of all wisdom, who knowest our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion, we beseech thee, upon our infirmities, and those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask, mercifully give us for the worthiness of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Contemporary

ALMIGHTY GOD, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: Genesis 28:10-19a

JACOB LEFT BEER-SHEBA and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I

did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

Refrain

Lord, you have searched me out and known me.

Psalm 139:1-11, 22-23 *from the Book of Common Prayer*

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 LORD, you have searched me out and known me; * you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar. | grave my bed, you are there also. |
| 2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places * and are acquainted with all my ways. | 8 If I take the wings of the morning * and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, |
| 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, * but you, O LORD, know it altogether. | 9 Even there your hand will lead me * and your right hand hold me fast. |
| 4 You press upon me behind and before * and lay your hand upon me. | 10 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, * and the light around me turn to night," |
| 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; * it is so high that I cannot attain to it. | 11 Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day; * darkness and light to you are both alike. |
| 6 Where can I go then from your Spirit? * where can I flee from your presence? | 22 Search me out, O God, and know my heart; * try me and know my restless thoughts. |
| 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; * if I make the | 23 Look well whether there be any wickedness in me * and lead me in the way that is everlasting. |

or

Refrain

In your mercy you show your strength, O God.

Canticle: A Song of God's Strength in Mercy (Wisdom 12:13, 16-19)

Your care, O God, encompasses all creation! *

Nor is there any god besides you.

To whom do you need to prove *

that your judgments are just?

For your righteousness comes from your strength, *

and your dominion makes way for your mercy;

for you show your might when mortals doubt your

sovereignty; *

you rebuke those who treat it with contempt.

Although you rule in boundless power, *

you administer justice with mildness;

you govern us with great forbearance *

though you are free to act without constraint.

You have taught your people by such deeds *

that all who would be righteous must be kind.

You have filled your children with good hope *

by stirring them to repent for their sins.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25

SO THEN, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly

while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

ANOTHER PARABLE Jesus put before the crowds: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

Scripture Text Bulletin Insert No. RCL 202029-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.

Printed in the U.S.A.

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THIS WEEK AT ST. MATT'S

Sunday, July 23rd

8:00 am - Rite I Worship Service
9:30 am - Festival Worship Service
11:00 am - Classic Worship Service
12:30 pm - Young Professionals
6:30 pm - Girl Scout Troop 2274

Monday, July 24th

12:00 pm - Social Time with Candace
5:30 pm - Vacation Bible School
7:00 pm - Bread of Life
7:30 pm - Free to Live
8:00 pm - Compline

Tuesday, July 25th

10:00 am - Staff Meeting
5:30 pm - Vacation Bible School
6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
7:00 pm - Band Rehearsal
8:00 pm - Compline

Wednesday, July 26th

12:00 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
5:30 pm - Vacation Bible School
7:00 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
8:00 pm - Compline

Thursday, July 27th

2:00 pm - CSA pick-up
5:30 pm - Vacation Bible School
8:00 pm - Compline

Friday, July 28th

5:30 pm - Vacation Bible School
8:00 pm - Compline

Saturday, July 29th

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 23rd: Emma Harmon
July 24th: Claire Nowinski
July 25th: Joseph Greenlund, Lucy Schrock
July 26th: Eliana Fair
July 27th: Brett Golden, Nick D'Ambrosi
July 28th: Leigh Guthrie, Hilary Hultman-Lee
July 29th: Marie Thomen

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

July 29th: Sophia & Kenneth Bruce

ATTENDANCE

Sunday, July 16, 2023

<i>Time or Place</i>	<i>Attendance Online</i>	<i>Attendance In-Person</i>
8:00 AM	12	27
9:30 AM	25	112
11:00 AM	19	32
Kids/Youth		13
McKeown Celebration of Life	17	311

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" and placed into the collection plate

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
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VESTRY

Sara Warnick, Senior Warden
Andrew Wright, Junior Warden
Caitlin Dronfield
Kristin Drummond
Bob Henry
Sharon Muniz
Robby Stevens

Service Volunteers

Ushers | Maria Palmer, Justin Warnick, Sharon Ferguson

Lectors | Darrell Breed, Sue Reier

Eucharistic Ministers LEMs | Debbie Majewski, Tom Leary, Brian Bellamy, Haley Elliott, Gerry Wardell

Tellers | Dan Robertson

Altar Guild | Richard Henry, Tom Leary, Anitrus Jones