

# MARCH NEWSLETTER

*St. Matthew's Episcopal Church*

## THE GOALS WE SET

REV. ROB MEROLA

Dear Friends,

Some years ago I played "Free Cell", a computer card game that is similar to solitaire. There are 32,000 free cell games a deck of cards makes possible, and supposedly it is possible to win every one.

With that in mind, I made it one of my goals to win every possible variation of the game. At the end of the day, when my brain grew resistant to thinking, I would click on a new free cell game and see what I could do. Gameplay is mostly pattern recognition and hence is a relatively mindless activity.

During this time a psychologist asked me how I was dealing with stress. "I'm playing a lot of free cell," I answered.

"How's that working?" she responded, and we both laughed at the absurdity of my answer.

In the course of playing the game I made it the whole way up to... well, I forget actually. There were computer problems and the machine I was playing on was reformatted. All my "progress" was completely and irretrievably lost.

I don't play anymore.

I don't play any other electronic game, for that matter. Lesson learned.

Jesus tells the story of a wise man who builds his house on a rock as opposed to a foolish man who builds his house on the sand. When a storm comes (ultimately a metaphor for life's end), only one house remains standing.

Both the goals we set (or fail to set) and the things we work for determine how we spend our time. They are no small part of our foundation. Lent is a great time to reflect both on how our building is going and how our "homes" will fair.

Warmly,  
Rob+



## THIS ISSUE:

- Lent Resources
- Holy Week & Easter
- Student Ministry Updates
- Easter Food Drive

**MARCH 2023**

# WAYS TO CONNECT

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP | Sundays at 8, 9:30 & 11 AM**

**Faith Factory for Kids**  
**Pre-K through Gr. 5**  
Sundays at 9:30 AM

**Compline**  
Monday - Friday at 8:00 PM  
Facebook Live: [stmtts.org/live](https://www.facebook.com/stmtts.org/live)

**Sandwich Generation**  
1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 7:00 PM  
[office@stmtts.org](mailto:office@stmtts.org)

**Donuts & Discovery - Middle & High School Students**  
Sundays at 10:30 AM

**Social Time with Candace**  
Mondays at 12 PM  
Zoom Meeting ID: 681-861-620

**WatCh (Wednesdays at Church)**  
Wednesdays at 7 PM

**Young Professionals (YoPros)**  
2nd/4th Sundays at 12:30 PM  
[Caitlin.Dronfield@stmtts.org](mailto:Caitlin.Dronfield@stmtts.org)

**Bread of Life Prayer Group**  
Mondays at 7:00 PM  
[Darrell@stmtts.org](mailto:Darrell@stmtts.org)

**Men's Group**  
Saturdays at 8:00 AM  
[Linden@stmtts.org](mailto:Linden@stmtts.org)

## EVENTS & SAVE THE DATES

### MARCH

Tuesdays - Backpack Buddies Packing at 12 PM  
Wednesdays - Lent WatCh at 7 PM  
Sundays at 10:30 AM - Donuts and Discovery  
Sundays at 10:30 AM - Easter Egg Stuffing during coffee hour  
Sun., March 5th - Backpack Buddies Packing 10:30 AM  
Sun., March 5th - Easter Food Drive Bag Pick Up  
Sun., March 21st - Easter Food Drive Donations Due  
Fri., March 24th - Lunch Meet Up at VA Kitchen 11:45 AM  
Fri., March 31st - St. Matt's Game Night at 6 PM

### APRIL

Tuesdays - Backpack Buddies Packing at 12 PM  
Wednesdays - WatCh at 7 PM  
Sundays at 10:30 Donuts and Discovery  
Sat., April 1st - Parish Work Day 9 AM - 12 PM  
Sun, April 2nd - Palm Sunday Services  
Thurs., April 6th - Maundy Thursday  
Fri., April 7th - Good Friday  
Sat., April 8th - Holy Saturday  
Sun., April 9th - Easter Sunday  
Sat., April 15th - Talent Show & Silent Auction  
Sun., April 16th - Earth Day Celebration & Animal Presentation  
Sun., April 30th - Newcomers Reception

## PARISH WORK DAY

**SAT. APRIL 1ST**  
**9 AM - 12 PM**

We need YOUR help preparing the church grounds for Easter!

We have inside jobs and outside jobs - options for all ages and ability levels. Join us for any amount of time you can!

Donuts and coffee will be served!

# HOLY WEEK

A LOT CAN HAPPEN IN 7 DAYS



**PALM SUNDAY 8, 9:30 & 11 AM**

HOSANNAH IN THE HIGHEST

**MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:30 PM**

JOIN US FOR A DRAMATIC PRESENTATION OF THE PASSION

**GOOD FRIDAY 12 PM & 7:30 PM**

**HOLY SATURDAY 10 AM**



# HE IS RISEN

## CELEBRATE EASTER

*with St. Matthew's Episcopal Church*

### **6:00 AM Easter Sunrise Worship**

Join us at Saint Matthew's for a stunning 6 AM Sunrise Worship Service with Paschal fire followed by a light Brunch in the Parish Hall.

### **9:30 AM Festival Easter Worship with Band\***

Join us at 9:30 AM for our vibrant Festival Easter Worship with Band as we joyfully celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

### **11:00 AM Easter Worship\***

Join us at Saint Matthew's for joyful Easter Worship with Choir & Strings as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.

*\*Outdoor Egg Hunt & Celebration for children following the 9:30 & 11 AM services.*

[stmtts.org/Easter](http://stmtts.org/Easter)



# IN IT TO WIN IT

LENT SERMON SERIES

## LENT SERMON SERIES

Join Father Rob & Genevieve Zetlan every Sunday during Lent as they ask questions to get us thinking about what we're not willing to give up, no matter our circumstances.

Are we all really IN IT TO WIN IT?

Lent  
Resources

Devotionals, prayers and a variety of resources for Lent are available on our website.

[stmtts.org/Lent](http://stmtts.org/Lent)

Lent  
SPEND TIME  
WITH GOD

WATCH  
WEDNESDAYS  
AT CHURCH

This Lent, we invite you to spend time with God by joining us for WatCh (Wednesdays at Church). Meeting from 7 to 8PM, we'll begin with a brief reflection followed by group discussion.

We will take time to consider how we can deepen our understanding of the following topics:

- March 1 Who is God?
- March 8 The Historical Jesus; Myth or Reality?
- March 15 The Holy Ghost and the Supernatural
- March 22 Why Me?
- March 29 What is Salvation?

# STUDENT MINISTRIES

## MARCH COFFEE HOUR KIDS

Sundays between the 9:30 and 11 am services. Games and events for kids ages 3 - 5th grade while parents enjoy fellowship and a cup of coffee or two!

SUN  
MAR. 5



### BACKPACK BUDDIES PACKING

Help feed Sterling area kids! Pack a few bags for Backpack Buddies

SUN  
MAR. 12

### MARCH MADNESS GAMES

Love basketball? Join Ms. Aurelia for some basketball fun!



SUN  
MAR. 19  
& 26



### EASTER EGG STUFFING

Help stuff eggs for our annual Easter Sunday Egg hunts!

## DONUTS & DISCOVERY

SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM  
Classroom 4

Middle & High School Students are invited to join our Lent series:

## FACT OR FICTION

Stories from the bible did they really happen or are they just stories?

**Questions?**  
Contact Ron at  
[journey@stmmts.org](mailto:journey@stmmts.org)

St. Matt's Students Presents  
**TALENT SHOW & SILENT AUCTION**

Supporting the summer Youth Mission Trip to Erie, PA

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 15TH**

Questions? Contact [office@stmmts.org](mailto:office@stmmts.org)

**YOUTH MISSION 2023**

**JULY 9-14 | ERIE, PA**



[stmmts.org/YouthMission](http://stmmts.org/YouthMission)

# MARCH AT ST. MATT'S

## EVENTS



### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT HALEY ELLIOTT, LEM

Haley is a dedicated Lay Eucharistic Minister here at St. Matthew's and assists with organizing our weekly volunteers, celebrates communion and often reads the Prayers of the People at our 9:30 services. We are grateful for her serving faithfully.

### LEARN MORE ABOUT BECOMING A LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTER

A training will be held on Saturday, March 4 at 10am. For more information please contact Haley Elliott through the church office at [Office@stmmts.org](mailto:Office@stmmts.org).

St. Matthew's  
**LUNCH MEET UP**

**VIRGINIA KITCHEN**  
FRIDAY, MARCH 24TH  
11:45 AM

FRIDAY, FOOD, FRIENDS &  
SUPPORT A LOCAL BUSINESS

**VIRGINIA KITCHEN, 450 ELDEN  
STREET, HERNDON, VA**  
[vakitchen.com](http://vakitchen.com)

**ST. MATTHEW'S  
GAME NIGHT**

DO YOU LOVE TABLETOP GAMES?  
PARKS, FORBIDDEN DESERT, SUSHI  
GO, WING SPAN, AND MORE?

BRING A GAME AND  
SNACK TO SHARE

FRIDAY, MARCH 31ST  
6PM - 10 PM

## OUTREACH

### EASTER FOOD DONATIONS DROP OFF BY MARCH 21st

Please fill a reusable grocery bag with all of the following items:

- Dried beans
- White rice
- Canned meats (tuna or chicken)
- Canned vegetables
- Pasta sauce
- Pasta
- Vegetable oil
- Corn flour (like Maseca)
- Mac & Cheese
- Easter Holiday Treat
- \$25 WALMART gift card (OPTIONAL)
- Diapers/wipes/feminine pads (OPTIONAL)

Need a reusable bag to fill? Free bags are available at the front of the church, with attached shopping list!

Learn more and sign up to help  
[stmmts.org/EasterBags](http://stmmts.org/EasterBags)



## EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS

Would you like to help us fill the church with flowers as we celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Sunday?

Dedications for Easter flowers are welcome to remember loved ones, give thanks for blessings, or any special occasion. Donations may be made in any amount. Easter flower dedications are due by Palm Sunday, April 2. Please use the cards provided in the pews or visit [stmmts.org/flowers](http://stmmts.org/flowers).

Donations may be made by cash, check, or online at [stmmts.org/give](http://stmmts.org/give).

## EASTER HELP

### EASTER SUNDAY HELP NEEDED

Jobs of Every Kind for  
Every Age!

- 5-minute jobs
- Jobs you can do from home
- Help with services
- Welcome Visitors
- Put out Eggs for the Egg Hunt and more!

[stmmts.org/EasterHelp](http://stmmts.org/EasterHelp)

### EASTER EGG HUNT CANDY DONATIONS

INDIVIDUALLY PACKAGED,  
NUT-FREE CANDY & TOYS:

Gummy Bears, Starburst, Small packs of jelly beans, Small plastic rings, Sour patch kids, Stickers, Tattoos, Tootsie rolls

SHOP OUR WISHLIST  
[stmmts.org/EggHunt](http://stmmts.org/EggHunt)