

To Know and Share God's Love

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 11, 2025 · 9:30am


Women
Giving Back
Volunteer
Event

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

The women of St. Matthew's invite you to a volunteer event at Women Giving Back on Sun., May 18, 1 PM - 3:30 PM. RSVP required using the link above.

Women Giving Back provides clothing and accessories free of charge to women in our community who are in crisis. We will be sorting and organizing donations at our event on May 18. See you there!

COOKOUT AT
FR. ROB & LINDA'S
WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 6PM

COOKOUT AT FR. ROB & LINDA'S

Join Fr. Rob and Linda in their beautiful garden on Wednesday, May 28 from 6PM-8PM.

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. All ages are welcome!

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

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. 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, please follow the directions from the ushers and on the slides. 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 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:

Arthur, John G, Glo, Deb, Teresa, Mel, Eric, Debbie, Marshall, Ruth, Rennie, Arianna, Jeanine, Hunter, Robyn, Emma, Frances, Christy, Nick, Gus, Aldana, Clint, Chelsea, Edgar, Rusty, Anne, Kiera, Marty, Candace, Kevin, John, Ome, Renee, Grace, Kristina, Freya, Ava, Steve, Natalie, Kristen, Sadie, Shaundra, Larry, Don, Fabiano, Luke, John, Brenda, Pete, Valorie, Cathy, Naomi, Dan, Christy, Dennis, Diane, Brent, Mary, Sybil, Judy, James, Rick, Avery, Emory, Mario, Molly, Cooper, Rose, Sarah, Jessica, Jay, Amanda, Venessa, Desira, Rose, Sarah, Natalie D, Natalie S, Paul, Katy, Randy, Maura, Kaufman Family, Rinker Family, Blair Family, Colon Family, Suaib Family, Gonzalez Family, Omar, Mona, Tala, Dima, Carter, Jean, Martha, Tony, Nancy, Clara, Elijah, Maria, Bob, Cindy, Don, Megan, Ian, Marielle, Sharp Family, Mila, Moreau Family, Pat, Heather, Marilyn, Katie, Madison, Karen, Marcy, Barbara, Gerry, Becky, RL, Panita, Jane, Katt, Jenn, Charles, John, Arlene, Darla, Kassi, Amelia, Lindsey, Mark, Mary, John M, and Shelby.

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 9:36-43	
Psalm • 23	
Second Reading • Revelation 7:9-17	
Gospel • John 10:22-30	
Sermon	The Reverend Kara Laughlin
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.stmmts.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 Prayer

Opening Songs (stand through the Gospel)

Song • Sunday's Coming

Song • Hard Fought Hallelujah

Gospel • John 10:22-30

Sermon

The Reverend Kara Laughlin

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.stmtns.org/give)

Great Thanksgiving (stand through Communion)

Eucharistic Prayer

Sanctus • Wedding Day

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Song • First Things First

Closing Prayer (stand through dismissal)

Blessing

Closing Song • Gospel Song

Dismissal

11 AM SERVICE

The Word of God

Processional Hymn • #544 • Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun (verses 1, 2, 3, & 5)	
Acclamation and Collect for Purity	355
Gloria • S280	
Collect of the Day (Contemporary)	Insert
Lessons	
First Reading • Acts 9:36-43	
Psalm • 23	
Second Reading • Revelation 7:9-17	
Gospel • John 10:22-30	
Sermon	The Reverend Kara Laughlin
Nicene Creed	358
Prayers of the People	
Confession of Sin and Absolution	359-360
Peace	360
Announcements & Welcome	

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem • It Is Well with My Soul	Philip P. Bliss
Presentation of Tithes and Offerings	
Doxology • #380 vs. 3 • Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow	
Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer A	361
Sanctus • S130	
The Lord's Prayer	364
Breaking of the Bread	364
Invitation to Communion	
Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn • #304 • I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord (all verses)	
Post-Communion Prayer	365
Blessing	
Procession into the World • #390 • Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (verses 1, 2, & 4)	
Dismissal	366



SUNDAY FUN DAYS!

Join us at 10:30AM on Sundays for fun, fellowship, and delicious treats.

Sun., May 18: Pizza Day

Enjoy pizza themed snacks and an instrument test drive for the kids.

Sun. May 28: Hot Dog Day

Join us for a grilled hot dog with a variety of fun toppings and red, white, and blue STEM activities.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 21-25, 2025

VBS 2025 will guide kids on the ultimate Alaskan adventure. Pointing them toward Jesus, True North VBS shows them that he is a faithful friend we can always trust—our True North.

Make a difference in the life of a child this summer. Adult and teen volunteers are needed to make VBS the best week of summer. Sign up today using the link above.

Register today or share with a friend at stmmts.org/VBS



YOUTH GROUP

Activities, connection, and conversation designed specifically for middle & high school students.

Scan the QR Code to stay up to date with all the youth happenings, or contact our Youth Minister, Ben at Ben.Merola@stmmts.org.



DONUTS & DISCOVERY Sundays at 9:30AM

Students are invited to join us for donuts and engaging faith discussions tailored just for them.

TREE OF LIFE MEAL PREP SUNDAY, MAY 18, 4:30-7:30PM

Meet at church to prepare dinner for 70 people at the weekly Tree of Life dinner. Help our local neighbors by providing a warm, delicious meal. Dinner will be provided.

SUMMER MISSION TRIP AUGUST 2-8 TO FLORIDA!

Join us as we serve communities, grow in faith, and make lasting memories. Before we head home, we'll take our minions on a detour to Universal Studios and spend our last day making magical memories and having big fun!

Register using the link below. Payment plans and scholarships are available.

STMSTS.ORG/YOUTHMISSION



BACKPACK BUDDIES STERLINGHELP.ORG

Backpack Buddies provides weekend meals for 309 local school children each week. Pack with us on Tuesdays at 12PM, and the first Sunday of each month at 10:30AM.



CELEBRATE GRADUATES SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 11AM

Everyone is invited to celebrate our high school and college graduates at a special worship service on Sunday, June 8 at 11AM. Lunch will be held following the service. Please RSVP for lunch to Office@stmmts.org.



MOTHER'S DAY, SUN., MAY 11

Stop by the parish hall at 10:30AM for pictures with family and friends at our photo booth, and then enjoy a create your own Mom-Osa Bar.



HVAC UPDATE

We're working with Air Movers to replace the HVAC system in the parish hall, classrooms, and offices to keep things comfortable and running smoothly year-round.

Sunday activities will continue as usual, but the parish hall and classrooms will be closed Monday-Friday during construction. We expect work to finish by May 31.



INTRODUCING REALM STMSTS.ORG/REALM

We're excited to announce that St. Matt's is upgrading our online giving platform for a more secure and user-friendly experience.

If you give regularly, no action is needed—your recurring donation will transfer automatically. You'll receive an email soon with steps to create your new account.

Need help or want to request a login? Visit stmmts.org/REALM or contact Miriam at 703-430-2121.

WEDNESDAYS THIS SPRING



Discussion Series:
The Healing Power of Love in Divided Times

WEDNESDAY BOOK STUDY APRIL 30–MAY 21, 7PM-8PM

Join Fr. Rob and friends this spring to continue discussing Gregory Boyle's book, *Cherished Belonging* - exploring the powerful themes of love, healing, and connection.

WOMEN'S retreat

ST. MATT'S WOMENS RETREAT SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2025 STMTTS.ORG/RETREAT

You're invited for a weekend of faith, fellowship, and fun. We are thrilled to gather again at Shrine Mont as we discuss the spiritual gifts and talents God has given each of us. It is a blessing to have Rev. Mary Margaret return as our guest speaker, and Zorana Rouse as our yoga leader.

Visit the link above for details and registration. Space is limited.

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

FRIDAY FLASH

Weekly Newsletter

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

2030

20 & 30 SOMETHINGS

2030 HIKE & LUNCH MAY 17

Whether you're single, married, or starting a family, our 2030 group is a great opportunity for those in their 20's and 30's to build friendships.

Join Robby and Emily Stevens, to connect with others and enjoy the outdoors at our spring hike. We'll meet at the church on Saturday, May 17 at 8:30 AM and carpool to a hike at Bears Den followed by lunch at Bear Chase Brewery.



FAITH FACTORY

**MAY THEME:
A NEW COMMANDMENT**

FAITH FACTORY

Join us every Sunday at 9:30 AM for age-appropriate classes designed to spark curiosity, deepen faith, and make learning about Jesus fun:

- Preschoolers: Learn and play with Ms. Zorana in Classroom 3. (The last Sunday of each month is messy church! Come dressed for sensory exploration).
- K-2nd Grade: Sing, craft, and explore Bible stories with Ms. Alex in Classroom 2.
- 3rd-5th Grade: Tackle puzzles, try science experiments, and dive into Scripture.



4 EASTER

Fourth Sunday of Easter



Revised Common Lectionary

Sunday, May 11, 2025

COLLECT

Traditional

O GOD, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of thy people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calleth us each by name, and follow where he doth lead; who, with thee and the Holy Spirit, liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Contemporary

O GOD, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: Acts 9:36-43

NOW IN JOPPA there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known

throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Refrain

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

Psalm 23 *from the Book of Common Prayer*

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 The LORD is my shepherd; * I shall not be in want. | evil; * for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. |
| 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures * and leads me beside still waters. | 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; * you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over. |
| 3 He revives my soul * and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake. | 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, * and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever. |
| 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no | |

SECOND READING: Revelation 7:9-17

I LOOKED, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs

to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

GOSPEL: John 10:22-30

AT THAT TIME the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

THIS WEEK AT ST. MATT'S

Sunday, May 11th

- 8:00 am - Rite I Worship Service
- 9:30 am - Festival Worship Service
- 9:30 am - Faith Factory
- 9:30 am - Middle & High School Student Groups
- 11:00 am - Classic Worship Service
- 2:00 pm - On That Note Rehearsal

Monday, May 12th

- 12:00 pm - Social Time with Candace
- 7:00 pm - Bread of Life Book Group
- 7:30 pm - Free to Live (NA)

Tuesday, May 13th

- 9:00 am - Staff Meeting
- 12:00 pm - HRTS/Backpack Buddies Packing
- 6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00 pm - Education for Ministry
- 7:00 pm - Band Rehearsal
- 8:00 pm - Compline

Wednesday, May 14th

- 10:30 am - Outside Book Group
- 12:00 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00 pm - Cherished Belonging Book Discussion
- 8:00 pm - Women's NA Group

Thursday, May 15th

- 12:00 pm - Bible Study with Fr. Rob
- 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Friday, May 16th

- 4:00 pm - Girl Scout Troop 70061 Set-up

Saturday, May 17th

- 8:00 am - Men's Group
- 8:30 am - 2030: Bears Den Hike and Lunch
- 9:00 am - Girl Scout Troop 70061 Tea
- 9:30 am - Sterling Playmakers
- 6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00 pm - Narcotics Anonymous
- 8:30 pm - Narcotics Anonymous

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- May 11th: Jane Garrett, Thresa O'Neill, John Gradich
- May 14th: Mia Kane
- May 16th: Tom Lowden, Rachel Dailey
- May 17th: Hillary Collins

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- May 15th: Mandy & Michael Mirda
- May 17th: Jinbo Sun & Michael Horrigan

ATTENDANCE

Sunday, May 4, 2025

Time or Place	Attendance Online	Attendance In-Person
6:00 AM	8	23
9:30 AM	28	170
11:00 AM	15	40
Faith Factory		26
Youth Group		6

HELP SUPPORT ST. MATTHEW'S MINISTRIES



WEBSITE



MOBILE



CASH/
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) Tuesdays at 8pm on Facebook

Online Worship
stmmts.org/live

Sunday services are broadcast on Facebook and YouTube.

St. Matthew's Staff & Vestry

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

General Manager, Miriam Turner
Office@stmmts.org

Audio, Livestream Coordinators,
Colin Leary, Kaylyn Burakowski, and
Christian Turner

Bookkeeper, Wendy Filler
Bookkeeper@stmmts.org

Deacon, Reverend Kara Laughlin
Kara.Laughlin@stmmts.org

Director Choir, Kevin Fletcher
Kevin@stmmts.org

Dir. of Communications, Kathleen Bellamy
Kathleen@stmmts.org

Director, Faith Factory, Hilary Hultman-Lee
FaithFactory@stmmts.org

Office Assistant, Sue Reier
Sue@stmmts.org

Youth Ministry and Marketing Coordinator,
Ben Merola
Ben.Merola@stmmts.org

VESTRY

Robby Stevens, Senior Warden

Andrew Wright, Junior Warden

Craig Dubishar

Bob Henry

Julie Kane

Alexis Sather

Stephanie Zebrowski

Service Volunteers

Ushers | Fred Brittain, Justin Warnick, Maria Palmer, Justin Warnick, Cheryl Gilligan

Lectors | Darrell Breed, Julie Kane, John Druva

Eucharistic Ministers LEMs | Martha Olson, Lisa Lintelman, Haley Elliott, Gerry Wardell

Tellers | Dan Robertson

Flower Guild | Martha Olson, Pam Hart, Priscilla Shingleton

Altar Guild | Richard Henry, Tom Leary