

St Matthew's Episcopal Church
5900 7th Avenue
Kenosha, Wisconsin 53140
262-654-8642



Parish Profile
2021

AN INVITATION

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, a parish located in southeastern Wisconsin between Milwaukee and Chicago, is seeking a new Rector. We are a multigenerational parish that seeks to engage a new Rector in our life of prayer, worship and mission. As a congregation we look to embrace God's call to be a light to one another, in our community, and beyond. We believe that St. Matthew's has the potential to be a renewed parish that is an enriching and engaging presence in our diocese and community.

Historic Church on the Shores of Lake Michigan

With an estimated population of approximately 100,000, Kenosha is the fourth-largest city in Wisconsin and the fourth-largest city on Lake Michigan. The city has a small town feel but there is much to do, including a vibrant arts scene, live music, outdoor festivals, shopping centers, farmers markets, and more. Kenosha is the world headquarters for companies like Jockey International, Inc. (founded in 1876) and Snap-on Incorporated (founded in 1920). Kenosha is home to 3 wonderful and unique museums. The Dinosaur Discovery Museum holds the largest set of meat-eating dinosaur skeletons in the U.S. The Kenosha Public Museum has the largest collection of Woolly Mammoth bones ever discovered. Right next door to the Kenosha Public Museum is The Civil War Museum, which is the second largest Civil War Museum in the nation and one of only three venues featuring a 360-degree film experience in the U.S. Kenosha is also one of the smallest cities in the U.S. with a functioning streetcar system, which is two miles long and serves the beautiful lakefront and downtown area. Kenosha Unified Schools offer a variety of activities including athletics, theater, music, art fairs, and STEM activities. For more information about Kenosha please visit

<https://www.kenosha.org/>

<https://www.visitkenosha.com/>

<https://www.kenoshacounty.org/>

<https://www.downtownkenosha.org/>

Mission Statement

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, a historic church rooted in the Episcopal tradition, shares the love of Christ, putting faith into action through worship, prayer and outreach in the downtown community and beyond.



Bridging our past to our future...

The Episcopal congregation of St. Matthew's was organized in 1840, the fourth Episcopal church to be organized in the old Northwest Territory. St. Matthew's first church building was a small wood structure located near the southeast intersection of today's Sheridan Road and 56th Street. The congregation was founded on April 17, 1840, by Jackson Kemper, the first missionary bishop of the US Episcopal Church. A frame chapel was built in 1841 to serve the Yankee settlers of Kenosha. Begun in 1872 and completed in 1879, the current church structure is the oldest church building in Kenosha County. The church is built of Joliet (Illinois) and Racine (Wisconsin) limestone in the Gothic Revival style. This beautiful, historic church and the rectory are located on historic Library Park near the shores of Lake Michigan. The Library Park Historic District is one of four historic districts designated in the City of Kenosha. The district contains many excellent examples of nineteenth century and early twentieth century architecture. In 1979 it was listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places. The parish is rich in preserved artifacts, including a chair dating back to 1842, and the 100-year-old Skinner Organ.



First St. Matthew's Building

Previous Rectors at St. Matthew's:

- Reverend Gari Green (Retired-Supply) March 2021 to present
- Reverend Matthew Buterbaugh 2013-2021
- Reverend Gary Lambert (Interim) 2011-2013
- Reverend James Braun 1985-2011
- Reverend Malcolm McClenaghan 1972-1984

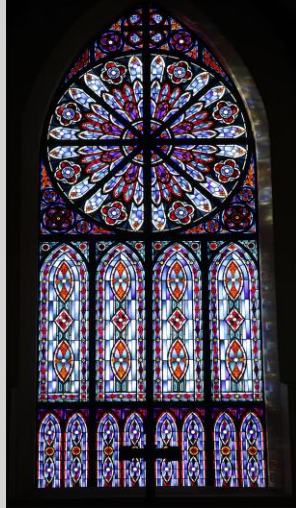
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is one of 58 parishes in the Diocese of Milwaukee. The Diocese of Milwaukee has over 15,000 members covering the southern third of the state of Wisconsin. The diocese extends from Kenosha and Port Washington on Lake Michigan to Prairie du Chien on the Mississippi River, and from Wisconsin Dells south to the Illinois border.

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey D. Lee began serving as provisional bishop designee on April 1, 2021 and was confirmed as provisional bishop on June 26, 2021. Bishop Lee recently retired from the Diocese of Chicago where he served as the twelfth bishop from 2008 until December 2020. Bishop Lee is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Nashotah House Seminary and served as a curate, canon to the ordinary and church developer in the Diocese of Northern Indiana and as rector of churches in Wisconsin and Washington before being elected bishop.

Worship

At St. Matthew's we follow a traditional Episcopal liturgical style of worship, grounded in scripture and guided through the Book of Common prayer. Worship nourishes us as we journey to discover and forge a closer relationship with God. Since the start of the pandemic, we have been challenged to find ways to worship together in a safe manner. We held virtual services for the first year of the pandemic but have since started to gather and worship in person, while also

live streaming the weekly service on Facebook. We currently hold one service on Sunday morning at 9 AM, as well as a week day morning prayer service on Wednesdays at the Eldergarden. In the past we had 2 Sunday services (7:30 AM and 10:30 AM) as well as a Saturday evening service.



Covid-19

St. Matthew's, like all churches, has been impacted by the pandemic. During this time, we lost our Parish Administrator, who left for another job, as well as our rector, who resigned to pursue other interests. We did not hold any in person services for over a year. In the spring of 2021, once Covid-19 vaccinations were under way in the community, we began to hold one service on Sundays, either morning prayer or Holy Eucharist. Many of our ministries and outreach programs were put on hold and as of August 2021, are still on hold due to spread of the delta variant. During the time when we were not able to hold services a number of parishioners set up telephone or zoom calls to stay connected. We also held virtual coffee hour almost every week.

Our Musical Legacy

St. Matthew's Church has a long history of making a joyful noise to the Lord through music. Music became an integral part of worship at St. Matthew's in the spring of 1844 with the purchase of an organ from George Jardine & Sons of New York, the first parish in the Wisconsin territory to install an organ. Local musicians praised

the Jardine organ for its "tones that were sweet and good." The soft sound of the Jardine organ resounded through St. Matthew's Church(es) for the next 80 years. On December 8, 1924, the parish purchased its historic four manual

Skinner Organ for \$29,800 from the Ernest Skinner Organ Company of Boston, Massachusetts. (The original purchase contract is still on file in the parish office.) The organ was installed in 1925, under the supervision of E.M. Skinner himself. Ernest Skinner was considered to be the finest organ builder of his time. Skinner's organs were characterized by their excellent craftsmanship, great warmth of tone and lush romantic sound. Skinner Organs grace the campuses of Yale and Princeton as well as many churches all across the country.

The aging process inevitably took its toll on St. Matthew's Skinner Organ. Around the turn of this century, it became apparent to the rector at St. Matthew's that the Skinner would have to be refurbished or lost forever. The parish agreed that the expensive undertaking was worthwhile, sensible and advisable. It was decided that the Skinner Organ is a valuable work of art in its own right and an artifact that should be passed on to future generations of St. Matthew's parishioners. The T. R. Rensch Company was contracted to do the slow, painstaking work of making the now almost 80-year-old organ with 44 ranks of pipes sound brand new. Some of the major work included completely overhauling the existing console, chimes, harp stop and bellows. In addition to the restoration, the organ was enhanced with a MIDI, a Musical Instrument Digital Interface, that allows for programming organ music as well as programming the 14-bell carillon in St. Matthew's bell tower.



Our beautiful sanctuary provides a special setting for vocal performances. St. Matthew's is a venue that is sought out for performances and recitals by regional choirs and musical groups. Over the years St. Matthew's has been the home to many talented and gifted musicians. We are very proud of our musical ministry. We are also proud of our multi-generational church choir. James Winfield is our current organist and choir director. A life-long church musician in the Episcopal and other denominations, he has organist and conducting degrees from Indiana University and Northwestern University. He was a professional singer in the Chicago Symphony Chorus for 7 years and served as its Associate Director for 8 years. Jim founded The Tower Chorale, a large community chorus in the western Chicago suburbs, and directed it for 25 years.

He was music director of the West Suburban Symphony Orchestra for 8 seasons. Jim does music arranging and engraving services for various musical organizations. He feels privileged to play the historic E.M. Skinner pipe organ at St Matthew's Church and direct the choir program.

Outreach

St. Matthew's Eldergarten is a senior garden that is located near the church and immediately next to the Lakeside Towers Senior Housing. The ElderGarten has its own board but works under the fiscal sponsorship of St. Matthew's Church, who owns the land. Located at 5835 4th Ave, the garden is for those age 55 and over and is comprised of raised beds for easy access.



Community Tithe: For several years our congregation has actively supported community organizations as a demonstration of our commitment to put our faith into action through outreach in the downtown community and beyond. The money given was designated in the budget and calculated from 10% (a tithe) of the total pledged giving of the parishioners of St. Matthew's.

Senior Project: The St. Matthew's Senior Project is a program that provides rides to those 60 and older who need transportation to Sunday church services at St. Matthew's and other area churches. On the first Sunday of each month a meal is provided after church at St. Matthew's Guild Hall.

Soup Kitchen: On the third Sunday of each month, members of St. Matthew's work at the soup kitchen located at the Shalom Center. Tasks include buying produce and other food products, making the soup, preparing sandwiches, and serving the meal. The number of guests served per meal averages between ninety and one hundred. Offerings to contribute to the expense of the soup

kitchen items, as well as packaged and canned foods, are collected weekly in containers at the back of the church for the Shalom Center food pantry.

CUSH: Congregations United to Serve Humanity is an interfaith coalition living our faith and values in pursuit of justice through advocacy, education and empowerment. In 2000, ten congregations officially formed CUSH and began learning to use congregation-based community organizing to build the power needed to root out poverty, racism, and injustice.

Lay Ministry: We are blessed with strong lay leadership at St. Matthew's, which has served us well during the pandemic and resignation of our rector. We are able to share our wisdom, expertise and experience in ways that use our skills and strengths.

Ministries

Altar Guild prepares the church building for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Altar Guild arranges altar flowers, sets the table for communion, and manages the needs of the altar.

Lay Readers deliver the Word of God to the congregation and lead the congregation in offering prayers to God.

Acolytes is composed of parish youth to enhance worship services by leading the processions, serving at the altar in any way needed, and helping with incense for special services.

Ushers welcome the church family and visitors to the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Eucharistic Ministers assist with worship services by offering the congregation participation in the Blood of Christ.

Choir Our choir provides the congregation with music during our regular 10:30 a.m. worship services. We welcome all levels of musicianship and strive to incorporate a variety of musical styles.

Coffee Hour provides an environment of fellowship for the congregation. Each week following both services we gather at the back of the church for refreshments and visiting.

Building and Grounds works to keep our aging historical church buildings in good shape. We recently added a bathroom to the main floor of the church to improve accessibility. Our Guild Hall is across the street from the church. It was built in the 1950's and poses some accessibility challenges. A privately owned day care rents the lower level and other community groups also utilize the space as needed.



Chapel



Columbarium



Memorial Walkway

Haiti Project Singing Rooster Coffee is sold as a way of supporting assistance to coffee farming communities in Haiti. Our parish is also supportive of students at St. Marc's Episcopal School in Haiti through the Diocese of Milwaukee.

Senior Project provides rides for senior citizens to downtown area churches weekly and a free lunch at St. Matthew's on the first Sunday of each month.

Pastoral Care and Health Ministry strives to bear one another's burdens and sorrows and celebrate life's joys (and even offer Communion). The ministry's activities include preparing and/or delivering food, providing transportation to Sunday services or to medical appointments, making phone calls, writing notes and cards, and visiting the homebound or those in the hospital.

Parish Nursing combines the knowledge and skills of nursing practice with an understanding of the spiritual and religious beliefs that underlie health. St. Matthew's is blessed to have a Parish Nurse. Lynn Heller, RN, is a long-time member of our parish. She combines the knowledge and skills of nursing practice with an understanding of the spiritual and religious beliefs that underlie parishioners' health. Lynn ministers to our parishioners by advising them about health concerns, promoting wellness and healthy lifestyle, making home, hospital and nursing home visits, advocating for those in need, and providing bereavement support. She functions as a health educator and liaison between patients and community resources and services. She brings Christ's healing love to the elderly, ill and homebound.

The Lay Ministry provides communion services to those who for various reasons are unable to attend worship at St. Matthew's but would like to receive communion.

Prayer Shawl Ministry knits or crochets prayer shawls, often using stitches in multiples of three to represent the Trinity, to console those who are grieving, comfort those who are ill, bring hope to those who are in despair, and bring good memories to those who have a joyful event.

Giving Wall: Located in the east garden of the church near our chapel, the giving wall provides items like socks, personal hygiene items, snacks and hand-crafted hats, mittens and scarves, donated winter coats etc to the community at large. All items have been donated or procured by members of St. Matthew's and individuals in the community, many of whom prefer to remain anonymous.



Christian Formation: Prior to Covid19, Sunday school for elementary-age children was held between services each Sunday. Bible study classes were held Wednesday morning at certain times of the year.



Women's Book Club shares refreshments, discusses and debates a book chosen by a group member on a rotating monthly basis.

Men's Group meets for fellowship and fun, including dinner gatherings and baseball games etc...

Hospitality plans the fun and invites the congregation! Events are held throughout the year and might include celebration dinners, congregational breakfasts, and the Annual Picnic.

Evangelism and Stewardship focuses on church growth by working to increase community awareness of the parish, parishioner involvement, programs for spiritual growth, and stewardship through the organization of activities such as the annual pledge drive and special prayer or worship services.



Parish Statistics and Financials

Total Active Baptized Members	223
Average Sunday Attendance for 2020	85
Number of signed pledge cards for 2020	74
Total dollar amount pledges for 2020	\$139,000

	Amount	Notes
Cash Reserves	450,000	Invested with both Wells Fargo and TMI - funds are unrestricted.
Income		
Contributed Income	175,000	Prior to Covid - contributed income was \$175,000
Rental Income	50,000	Includes Rectory @ \$20K, Daycare @\$24K and "other" at \$6K
Investment Income	15,000	Includes Interest and Echo Fund Draw for management
	240,000	
Expenses		
Rectory	150,000	Estimated full package
Assessment	40,000	Estimate
Building Expenses	50,000	Includes Utilities, repairs and maintenance
	240,000	

Salary commensurate with experience as per Diocesan guidelines: [Clergy Compensation Guidelines DIOMIL](#)

Parish Rectory



St. Matthew's rectory is currently being rented but could be offered as a housing option for our next rector, as it has for the past two rectors who have served at St. Matthew's. This simple frame Greek Revival house has a two-story front-gabled plan, low-pitched gable roof with returned eaves, and medium-sized, symmetrically-placed window openings. The full facade front porch has turned posts with a spool and spindle balustrade and frieze. The house was built by Herman Reinhold in 1864. It is a historic home located down the street from the church on beautiful Library Square. Total square footage; 1748 sq. feet with 3 bedrooms, 2 ½ baths, kitchen, parlor, dining room and living room. Fenced back yard with detached garage.

Pastoral Relationship

As part of our discernment process, we offered parishioners two opportunities to share their views about St. Matthew's and its future direction, via a survey and two in person listening sessions.

Our congregation expressed gratitude at feeling welcomed and comfortable at church and having a community that supports, celebrates, and mourns together. They talked about the importance of our history in the community and the importance of embracing and protecting our historical buildings while also

exploring new programs to attract and welcome new parishioners, particularly younger families with children. They reflected on our outreach to the elderly as a strong and important part of who we are. They discussed the importance of acceptance and inclusiveness as well as the strides we have made in community outreach over the past few years. The choir and music program are very appreciated and important. They also value our healing ministries and support of the elderly in our church community.

They expressed a desire for more bible study and a strong pastoral presence. They want to see more community outreach and activism, including a call to address systemic racism and economic inequality. They want a priest who is available and approachable. Outreach into the community through Boy Scouts, chorale programs, elder garden, senior lunch, communion services etc is important to supporting who we are as well as future growth. They also want to see us achieve financial stability and growth and to develop a plan to update and improve the use of our Guild Hall.

Parish priorities for the future include: Christian formation, outreach, financial stability, and parish growth.

As a parish we seek the following gifts and skills for our future:

- A genuine, compassionate, welcoming, and empathetic and spiritual guide.
- A nurturer who is able to minister to those in times of trouble or conflict, who is willing to reach out to parishioners in need and offer support
- A champion for diversity and inclusion, who works positively and comfortably with people of color, the poor, people with special needs, the LGBTQ+ community and those who struggle with health and other social issues.
- A priest who can preach and teach the Gospel.
- A good steward who understands and facilitates the maintenance of our historic buildings while also respectfully envisioning and developing creative possibilities for them.
- A strong parish manager who possesses collaborative supervisory skills and who treats staff with respect, empowering them in the work that they do.
- A really good listener who is attentive and adaptable
- Someone who is willing and able to make community connections, who can help attract new parishioners to St. Matthew's.

Connections:

Website: www.stmatthewskenosha.net

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/stmatthewsepiscopalchurchkenosha>

References:

Canon for Ministry (Bishop's office): Rev Scott Leannah, email scott@diomil.org

Diocesan Transition Minister: Tammy Prather, email tammyprather74@gmail.com

Current Warden: Debi Rengers, Senior Warden, email sisodelia@aol.com

Search Chair Name: Jamie Cairo, email chamilla08@yahoo.com

