

September 2023

# The Messenger



ST. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
9349 E. 65<sup>th</sup> Street, Raytown, MO 64133

## St. Matthew's Staff

The Rev. William Jeff Hurst  
Priest-in-Charge

Sherry Minzey  
Admin. Assistant

Patti McGill  
Music Director

## Officers

Judy Taylor  
Senior Warden

Carl Turlin  
Junior Warden

David Macey  
Treasurer

Linda Gerding  
Secretary

## Service Times

Sunday Worship  
Holy Eucharist Rite II  
10:00 a.m.



Dear Church family,

Summer is ending on a smothering note! I think we are all quite ready for a respite from this current heat wave. Although we always slow down a bit due to summer activities and vacations, I do want to thank everyone for their

continued faithfulness by your faithful giving of time, talent and treasure

We are scheduled to celebrate St. Matthews Sunday on September 17<sup>th</sup> with some food and fellowship after the worship service. I requested this date change due to the formally scheduled wedding of our daughter Megan on September 22<sup>nd</sup> in San Francisco. It seems now the wedding plans have been rescheduled however we've decided to fly out for a visit to visit both of our children in spite of this change. We will be gone from September 19<sup>th</sup> through September 26<sup>th</sup>. I am very pleased that Fr Mark McGuire will be our guest preacher and celebrant of the Eucharist on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>

I will be officially begin leading us in Zoom Evening Prayer beginning on Thursday September 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. I think a different evening might facilitate better attendance. My continued goal is for us to ground our lives in faithful reception of the Sunday Eucharist, daily personal Morning and Evening prayer and a weekly Evening prayer combined with a robust personal devotional life. The supreme focus is our growth in grace and being more conformed to the image of God's dear son Jesus Christ!

Peace and love to all,  
Fr Jeff



Summer is coming to an end and we begin the journey toward Advent and Christmas. Doesn't feel like it outside, does it!! I hope by the time you read this it will be more comfortable. The choir singers had the summer off but many of them were present to lead hymns all summer. I thank you all for that.

Believe it or not, I've started thinking about music for the next 4 months. Not really planning yet, but definitely looking for some music we all will enjoy singing, which is my constant goal. I know that our hymnal has some user UN-friendly music in it, but I've been working on helping everyone sing some that are a little less familiar. I'm playing more of the hymn as an introduction so that you can hear it before we sing, and of course, the choir will help if you listen to them, even if it's only 2 or 3 people. They are strong singers and read music very well.

I had a great summer musically. I sang again with the William Baker Summer Singers of Lee's Summit. This is the 8th summer I have sung with this wonderful group and this summer was probably the most profound and moving music I've ever sung. I'd like to tell you about it. We paid tribute to the 6 million people who died during the Holocaust as well as the people, most non Jewish, who risked their lives to help them during this time. I'm sure you've seen movies or read books about many of these hundreds of people. Oscar Schindler is one of them and if you haven't seen "Schindler's List" you've missed an amazing story. And I know many people were unable to come but if you go to YouTube you can search for these titles and hear the music. If you'd like to have the words I can get you a copy.

We started with "Kaddish in Memory of the Six Million" by Amy Thropp, who directed it herself. We sang it in Hebrew and learned that a Kaddish is a Jewish prayer. Of the five variations the best known is the Mourner's Kaddish, which describes what she wrote. The prayer never mentions death or dying, but instead proclaims the greatness of God.

Then we sang the "The Holocaust Cantata" by Donald McCullough. All of the songs were originally in Polish and were found in the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum archives. They were written by prisoners while in Nazi concentration camps and turned into choral works by McCullough. They are sung in English. There are readings before each song which were done by two Rabbis, the wife of one of them and Fr. Tim, Rector of St. Paul's. They were based on interviews, historical data and the story of Irena Augustyńska Kafka. The readings were hard to hear but our director, Jenni Lahasy, encouraged us to read them before the concerts so that we could tell the stories through our singing without feeling upset. It's very hard to sing when tears are running down your face!

The final song was the beautiful "Even When He is Silent" by Kim Angre Arnesen. The words of this music came from a poem written by someone who was hiding from the Gestapo in underground caves with 9 other Jewish fugitives. They lived there for 4 months in darkness and were never found. The

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words were scratched on the wall of the cave and I'm guessing they used candles for some light. The words reflect a great sense of hope which was why this song was chosen as the last song of the concerts.

"I believe in the sun, even when its not shining; (originally "I believe in the sun, though it be dark.")

I believe in love, even when I feel it not; (originally "I believe in neighborly love, though it be unable to reveal itself.")

I believe in God, even when He is silent."

I wish you all blessings and peace in our musical journey.

Patti McGill/Music Director



## ST. MATTHEW'S SERVICE & OUTREACH R.E.A.P. – OPERATION BACKPACK 2023

2023 was the 31st Anniversary of REAP handing out backpacks and school supplies to children in the Raytown School Dist. It is amazing that St. Matthew's has been supporting this ministry for that long!!

Linda Gerding announced that Backpack Sundays would be on July 23, 30, and Aug. 6, and 13<sup>th</sup>. Donations were again collected in church and taken to REAP from St. Matthew's by Linda on August 14, 2023. Backpacks and school supplies were distributed on Aug. 15, 2023.

As always, the Service and Outreach Committee thank everyone in the congregation who was generous enough to make a donation.

A total of **\$250.00** was donated this year by the following:

Carl & Marci Turlin  
Mary & Charles Cease  
Janet Anderson Brown

George & Jeannie Miller  
Linda & Mike Gerding  
Fr. Jeff & Brenda Hurst

Blessings,  
Linda Gerding  
Service & Outreach Commission



## Forgiving Frees Me to Move Forward

Memories of hurtful experiences and painful conversations can repeat in my mind like old movies on a perpetual loop. The best way to free myself of these memories is forgiveness.

Forgiving another—and even myself—is a wonderfully freeing and healing practice. It doesn't mean I have to welcome unhealthy relationships or situations back into my life, but it does mean I refuse to be bound to the past.

The nature of life is forward motion, growth, and evolution. Staying stuck in resentment while life is happening around me only compounds my unhappiness. Forgiving is key to my growth. As I forgive, I feel alive, cleansed, and ready to move forward.

***Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. --Mark 11:25***

*Teresa*

*Linda Batson, Daughters of the King*



*Flying Solo*

On Saturday, August 19, our movie was Oppenheimer. Confusing, at times, but good. We had a chance to go over the movie at our dinner at Bella's Italian Restaurant and clear things up. We were lucky to have Linda's sister, Maxi, join us and hope to have her join us again. My friend, Mary Ellen Svoboda, joined us as she has done in the past. Another good day!

Mary



# Coffee Hour



The cost of donuts has gone up about 65%. Donuts are now \$1.69 each, and the other goodies such as apple fritters are now \$2.89 each. Our weekly bill from Ridgewood Donuts is now \$37.10 up from \$23.00

The cost of goodies for coffee hour comes from the Hospitality Fund that receives its income from donations from the congregation. It is NOT funded from the general fund. The fund has been kept in the black by contributions from a generous donor. Please be generous to the basket at coffee hour.

## Online Links

### Online Giving Link:

<http://stmatthewsraytown.org/>

### Facebook:

[St. Matthew's Episcopal Church | Facebook](#)

### St. Matthew's Website:

[St. Matthew's Episcopal Church \(stmatthewsraytown.org\)](http://stmatthewsraytown.org)



## OCTOBER MESSENGER & CALENDAR

DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>

