



51st  
Annual Meeting  
St. Matthias Episcopal Church  
Minocqua, Wisconsin  
June 2, 2024

## Agenda

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. Call to Order & Establishment of the Agenda
- III. Approval of Minutes of the 50th Annual Meeting
- IV. Reports
  - A. Sr. Warden
  - B. Jr. Warden
  - C. Treasurer
  - D. Caritas Outreach Ministry
  - E. Pastoral Care Team
  - F. Tom's Community Table
  - G. Music Committee
- V. Order of St. Matthias
- VI. Report of the Nominating Committee
- VII. Elections of Wardens
- VIII. Elections of Vestry
- IX. Elections of Convention Delegates
- X. Gratitude
- XI. Closing Prayer & Adjournment

## I. Opening Prayer

## II. Call to Order & Establishment of the Agenda

## III. Approval of Minutes of the 50th Annual Meeting, July 9, 2024

Copy of minutes attached.

## IV. Reports

### A. Rector's Report

*"What could ever lead ya back here where we need ya?" – lyric from the song "Welcome Back, Kotter"*

In 1976, the song Welcome Back, Kotter was number one in the pop music charts. Written by John Sebastian, formerly with the 60's group The Lovin' Spoonful, as the theme song of a television show with the same name. The song is about finding your true calling in a place you thought you had to leave behind. Apparently, the lyrics resonated with many, as the song still appears on radio and Sirius XM radio channels today. As many times as I've heard it, it resonated most deeply and meaningfully for me when I heard it played and sung at our celebration of new ministry in September as we celebrated how the Holy Spirit had led us together, me back to the Diocese of Fond du Lac where I was the second woman ordained to the priesthood in 2007, back to my beloved home state of Wisconsin, and back to the Northwoods, where I feel more at home than any other place, and you back to having a full time rector at St. Matthias. It seems strange to be composing my report when I have been the Rector of St. Matthias for a little less than a year; a year that by its nature is all about firsts: our first Christmas and Easter together, our first summer together, our first annual meeting, etc.. Yet, despite our short time together, I have heard many of you comment it feels like I have been here longer. That is a good sign our transition of growing together as priest and parish is going well and sharing all those firsts together is helping us get to know each other and grow together.

Perhaps one reason for this growth is the five funerals we had when I arrived. The work around funerals provides opportunities to learn about and care for each other because grieving together can help us feel closer. In addition, we celebrated our new ministry together and St. Matthias' 50th Anniversary as a parish. These celebrations were full of joy and were especially meaningful for me as they included so many special things that felt like a welcome home. I am so grateful for the search committee whose prayerful and discerning approach to the process helped me get to know you all. Of all the places I have lived, this place feels the most like home, and Michael and I are both deeply grateful to Jim Tait and Ron Glowac for finding a place we can live that is close to the church and comfortable, and for Chris Clarke, Susan Brandt, and everyone who donated food and other essentials that made moving in to the house such a pleasure, and for Dick and Naomi Bruessehoff and Dennis Sengstock who helped us move our things and get settled in our house and the area so that I could begin my ministry here supported in your good and generous love.

My primary goal my first year in a parish is to learn about the customs and traditions that mean a lot to you and make sure to continue them as best I can. I also try to learn the rhythm of parish and how

it is influenced by that of the local community. While every parish in the Episcopal Church shares many things in common, the unique context of each parish contributes to its health, vitality, and mission. In some ways, I am always learning because changes in both the parish and community can affect the life of a parish, but I am especially attentive my first few years.

This means I often ask a lot of questions, and I am so grateful to all of you have been responding to my questions and for your patience. This is one of the most important parts of my transition. I am enjoying getting to know all of you over lunches, dinners, office visits, running into you at the grocery store, the wonderful potlucks and church events; a great deal of our transition is getting to know one another outside of worship, and these are always meaningful events for me.

I appreciate all the invitations to observe and be introduced to the successful ministries St. Matthias participates in like Tom's Table, the Lakeland Pantry, Caritas, and the Thrift Shop. I am impressed and very proud of the ministries that originated with St. Matthias and have grown and continue to be important collaborations with other churches and community groups. While I am disappointed with the refusal of the leadership of the Thrift Shop to be in a relationship with the parish that would allow us to work together better, I have been listening to so many of you tell me of its importance to the community and the parish's financial dependence on it. I still wish we had a better relationship; however I understand any change in that relationship and structure will take a long time, and the vestry appreciates the compliance to increase the monthly pledge to the parish to fifteen percent, and for the ways the Thrift Shop adheres to the updated by-laws created and approved by the vestry as maintaining their connection to St. Matthias.

I have also appreciated the invitations to visit and participate in pastoral and formational ministries like the Pastoral Care Team and the Women of Matthias (WoM). I look forward to these events every month. They are wonderful ways to learn more about the people of St. Matthias, and for the people of St. Matthias to learn more about me, and to grow together. I am impressed by the way you all care for each other, learn and grow together. I have yet to visit the Facilities Team meetings, but my husband has had enjoyable experiences when he has gone and I'm sure my schedule will work out so I can see for myself.

Another thing I enjoy seeing is how appreciative you are of each other, how you thank one another for what you contribute and do. Expressing appreciation not only makes people feel good, it is an act of love and helps us grow.

In addition to asking questions, we have been learning about each other and growing together has been through the changes and challenges as well as the celebrations of the past eleven months we've experienced together. Probably the biggest challenge we have had so far was the resignation of Kathy Armor as the organist in December. I respect Kathy's decision to resign due to ongoing health issues and wish her well. And I am grateful for Marcia and Bob Holt who so generously stepped up and have not only been playing on holidays and Sundays, they have also been helping select music. And I am grateful for Susan Anderson who also stepped up and plays organ for us when she is available. To help with the next steps to finding an organist, we formed a music committee with

volunteers who offered to serve: Bob and Marcia Holt, Richard G'sell, and Tammy Schueler. You can read more about that work in the Music Committee Report.

Part of being a rector is participating in the life of the Diocese. Many people, even lifelong Episcopalians, do not realize that each Episcopal parish is not an independent entity, but is instead part of the Episcopal Church that consists of many parishes within dioceses that organize to help support each other in our mission of being a uniquely Episcopal presence in our communities. Therefore, every rector is required to participate not only in the life of their parish, but also in the diocese. I have been attending regular meetings of clergy in the Diocese of Fond du Lac on zoom where we learn the latest news from the Bishop and Diocesan staff and can interact with each other. I appreciate these meetings being on Zoom because of the convenience of not having to drive to a location, which adds time to the meeting. On Zoom, the meeting takes only as long as the meeting takes. I also participate in deanery meetings for clergy of a smaller region within a diocese, which takes place in Wausau about every other month. The purpose of these meetings is to get to know other clergy in my area, support each other, and become familiar with the dynamics of other parishes. It is also an opportunity to share resources, collaborate, and discuss what is going on in the diocese.

One of the Diocesan events I have enjoyed the most is participating in the prayer and conversation around the reunification of the three Wisconsin dioceses. Having friends in all three dioceses has made this an easy transition for me. I was invited to participate in a weekly gathering on zoom of clergy and lay people from all three dioceses to pray a special litany for discernment. This was so good for so many of us that we will be resuming meeting and praying together weekly after General Convention in June of 2024 with a new litany for transition.

I also organized and facilitated a small zoom gathering of female clergy during Advent and Lent to discuss the Living Compass devotionals and to be supportive during the liturgical seasons. This has also been well received and we will be meeting again after the summer and before Advent.

On a local level, I was invited to meet with a few Lutheran pastors here in Minocqua as an introduction, however they were not interested in any follow up conversations. I have heard rumors of local clergy thinking of getting together on a regular basis, but so far, rumor has not manifested in an invitation.

I am deeply grateful to Mother Meredyth Albright, who is not only the transition minister and rector of St. Augustine's in Rhinelander, she is someone I've been happy to call a friend since before she was ordained. Mother Meredyth has been my go-to person for questions concerning the diocese in the earliest days of my transition, she also introduced me to Marywood Spirituality Center just down the road from Minocqua and has been quick to collaborate and share rides to diocesan events that require travel like the clergy retreat.

One aspect of our transition together as priest and parish that I believe is going exceptionally well is worshipping together. I look forward to every Sunday, every Evensong, and special services like Christmas, Holy Week, and Easter. I am grateful for everyone who has stepped up to participate in

the altar guild, as acolyte, and chalice bearer because you help make our worship beautiful. I am especially grateful to Chris Clark for her patience in teaching me the liturgical traditions of the parish, sharing her thoughts when I want to try something new, and generally making sure I have everything I need. And I am grateful to everyone who helps keep our connection to people who cannot attend in person by continuing to offer the option to participate via zoom.

Coming into the church office is a pure joy, thanks to our Parish Administrator Stephanie and her dog Millie, who I promoted to “church office supervisor”, and Mary our financial assistant. If you have not stopped by to see us, I hope you do when you get a chance. My office hours are Tuesday – Thursday 9:30 am – 2pm, but I am starting to be out and about a little more than when I first arrived, and you can always make an appointment by emailing me, calling, or texting ahead of time. (Monday is my day off and Friday is my study day – which means you might find me anywhere studying and preparing for sermon writing – and Saturday is the day I write my sermon if I don’t have a meeting I need to attend.)

I am grateful for your enthusiastic acceptance of the devotionals from Living Compass we used in Advent and Lent. These devotionals have made a positive difference for many and are unique in how they combine spirituality with whole person wellness. I enjoyed facilitating small group discussions on the devotionals and look forward to using them again.

At the May vestry meeting, we completed a parish assessment/mutual ministry review, which is a diocesan requirement. The results of that assessment showed the vestry sees overall balance in the areas of assessment, and during reflection shared there is still some grief around events that stopped during the pandemic and have not resumed. It is important to acknowledge this grief, and to consider how to move forward, as it may be prohibiting us from trying new things. It is important to note that grief and stress often accompanies change, even positive changes, and that stress might also impede accepting new activities, programs, or events. If you have suggestions or thoughts to share with me or the vestry about this, I invite you to please do so either by email, phone call, visit, or letter.

As we look ahead to our second year together, there is a lot to look forward to. In addition to a funeral and graveside service in our columbarium this summer, we have three more weddings scheduled in 2024 (we had one in January) and a double baptism in June scheduled. And that is only what is scheduled so far! These are joyful signs of new life, and I am looking forward to them. I hope this year we can continue to grow together by growing our foundation of worship, service to the community, and celebration. In addition, I hope we can grow a little deeper through additional special events. For example, I have been in conversation with Sister Barbara Jean Brown and Sister Julian Wilson of the Anamchara order of Episcopal nuns and monks about hosting an event that will feature prayer and spirituality at St. Matthias sometime in summer or fall of 2024. A few parishioners have suggested having a worship service outside. I love outdoor worship services, and that might be an appropriate way to celebrate the completion of the work on the church yard that began this spring.

I appreciate hearing your ideas and hope you will continue to share them, because you never know what they might lead to. There is so much to be grateful for here at St. Matthias, especially all of you, whether you are here year- round or seasonally. Your love for St. Matthias is evident in your generosity, kindness, and warm welcome.

There is no annual rector's report I will compose that does not express gratitude to my husband, Michael, who is essential to my ministry by being a support, comfort, and my favorite co-conspirator. Watching how the life as clergy spouse has helped him grow spiritually is one of my greatest joys.

Which brings us back to the question the lyrics of the song asked: *what could ever lead ya back here?* Of course, a year ago we recognized it was the Holy Spirit that led us to where we are, to a place that is deeply loved by all of us. Perhaps the next question to ask is: *what is the Holy Spirit leading us to now?* Not only did the Holy Spirit call us to a place, but to be a certain kind of presence in this place. A hallmark of my ministry is presence; a presence not solely defined by being in a place or time, but how the love of God in Jesus is perceived or felt through the Holy Spirit. This type of presence takes time to establish and build; it is created by asking questions, listening, prayerful discernment, challenges, joys, sorrows, and when at its best, can be a manifestation of the Holy. This is not something I can do alone, but with us all, it is possible, and I am looking forward to continuing to create this presence together with all of you, with the Holy Spirit.

Respectfully Submitted by The Rev. Deborah Woolsey, Rector

## **B. Senior Warden's Report**

It has been my great honor and privilege to serve on the Vestry for five years and to have been your Senior Warden for the last three years. There are many people to thank for their hard work and dedication in 2023.

We were truly blessed with the success of the Search committee in finding our new Rector, Mother Deborah Woolsey. We owe a big thank you to the Search committee members who put many hours in helping us select a new Rector for St. Matthias. Dick Bruesehoff- Chair, Laurie Glowac- Secretary, Kendra Richter-Chaplin, Nancy Coleman, Tammy Schuler, Marcia Holt, Dennis Sengstock and our Diocesan Transition Office Mother Meredyth Albright.

There were many outstanding activities held in 2023 at St. Matthias, most notably, the 50th Anniversary celebration of St. Matthis, and the Celebration of New Ministry with the Institution and Induction of Mother Deborah as the new Rector of St. Matthias.

I would like to thank our Vestry members: Leslie Bruns-Junior Warden, Treasure Mark Schuler, Deb Schillinger, Bill Richter, John Randolf, Kathryn Holmes, Tammy Schuler, and Steve Reshan. In addition, I want to give special thanks to our Parish Administrator Stephanie Rajnicek and to our Finance Assistant Mary Strong.

A very large thank you goes to our Facilities Team for all that they have accomplished in 2023: Junior Warden-Leslie Bruns, Dick Bruesehoff, Jim Tait, Mike Pecore, and John Martin.

Thank you to our Altar Guild: Dale and Mendy Thomas, Chris Clark, Kay Tait, Kathryn Holmes and Susan Brant.

Thanks to our Pastoral Care Committee: Chris Clark, Tammy Schuler, Nancy Coleman, Mindy Thomas, Carol Reshan, Jane Trotter, Laurie Glowac, Leslie Bruns and Mother Deborah.

Thank you, Dale Thomas and those who volunteer to make our Sunday services run so smoothly: ushers, lectors, acolytes, Zoomers and prayer leaders. And of course, those who make the music for our services, Marcia and Bob Holt.

Thank you to everyone who contributes food to our events, who contributes time to set up and clean up for our events. It takes a village, as the saying goes, and I am so thankful for each one of you in my village.

Submitted by Ron Glowac, Senior Warden

### **C. Junior Warden's Report**

I want to thank the facilities team for the work they do. These guys are skilled, knowledgeable and give their all to our church. Thank you, Jim Tait, Dick Bruesehoff, John Martin, Mike Pecor and Michael Luellhoff. And especially Stephanie Rajnicek who is a great help to us. The church is so lucky to have all of you. I also want to thank everyone who helped with the recent church cleanup day. Excellent job! We have several projects on the table.

- First, a follow-up to last year's landscaping issue. Stephanie contacted a couple companies last year, but we never received any response. The vestry gave the facilities team the go ahead to try again. We contacted 3 companies; 2 responded back. One Site Landscaping came, reviewed the grounds, and promised a bid. However, it's been a month and no response back, even after follow-up calls. Custom Caretaking also did a site visit, and we are still waiting for their bid. Pagels Landscaping is a company we are checking out. Meanwhile Jim and the crew have been working on cleaning up the church grounds. They removed the old bushes from the church entrance. The parcel next to the dumpster has been cleared. The old fountain has been removed. And the guys have been working on the drainage issue by the patio doors.
- The front office parking will be resealed in the near future. The back parking lot will need further thoughts regarding specifics needs.
- We had a new alarm system installed.
- The lych gate has been repaired and repainted.
- Emergency lighting systems are being checked and updated.
- We are working on developing an emergency plan regarding fires, severe weather, etc.
- Michael has been an asset to the team. His skills are greatly appreciated. He is repairing the old door on Hwy 51. A vehicle hit it last winter. Michael is also repairing and replacing water



damaged framing around the windows in the Caritas room and the choir room. He painted the outer doors.

- Otherwise, routine maintenance. Outlets replaced. The heat tape installed last year worked well (although we had a mild winter). We are analyzing the in-ground sprinkler system for possible future use. A sewer backup was handled by Jim. Various faucets repaired.

Thank you all for your support and encouragement. I do have one final comment. This will be my third and final year as junior warden. Please contact me if you are interested in this position.

Submitted by: Leslie Joy Bruns, Junior Warden

#### D. Treasurer’s Report

We had a better-than-expected year financially in 2023. We had anticipated a \$17,000 budget deficit, but the deficit shrank to about \$10,000. Our DCT endowment bounced back from year-end 2022 but has proven to be an extremely poor place to invest our money. We will be investigating potential investment alternatives this year.

With the addition of a full-time Rector, we are projecting a deficit in 2023 of \$52,000. Pledge income is dropping at the same time as our expenses have risen. However, that less than great news has recently been offset by a very generous bequest from Teena Orling’s estate in the amount of \$80,000. Our cash position is very healthy at present.

#### 2023 Recap & 2024 Status

1. Income has been trending steadily lower over the past few years, primarily due to members moving away. The Thrift Store continues to tithe at 15% of their net income. Major sources of income are as follows:

Year	Pledges	Plate	Thrift Store	Total
2022	\$156,364	\$12,764	\$30,550	<b>\$199,678</b>
2023	\$135,256	\$20,417	\$29,822	<b>\$185,495</b>
2024 (budget)	\$124,940	\$20,000	\$30,000	<b>\$174,940</b>

2. Budget year 2024 will be the first full year with our full-time Rector and should be seen as indicative of our annual spending levels going forward. The combination of lower income and higher expenses has pushed us into higher deficit spending.

Year	Expenses	Income less Expenses (Including all other miscellaneous income sources not shown above)
2022	\$157,259	<b>\$53,503</b>
2023	\$199,129	<b>-\$9,882</b>
2024 (budget)	\$228,993	<b>-\$51,988*</b>

\* The actual 2024 budget deficit will be \$5,000 less than this number because of a gift from the *Sisters of the Holy Nativity* who are funding our 2024 Diocesan Pledge.

- Our Operating Account at US Bank recently received a very large boost – an \$80,000 bequest from Teena Orling’s estate. Because of this, our cash position is healthy at present. We now have enough cash on hand to cover over 2 years of deficit spending without having to pull funds from our Diocesan Common Trust (DCT) account. We have invested our surplus cash into short term CD’s at rates ranging from 4.2 – 4.9%.

	4/30/24	12/31/23	12/31/22
USB Checking	\$47,403	\$37,080	\$86,723
CD’s	\$97,347	\$51,583	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$144,750</b>	<b>\$88,663</b>	<b>\$86,723</b>

\*Note that approximately \$18,000 of our current cash on hand is designated and not available for general budget purposes.

- We ended the year 2023 with a DCT balance of \$456,625. In the 2-year period between year-end 2022 and year-end 2023 our DCT account *lost 4% of its value*. Only now, after the 1st quarter 2024, has the DCT account edged past its year-end 2022 value. The performance of this fund has been dreadful these past 2 years, and my recommendation is that we try to invest our funds elsewhere. The Finance Committee will be discussing this soon.

The most current DCT account statement (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024) is shown below. We have not had to pull any funds from the DCT in over 3 years.

### Diocesan Common Trust

ACTIVITY THIS PERIOD							
BY INVESTMENT							
Investment	Beginning Balance	Contributions	Investment Income	Withdrawals	Transfers	Fees	Ending Balance
DIOCESE-Common Trust	456,624.63	0.00	24,422.62	0.00	0.00	-482.81	480,564.44
<b>Grand Total</b>	456,624.63	0.00	24,422.62	0.00	0.00	-482.81	480,564.44

  

BY SOURCE OF MONEY							
Source of Money							
21401	STM Mem Garden Endow	17,280.60	0.00	924.26	0.00	0.00	18,186.59
21402	STM Endowment	8,326.69	0.00	445.35	0.00	-8.80	8,763.24
21403	STM UND Memorial	409,134.11	0.00	21,882.58	0.00	-432.61	430,584.08
21404	STM Altar	7,956.98	0.00	425.58	0.00	-8.41	8,374.15
21405	STM Organ	5,888.29	0.00	314.94	0.00	-6.23	6,197.00
21406	STM Property	8,037.96	0.00	429.91	0.00	-8.49	8,459.38
<b>Grand Total</b>		456,624.63	0.00	24,422.62	0.00	-482.81	480,564.44

- The 2024 Budget is attached. To prioritize music in our congregation, the Vestry has authorized funds for a choir director, however this position is yet unfilled. It is highly likely that we will continue to run budget deficits at least in the near future.

Finally, the importance of good pledge campaigns cannot be overstated. We also encourage people to remember St. Matthias in their estate planning. Gifts such as Teena Orling's help us enormously in the continuance of our ministry.

Faithfully Submitted, Mark Schuler, Treasurer

### **E. Caritas Outreach Ministry**

2023 was a successful and gratifying year, we once again express our sincere thanks to our wonderful volunteers, generous donors, and amazing sister organizations. It is truly a gift to be able to do this work.

2023 was a record-breaking year, since Caritas began its mission in 2013, we have never experienced this level of need in our community. Client numbers were at an all-time high of 412.

Housing and homelessness continue to be the top issues for our clients. Many people are forced to live in campgrounds, their vehicles or in situations that are unhealthy, unsavory, or even dangerous. This winter we had a young couple (with two kittens) living in their car, the car broke down, then they were living parked behind the Kwik Trip for weeks. We assisted them with bus tickets to another city where they had family or friends. Their story is one that is so like many other clients we meet. Fortunately, they had some kind of support system, many do not.

Assistance with energy needs (gas, electric, propane) is another way we've been able to help. Our volunteers have become extremely proficient at advocating for clients with energy companies to avoid shutoffs, forgive late fees and to negotiate reasonable payment plans.

Caritas continues to provide help to clients with transportation issues, energy bills, the need for food, personal products, clothing, household items and furniture. We have helped with dentals bills, prescription drugs, phone cards, and much more.

**Strategic Planning in 2024, with lots of great work being done! Stay tuned!**

## Caritas 2023 Donations & Operating Expenses



### Full Year Balances

ST MATTHIAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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#### Income and Expense by Year

January - December

	Year ending Dec 2023	Year ending Dec 2022	Year ending Dec 2021	Year ending Dec 2020
<b>INCOME</b>				
Caritas Income	107,703.17	60,277.77	52,295.21	50,219.08
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>107,703.17</b>	<b>60,277.77</b>	<b>52,295.21</b>	<b>50,219.08</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>				
<b>SALARIES &amp; BENEFITS</b>				
<b>PERSONNEL</b>				
Caritas Stipend	7,750.80	6,997.25	6,267.75	3,500.00
<b>CARITAS OPERATIONS</b>				
Supplies	682.15	210.00	346.73	248.81
Caritas Phones/Telecommun	599.88	1,010.80	1,251.64	621.32
Caritas Advertising Expen	0.00	0.00	877.50	546.00
Special Events	0.00	283.50	0.00	0.00
Expense Reimbursement	0.00	-238.37	0.00	0.00
Bank Charges	35.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Subtotal Caritas Operations	1,317.03	1,265.93	2,475.87	1,416.13
<b>BUILDING &amp; GROUNDS</b>				
Repairs & Maintenance	0.00	0.00	764.00	0.00
<b>CARITAS CLIENT ASSISTANCE</b>				
Caritas General Expense	21,961.90	24,852.25	20,647.37	32,876.63
Caritas Transportation Ex	12,727.02	3,150.00	455.00	1,122.00
Caritas Energy Expense	10,163.91	10,960.45	4,639.00	4,338.17
Caritas Grocery Expense	600.00	430.00	0.00	200.00
Caritas Housing Expense	59,374.28	25,942.72	15,721.20	0.00
Caritas Personal Products	987.54	175.94	89.32	448.74
Subtotal Caritas Client Assistance	105,814.65	65,511.36	41,551.89	38,785.54
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>114,882.48</b>	<b>73,774.54</b>	<b>51,059.51</b>	<b>43,701.87</b>
<b>EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSE</b>	<b>-7,179.31</b>	<b>-13,496.77</b>	<b>1,235.70</b>	<b>6,517.41</b>

Submitted by: Stephanie Rajnicek, Administrator and Mary Strong, Treasurer

## **F. Pastoral Care Team**

The Pastoral Care Team is the 'behind the scenes' ministry team that works closely with Mother Deborah to reach out to our members challenged by illness, loss, aging or by being home-bound. The team meets monthly on the second Wednesday.

Cards are sent to parishioners to commemorate both happy and sad occasions, holiday baskets are organized and delivered, and both the Prayer and the Prayer Shawl ministries are organized through Pastoral Care. The team also plans social events for occasions of celebration, organizes funeral luncheons and arranges meals for members during special times of need. The team helps with Lay Eucharistic visits, hospital visits, transportation, telephoning, and errands for those in need. Containers of home-made soup are available to all and are placed in the freezer in the kitchen. This team also picks up food from the Lakeland Pantry and stocks our Little Free Pantry as often as needed.

The Pastoral Care Team is very grateful to so many members of our congregation who, although not part of the 'team' has stepped up and helped with the above, showing we are truly a parish family. If you ever become aware of someone in need of any type of pastoral care, please contact Mother Deborah or any member of the team.

Submitted by: Mother Deborah, Leslie Bruns, Chris Clark, Nancy Coleman, Laurie Glowac, Carol Reshan, Tammy Schuler, Mendy Thomas, and Jane Trotter.

## **G. Tom's Community Table**

Tom's Community Table is a community outreach project that provides warm healthy meals and fellowship to anyone in need within our surrounding communities. This project started as "Community Table" in 2006 by Tom Nilsson, a member of St. Matthias Church. At the time, Tom, and his wife Betty, worked with 4 other churches in the community to provide the monthly meals serving up to 100 people each month. Tom's Community Table was reinstated on 11/8/22 after being put "on hold" during the COVID outbreak. Deb Schillinger is currently facilitating the ministries participating in the project, and Kathryn Holmes is acting as the site coordinator for St. Matthias.

A grant is completed and submitted to St. Matthias Thrift Store each year for startup and service funds. For 2022-2023 we requested \$1500, and \$1,000 was approved. For 2024, we requested \$1,000 of which \$500.00 was approved. We will continue to seek grant funding annually through the St. Matthias Thrift Store grant process. We are no longer asking for donations at the door during the meal as we do not want guests to feel obligated to have to "pay for the meal". We are focusing our attention on building fellowship and have found that guests are coming earlier and staying later to enjoy fellowship while having coffee. Each of the ministries hosting the meal funds the meal they are hosting. The grant monies are used to provide coffee, condiments, lemonade, and other supplies used by all the ministries.

There are currently 13 ministries participating in providing meals for Tom's Community Table, including Ascension Lutheran Church, Calvary Lutheran Church, Church of the Pines United

Methodist Church, Community Presbyterian Church of Manitowish Waters, Eaglebrook Church, Faith Evangelical Free Church, General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC Wisconsin), Holy Family Catholic Church, Lakeland Noon Rotary, Northwoods Farm Share, Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Saint Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, and St. Matthias Episcopal Church. Those highlighted in yellow are new to this community outreach this year. We will continue to reach out to other agencies within the community who would like to be involved in this community outreach.

We have been serving approximately 70 people on average at the monthly meals (range 51-82). In addition, approximately 12 meals "to go" are sent home monthly (range 1-26) with guests for family and friends who are homebound. The ministries continue to meet 1-2 times annually to discuss concerns, conduct problem solving, develop processes and procedures, discuss strategies to expand our outreach, and develop hosting/co-hosting schedules. All meals continue to be held at St. Matthias, as it is a central location that is very accessible. We continue to review and revise facility guidelines to provide direction and instruction to other ministries using our facilities. A vestry member volunteers their time each month to attend Tom's Community Table, to provide guidance as needed, address any questions that may come up, and to ensure that the building is locked up upon completion of the meal.

Submitted by: Debra Schillinger

## **H. Music Committee**

In December 2023, the organist resigned due to ongoing health concerns and communicated her resignation directly to the Rector. Of course, we understood and wish her the best. We are grateful to Bob and Marcia Holt who immediately stepped up and offered to provide music for the Christmas services and have continued to provide organ and piano music for Sundays when they are able. Susan Anderson also volunteered to share her gifts as organist with us when she is available. We are also grateful for other musicians who have offered to play and/or accepted invitations to play for services.

To help find a replacement organist, the Rector invited volunteers to serve on a committee that would eventually also be able to help with selecting music and arrange for visiting musicians to perform in the church. Bob and Marcia Holt, Richard G'sell, and Tammy Schueler volunteered to serve on the committee with the Rector. This committee has met in person and has on-going communication via email.

We have created a job description for a new organist who would ideally also lead a choir and have reached out to try to find people willing to play occasionally and those interested in filling the position. While we have found people willing to play occasionally, we have not yet found anyone interested in playing with us on a regular basis.

Moving forward, we are going to try advertising on social media outlets like Facebook, as other parishes have reported success filling open positions when they advertised on social media.

During the summer, Ruth Thompson, an organist who winters in Texas and has played for us in the past, will be playing a few Sundays each month. Unlike parishioners who have given generously of their time, Ruth will be paid.

In August, there will be a performance by South Beach North, who have performed at the church before. Please watch for more information in the church email, which comes out every Friday for details.

If you have any ideas or are willing to help with the search for a new organist, choir director, or have connections with musicians who might want to perform here, please contact the Rector or any of the members of the music committee.

Thank you, Bob, Marcia, Richard, and Tammy, for continuing to do what we can to ensure the love and tradition of music continues in this new stage of life for St. Matthias.

Respectfully Submitted by The Rev. Deborah Woolsey, Rector

**V. Order of St. Matthias**

2024 Order of St. Matthias nominations, for their dedication to serving St. Matthias: Facilities Team Members: Leslie Bruns, Dick Bruesehoff, Jim Tait, John Martin, Mike Pecore and Mary Strong, Financial Assistant.

**VI. Report of the Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee is made up of vestry members whose terms are expiring, the Senior Warden, and chaired by the Rector. They are tasked with finding people to serve in the leadership positions of vestry and wardens for the parish. The vestry approves their report with a vote, and then presents the report to the parish at the annual meeting to be approved by vote.

This year needed vestry members to replace outgoing members, which was larger than usual due to members choosing to remain for an additional year to help the new rector transition. There was some concern of having to replace more than two number of people to serve in the future, so of the members who chose to stay an additional year, two chose to stay one more year so it will eventually return to finding two vestry members every year.

Finding people willing to serve on vestry can be challenging, especially in a parish with so many members who live in the area part of the year. We are aware every one of us has so much going on in our lives, and we are grateful for those willing to serving on vestry and in parish leadership.

If you are interested in serving on vestry in the future, please speak to Mother Deborah.

**Nominees Approved by Vestry**

Senior Warden (1 year term, may serve up to 3 consecutive years) Dale Thomas  
Junior Warden (1 year term, may serve up to 3 consecutive years) Leslie Bruns

Vestry: Kathleen Marshal (3 year term), Bill Richter (3 year term), Tammy Schueler, (1 year), Kathryn Holmes (1 year)

Respectfully Submitted by the Rev. Deborah Woolsey, Chair  
Nominating Committee Members: Ron Glowac, Kathryn Homes, Bill Richter, Deb Schillinger, Tammy Schuler

**VII. Elections of Wardens**

**VIII. Elections of Vestry**

**IX. Elections of Convention Delegates**

**X. Gratitude**

**XI. Closing Prayer & Adjournment**

**Saint Matthias' Episcopal Church**

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