

# ST. MATTHIAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH MINOCQUA, WISCONSIN

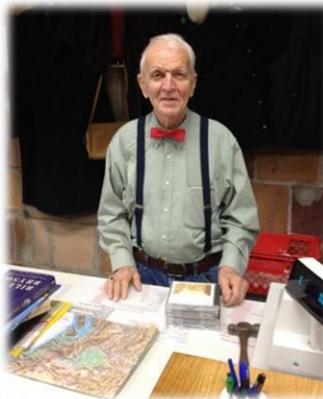


## WHO ARE WE?

We are a loving, committed group of people who adore spending time together! You can find us together Sunday mornings, at coffee hour, volunteering, and looking for any way to have fun and enjoy life while being with each other. COVID interrupted many of our normal activities such as gathering face to face for worship, moving between our individual homes for “Foyer Dinners,” and hosting “Tom’s Table” where area churches take turns providing a monthly dinner to all comers. Now we are excited to be in a season where we get to decide what we bring back as well as what we build new. Simply put, we are a parish that has a deep desire and dedication to building community.

At St. Matthias, we are ready to and hopeful about continuing to minister to our present congregation and to welcoming newcomers to our community. We remain excited and committed to continue growing our current strength in ministering to and with our retirees and those nearing retirement. The surrounding area has a growing retired community and we have become people known for welcoming those in this transition season. We are ready to welcome and work alongside whomever God will guide toward St. Matthias!

Many of our members are in the season of retirement and we are a group of people who love serving in our newfound free time. This means regular volunteering within the parish and in the larger community, as well as taking advantage of the many opportunities at one-time events. Ask us about Caritas, our Thrift Shop, Education for Ministry (EFM), our Facilities Team, and so much more! As a church, we are wrestling with how to also be good neighbors to our Native American brothers and sisters, specifically in the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa community.



We would love to welcome a rector willing to dive in and engage with learning and serving, knowing that we have many strong and educated leaders willing to continue their leadership in various activities. Some of the activities include those of the music ministry, pastoral care, finance committee, and facilities team. We believe that the work in many areas is not the sole responsibility of the priest. We have knowledgeable financial stewards on our vestry and finance committee as well as a highly skilled office administrator. Experienced musicians and pastoral care volunteers support us

As a community, we are ready to have difficult conversations. We come from many walks of life with various views and opinions. Thankfully, we are willing to work hard to stand together and be ready to learn from one another despite and because of our differences. We have recognized that we have strong leaders and have experienced conflict around different leadership styles. Even amidst these differing views, we are able to deeply care for one another. We are excited to call a priest who can provide collaborative guidance in all that is happening and enable those with gifts and strengths to continue to lead in serving.

We value our worship times including thoughtful, scripture-based sermons that demonstrate how the text relates to our lives and encourages and inspires us for the week. We are committed to the power music has in our worshiping community. We can gladly say our choir and organist's primary job is to support the vibrant singing of the congregation, not to simply perform. Many find themselves attracted to St. Matthias because of this strong music tradition that also shows itself as we continue to support and host music concerts outside of Sunday services.



As we sit in a transition season within the life of our church, we are excited and ready to look for a new rector. We know that with this season comes hard conversations, joyful possibilities, and we are thankful to say that it also brings a deepening sense of community. We know that we will be able to mutually expect high engagement from ourselves and an in-coming priest. Here is the simple answer to "Who is St. Matthias?" that we gleaned from our Parish survey and the resulting series of six small group meetings (which involved more than half of our congregation):

***" We are a God-loving, serving-ready, music-loving, collaborative group of people coming from many different walks of life who love spending time together with purpose and for fun and are committed to growing together as we seek to know God more in our lives!"***

#### **OUR TRANSITION PRAYER**

Almighty God, one who sees who we are and where we are going; allow your Holy Spirit to guide us throughout our time of transition.

Equip us with readiness, respect, humility, patience, trust, and joy When exploring where you are leading us and engaging with each other. You have placed our congregation within a unique and wonderful surrounding community. Guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may lovingly receive a faithful pastor you have called for this place and rime. With gratitude for where we have been and doors you are opening, we pray. Amen.



St. Matthias began in the 1960's as part of the Northwoods Mission of the Diocese of Fond du Lac, with worship often in the basement of a bank. A dedicated group worked toward the goal of having our own building. In 1972 a former Lutheran church (built in 1923) was purchased. Bishop Brady named us St. Matthias Episcopal Church at the consecration of the building in October 1973.

A garage sale in 1975 led to the formation of the St. Matthias Thrift Shop. It used the former rectory next to our small and charming granite church, raising funds to support the church and for outreach in the community. In 2005 it was expanded to a much larger building, and now grants an average of \$275,000 each year to local charities.

Priests who have served us through the years are Stephen Frampton (1972-1976), Roger Wharton (1976-1980), David Kluttermann (1980-1984), Barry Whenal (1984-1990), Edgar Wallace (1990-2014), Carol Amadio as interim (2015), Erin Kirby (2015-2020), and Jim Jelinek as interim (2020-2022).

In the early 1990's we built an addition with a Parish Hall and office space to the original building (which had a very small undercroft). We became a Parish of the Diocese of Fond du Lac in 1993. A memorial garden with columbarium was established in 1995, adjacent to the church.

The 2000's brought great changes. A house next to our property was donated, enabling us to consider expansion of the rather small and mostly handicap inaccessible worship space. With ground-breaking in 2006 and dedication in 2008, our facility was transformed to a beautiful new sanctuary with flexible seating, inspiring stained-glass windows, and eventually, a new pipe organ. The new, larger parish hall was created from the former 3-level sanctuary, and the former parish hall became classrooms and a choir room.

Our building is used frequently by the community - various music concerts offered to the public, AA and NA groups, the monthly Tom's Table community dinner, and Caritas are examples.

#### MEMBERSHIP

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Baptized Members	184	184	180	178	178
Average Sunday Attendance	62	63	58	42	44
Baptisms	2	0	0	1	1
Received by a Bishop	2	2	0	0	0

#### FINANCES

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Pledging Units	53	49	45	49	48
Pledged Income	131,528	112,648	103,000	128,646	136,325
Normal Operating Income	150,170	131,889	168,017	205,857	161,585
Operating Expenses	166,146	169,648	178,564	209,856	161,585
Account Balances	377,657	325,441	296,356	153,600	84,910
Endowment Fund	197,730	405,027	413,486	426,969	476,118

## STAFF

St. Matthias' current staff includes a part-time parish administrator and organist/choir director, both part time. The organist position is currently vacant, so the rector will be hiring the next person for that position.

## VESTRY

The 2022-2023 members of the vestry and the ending date of their present terms are:

Ronald Glowac, Senior Warden

Leslie Bruns, Junior Warden

Mark Schuler, Treasurer

Kathryn Holmes (2023)

Debra Schillinger (2024)

Bill Richter (2024)

Tammy Schuler (2024)

John Randolph (2025)

Steve Reshan (2025)



# St. Matthias

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## Episcopal Church

## SEARCH TEAM

Dick Bruesehoff, Chair

Kendra Richter

Nancy Coleman

Tammy Schuler

Laurie Glowac

Dennis Sengstock

Marcia Holt

Mthr. Meredyth Albright



## WORKING GROUPS

Like most parishes, St. Matthias relies heavily on the volunteers who do the day-to-day work of a vital parish. These include:

- **The Altar Guild** who prepare the essential elements of worship for Sunday Mass, Evensong, funerals, weddings and other special times of worship.
- **The Facilities Team** that, under the guidance of the Junior Warden, provides oversight of the building and grounds. Much of the regular maintenance and repair work is done by this group. They also help plan regular workdays that involve many members of the parish.
- **The Pastoral Care Team** has ten members who look after the needs of our church friends. This can include visits to our 103-year-old member, helping one who does not drive, obtaining veggies and fruits for feeding the deer, rides to church or appointments, home visits with Eucharist, cards sent for every milestone, keeping the church freezer stocked with homemade soups, and providing funeral lunches.

## MUSIC AND LITURGY

We love and value the liturgical tradition passed down to us through the history of the Church, and especially through the 1982 Hymnal, Book of Common Prayer, and other supplementary resources. The hymns, mass music, responses, choir anthems, and wonderful music provided by our Jaekel pipe organ, lift us up each Sunday. Our choir and organist have led us to expect and appreciate music at a high level. This congregation sings! St. Matthias sponsors concerts in a variety of venues: choirs, Messiah Sing-Alongs, string trios, organists, and soloists. We love sharing our facilities with our surrounding community.



## EDUCATION

Education for persons of all ages has played a significant role in the life of the St. Matthias community. This has included Sunday School, Sunday adult forums, short- and long-term studies on a variety of topics, and a strong Education for Ministry (EFM) group. These have largely been interrupted by the changing demographics of the parish and by the COVID-19 epidemic. But the desire to be a learning community continues. This will be part of the re-building work that we will do with our next rector.

## ADOPT-A-PROJECT

Beginning in late 2020, the Vestry, working with our interim priest and the Facilities Team, created Adopt-a-Project. Nearly \$20,000 has been donated by individual members to the Adopt-a-Project fund to cover the cost of equipment, repair and maintenance projects that had been postponed. These include installation of a whole-building humidifier, stonework on the exterior of the building, roof repairs, improved signage, computers, a video camera for streaming of worship services, upgrades to the sound system and replacing fluorescent bulbs with LED bulbs.

## OUR COMMUNITY

Our area is known for its exceptional beauty. Lakes and woods abound and with them all manner of recreational possibilities in all four seasons. We kayak, swim, canoe, water ski and bike in the warmer months. We snowshoe, cross country and downhill ski in the winter. Snowmobiles and ATVs are popular as well.

There are many hunting opportunities--for game and mushrooms--and birding is popular as well. We have a wide range of housing possibilities, many on lakes or in the woods as well as closer into our towns. Real estate taxes are low compared to other areas of the state and high-speed internet is available in most areas, allowing many to be able to work from home. Primary and secondary healthcare is delivered by two major systems and by two hospitals. Tertiary care is available in Wausau and Marshfield. The area boasts 3 elementary schools and a consolidated high school, as well as a Montessori preschool and a special public-school program for children with special needs. Nicolet College in Rhinelander provides many opportunities for adult education classes in the area and career education classes as well.

Many restaurants and shopping venues as well as several grocery stores (including an organic grocery and a CSA) are in the area, offering a wider variety of foods and beverages than one might expect. Much of this is due to the large influx of tourists into our area.

Cultural opportunities can be found at the Campanile Center, our Public Library, the high school, Marywood, and also through various musical venues in and around the surrounding areas. Ours is a lively community of several towns and villages offering a wide assortment of entertainment options in the form of fairs and festivals. Most weekends feature some form of diversion including art tours, garden tours, Beef-a-Rama, Dragon boat races, farmers market, etc.

Local churches include the usual denominations as well as a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and a native worship tradition. Our local priests and ministers are friendly, meeting together on a regular basis and cooperating in many endeavors.



*In home Evensong*

### **LAC du FLAMBEAU BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR ANISHINAABE**

The Lac du Flambeau (LdF) reservation is in Vilas County. There are more than 3,000 tribal members although not all tribal members live on the reservation. Some are in surrounding communities and others are out of the area. We also have current members of St. Matthias who reside within the reservation boundaries who are not Native American. St. Matthias is located about 15 miles from the village of Lac du Flambeau. The band has inhabited the Lac du Flambeau area since 1745 when Chief Keeshkemun led them to the area. The name Lac du Flambeau (Lake of the Torches) refers to their practice of harvesting fish at night by torchlight. The Lac du Flambeau Reservation was officially established by treaties in 1837 and 1842. The area was continually logged in the following years and became a tourist destination for families from southern Wisconsin and Illinois around the turn of the century.

The Lac du Flambeau tribal government, including its enterprises, is the largest employer in Vilas County, employing approximately 800 people. Tribal services include an Aging Program, Judicial Branch, Education, Healthcare, Housing Authority, Law Enforcement, Public Library, Social Services, Tribal Natural Resources, Tribal Roads, Water and Sewer Department, Youth Center, and Economic Enterprises including a casino, campground/marina, grocery store/gas station, museum, Simpson Electric, and Business Development Corporation.



## THE DIOCESE OF FOND du LAC



The Diocese of Fond du Lac is a diocese of the Episcopal Church across northeast and northcentral Wisconsin. The Diocese contains about 3,300 baptized members worshipping in 35 locations.

Since 2014, the Right Reverend Matthew Gunter has served as its eighth bishop. The Cathedral Church of St. Paul the Apostle is in Fond du Lac and the Diocesan Office is in Appleton. Bishop Matt has called the diocese to be “a people of God’s mercy and delight” through vital congregations, prayer, worship, and mission. The Diocese is in a companion diocesan relationship with the Diocese of Masvingo, Zimbabwe.



Learn more about who we are and what we do at [diofdl.org](http://diofdl.org) To inquire about this position, please contact the Transition Ministry Officer, The Rev. Meredyth Albright at [transitionfdl@gmail.com](mailto:transitionfdl@gmail.com).



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