



From the Rector, Rev. Rob Merola

Dear Friends,

It was Thursday night, April 20. The year was 1989. Linda and I tried a new recipe for dinner, pesto ravioli. It was quite good. Afterwards we watched the movie Cocktail. There was a full moon.

Because work had been so busy, it was the first evening in a long time we enjoyed an evening alone together. Little did we know that for years to come, it would also be our last.

At 9:12 the next night, a new baby girl was born. Her name was Christine Marie. We have thanked God every day since that she came into our lives. As much joy as we felt in seeing her for the very first time, I don't think we could even begin to imagine how much more joy she would bring us in the years to come--and brings us still.

As I hope you know, you are on my prayer list. I think of you and pray for you regularly. And one of the things I have been praying for you lately is that in the midst of all the stress and strain, all the challenges and changes, all the griefs and sorrows, God will bring you moments of joy.

Perhaps joy will come through our Easter services. As you know, these services will not only be online, but also IN PERSON!!! Of course, the in-person services will be outdoors with mandatory masks and social distancing. But still, I can't even begin to express how much joy there is for me to know that we will get to gather again in celebration of our Lord's resurrection.

Perhaps it will be Youth Sunday the following week (April 11) that brings us joy. Over the years I have heard over and over again how much gladness people find in seeing our Youth lead us in worship through music, prayers, art, preaching, and more. I believe with all my heart God will bring us that gladness again this year through our youth.

Maybe joy will be found in gathering with one of our small groups or online experiences. Getting to see people and interact with people on a deeper level can be such a tremendous source of uplift.

Maybe giving generously, and the knowledge that we are helping others, will be a source of joy. Or maybe it will be in helping with one of our many forms of food distribution, or even simply calling a friend, that we will find good cheer.

Maybe it will be a blue sky, spring flowers, or a hummingbird's return (yes, it is time to hang those feeders) that makes our heart sing.

Whatever it is, may God bring you joy this month, even as God brings me such great joy in you.

With much love and affection,
Rob+



This issue:

- Return to Outdoor Worship
- Earth Day Celebration
- Children & Youth Events
- Outreach
- Holy Week & Easter

CONNECT VIRTUALLY



STAY CONNECTED WITH OUR VIRTUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Live Stream Sunday Services

Sundays at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00am

Faith Factory for Kids

Sundays at 10:30am

Email Adrian@stmtts.org to join

Youth Bible Study/Topical Discussion

Sundays at 10:30am

Google Meets

<http://meet.google.com/jya-nkrr-sis>

Young Professionals (YoPros)

2nd/4th Sundays at 12:30pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 832 1051 7955

Noon Day Prayer and Compline

Monday - Friday at 12:00pm and 8:00pm

Facebook Live: [stmtts.org/live](https://www.facebook.com/stmtts.org/live)

Social Time with Candace

Mondays at 12pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 681-861-620

Bread of Life Small Group

Mondays at 7pm

Email Darrell: Darrell@stmtts.org

Social Time with Kevin

Mondays at 8:30pm

Email Kevin Fletcher: Kevin@stmtts.org

Sandwich Generation Small Group

1st/3rd Tuesdays at 7:30pm

Zoom ID: 844 3193 1826

NEW WonZ - The BIGGIES with Fr. Rob

Beginning April 14

Wednesdays at 7:15pm

Zoom ID: 849 0700 9439

Women's Uncommon Prayer

Thursdays at 12:00pm

Email Susie: susie.harding@gmail.com

Men's Group

Saturdays at 8:00am

Zoom Meeting ID: 581 005 941

Virtual Escape Room (ages 12 to adult)

Thursday, April 8 at 7:30pm

Zoom ID: 891 5756 6705

Contact Tim Cooke: TJC22030@gmail.com



NEW WONZ—THE BIGGIES

WonZ will resume April 14th from 7:15-8pm. Join us for a 7-week series we're calling "The BIGGIES." We'll look at a wide arrange of people who have had a big hand in shaping how we look at life, considering together some of the questions they raised. The people we'll be discussing are: Soren Kierkegaard, Mother Theresa, St. Augustine, Julian of Norwich, St. Francis, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Sojourner Truth.

LET'S CELEBRATE SPRING!

RETURN TO REGULAR OUTDOOR WORSHIP: SUNDAY, APRIL 18

We are thrilled to be returning to regular, outdoor worship starting Sunday, April 18th! Join us every Sunday at 8am, 9:30am, and 11am. Please bring your own chair, face covering, and maintain 6ft. of distance.

For those who love the amazing music offered by our band and choir, and those who prefer to continue with virtual worship, we will still be offering our fantastic virtual worship on Sundays at 8am, 9:30am, and 11am.

Learn more information about our plans for re-opening and the safety measures in place by visiting our website: stmtts.org/reopening.



CELEBRATION GARDEN & EARTH DAY: APRIL 25

Celebrate Earth Day, Sunday, April 25, in the Celebration Garden! Come and tour the Garden and select from an array of potted flowers to add a little Spring to your home. You may also pick up a bottle of the much-anticipated St. Matt's Garden Hot Sauce, now in larger 10oz. Bottles (for a \$15 donation)!

Our Celebration Garden is a volunteer-operated, Organic outreach garden that helps supply local families in need with much needed fresh produce. Now that Spring is here, it is the perfect time to volunteer in the garden. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Heidi Lathrop at hlathrop@me.com or follow the garden's Facebook page to stay updated on ways to stay involved: www.facebook.com/St.MattsCelebrationGarden

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY EVENTS

SPRINGTIME STORYTIME & CRAFTS

Monday, April 12 | 1-1:30pm

Join us as we celebrate Spring by reading "When Spring Comes," "There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Frog," and "It Just Blooms." We'll also make Spring crafts including tissue paper stained glass flowers and thumbprint flowers.

Zoom ID: 753 6635 1082 Password: Church

CHILDREN'S SCAVENGER HUNT

Monday, April 19 | 1-1:30pm

Preschool and Elementary aged friends are invited to go on a Spring Scavenger Hunt. All the items can be found in your house. Zoom ID: 753 6635 1082 Password: Church

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



July 19-23, 2021 | 5:30 - 7:30pm

It's the best week of summer! At Treasured VBS, kids dig into action-packed, faith-filled adventures. They'll discover God's greatest treasure isn't diamonds, gems, or gold...it's them!

Register today: go.stmtts.org/VBS

ACTIVITIES FOR ELEMENTARY AGE CHILDREN

Faith Factory

Sundays | 10:30am

Email Adrian@stmtts.org to join

Small Hands, Big
Hearts Teacher
Appreciation Cards

Due April 30th

We are making cards for local teachers. Please drop them off at the church Tues. & Thurs. between 8am-5pm

Contact Adrian@stmtts.org for more information.



YOUTH EVENTS

Zoom Scavenger Hunt Round 2

Saturday, April 10 at 7pm

Middle and high school students are invited to join us at 7pm on April 10th for the next installment of this high-energy, points-for-creativity event!

Meeting ID: 852 8245 0571

Service Project

Sunday, April 18

Following outdoor worship, youth (and anyone else interested) will be doing a service project right in Sterling Park. There is much to be done at St. Matt's and in the surrounding community. So we hope you can join us!

*Masks and social distancing required.

Afternoon of Fun at Frying Pan Farm

Saturday, April 24 at 3pm

Let's get out and enjoy the Spring! From 3-5pm we will set up base camp at this working farm and set to exploring. There are trails to hike, cows to milk, and wagons to ride.

*Masks and social distancing



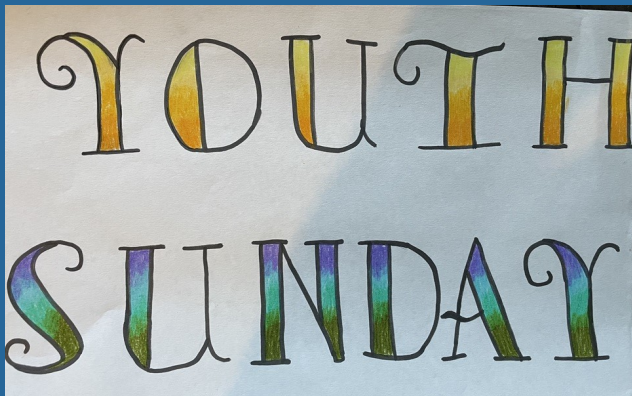
Youth Bible Study and Topical Discussion

Sundays at 10:30am

Middle and high school students are invited to join Rev. Mary Margaret and our youth leaders every Sunday for a topical discussion on faith.

Google Meets:

<http://meet.google.com/jya-nkrr-sis>



Artwork by Ava Lesser

YOUTH SUNDAY

Sunday, April 11 | 8:00, 9:30, & 11:00am

Seeing the smile of a teenager, hearing the voice of a young person reading scripture, celebrating young talent and hard work...this is what it's all about on Youth Sunday! Join us in honoring our youth and all that they add to the vibrancy and joy of St. Matt's.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES



BACKPACK BUDDIES

Backpack Buddies continues to support local children in need. Shelf stable food donations are welcome at the church on Tues. & Thurs 8am-4pm. To help pack, sign up at go.stmmts.org/Pack4BB Contact: Hillary at HHLearning@gmail.com for more information



PARK VIEW HIGH SCHOOL FOODSHARE PROGRAM

We are providing food and toiletries to Park View High School families in need. There are new volunteer dates available for spring. Sign up today: go.stmmts.org/ParkView. For more info, please contact Amanda Sternitzke at amandagayle1@hotmail.com.



LINK PROGRAM: Month of April

April is our month to support the LINK food pantry with donations and deliveries. Shelf stable food donations are welcome at the church on Tues. & Thurs 8am-4pm. To help deliver, sign up here: go.stmmts.org/LINK For more information, please contact Melissa Hancock at melissahancock@hotmail.com.



CARE RESPONSE TEAM

When our Care Response Team is notified that someone is in need, the team springs into action shopping for and delivering essential items to the people who need them. If you would like to be added to this team of responders, please contact Tess Frawley at tess.frawley@stmmts.org.



UPCOMING OUTREACH MEETINGS

Are you interested in becoming involved in St. Matthew's outreach efforts? Join us for our monthly meeting to share your ideas and volunteer. Contact Kristin Drummond at kristin.drummond@stmmts.org.

Holy Week



Join us online for Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 28
8 AM, 9:30 AM and 11 AM

Tenebrae

Wednesday, March 31
8 PM

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 1
8 PM

Good Friday

Friday, April 2
12 PM and 8 PM

Holy Saturday

Saturday, April 3
10 AM

All Holy Week Services are available on Facebook or YouTube. Visit stmtts.org/services
Holy Week & Easter kits can be picked up at the church on Tuesday/Thursday between 8AM and 5PM beginning March 15, 2021. These include a variety of elements to make the services interactive while watching from home.

Easter

THE LORD IS RISEN

6 AM Easter Sunrise Worship- OUTDOORS

Join us at Saint Matthew's for a stunning 6 AM OUTDOOR Sunrise Worship with Paschal fire and instrumental music. Please bring your own chair. Masks & social distancing required. Please visit stmmts.org/easter for full details on safety metrics and precautions.

6 AM Easter Sunrise Worship- ONLINE

Join us ONLINE for a 6 AM Easter Sunrise Worship.

8 AM Classic Easter Worship with Choir -ONLINE

Join us ONLINE for an 8 AM Easter Worship with brass, strings and choir as we joyfully celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

9:30 AM Festival Easter Worship with Band - ONLINE

Join us ONLINE for a 9:30 AM Festival Easter Worship with Band as we joyfully celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

11AM Easter Worship - OUTDOORS

Join us at Saint Matthew's for an 11 AM OUTDOOR Worship. Please bring your own chair. Masks & social distancing required. Please visit stmmts.org/easter for full details on safety metrics and precautions.

11 AM Classic Easter Worship with Choir -ONLINE

Join us ONLINE for an 11 AM Easter Worship with brass, strings and choir as we joyfully celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

1 PM Festival Easter Worship with Band -ONLINE

Join us ONLINE for a 1 PM Festival Easter Worship with Band as we joyfully celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

For full service information, please visit stmmts.org/Easter