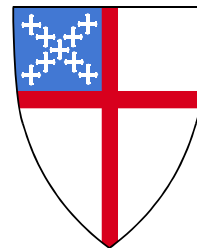


Need Help or  
Have Questions?  
Call the Office  
703-430-2121



*Saint*  
**Matthew's**  
Episcopal Church

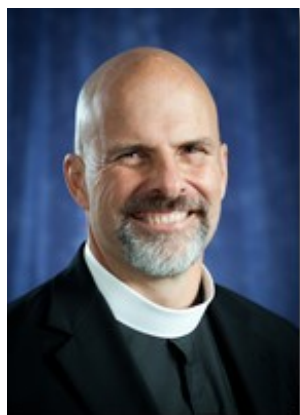


201 East Frederick Drive • Sterling, VA 20164

## May 2020

FROM THE RECTOR

ROB MEROLA



Dearly Beloved,

I have long believed that St. Matthew's is a very special place, the embodiment in so many ways of what it means to be a church. We have been incredibly blessed to "know and share God's love" with some of the very best people on the planet, and I mean that from the bottom of my heart. You have done incredible things over the years, so much so that someone called St. Matthew's "the little church that could." By God's grace and with God's help, we have been the little church that could do anything.

And you know what? Of all the configurations of St. Matthew's that we have seen over the years, and as glorious as they have been, I truly believe there has never been a better iteration of St. Matt's than I am seeing now. Day in and day out, I am seeing St. Matt's (you!) at her very best.

It all starts with WORSHIP. The simple fact is that more of us are in worship more faithfully than I have ever seen before. And there is nothing more important than worship. It is what "forms" us — creates the vision that moves our hearts to care and motivates our hands to help. It is worship that set us all on the same page, all moving in the same direction, all ... together. And when that happens, it is the most powerful thing in the world!

It continues with COMMUNITY. I am watching every single person in the parish connecting with others, reaching out, asking if there is anything we can do to help, and just simply making time to talk. Families I have fallen so deeply in love with, who have moved away, have been joining us again in our various virtual offerings. Frankly, it has felt a bit like heaven.

And then there is SERVICE. And again, I think virtually everyone who can do something to serve IS doing something to serve! Whether it is buying food, hosting virtual events, make phone calls, making masks, driving by homes and talking to people from the curb, and so much more, I simply have never seen anything like it.

And finally, there is your remarkable, incredible, unbelievable-if-it-was-anyone-other-than-St. Matt's GENEROSITY. People giving so faithfully online. People faithfully mailing in checks, week after week. And on top of that, so many of you stretching to do something extra. A family who moved overseas sending a gift of \$10,000. Parishioners sending us an extra \$5,000, \$1,000, or \$1. Each gift, no matter the size, is a bold proclamation that we will not shrink back in fear and think only of ourselves. No! We are those who live — and love! — by faith. And so, we stretch. We sacrifice. We show our care in the most tangible of ways, enabling St. Matt's to help provide for those in need during these difficult days.

I am so very proud of you, St. Matt's. You live your faith. You follow Jesus in a way that is incredibly real, even in very challenging times like these. You are doing God's will on earth in ways that can be plainly seen, even as God's will is done in heaven.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Blessed beyond measure,  
Rob+

# Connect Virtually

## **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](mailto:Adrian@stmtts.org) to join

## **Mid-Week Prayer on Facebook Live**

Monday - Friday at 12:00pm

Facebook Live: [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

## **Story and Craft Time with Adrian**

Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 10am

Zoom Meeting ID: 562 517 651

## **Social Time with Candace**

Mondays at 12pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 681-861-620

## **What Happy Couples Know with Rob**

Mondays at 7:00pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 786-599-377

## **Staff Q & A**

Monday at 8:15pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 922-9386-9442

## **Sandwich Generation Small Group**

Tuesdays at 7:30pm

Email: [Harding.Brent@gmail.com](mailto:Harding.Brent@gmail.com)

## **Trivia Night with Tim**

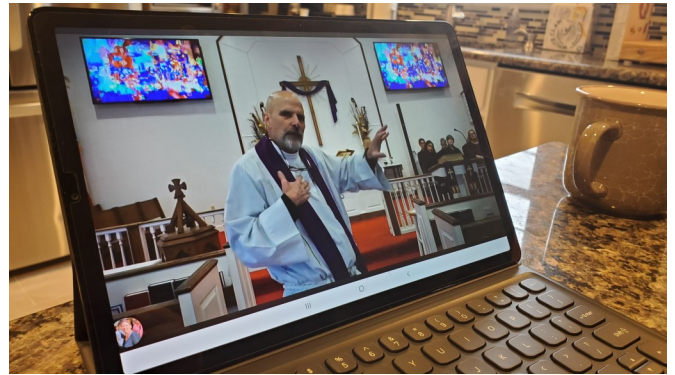
Tuesdays at 8:15pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 306 657 028

## **WatCh - Bible Study with Fr. Rob**

Wednesdays at 7:00pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 513 025 762



## **Parenting in a Pandemic with Fr. Rob**

Wednesdays at 8:15pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 408-272-679

## **Children's Music Time with Kevin**

Thursdays at 10:00am

Zoom Meeting ID: 867 737 899

## **Women's Uncommon Prayer**

Thursdays at 12:00pm

Email [Susie.Harding.com](mailto:Susie.Harding.com) to join

## **Tea Time with Linden**

Thursdays at 3:00pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 394 405 627

## **Bingo Night with Dave**

Thursdays at 7:00pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 743 731 742

## **Bible Study with Genevieve**

Thursdays at 8:15pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 706-685-327

## **Social Time with Faith**

Fridays at 9:00pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 234 456 1086

## **Men's Group**

Saturdays at 8:00am

Zoom Meeting ID: 581 005 941

As new content becomes available we will update the St. Matthew's website ([stmtts.org](http://stmtts.org)) and/or create Facebook events ([facebook.com/StMatthewsEpiscopalChurch/events](https://facebook.com/StMatthewsEpiscopalChurch/events).) We realize that not all church communities are able to stream online and provide unique content. We invite you to please share our Sunday worship services and other connection opportunities with friends and family.

# Youth Happenings

Your intrepid youth leaders are always trying something new. We live by the mantra “Fail Fast, Fail Often”. We try just about anything to keep your middle and high school youth engaged with each-other and with God. We get it wrong a LOT, but usually in ways that help us all grow.

## **May 5th We're Going to the Circus!**

D&D Style that is. Heather will be the dungeon master and lead anyone interested through a D&D campaign. If you need help setting up your character or getting dice, let her know ([heather@stmtts.org](mailto:heather@stmtts.org)).

## **In May we'll continue our virtual youth gatherings.**

These are simple drop-in meeting times where anyone can come and talk, gripe, connect, or do homework while other people talk. It's like those times you brought a boy/girl home to “study” but with LOTS of social distancing... and more people.

**We're also planning some virtual group tours of museums, games, and movie nights!**

For times and details for all our activities, check the St. Matt's Youth Facebook page:  
[go.stmtts.org/YOUTH](https://www.facebook.com/go.stmtts.org/YOUTH)

# Activities for Children!



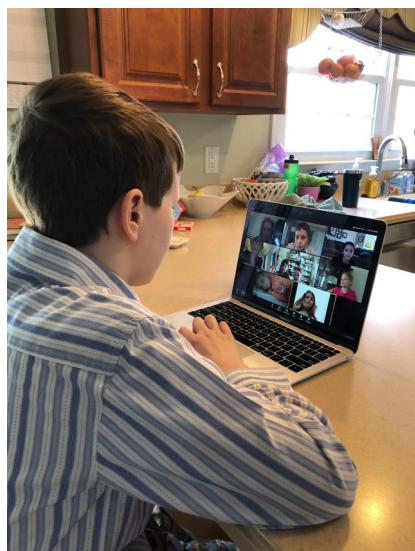
## **Faith Factory Birthday Party!** **Friday, May 1st at 3:00pm**

Join us as we celebrate everyone who is having a birthday in May!

There will be a Dance Party, Games and Bingo!

Meeting ID: 768 5187 1501

Password 008950



**Faith Factory for Kids**  
**Sundays at 10:30am**

**Craft and Story Time**  
**Monday, Wednesday and**  
**Friday at 10:00am**

Contact Adrian for information on  
how to join Faith Factory or Craft  
and Story time.

[Adrian@stmtts.org](mailto:Adrian@stmtts.org)



# Outreach Happenings

## Outreach Spotlight

The Outreach Committee would like to recognize Miriam Turner for all her hard work. In addition to her work in the church office, Miriam has been running a neighborhood food collection in her neighborhood. We've received dozens of donations for Backpack Buddies, the Care Response Team, and the LINK food pantry from her collection spot. If you'd like more info on how you can start your own neighborhood collection, please email Miriam at [Miriam@stmtts.org](mailto:Miriam@stmtts.org).



## Food, Toiletries and Cleaning Supplies

People in our community are desperately in need of food and supplies. We are continuing to collect non-perishable food, toiletries, and cleaning supplies, as well as personal protective equipment like gloves or masks. Place items outside the church doors on Tuesdays and Thursdays 8am - 4pm or call 703-430-2121,

## Backpack Buddies Packing

Backpack Buddies is still actively supporting families in our community. We are in need of financial donations ([go.stmtts.org/give](http://go.stmtts.org/give)), but we are also accepting shelf-stable food items as usual. Drop off items by the church backdoors on Tuesdays/Thursdays 8am - 4pm. Thank you for helping to keep tummies full!

To contribute your time to this effort, please contact Hilary Hultman-Lee at [HHLlearning@gmail.com](mailto:HHLlearning@gmail.com).

## Your Financial Support is Vital

During these unprecedented times, we are called into community in unprecedented ways. Your financial gifts to Saint Matthew's are of vital importance to support our ongoing ministries and our outreach to the most vulnerable among us. Thank you so much very to those who have been giving regularly by check or online. Your gifts allow us to continue ongoing assistance to those in our community, as well as enable us to provide virtual content, and continue supporting our staff. If you are in a time of financial hardship, please view this as a season of grace and let us know if you need specific assistance.

Please continue to offer your faithful gifts by mailing your check to the church office at Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church, 201 E. Frederick Drive, Sterling, VA, or by giving online at [go.stmtts.org/give](http://go.stmtts.org/give). You may make one-time or recurring gifts through the use of the online portal.

## Grace & Flexibility



These are uncertain times and we ask for your grace and flexibility as last minute schedule changes may happen in ways we haven't been able to anticipate. Please refer to the website ([stmtts.org](http://stmtts.org)) and our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/StMatthewsEpiscopalChurch/](http://www.facebook.com/StMatthewsEpiscopalChurch/)) for the most up to date information, or call the church office at 703-430-2121.



# COVID-19 Care Response

## [www.stmtts.com/ways-help](http://www.stmtts.com/ways-help)

*As followers of Jesus, we are called to get up and get to work whenever and wherever there are people in need. Right now, especially, is the time for us to reveal God at work in the world through us—to meet uncertainty and disruption with love. Here are some things you can do right now to help others.*

### HOW TO HELP NEAR ST. MATT'S:

- **Deliver food for the LINK Food Pantry.** Deliveries are being left on doorsteps. No personal interaction is necessary. Sign up at [go.stmtts.org/LINK](http://go.stmtts.org/LINK)
- **Donate non-perishable food, diapers, toiletries, and gift cards** by the front door of St. Matthew's during office hours (call to confirm 703-430-2121)
- **Join the Care Response Team to offer food and medication pickup, and run errands.**  
Email [CareResponse@stmtts.org](mailto:CareResponse@stmtts.org) to volunteer.
- **Join the Loudoun Medical Reserve Corps.** <https://www.loudoun.gov/1352/Medical-Reserve-Corps>

### HOW TO HELP FROM ANYWHERE:

- **Check Facebook events** for ways to connect online at [go.stmtts.org/events](http://go.stmtts.org/events). You do not need a Facebook account.
- **Shop on Amazon using [go.stmtts.org/Amazon](http://go.stmtts.org/Amazon).** St. Matthew's will receive a small portion of most purchases to help fund ministry work.
- **All Ages Read Together** is a non-profit that normally meets at St. Matthew's to provide reading readiness to children who have not been exposed to a preschool environment. Support at-home-learning by shopping at [go.stmtts.org/AllAgesRead](http://go.stmtts.org/AllAgesRead).
- **Shop on Amazon to support the LINK Food Pantry** (Select Lisa L's Gift Registry Address as shipping address - Lisa is on the LINK board.)
- **Support Backpack Buddies** by ordering directly from Amazon at [go.stmtts.org/shopBB](http://go.stmtts.org/shopBB).

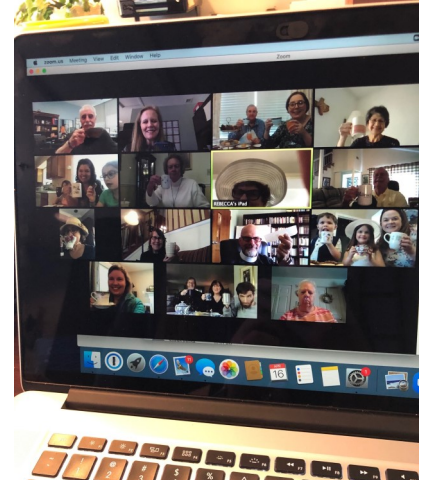


- **Download these Print-at-home Cards** at [go.stmtts.org/connectcard](http://go.stmtts.org/connectcard) Reach out to neighbors who may need a helping hand.
- **Make cards and write letters to local nursing home residents** who can no longer receive visitors.
- **Call or text neighbors to check in on them.** Make a schedule and contact people regularly.
- **Donate blood – the American Red Cross.** Call them to make a donation appointment.
- **Make a donation to our Rector's Discretionary Fund** at [go.stmtts.org/give](http://go.stmtts.org/give) to help those in need
- **Sew masks and surgical caps for hospitals.**

# Learn to ZOOM!

Do you want to join one of our St. Matt's virtual connections but not sure how? Follow the instructions here. If you still need help, please call the church office at 703-430-2121. We'd love to "see" you online.

1. Find the Zoom ID listed under the "Virtual Connection" on the St. Matt's website, Friday Flash, or Online Announcements. For example: Bingo Night with Dave meets on Thursday Nights at 7:00pm. The Zoom Meeting ID is 743 731 742
2. Open the Zoom website at <https://www.zoom.us>
3. Near the top of the screen (in blue letters) you will see the words "Join A Meeting" Click on that. It will take you to the next screen where you can enter that Meeting ID number.
4. You may see a dialog box prompting you to "Open the application." Click "Open Zoom."
5. If your computer camera is turned on, you will see a video preview of yourself and given the option of "Joining with Video" or "Joining without Video." Choose whichever you're more comfortable with.
6. It may ask to allow to use computer audio and video. You want to do this so that you can participate in the meeting.
7. At that point, you should see other meeting members (unless you're the first one there). You should be in the meeting! Congrats!



*If you can't see the meeting (or yourself), the camera privacy may be turned off in your Settings on your computer. If this happens, go into your "Settings" and "Camera Privacy" and "allow apps to use your camera." If you'd like to test your video and audio before logging into a meeting or event, you can go to the zoom test page at <https://zoom.us/test>*

**Thanks  
for joining  
us online.  
Follow the  
Purple  
Arrow to  
Share the  
Services  
on  
Facebook**





# WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOD DOING?

*Wednesdays at 7PM*

*A 5-week Bible Study looking at some of  
the great passages of the Bible.*

[go.stmtts.org/events](http://go.stmtts.org/events)

## "BAD" WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

BIBLE STUDY  
WITH GENEVIEVE ZETLAN

THURSDAYS | 8:15 PM  
[go.stmtts.org/events](http://go.stmtts.org/events)





Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church

# DAY OF GIVING

SAT | MAY 2  
9AM - 3PM



THE STERLING COMMUNITY NEEDS YOUR HELP

## FOOD DONATIONS



### ITEMS MOST NEEDED

- Non-perishable Food
- Hygiene Items
- Toilet Paper
- Diapers (Any size)
- Baby Formula
- Baby Wipes

## MONETARY SUPPORT



### YOUR DONATION SUPPORTS

- Rent assistance
- Gas and heating bills
- Additional food donations
- Childcare support
- Assistance with medical bills
- ...and so much more!

Drop off donations from 9AM - 3PM at  
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church | 201 E. Frederick Dr., Sterling, VA  
OR visit [go.stmtts.org/Give](https://go.stmtts.org/Give)

NEED HELP? Email our Care Response team [CareResponse@stmtts.org](mailto:CareResponse@stmtts.org)