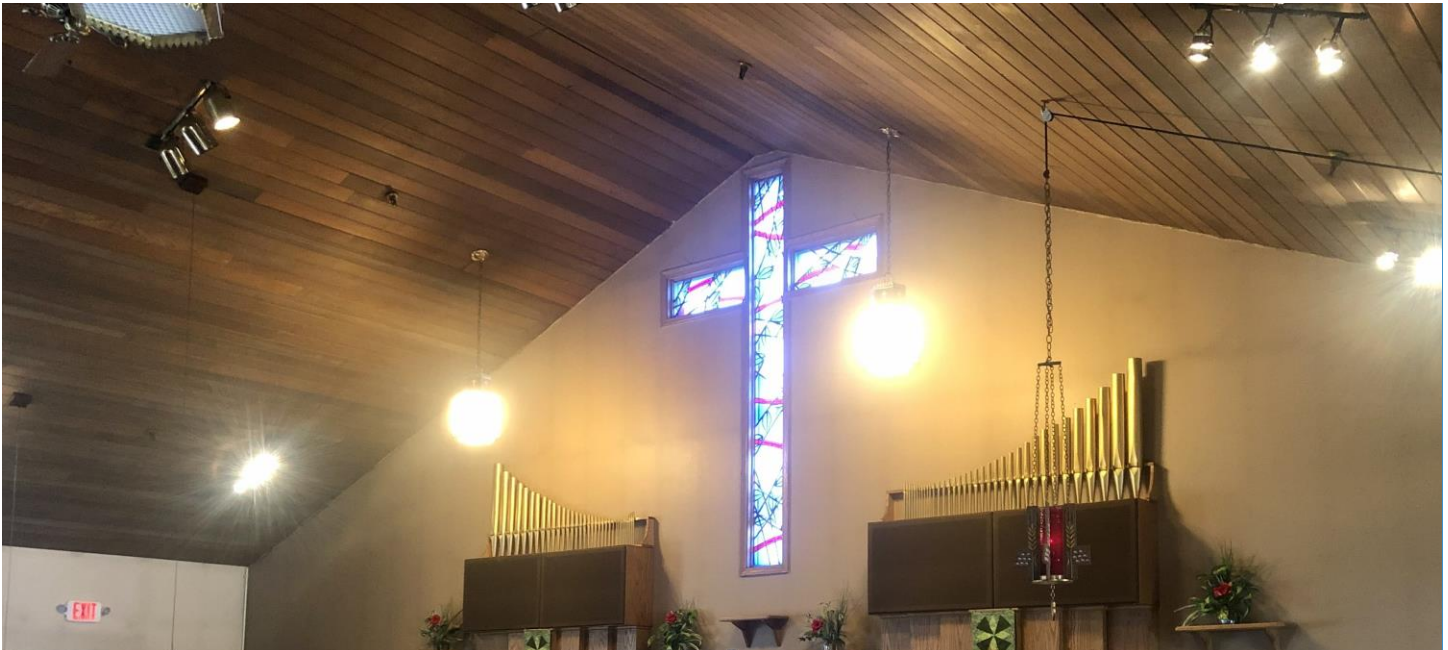


Et cetera



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN...

It's all about...relationship!

Almost 20 years ago, the largest ever survey of Youth and Faith and Religion was carried out. The results, when published, were eye-opening for families and pastors alike. Most everyone responded that their images of God were of an impersonal, judgmental, and distant deity who wasn't active in their day-to-day lives, or in the life of the world.

Today, I am sensing we might still feel and think about God that way. I recently started a new book, whose main idea is that God is inherently and faithfully *relational*. God, not only Jesus, but the fullness of GOD is in relationship with humankind, and unwilling to give up, or stop being in relationship with us. Over the next few months, you may hear, read, and notice I'm talking more about the relationship God has with us...and the ways God isn't some pie-in-the-sky being, but is connected and seeking out ways to remain connected to us.

The late Terry Fretheim writes that thinking of God's being in relationship to us and with us "reveals a God who has deeply entered into the life of the world and is related to every creature that is not God."

Maybe having a new relationship in my family (Baby Milo says hi –arrghhhgaga) has made me notice just how many different ways our bible stories show God's relationship. Friend, parent, accompanist, promise-keeper...the list goes on. What relationship metaphor do you like from scripture?

I hope we can together notice what it means that God is still active and maintaining our relationship—connecting us in love and sustaining us in the Spirit.

Pastor Matt





On the Agenda

Renewing our Reconciling in Christ Commitments

Entering 2023, it's time for Adoration to renew and refresh our welcoming statement. Adoration has been an RIC (open, affirming, and welcoming congregation to LGBTQ+ folk) since 1999; we last updated our welcome statement in 2012.

Reconciling Works, the national organization supporting RIC ministry, has encouraged all churches to consider expanding their welcome statements to also include the intersections of race, gender, class, and any other way the church has excluded others.

We will begin this work through education and learning opportunities. Please watch for more details. Pr. Matt's "Reconciling Scripture" adult education is one place you can deepen your learning.

Why do this work?

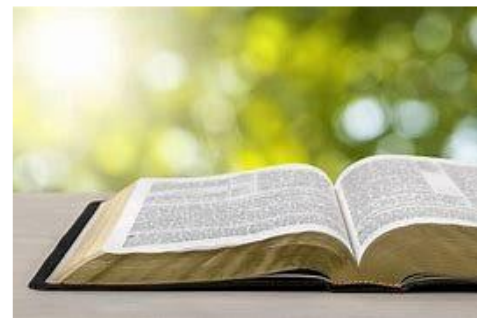
- It is important to develop a Welcoming Statement to show others that your faith community has publicly committed to living as a Welcoming faith community on a lifelong journey.
- This statement becomes a great tool to show visitors as well as members what you believe and how you intend to live it out.
- Each faith community will develop a statement that fits their community.
- Every faith community's Welcome Statement is as diverse as they are.

Adoration will again be hosting City of Greenfield voters in the Spring Primary on Tuesday, February 21st. Please learn about what's on the ballot and vote at myvote.wi.gov. Polls in Wisconsin are open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. The Adoration Church Council opted not to hold any fundraisers during the 2023 elections.

Sunday, January 22nd began our short-term study of *Reconciling Scripture: How Lutherans Read the Bible and How this impacts Welcome*.

Join Pastor Matt after worship. Books are available, but don't have to be read ahead of this first session.

If you'd like a copy of the book, sign up in the gathering space. They are \$10 each. Join us after worship on Sundays: January 29th, February 5th and 19th.



Culver's Nights

Monday, February 13th - 5 p.m.-8 p.m.

Monday, March 13th 5 p.m.-8 p.m.



Lovingkindness Sunday Returns

Mark your calendars: Sunday February 19th marks the return of Lovingkindness Sunday. We invite members and friends of Adoration to reach out - to folks you know and folks you might not know—and share a random act of kindness, gratitude, grace, and love. We'll have cards to share and express God's love and grace as you consider what to do. Watch for more details to come.



In the Garden meetings will take place the 2nd & 4th Fridays at 1 p.m. at church!



Adoration has numerous daily devotionals and faith resources for you to use in your own spiritual lives and prayers. You can pick these up in the Gathering Space. There are envelopes for a small donation to offset the cost of the publications.

Living Lutheran is your monthly source for news, reflections and stories from the ELCA and its local and global companions. It covers religious news and social issues, congregational life, global and domestic mission, family matters, spiritual practices and resources, and more.

The Word in Season enriches life with a contemporary message for today's Christian. *The Word in Season* reflects on the themes of Sunday's texts with relevant meditations throughout the week. This devotional follows the Revised Common Lectionary. Its small size makes it easy to take with you. We also have large print editions.

Christ in Our Home is a quarterly devotional resource that encourages readers to live out their faith daily. Each reflective reading is accompanied by a daily scripture reference and prayer for the day that follows the Revised Common Lectionary.

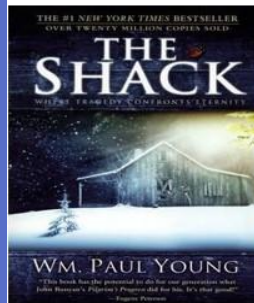


ADORATION CHURCH BOOK CLUB



We will be reading, **"The Shack"** by William Paul Young

NEXT MEETING
FEBRUARY
20th, 6:30 pm
AT
ADORATION



EVEN IF YOU DON'T READ THE BOOK, COME FOR THE CONVERSATION 😊
CONTACT JENNIFER ANDERSON FOR DETAILS
414-364-0854
Jenjenandl@gmail.com

How Can We Pray for You?

Please contact Pastor Matt directly on his cell in case of a pastoral emergency or to request a visit from him. He can visit you or your loved one in your home, hospital, nursing care or hospice facility.

Pastor Matt: (920. 484.8050)

(*COVID may limit or prohibit visitation. Restrictions vary from place to place, but Pastor Matt can discuss this with you and/or the family.)



The Adoration Church Council met for its monthly meeting on January 10th:

- The Council received year-end financial reports. Expenses for 2022 exceeded revenues by \$11,739. Higher expenses and lower revenues both led to the shortfall.
- The Council discussed and approved moving forward to reorganize and restructure the congregation's committee structure to be more agile and reflect current practices. There will be more details forthcoming. A small group will be formed to work on the reorganization.
- The Council received updates on the Sensory Room completion and on Holy Week Partnership opportunities.
- The Council decided to forego any fundraising during Spring Elections held on February 21st and April 4th.
- The Council acted to resume lighting the stain glass windows in the old sanctuary at night.
- The Council gave approval to establish February 19th as Random Acts of Kindness/Lovingkindness Sunday
- The next regular Council meeting will be held on February 7th (NOTE DATE CHANGE).

Call, email or talk with Pastor Matt at worship about any prayer requests you have.

Otherwise, please send an e-mail to the church office at:

adorationlutheran@gmail.com

Another option is to leave a note in the lock box outside of Crystal's office.

*We understand if you wish to remain anonymous or don't want your intention published in the weekly bulletin and announcements.

Pastor Matt's Updated Office Hours

In 2023, Pastor Matt has shifted his office hours slightly. He is always accessible during the week via e-mail (pastormattadoration@gmail.com); cell, or text (920) 484-8050.

Thank you for respecting his sabbath day on Fridays except in pastoral emergencies.

Pastor Matt works from his Adoration Office on Mondays, Wednesday mornings and late afternoon/evenings, and most Thursdays. He works remotely from home on Tuesdays.



**Practicing Lent with Adoration
Healing God: Love without Limits**



We soon begin the season of Lent—a time of preparation, prayer, and reflection on God’s merciful and gracious love toward humankind. This Lent, join us in worship, for online devotion, and in personal prayer as we come face to face with our Healing God, who shows us the meaning of Love without Limits.

How You can Participate in Lent at Adoration!!

Worship with us!

February 22nd: Ash Wednesday worship at 6:15 p.m.

Sundays: Weekly Worship with liturgy focused on healing and wholeness at 9 a.m.

Wednesdays: Evening Prayer with Holy Communion @ 6:15 p.m.

We gather around the cross and the theme: “Perfect Love Casts out Fear”

Participate in Daily



Devotions
We have purchased individual Lenten devotional books for members of Adoration!
Water and Spirit provides daily devotions for each day from Ash Wednesday to Holy

Saturday using texts from the gospel of John.

As you read the daily devotions, pause to think about how John describes water and the Spirit, and how water and the Spirit are at work in your life.

These devotionals are available in the Gathering Space!

Go Deeper with Discussion on “Love Without Limits”

Join Pastor Matt on Zoom Monday evenings in Lent (starting Feb. 27th) at 7 pm for discussion on Lutheran theologian Jacquie Bussie’s award-winning book, *Love Without Limits*.



Through personal reflection, inspiring true stories of friendships, creative readings of scripture, and surprising shout-outs to some of love’s most amazing teachers, Bussie challenges readers to answer God’s call to practice a love so deep, it excludes no one.

Bussie imparts practical solutions for people of faith who yearn to love across division, difference, and even death in today’s troubled times.

We Couldn't Do It Without You!

Special thanks to all who continue to work behind the scenes to make things run smoothly in our congregation!

Thanks to all who helped un-decorate the church after Christmas.

Thanks to Kathy Wakefield and Sharon Anderson for their assistance in entering new year’s stewardship and membership data.



Thanks for all who support and purchase Mt. Meru Coffee on a regular basis. If you have specific needs or orders, please contact Jessica Hodgson, who is the Adoration Mt. Meru Coffee Ambassador!

The Meru Partnership Committee is very grateful to the Greater Milwaukee Synod for the generous response to the hunger relief appeal after three years of drought experienced by the people of Meru. Between May and November of this year, we have received gifts from well over 100 contributors totaling over \$95,000 to purchase corn, beans, and cooking oil.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!



Have you checked out our church website?

It is packed full of useful information and fun extras!

Rich and Barb Regent have worked hard to refresh the look of it and keep it up to date!

Visit: <http://www.adorationlc.org>



**STAY
CONNECTED**

You can participate in our worship through our video link, posted on Sunday around Noon. Video links can be found on the following platforms.

Website: www.adorationlc.org

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/adorationlutheran>

Please visit our [Facebook](#) page for events coming up, social interaction, watch sermons and send supportive messages to your church family. Like Us! Share! Message us! Ask others to Friend us!

(Click the logo to check us out!)



The new directory will be coming out via email!

[In the Works...A Community Resource Guide](#)

The goal is to have contacts, phone numbers and information on local food pantries, housing, clothing, hygiene, transportation, elder care, mental health, insurance, emergency and first response and more. Please e-mail any suggestions for this guide to the church office.

