



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
900 Vine Street
Liverpool, NY 13088

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WELCOME

Thank you for your time and consideration of the people and mission of St. Matthew's as you discover who we are. Our hope is that the following information will exhibit the profound warmth, care, and love of community that defines our church family.

St. Matthew's is part of the Diocese of Central New York and is located within walking distance of the heart of the Village of Liverpool. Our village boasts a lovely park on Onondaga Lake with trails for running, biking, and picnicking. Restaurants, cafés, and shopping abound and we are a short drive from the nearby City of Syracuse.

The people of St. Matthew's have forged strong bonds of love nurtured by the power of prayer and worship. We have an active and lively church school for children of all ages, and the strong leadership of our lay ministers, vestry, teachers, and volunteers.

We maintain a visible presence in our community through our many outreach activities and by the warm and welcoming acceptance of people from all walks of life.

We look forward to welcoming a new rector to join and lead us in our continued spiritual growth and walk with the Lord.



PRAYER FOR THE PARISH

As members of the Body of Christ, we celebrate our many blessings as we pray:

Almighty God, giver of every good gift,

Look graciously on your church,

You who know our needs even before we can ask,

Let your loving presence guide us as we seek our next rector of St. Matthew's Church, Liverpool.

Raise up for us, we pray, a priest who will boldly proclaim your Gospel by word and deed, faithfully administer the sacraments, and serve your people with love and compassion.

Hear our prayer for this community of faith that we may be nourished and strengthened to grow as a people of God. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Author: Rose Reinheimer



OUR HISTORY

St. Matthew's, in Liverpool, NY, is a blended parish, consisting of the congregations of St. Matthew's and St. Thomas' in nearby North Syracuse. For years the two traveled parallel roads in their history until they intersected and became one. The first church service for St. Matthew's was held on September 21, 1941. Since St. Matthew's Day was on the 28th it was decided that would be the name for the mission. St. Thomas', established at nearly the same time, adopted their name from the Apostle Thomas.

Through many moves, supply priests and lay ministers, both churches found permanent buildings: St. Thomas on Gertrude Street in North Syracuse, (June 25, 1952) and St. Matthew's in 1953 in a building that was originally the German Evangelical Church on the corner of Hazel and Vine Streets. However, 1954 was a tragic year for St. Matthew's as their home burned down. As had happened in the 1940's, the congregation held worship in the local Masonic Temple.

The new St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, relocated to nearby Vine Street, was dedicated December 11, 1955. This is the current structure, built in the Colonial design with an adjoining parish hall, which was the dream of the faithful and undaunted congregation.

Both congregations lived into the congregational life cycle so typical of mid-twentieth century church membership. Faced with dwindling attendance and financial resources, St. Thomas merged with St. Matthew's in 2010. It has proven to be a successful melding of the congregations and although the entire St. Thomas congregation did not remain, many did. St. Matthew's is a Level III congregation exhibiting a high degree of flexibility. We are an all-inclusive church welcoming anyone seeking Christian community in the ways of Jesus Christ. At St. Matthew's "All are welcome" is how we live.



Original church building purchased from German Evangelicals



Current St. Matthew's Building

FROM THE TRANSITION COMMITTEE

In the process of searching for a new rector, the Transition Committee's role is, simply put, to write a job description for potential candidates. But to do this well means finding ways to draw ideas, opinions, and dreams for the church out of everyone in the congregation who wants to participate in the process, and then distill this information into a few short pages.

We used an online survey (a hard copy of the survey was mailed to selected parishioners and available as requested). Surveys were made available to all parishioners from early December 2023 through the middle of January 2024. A total of 123 surveys were returned. Responses were evenly distributed across four categories representing parishioners' length of membership at St. Matthew's.

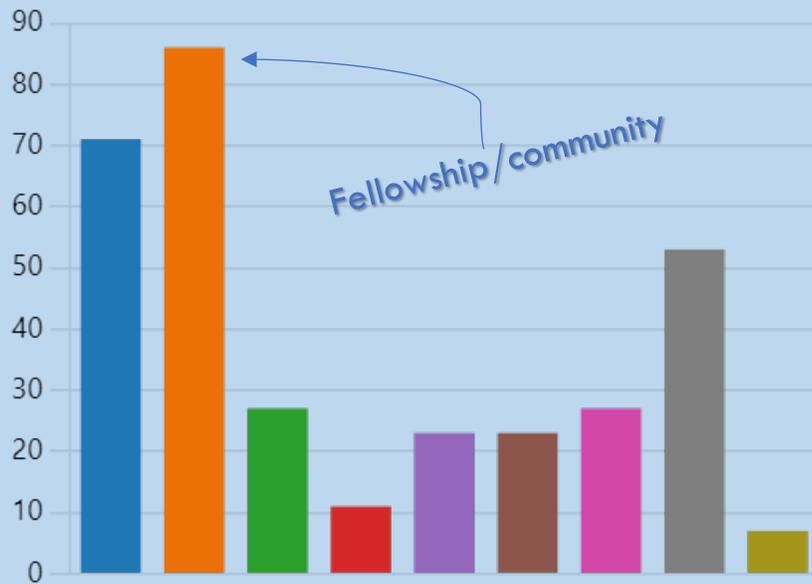
The Transition Committee reviewed the survey results and used them to identify areas for further discussions. In late January and early February, five small group discussion sessions were held to explore these subjects and ask parishioners for their thoughts on what kind of rector St. Matthew's needs to guide it into the future.

Overall, the message from parishioners was clear: St. Matthew's is a healthy, thriving spiritual community. Our church has room to grow in many areas, but it is blessed with a congregation full of people who want the church to be a special place – a place for reflection and meditation, a place for spiritual growth, and a place that is a blessing to the larger community.



SURVEY RESULTS

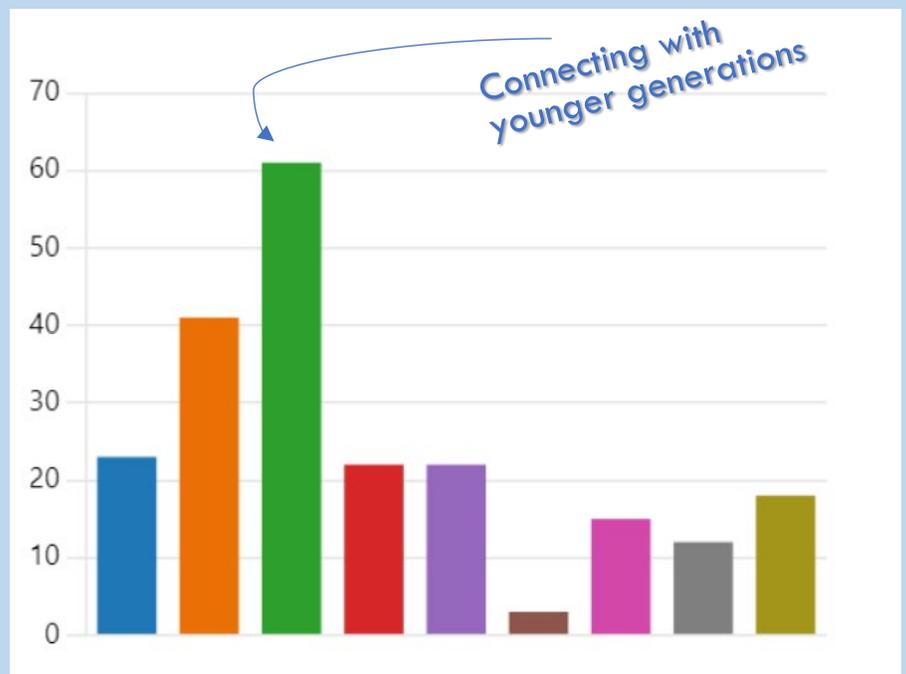
Question 12: Why do you continue to attend St. Matthew's?



● Sunday experience	71
● Fellowship / community	86
● Location	27
● Love of the teaching	11
● Love of the music	23
● Ministry offerings (for example, ...)	23
● Clergy	27
● Relationships (family / friends)	53
● Other	7

Question 33: Where do you feel our church could use the most improvement?

● First impressions	23
● Retention	41
● Connecting with younger gener...	61
● Building community	22
● Expansion	22
● Worship	3
● Teaching	15
● Volunteer opportunities	12
● Other	18



SURVEY RESULTS

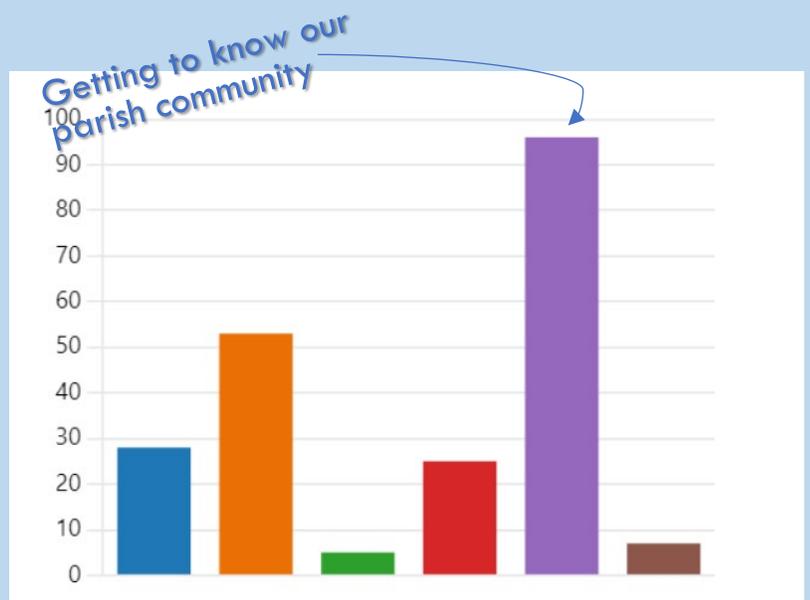
Question 35: What are the most important character traits of our new rector?

● Good interpersonal skills	97
● Comfortable with parish youth	42
● Comfortable with the elderly	23
● Forward-thinking	43
● Thoughtful and reflective	46
● Faithful and steadfast	30
● Outgoing and friendly	74



Question 38: What do you hope the new rector's focus will be initially?

● Growth in numbers	28
● Increased / renewed vision for t...	53
● New programming	5
● Growing youth ministry	25
● Getting to know our parish com...	96
● Other	7



WHO WE ARE

We have three different services during the week:

- Sunday morning, 8 a.m. is Rite I from the Book of Common Prayer.
- Sunday morning, 10:15 a.m. is Rite II or Progressive Liturgy, including a choir.
- Wednesday, 12:00 p.m. is Rite II or occasionally Morning Prayer.

In 2023, total attendance at St. Matthew's Sunday services was 4,900, with average attendance of 93. This represents a decline in Sunday morning attendance relative to 2020 to 2022, when average attendance ranged from 117 to 128 per Sunday service.

Attendance at Wednesday noon services has consistently been between 8 and 12 for several years.

Our Mission Statement:

We, the congregation at St. Matthew's, believe that God loves everyone without exceptions. We are a church that nurtures spiritual growth for all ages. We are a community that is:

Open

Welcoming

Gentle

Joyful

Generous

Rooted in our Episcopal tradition.



Our church structure:

Priest-in-charge: Rev. Christine Day (*interim*)

Wardens: Henry Wakefield & Tom O'Neil

Vestry: Nine Members

Parish Administrator & Communications

Coordinator: Jodi McDonald

Sexton: Bill Boylan

Musical Director / Organist: Jennifer Bearup

Treasurer: Deb Smith

Clerk: Cathy Labucki



THE RECTOR WE SEEK

1. Theologically sound with the ability to translate scripture into relatable sermons that address life experiences.
2. Skills and a passion for working with children of all ages.
3. Build worship both traditionally and non-traditionally that will inspire youth and adults into the full life and ministry of St. Matthews and the Episcopal Church.
4. Manage and delegate responsibilities to develop leadership in St. Matthew's.
5. Provide compassionate care to those who are sick and in nursing homes, and make pastoral visits to those who need and ask for them.
6. Empower individuals to feel safe and free to identify and develop their needs and gifts.
7. Technologically proficient.



MINISTRIES

Outreach

The stated mission of the Outreach Commission is to glorify God and to assist St. Matthew's parishioners in addressing those human needs to which we feel we can respond. We make positive contributions through faith and good works, primarily focusing on neighboring communities while remembering those in need around the world.

Resources / Funding

Our Parish raises funds for outreach efforts through a variety of parishioner-led activities and events.

Giving Boutique: More than a dozen crafters donate their time and talent to create handmade cards, jewelry, and gifts, which are for sale during Coffee Hour and at Diocesan events. 100% of profits go toward church outreach programs.

Food Sales: Parishioners make desserts, salads, casseroles, soups, and other food items that are offered for sale.

Wine & Cheese Auction: Annually, we solicit contributions from individuals and businesses for a silent auction of gift baskets. Refreshments are offered and the highlight of the evening is a wine auction. Proceeds from this year's event went to the Samaritan Center in Syracuse.



Programs

Roxboro Elementary Food Pantry: This school-based food pantry is supported with a monthly donation of a \$100 gift card (\$200 at the holidays) to provide fresh food items to families in need.

Liverpool & Long Branch Elementary: During the holidays, we provide bags of groceries and \$25 grocery store gift cards to families in need at these elementary schools. We have provided a total of 80 bags of groceries, and this year we were able to include fresh fruit and Christmas candy.



MINISTRIES

CanTEEN: We support this after school program which provides a safe, caring environment for at-risk teens who attend Cicero North Syracuse High School by providing healthy snacks for very hungry teenagers.

Blessings in a Backpack: St. Matthew's participates in the Liverpool Chapter, along with four other churches, in Blessings in a Backpack. This is a national program that aims to provide weekend meals for children in need, grades K through 5.

Senior Scholarship: Proceeds from our annual golf tournament go toward a fund that grants scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are church members.

Child Fund: St. Matthew's supports two students from Africa through the agency Child Fund International. Our monthly donation provides school supplies, tuition, and other essentials.

Samaritan Center: St. Matthew's sponsors and serves three meals a year at the Samaritan Center, where "No one goes hungry." The center serves between 100 and 200 (and sometimes more) guests a hot meal every day of the year. This year we also provided six My Place boxes for guests starting a new household.

InterFaith Works and Interreligious Food Consortium: We participate in InterFaith Work's Pantry Partner Program, which provides food items to small food pantries during the summer months. We continue to partner with the Interreligious Food Consortium to provide needed donations to small, under-served food pantries and programs.

Hospice of Central New York and the Finger Lakes: St. Matthew's participates in several donation campaigns sponsored by Hospice, including Giving Tuesday and A Night on the Field.

Ukraine and the Sisters of St. Basil the Great: With the help of an intermediary living in Lviv, we have been able to wire funds to Sister Lucia, head of the Order, living in eastern Ukraine. These courageous women of faith have used our donations for humanitarian aid.

RISE Refugee Immigrant Self-Empowerment: This agency provides a number of support services to immigrants and refugees from many countries. We have provided household items and supplies for newly arrived families.



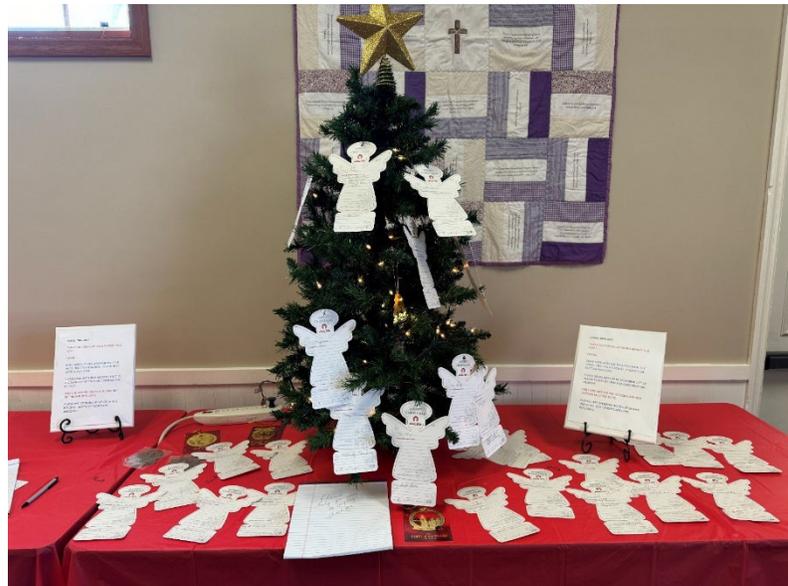
MINISTRIES

Angel Tree: In early December, parishioners can take a gift tag with a Christmas wish written by a child in the community whose parent is incarcerated. Parishioners shop for these special gifts, wrap them, and often have the joy of delivering them.

Center for New Americans: We participate in a variety of outreach activities to welcome newly settled refugees and relocated persons.

Child Fund: Our parish provides funds for tuition and school materials for two students, one in Sierra Leone and one in Senegal.

United Thank Offering: St. Matthew's participates in the Episcopal Church's United Thank Offering, benefitting the Episcopal Relief Fund (<https://www.episcopalrelief.org/>).



Culinary Ministries

Open Table: Started in March 2015 and held on the last Sunday of the month, the Open Table is a free community meal for visitors and parishioners designed to feed both body and soul. It is held at the end of the month when food dollars are stretched the most. We typically serve 40 to 60 meals at each dinner, with parishioners serving as greeters, servers, and kitchen staff. The



Open Table originally started with grant funding and continues to be funded by free will offerings.

Heavenly Bakers: A group of volunteer parishioners bake desserts for the Open Table dinners and special occasions.

Communion Bread: Homemade communion bread, to be used for our worship services, is baked by a group of volunteers.

Food/Meal Train: When a parishioner needs meals furnished during an illness, the parish sends out the call. A schedule is developed to make sure meals are supplied during this time of need.

Vine Street Veggies Community Garden: Our community garden grows fresh vegetables and fruits that are donated to the local food pantry, used in our Open Table Free Community Meals, and included in our emergency food bags.



MINISTRIES

Healing Ministries

Baptismal Blankets: White blankets made by parishioners are presented as a remembrance to children and adults baptized in the church.

Prayer Shawls: Small blankets are knit or crocheted by parishioners, prayed over by the congregation, and given to those during a health challenge.

Sunshine Committee: The committee mails sympathy cards, get well cards, birthday cards and Christmas cards. 'Thinking of you' cards are mailed to parishioners who cannot attend worship services, either long term or short term.

Healing Hearts: Healing hearts began in 2019 after a few parishioners lost loved ones. The need was expressed for a group to discuss bereavement in its many forms: loss of a loved one, loss of a job, an ended relationship, or any situation where a caring ear and a non-judgmental atmosphere was desired. Parishioners were welcomed regardless of how long ago the loss occurred. Gatherings were monthly and included lunch. The COVID pandemic impacted this ministry. Maybe with a new rector, this could be restarted. Grief never ends.

Worship

Choir & Music: A choir of thirteen members serves St. Matthew's faithfully, singing weekly anthems in a variety of musical styles. The St. Matthew's Rock Band performs often with a creative mix of classic rock and show tunes. Christmas Eve services feature a brass quintet.

Lay Liturgical Ministers: This group of dedicated volunteers includes Congregational Lectors who lead lessons and psalms for services. Eucharistic Ministers also serve as Congregational Ministers with the additional duties of leading the prayers of the people, bearing the chalice, and carrying the gospel. This group has approximately twenty-one members.

Acolytes: Currently, there is a group of approximately ten adults and youth who serve faithfully at the 8:00 and 10:15 services. Our acolytes are an integral part of the beauty of Anglican worship.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors: A group of Eucharistic Ministers visit parish members who are unable to attend services, to provide communion and support.

Altar Guild: Twelve male and female parishioners prepare the altar for worship, baptisms, weddings, funerals. In December we have a special greening of the church to get ready for the Christmas season.

MINISTRIES

Parish Life

Easter Egg Hunt: Parishioners fill Easter eggs with small items and candy and the children hunt for them. In inclement weather, the hunt is moved inside to the parish hall. The children have a great time no matter where it is held.

Parish Potluck & Game Night: Begun in 2023, we had an evening with a potluck dinner. We planned on playing a few board games, but everyone enjoyed the fellowship so much, we just sat and talked.

Mass on the Grass & Picnic: During the summer, we have an early evening weekday service on the back lawn with a potluck picnic, hamburgers, and hot dogs. More than 30 people attended the 2023 Mass on the Grass.

Special Coffee Hours: The Parish Life committee is charged with organizing special coffee hours. In 2023, a combined Chili Cook-off / Chocolate Chip Cookie Bake-Off coffee hour was very well received! This year's Annual Meeting potluck coffee hour was also a great success.

Sunday School Kickoff & Conclusion Celebrations: We celebrate the Sunday School teachers and students with an ice cream social or visit from the Skippy ice cream truck in September and June.

Golf Tournament: This event is held in the fall at a local golf club in support of our graduating high school seniors. Prizes are solicited from local merchants, restaurants, and gift shops. The event is a 9-hole captain and crew outing, followed by a buffet dinner and award presentations. Prizes are awarded to high score, low score, longest drive, closest to the pin, and putting contest. This is another semi-annual event that parishioners have come to enjoy and look forward to.

MLK Day of Learning and Service: Started in January 2015, parishioners gather to carry out service projects and enjoy fellowship on Martin Luther King Day. Adults and children have learned how to make Communion bread for our Sunday Services. Learning opportunities include an MLK 'reading room' in the church, films on diversity and racial justice, listening to MLK speeches and participating in craft projects. This has been on hold since the COVID pandemic, but it is an event we would like to reinvigorate.

Wine Tour: Open to parishioners and friends, the wine tour is an opportunity for fellowship. Wine tours are held every other year. We visit various wineries on Keuka, Cayuga, and Seneca lakes. Wineries offer 5-6 tastings along with occasional tours along with great fellowship. We share a picnic lunch either at a winery that can accommodate the group or a local picnic area. This event is always well attended, and people look forward to the tastings, shopping, and fun.



MINISTRIES

Halloween Bags / St. Nicholas Service: Halloween bags with treats are given out to the children. On the Sunday closest to St Nicholas Day, the children's shoes are left in the foyer. The Children's Sermon teaches kids about St Nicholas, then bags with wrapped treats-small candy canes, foil covered chocolate coins, and treats are found in their shoes.

Spiritual Growth

Adult Forums: Throughout the year (and always at Lent and Advent) there are educational sessions for adults. These have been one-time sessions or several weeks in length and allow participants to engage in a deeper understanding of Biblical teachings. Teaching segments are offered on seasonal or particular topics. This can be led by clergy or laity.

Sacred Ground: Our parish has used Sacred Ground discussion materials in the past. Sacred Ground is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity.

Sunday School: Our Sunday School is taught by two experienced, gifted individuals who co-teach a group of children using the curriculum "Weaving God's Promises".



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

For a small parish, St. Matthew's has a long history of nurturing spiritual leaders for our community and beyond. Over the past several decades, seven parishioners have either become ordained ministers or have initiated the process, and one of our former rectors was recently consecrated as a Bishop. Additionally, we have robust participation from lay ministers.



BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is located at 900 Vine Street in the Town of Salina, NY. The church resides just outside the village limits of Liverpool, NY. The church and former rectory sit on 3.02 acres of land. The building consists of the church, parish hall, kitchen, and an enclosed ramp to the offices. The square footage is 12,640 for the entire complex. The parking lot for the church is large, with the ability to hold more vehicles than currently needed.

The church portion has the sanctuary, a vestibule, a library, a vesting room, a tech room, and a sacristy. Leaving the sanctuary and heading towards the parish hall, we have a nursery, family restroom, men's restroom, women's restroom, St. Thomas conference room (which doubles as a Sunday School room), and kitchen. At the end of that hallway, we have the parish hall which can hold about 120 people. At one end of the parish hall, we have two rooms used for outreach purposes and storing food and other items such as clothing for distribution.

Exiting the parish hall, you enter an enclosed ramp that leads to the Church Office, which has two stories. In the past, the Church Office building was used as a rectory and later rented out to the public. During a recent capital campaign to expand the church, the enclosed rampway was added and the rectory converted into office space. The downstairs has a conference room, kitchen, Rector's office, parish administrator's desk, rest room, and copier room. The upstairs has a full bath, two classrooms, and the Music Director's office.

The Sanctuary and the Church Office each have their own internet/Wi-Fi service. The Wi-Fi for the sanctuary is not available to parishioners to ensure that we have enough bandwidth to provide high quality transmission to the internet. The tech room for the Sanctuary contains all the equipment necessary to run a successful Zoom worship experience. The room has a Wi-Fi router, 16 channel sound board, a NUC computer, a feedback suppressor, power amp, POE distribution for the two PTZ cameras mounted in the sanctuary, two wireless mic receivers, an HDMI expander for the two 70" monitors mounted in the Sanctuary, and a laptop to run the monitors.

The kitchen outside the Parish Hall has a commercial gas stove, two deep fryers, a commercial dishwasher, a commercial refrigerator, and a commercial freezer. There is a fire suppression system for the commercial stove.

There are a couple of maintenance issues that are being worked on. The sign in front of the church needs to be replaced, the parking lot and driveways need to be sealed and re-stripped, and there is a leak involving the chimney for the Sanctuary furnaces that needs to be taken care of. These maintenance issues will be resolved in the coming year.

FINANCIAL

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church has a generous congregation, with pledges accounting for two-thirds of our annual operating budget. Through our stewardship campaign, fund raising, and other financial gifts, St. Matthew's has been able to operate in the black for the last several years and meet all financial obligations on time.

2023 ended with all bills paid and \$99,403 in our checking account. The total income for the year was \$321,803. Total expenses for the year were \$286,463. Three of our savings accounts were transferred to High Yield Savings accounts, earning 3% rather than 1.4% for standard savings accounts.

Our endowment fund with State Street Global Advisors started 2023 at \$160,778. We received \$100,000 from the Duke Malavenda Foundation. At the end of 2023 the balance was \$285,608, earning \$24,830 over the year.



OUR COMMUNITY

Liverpool, New York sits at the crossroads of New York State, on the shores of Onondaga Lake, roughly four miles from Syracuse, the third largest city in Upstate New York. The village was incorporated in 1830 and is currently home to over 2,500 residents.

For the past 30 years, the dominant forces in our region's economy have been 'Eds and Meds': educational institutions and healthcare. The Syracuse University (SU) Hill is home to the region's largest employers, including SU, SUNY Upstate Medical Center, and Crouse Hospital.

But in fall 2022, local leaders announced that a microchip manufacturer, Micron, Inc., would be developing a \$100 billion fabrication facility on vacant land in the region's northern suburbs, a 12-minute drive from St. Matthew's. As currently projected, Micron will add 9,000 tech sector jobs to the region, with the associated boost to the region's population anticipated to be in the tens of thousands. For a region that has seen virtually no significant growth in the past 50 years, this development represents a once in a generation opportunity to reimagine the future.

The full impact of the Micron development will take many years to unfold. In the meantime, the Village of Liverpool has a lot to offer, including seven miles of walking / biking trails along the lake, local businesses, small parks, and elementary schools that are part of their neighborhoods. During the holiday season, nearby Onondaga Lake Park is home to 'Lights on the Lake', one of the largest displays of holiday lights in the Northeast.

In addition to Syracuse University's nationally known basketball program, we can also enjoy the school's football and lacrosse programs, as well as those of other schools in the area, including LeMoyne College, Oswego State University, and Onondaga Community College. Syracuse is also home to the AAA affiliate of the New York Mets (the Syracuse Mets) and the Syracuse Crunch ice hockey team.



Village of Liverpool – Village Hall



Micron facility rendering



Syracuse Mets Baseball

OUR COMMUNITY

Liverpool is a short drive from the beautiful Finger Lakes wine region, home to over 100 independent wineries, microbreweries, cider breweries, and cheese manufacturers.

The village is a perfect jumping off point for day trips to some of the most spectacular destinations in the northeast, including Niagara Falls, the Thousand Islands, the Catskills, the Poconos, and the Adirondack Mountains. Toronto, Boston, Montreal, New York, and Philadelphia are all within a five-hour drive.

For those seeking cultural events the area offers the Famous Artist series, which includes touring companies of popular musicals, as well as Syracuse Stage, a local theater company that presents a full season of excellent stage plays. The annual Jazz Fest is a free weekend long musical event.

Another attraction adjacent to Onondaga Lake is DestinyUSA, the ninth largest mall in the USA, located less than four miles from St. Matthew's. It is home to over 250 places to dine, shop and play and is visited by over 26 million people annually.



Village of Liverpool – Christmas Tree Lighting Concert



DestinyUSA



Onondaga Lake Park

THE DIOCESE OF CNY

The Diocese of Central New York is located in the vast region called "Upstate" New York - essentially all the land north of the New York City metro area. We consist of 8,793 baptized members worshipping in 79 parishes, missions, and chapels in gorgeous Central New York.

The Diocese's territory extends from Alexandria Bay in the far north, which is just south of the Canadian border, to Wellsburg and Waverly, whose parishes rest nearly on the Pennsylvania state line.

To find out more about the Diocese of Central New York, visit their website at <http://www.cnyepiscopal.org>.





To apply:

To apply for the position of Rector at St. Matthew's Church, please send your resume, cover letter, and OTM profile to the Central New York Diocese, care of the Reverend Canon Megan Castellan, Canon to the Ordinary for Formation and Mission Development, at: mcastellan@cnyepiscopal.org

We seek a diverse group of candidates that reflect the full breadth of our Episcopal community.