

Welcome

Bread of Life is a Christian body in the Anglican Tradition that is called to be part of a revival of Word and Sacrament in the Midwest. We seek to live our life together as an extended human family, where Christ followers are called to exercise their God-given gifts in a relational and personal way, striving always for the salvation of those currently outside the Kingdom of God, as well as for the care and sanctification of those within. No matter where a person is in their life's journey and walk of faith, they will have a role to play at Bread of Life that is honored and valued.

Our story

Bread of Life Anglican Church was planted in Madison, WI in 2006 by Fr. Matt and Sue Arndt and four core families. The church began meeting for prayer in late 2006. By early 2008, the church began renting worship space and meeting weekly at Zion Lutheran Church on the near east side of Madison, where we worshipped on Sunday afternoons. In 2012, we began renting space on Sunday mornings at the Seventh Day Adventist church on the south side of Madison. In 2020, Community Christian Church on Madison's east side gave their building to Bread of Life for a token payment of ten thousand dollars.

Fr. Matt informed the vestry of his intention to retire in early 2027. God has proven relentless in His sustaining of Bread of Life, and we fervently believe he wants us to bear fruit and flourish. Therefore, it is with confidence in Him that we look forward to God providing our next Rector. A more in-depth look at our history is contained in the appendix.

Worship and Spiritual Life

Our worship is Spirit-filled and Christ-centered, in the Anglican tradition according to the 2019 Book of Common Prayer. Our theology is orthodox and we affirm that Holy Scripture is the Word of God and contains all things necessary for salvation. We celebrate the Eucharist weekly, holding Deacon's Mass or inviting a guest priest to preside when Fr. Matt is absent. The preaching we hear is expository and from the Lectionary. Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer or freely from our hearts is a constant in our life together. We recognize that it is the power of the Holy Spirit that drives us and inspires us. It is noteworthy that for almost 20 years now, a consistent comment from visitors is that they can feel a powerful presence of the Spirit working in our worship. This is something to be preserved and nourished.

Where We Are Headed

At Bread of Life, we seek to be a vibrant and sustainable body that flourishes under the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Bread of Life will be a place where the young are baptized and nurtured in the faith; youth continue to be instructed and develop their unique Christian character; and adults in all stages of life and Christian maturity are disciplined and called to strive with Christ-like love for the salvation of others.

Bread of Life has eschewed the creation of a “mission statement,” believing that the Church’s mission was perfectly described by Jesus Christ in Matthew 28:19-20: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” We do not seek to grow to any particular size. We have gradually come to recognize that God knows and God will provide whatever growth we need whenever we need it, and that he wants us to flourish and be fruitful according to our capacity. In the present, we seek to humbly respond to God’s call to hallow his name in all things and build his kingdom one relationship at a time. Whether God plans for Bread of Life to see explosive growth or to see sustained incremental growth, we earnestly desire to be fully ready to answer his call.

We passionately believe that the orthodox stream of Christianity as taught and practiced by the Anglican Church in North America, of which we are a part, has a vital role to play in reaching the post-Christian culture in and around Madison, Wisconsin. It is evident that tradition and ancient practice are a powerful attraction for the current young adult generation. We believe that the pull of modernism, post-modernism, materialism, and libertinism are swiftly losing their appeal for these young adults. We pray that we might be able to show them just how relevant Jesus Christ remains, and how He and He alone is truly our only hope.

Ministries

Through our simple yet powerful worship service, our adult and children’s education ministries, our corporate and individual prayer and study, our outreach ministries, and all other ministries, we seek above all to establish and nourish relationships with our fellow believers and, more critically, with those who are far from God. This renders irrelevant the fact that – for His own purposes – God has not thus far required us to be a big church. Week by week, year by year, God has given us the opportunity to act and have a real effect on the advancement of his Kingdom. Even here, even now, even us, he has used for his purposes. How blessed we have been! A full description of our ministries is included in the appendix.

Building

Our church building, located at 5020 Maher Avenue in Madison, has seating for approximately one hundred at full legal capacity. It is about 66 years old and in fair to good condition. Worship and administration take place on the upper level, while fellowship and education take place in our spacious lower level. A more detailed description is included in the appendix.

Financial Stewardship

In the early years of the church plant, our financial health was unstable, and we sometimes did not know whether our monthly expenses would be met. But with sacrifices, faithful prayer and perseverance, the Lord has brought us to a place of relative financial stability.

Both our expenses and our income have grown year-over-year, and this fiscal year's operations budget is \$145K. For the last several years we have contributed our full diocesan tithe, and last year we hired a Director of Music to a paid part-time position.

A strategic goal we have consistently focused on for the last five years is getting the Rector's compensation package to a level that will enable us adequately to support the person who eventually steps into Matt's role upon his retirement. We are on solid ground in being able to offer a competitive package at the 60% level to a bi-vocational Rector. As discussed below, an explicit goal is to continue on this trendline and be able to sustain a full-time Rector in the near future.

Rector Profile

We seek a man who first and foremost has a vibrant and passionate relationship with Jesus Christ and whose spirit resonates with the portrait we have tried to paint in the preceding pages. We seek a man who by his life demonstrates the love of Christ in action, exhibiting both the confidence and humility that comes from true belief. Ordination as a priest or transitional deacon in the ACNA and approval of our Bishop will be required, but applicants ordained in other denominations may apply and seek ordination by our bishop in parallel with our application process.

Recognizing both our strengths and our opportunities for growth, we offer the following portrait of the gifts, qualities, and leadership we seek in our next Rector.

- Spirit-filled and Prayerful

We seek a man who continually seeks the Lord in prayer and will ask for God's guidance and wisdom in all he does, every day.

- Visionary Leadership

Bread of Life will be navigating life without its founding Rector. The Holy Spirit will be working through our new Rector, our deacons, and our lay leaders to instill a renewed vision for where the Lord wants us to go. This must be an intentional prayerful process and must be an ongoing part of our life together. Please note, however, that we do not believe we require a "business model" vision statement, mission statement, and assorted other trappings of church growth efforts modeled on secular principles.

We seek a thoroughly Christian vision, arrived at and sustained through thoroughly Christian efforts, infused with prayer and sustained by the power of the Spirit. An explicit goal for the first years of our new Rector's ministry will be to grow numerically and financially, so we can afford a full-time compensation package for our Rector. For this to be successful without money becoming the thing, we need a new vision that will produce new members and joyful giving.

- Effective Preaching and Teaching

We seek a man who faithfully preaches from the scriptures, with a gift for "preaching the Gospel every time," unafraid of the truth, yet gentle in approach. He will be

solid and thorough in teaching biblical and theological ideas but will not intellectualize things to the degree that the power of the Gospel is lost.

- Honoring Tradition

We seek a man who appreciates and honors the traditions of the Church, and specifically the Anglican Church, and who has an easy familiarity with the Book of Common Prayer, the Thirty-Nine Articles, the Lectionary and Daily Office, and other elements of Anglican practice. It is important that he can separate the essential from the incidental in this area. Our next Rector will honor the liturgical expression of the Church, especially in Eucharistic practice and doctrine, but he will recognize that devotion to the traditions and practices of the Church easily devolves into idolatry.

- Pastoral Care

Our next Rector will genuinely love shepherding the flock. Care for individuals one-on-one and in small groups will be a primary focus. He will seek first to listen and understand, and then to teach and advise. One primary goal of shepherding will be to equip and empower others to exercise leadership in ministry.

- Teaching

He will be a good teacher both on biblical matters and life issues.

- Administration

Our next Rector will understand organizational dynamics, finances, communication, and other administrative matters required for Bread of Life to function smoothly. Most importantly, he will recognize giftedness in others that can be mobilized and empowered.

- Finance

He will possess sufficient financial acumen to guide the Vestry in its stewardship responsibilities and to ensure that the parish's financial affairs are administered responsibly and securely by appropriately delegated parish leaders or professional advisors. He will model and encourage biblical stewardship throughout the congregation.

- Communications

Our next Rector will foster clear and reliable communication throughout the parish. He will encourage and equip appropriate individuals or teams to develop and maintain effective communication systems that keep members and visitors informed about worship, ministry opportunities, parish events, administrative deadlines, and other matters important to the life of the church.

Appendix

Part A: Who We Are Today

Bread of Life has twenty adult members and typically has about thirty worshippers per Sunday.

Priest – Fr. Matt Arndt
Deacons – Erica Hoyt and Wayne Maki
Director of Music – Wilder Dietz

Vestry – Eileen Kuehnl (Senior Warden)
Steve Bradley
James Morris
Thomas Pugh
RJ Remington
Kevin Stromsky (Vestry Treasurer)

Part B: Our Story In-Depth

Bread of Life Anglican Church was planted in Madison, WI in 2006 by Fr. Matt and Sue Arndt and four core families. Matt had been co-pastoring a local evangelical non-denominational church when, on a 2004 retreat, he had an encounter with the Holy Spirit that launched him on a two-year journey of discernment, investigation, and training that resulted in the decision to plant an Anglican church.

Launching the Church

Having pastored in Madison and then leaving to start another church, the Arndts assumed that they would have to leave Madison. It was Fr. William Beasley, under whose direction Matt had been placed, who recommended they stay in Madison and plant there. With their previous church blessing the undertaking, Matt and Sue began the work of starting what would become Bread of Life. Since the Anglican Mission in America was still in the works, there was no formal backing organization and no resources. God simply sent people. The church began meeting for prayer in late 2006. This took place in homes and then in the chapel of Christ Presbyterian Church. While the church was still in its infancy, Sue gave Matt a kidney. They both recuperated during August and September. Neither were available to work. Brand new barely-born churches usually do not survive a blow like this. Bread of Life did survive, because God wanted it to live.

The Zion Years: 2007 - 2012

By early 2008, the church began renting worship space and meeting weekly at Zion Lutheran Church on the near east side of Madison. These years saw sporadic growth and establishment of basic order. A church constitution, the vestry, and small groups were formed and outreach efforts began.

People came. Some stayed, while others did not. Finances would ebb and flow. A defining pattern emerged: a crisis would occur that threatened the existence of the church, and then the solution would be supplied, either at the eleventh hour or quietly by simply moving forward in faith.

The repetition of this drove home the realization that shaped those who were being forged into the core group of the church: Bread of Life exists because God wants it to. Notable during this period was the formation of the Anglican Church in North America. Bread of Life was represented at the ceremony creating the Diocese of the Upper Midwest and had multiple signers on the charter.

The Madison East Seventh Day Adventist Years: 2012 - 2020

Until 2012, Bread of Life worshiped on Sunday afternoons in rented space at Zion Lutheran Church on Madison's isthmus. In 2012, we began renting space on Sunday mornings at the Seventh Day Adventist church on the south side of Madison. There was slow and steady growth. We established a Women's ministry that included an annual retreat. A rotation of regular worship leaders established solid continuity in weekly worship. Administrative policies for financials and vestry were all put in place and refined during these years. The "Bread" ministries were developed as our pathway for making disciples of Christ: equipping followers of Christ in prayer, scripture study, identifying and using spiritual gifts, and spiritual formation via Anglican piety. In late 2019, the church secretary Marcia introduced a friend named Lue to Fr. Matt. Lue was a key leader of a church that was dwindling. Through prayer and conversation, Lue's church, Community Christian, gave their building to Bread of Life for a token payment of ten thousand dollars.

The Present: 2020 – Today

We closed on the transaction on August 25, 2020, and after some improvements, cleaning, and organizing, we began worshipping in our own home on October 4, 2020. While many churches did not survive the pandemic, and many more suffered various losses, Bread of Life actually grew. We began streaming our Sunday worship during this time, and we continue to do so.

These last few years have been a season of solidifying our culture: how we celebrate Advent and Holy Week; deepening our life together in worship by adding a paid music director; engaging in missional efforts for Ghana; providing numerous relational small-group activities, regular children's Sunday School, and a men's group and women's group, and more.

Part C: Ministry Descriptions

- Prayer

A core group of "prayer warriors" acts as the center of our Prayer ministry, leading Prayers of the People during the service, offering individual prayer during the Eucharist, meeting periodically for prayer intensives, and managing an email prayer chain whereby needs can be quickly brought to everyone's attention and lifted in timely prayer.

- Music

Bread of Life's worship services are intensely musical, weaving together congregational hymns, liturgical chants, instrumental music as preludes, postludes, and recessionals. We view the *singing* of God's praise as mandated by Scripture. Director of Music (Wilder Dietz) and other worship leaders strive to elicit sincerity, creative participation, and beauty in our congregation's musical life. We view ourselves as co-worshippers and not as performers.

Music is led from the piano or guitar by one worship leader, sometimes joined by other musicians playing double bass, violin, guitar, drums, and the like, especially at holiday celebrations like Christmas and Easter.

Music at Bread of Life is a beautiful braid woven from the many strands and eras of Christian song. Wilder delights in finding the through-lines, musically and lyrically, that unite traditions such as medieval chant, 19th-century hymn, American folk song, and contemporary Black gospel. Thematically, we place a high priority on Scriptural orthodoxy in our singing, as we do in the rest of our liturgy.

- Sunday School

Bread of Life offers Sunday School for children during a portion of the worship service. The children begin the morning in worship for the opening singing, liturgy, and scripture readings. Then they go with their teachers to the lower level for their lessons and snacks, returning to worship in time for Communion. We have two teams of teachers and helpers who serve once a month. Currently we have two regular students, siblings who come every other week. We are ready to hold Sunday School every week as soon as the need arises. We abide by the diocesan Child Safety regulations.

We also offer childcare for the younger ones if they are ready to be separated from their parents. Children are always welcome to stay in worship for the duration. The congregation enjoys their presence.

- Adult Discipleship

Bread of Life seeks to disciple friends and members in four key areas (for which we have chosen the metaphor of the "bread" ingredients): the Word (the "wheat"), Prayer (the "yeast"), Anglican worship and life practices (the "water"), and the identification and development of Spiritual Gifts (the "salt"). All of this occurs in the context of mutual love.

Examples of classes and workshops that have been provided over the years are Old and New Testament overviews, Anglican practice, Prayer workshops, specific studies on a book of the Bible, and spiritual gifts identification. Our new-member class is offered by Fr. Matt periodically as interest warrants.

- Women's Ministry

The women's ministry consists of regular monthly gatherings focused on morning prayer and includes fellowship, Scripture study, and prayer. Additionally, we host a vibrant, well-attended day retreat in the Fall and participate in the diocesan annual Spring women's retreat at Green Lake Conference Center.

- Men's Group and Men's Retreat

Men's Group has been meeting once a month for about 7 years, starting in Deacon Wayne's home and then moving to the church basement. A core group of 5 or 6 attend regularly and an additional 5 or 6 more sporadically. Attendees have commented on how safe they feel to share and receive support from their brothers. In 2024 we began having guys' movie night once a month.

In October 2025, we held our very first Men's Retreat, looking at how we can "love well" as Christian men. Thirteen men attended the 9-hour event at the Maki's home. Planning is underway for our second annual retreat in October 2026.

- Mid-week Morning Prayer

Every Thursday morning at 8:30 all are welcome as we pray the Daily Office / Morning Prayer in the church sanctuary.

- Mid-week Bible studies

Every two weeks at the home of Ginny Arndt there is a Bible study for retired folks. Every Tuesday afternoon there is an investigative Bible study through the Gospel of John at the home of Wilder and Erica Dietz.

- Life Recovery

Deacon Wayne and Kathy Maki host a 2-hour Life Recovery small group in their home once a month to minister to anyone touched by addiction, including loved ones and friends of the addicted.

- Outreach

We have engaged our neighborhood with an annual Fall Festival at the church: bounce house, big tent, free food, face painting. We have supported ecumenical outreach efforts on the University of Wisconsin campus.

- Cookie Ministry

We supply Luke House, a local community center hosting lunch and dinner for the community, with cookies for one meal a week.

- CareNet

Each year, from Mother's Day to Father's Day, we fill baby bottles with coins, cash, and checks. After Father's Day, they are returned to CareNet to help fund their Elizabeth House ministry, a home where women can receive love and support and deliver their child rather than resort to abortion.

- Missions

Through the leadership of our own Ghanian-American, James Morris, we supply his village of origin in Ghana with chairs and tables for their school. We are also currently in

the process of sending them the equipment for a multi-chair dental office, for which they have provided a building.

- Benevolence

Our people generously give to our benevolence fund, which exists outside of budget, so that we can respond to just about any legitimate need that crosses our path. Sometimes this is for folks within our church community, sometimes for those outside. We have helped with rent, food, diapers, medical attention, auto repairs, and anything else that is an emergency.

- Hospitality

This is not so much a formal ministry but rather an aspect of our culture that we encourage. We believe sharing a meal and sharing our homes is a primary way to build relationships and trust, laying the groundwork for deeper formation.

- Altar Guild

A small group of women create a beautiful and reverent setting for corporate worship and manage the Eucharistic elements.

Part D: Building and Grounds

Our church building is on a 0.81-acre sloping corner lot. We have pew seating for one hundred at full legal capacity, a parking lot that can accommodate twenty-five cars, and available street parking. The church building is about 66 years old and in fair to good condition.

The upper level houses an office, a multipurpose room, narthex, nave, and sanctuary. There are two unisex bathrooms in the lower level, a mechanical room, storage area, and fellowship hall with kitchen. An elevator traverses a split foyer to service upper and lower levels. There are two furnaces in good condition and an air conditioning unit that was recently replaced. All lighting within the building has been upgraded with LED bulbs. The gas stove and refrigerator in the kitchen have recently been replaced.

Building repairs that will require capital fund raising include the replacement of broken and energy deficient windows, a large crack in the nave ceiling, replacement of carpeting in the fellowship hall, and replacement of exterior doors. Total cost for these repairs, though they are not critical in nature, could run approximately \$160,000. Minor repairs under \$1000 are currently managed through our general fund.

Projects under consideration include parking lot restoration, trash container shed replacement, tree removal, dish washer replacement, stove hood, and exterior lighting replacement. Grass cutting and snow removal are maintained by local contractors and are provided through our general fund.