

Kirking of the Tartan Service at St. Matthew's Kenosha

Celebrate St. Andrew's Day (November 30) by attending a **Kirking of the Tartan Service** on Saturday, December 3rd at 3:00 pm at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Kenosha. St. Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland, and is mentioned in the 1320 *Declaration of Arbroath*, where Scotland converted to Christianity, as "the first Apostle". There are many churches and benevolent societies bearing his name throughout the United States (and elsewhere).

The Kirking (Churching) of the Tartan ceremony is of American origin, based on Scottish history and legend. After the defeat of the Scots, led by Bonnie Prince Charlie, by the English Duke of Cumberland at Culloden in 1745, the Crown passed the 1746 *Act of Proscription*, whereby Scots were forbidden to wear the tartan, speak Gaelic (the heritage language), and play the bagpipes. During this time, legend has it that Scots secretly carried a piece of their tartan to church services. The minister then discretely blessed the tartans during the service. The Act was finally repealed in 1782, and Scots were once again allowed to wear their tartans and resume the use of the Gaelic language and playing of the pipes.

The Service includes readings, music and a blessing of all tartans presented. During the service, we will also read the names of The Flowers of the Forest, those who have gone before us who we remember in our prayers. The Kirking is intended to encourage all participants to reflect with thanksgiving on their own family and ethnic heritage, and to celebrate God's grace poured out to all peoples for all generations.

This is a great opportunity to break out your kilt, scarf, bow tie, or any other tartan-based apparel that you own and join your kinsmen in celebration. All Gaelic (i.e., Scottish and Irish) ancestries are welcome to participate. ***We welcome all who wish to join this event, regardless of ancestry.*** This event is co-sponsored by Clan Donald Midwest & Great Plains Region and St. Matthew's Episcopal Church.

Immediately after the service, please join us in Guild Hall for a reception, featuring that famous Scottish (but locally produced) dish - haggis (a mixture of lamb, onion, oats and spices), as well as other dishes. A free-will offering will be taken, with proceeds to fund next year's event. So whether you are Gaelic by birth, marriage, or inclination please plan to join us on December 3rd at 3:00 pm. Please RSVP to the church office at (262) 654-8642 by November 26th if you plan to attend. St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is located at 5900 7th Avenue, Kenosha WI. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Dubiel at kenoshakirking@gmail.com.