

# Welcome to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

January 7, 2024



**Welcome to worship** We worship as we live — in the name, and under the guidance, of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. As the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus at his baptism, so does God's Spirit rest on us as we gather today — and always.

**Holy Communion:** All are welcome to come forward at the time of communion to receive God's gift of grace. Gluten free wafers as well as juice are available for those with specific dietary needs. Juice is available as an alternative to wine, in the center of each communion tray. Speak to an usher if you need assistance coming forward.

**A large-print bulletin** is available from an usher. If it's helpful to you or someone you are worshiping with, please take one.

**Name Tag Sunday today:** Please put on a name tag this morning so that we may become better acquainted with each other.

**Sunday School** for Pre K – 8th graders will resume today after a two week break for Christmas. First through fifth graders will meet in Fellowship Hall for a Big Group.

**Sunday Morning Women's Group** meets today in the Youth Room at 9:45.



**Today! Interim Lead Pastor Karen Natterstad is retiring.** Pastor Karen has been such a gift to our congregation, council, staff and overall ministry in her two and one half years with us. We hope you will join us during the coffee time for some cake and coffee, and an opportunity to thank Pr. Karen and bid her farewell and Godspeed. Thanks be to God for her ministry among us. We welcome Pastor Dean Natterstad to St. Matthew's today and thank him for his support of Pr. Karen's work with us.

**Guest Preacher Next Sunday:** On January 14 we welcome Pastor Brent Halverson as our guest preacher at both services. We look forward to his presence and his message.

**Bible Study** resumes this Wednesday from 10:00-11:00 am in the Upper Room, led by Pastor Ann Williams. All are welcome!

**2024 Church Offering Envelopes** are available for pickup on the lower level, near the church office, outside the glass walled conference room.

**Deborah Circle** will not meet in January. See you on Tuesday February 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Bulletin Insert for Sunday, January 7, 2024



**Happy...joyous...thrilled...excited...awesome...blessed!** These are some of the words with which the Call Committee and the St. Matthew's Church Council announces we have a candidate of choice for our lead pastor! This Candidate of Choice has been recommended by the Call Committee and approved by the church council. Praise Be to God!

**You can meet this person on Saturday, January 27th** in Fellowship Hall between 2:00 and 4:00 pm. Then, on **Sunday, January 28th, a vote will be taken** for extending a call to this candidate to become our next lead pastor at St. Matthew's. Thanks Be To God!

**Because this is a confidential process** and because we want our candidate to have an opportunity to end his current call well and begin this new one well, we must keep this information within the walls of St. Matt's until he has been officially called by the congregation and there has been closure at his current church.

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**THANK YOU for Giving Family Farms through ELCA Good Gifts this Advent and Christmas.** A cow, a couple of goats, a dozen chickens, two pigs, farming tools, seeds and agricultural training can create a world of opportunity for a family living in poverty. Each farm costs \$715; we **had** a goal of FIVE farms, but have blasted that goal and received enough donations for MORE THAN SEVENTEEN farms! See the display in the Upper Commons for details.

**Women's Ministry is seeking volunteers** needed to prepare/bring food for a meal for Sojourner shelter residents on Wednesday, January 10th. Sojourner provides an array of support to nearly 8,000 clients each year aimed at helping families affected by domestic violence achieve safety, justice and well-being. See the signup sheet at the Welcome Center.

### **Sunday Morning Adult Faith Formation in January; 9:45 - 10:45 am**

All are Welcome! Come when you can! Our Adult Faith Formation hour supports the faith growth of our church and on line community. This is a weekly opportunity to engage your mind in faith related topics, meet others with similar interests and connect with your church community. We gather on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45 A.M.

#### **January 14 -- Who Was Stephen?**

This adult education session will focus on St. Stephen: Humble servant, Passionate Preacher, Martyr in Christ. The life and death of Stephen directs us to the meaning of the greatest commandments, "Love the Lord your God with all your might" and "Love your neighbor as yourself." St. Stephen became the model for Stephen Ministry, founded in 1975, and part of the mission of St. Matthew's since 2018. If you wish to familiarize yourself a bit ahead of time, read Acts 6:3-8:2. You are welcome to attend and join the discussion whether or not you have read this passage ahead of time! Pastor Ann and Ginny Cleppe

*You've been Asking... here it is: NEW SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITY!*

### **Midweek Evening Adult Bible Study**

**Wednesdays 6pm-7pm Starting January 17, 2024**

Blessed are the ~~cheesemakers~~ peacemakers! For inquiring and spiritual minds, adults of all ages, all genders, couples and singles. Take a pause during the busy week and join us for an hour of fellowship, growth and good humor as we journey through the Bible. We kick things off with the ~~Book of Leviticus~~ Gospel of John! What are the synoptic gospels and why isn't John one of them? Who is the Disciple Jesus Loved? What's up with foot washing? This is an ELCA study; all viewpoints are welcome. Bring ideas and join us for the conversation!

### **Women's Ministry – What's happening in January?**

**Women's Ministry Group** meets Sunday January 7 at 9:45 am – Join us and start your new year off right.

**Women's Ministry** prepares a meal for Sojourner Peace House on Wednesday January 10<sup>th</sup>. Help is needed; look for the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center.

**Women's Retreat** planned March 8-10 at Cedar Valley Retreat Center. An informational flyer is at the Welcome Center, or, contact Sue Swing;[sueswing@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sueswing@sbcglobal.net) for more info.

### **Men's Ministry --- A great time to get involved**

**Men's Breakfast** – Saturday, January 20 at 7:30 am with “The Bridge Builders Story” with Kurt Owens. Learn how Kurt's heart led him to build a better future in the heart of Milwaukee. Come hear this fascinating story, enjoy some good food and fellowship, and learn how you might wish to get involved with this ministry!

**Men's Ministry Beer Barons of St. Matthew's** – Kickoff meeting on Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at The Good City Brewpub at The Mayfair Collection from 8:00-10:00pm. The Beer Barons of St. Matthew's is a group of men who generally make good decisions, looking to break "liquid bread" with other men who are also blessed and broken. Drinking beer is not required, but feel free to join us! The goal here is to simply be men of the church meeting other men where they're at. Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, we'll be at the Good City Brewpub at the Mayfair Collection on Burleigh St. from 8-10pm.

**Monday Morning Men's Study** meets each Monday morning from 6:30-7:30am.

### **January KFC & DOC dates**

**Kids for Christ ( 1st-3rd grades) Jan. 14 from 12-2pm**

**Disciples of Christ (4th & 5th grades) Jan. 21 from 12-2pm**

Join us for pizza and a game of Capture the Flag. Friends are welcome. Please sign up in advance through the church office or by replying to an email that you receive. Want to join the email list? Let us know at [office@stmattslutheran.org](mailto:office@stmattslutheran.org)

### **Middle School Game Day, January 28th from Noon – 2:00**

If you are a middle school student who misses playing Capture the Flag, this event is for you! Come to the Youth Room for pizza and stay to play Capture the Flag and other fun games. The event is open to all kids in 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Please bring \$5 for pizza.

## **Saints Older Adults Ministry:**

### **First Program of 2024 will take place on Wednesday, January 17, 11:30am**

*Guest Speaker Kristine Hansen, an author and speaker on famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright*  
Sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office and choose your lunch option, ham or turkey.

#### Details on Ms. Hansen's presentation:

*America's most famous architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, was born in 1867 in the rolling hills of Richland Center, Wisconsin, to a family of Unitarians. Bay View-based journalist Kristine Hansen authored a comprehensive guide for Globe Pequot Press about Wright's designs (and those of his protégés) that are open to the public—as well as insider historical information about sites now demolished, and those available for “drive-bys” only. Learn more about Wright's Milwaukee-area projects, including stories from site managers as well as those who are lucky enough to live in his homes.*

### **Communion Class for 2nd Graders on January 21st --Learn about Holy Communion**

Children of any age are welcome to receive communion at St. Matthew's - some receive it when they are toddlers, while others wait until they are older. Regardless of when children begin to take communion, each year we have a class and service for 2nd graders and their parents to talk about the significance of this sacrament. This year's class will happen on Sunday, January 21st from 9:45-10:45. (Also open to kids who might have missed it in previous years). We will celebrate the sacrament of communion with the 2nd graders at services throughout the spring.

### **Auction Items are Welcome**

We are looking for interesting items to offer at our Night in Nola Dinner Auction on February 9<sup>th</sup>, which supports the Youth Mission Trip to New Orleans. Do you work for a business that would consider donating a product or a gift certificate? Do you have a skill or service you could contribute? Vacation rentals are also a welcome item. All donations in very good condition are appreciated! **It is especially appreciated if they are donated by January 14<sup>th</sup> so that they can be on display before the dinner auction.** Please talk to Gretchen Hauge if you can help.

### **Thank you to our Assistants for worship services today!**

*(It's possible some of these people have switched dates since the bulletin was printed on Thursday morning. "Open" means this spot was not filled when bulletin was printed.)*

**Volunteer Host:** Al Van Lith

**Acolytes:** (8:30) Kaden Bitar, Luke Swalheim. (11:00) Jacob Foley.

**Coffee Hosts:** Susan Bisswurm.

**Communion Preparers:** (8:30) Karla Baierl, Pat Gardner. (11:00) Maya Tanel.

**Communion Assistants:** (8:30) Mary Ann & Flash Gordon. (11:00) Julie Schmidt, Ginger Wooster.

**Greeters:** (8:30) Mike Baierl, Christy & Craig Siwy, Laura Goeckermann. (11:00) Kristin Hanson, Mark & Linda Young.

**Lay Readers:** (8:30) Craig Siwy. (11:00) Joanne Ziarek.

**Ushers:** (8:30) Don Birschel, Jennifer & Paul Kramer, Daniel Zello. (11:00) Claire Gifford, Tom Templeman.

**Lay Assistant:** (8:30) Joanne Ziarek. **Welcome Center Host:** (8:30) Dee Birschel.

**Library Assistant:** (9:45) Peggy Klemme. **Stephen Minister:** Carl Johnson.

**Worship Technology:** (8:30) Brian Smith, *open*. (11:00) Ed Bross, Stephen Skaife.