

THE VOICE of St. Matthew's

Volume 91, No. 12 - December 4, 2022



And A Little Child Will Lead Them © 2022 Nicholas Markell | Eyekons
Isaiah 11:6

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Our Pastor's Voice

The Practice of Generosity

My brother is one of the best people on the planet. People are drawn to him and when he gives you his full attention, the sun shines a little bit brighter. He is a masterful story teller. I love to sit around the table after the dishes are cleared away as he regales us with tales of being a camp counselor or touring through Europe or what it's like to be a stay-at-home dad. He has a sixth sense for when it is important to show up—and will often appear on the doorstep when I need him most. He is such a good friend to everyone that, one summer, he stood up as a groomsman in something like nine different weddings. He can be silly and serious, sarcastic and open in turns... I could go on. You should really meet him.

One day I asked him where all of that goodness came from—what was the motivation or the key to being so consistently gracious? He said, "In a way, it's simple: wherever I am, no matter who's there, I just want to be the kindest, most generous guy in the room." I pushed back. "Yeah, but what about when that's hard, or when people don't deserve it?" And this was his response, "I guess it's like anything else in life. I get better at it the more I do it."

This Advent, we're focusing on generosity at Saint Matthew's. After all, it is a traditional time of year for giving and charity. People just feel more generous during the holidays. As Christians, we receive the best gift of all at Christmas—God with us—so we give gifts too. We volunteer, make donations, put coins in red



buckets and wrap presents. There's a general sense of goodwill all around. And that is wonderful.

The Bible is full of stories and teachings about generosity. We are told that God loves a cheerful giver, that we should give in secret and not boast, that giving to strangers is the same as giving to God, that we should sell our possessions and give to the poor and that we should store our treasure in heaven... I could go on. We'll focus on four more stories of generosity in our mid-week online Advent services and reflect on what true generosity looks like. And that is wonderful too.

And still, I go back to my brother's wisdom. Generosity is like anything else in life. We get better at it the more we do it. Generosity might be a feeling that comes around once a year. It might be a spiritual gift that some people have and others don't. It might be the way that you were raised—a value that was passed down from your parents. It might be something you think you need to do to be a good disciple. But I am convinced that, more than anything, generosity is something you practice. Being a person who can give freely and joyfully from the heart, without resentment or strings attached is a practice. You do it. Then you try again and in the action itself, you grow—you get better at it.

What if we each practiced generosity? What if you just decided to do it—even begrudgingly? What if you gave through the holidays and then kept going until you got really good at it? What if you gave despite the fear of not having enough, or despite your busy schedule and distracted brain? What could God do with all of that generosity?

May the God who gives us all that we have and all that we are be near to you during this holy season.

Pastor Ann Williams

St. Matthew's Mission Statement

Called to fulfill the Great Commission, St. Matthew's Welcomes all to faith in Jesus Christ, Nurtures our faith journey, Equips us to serve others, and Sends us into the world to make a difference in Jesus' name.

The Voice of St. Matthew's

The newsletter of St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church
Karen Natterstad, Interim Lead Pastor
Ann Williams, Associate Pastor

1615 N. Wauwatosa Avenue, Wauwatosa, WI 53213
414-774-0441; E-mail: office@stmattslutheran.org

Visit our website: www.StMattsLutheran.org

Sunday worship at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

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*New Members Welcomed on November 20;
Photos in January issue of The Voice*

Upcoming Events



Celebrate Christmas and New Years with your St. Matt's Family

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24

4:00 Christmas Eve Family Service

7:00 Traditional Candlelight Service w/ Holy Comm.

10:00 Traditional Candlelight Service w/ Holy Comm.

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25

10:00 am Festive Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday, January 1st, 2023; New Year's Day

10:00 am Worship Service



Sunday School Christmas Program Will be Presented on December 11th!

During the 8:30 & 11:00 Services

The Christmas story, from Old Testament prophecies to the birth of Jesus, will be presented in word, song, and drama by our Sunday School classes at the 8:30 and 11:00 worship services on Sunday, December 11th. Children from preschool through 8th grade will all have a part in sharing the story of God's gift of love. We hope you will be there for this special celebration of the Word Made Flesh.



Photos of the S.S. Christmas Program in 2019.

Deck the Church with Boughs of Holly...

On Saturday, December 3rd, beautiful holiday décor will transform St. Matt's for the waiting of Advent and the joy of Christmas. Volunteers are needed to help with this project, including men to put up the big trees and wreaths. Come join the fun in preparing for this joyous season at 9:00 a.m. on December 3rd. With many hands making a large task a smaller one, we should be finished in about two hours. Thank you in advance for your participation and time!

What is a Reverse Advent Calendar? And did you get yours yet?

If you're looking for a brand-new Christmas tradition for you and your family, we've got an idea that is not only fun to do but will teach your little ones some special lessons over the festive season.

Typically, advent calendars are filled with candy, and you open one each day ending on Christmas Day. A reverse Advent calendar focuses on giving something instead of receiving – a Christ centered idea indeed – since Christmas is all about God giving himself to us as a baby.

This simple Advent idea encourages us to think of others as we wait to celebrate Jesus' birthday.

Our life becomes joyful, fulfilling, and purposeful as we live in God's calling. Joy is experienced in the act of giving, but even more so in the alignment of your heart with God's will. As generosity comes into your heart, it blesses you in ways you know in the moment, in ways you recognize over a lifetime, and in ways that are revealed to you only in eternity. Generosity enables you to live in the joy of a "life that is truly life."

Pick up the Adult and/or Children's version of our Reverse Advent Calendar to use in your home this season.

Lutheran A Cappella Choir Christmas Concert: An Annual Tradition



The Lutheran A Cappella Choir of Milwaukee invites you to "A Fantasia on Christmas Carols," on Friday, December 2nd at 7pm at Mount Carmel Lutheran Church, and Sunday, December 4th at 3pm at St. Luke's Lutheran Church. The concert will include a thematic program of carols including the Ralph Vaughan Williams "Fantasia on Christmas Carols," led by Thomas Ajack, Artistic Director, and accompanied by a string orchestra, featuring Lee Henning as soloist. Tickets are \$15 (students are free with ID) and can be purchased ahead of time at lutheranacappella.org or at the door.

As we prepare for Christmas:

Midweek Advent videos to be shared each Wednesday during Advent beginning Nov. 30

Enter into the beautiful season of anticipation and waiting, with a spirit of generosity, by watching the Advent video services especially prepared for the people of St. Matthew's. Watch for special participants in each week's service, which will be sent out in the Wednesday emails, as well as listed on our Youtube page: youtube.com/St-MattsTosa

How do I give an Advent/Christmas Offering?

As members move to Simply Giving or other online giving options, fewer and fewer families are getting envelopes. This year, it has been determined that all Advent/Christmas giving will go to ELCA World Hunger.

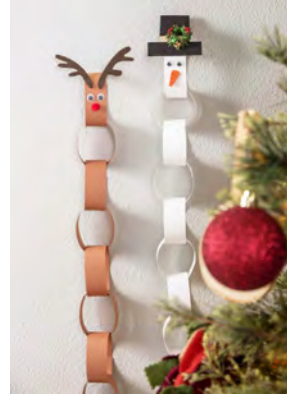
How do I give for special events, like Advent/Christmas? There are many options:

- Use the special Advent/Christmas Envelopes – they will be provided at the Welcome Center. If you use cash, please make sure your name is on the envelope
- Go to www.stmattslutheran.org and click on the GIVE button on the top right hand side, to give through Vanco
- Use the Square and select Advent offering (Remember that with the Square if you use Apple Pay or other tap-to-pay featured payments, the Square does not record who made the transaction, so you will need to let the office know via a note or an email – that way you will get credit for your contribution)
- Just drop a check in the collection plate or in the office and put Advent/Christmas Offering in the memo line
- Use one of the yellow envelopes in the pew and note that it is for Advent/Christmas Offerings

Also, if you still want a box of envelopes and you did not get one, let the office know and we will get a box of envelopes to you. Or you can email members@stmattslutheran.org.

Advent Ideas for Kids

Need ideas for observing Advent with your kids? Check out our Advent table in the Commons for Advent calendars and activities that will help your kids understand Advent as more than a countdown to Christmas. Advent is a time of beginnings – the beginning of the church year and the beginning of a new relationship with God through Jesus. The word Advent means “coming,” and it is the coming of the Savior that is at the center of this season of waiting.



You can also find resources for your family at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/KidsAdvent22>

Christmas Musicians Invited

We are looking for instrumentalists to enhance our Christmas Celebration this year at the 7:00 Christmas Eve service. We would like to invite you to play your instrument with us this year. You may or may not have played for Christmas in the past. If you have you know what an uplifting service it is and how it greatly enhances the congregation's celebration of the Christmas. The group accompanies the congregation in the singing of Christmas Hymns.

The one and only Rehearsal will be held on Tuesday, December 20 at 7:30-8:30.

Please let John Paradowski know your interest by e-mailing him at JRPmuzik@yahoo.com. We would love to have you join in the celebration of the birth of our Lord. Music can be picked up from John in December.



Women's Ministry - Save the Date!

Women's Wellness Brunch--

“Coming Together for a Healthier Lifestyle in 2023”

Date: Saturday 1/21/23

9:00-11:00am



Brian Due, call committee chair, gives Update on Lead Pastor Call Process

The Call Committee is currently in a ‘waiting’ mode for new candidates from the Synod. When we have candidates to work with, we schedule interviews and coordinate discussions and evaluations as efficiently as possible. The Call Committee is as anxious as the congregation for a new lead pastor to be found. We are not looking for perfection in a candidate; yet we balance our emotions with the desire to find a candidate who meets most of the skills and experiences defined by our Ministry Site Profile and Visioning objectives. We have yet to find a candidate who possesses the majority of the skills St. Matthew’s is seeking, projects a faith-filled energy, and is strong in preaching. The candidate also needs to be mutually excited about leading the St. Matthew’s family.



Trust that the Call Committee is working diligently given the pastoral conditions. Stay active in worship and stay involved with the ministry and service opportunities which continue forward.

Pastor Kristin Nielsen (our call process representative from the Synod) recently met with the Call Committee to discuss the ‘climate’ of churches finding new pastors. Pr. Nielsen also met with our Church Council to discuss our call process thus far and to give a report on the state of pastoral openings. The Synod communicated with us that the current placement process is slow. Churches are selecting candidates, but the process is taking longer than pre-COVID times, and is more challenging for churches of our size.

The Synod does use a national ELCA database, and is continually searching for candidates within our Synod, neighboring synods and from synods across the US. In the past year we have interviewed 13 candidates (5 within our Synod, and 8 outside our Synod).

Please continue to pray for our call process. Trust that the Call Committee is working diligently given the pastoral conditions. Stay active in worship and stay involved with the ministry and service opportunities which continue forward with the leadership of Pr. Karen, Pr. Ann, and our strong staff.

Please share the names of potential pastoral candidates with a Call Committee member or with Pastor Karen. These may be pastors you are directly familiar with, or reach out to family and friends who may have knowledge of pastors who may be a good match for St. Matthew’s.

We trust that the Spirit is guiding us through every step of this journey. God’s timing may not always align with our timing desires. Trust that God will answer our prayers when the time is “right”.

Thank you for your continued, prayerful support.

God’s Peace,

The Call Committee

Brian Due, Diane DuBois, Natalie Ford Sajdak
Nancy Bowen, Andy Cherney, Michael Wolaver

Tara Laatsch, our council president, gives update on work of the council

- Constitution changes for size of council
- Ministry Site Profile needs updating
- Stewardship appeal thanks

In this season of Thanksgiving, I am thankful for the abundance of important ministry work this year, across all areas, from our talented staff and Pastors. Engagement in worship, Sunday school and other areas continues to rebound from the prior year and it is simply wonderful to see our beautiful church home filled with all of you.



Engagement in worship, Sunday school and other areas continues to rebound from the prior year.

The November 13th congregational special meeting was the culmination of months of work during 2022 where council reassessed its purpose, focus and structure. Several constitutional amendments were approved at this meeting, most notably the change in council size from twelve to seven. At the annual meeting in January, these constitutional amendments will be ratified and several bylaw amendments will be presented for approval as well.

The Ministry Site Profile (MSP) is the document pastoral candidates initially review as they discern which church they would like to interview with for a possible call. It is, in effect, a church’s resume. St. Matthew’s MSP was submitted to the Synod mid-2021 and was based on pre-pandemic statistics and the Visioning and Organizational reports from that time. As some of that data has changed, the MSP will be updated with more current information, denoting some of the revisions as “post-pandemic,” so that a more accurate picture of St. Matt’s is presented to potential candidates. Additionally, by updating and resubmitting the document to the Synod, it is entered as a “new” MSP, moves to the top of the list and will, hopefully, attract renewed attention from those seeking a call. Michael Wolaver, Al Land, Marion Heinz, and Diane DuBois, four of the MET Committee members, are working on the revisions with the hope of submitting a revised MSP to the Synod by the end of the year.

Thank you for your participation in this year’s Stewardship campaign. The number of pledges received has already outpaced last year. It’s not too late to turn in your pledge for the 2023 year.

As we at St. Matthew’s continue to wait for a new lead Pastor, council is excited to work with staff and both Pastors to identify initiatives from the Visioning report that we can begin to implement. There will be more to come on this in the following months.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of council and St. Matthew’s.

Do We Have Sunday School This Week?

No Sunday School on December 25

No Sunday School on January 1

We will start up again on Sunday, January 8th. There will be a big group in fellowship hall on that day for 1st – 5th graders.

First Monthly Meeting for Youth Mission Trip is January 8th

The first monthly meeting for the 2023 Youth Mission Trip will be Sunday, January 8th at noon in Fellowship Hall. All youth planning on going on the trip should plan to attend.

Want more information on the Youth Mission Trip open to all 9th-12th graders for next June? Talk to Gretchen Haugse.

Pray for Our Baptism Anniversaries



We list below some of those baptized in December at St. Matthew's in the last few years. May their lives be blessed through your prayers.

Vanessa Royal Szafir	December 19, 2021
Arabella Grace Sisouvanh	December 6, 2020
Aubrey Marie Bartz	December 20, 2020
Silas Graham Ward	December 24, 2020
Patrick Henry Noll	December 22, 2019
John Murphy Zwaska	December 23, 2018
Emerson René Whitnell	December 23, 2018
Lucia June Boer	December 23, 2018
Caleb Andrew Dillie	December 10, 2017
Wallace Stanley Hornung	December 31, 2017
Caroline Adele Murray	December 18, 2016

9th Graders Confirmed

This year's class of 9th graders was confirmed at a special service on Sunday, November 6th. In the presence of the congregation, the 9th graders received a blessing and affirmed the promise made for them in baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. We celebrate with them as they continue on their faith journeys.



Front, left to right: Christopher Sieg, Ben Wooster, Clara Swalheim, Caroline Wanezek, Zoe Margerie, Sophia Searing, Annie Hyland.

Back, left to right: Gretchen Haugse, Claire Foley, Daniel Zello, Henry Began, Brady York, Jinru Granger, Evelyn Antczak, Mary Ellen Millenbach, Avery Bott, Megan Macintosh, Calli Dahlgren, Pastor Karen Natterstad.

Sunday School students learn about our faith each week;
Thanks to our Sunday School volunteers!



Ebben Tanem carefully applies tissue to a votive candle to illustrate the burning bush in the Moses story.



4K teacher Victoria Vorpapel engages her class in telling the Bible story.



5K students listen intently as teacher Corianna Cavazos reads the lesson.



7th Graders Xuriana Chisum, Lila Welch, Lukas Zelinski, and 7th & 8th grade teacher Chris Lange show their clean hands as they prepare to make cookies for Repairers of the Breach lunches.



Art teacher Laura Murray, talks to her class about Moses and the burning bush.



1st graders gather around Games teacher Sarah Zello as she teaches about ten plagues in the story of Moses.

Adult Education in December & Early January 2023

Join us for Adult Education on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45 A.M. Learn something new about your faith and ways you can serve! Come when you can!



December 4

Join Pastor Karen in this Advent conversation on God's generosity...coming as the gift and savior for our world.

December 11

David Zersen

Exclusive Visions: The Unique Churches to which America gave Birth: Why "Only in America" is a good description for four American church bodies.

December 18

Dan Bice

Forgotten, Misrepresented and Marginalized Figures of Early Christianity: Mary, mother of Jesus

January 8

Al Land shares the 2022 St. Matthew's Adult Mission Trip to Houston

In this new year maybe you'd like to challenge yourself to grow in faith and service but aren't sure how to go about doing that. The Houston mission trip participants will encourage you to consider making an adult mission trip part of your plan for the upcoming year. Trip Coordinator, Al Land, shares "Every mission trip is a little different and there are always stories to be told about the people and the homes that the group works on. On this mission trip experience there were unique connections made and relationships were built! This will be a great opportunity to gain a better understanding of just how meaningful these mission trips can be."



Pastor David Zersen gave an interesting presentation on the various forms of the Lutheran Church on Reformation Sunday, October 30.

St. Matthew's First Fridays Book Group:

You decide which books you wish to read for the discussions you wish to participate in. Discussions begin at 7pm on the dates listed, held at St. Matthew's.

Friday, December 2

The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot: A Novel by Marianne Cronin, 352 pages

Friday, January 6

Facism: A Warning by Madeleine Albright, 320 pages

Friday, February 3

The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II by Denise Kiernan, 416 pages

Full List on our website and also at church.

Prayer Shawls -

A Quiet, yet Powerful Ministry

The Prayer Shawl ministry quietly goes about sharing prayer shawls with members of the congregation – here are some helpful hints!



- What is a prayer shawl: A prayer shawl is a knitted or crocheted shawl blessed over and is offered to provide comfort to another individual in need.
- How can I donate a shawl: Simply place your completed shawl (knitted, crocheted or purchased as such) on the rack outside of the church library – a tag will be placed upon after it is blessed.
- Can I just take a shawl for another: YES! We encourage this as you share some comfort with a friend or loved one who is in need.
- Why does this ministry exist: St. Matthew's has given away hundreds of shawls to unknown friends and family over the years. We have learned that, like the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-37, providing comfort for others allows us to care for people regardless of their needs and background.
- Are more shawls needed at this time: YES!! The inventory is low and we need YOUR help in replenishing this important gift to share with others.

Questions: Please contact Bev Etzelmueller at 262-250-3969 or bevetz@sbcglobal.net

SAINTS Older Adult Ministry

Wednesday – December 21 “Christmas Joy” 11:30am



We will be celebrating Christmas “SAINTS Style” with music, gifts, and a special lunch. Musical guests include John Paradowski and Linda Chadwick. Please bring a wrapped “white elephant” gift. A “white elephant” gift is a new or like new item, often something that you received as a gift and do not want or need.



David Boucher of Amaranth Bakery shared the impact their bakery has in the Milwaukee neighborhood they call home. Coincidentally, it is near our partner congregation Reformation Lutheran’s current location, near 38th & Lisbon Avenue.

Wednesday, January 18, 2023 “The Endurance”

Professional storyteller and author, Rochelle Pennington, will share the story of the *Endurance*, the three-masted ship in which Sir Ernest Shackleton and a crew of 27 men sailed for the Antarctic in the early 1900’s. Sit back and enjoy this fascinating tale.



Vernell Schlienger, Diann Lebow, Judy Holmes, Sandy Forbes, Dave Holmes and Ken Etzelmueller sat together at lunchtime and enjoyed a box lunch from CityMarket. (Not shown: Bev Etzelmueller)

Wednesday, February 15, 2023 “Heart and Soul”

Award winning entertainer David HB Drake will join us to share songs about giving, sharing, old loves and new hopes especially for Valentine’s Day. David performs songs, poems, and stories on many different instruments including banjo, dulcimer, concertina, Native American Flute, and guitar. His selection of songs will be familiar to many.



Randy Koeller and Dee Birschel led the devotions at the November Saints gathering.

SAINTS events will follow all COVID risk reduction protocols observed at St. Matthew’s on Sunday mornings. As the pandemic ebbs and flows, these protocols may change. Watch for details nearer the event regarding meeting location, masking, and procedures for lunch.

The SAINTS, short for Seniors Active In New Testament Service, is open to all adults. The group typically meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 11:30am.

Contact Julia Murphy through the church office or email julia@stmattslutheran.org with any questions or concerns.

Lunch will be available to those who sign up in advance. A suggested donation of \$11 is requested.



“And the winner is..... PECAN PIE! At the October Saints meeting, people voted for their favorite pie, and pecan was the winner. So delicious slices of pecan pie, or a variety of some other desserts from Amaranth Bakery, were enjoyed by the group after lunch.

Stewardship

2023 Envelopes Now Available

Our 2023 Envelopes are here and are on a table in the library commons. If you are using envelopes, look for your box on the table.

As a reminder, if you submit your contributions via Simply Giving or other on-line giving, you will not have a set of envelopes.

If you are currently sending in your contributions via mail, please continue to do that, even if you do not have your physical envelopes. We can fill out your envelopes in the office when we get the checks.

If you do not see your envelopes on the table and you want receive them, put your name on the sheet on the table. You may also send the office an email or give them a call. Envelopes are available to anyone who wants them.

Also, if you see a box for your family and you do not need them, let us know and we will remove your name from the envelope list.

As always, please call the office or send AI and email at al@stmattslutheran.org if you have any questions.

What are the ways to give a year-end contribution to St. Matthew's?

As we get to the end of the year, in order to have your contributions appear on your 2022 Contribution Statement, we need to remind everyone that all contributions need to be either in the office or post marked by December 31, 2022.

We have made available different ways to help you fulfill your 2022 pledges.

St Matthew's Website:

If you go to www.stmattslutheran.org and click on the Give button in the upper right hand corner, you can contribute via your credit card.

US Post Office:

If you want to mail in your check, the postmark on the envelope must be December 31, 2022 or earlier.

Drop off a check in the church office:

Drop off your check in the church office by 4:30 PM on December 30, 2021, or earlier. Remember that December 31 is a Saturday and the church is not open on Saturday.

Following any one of these options will allow your 2022 contribution to St. Matthew's to appear on your 2022 Contribution Statement.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact AI Van Lith in the office at (414) 774-0441 or email him at al@stmattslutheran.org.

"Forward In Faith"

– Our Common Stewardship

As we look to the year 2023 and the ministry we hope to accomplish, our stewardship commitments are part of this equation. *Thank you* for the many people who have made pledge commitments to God's work through St. Matthew's for 2023.

God has a plan and a future for St. Matthew's. If we believe it, then we will continue to do our part to invest in faith, trusting our good and generous God to lead us.

This year's stewardship plan is called "Forward in Faith." It is now our faith, hope, love, work and generosity that will move this congregation forward.



If you haven't yet made a stewardship

response, please consider making a financial pledge to our 2023 ministry plan. A pledge card has been mailed to you, but if you need a copy they are available at church. If you give us a call we'd be glad to mail it to you.



A colorful variety of knit hats was donated by Kris Jensen, who uses many types of yarns and patterns to make these warm hats. They were given to Cross Lutheran Church at the same time as the winter coats from Ken & Sue Voigt, so they could be given out together to people in need. What a generous use of time and talent, just in time for Wisconsin's winter weather! Thank you!

Bulletin Board

Our Church Family

Upcoming Healing Services

Sunday, December 18 After 8:30 Service
 Sunday, January 22 After 11:00 Service
 Wednesday, February 22 (Ash Wednesday)
 After morning and evening services
 Sunday, March 19 During 8:30 & 11:00 services
 Thursday, April 6 (Maundy Thursday)
 During morning and evening services
 Sunday, May 7 After 8:30 service
 Sunday, June 11 In Worship 9:30 am(?)

Use Amazon Smile when you order online - and Amazon pays St. Matthew's

Amazon offers a program called AmazonSmile that allows you to support your favorite charitable organization painlessly and automatically. You shop the same way you always do, select the organization of your choice when you check out, and Amazon will give them a percentage of your total sale. Start your shopping at smile.amazon.com and remember to choose St. Matthew's when you check out. You can also use this link (<http://amzn.to/1Uoc6jx>) to choose St. Matthew's automatically.

Notice of Annual Meeting:

The Annual Meeting of St. Matthew's Congregation will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 9:45 am. The Annual Report will be available one week prior to the meeting so that you have time to see it before the meeting. Please plan to attend and be updated on all that is happening with our congregation, as well as to vote on the budget for 2023.



High School students sorted coats to be donated to Cross and Reformation. From left to right are Ana Byrne, Claire Foley, Natalia Byrne, Matthew Byrne, Annie Hyland, Christopher Sieg, and Annabelle Fisher. The coats were part of a large shipment of new winter coats arranged for and given by Ken & Sue Voigt.

Congratulations to **Colleen (Koeble) and Travis Johnson** in the birth of their son **Maxwell Travis** on October 23. Proud grandparents are St. Matthew's members **Donna & Jim Koeble**.

Helen Bessert has moved to Ohio to be closer to family. If you would like to send her a greeting, we have her address in the church office.

Thanks: We appreciate **Pat & Jim Engelhardt** and **Diane DuBois** for adding the beautiful Thanksgiving décor to many areas of our building. It's great to highlight this special season of thanksgiving and God's abundance.

Thanks to **Sarah Lerand** and **Mia Stein-Kodzick** for putting up the Giving Tree in the Upper Commons and adding all the tags.

Thanks to the **7th & 8th grade Confirmation classes** for cutting out and tying strings on all the gift tags for the Giving Tree. We appreciate the group effort in getting this done!

The Prayer Chain continues to faithfully pray for the needs of the congregation and community. If you would like the Prayer Chain to be praying for your needs, please use the blue cards in the pews or contact the church office at 414-774-0441. You may also e-mail the church at office@stmattslutheran.org with a prayer request or if you wish to join the prayer chain.



Spark picture Bibles are given to families with children with infants through first graders. This photo shows **Gretchen Haugse** and **Pastor Ann** on the day that these gifts of God's word geared especially for young children were first given out. If you are part of a family with children of this age, your family can still have one (one per family, please). Ask in the church office.



St. Matthew's

Ev. Lutheran Church † ELCA

Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

www.stmattslutheran.org

PERIODICALS RATE

Mail Carrier: Please deliver by December 3, 2022.

The Voice of St. Matthew's

We are called to welcome, nurture, equip and send

Next issue of the VOICE is dated January 15, 2023.

St. Matthew's Ministry Fair: *Forward in Faith!*



Beth Brown and Deb Endean chat at the Healing Prayer Ministry display.



Sue Swing coordinated the Ministry Fair, and gave a Temple Talk at the worship services about the purpose of having one.



Fred Heim and Carrie Jo Cherney talk at the First Fridays Book Group display.



Eli Schaar helped serve the breakfast items that were enjoyed. Donations toward the breakfast are directed toward the 2023 Youth Mission Trip.



Katie Nickel created an attractive display reflecting the new women's group that began this fall.



Jeanne Collins wore her monarch butterfly blouse when she represented the Garden Crew at the fair.