

Welcome to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

January 21, 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 we celebrate the Epiphany, may God enlighten us all.

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.

Child for Baptism: (11:00) **Henry Thomas Jurss**, child of Kerri Beckett and Carl Jurss, Fox Point, was born June 15, 2023. Sponsor is Stephanie Jurss. Henry is the grandson of Larry & Holly Jurss of our congregation.

Flowers at the altar are given by Dee & Don Birschel in memory of Dee's mother and sister, Ruth and Lynne Baltzer.

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

Healing Service Today at 11:00: Those desiring special healing prayers for themselves and/or other are invited to come forward, along with their support persons or family members. Check out the Healing Prayer Pew card in the rack in front of you for more information on St. Matthew's Healing prayer ministry and how you can participate.

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

Gatherings on Engagement: Church Council Listening Sessions Offered

We Cordially Invite You to Attend and Give Your Insight and Input to St. Matt's future

Please consider joining and sharing your insights on St. Matthew's. Council is putting on a series of gatherings in January, hour-long discussion at various days and times. We want to engage in dialogue with members to delve deeper into some of the themes that came out of the Congregational Survey to help us plan for the future of our Congregation.

Sunday, January 21 9:45 am in the 2nd Conference Room in hallway by Fell. Hall

Sunday, January 21 9:45 am in the Youth Rm (esp. for Sunday School parents)

Thursday, January 25 7:00-8:00 pm Café Hollander, 7677 W. State St., Wauwatosa

No Bible Study this Wednesday Morning: There will be not be Wednesday morning Bible Study on January 24th. Join us again on January 31.

Bulletin Insert for Sunday, January 21, 2024

Next Sunday, January 28th

An Important Sunday in the History of St. Matthew's – We hope you will be here!
(This is an in-person-only meeting; there will be no virtual option)

8:30 am Worship Service with Guest Preacher
Pastor Kristin Nielsen, Synod Assistant to Bishop



9:45 am Special Congregational Meeting
to Vote on Candidate of Choice

*Following the Special mtg: Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Matthew's for 2023
(Note that printed 2023 Annual Reports are now available for pickup)*

There will be NO 11:00 service, so these meetings are not rushed for time.

Who is the Candidate of Choice? Why can't we know his name?

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.



Come to meet him **on Saturday, January 27th** in Fellowship Hall between 2:00 and 4:00 pm. There will be some general biographical information available on Sunday for those people who are not able to attend on Saturday.

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

All are Welcome! Join Us for a Fun Session with Three Engaging Guys

January 21 - "Do You Have a Question or Two (or maybe a Dozen) about the Bible?"

Join us for the St. Matt's version of the Jewish game, "Stump the Rabbi!" Any and all questions about the Bible and/or church history are fair game for our panel-Dan Bice, Conor Williams and David Zersen! This class will be driven by your questions so come prepared! These "three trying-to-be wise men" will do their best to provide an answer or suggest a source for further exploration. Plan to be on your toes as the experts may throw out an answer that has no truth to it, allowing the class to vote on whether it's valid or not! Don't miss this unique approach to learning more about the Bible and the church while having fun with our experts!

2023 Printed Annual Reports are available for pick-up today at the Welcome Center and across from the church office. Also on our website: Main page, scroll down to Jan 28 box

Communion Class for 2nd Graders Today at 9:45 am – Fellowship Hall

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.



Today! 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. Bring \$5 for lunch. Want to join the email list? Let us know at office@stmattslutheran.org

Saints Planning Meeting for the upcoming year will take place at 11:00 am on Wednesday, January 24 in the Conference Room. Please join us if you can or send program ideas to sueswing@sbcglobal.net

Stitches of Love Quilting Ministry provides comfort and warmth to Pine Ridge Reservation

Next Quilt Blitz is January 27th - Join us – 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

While many of the quilts and blankets hand crafted by the Stitches of Love Quilting Ministry are donated to local agencies, we are pleased to bless the kind and hardworking population of the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. This partnership continues in 2024 and we need your help! Please join us on Saturday, January 27th from 9am-12:30pm in Fellowship Hall for the next quilting workshop. We will start the meeting by boxing up blankets, clothes, shoes and more. These items are then shipped to South Dakota with financial assistance provided by Thrivent Financial Action Grant. This grant covers the postage to ship multiple boxes to the reservation. After this project, we will continue to work on various other projects – tasks for all! Please join us for the workshop, invite a friend and bring your own lunch and beverage to enjoy. Please contact Bev Etzelmueller at 262-250-3969 or bevetz@sbcglobal.net with questions.

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 for more info.

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 6th – 8th grade. Please bring \$5 for pizza.

Midweek Evening Adult Bible Study--Wednesdays 6pm-7pm Now Underway: *It's not too late for you to join them. Child Care is available in the Nursery*

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 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! Meeting in the Upper Room

Support DACA Recipients – Build a Better Wisconsin: Learn about Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and four bills to help DACA recipients thrive, receive guidance on how to talk to your state legislators, and together make legislative visits to the Capitol. This will be held at Bethel Lutheran Church, 312 Wisconsin Avenue, Madison on Thursday, January 25, 2024 with registration beginning at 9:30 am. Last visits at the capitol will end at about 2:30 pm Suggested donation is \$15 for lunch. Register and learn more at loppw.org/events/

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: Flash Gordon.

Acolytes: (8:30) Isabella Rizzo, Daniel Zello. (11:00) Nathan Searing.

Coffee Hosts: Sarah & Mike Ebenhoe.

Communion Preparers: (8:30) Marian Benz, *open*. (11:00) Margaret Crawford, Roz Rouse.

Communion Assistants: (8:30) Nancy & Jim Bowen. (11:00) Marion Heinz, Alice Rudebusch.

Greeters: (8:30) Jenny Acompanado, Jim Bowen, Chris Daniels. (11:00) Laura Murray, Conor Williams, Kate Searing.

Lay Readers: (8:30) Nancy Bowen. (11:00) Lois Marks.

Ushers: (8:30) Don Birschel, Mary Ann Gordon, Jerry Wunderlich, Joe Chiesa, *captain*. (11:00) John Dobbe, Maya Tanel.

Lay Assistant: (8:30) Jan Johnson.

Welcome Center Host: (8:30) Dee Birschel.

Library Assistant: (9:45) Judy Holmes.

Stephen Minister: Julie Schmidt.

Worship Technology: (8:30) Bill Richter, Brian Smith. (9:45) Ed Bross. (11:00) Dave McCullough.

Pastoral Staff: Ann Williams, Associate Pastor (*Lead pastor position open*)

Volunteer Ministries/Small Groups/Adult Education: Sue Swing

Youth Ministries & Children's Education: Gretchen Haugse, Lynne Thomas

Children's Minister: Donna Gardner Manke.

Music Minister: John Paradowski.

Interim Senior Choir Director: Alexa Doebele.

Music Staff: Jeff Reeves, Amy Dankwardt, Heide Hughes

Technology Coordinator: Brian Smith.

Custodial Staff: Marsha Olson, Dave Fagerberg, Bob Gardner.

Church Administrator: Al Van Lith.

Office Staff: Bridget Smith, Sonja Mohr.



Link thru your smart phone camera to give to St. Matthew's