

# Welcome to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

January 28, 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.

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

**Guest Preacher Rev. Kristin Nielsen** is Assistant to the Bishop for Congregations in Mission in the Greater Milwaukee Synod. In this role, she works with rostered ministers and congregations at all stages of a leadership transition. She has been on the GMS staff since April 2015. Prior to that, Kristin served as a called pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (and then Good Shepherd Trinity Church – a combined ELCA/PC-USA ministry) in the Sherman Park neighborhood of Milwaukee.



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## Today is an Important Sunday in the History of St. Matthew's

*Join us for two congregational meetings beginning at 9:45 am*

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

*Printed 2023 Annual Reports available for pickup or viewable at this link:*

**<https://bit.ly/48DukaS-AnnRep23>**

*Special Note:* There will be NO 11:00 service.

### Who is the Candidate of Choice?

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 his identifying 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.

## Bulletin Insert for Sunday, January 28, 2024

**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.

### **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*

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

### **First Fridays Book Group Discussion**

We meet on the first Friday of each month for a discussion, beginning at 7:00 pm in the Upper Room at church. You can come just for the books you choose to read with us! Or come to all of them. You're sure to enjoy the discussion.

**February 2** *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*, by David Grann, 338 pages.

**March 1** *Rules of Civility*, by Amor Towles, 335 pages

**April 5** *Janesville: An American Story*, by Amy Goldstein, 351 pages

**May 3** *The Sweetness of Forgetting* by Kristin Harmel, 367 pages

**June 7** *Remarkably Bright Creatures: A Novel* by Shelby Van Pelt, 360 pages

### **Night in NOLA Dinner Auction is February 9<sup>th</sup>**

Mark your calendars, and plan to join us for this annual event that supports the Youth Mission Trip. The theme this year is Night in NOLA, where you can expect a preview of this summer's mission trip to New Orleans. Food, entertainment, and decorations will reflect the colorful culture of New Orleans. The event begins at 5:30 with hors d'oeuvres and an auction bidding. Dinner starts at 6:30.

Watch for more details and a sign-up in the coming weeks!

### **Dinner Auction Bidding Opens Sunday!**

Items for the Night in Nola Dinner Auction are on display and open for bidding. From babysitting services to themed baskets, there is plenty to choose from! All proceeds from the auction will support the Youth Mission Trip to New Orleans next summer.



**Night in Nola**  
**Dinner Auction**  
**Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>**

St. Matthew's

Proceeds benefit  
Youth Mission Trip to New Orleans

To help us plan food amounts, please  
sign up at this link:  
<http://tinyurl.com/NightinNOLA>



## **Upcoming Adult Education:**

### **Sunday Morning Adult Faith Formation in February**

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.

#### **February 4 Meeting Paul Anew - Part 3 With Dan Bice**

Many of us have been taught that the Apostle Paul taught a “law-free gospel” in which God’s grace stands at odds with the works of the Old Testament law. But what if that wasn’t Paul’s message? A number of leading scholars are suggesting an alternative view that places Paul in his 1st Century Jewish context. Are they right? If so, does this change your understanding of salvation and the Christian life?

#### **February 11**

#### **Nehemiah Project - The Milwaukee Center for the Study and Practice of Forgiveness With Marye Beth Dugan; Executive Director for the Nehemiah Project Planning Team**

Forgiveness is a by-product of an on-going healing process. It takes time and can go through various stages including grief, rage, sorrow, fear and confusion. Nehemiah has begun a new initiative to build on their past work with forgiveness, striving to create strong and sustainable forgiveness practices throughout the Milwaukee Metropolitan area. Their intention is to be a community resource extending their outreach to private individuals, professionals and organizations.

### **February & March KFC & DOC dates: Join Us for Children’s Ministry!**

Parents of children in grades 1-5, consider bringing your child for Children’s Ministry gatherings.(See the dates below) We will gather for an afternoon of fellowship and fun. Join us for pizza and a game of Capture the Flag.

#### **Kids for Christ (1st-3rd grades)**

**Sunday, February 4 from 12:00-2pm**

**Sunday, March 3, 12:00-2pm**

#### **Disciples of Christ (4th & 5th grades)**

**Sunday, February 11 from 12-2pm**

**Sunday, March 10, 12:00-2:00 pm**

**Altar Flower & Library Book Sign-Up:** You are invited to sign up for altar flowers or a library book for a special occasion which will be noted in the bulletin. Flowers are \$35 and will be ordered from Alfa Flower shop by the office staff. Please make out a check and mark it for altar flowers. You can sign up to donate a book to the library. A book will be chosen for the occasion and you will be notified of which book was chosen. Library books are \$20. This is a great way to support St. Matthew’s worship and library ministries in a meaningful way. The Sign-up Book is at the Welcome Center.

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

### **Will you become a Friend?**

The Friends of Luther Manor — many of whom are members of ELCA congregations — have been around since 1961. Become a part of this rich tradition!

As a Friend, your gift will help **bridge the gap** between Medicaid and the actual cost of care for older adults who have outlived their savings.

Without Friends like you, Luther Manor would need to reduce the number of older adults we serve who need care but cannot afford it.

Please consider beginning or renewing a membership to help support Luther Manor's vital work. For more information on Luther Manor Foundation and how to become a Friend, visit:

<http://tinyurl.com/FriendsLM2024> or scan the QR code:



### **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:** Ruth Kallio-Mielke.

**Acolytes:** (8:30) Chloe Eckdale-Dudley.

**Coffee Hosts:** Don Birschel.

**Communion Preparers:** (8:30) Grant Nickel, Carrie Ralfs.

**Communion Assistants:** (8:30) Karla Baierl, Jen Richter.

**Greeters:** (8:30) Brian Due, Marian Benz.

**Lay Readers:** (8:30) Annette Olson.

**Ushers:** (8:30) Quinn Assenheimer, Joe & Lisa Chiesa, Jack Clark, Kevin Meissner, Bret Rockenbach, *captain*.

**Lay Assistant:** (8:30) Anne-Marie Nickel.

**Welcome Center Host:** (8:30) Diann Lebow.

**Library Assistant:** (9:45) Peggy Klemme.

**Stephen Minister:** Leah Phillippi.

**Worship Technology:** (8:30) Levi Kirchner, Michael Wolaver. (9:45) Brian Smith, Ed Bross.

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

Volunteer Ministries/Small Groups/Adult Education: Sue Swing

Youth Ministries & Children's Education: Gretchen Hauge, 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