

St. Matthew's
Weekly *Bulletin Update*

**Welcome to Worship at St. Matthew's
December 2, 2018**



First Sunday of Advent

wafers are available if you ask your communion server. Those who desire juice instead of regular wine, please tell this to the communion assistant. Due to the weight of the communion trays, you may be asked to take your glass of wine from the tray as it is presented to you.

Why are some people wearing nametags? We wear nametags on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month in order for us to know more people on Sunday mornings.

Hunger Baskets to be passed today: When the offering plates are passed later in the service, it is followed by a basket for a special collection. This second collection will be directed toward local and world hunger. Thank you for your faith-filled response to this opportunity.

Advent begins on Sunday, December 2. We look forward to a meaningful Advent season as we prepare our hearts for Christmas. Check the display table at the entrance of the worship space for Advent devotional materials to grow in faith during this season.

Handcrafted woolen mittens are available for purchase today in the Upper Commons near the windows from Doris Kloth. Proceeds from the sale benefit JOMM, NAMI and St. Matthew's.

Welcome to worship! In a world — and a church — that's always changing and reforming, we trust in the constant and sure love of God.

Introduction for the Day: *Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Our Lord's contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of our Lord in word and supper.*

Communion: All baptized Christians who celebrate the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine are invited to the Lord's Table at all services. Gluten-free



Christmas Assistants Needed - December 24-25, 2018

Enjoy the True Christmas Spirit - Sign Up Below

I can help with **4:00 p.m.** worship on **Christmas Eve:**

Usher _____

Nursery _____

I can help with **7:00 p.m.** worship on **Christmas Eve:**

Communion Preparer _____

Communion Assistant _____

Greeter _____

Nursery _____

Acolyte _____

Usher _____

Lay Reader _____

I can help with **10:00 p.m.** worship on **Christmas Eve:**

Communion Preparer _____

Communion Assistant _____

Greeter _____

Acolyte _____

Usher _____

Lay Reader _____

I can help with **10:00 a.m.** worship on **Christmas Day:**

Communion Preparer _____

Communion Assistant _____

Greeter _____

Acolyte _____

Usher _____

Lay Reader _____

Sign up at the Welcome Center or return this form to the offering plate, to an usher or to the church office.
You will receive an email confirmation. No experience necessary!

U.S. Wildfires - WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?!?

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Reaches Out Wherever Help is Needed

The Situation:

Wildfires are raging across California, destroying thousands of homes and wiping out the town of Paradise, located north of Sacramento. Many deaths have been confirmed and large-scale, mandatory evacuations are in place for multiple communities across the state's impacted areas as first responders work to gain control of the fires.

Our Response:

Lutheran Disaster Response is working with Lutheran Social Services of Southern California, Lutheran Social Services of Northern California and the California synods to respond to this fire. We continue to assess the ever-changing situation to determine the best ways to respond. Your gifts will help us deliver a robust response to address needs in the devastated communities.



GREAT NEWS!!

A St. Matthew's member has offered to MATCH all LDR donations up to \$10,000! Now is the time to give!

What you can do:

Give:

100% of donations to St. Matthew's for the California wild fires will be passed on to the ELCA Disaster Relief Fund to assist those affected by the wildfires until the response is complete. These donations will be matched 1:1 up to \$10,000 total. You can make out a check to St. Matthew's or you can give online from our website: <http://www.stmattslutheran.org/give/> - Click on 'Donate online here.'

Connect:

To learn more about the situation and the ELCA's response:

- A) Sign up to receive Lutheran Disaster Response alerts.
- B) Check the Lutheran Disaster Response at <http://blogs.elca.org/disasterresponse/>.
- C) Like Lutheran Disaster Response on Facebook and follow @ELCALDR on Twitter.

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

Bulletin Announcements - December 2, 2018



December

The Giving Tree is up!

Now is the time to grab an ornament and purchase a gift or a gift card for our partners at Cross and Reformation, senior citizens served by Greater Tosa Interfaith, and clients of The Benedict Center. Thanks to all who so generously support our Giving Tree each year! Please bring items back to St. Matthew's (unwrapped) **by Sunday, December 9** and place them under the tree. Gift cards can be brought to the church office.

Thanks for all the support of the St. Matthew's Giving Tree. The items on each ornament have been specifically requested by our partner organizations and leaders to best reflect the needs and preferences of their clients and members. We recognize that many people prefer to purchase actual gift items AND many people prefer to purchase gift cards. On behalf of our partners, THANK YOU for your continual and strong support as we aim to give every gift requested this holiday season.

Divine Chocolate Advent

Calendars are now available on Sundays or by contacting Rosie Haas at 414-259-1747. Cost remains at \$8.00. Advent begins December 2. 5% of the calendar proceeds go to a fund of reusable microloans for farmers.

Looking for a way to share this

Advent? There will be copies of a "Reverse Advent Calendar" available near the Advent Devotional table. There is a suggested list of non-perishables you and your family can collect throughout Advent to share with our partners! Consider purchasing some of these items amidst the consumer spending we share in this month! —Pastor Matt

Thank you for your Thanksgiving

Eve food pantry donations. The need is real throughout the Milwaukee metro area. Your donations will help families through Cross Lutheran Church in Milwaukee and the Tosa Cares Food Pantry in Wauwatosa. Food pantry donations are always welcome at St. Matthew's, non-perishables as well as cash gifts, because hunger is a real problem for some families/singles/seniors in our area.

Third World Christmas Items for Sale

The remaining inventory from the Third World Store at Capitol Drive Lutheran includes a large variety of nativity sets, Christmas ornaments, and other seasonal decorations. These items are available to purchase in the Commons.

All proceeds will support our El Salvador and Tanzanian partnerships.

The Cross Lutheran Church meal this past Wednesday fed 221 people with delicious donated food. Thank you to the servers and to those who brought food for it! There is NOT a meal in December; we will resume monthly meals on Wednesday, January 23, 2019. Thank you to everyone who served and/or brought food in 2019. Your efforts are greatly appreciated and needed.

Week of Dec. 3-8

Monday:

- 6:30, Men's Monday Bible Study
- 10:15, Staff Meeting
- 11:00, Program Staff Meeting
- 1:00, Fallen Angels Rehearsal
- 6:30, Friendship Force of Gr. Milw.

Tuesday:

- 9:30, The EmbELLishments
- 6:00, Christmas Pageant Angels
- 6:30, Confirmation 2.0
- 7:00, Righteous Ringers

Wednesday:

- 9:00, A CaBELLa Ringers
- 10:00, Bible Study
- 6:00, New Generation Choir
- 7:00, 7th & 8th Gr. Conf. Big Grp.
- 7:00, New Creation Choir

Thursday:

- 4:00, Praise Kids!
- 6:15, Bells Angels
- 7:30, Senior Choir Rehearsal

Friday:

- 7:00, First Fridays Book Group

Saturday:

- 9:00, Meru Diocese Synod Comm.

Adult Education Today,

9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

December 2

Your Family and Faith at Advent

Do your kids (or grandkids) ask questions about faith and God? Do you want to pray with your family but feel uncomfortable about when or how? Do you wish that your faith played a bigger role in your day to day life? Come to Adult Forum on December 2nd to learn about faith practices for Advent and throughout the year.

December 9

Circles of Support in Community Reentry

Rev. Christa Fisher and Caliph Muab'El will talk about Circles of Support for men and women returning from incarceration. Conor Williams, St. Matthew's member is involved in this work and has recently started monthly Circles of Support at Hephatha Lutheran Church. Circles are also starting at Project Return and at St. Ben's Catholic Church. Reverend Christa Fisher is an ordained ELCA minister and was the chaplain at the Dane County jail for the past five years.

All are welcome at monthly healing services

Healing services are offered monthly at St. Matthew's at a variety of times to give all the opportunity to come forward for healing prayer for themselves or others. You can share your concern with the pastor/leader at the altar, and then he/she along with the healing ministries will lay on hands and give a special prayer for your concern.

Sunday, Dec. 9 after 11:00 service

**Sun. Jan. 6, during Education Hour
at 9:45 a.m.**

Deborah Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 11 at 11:30 a.m. in the Upper Room for their Christmas lunch.

Did You Miss Out on City Tins? You can still order online!

If you missed the City Tins fundraiser it's not too late to get some of the seven varieties of tins this year. Just go online to place your order, and select St. Matthew's in the dropdown box so that we receive the fundraising credit. Instructions for ordering are below.

Thanks for supporting St. Matthew's Mission Trip! City Tins Online Ordering Instructions:

1. Visit the Fundraiser Login Portal by visiting <https://citytins.com/pages/fundraiser-portal>
2. Log in using this password: fundraiser18
3. Select St. Matthew's from the dropdown.
4. Checkout as normal.

Christmas Musicians invited

We are looking for instrumentalists to enhance our Christmas Celebration this year at the 7:00 and 10:00 services. 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.

Due to the many School Christmas Concerts during the week the **one and only Rehearsal will be held on Saturday, December 22 at 9:30 am.**

Please let me know if you are able to play for Christmas. We would love to have you join in the celebration of the birth of our Lord. Music can be picked up from John Paradowski in December.

Prayer Walk Group meets on Monday mornings and we are enjoying walking outside. Find out where we start by contacting Anne DeWitt for details: 414-840-8222.

St. Matt's First Fridays Book Club: The St. Matthew's book group usually meets on the first Friday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. Here are the next few books for the year:

Dec. 7: [When the English Fall](#); David Williams (256 pgs)

Jan. 4: [The Girl with Seven Names](#) by Hyeonseo Lee and David John (320 pgs)

Feb. 1: [Jewelweed: A Novel](#) by David Rhodes (449 pages)

Have you accessed your Portal in Servant Keeper? We are asking all members of St. Matthew's to sign into our new church membership software, Servant Keeper, using a link emailed to you. All members have been invited to make a pledge and give us your indication for areas of service where you wish to participate in 2019. *If you inserted or removed yourself from a ministry or activity, we will follow up with you on it early in 2019. Thank you for your patience.* Some members have received paper Stewardship forms through the mail. If you wish to complete your Stewardship pledge and Time & Talent on paper forms, you can pick up a packet in the church office. **We're asking all members to give us your Stewardship Response at this time.**

Used medications being collected for Cross Clinic

St. Matthew's member Tom Wilke is willing to collect medications you no longer need and take them to Cross's Bread of Healing Clinic and use them for patients who need them. To donate used medications, cross out the name of the patient in black marker, but leave the medicines in the pharmacy bottle they were dispensed with. Are you cleaning out a parent's or other relative's home and have a large number of old prescriptions to discard? Bring them to the church office and we will collect them for Cross Bread of Healing Clinic. Medications not usable will be responsibly discarded.

Sunday Morning Volunteers

St. Matthew's uses Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP) an on-line scheduling program to schedule our Sunday morning volunteers.

Volunteers choose the area they would like to serve in, service time preference and frequency of service. Most volunteers find MSP very easy to use and appreciate these great features of the scheduling program:

- **Update away dates quickly on-line so you don't get scheduled when you cannot be here**
- **Receive automatic email or text message reminders**
- **Schedules updated with changes in real time**
- **Ability to check your schedule from anywhere and easily request a substitute when you can't make one of your scheduled dates**
- **Guidelines and procedures for ALL Sunday morning ministry positions are available on-line**

We always need new volunteers on Sunday morning! This is a great way to be involved at church and if you are already here on a Sunday there is no need to try to plan for extra time in your schedule.

The current schedule runs through the end of December. If you need the log in information, have questions or would like to become part of the Sunday morning volunteer ministry please contact Sue Swing; sueswing@sbcglobal.net or 414-774-0441.

Stephen Ministry

A Stephen Minister is:

- A trained lay volunteer
- A good listener
- Trained in confidentiality
- Supervised for quality care
- Ready to offer God's love through a caring relationship

What Does a Stephen Minister Do?

- Listens
- Encourages
- Keeps confidence
- Prays
- Supports
- Walks beside a hurting person

How to learn more?

- Talk with a Pastor
- Visit the Stephen Ministry Center in the commons
- Write your interest on a blue prayer card and place it in the offering basket

We don't know your need unless you let us know!

As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34:b



Christ Caring • For People • Through People

Caregivers Group meets 2nd and 4th Monday afternoons - *Sharing joys and challenges* The caregivers group will meet on the following dates at 1 p.m. in the Upper Room. The group is facilitated by Sharon Thiel, and you are welcome to attend. December 10

Annual SAINTS Christmas Potluck

(Our Older Adult Ministries Group)

“Down Home Christmas”

Wednesday December 19

Back in the day, how did your family celebrate the holidays?

For many of us, making our own entertainment was part of the formula. This year's SAINTS

Christmas gathering will make use of this formula as we find our own fun right at St. Matthew's. We will enjoy a card game – (not hard, I promise), a seasonal story from our resident story teller (thanks Annette!), and a fun sing along with Pr. Matt and John Paradowski who will be leading us in classic holiday songs that we do NOT sing in church. “Silver Bells” anyone? How about “Chestnuts roasting on an open fire...”? This event will surely put us all in the holiday spirit! Lunch will feature lasagna from Bunzels along with potluck salads and dessert. Please sign up to bring salad (fruit, vege, jello) OR dessert. All are welcome to attend, with or without a dish for potluck. Sign up at the Welcome Center in the Upper Commons. 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 11:30 a.m. Contact Julia Murphy through the church office or email julia@stmattslutheran.org if you have any questions or concerns.

Lutheran A Cappella Choir to Present Concert:

“Out of Darkness...Light!”

The Lutheran A Cappella Choir of Milwaukee will be presenting its annual Christmas concert, “Out of Darkness...Light!” on Friday, Dec. 7th at 7:30pm and again on Sunday, Dec. 9th at 3:00pm. Featured on the concert will be Vaughan Williams’ “Fantasia on Christmas Carols,” featuring soloist Lee Henning, a set of lessons and carols, “On Christmas Night,” featuring a 15-voice treble choir, and other music of the Advent and Christmas seasons, including two recent works by John Rutter. Friday’s concert will be held at Grace Lutheran Church, W196 N9525 Cross View Way, Menomonee Falls, while Sunday’s concert will be held at St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church, 1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa. Ticket prices are \$15.00 for general admission and \$12.00 for seniors and students. More information about the concert and tickets are available from the choir’s website at www.lutheranacappella.org, or at the door.

Come and enjoy an afternoon or evening of the finest in music of the season by the Lutheran A Cappella Choir, celebrating the birth of the Savior!

Help Needed to Cover Costs of Emergency Food Shipment to El Salvador A shipment of emergency food is on its way to El Salvador for distribution to communities served by the Salvadoran Lutheran Church – communities where hunger is a constant concern. In addition to the day-to-day struggles of poverty, residents of those communities are disproportionately affected by natural disasters, such as floods, hurricanes, droughts, and volcanic eruptions. The shipments of emergency food that St. Matthew’s sends up to twice a year offer support in those times. **The cost of shipping and distributing the food is \$8000.00, and all donations are greatly appreciated. Please make checks to St. Matthew’s with “El Salvador Food” in the memo line.** Thank you for your support of this meal ministry that is so appreciated by the Salvadoran Lutheran Church!

Flower/Book Sign-Ups Needed

Your Sign-Ups are needed for the altar flower/library book/DVD sign-up notebook! Want to honor a loved one or show someone you care? Designate altar flowers for them, or a library book. Sign up in the Binder at the Information Center. For a donation of \$30.00, you may designate altar flowers, or for \$20.00 a library book or a DVD for an occasion of your choosing, and this occasion will be listed in the Sunday bulletin. The Library Committee will select the book and a bookplate will be placed in the front of the book. The church office staff orders the flowers from *Rose’s Flower Shop* each week. It is best if you pay for your donations on the designated Sunday or before. Place a check in the offering plate and mark its purpose of payment, or drop off your payment in the office during the week. Thanks.

St. Matthew's Invited to Reformation Potlucks in December!

Each month, Reformation Lutheran Church hosts a potluck to include partner congregations in their worship and fellowship on Sunday and Wednesday, and St. Matthew's is invited to participate in December. Our friends at Reformation welcome us to worship with them on Sunday, December 2nd at 10:00 and join them for a meal at 11:00. (Our St. Matthew's Youth Mission Trip meeting will follow at 12:15). We are also invited to share dinner with our Reformation family on Wednesday, December 5th at 6:00. If you are interested in attending or helping with food on either day, please talk with Gretchen Hauge.

Eat at Jose's Blue Sombrero & Support the Youth Mission Trip to Houston! Certificates Available in Church Office

Planning to eat at Jose's Blue Sombrero in the village? Then stop in the office to buy some gift certificates to pay for your meal. The certificates cost \$5 a piece and are worth \$5 toward the food that you purchase. St. Matthew's earns \$1 for every certificate, which supports the youth mission trips. Certificates are available in the office all week and on Sunday mornings during the education hour. Thanks for your support!

The St. Matthew's Meal Outreach Ministry

Just One More: Volunteers assemble packaged meals to be picked up by area churches and programs **each weekday morning at 9:00 a.m.** Food packing takes place at 6442 River Parkway, Wauwatosa. Call the JOMM office at 414-292-5112; OR go online to the JOMM website: jomministry.org and click on "volunteer" - you can sign up right there!

Guest House: Special thanks to Kristen and Kate Charlson, and friend Emily, who did a super job with serving dinner on November 11. Two to three volunteers are needed each month to prepare and serve a dinner for 85 men at the Guest House, a homeless shelter in Milwaukee. Please contact Carl Johnson by phone or text message at 414-771-1023, or by email johnsoncr@cdmsmith.com to sign-up. *Thanks to everyone who has volunteered recently, the next opening for volunteers are on April 14 and May 12, 2019.*

Repairers of the Breach: We supply 100 bag lunches for the homeless twice a month. We pack the lunches at church on the **2nd and 4th Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m.** Volunteers are needed to provide beverages, fruit, chips and sweets and/or pack the lunches. Contact Tom Geib (414-321-3391).

Serenity Inn: Volunteers prepare and serve 6-8 residents the second Sunday of each month. Volunteers carpool meeting at church at 5:15 returning at 7:15. **Coordinator:** Rachel Vetter; rvcvetter1986@gmail.com.

Cross Lutheran Lunch Program We serve 300-400 people on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Cross Lutheran Church, 1821 N. 16th Street. We carpool from St. Matthew's at 10:15 a.m. and serve beginning at about 11:00 and returning to St. Matt's at about 1:00. **Next Meal: Wednesday, January 23, 2019.** Pick up a card in worship on the Sunday prior to the meal to donate food.

Chocolate and Coffee for Sale:

LWR Fair Trade Chocolate available at St. Matthew's: "Divine Chocolate"
- Chocolate made with Fair Trade certified Cocoa beans grown by a farmer owned cooperative in Ghana, is available for purchase **every Sunday** at the Mt. Meru Coffee/LWR Chocolate Project cart, in several delicious flavors. **Large Bars are \$3.50 each and small bars are \$1.50 each.**

Mount Meru Coffee wants you to have a PEABERRY CHRISTMAS!

A special treat for you, your family and your friends. Only 5% of coffee beans picked are peaberry. These are single beans that have grown within the coffee "cherry" where two beans normally grow. These single coffee beans offer a richer coffee taste while being less acidic than standard coffee. It has the wonderful flavor of Mt. Meru Premium Coffee but in a richer form!

The coffee is \$15 for a 12oz bag and will be available at the coffee cart in the Upper Commons this Sunday! Only available in regular, drip or bean (but not decaf).

Mt. Meru Coffee - Mmmmm...

Delicious Mt. Meru coffee is available for sale from the cart in the Upper Commons. This product which is purchased at a fair price from the local farmers who live in the area of Tanzania where we have a partnership relationship. Stop by the display in the Commons and see! K-cups for single cup coffee brewing (like Keurigs) are also available.

The Nativity – The Christmas Story Join us on December 16 – 8:30 & 11:00 Services

The Nativity, which was first presented in 1974, has had hundreds of Angels, Shepherds, Villagers, Kings, Soldiers, and choir members. The pageant has undergone changes over the years as it has adapted to a new space, been rewritten with added parts here and there, and rotated music selections. This beautiful Christmas Story is set in the time of Jesus' birth with a cast of children, youth, and adults portraying the birth of our Savior through dialogue, dance, and music. What remains unchanged is the story of God's all-embracing love coming to us in a tiny baby born in a lowly stable – God's entrance into the world that changes us forever.

Come, join in the celebration of the true meaning of the Christmas Season.

Make it part of your Advent & Christmas celebrations.

Please note that there is no 7:30 service on this day.

Upper Two-Bedroom Flat for Rent: 7102 W. Wisconsin Avenue

Ideal location less than 5 minutes from Froedtert and the Medical College. One mile from I-94 and 41. Walk to Colectivo and Balistreri's Pizza. Spacious 1400 sq. ft. upper flat with unique charm. Large living room with beamed ceiling. Dining room with umbrella ceiling and built-in cabinets. Oak hardwood floors. Two carpeted bedrooms. One bath. Ample storage. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer and dryer included with apartment. One garage stall and one space behind it available for parking. No smokers or dogs. Rent \$1,150/month. Heat included. Available now.

Christy – 414-303-8380 Craig – 414-364-2663
Email: 7102WWisconsin@gmail.com

Youth Ministry

Dinner on Wednesdays for Confirmation Kids - *See Dates Below*

Did you know that your 7th – 9th grader can get dinner on Big Group Wednesdays before confirmation? Dinner is served from 5:30 – 6:20 in the youth room and includes pizza, make-your-own subs, or tacos, on a rotating basis. All meals include fruit and vegetable sides and desserts for a cost of \$5. It's a great way to avoid the meal-time rush on Wednesday nights, and it's a good chance for your child to get to know other St. Matthew's youth. If you have any questions, talk to Gretchen Hauge.

Remaining dates are
December 5, January 2 & 23

Next Monthly Meeting for Youth Mission Trip is December 2nd at Reformation

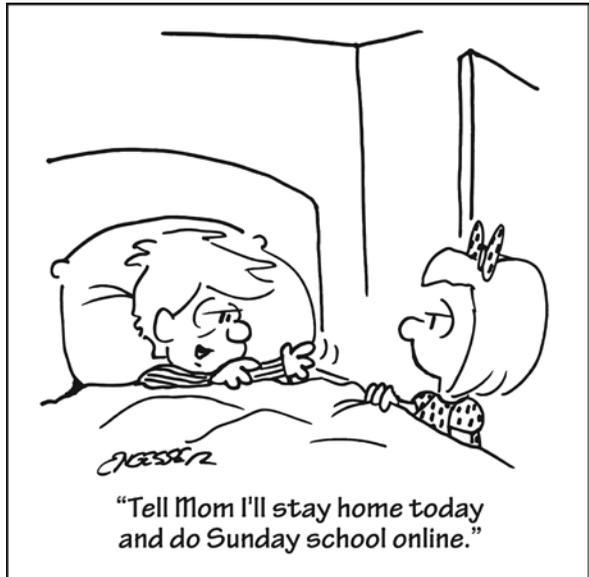
The next monthly meeting for the 2019 Youth Mission Trip to Houston will be Sunday, December 2nd at 12:15 at Reformation Lutheran Church. The meeting is planned in conjunction with the monthly Reformation potluck at 11:00 AM, which follows the 10:00 AM worship service. All youth who are going on the trip should plan to attend the meeting and are welcome to come earlier. Please bring \$5 for lunch.

The January trip to visit our El Salvador partners has been postponed due to several factors. There will most likely be a trip to El Salvador in January of 2020. If you have questions about this, please speak with Gretchen Hauge or Pastor Chris.

Looking for some youth to help you with babysitting, yard work, etc.? Look for our Youth Services Directory, where youth tell us which jobs they'd like to take on, and you contact them by phone or email and determine the rate of payment. You can find the updated Youth Services Directory, now in Spreadsheet form, at the Welcome Center and across from the church office.

7th & 8th Grade Confirmation continues each week Class meets on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30 p.m. The upcoming schedule looks like this:

Dec. 5	Big Group (10 Comm. 8/9/10)
Dec. 12	Service Night
Dec. 19	Fellowship Night



Social Outreach Ministry Opportunities

Repairers of the Breach is always in need of:

Men's and Women's Gloves & Scarves

Hand warmers

Disposable razors, lip balm, mini-Kleenex packs

Tooth brushes, travel size toothpaste

Travel size deodorant, lotion and Vaseline

Canned soups

Instant Oatmeal (Plain)

Coffee, hot chocolate, powdered coffee cream, Splenda

Paper Towels/napkins

These items are being collected in a box outside the church office. The need continues, as ROTB ministers to the homeless all year round.

Ongoing Collection for Guest House:

We have updated the list of ongoing needs for the Guest House. Please consider picking up one or two of these items when you're shopping and drop them off in the box outside the church office. Thanks for your support of this important ministry.

Spray deodorant	Shampoo
Body Wash	Foot Powder
Cologne	Aftershave
Laundry Bags	
Men's watches	Men's wallets

Undergarment Collection Continues: November 11 to December 9th! *We need your donations. Thank you!*

We are now collecting underwear and socks for the homeless shelter run by Guest House and women's underwear for the Benedict Center's Sisters Project. Guest House offers alcohol and drug abuse counseling, employment training, education, and other programs to homeless men. The Benedict Center's Sisters Project provides mental health care, alcohol and drug abuse counseling, education, employment, food, parenting skills, and anger management programs to women trapped in prostitution on the near north side and south sides of Milwaukee.

Both of these programs are in critical need for the basics of life—including new socks and underwear. We are collecting the following:

**Mens' Briefs or Boxer Briefs
(Sizes S, M, L, 2X, and 3X)**

Mens' Socks, size 6-12

Women's Panties, sizes 4–24

Women's Bras—sizes 34A-42C

Women's Socks

Women's Pajamas and long underwear, sizes up to 2X

The Undie Sunday Drive ends on December 9th. Let's put our faith into action and overflow the collection bins once again to show our support of these important ministries.

The Nativity

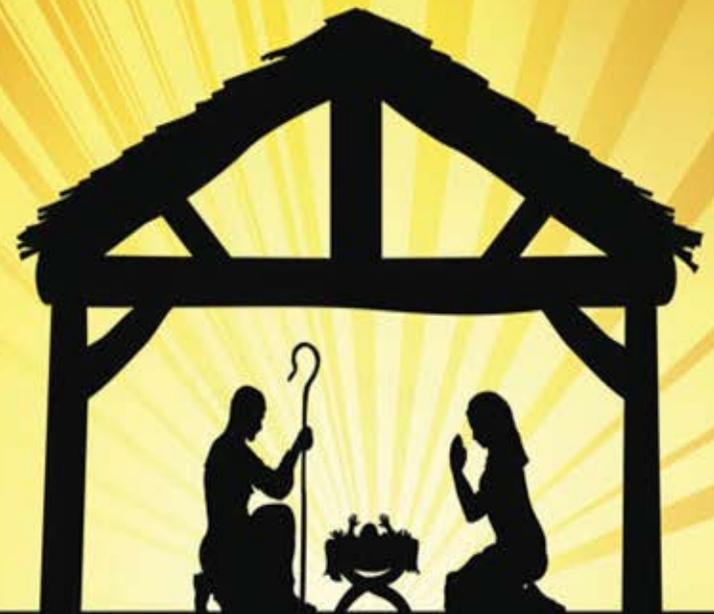
Sunday, December 16th, 2018

8:30 & 11:00 Services

Come, join in the celebration of the true meaning of the Christmas Season.

Through dialogue, dance, and music, this Christmas Story is set in the time of Jesus' birth with a cast of children, youth, and adults portraying the birth of our Savior.

Make it part of your Advent & Christmas celebrations.



St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1615 Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 414-774-0441

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Psalm 25:1-10**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Next Sunday's Readings: Malachi 3:1-4 or Baruch 5:1-9; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6.

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St. Matthew's Weekly Sign-Up Panel December 2, 2018

If you are interested in any of the following activities/events, please check the appropriate box and place this sheet in the offering plate, or turn it in to the church office. This is your opportunity to be involved in some of St. Matthew's ministries.

- I will attend the **Wednesday potluck at Reformation** on December 5.
- I can help with **food for the Reformation potlucks**.
- I haven't yet accessed my Portal in **ServantKeeper**. Please send another email to my primary email address. *(please list this below.)*
- I am in the 7th grade or above or an adult and would like to join the **Christmas Orchestra by playing my instrument for Christmas Eve** at the following services. 7:00 and/or 10:00 p.m. [Circle choices] The rehearsal is Saturday, 12/22 at 9:30 p.m.
- Please add my email address to the list of people receiving the **Friday "Bulletin Update,"** a preview of the announcements in the upcoming Sunday's bulletin.

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

For more information on any of these opportunities, please call or email the church office, 414-774-0441 or office@stmattslutheran.org.



St. Matthew's

Ev. Lutheran Church ✠ ELCA

Vision Statement: Guided by God's Spirit and Grace, we are a community of disciples growing in faith, hope and love in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *(What we want to become)*

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. *(What we are going to do)*

Values: We want to be people who grow in our Spiritual fruitfulness, which is shown through the Fruit of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control. *(Who we want to be)*

Ministers	The People of St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church
Lead Pastor	The Rev. Christopher J.P. Manke
Associate Pastor	The Rev. Matthew Schlake-Kruse
Associate Pastor	The Rev. Ann Williams
Music Minister/Organist/New Generation & Adult Handbell Choirs	John R. Paradowski
Director of Youth Ministries & Children's Education Coordinator	Gretchen Haugse
Volunteer Ministries/Small Groups/Adult Education	Sue Swing
Director of Older Adult Ministries	Julia Murphy
Children's Ministry Coordinator	Donna Gardner Manke
Sunday School Support	Jennifer Dugan
Technology Coordinator	Brian Smith
Library Coordinator (Volunteer)	Linda Wunderlich
Senior Choir Director	David Mohr
Youth Handbell Choirs	Jeffrey Reeves
New Creation Choir	Jeffrey Reeves and John Paradowski; Heide Hughes, accompanist
Praise Kids! Directors (Jr. K-2 grades)	Jeff Reeves and Amy Dankwardt
Financial Bookkeeper & Administrator	Al Van Lith
Office Assistant	Jill Due
Communications Secretary	Sonja Mohr
Custodian	Marsha Olson
Janitor	Robert Gardner
Janitor	Dave Fagerberg
Pastor Emeritus	The Rev. Gary Erickson