

Welcome to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

November 19, 2023



Welcome to worship. Today we celebrate Christ the King, whose kingdom is grace and who rules by love. At Christ's table of grace, all are family, and all belong. Let us praise God together. Guests, please fill out a yellow welcome card and hand it to an usher or place it in the offering plate.

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.

Altar flowers are provided by Donna & Jim Koeble in memory of their parents Yvonne & Robert Connelly and Signy & Charles Koeble.

Altar flowers are provided by Al & Susan Van Lith in honor of Al & Debbie Land's 30th wedding anniversary.

The fall décor at the altar has been provided by Pat & Jim Engelhardt.

Name Tag Sunday today: Put on a name tag this morning so that we might become better acquainted.

Today's Adult Forum: (9:45 am in the Upper Room) **November 19**

November 19: **Adult Mission Trip**

Our Adult Mission Trip group spent 5 days working in New Orleans in October. They worked with Common Ground, working with plants that will be transplanted into the Bayou to stop erosion and helped with some home exterior work. Come to see the photos and hear the stories from the team!

Can You Help with the PIE SOCIAL this Wednesday? Volunteers are needed to host and serve the delicious pies that are paired with your choice of cream (ice or whipped), coffee and milk. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you can help with this fun event or share a pie with us.

Giving Tree is up! Take a tag and support our recipient organizations: Cross Lutheran Church, Reformation Lutheran Church, Allies for Teens in Foster Care, and Eras Senior Network. Please note that there is an ONLINE opportunity for participation, at this link: <https://signup.com/go/UGQhboD> Please note that the gift deadline has been **extended to Sunday, December 10th**, even though the tags say December 3rd.

Bulletin Insert for Sunday, November 19, 2023

Thanksgiving Eve Service is Wednesday, November 22: 7:00 pm

Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart

At Thanksgiving, Christians recognize that the source of all good things is the God who provides us with all that we need and more. We offer thanks to God for the bounty of the land and seek to share these riches with all in need. Please bring food items to share with the hungry. The service will include special music from the Senior Choir.

Pie Social follows Thanksgiving Worship!

Thanksgiving Eve is a festive time where we give thanks, offer our offerings of food and money, and a time when we take time and celebrate with PIE!

We need a number of pies to supplement our supply of apple, pumpkin, and cherry. Pies can be dropped off in the main kitchen (downstairs) before Wednesday night worship.



Kids for Christ and Disciples of Christ – Attention Parents of 1st thru 5th graders

DOC meets today, November 19, from 12:00-2:00pm for 4th & 5th graders.

1st -5th graders Join us for Combined KFC & DOC for December!

Friday December 15th from 6-8pm. We will gather to have pizza, play flashlight tag, games, have sundaes and end with a devotion. Please sign up in the church office. Friends are welcome. Cost is \$5 Please bring a flashlight!!

Collecting Simple & Small Gifts for Teens in Foster Care: We'd like to collect items such as nail polish, lip balm, gum, deodorant, wrapped candy, etc. The box for these things is outside the church office. You can also check the Giving Tree for larger items for the organization "Allies for Teens in Foster Care." Please bring these items by December 10th. Thanks for caring for these young people who aren't always remembered.

St. Matthew's Christmas Season Singers

Come and be a part of St. Matthew's Holiday Music tradition.

You are invited to Sing in the Season. Join the singers of the Senior Choir, short term, for Christmas Eve worship! **St. Matthew's Christmas Eve Service - December 24, 2023 at 7:30pm.** Rehearsals are December 7, 14, 21 at 7:15. Sing in the Season! Questions? Contact: John Paradowski – JRPmuzik@yahoo.com or Alexa Doebele – treblemakr@gmail.com

Stephen Ministry We will be offering a Stephen Minister training class in Winter 2024! If you are interested and feel called to explore this ministry further please contact a Stephen Leader; Pastor Ann, Ginny Cleppe, Carl Johnson or Sue Swing. Or, leave a note at the Stephen Ministry Center in the Library Commons and we will follow up with you.

Upcoming Adult Education: *Join us, and let's learn together!* We'll gather at 9:45 am in the Upper Room each week.

The next Adult Education session will be on Sunday, December 3 with Dan Bice. Topic is part 2 of Meeting Paul Anew.

Mt. Meru Coffee Makes Great Christmas Gifts!

It is not too early to think about purchasing Christmas gifts. Mt. Meru will offer a complete selection of coffees in a variety of blends and sizes. To begin with, we will have a Christmas Traditions Blend for \$18.00 in drip or bean. There will also be holiday sampler packs in 4 and 6 pack sizes plus 4 varieties of flavored coffees. These and many others will be featured in the coming weeks. Stop by the coffee cart on Sunday morning to place an order for items not in stock or contact me at: dholmes22@att.net. Orders are sent in Monday mornings each week and available for pickup by Wednesday.

Mt. Meru Coffee: Justice Never Tasted so Good!

I Love Our Church

Fall Stewardship Campaign – “I Love Our Church” It's Not Too Late for Your Stewardship Response

Please take a moment to consider God's blessings in your life. Then reflect on how St. Matthew's Church has most supported you or what it is you love about our church! Pick up an envelope from the table in the Commons. Three items to complete for your Stewardship Packet (online or hard copy)



*Every time I think of you,
I give thanks to my God. Phil. 1:3*

Pledge card

<https://tinyurl.com/Pledge2024>

Activities and Ministries Form

<https://tinyurl.com/Act-Min>

Information Update

<https://tinyurl.com/StewUpdate2024>

The Church Office will be closed on Thursday and Friday of this week, November 23 and 24, so our office staff can enjoy the Thanksgiving weekend.

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. See the website, under 'Adult Ministry' for the complete list.

December 1 *American Dirt: A Novel*, by Jeanine Cummins, 386 pages

January 5 *The Housekeeper and the Professor*, by Yoko Ogawa, 180 pgs.

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

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) Jack Clark, *open*. (11:00) Hannah Malloy, Chase Slager.

Coffee Hosts: Mike Ebenhoe.

Communion Preparers: (8:30) Robin Bloczynski, Nancy Bowen. (11:00) Maya Tanel, Ruth Kallio-Mielke.

Communion Assistants: (8:30) Mary Ann & Flash Gordon, Karla Baierl. (11:00) Donna McAllister, Joyce Biehn.

Greeters: (8:30) Marian Benz, Bob & Theresa Zwaska, Diann Lebow. (11:00) Kristin Hanson, Carl & Eileen Lund, Megan Carroll.

Lay Readers: (8:30) Claire Gifford, Michael Knutson, Annie Freeborn. (11:00) Joanne Ziarek, Connie Malloy, Joy Wedel.

Ushers: (8:30) Joseph Ceci, Ken & Sue Voigt, John Richter, Chloe Eckdale-Dudley, Brad Iding. (11:00) Rob Wedel, Zachary Peterson.

Lay Assistant: (8:30) Pam Stokke-Ceci.

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

Library Assistant: Peggy Klemme.

Stephen Minister: Leah Philippi.

Worship Technology: (8:30) Michael Knutson, David Locher. (9:45) Heather Deaton. (11:00) Stephen Skaife, David McCullough.

Are you on the list of assistants?? *If not, please consider helping on a Sunday morning with one of these tasks. It's a great way to get involved, meet people, and contribute to the Sunday morning worship experience for our church. Scheduling can be worked into your own schedule, and switching dates can always be arranged if you end up with a personal schedule change. Contact Al Van Lith at al@stmattslutheran.org.*

YTD Financial Results as of:	11/12/23
General Fund Receipts	\$780,420
General Fund Budget (total monthly)	\$848,158
Over/(Under) Budget	(\$67,738)
 Benevolence Disbursements	 \$176,551
 Building Fund Balance	 \$167,162

Pastoral Staff: Karen Natterstad, Interim Lead; Ann Williams, Associate Pastor
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.



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

Upcoming Events at St. Matthew's

Wednesday, Nov. 22

Thanksgiving Eve Worship, 7pm
Followed by a Pie Social

Sunday, November 26

1st Sunday of Advent

Friday, December 1

Book Discussion Group, 7pm

Saturday, December 2

Christmas Decorating, 9am

Sunday, December 3

2nd Sunday of Advent
Adult Educ with Dan Bice; Women's Group
Sunday School Big Group
3:00pm Jubilate Chorale Concert



Saturday, December 9

Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal

Sunday, December 10



Christmas Pageant

3rd Sunday of Advent
St. Matthew's Christmas Pageant, 8:30 & 11:00am
Healing Service after the 8:30 service
Christmas Fellowship Time between services

Monday, December 11

Deborah Circle Salad Luncheon, 11:30am

Wednesday, December 13

Saints Gathering with Elm Grove Women's Chorus

Friday, December 15

KFC/DOC (Grades 1-5) Children's Ministry Gathering
6:00-8:00pm

Sunday, December 17

4th Sunday of Advent
Adult Education – Advent Reflection, 9:45am

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve
Services at 2:00pm, 4:30pm and 7:30pm



Monday, December 25

Christmas Day – Festive Worship at 10:00am

Sunday, December 31

One Worship Service at 10:00am

Friday, January 5

Book Discussion Group, 7pm

Sunday, January 7

Baptism of Our Lord Sunday, 8:30 & 11:00am
Sunday School Big Group, Women's Group