

# Welcome to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

November 26, 2023



**Welcome to worship.** Welcome to the promise of Advent: Amid barren trees, Isaiah announces spring growth — a “shoot” representing new life in Jesus (11:1).

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 Chris Weber Sponnick and Jim Sponnick in thanks for all God's blessings.

**Altar flowers** are provided by Leslie & Pat Gardner in thanksgiving for their St. Matthew's family.

**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 10<sup>th</sup>**, even though the tags say December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **We Need Your Help to Decorate St. Matthew's for Advent & Christmas** ***Saturday Morning, December 2, beginning at 9:00 am***

There are many kinds of tasks, something for everyone to do. Help create the beautiful ambience of St. Matthew's at Advent and Christmas. Helpers of all ages welcome. Coffee and light refreshments will be available.

*“The Nativity”*

## **St. Matthew's Christmas Pageant to be Presented on December 10th**

Come to see and hear the story of Christ's birth as it was experienced by shepherds and kings, angel messengers, and Mary and Joseph. Scenes dramatizing the story will be presented throughout the worship services accompanied by music from the Senior Choir, New Generation Choir, New Creation Choir, and Praise Kids.

**The Nativity will be presented at the 8:30 and 11:00 worship services on December 10th.** We hope you can be there to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas - the gift of love that God shared with the world through the birth of Emmanuel, God with us.

## Bulletin Insert for Sunday, November 26, 2023

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

**Sunday, December 3** with Dan Bice. Topic is part 2 of Meeting Paul Anew.

### **Sunday, December 10**

*Church Council shares results of Congregational Survey*

We are grateful for the many people who took time to fill out the congregational survey in October. We've received some great thoughtful responses, and the council has tabulated them, organized the data, and will share what we've learned about "the pulse" of St. Matthew's. Led by members of the St. Matthew's Church Council.

**December 17** Advent Reflection with St. Matt's member Laura Staats

### **December Saints Gathering is a Special Holiday Concert!**

**Wednesday, December 13, 11:30 am** *(one week earlier than usual)*

**Elm Grove Women's Club Choir** *Directed by Patricia Engelhardt*

The choir sings beautiful arrangements of traditional carols and some fun new carols. We will gather upstairs for opening devotion and lunch, and then enjoy the concert after lunch.

Choose from turkey or ham City Market box lunch when you sign up; suggested donation is \$11. Sign up at the Welcome Center or in the church office

### **Women's Group—Next Meeting: "Our Identity in God" December 3, 9:45 am**

Sunday morning women's group meets the first Sunday of the month from 9:45-10:45. Join us on Sunday, December 3rd as our topic will be "Exploring our Identity in God". Contact Katie Nickel; [katiernickel@gmail.com](mailto:katiernickel@gmail.com)

### **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](mailto:JRPmuzik@yahoo.com) or Alexa Doebele – [treblemakr@gmail.com](mailto:treblemakr@gmail.com)

**Children's Ministry Gathering in December** 1st -5th graders Join us for Combined KFC & DOC **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!!

**Jubilate Chorale Concert** here at St. Matthew's next Sunday, December 3 at 3:00 pm Tickets available at the door. \$15 adults, \$12 seniors, and \$7 for students. Hear St. Matthew's members Brian and Bridget Smith who sing with the group.

**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.

**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 10<sup>th</sup>. Thanks for caring for these young people who aren't always remembered.

**Mt. Meru coffee has many options for great Christmas gifts.**

Our six pak sampler has one bag of each of our flavored coffees, one bag of regular and one bag of Peaberry. Our new four pak sampler has one bag each of regular, decaf, Peaberry and Christmas Traditions. Our new ***Christmas Traditions*** is enhanced with rich flavors of cinnamon, nutmeg, and vanilla with a hint of chocolate with other spices which is a perfect holiday blend and is available in drip grind or bean.

The ***Peaberry*** blend in drip grind or bean is an enjoyable regular coffee that is less acidic. These and many other choices are available, such as single serve pods and four pound bags. Stop by the coffee cart to purchase or order coffee from our selections.

***Mt. Meru Coffee: Justice Never Tasted so Good!***

**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.

**Holiday Train come to the Tosa Village!**

Join us for the CP Railways Holiday Train on December 4th at the Harwood Avenue railway crossing in the Tosa Village! There will be music and fun for all ages as the train makes its way across the country raising awareness of food insecurity and supporting local food banks. Once again, the train will be stopping in Wauwatosa with proceeds going to Tosa Cares food pantry. Donations of money and non-perishable foods will be collected at the event or you can donate online at <https://www.tosacares.org/donate>

Hope to see you there!

When: Monday, December 4th at 4pm

Where: Wauwatosa Village at the Harwood Avenue railway crossing

## *And the Glory of the Lord*

### **Lutheran A Cappella Choir Concerts December 1st & 3rd**

The Lutheran A Cappella Choir of Milwaukee presents “And the Glory of the Lord” featuring Christmas anthems and movements from Handel’s Messiah.

#### **Friday, December 1st at 7:30 pm**

Mount Carmel Lutheran Church, 8424 W. Center St. Milwaukee

#### **Sunday, December 3rd at 3:00 pm**

St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, 6705 Northway, Greendale

Tickets are \$15 and students are free with an ID.

Tickets are available at the door where cash, check, and Venmo accepted.

## **Upcoming Events at St. Matthew’s**

Friday, December 1

Book Discussion Group, 7pm

Saturday, December 2

Christmas Decorating, 9am



**Sunday, December 3**

2<sup>nd</sup> 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

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

St. Matthew’s Christmas Pageant, 8:30 & 11:00am

Healing Service after the 8:30 service

Adult Educ: Church Council shares Survey Results

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**

4<sup>th</sup> 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**

## 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) Olivia Iding, Connor Meier. (11:00) Hannah Malloy, Lila Thomas.

**Coffee Hosts:** Jim & Karie Clement.

**Communion Preparers:** (8:30) Pat Gardner, Margaret Hyland. (11:00) Ruth Kallio-Mielke, *Open*.

**Communion Assistants:** (8:30) Chuck Crook, Michael Wolaver, Joanne Ziarek. (11:00) Marion Heinz, Alice Rudebusch.

**Greeters:** (8:30) Laura Hyland, Dylan Mann, Holly Holton. (11:00) Paul & Jen Kramer.

**Lay Readers:** (8:30) Annette Olson. (11:00) Alice Rudebusch.

**Ushers:** (8:30) Mary Ann Gordon, Kateri Kirchner, Levi Kirchner, Ashley Manternach. (11:00) Kassen Bartlett, *open*.

**Lay Assistant:** (8:30) Robert Sholl.

**Welcome Center Host:** (8:30) *open*.

**Library Assistant:** Judith Holmes.

**Stephen Minister:** Heather Deaton.

**Worship Technology:** (8:30) *Open*. (11:00) Eli Schaar, Brian Smith.

***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](mailto:al@stmattslutheran.org).*

YTD Financial Results as of:	11/19/23
General Fund Receipts	\$807,890
General Fund Budget (total monthly)	\$848,158
Over/(Under) Budget	(\$40,268)
 Benevolence Disbursements	 \$176,551
 Building Fund Balance	 \$170,612

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.

Office Staff: Bridget Smith, Sonja Mohr.



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