

Welcome to Worship at St. Matthew's

December 11, 2022



Welcome to the promise of Advent, family of Christ! Each person adds to our worship. Thank you for being here.

The Season of Advent: We experience with anticipation this beautiful season of light and dark, of hope, peace, joy and love, leading up to the birth of Christ. Look for devotional items at the Advent table in the Upper Commons, including *new this year*, reverse Advent calendars, one for adults, and one just for kids, to help you mark the days until Christmas.

One of the poinsettias is given by Chris and Paul Davis, in celebration of their 55th wedding anniversary on December 13.



Sunday School Christmas Program Today! *During the 8:30 & 11:00 Services*

The Christmas story, from Old Testament prophecies to the birth of Jesus, will be presented in word, song, and drama by our Sunday School classes. Children from preschool through 8th grade will all have a part in sharing the story of God's gift of love.

Today's Adult Education 9:45-10:45 am in the Upper Room:

Sunday, December 11: Exclusive Visions: The Unique Churches to Which America Gave Birth-- Why "Only in America" is a good description for four American church bodies, with Pastor David Zersen. Christian denominations have deep roots in both European and Middle Eastern communities, but there are four major groups that could only have emerged in the United States. See if you know which ones they are and what is uniquely American about them? Dr. Zersen taught this course for years at Concordia University and he promises that there won't be any tests at this session.

Coming to church at Christmas? *Join in the Christmas Spirit!* Sign up to volunteer for Christmas Eve, Day and New Year's Day services. We will need ushers, communion help, acolytes and greeters. The sign up list is located on the Welcome Center table.

Giving Tree Thanks: Thank you to everyone who supported the Giving Tree. We had a great response with almost all of the tags being taken. Your generosity will spread God's love throughout the community. This will certainly brighten Christmas for many people.

Bulletin Announcement Insert – December 11, 2022

Each Wednesday during Advent: Midweek Advent videos.

Enter into the beautiful season of anticipation and waiting, with a spirit of generosity, by watching the Advent video services especially prepared for the people of St. Matthew's. The services are sent out in the Wednesday emails, as well as listed on our Youtube page: youtube.com/StMattsTosa



Deborah Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 13 at 11:30am for a potluck lunch in the Upper Room.

It Looks Like Christmas!

St. Matthew's is indeed ready for Christmas! A big shout out to the Confirmation class for their help. They climbed into all the storage spaces to bring down the boxes and bags of decorations, which was no easy task. We much appreciated everything being out and ready for us on Saturday morning. Thank you to the men who climbed ladders and did the heavy lifting to put together the big trees in the Commons and who hung the wreaths and boughs; all were up before one could say "Merry Christmas!" Thank you also to the young people who were extremely helpful and who brought their special joy and enthusiasm to their tasks. A special thanks to Ed Bross, Al Van Lith, Flash Gordon, and John Paradowski for their help to make sure the morning went smoothly. Thanks again to all! -Diane DuBois

Cross Food Pantry Needs Your Bags! Cross Food Pantry is in desperate need of good plastic grocery bags (like those from Sendik's and Metcalfe's) and sturdy paper grocery bags with handles for their final food pantry of the year. **Please bring bags to church no later than Sunday, December 11th**, so we can get them to Cross in time to pack bags for the December 14th food pantry. Thanks for your help!

Do you love to wrap gifts? Are you a youth looking for service hours? Allies for Teens in Foster Care is seeking help to wrap all the gifts that have been donated and collected for youth and workers in area group foster homes. This will be done at St. Matthew's on Sunday, December 11th beginning at 1:00 pm. Members of St. Matthew's are also cordially invited to help with this project. Please text and email Allison Byrne to let her know you're coming. 414-531-2862 or byrne1011@gmail.com

St. Matt's Meet-Up: This Friday, December 16th, we're going to gather at Amaranth Bakery, 3329 W. Lisbon Avenue, Milwaukee. You can carpool from the St. Matt's parking lot beginning at 9am (we have drivers!). Or you can meet us there about 9:15am. Check out this locally owned delicious bakery and enjoy a chance to meet-up with others from St. Matthew's.

2023 Offering Envelopes might be delayed – Our printing company has experienced some major delays in printing our 2023 envelope boxes – at this point, we do not know when we will be getting them and it may not be until early 2023 – In the meantime, if you do not have your 2023 envelopes, you can continue to submit your contributions – you can either use any 2022 (or earlier) envelope with your number on it, a regular envelope or just drop your check in the offertory plate and we will make sure your contribution gets matched to your account.

Adult Education in December: (During the Education Hour, 9:45-10:45am)

Sunday, December 18: Forgotten, Misrepresented and Marginalized Figures of Early Christianity, Part Five with Dan Bice; “Mary, mother of Jesus.” Probably no better woman is better known in history than Mary, the mother of Jesus. But how much do we really know about her? Where do the birth stories in Matthew and Luke agree and disagree? Are these factual accounts? And what was Mary’s role in the movement led by her son Jesus? What about after his death? This is the final part in our five-part series.

Saints Christmas Gathering – Wednesday, December 21 beginning at 11:30 am
We will be celebrating Christmas “SAINTS Style” with music, gifts, and a special festive lasagna lunch. Musical guests include John Paradowski and Linda Chadwick. Please bring a wrapped “white elephant” gift. A “white elephant” gift is a new or like new item, often something that you received as a gift and do not want or need. Sign up in advance at the Welcome Center or through the church office.

Christmas Musicians Invited

We are looking for instrumentalists to enhance our Christmas Celebration this year at the 7:00 Christmas Eve service. We would like to invite you to play your instrument with us this year. The group accompanies the congregation in the singing of Christmas Hymns.

The one and only Rehearsal will be held on Tuesday, December 20 at 7:30-8:30.

Please let John Paradowski know your interest by e-mailing him at JRPmuzik@yahoo.com. Music can be picked up from John in December.

Wednesday Bible Study during December: Join us on December 14 and 21 from 10:00-11:00am for Bible Study with Pastor Ann in the Upper room. We’ll then take a two-week break at Christmas and resume on Wednesday, January 11, 2023.

Stewardship Appeal – it’s not too late for your response

Thank you to all those who have returned their Stewardship packets and made commitments for 2023. Extra packets are available at the display in the Upper Commons; it is not too late to turn in yours. We are looking forward to our future in ministry together in 2023.

Advent/Christmas Offerings:

All Advent/Christmas giving will go to **ELCA World Hunger**.

- Use the special Advent/Christmas Envelopes – they will be provided at the Welcome Center. If you use cash, please make sure your name is on the envelope
- Go to www.stmattslutheran.org and click on the GIVE button on the top right hand side, to give through Vanco
- Use the Square and select Advent offering (Remember that with the Square if you use Apple Pay or other tap-to-pay featured payments, the Square does not record who made the transaction, so you will need to let the office know via a note or an email – that way you will get credit for your contribution)

Looking Ahead to Christmas Worship:

Saturday December 24: Christmas Eve Worship at 4:00, 7:00 & 10:00 pm

Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day Worship at 10:00 am

Sunday, January 1: Worship at 10:00 am

What should I consider when attending worship, to be considerate of others?

1) **If you are a little bit sick**--maybe with a cold, or you're not sure what it is--**please stay home!**

This is the best way to care for those around you and be a responsible citizen in our community.

2) **Please keep up with the latest vaccines**, for yourself, and for the future of mitigating the effects of this virus. Vaccines are proving to be effective against the variants, and especially against severe illness requiring hospitalization.

3) Still not sure it's safe? **Remember our Livestream** of Sunday Services at this link: **bit.ly/StMattsLive** (at the time of the services)

YTD Financial Results as of:	12/04/22
General Fund Receipts	\$840,319
General Fund Budget	\$1,006,843
Over/(Under) Budget	(\$166,524)
 Benevolence Disbursements	 \$147,550
 Building Fund Balance	 \$177,333

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.

Music Staff: David Mohr, Jeff Reeves, Amy Dankwardt, Heide Hughes

Older Adults Coordinator: Julia Murphy.

Technology Coordinator: Brian Smith.

Library Coordinator (volunteer) Linda Wunderlich.

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

Office Staff: Al Van Lith, Bridget Smith, Sonja Mohr



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