

Welcome to Worship at St. Matthew's

December 18, 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.

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. Speak to an usher if you need assistance coming forward.

One of the poinsettias is given by Pam Stokke-Ceci and Joe Ceci to the glory of God.

Child for Baptism: (11:00) **Josephine Linda Brown**, child of Brittany & Dylan Brown, Wauwatosa, was born September 25, 2022. Sponsors are Ali & Ewan O'Donnell and Josh & Natalie Jenswold.

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

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.

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.

Celebrate Christmas with your St. Matthew's Faith Community:

Christmas Worship:

Saturday December 24: Christmas Eve Worship

4:00 pm Festive Service especially for families and children

7:00 & 10:00 pm Candlelight Service with choirs, special music & Holy Comm.

Sunday, December 25:

10:00 am Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion

New Year's Day:

Sunday, January 1: Worship at **10:00 am**

Bulletin Announcement Insert – December 18, 2022

Each Wednesday during Advent: Midweek Advent videos.

This week there will be one more Advent video service especially prepared for the people of St. Matthew's, to be sent out in the Wednesday emails, as well as listed on our Youtube page: youtube.com/StMattsTosa



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.

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)

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.

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.

Wednesday Bible Study during December: Join us on December 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.

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.

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

January 8 -- Al Land shares the 2022 St. Matthew's Adult Mission Trip to Houston

In this new year maybe you'd like to challenge yourself to grow in faith and service but aren't sure how to go about doing that. The Houston mission trip participants will encourage you to consider making an adult mission trip part of your plan for the upcoming year. Trip Coordinator, Al Land, shares "Every mission trip is a little different and there are always stories to be told about the people and the homes that the group works on. On this mission trip experience there were unique connections made and relationships were built! This will be a great opportunity to gain a better understanding of just how meaningful these mission trips can be."

St. Matthew's First Fridays Book Group:

You decide which books you wish to read for the discussions you wish to participate in. Discussions begin at 7pm on the dates listed, held at St. Matthew's.

Friday, January 6

Facism: A Warning by Madeleine Albright, 320 pages

Friday, February 3

The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II by Denise Kiernan, 416 pages

Full List on our website and also at church.

Thanks for the Christmas decorating help: 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

What Goes Up...

As the song goes: "What goes up...must come down..." Please join us on **Saturday, January 7th at 9:00 a.m.** to pack away the Christmas trees and decorations until Christmas 2023. Men are especially needed to climb ladders to get the big trees and wreaths down and put into their storage bags. There are also four smaller trees that need to be taken down and boxed in addition to ornaments and other decorations. Young people are welcome to help as well. Mark your calendars. With many hands, this all can be done very quickly! Thank you for your time and commitment to St. Matt's.

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.

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:	12/11/22
General Fund Receipts	\$853,793
General Fund Budget	\$1,006,843
Over/(Under) Budget	(\$153,050)
 Benevolence Disbursements	 \$191,168
 Building Fund Balance	 \$179,213

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