

Welcome to Worship at St. Matthew's

December 24-25, 2022



Welcome to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Christmas Eve worship! This holy night, we sing with the angels: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill to all!" As Christians around the world rejoice in Christ's birth, we welcome you to worship. The best way to celebrate the greatest gift to humankind is to gather and thank our loving Creator. We rejoice in your presence. May the full meaning of Christmas be real to us all ... now and always.

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.

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**

Christmas Eve Instrumentalists 7:00 Service: Victoria Vorpapel, Noah Weileder, Eli Schaar, Grace Charlson, Abigail Hughes, Aidan Weileder, Daniel Zello, Hannah Malloy, Lauren Wunderlich, Andy Sajdak.

A library book is given to the church library by Leslie & Pat Gardner in honor of Hillary's birthday. **A Library book** is given to the church library by Priscilla Lietz in memory of her daughter Cheryl Lietz.

Christmas Gift to St. Matthew's: New Sanctuary Piano

In 2015 the piano fund was graciously established at St. Matthew's in memory of Eric Kloth to replace the piano used in our worship space. Since then, many donations have been made by congregation members. With a recent anonymous memorial gift, we have been able to purchase a used 7-foot 1991 Steinway Grand Piano for the sanctuary for the first time this Christmas Eve. We thank everyone for your support and dedication to our ministry and know that the piano will be used to continue in helping people worship and celebrate our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Church Office will be closed Mondays, December 26th, 2022, and January 2nd, 2023.

Thank you! to the volunteers who are assisting with our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services. Special thanks to our musicians, both vocal and instrumental, for their contributions to our joyful services.

Your Special Offerings for Christmas: Advent/Christmas Special Giving will be directed to alleviate world hunger through the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

Offering Envelopes for 2023 are not yet available. We hope they will arrive soon.

2022 Year End Giving

As we get to the end of the year, in order to have your contributions appear on your 2021 Contribution Statement, we need to remind everyone that all contributions need to be either in the office or post marked by December 31, 2022.

- **St Matthew's Website:** If you go to www.stmattslutheran.org and click on the Give button in the upper right hand corner, you can contribute via your credit card.
- **US Post Office:** If you want to mail in your check, the postmark on the envelope must be December 31, 2022 or earlier.
- **Drop off a check in the church office:**

Drop off your check in the church office by 4:30 PM on December 30, 2022, or earlier.

Following any one of these options will allow your 2022 contribution to St. Matthew's to appear on your 2022 Contribution Statement.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Al Van Lith in the office at (414) 774-0441 or email him at al@stmattslutheran.org.

Sunday School: Please Note that there is NO Sunday School on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1st.

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.

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.

Altar Flower & Library Book Sign-Up: *Now Available: All of 2023!!*

You are invited to sign up for altar flowers or a library book for a special occasion which will be noted in the bulletin. Flowers are \$35 and will be ordered from Alfa Flower shop by the office staff. Please make out a check and mark it for altar flowers. You can sign up to donate a book to the library. A book will be chosen for the occasion and you will be notified of which book was chosen. Library books are \$20. This is a great way to support St. Matthew's worship and library ministries in a meaningful way. The Sign-up Book is at the Welcome Center.

Looking Ahead to Next Year!

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.

*hello
january*

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.

January 8 Adult Education

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."

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