

Welcome to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

December 3, 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.

Thank you to those who came to decorate the Sanctuary and Upper Commons yesterday. Your work is greatly appreciated!

Name Tag Sunday today: Please put on a name tag this morning so that we may become better acquainted with each other.

Women's Group Today: “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. Contact Katie Nickel; katiernickel@gmail.com

Giving Tree Deadline for Gifts is December 10: GREAT NEWS: All of the tags are gone. If you didn't get to participate, remember that there is an ONLINE opportunity for participation, at this link: <https://signup.com/go/UGQhboD> Please bring your gifts by next weekend, December 10. Gift cards can be taken to the church office or given to a staff person.

Jubilate Chorale Concert here at St. Matthew's **today** 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.

2024 Church Offering Envelopes are available for pickup on the lower level, near the church office, outside the glass walled conference room.

Next Sunday!

“The Nativity”

St. Matthew's Christmas Pageant to be Presented Dec. 10, 8:30 and 11:00am

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. 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, December 3, 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.

Reading Paul Anew: Antisemitism and the church

Christian leaders, including Martin Luther, have used St. Paul's letters to denigrate Jewish people for centuries. But did Paul really teach that Christians have replaced Jews as God's favored people? Or is there another way to read the apostle's message in a more inclusive way? What exactly did he mean?

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.

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

First Monthly Meeting for Youth Mission Trip is December 3rd

The first monthly meeting for the 2024 Youth Mission Trip will be Sunday, December 3rd at noon in Fellowship Hall. All youth planning on going on the trip should plan to attend.

We're Giving FIVE Family Farms through ELCA Good Gifts this Advent and Christmas. Help a family break the cycle of hunger and poverty – for good. A cow, a couple of goats, a dozen chickens, two pigs, farming tools, seeds and agricultural training can create a world of opportunity for a family living in poverty. With eggs, milk and meat to eat and sell, and tools and training to increase the harvest this gift can make all the difference. **How can you give toward this gift?** Give online at St. Matthew's website giving page: <https://www.stmattslutheran.org/give> or you can give a check made out to St. Matthew's marked ELCA Family Farms. Each farm costs \$715; we have a goal of FIVE farms!

Need to give a gift to someone who already has everything they need? Give the gift of a donation toward Family Farms in their honor, and pick up a card on Sunday morning that you can use to notify them of your gift.

See the display in the Upper Commons.

Help us give 5 ELCA Family Farms



St. Matthew's
Advent & Christmas
Offering

Thank you, Thank you for your gifts of food during the food collection in November. A record amount of food was taken to Cross Lutheran Church and Tosa Cares Food Pantries. Thanks to Tom Wilke and Kristin and Jayden Hanson for their work in transporting the food this week.

Healing Prayer Service will be offered next Sunday, December 10 after the 8:30 service.



December Saints Gathering is a Special Holiday Concert!

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

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

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

And the Glory of the Lord

Lutheran A Cappella Choir Concert This Afternoon

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

Sunday, Dec. 3rd at 3:00 pm, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 6705 Northway, Greendale

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

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!!

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.

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>

When: Monday, December 4th at 4pm

Where: Wauwatosa Village at the Harwood Avenue railway crossing



Three Opportunities for Service in the December

Tosa Cares Service Opportunity:

Tosa Cares is looking for volunteers to help sort and shelve donations following the Thanksgiving food collection and the Holiday Train event. Sorting and shelving will take place from 3:30 to 5:00pm on December 5th, 6th and 7th at Tosa Cares. It is possible that the work may be completed during the first two sessions, if that happens, The December 7th session may be shortened or canceled. Sign-up to participate using the following link. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4CA4AA23A75-46275241-tosa> Questions may be directed to Kristin Hanson at krumbiegelhanson@gmail.com.

Serving Opportunity! Community Warehouse-Partners in Hope

Next Meal & Fellowship Date is Wednesday, December 20th from 5:30-8:00

Community Warehouse is a faith-based organization passionately dedicated to helping willing men and women, and their families impacted by incarceration overcome social, economic, and criminal justice system barriers. Join us for the community meal and fellowship time. Contact Conor Williams; conorw1@me.com.

Allies for Teens in Foster Care will be looking for Christmas gift wrappers from 1-3:00pm on December 10th at St. Matthew's church, in Fellowship Hall. High school and above students welcome to attend without parents. Adults wanted and welcome. Please RSVP by December 8th to Allison Byrne at abyrne@alliesforteens.org



Mt. Meru Premium Coffee has many choices for great Christmas gifts.

- Regular and decaf, grind or bean, 12 oz., \$12.00.
- Christmas Traditions, bean or drip, 12 oz., \$18.00.
- Christmas Sampler, 6 pack, \$20.00.
- Christmas Sampler, 4 pack, \$15.00.
- Flavored coffees, four choices, regular or decaf, 10 oz., \$12.00.
- Single serve, regular or decaf, 12 count box, \$9.00.
- Peaberry blend, drip or bean, 12 oz., \$18.00.
- Four pound packages, regular or decaf, drip, perk, or bean, \$52.00.

Some coffees are in stock and others need to be ordered. Stop by the coffee cart on Sunday for more information. ***Mt. Meru Coffee: Justice Never Tasted so Good!***

Plan Now to Help at Church during the Christmas Services: The sign-up for worship assistants is now available at the Welcome Center for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, as well as Sunday, December 31, when we'll have one service at 10:00 am. Give of yourself during one of the most important holy events in the church year. Please consider signing up today!

Upcoming Events at St. Matthew's

Sunday, December 10

3rd 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 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

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) Tyler Goeckermann, Isabella Rizzo. (11:00) Abigail Hunter, *open*.

Coffee Hosts: Susan Bisswurm, Laura Hyland.

Communion Preparers: (8:30) Patrick Gardner, Margaret Hyland. (11:00) Robin Bloczynski, Julie Schmidt.

Communion Assistants: (8:30) Leslie Gardner, Caroline & Maggie Wanezek. (11:00) Kristin Hanson, Ginger Wooster.

Greeters: (8:30) Marian Benz, Tyler Goeckermann, Jenny Acompanado. (11:00) Joyce Biehn, Mike & Donna Gifford.

Lay Readers: (8:30) Jan Johnson, Carl Johnson, Annette Olson. (11:00) Heide Hughes, Stephanie Jurss, Robin Schrank.

Ushers: (8:30) Quinn Assenheimer, Joe Chiesa, Jack Clark, Kevin Meissner, Jim Bowen, Bret Rockenbach (*captain*) (11:00) Mark Bjorgo, John Dobbe.

Lay Assistant: (8:30) Marion Heinz.

Welcome Center Host: (8:30) Diann Lebow.

Library Assistant: Jill Wickham.

Stephen Minister: *Open*.

Worship Technology: (8:30) Michael Knutson, Noah Weileder, Ed Bross. (9:45) Dave McCullough. (11:00) Stephen Skaife, 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.