

**Welcome to Worship at St. Matthew's**  
Sunday, December 12, 2021

**A blessed Advent to you!** Welcome to worship on this second Sunday of Advent! We gather to anticipate the joy of God's coming—at Bethlehem, in our hearts and at the end of days.



*Third Sunday  
of Advent*

**We are pleased to share with you today “Nativity Scenes,”** a new way to offer the beauty of the Christmas Story with drama and music and participation from our young people. Please see the list of those involved on the back of the order of service. We are thankful for this addition to our worship offerings during Advent, even within the boundaries for safe gathering in groups.

**Adult Education presentation today** in the Upper Room, 10:00-10:45 a.m.: Lutheran Social Services, **Sarah Halstead**, will present “The ABC’s of Refugee Resettlement.” You’ll learn how the program works, how you can help, and the latest information about the evolving situation of refugees from Afghanistan.

*A Note from the Social Ministry Committee:*

**Your Special Offerings for Advent & Christmas have an important purpose -- mark your donations accordingly** Advent/Christmas Special Giving will go to help refugees especially mamas & babies and pregnant women. Social ministry made this decision after reflecting on the fact Mary was far from home when she gave birth to baby Jesus and Matthew’s gospel tells us the family then fled to Egypt to escape King Herod’s jealous violence. We felt called to help the modern day women and babies who are in need, far from home, and escaping violence.

*Have you seen the second one? Join us for the Advent Season of Light with weekly video worship services*

*St. Matthew’s offers weekly an On-Line Worship Service for this Advent season* Led by pastors and staff these 20 minute reflective services help you progress through the Advent season as we reflect deeper into the meaning of our Advent Candle themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. The services are released on the Wednesdays of Advent, Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22. These video links will be sent out by email, but you can find them on our Youtube page: [youtube.com/StMattsTosa](https://www.youtube.com/StMattsTosa) Look at the “Worship Services” playlist to find them by date.

**There will be a Healing Service** next Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, after the 8:30 service. All those desiring special healing prayer for themselves or others are invited to attend.

## Announcement Insert for 12-12-21

### **It's Advent!** Ideas for Celebrating this Season of Waiting with Children

Advent is more than a countdown to Christmas – it's a season of hopeful and joyful waiting! For ideas and activities to celebrate this contemplative and expectant time with kids (of any age) and families, click on this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/FamAdvent>

For a beautiful retelling of the Christmas story, here's a link to a video made last year with the preschool teachers reading a book called *Song of the Stars*:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1\\_HTknu5RQa5GHB-E20kvaRES4xhOFGzq/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_HTknu5RQa5GHB-E20kvaRES4xhOFGzq/view?usp=sharing)

Wishing you an Advent filled with hope, peace, joy, and love!



**Next Week's Adult Education (Dec. 19):** A Social Ministry Forum on "Opioid Addiction." It's been in the news and in families of every demographic. We will discuss some of the statistics and realities of addiction but mostly we will talk about how people of faith can respond in love. *Upper Room, 9:45-10:45 a.m.*

**Saints Older Adults Holiday Gathering** will be held on Wednesday, December 15 beginning at 11:30 a.m. Members of the Barcel Suzuki String Academy will perform, sharing some festive music. Lasagna from Bunzel's will be served for lunch. Please sign up in advance in the church office or in the Upper commons. Having a count for lunch is desirable. Come join the fun! Questions can be directed to Julia Murphy.



### **City Tins Orders Due December 12<sup>th</sup>!**

There's still time to order City Tins to receive them before Christmas. Orders need to be placed by December 12<sup>th</sup> by using the order form at the Welcome Center. You can also order by contacting Gretchen Haugse at [ghaugse@me.com](mailto:ghaugse@me.com) or by calling the office. Thanks for supporting this fundraiser for the Youth Mission Trip!

**The Lutheran A Cappella Choir of Milwaukee presents "The Work of Christmas,"** a concert on keeping the spirit of Christmas alive. Their concert is Sunday, December 12 at 3:00pm at **Mount Carmel Lutheran Church**, 8424 W. Center St., Milwaukee. Selections include works by John Rutter, Dan Forrest and Gustav Holst's 'Christmas Day.' Come hear this talented choir with a new director, Thomas Ajack. Tickets are available at the door, \$15 general admission and \$12 seniors and students. Masks required for attendance.

**Offering Envelopes for 2022** are now available in the Library Commons. If you use the Simply giving electronic contribution method, you will not be assigned envelopes. If you don't see a box of envelopes and you'd like one, there is a place on the envelope table to sign up to receive a box. Questions can be directed to Al Van Lith in the church office.

**Progress toward a New Lead Pastor:** The Synod Staff is providing names of potential candidates, and interviews have begun. Please keep the Call Committee in your prayers as their work moves into a confidential period for interviews and discussion. *Members of the Call Committee: Nancy Bowen, Andrew Cherney, Diane DuBois, Brian Due, Natalie Ford Sajdak, Michael Wolaver.*

**Christmas Trees needed:** Reformation Lutheran Church is looking for donations of artificial Christmas trees and lights, any size, for the neighbors' apartments and homes. They can be dropped off at Reformation's office, 3806 W. Lisbon Avenue, which is open Monday through Thursday, 9am - 3pm, Saturdays noon to 4pm.

### **Upcoming Dates to Know:**

Sunday, Dec. 19: Fourth Sunday of Advent, 8:30 & 11:00 worship

### **Christmas 2021 at St. Matthew's:**

#### **Friday, December 24:**

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Traditional Service

*(Christmas message: Pr. Sheila Rawn)*

10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Traditional Service

*(Christmas message: Pr. Ann Williams)*



#### **Saturday, December 25:**

10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service *(Christmas message: Pr. Karen Natterstad)*

#### **Sunday, December 26:**

One Service at 10:00 am *(Message: Pr. Karen Natterstad)*

### **Looking Ahead to Next Year!**

**January 2 Adult Education With DAN BICE:** "Resolution: I will read a book of the Bible this year." Why is it that so many people who profess to believe the Bible never read it? The scriptures are full of compelling, weird, infuriating and mystifying material. We will help you decide which book to pick, give you some important background information, and help you come up with a plan to keep this resolution. Beginning at 11:00 a.m., *At a later time, after the 10:00 worship service.*

**Beginning January 5<sup>th</sup>: Women's Book Discussion,** Three Wednesday nights from 7-8 p.m. "Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion." Read chapters 1-3 for January 5<sup>th</sup>. Contact Sue Swing with questions.

## 2021 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, 2021.

We have made available different ways to help you fulfill your 2021 pledges.

- **St Matthew's Website:**

If you go to [www.stmattslutheran.org](http://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, 2021 or earlier.

- **Drop off a check in the church office:**

Drop off your check in the church office by 4 PM on December 31, 2021, or earlier.

Following any one of these options will allow your 2021 contribution to St. Matthew's to appear on your 2021 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](mailto:al@stmattslutheran.org).

## Job opening at St. Matthew's:

**Church Administrator:** (*newly created position*) Full-time, salary commensurate with experience. Responsible for facilities management, human resources, financial, stewardship and overall operations of the church and its staff. Administrator must pay strong attention to details and manage simultaneous projects. Minimum requirements: Bachelor's degree in business or related field, or equivalent experience is preferred, and five or more years in program management and or leadership experience, preferably in non-profit or church environments. Resumés should be submitted to Pastor Karen Natterstad at [prkaren@gmail.com](mailto:prkaren@gmail.com) by January 1, 2022. Questions or requests for the position description may be directed to Pastor Karen at 414.774.0441.

Pastoral Staff: Karen Natterstad, Interim Lead; Ann Williams, Associate Pastor; and Sheila Rawn, Interim Associate Pastor.

Volunteer Ministries/Small Groups/Adult Education: Sue Swing

Youth Ministries & Children's Education: Gretchen Haugse

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, Jill Due, Sonja Mohr