

**Welcome to Worship at St. Matthew's**  
Sunday, December 5, 2021



*Second Sunday  
of Advent*

**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. **Thanks to the Worship & Music Committee group and volunteers**

**Join us for Holy Communion the 11:00 service:** All are invited to the Table of our Lord Jesus Christ to receive the real presence of Christ in bread and wine. Children are welcome to receive the sacrament with parental support. The ushers will invite you forward to receive communion at the Chancel in front of the church. Please let an usher know if you desire to have the communion elements brought to you in your seat, if coming forward might be difficult for you.

**Child for Baptism:** (8:30) **Liam Brooks Bankert**, child of Jaclyn & Joshua Bankert, Wauwatosa, who was born August 8, 2021. Sponsors are Nicolette Amans and Parker Bankert.

**Adult Education presentation today** in the Upper Room, 9:45-10:45 a.m.: **"Questions"** (Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>) which follows up on Pastor Sheila's sermon where she invited the congregation to ask questions about faith, God, the Bible, etc. This will be a chance for you to bring your questions, along with the ones submitted before, to be discussed by Pastor Sheila and those present.

**New: Join us for the Advent Season of Light with weekly video worship services**  
*St. Matthew's is offering an On-Line Worship Service for this Advent season*  
Led by pastors and staff this 20 minute reflective service will 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 will be 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)

*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.

## *Announcement Insert for 12-5-21*

**Giving Tree items due Wednesday, December 8:** Gifts will be shared with Cross, Reformation, ERAS and Allies for Teens in Foster Care. Take a tag and bring the unwrapped gift to church with the tag attached by **December 8<sup>th</sup>**. Attaching the tag helps us to track where the gifts need to go. Gift cards should be brought to the church office. Here's an online link to the Giving Tree. Shop online, have the gift delivered to church, and you're all done! Thank you for your generosity! Online Giving Tree: <https://signup.com/go/oJXLFaD>  
**Please note the deadline of Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.**



**New! Nativity Scenes, December 12, 8:30 and 11:00:** In the style of our traditional "Passion Scenes," we look forward sharing in worship on December 12<sup>th</sup>, at the 8:30 and 11:00 services, a special service of "Nativity Scenes." Interspersed within the worship service we will be shown tableaus, or scenes, of the Nativity Story. *Come, join in the celebration of the true meaning of the Christmas Season; sharing the love that God has first shared with us.*

### **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/1HTknu5RQa5GHB-E20kvaRES4xhOFGzq/view?usp=sharing>

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



**The Lutheran A Cappella Choir of Milwaukee presents "The Work of Christmas,"** a concert on keeping the spirit of Christmas alive; with two performances. The first is on Friday, December 10 at 7:30pm at **St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Greendale**, and the second on 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.

**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.



**It's City Tins Time!** Once again, and in time for the holidays, St. Matthew's youth are selling City Tins to support the Youth Mission Trip. You can order these tins filled with coupons for \$10 off a dine-in order and \$5 off a takeout order at local restaurants. There are five tins to choose from: Milwaukee, DiversiTIn-MKE, Cedarburg, Fox Cities, Lake Country, Madison, and Twin Cities. Each tin is \$30, and a portion of each sale goes to the mission trip. For more details on how the tins work, including a list of restaurants, go to this link: <https://tinyurl.com/zn2ytru4> You can order a tin at the display in the Commons or by contacting Gretchen Haugse at [ghaugse@me.com](mailto:ghaugse@me.com). Tins will be delivered before Christmas.

**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 working with our call committee to provide names of potential candidates. While we are hopeful that we can call a new pastor soon, this will take some time, in order to find the right candidate, and to schedule the interviews and conversations. Please keep the Call Committee in your prayers as their work moves into a confidential period for interviews.

*Members of the Call Committee: Nancy Bowen, Andrew Cherney, Diane DuBois, Brian Due, Natalie Ford Sajdak, Michael Wolaver.*

#### **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.

**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.

### **Sunday Morning Volunteers Needed - Great Opportunities for Families to Serve Together!**

- **Communion Preparers** - Prepare communion and clean up after working in teams of 3. This is a great way to help behind the scenes and to have some fun conversation with other volunteers!
- **Coffee Hosts** - Serve refreshments with others during our fellowship time in between the 8:30 and 11:00 services. A key role in our Welcome ministry!
- **Ushers** - Our Ushers welcome people to worship and collect the offering. You don't need to miss a moment of church to serve on an Usher Team.

If you are interested in becoming a Sunday morning volunteer you can join in anytime. Please contact Al Van Lith; [al@stmattslutheran.org](mailto:al@stmattslutheran.org) for more info.

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

Sunday, Dec. 5: Second Sunday of Advent, 8:30 & 11:00 worship

Sunday, Dec. 12: Third Sunday of Advent "Nativity Scenes" 8:30 & 11:00

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)*

### **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) Not vaccinated? **Please strongly consider taking one of the 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](https://bit.ly/StMattsLive)** (at the time of the services)