

St. Matthew's  
**Weekly** *Bulletin Update*

**Welcome to Worship at St. Matthew's  
December 16, 2018**



Third Sunday of Advent

**Welcome to worship!** In a world — and a church — that's always changing and reforming, we trust in the constant and sure love of God.

**Welcome today to our presentation** of "The Nativity." We celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons with you today. For over 40 years, "The Nativity," which was presented in 1974, has shared the Christmas message of love coming into the world. Over these many years, casts of hundreds of Angels, Shepherds, Villagers, Kings, Soldiers and choir members have portrayed the Christmas Story to thousands of people. The pageant has undergone changes over the years as we adapted to a new space, re-wrote or added parts here and there, and rotated music selections. But what remains unchanged is the story of God's all-embracing love coming to us in a tiny baby born in a lowly stable — God's entrance into the world that changes us forever.

**Season of Advent:** We look forward to a meaningful Advent season as we prepare our hearts for Christmas. Check the display table at the entrance of the worship space for Advent devotional materials to grow in faith during this season. Our last Advent services will be next week, December 23 at 7:30, 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

**A poinsettia** is given by Joe & Judy Sayrs in honor of their 53rd wedding anniversary.

**A poinsettia** is given by The Peter Langenstroer Family in honor of their godchild's birthday.

**A generous donation has been made to the St. Matthew's Library** by Mark & Elaine Heinrich from Tennessee in memory of Don Heinrich and in honor of Joyce Heinrich.

**Why are some people wearing nametags?** We wear nametags on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month in order for us to know more people on Sunday mornings.

**Hunger Baskets to be passed today:** When the offering plates are passed later in the service, it is followed by a basket for a special collection. This second collection will be directed toward local and world hunger. Thank you for your faith-filled response to this opportunity.

# St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

## Bulletin Announcements - December 16, 2018



December

**Looking for a way to share this Advent?** There are copies of a "Reverse Advent Calendar" available near the Advent Devotional table. There is a suggested list of non-perishables you and your family can collect throughout Advent to share with our partners! Consider purchasing some of these items amidst the consumer spending we share in this month! — Pastor Matt

### **A Special Note of THANKS!**

Thanks to all who gave generously to support this year's giving tree and Undie Sunday drives. We received an amazing outpouring of support and we able to donate over 1200 items for the Guest House and Benedict Center, and more than 400 gifts for families and individuals in need this Christmas season. Thanks for all your help and shopping! God's peace to you all in this Christmas season.

***St. Matthew's Social Ministry Team***



### **A Night of Reflection and Prayer: Advent Hymns and Hopeful Waiting**

At 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 19th, join Pastor Matt and his wife, Pastor Delaney Schlake-Kruse for a brief time of prayer, music, and reflection on the beauty and wonder and spaciousness of the hymns of Advent. Since we don't get to sing many of these hymns because there are only 4 weeks to the season, come and find spiritual renewal and release and maybe even learn a new song or two. No musical experience necessary. Warm drinks will be provided.

## **Week of Dec. 17 - 23**

### **Monday:**

6:30, Men's Monday Bible Study  
10:15, Staff Meeting  
11:00, Program Staff Meeting  
1:00, Fallen Angels Rehearsal  
6:00, Property Committee Meeting  
7:00, Synod El Salvador Meeting

### **Tuesday:**

9:30, The EmBELLishments  
11:30, Civic Music Meeting  
2:00, Luther Manor Service  
7:00, Righteous Ringers  
7:00, LAC Auditions

### **Wednesday:**

9:00, A CaBELLa Ringers  
10:00, Bible Study  
11:30, Saints Christmas Gathering  
6:00, New Generation Choir  
7:00, 7th/8th gr. Conf. Fellowship Night  
7:00, New Creation Choir

### **Thursday:**

9:00, Retired Pastors in Ministry  
11:45, Women of Faith  
4:00, Praise Kids!  
6:15, Bells Angels  
7:30, Senior Choir Rehearsal

### **Saturday:**

9:30, Christmas Orchestra Rehearsal

## **Adult Education Today,**

**9:45 - 10:45 a.m.**

### **December 16 and 23:**

#### **Exploring the Meaning of the Christmas Story through Performance!**

#### **Pastor Matt Schlake-Kruse**

Did you feel like you missed out on playing Mary, Joseph, or were always stuck playing a sheep in Christmas pageants? As we celebrate the pageant today, join us in the upper room as we explore the meaning of Luke's and Matthew's nativity stories through performance. What happens with different voices playing the roles? What nuance do we gain when we see actors play out this text. No acting experience necessary. You can participate as much or as little as you desire!

### **January 13 & January 20**

#### **Who's In and Who's Out: Inclusion and Exclusion in the Bible**

#### **Led by Dan Bice**

The Bible is full of stories about groups opening their doors to some people and closing them on others. We will look at the ins and outs of these various passages, such as Jesus' radical attempts to define his movement and the Israelites' response to outsiders. We will even take up God's calls for ethnic genocide (herem) in various situations and how we should respond.

**Prayer Cards are collected each Sunday during the Hymn of the Day.** You are welcome to fill out a prayer card for any prayer needs that you are aware of. Children are also welcome to participate in this. Please print as clearly as possible for the pastors to be able to read and interpret the request.

**Needed: People to help take down and put away the beautiful Christmas Decorations** adorning our Upper Commons and Sanctuary; this is planned for Sunday, Dec. 30 after the 11 a.m. service. Sign up ahead if you know you can come.

**During Cold and Flu season**, feel free to make use of the hand sanitizer stations around church to kill any germs you may come in contact with here.

**Annual SAINTS  
Christmas Potluck**

**(Our Older Adult Ministries Group)**

**“Down Home Christmas”**

**Wednesday December 19**

This year’s SAINTS Christmas gathering will find our own fun right at St. Matthew’s. We will enjoy a card game, a seasonal story from our resident story teller (thanks Annette!), and a fun sing along with Pr. Matt and John Paradowski who will be leading us in classic holiday songs that we do NOT sing in church. “Silver Bells” anyone? How about “Chestnuts roasting on an open fire...”? This event will surely put us all in the holiday spirit! Lunch will feature lasagna from Bunzels along with potluck salads and dessert. Please sign up to bring salad (fruit, vege, jello) OR dessert. All are welcome to attend, with or without a dish for potluck. Sign up at the Welcome Center in the Upper Commons.

The SAINTS, short for Seniors Active In New Testament Service, is open to all adults. The group typically meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m.

Contact Julia Murphy through the church office or email [julia@stmattslutheran.org](mailto:julia@stmattslutheran.org) if you have any questions or concerns.

**Christmas Musicians invited**

We are looking for instrumentalists to enhance our Christmas Celebration this year at the 7:00 and 10:00 services. 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.

Due to the many School Christmas Concerts during the week the **one and only Rehearsal will be held on Saturday, December 22 at 9:30 am.**

Please let me know if you are able to play for Christmas. Music can be picked up from John Paradowski in December.

**If you ordered a City Tin through the church office or online, you can now pick it/them up in the Church office!** If you haven’t yet paid for your City Tin, you can take care of that when you pick it up. Thanks for all your support!

**St. Matt’s First Fridays Book Club:** The St. Matthew’s book group usually meets on the first Friday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. Here are the next few books for the year:

Jan. 4: [The Girl with Seven Names](#) by Hyeonseo Lee and David John (320 pgs)

Feb. 1: [Jewelweed: A Novel](#) by David Rhodes (449 pages)

**Interested in large-print Sunday bulletins?**

Do you have vision problems, or is someone you know dealing with that challenge? We create a large print bulletin each week for the Order of Service - the part of the bulletin that lists the parts of the worship service. If this sounds like something you or someone you know would use, call or email the church office to state your interest and which service you generally attend.

### **Middle School Art Project Shines in Center Staircase**

- “A star shall come out of David.” “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.”

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”

Scripture resounds with images of light when prophesying or proclaiming the coming of Christ, the Messiah, the light of the world. And in this season of Advent, light is a central image.

A visual representation of that light shining in a dark world is hanging in the center staircase. The bright starburst of light, inspired by the work of artist Dale Chihuly, was constructed from individual pieces made by middle school classes and high school forum students using markers and discarded plastic packaging. The pieces were baked to enhance the color and give them shape, and they were then assembled into the star as a reminder throughout our observance of Advent and celebration of Christmas that God’s gift of love brings light into darkness.

### **Used medications being collected for Cross Clinic**

St. Matthew’s member Tom Wilke is willing to collect medications you no longer need and take them to Cross’s Bread of Healing Clinic and use them for patients who need them. To donate used medications, cross out the name of the patient in black marker, but leave the medicines in the pharmacy bottle they were dispensed with. Are you cleaning out a parent’s or other relative’s home and have a large number of old prescriptions to discard? Bring them to the church office. Medications not usable will be responsibly discarded.

### **Sunday Morning Volunteers**

St. Matthew’s uses Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP) an on-line scheduling program to schedule our Sunday morning volunteers.



Volunteers choose the area they would like to serve in, service time preference and frequency of service. Most volunteers find MSP very easy to use and appreciate great features of the scheduling program:

**All Sunday Morning Volunteers - Please take a moment to update your profile with Sundays you cannot serve for the upcoming schedule which will run from January - April.** If you need help with this please contact Sue Swing; [sueswing@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sueswing@sbcglobal.net) or 414-774-0441.

**A note about your valuable items:** A reminder to our members and guests that each week as you come to church, any valuable items should be kept with you and not left in coat pockets or in an unlocked space.

**Attention Men! We are planning a Men’s Retreat for Spring 2019.** The theme of the retreat will be “Seeing Ourselves As God Sees Us,” living into the truth of who God made us to be. We are looking for a few good men to help with preparations, guidance, organization and participation. If you are interested in being part of the planning for this event, please sign up at the Welcome Center or in the Events Sign-Up Panel. Conor Williams in helping to lead this project along with Pastor Chris.

# STEPHEN MINISTRY

A Stephen Minister is:

- A trained lay volunteer
- A good listener
- Trained in confidentiality
- Supervised for quality care
- Ready to offer God's love through a caring relationship

What Does a Stephen Minister Do?

- Listens
- Encourages
- Keeps confidence
- Prays
- Supports
- Walks beside a hurting person

How to learn more?

- Talk with a Pastor
- Visit the Stephen Ministry Center in the commons
- Write your interest on a blue prayer card and place it in the offering basket

***We don't know your need unless you let us know!***

*As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34:b*



Christ Caring • For People • Through People

**Caregivers Group meets 2nd and 4th Monday afternoons - *Sharing joys and challenges*** The caregivers group will meet on the following dates at 1 p.m. in the Upper Room. The group is facilitated by Sharon Thiel, and you are welcome to attend. January 14

**As Christmas and New Year's approach,** many people are hurting due to the loss of a loved one, a cancer diagnosis, divorce, job loss, or some other significant life challenge. These experiences can make an ordinarily joyous season difficult, lonely, and perhaps even painful.

During the holidays, any difficult feelings you're dealing with can be amplified. You may be thinking "What is there to be happy about this year? I'm feeling miserable and holidays are making it worse..."

When you know someone is struggling during the holidays, here are some simple ways you can make a big difference:

- **Offer to help in specific ways.** Try to anticipate needs and ways you can help. For example, "Can I help put out the Christmas lights?" Remember, however, to follow the person's lead and not just impose your help.
- **Help people pace themselves.** The holidays are busy, and those who are hurting may need help or permission to slow down or do less than they ordinarily would. Let people know it's okay to conserve energy, take breaks, and pick which activities and traditions to take part in.
- **Ask people how they're really doing.** During the busyness of the holidays, it can be easy to just interact with people on a surface level. Finding a good time to ask hurting people how they're really doing—and then listening—is a powerful way to care.
- **Validate feelings.** When people do open up and share, listen and then show that you believe them and accept their feelings. Letting people know it's okay to feel whatever they're feeling can provide a lot of comfort.

By relating in these ways, you can help hurting people find comfort and hope in a difficult time.

**The Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee NEEDS YOU** to host an Amazing Faiths Dinner Dialogue. We are scheduling dinners for January-March 2019. If you have participated in an Amazing Faiths Dinner dialogue, you are invited to “pay it forward” and host one of your own! Amazing Faiths is possible because of the generosity of our volunteer hosts and moderators. Hosts provide a space and light vegetarian meal for 8-12 people. If you don't like to cook or don't have enough space, consider co-hosting with a friend. Most dinners this season will generally take place on Sunday in the late afternoon, with one dinner on Tuesday evening. The following are the dates and times for proposed dinners:  
Sunday, Jan. 27, 4-7 p.m.  
Sunday, Feb. 24, 4-7 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 26, 6-9 p.m.

If you are interested in hosting, contact Rhonda at rhondah@interfaithconference.org. Include a list of dates that will work for you, in order of preference, and then as a host, list the maximum number you can host, your street address, contact information. Please try to respond by Friday, December 21, 2018. Thank you!

**Year-End S-T-R-E-T-C-H gift will help St. Matthew's and Gr. Milwaukee Synod**  
Members of St. Matthew's recently received a mailing asking for a year-end “Stretch” gift. Thank you for your generous giving all year long. Now please consider again how God has blessed your lives and gives you the opportunity to help St. Matthew's end its fiscal strong, receiving its budgeted income needed, and then beyond the budget, support The Greater Milwaukee Synod and all its work, knowing that it will be matched twice. These gifts to the Synod will be worth \$3 for every dollar you give. Thank you, people of St. Matthew's. Your giving makes a huge difference in many lives.

### **Planning to Make a Year-End Contribution?**

There are three ways to have your year end contribution to St. Matthew's count toward the 2018 tax year.

- 1) Bring your offering to the church office in person on, **Monday, December 31, 2018 by 4:30 p.m.**
- 2) Place your offering in the plate at any of the services on or before **Sunday, December 30, 2018.**
- 3) Mail in a check dated **12/31/18** or earlier, however, the envelope must bear a postmark of 12/31/18 or earlier.

As always, feel free to contact Al in the church office at 414-774-0441 or al@stmattslutheran.org with any questions.

### **2019 Contribution Envelopes are now available for pick-up - Library Commons**

2019 Contributions are now available for pick-up in the Library Commons. We encourage using contribution envelopes for your church donations. ***Please note that if you participate in the Simply Giving automatic withdrawal giving program, you will not be assigned offering envelopes.***

If you have any questions about this, please contact Al in the church office, 414-774-0441 or al@stmattslutheran.org.

## The St. Matthew's Meal Outreach Ministry

### Memorial Service to be held December 27

A memorial services will be held on Thursday, December 27, 2018 for the family and friends of **Gwen Niewoehner**. The service begins at 10 a.m. There is no time of visitation prior to the service. There will be an opportunity for gathering in the Upper Commons for refreshments after the service. Pastor Chris Manke will officiate at the service. Gwen Niewoehner died on October 13, 2019.

### Eat at Jose's Blue Sombrero & Support the Youth Mission Trip to Houston! Certificates Available in Church Office

Planning to eat at Jose's Blue Sombrero in the village? Then stop in the office to buy some gift certificates to pay for your meal. The certificates cost \$5 a piece and are worth \$5 toward the food that you purchase. St. Matthew's earns \$1 for every certificate, which supports the youth mission trips. Certificates are available in the office all week and on Sunday mornings during the education hour. Thanks for your support!

### Final Count from Undy Sunday:

678 Women's undergarments  
611 Men's underwear

This is the largest amount we've ever collected! Thank you to everyone for your support and generosity! These items were delivered to The Guest House and the Benedict Center this week.

***Just One More:*** Volunteers assemble packaged meals to be picked up by area churches and programs **each weekday morning at 9:00 a.m.** Food packing takes place at 6442 River Parkway, Wauwatosa. Call the JOMM office at 414-292-5112; OR go online to the JOMM website: [jomministry.org](http://jomministry.org) and click on "volunteer" - you can sign up right there!

***Guest House:*** Thanks to Bill & Beth Brown generously devoting their time to serve dinner on December 9. Two to three volunteers are needed each month to prepare and serve a dinner for 85 men at the Guest House, a homeless shelter in Milwaukee. Please contact Carl Johnson by phone or text message at 414-771-1023, or by email [johnsoncr@cdmsmith.com](mailto:johnsoncr@cdmsmith.com) to sign-up. *Thanks to everyone who has volunteered recently, the next opening for volunteers are on April 14 and May 12, 2019.*

***Repairers of the Breach:*** We supply 100 bag lunches for the homeless twice a month. We pack the lunches at church on the **2nd and 4th Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m.** Volunteers are needed to provide beverages, fruit, chips and sweets and/or pack the lunches. Contact Tom Geib (414-321-3391).

***Serenity Inn:*** Volunteers prepare and serve 6-8 residents the second Sunday of each month. Volunteers carpool meeting at church at 5:15 returning at 7:15. **Coordinator:** Rachel Vetter; [rvcvetter1986@gmail.com](mailto:rvcvetter1986@gmail.com). Next Meal: Jan. 13

***Cross Lutheran Lunch Program*** We serve 300-400 people on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Cross Lutheran Church, 1821 N. 16th Street. We carpool from St. Matthew's at 10:15 a.m. and serve beginning at about 11:00 and returning to St. Matt's at about 1:00. **Next Meal: Wednesday, January 23, 2019.** Pick up a card in worship on the Sunday prior to the meal to donate food.

**Chocolate and Coffee for Sale:**

LWR Fair Trade Chocolate available at St. Matthew's: "Divine Chocolate"  
- Chocolate made with Fair Trade certified Cocoa beans grown by a farmer owned cooperative in Ghana, is available for purchase **every Sunday** at the Mt. Meru Coffee/LWR Chocolate Project cart, in several delicious flavors. **Large Bars are \$3.50 each and small bars are \$1.50 each.**

**Mount Meru Coffee wants you to have a PEABERRY CHRISTMAS!**

A special treat for you, your family and your friends. Only 5% of coffee beans picked are peaberry. These are single beans that have grown within the coffee "cherry" where two beans normally grow. These single coffee beans offer a richer coffee taste while being less acidic than standard coffee. It has the wonderful flavor of Mt. Meru Premium Coffee but in a richer form!

The coffee is \$15 for a 12oz bag and will be available at the coffee cart in the Upper Commons this Sunday! Only available in regular, drip or bean (but not decaf).

**Mt. Meru Coffee - Mmmmm...**

Delicious Mt. Meru coffee is available for sale from the cart in the Upper Commons. This product which is purchased at a fair price from the local farmers who live in the area of Tanzania where we have a partnership relationship. Stop by the display in the Commons and see! K-cups for single cup coffee brewing (like Keurigs) are also available.

**Nativity Sets and Christmas Items on Sale through December 16th**

*All proceeds benefit El Salvador and Tanzanian Partnerships*

Christmas items from the Third World Store at Capitol Drive Lutheran continue to be on display in the library commons. They include nativity sets from around the world as well as ornaments, table linens, and candle holders. All reasonable offers will be accepted, and all proceeds will support our global partnerships. The last Sunday to shop is December 16th.

**All are welcome at monthly healing services**

Healing services are offered monthly at St. Matthew's at a variety of times to give all the opportunity to come forward for healing prayer for themselves or others. You can share your concern with the pastor/leader at the altar, and then he/she along with the healing ministries will lay on hands and give a special prayer for your concern.

**Sun. Jan. 6, during Education Hour at 9:45 a.m.**

**Gifts of Stock are Welcome**

Gifts of stock are always welcome at St. Matthew's. Our brokerage account is with Robert W. Baird here in the Milwaukee area. The contact person is Curt Brewer, 262-523-5644. He can arrange to have your gift transferred directly from your account to St. Matthew's brokerage account. Consult with your tax advisor to see if this has significant advantages for you. As always, feel free to contact Al in the church office with questions.

# Youth Ministry

## Do We Have Sunday School This Week?

With the holiday season upon us, this may be a question in your house.

Here's the answer: Sunday School will NOT meet on December 23rd and December 30th. We will start up again on Sunday, January 6th. There will be a big group on that day for 1st – 5th graders.

## Dinner on Wednesdays for Confirmation Kids

Did you know that your 7th – 9th grader can get dinner on Big Group Wednesdays before confirmation? Dinner is served from 5:30 – 6:20 in the youth room and includes pizza, make-your-own subs, or tacos, on a rotating basis. All meals include fruit and vegetable sides and desserts for a cost of \$5. It's a great way to avoid the meal-time rush on Wednesday nights, and it's a good chance for your child to get to know other St. Matthew's youth. If you have any questions, talk to Gretchen Haugse.

Remaining dates are  
January 2 & 23

**Next Monthly Meeting for Youth Mission Trip is January 6th** The next monthly meeting for the 2019 Youth Mission Trip to Houston will be Sunday, January 6th at 12:15 in Fellowship Hall. All youth who are going on the trip should plan to attend. Please bring \$5 for lunch.

**Looking for some youth to help you with babysitting, yard work, etc.?** Look for our Youth Services Directory, where youth tell us which jobs they'd like to take on, and you contact them by phone or email and determine the rate of payment. You can find the updated Youth Services Directory, now in Spreadsheet form, at the Welcome Center and across from the church office.

**Attention 9th Graders who were confirmed in November:** Your class photo is available for pick-up in the Youth Room.

**7th & 8th Grade Confirmation continues each week** Class meets on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30 p.m. The upcoming schedule looks like this:

Dec. 19	Fellowship Night
Dec. 26	No Class
Jan. 2	Big Group

**Come be a part of KFC/DOC for fun at church with your friends!**

All children in grades 1-5 are welcome to be a part of Kids for Christ (grades 1-3) and Disciples of Christ (grades 4-5), along with friends. At these meetings, we usually eat pizza (bring \$5), play games and talk, and have a devotional time.

**DOC: Sunday, Jan. 6, 12:15-2:00 p.m.**

**KFC: Sunday, Jan. 13, 12:15-2:00 p.m.**

These groups are led by Donna Gardner Manke and Pastor Chris Manke. Come and join us! It is helpful to sign up by calling the church office, 774-0441, or email [office@stmattslutheran.org](mailto:office@stmattslutheran.org) so that we have an idea of how many are coming.

# Social Outreach Ministry Opportunities

## **Repairers of the Breach is always in need of:**

Men's and Women's Gloves & Scarves

Hand warmers

Disposable razors, lip balm, mini-Kleenex packs

Tooth brushes, travel size toothpaste

Travel size deodorant, lotion and Vaseline

Canned soups

Instant Oatmeal (Plain)

Coffee, hot chocolate, powdered coffee cream, Splenda

Paper Towels/napkins

These items are being collected in a box outside the church office. The need continues, as ROTB ministers to the homeless all year round.

## **Ongoing Collection for Guest House:**

We have updated the list of ongoing needs for the Guest House. Please consider picking up one or two of these items when you're shopping and drop them off in the box outside the church office. Thanks for your support of this important ministry.

**Spray deodorant**

**Body Wash**

**Cologne**

**Laundry Bags**

**Men's watches**

**Shampoo**

**Foot Powder**

**Aftershave**

**Men's wallets**

## **Help Needed to Cover Costs of Emergency Food Shipment to El Salvador**

A shipment of emergency food is on its way to El Salvador for distribution to communities served by the Salvadoran Lutheran Church – communities where hunger is a constant concern. In addition to the day-to-day struggles of poverty, residents of those communities are disproportionately affected by natural disasters, such as floods, hurricanes, droughts, and volcanic eruptions. The shipments of emergency food that St. Matthew's sends up to twice a year offer support in those times. **The cost of shipping and distributing the food is \$8000.00, and all donations are greatly appreciated. Please make checks to St. Matthew's with "El Salvador Food" in the memo line.** Thank you for your support of this meal ministry that is so appreciated by the Salvadoran Lutheran Church!

**KFC/DOC Christmas Gathering  
For children in grades 1 thru 5**

**Saturday, December 15  
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
at St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church**

**Bring \$5.00 for dinner.  
We will play relay games.**

**Call the church office 414-774-0441  
Or email [office@stmattslutheran.org](mailto:office@stmattslutheran.org) to RSVP**

**Hope we see you there!  
You can bring a friend.**



# U.S. Wildfires - WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?!?

## LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

### Reaches Out Wherever Help is Needed

#### The Situation:

Wildfires are raging across California, destroying thousands of homes and wiping out the town of Paradise, located north of Sacramento. Many deaths have been confirmed and large-scale, mandatory evacuations are in place for multiple communities across the state's impacted areas as first responders work to gain control of the fires.

#### Our Response:

Lutheran Disaster Response is working with Lutheran Social Services of Southern California, Lutheran Social Services of Northern California and the California synods to respond to this fire. We continue to assess the ever-changing situation to determine the best ways to respond. Your gifts will help us deliver a robust response to address needs in the devastated communities.



**Lutheran  
Disaster  
Response**

#### GREAT NEWS!!

**A St. Matthew's member has offered to MATCH all LDR donations up to \$10,000! Now is the time to give!**

#### What you can do:

##### Give:

100% of donations to St. Matthew's for the California wild fires will be passed on to the ELCA Disaster Relief Fund to assist those affected by the wildfires until the response is complete. These donations will be matched 1:1 up to \$10,000 total. You can make out a check to St. Matthew's or you can give online from our website: <http://www.stmattslutheran.org/give/> - Click on 'Donate online here.'

##### Connect:

To learn more about the situation and the ELCA's response:

- A) Sign up to receive Lutheran Disaster Response alerts.
- B) Check the Lutheran Disaster Response at <http://blogs.elca.org/disasterresponse/>.
- C) Like Lutheran Disaster Response on Facebook and follow @ELCALDR on Twitter.



## Christmas Assistants Needed - December 24-25, 2018

*Enjoy the True Christmas Spirit - Sign Up Below*

I can help with **4:00 p.m.** worship on **Christmas Eve:**

Usher \_\_\_\_\_

Nursery \_\_\_\_\_

I can help with **7:00 p.m.** worship on **Christmas Eve:**

Communion Preparer \_\_\_\_\_

Communion Assistant \_\_\_\_\_

Greeter \_\_\_\_\_

Nursery \_\_\_\_\_

Acolyte \_\_\_\_\_

Usher \_\_\_\_\_

I can help with **10:00 p.m.** worship on **Christmas Eve:**

Communion Preparer \_\_\_\_\_

Communion Assistant \_\_\_\_\_

Greeter \_\_\_\_\_

Acolyte \_\_\_\_\_

Usher \_\_\_\_\_

Lay Reader \_\_\_\_\_

I can help with **10:00 a.m.** worship on **Christmas Day:**

Communion Preparer \_\_\_\_\_

Communion Assistant \_\_\_\_\_

Greeter \_\_\_\_\_

Acolyte \_\_\_\_\_

Usher \_\_\_\_\_

Sign up at the Welcome Center or return this form to the offering plate, to an usher or to the church office.  
You will receive an email confirmation. No experience necessary!



*Celebrate the Joy  
with Christmas Worship  
at St. Matthew's*

Come and celebrate Christmas at St. Matthew's. Each service has its own feeling and expression of rejoicing in the birth of our Savior. There are 4 opportunities for Christmas worship:

*Christmas Eve:*

**4:00 p.m. Children and Family Service:** This service includes the sights and sounds of Christmas (including the sounds of many children) with carols, readings, children's choir and messages, a sermon and children's participation.

**7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Traditional Service** A special liturgy, handbell music, children's and youth choirs, a St. Matthew's orchestra and communion. Fifteen minutes of prelude Christmas music begins at 6:45 p.m.

**10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Service** Similar to the 7:00 communion service with music by the Senior Choir, Bells Angels, women's quintet, and a St. Matthew's orchestra. Prelude music begins at 9:45 p.m.

*Christmas Day*

**10:00 a.m.** A quiet reflective service is offered on Christmas Day with the text being John 1:1... the order follows the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book and communion is celebrated. Traditional hymns are sung throughout the service.

*1st Sunday After Christmas*

Worship Services on Sunday, December 30, 2018 are at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.



## St. Matthew's Weekly Sign-Up Panel December 16, 2018

If you are interested in any of the following activities/events, please check the appropriate box and place this sheet in the offering plate, or turn it in to the church office. This is your opportunity to be involved in some of St. Matthew's ministries.

- I am in the 7th grade or above or an adult and would like to join the **Christmas Orchestra by playing my instrument for Christmas Eve** at the following services. 7:00 and/or 10:00 p.m. [Circle choices] The rehearsal is Saturday, 12/22, 9:30 a.m.
- Yes, I can help with taking down the **Christmas decorations** on Sunday, December 30 at 12 noon (after the 11:00 service).
- Yes, I'm interested in being part of the **planning for a Men's Retreat** for spring 2019.
- My 1st-2nd-3rd grader will attend **KFC on Sunday, January 13** from 12:15-2:00 pm  
Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_
- My 4th-5th grader will attend **DOC on Sunday, January 6** from 12:15-2:00 p.m.  
Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_
- I haven't yet accessed my Portal in **ServantKeeper**. Please send another email to my primary email address. *(please list this below.)*
- Please add my email address to the list of people receiving the **Friday "Bulletin Update,"** a preview of the announcements in the upcoming Sunday's bulletin.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

For more information on any of these opportunities, please call or email the church office,  
414-774-0441 or office@stmattslutheran.org.



# St. Matthew's

Ev. Lutheran Church ✝ ELCA

**Vision Statement:** Guided by God's Spirit and Grace, we are a community of disciples growing in faith, hope and love in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *(What we want to become)*

**Mission Statement:** Called to fulfill the Great Commission, St. Matthew's welcomes all to faith in Jesus Christ, nurtures our faith journey, equips us to serve others, and sends us into the world to make a difference in Jesus' name. *(What we are going to do)*

**Values:** We want to be people who grow in our Spiritual fruitfulness, which is shown through the Fruit of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control. *(Who we want to be)*

Ministers	The People of St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church
Lead Pastor	The Rev. Christopher J.P. Manke
Associate Pastor	The Rev. Matthew Schlake-Kruse
Associate Pastor	The Rev. Ann Williams
Music Minister/Organist/New Generation & Adult Handbell Choirs	John R. Paradowski
Director of Youth Ministries & Children's Education Coordinator	Gretchen Haugse
Volunteer Ministries/Small Groups/Adult Education	Sue Swing
Director of Older Adult Ministries	Julia Murphy
Children's Ministry Coordinator	Donna Gardner Manke
Sunday School Support	Jennifer Dugan
Technology Coordinator	Brian Smith
Library Coordinator (Volunteer)	Linda Wunderlich
Senior Choir Director	David Mohr
Youth Handbell Choirs	Jeffrey Reeves
New Creation Choir	Jeffrey Reeves and John Paradowski; Heide Hughes, accompanist
Praise Kids! Directors (Jr. K-2 grades)	Jeff Reeves and Amy Dankwardt
Financial Bookkeeper & Administrator	Al Van Lith
Office Assistant	Jill Due
Communications Secretary	Sonja Mohr
Custodian	Marsha Olson
Janitor	Robert Gardner
Janitor	Dave Fagerberg
Pastor Emeritus	The Rev. Gary Erickson