

St. Matthew's
Weekly *Bulletin Update*

**Welcome to Worship at St. Matthew's
December 30, 2018**



Christ Is Born!

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.

Introduction for the Day: *On the First Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.*

We welcome Mr. Matthew Thorne today who will be leading the congregation on Piano and Organ today while John is away. Matthew is a student at

Carthage College in Kenosha. Please make him feel welcome.

Note about the art work for today: The Finding of the Saviour in the Temple (1854–60) is a painting by William Holman Hunt intended as an ethnographically accurate version [Hunt had travelled to the Middle East to create the picture, using local people as models and studying ancient Judaic customs and rituals] of the child Jesus debating the interpretation of the scripture with learned rabbis. Hunt depicts the moment at which Mary and Joseph find Jesus, while the rabbis in the temple are reacting in various contrasting ways to his discourse, some intrigued, and others angry or dismissive.

Prayer Cards are collected by the pastors at the time of the Hymn of the Day (after the sermon). You may wish to fill out a card now so that it is ready at the time they are picked up.

Pastor Ed Winters Funeral Service today: There is a funeral service this afternoon for Pastor Edwin Winters, with visitation beginning at 2 p.m. until the time of the service at 4 p.m. Please keep the Winters family in your prayers as we celebrate Pastor Ed's life.

NEW Date: Christmas Decorations will be taken down and put away on Sunday, January 6, rather than today.

There is no Sunday School today or Youth Forum for the 9-12th graders. There is also no Adult Education presentation.

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

Bulletin Announcements - December 30, 2018



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 two books:

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

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

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.

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



Coming up this week:

Sunday, December 30

8:30, Worship Service
11:00, Worship Service
2:00, Visitation for Pr. Ed Winters
4:00, Funeral Service for Pr. Winters

Monday, December 31

Office open 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
10:15, Staff Meeting
11:00, Program Staff Meeting

Tuesday, January 1

Office Closed for New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 2

10:00, Bible Study with Pastor Matt
7:00, 7th & 8th Gr. Conf. Big Group

Thursday, January 3

7:30, Senior Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 4

7:00, First Fridays Book Group

Saturday, January 5

10:00, Lutheran A Cappella
Choir Auditions
11:00, Visitation for Harold Johnson
12:00, Funeral Service for H. Johnson

Adult Education Today,

9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

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.

Coming Soon on Wednesday Nights:

Do you have a story from your life you want to write or journal, but can't put pen to paper?

Do you wonder how to turn an event into a story? Do you wonder how to write a story that might involve other people you know? Then come to Connie Malloy's writing workshop. Over the course of 3 weeks Connie will address these issues through guided study, meditation, and small group break out sessions. And, if you don't want to share your story, don't worry, it is not a requirement. This will be a safe environment that will give you exercises and tools that will enhance your ability to reflect and experiment through writing.

Wednesday Nights - 7:00-8:00 PM; January 16, 23, 30. Sign up in the Commons today, in the Church Office or contact Sue Swing; sueswing@sbcglobal.net

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 share the request as desired.

**Saints January Gathering
Wednesday, January 16, 2019
Older Adults Gathering
“Tai Chi - Powerful Benefits
from Simple Movements”**

What is Tai Chi?

Tai Chi is a gentle exercise suitable for people of all ages and abilities. It can improve balance and reduce falls, lower blood pressure, reduce stress and enhance immune function. Tai Chi was first developed and practiced in China but is now a form of exercise performed throughout the world. Our presenter will be Patricia Corrigan Culotti who has been a Tai Chi instructor in the Milwaukee area for more than three decades. Pat will be sharing findings from her research, explaining the history of Tai Chi, and discussing the benefits of practicing Tai Chi – particularly for seniors. Our presentation will conclude with a demonstration and a mini-lesson of Tai Chi modified so everyone can give it a try. Since our presentation is related to China, we will stay with that theme for lunch. We will be enjoying Chinese dishes catered by one of the most acclaimed Chinese restaurants in town. Although chopsticks will be provided, there will be forks for everyone!

Sign up at the Welcome Center if you'd like to attend. Friends who aren't members of St. Matthew's are also welcome at Saints events.

Let the Games Begin!

Family - friendly Game Night

Join us for family-friendly game night on Saturday, January 12, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. We'll supply the games, pizza and beverages. You bring your favorite games, if desired, and an appetizer to share. Everyone is welcome!

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.

Long-Term Care Planning: Taking Charge of Your Financial Future: offered at Luther Manor on Tuesday, January 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Linden Room. Joe Wilson, Vice President and Senior Financial Advisor at Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, will discuss the what, how and why of long-term care planning and options for care. He will cover the facts, why planning is important, financial consequences, your planning options and taking charge of your financial future. R.S.V.P. 414-434-1768 or by email at LutherManor.org/rsvp.

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.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study with Pastor Matt will resume on Wednesday, January 2 at 10 a.m. We will be beginning a New Testament study. All are welcome!

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.

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 these great features of the scheduling program: We always need new volunteers on Sunday morning! This is a great way to be involved at church and if you are already here on a Sunday there is no need to try to plan for extra time in your schedule.

The current schedule runs from January 6 - April 28 and is available on-line.

If you would like to become part of the Sunday morning volunteer ministry please contact Sue Swing; sueswing@sbcglobal.net 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.

Blood Drive! Plan now to be a donor for the January 21 Blood Drive at St. Matthew's sponsored by The Blood Center of Wisconsin (Versiti). Please keep this date in mind - Monday, January 21 from 3:00-7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall at St. Matthew's. Sign-up will begin next Sunday, December 30.

Blood donation is so important, especially this time of year. Give the gift of life!

STEPHEN MINISTRY

A Prayer

Gracious God, there are those among us whose hearts are heavy and who are facing their struggles alone. Yet you have called us, saying, "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Help those among us who are hurting recognize they need not walk alone, that you created us to be in community, to bear one another's burdens. Give them courage to seek help from our Pastors and Stephen Ministry so that comfort and healing can be brought to their hearts. In your name we pray. Amen.

To learn more about Stephen Ministry please talk with a pastor, Sue Swing or stop at the Stephen Ministry Center in the Library Commons.

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*

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

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.

Stitches of Love:

The New Year brings the opportunity for a Quilt Ministry Blitz on **Saturday, January 19th from 9:00-1:30 PM in Fellowship Hall**. All are welcome. It doesn't matter if you are experienced or willing to learn. Join in the day to see how many quilts are completed in the timeframe. Bring your own lunch / salad or soup shared. Contact Bev Etzelmueller at #262-250-3969 for questions.

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!

The St. Matthew's Meal Outreach Ministry

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 and click on "volunteer" - you can sign up right there!

Guest House: 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 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. 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 try the new PEABERRY coffee!

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.

Child care Available: There are part time vacancies in January at Miss Julie's Child care, for children 6 weeks to 4 years old; warm, caring in-home atmosphere, clean safe, pet free, smoke free; age appropriate outings, flexible days and hours. Julie Abraham-Gifford and her family are members of St. Matthew's who live near Roosevelt Elementary School in Wauwatosa. You can call/text 414-416-3648 or email her at: abraja20@gmail.com to set up a time to meet.

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.**

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 Hauge.

Remaining dates are
January 2 & 23

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:

Jan. 2	Big Group
Jan. 9	Service Night
Jan. 16	Service Night

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 so that we have an idea of how many are coming.

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.

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	Shampoo
Body Wash	Foot Powder
Cologne	Aftershave
Laundry Bags	
Men's watches	Men's wallets

**An Opportunity
for A Special Event:
Sunday, January 20 –**

Join us for

“A Murder Is Announced”

2 p.m. play at the Sunset Playhouse

We will meet at the Sunset Playhouse for this production of the Agatha Christie mystery, “A Murder Is Announced.” Our very own Annette Olson will be playing the lead character! Sign up at the Welcome Center for group rate tickets of \$17 each.

Following is a synopsis of the play:

An announcement in the local paper states the time and place of a murder to occur in Miss Blacklock's Victorian house. The victim is not one of the home's several occupants, but an unexpected and unknown visitor. What follows is a classic Christie puzzle of mixed motives, concealed identities, a second death, a determined Inspector grimly following the twists and turns, and Miss Marple on hand to provide the solution, at some risk to herself in a dramatic confrontation just before the final curtain.

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 11:30am. Contact Julia Murphy through the church office or email julia@stmattslutheran.org if you have any questions or concerns.

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.

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home.

²⁶Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

Psalm 148**SECOND READING: Colossians 3:12-17**

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:41-52

Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12.

Cover: *The Twelve Year Old Jesus in the Temple*. Woodcut, hand-colored in dark blue, red, yellow, ochre, and brown-violet, c. 1490-1500. Copyright © National Gallery of Art. Used by permission. Readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States. Revised Common Lectionary copyright © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT), admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Please visit our Web site at www.augsburgfortress.org.
Copyright © 2018 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Printed in U.S.A. Tracks 1 and 2
ELCA-R



St. Matthew's Weekly Sign-Up Panel December 30, 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.

- Yes, I can help with taking down the **Christmas decorations** on Sunday, January 6 at 12 noon (after the 11:00 service). Note date change!
- 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 am interested in going to the **Sunset Playhouse production of "A Murder is Announced"** with our own Annette Olson in the lead role, January 20 (if tickets are still available - number of tickets needed____)
- 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