

A REMINDER FROM PASTOR...

Please continue to let me know when you (or a family member) are hospitalized. I am more than glad to visit and share God's Word and pray with you. Most of the time the hospital informs us when a member is admitted. However sometimes this has not happened, and I have been completely unaware of a hospitalization. Please also let me know if you or someone you know desires for me to visit and bring the Lord's Supper. Please keep me informed of your circumstances, and I will be glad to minister to you in Christ's name.

– Pastor Michel

If you need a large print bulletin or would like to use a hearing impaired device, please speak with an Usher or Lay Assistant.

In reverence to God and as a courtesy to other worshipers, please silence your cell phone during worship. Thank you!

STEWARDSHIP REPORT...

Due to inclement weather this past week, offerings from last weekend's services were not tallied prior to the printing of this weekend's bulletin. They will be included in next week's bulletin.

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Saturday Worship	5:30 p.m.	37
Sunday Worship	8:00 a.m.	64
Sunday Worship	10:30 a.m.	64
Total Weekend Attendance		165

Christmas Eve	5:00 p.m.	188
Christmas Eve	7:00 p.m.	103
Christmas Day	10:00 a.m.	70

Sunday School	15
Adult Bible Study	24

**The Mission of St. Matthew Lutheran Church is to
LEARN, LIVE, and SHARE
the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

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**Second Sunday After Christmas
The Epiphany of Our Lord (Observed)
January 2 & 3, 2016**

WELCOME TO THE LORD'S HOUSE

We pray that you are blessed through God's service today. We invite everyone to sign the Record of Fellowship in each pew. Our guests are also invited to sign the guest book on the Welcome Table in the entryway.

TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER

At St. Matthew we believe that the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion) is a ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and an expression of our unity in belief and teaching. Therefore, in Christian love we extend this ministry to baptized Christians who...

- ◆ Have been properly instructed and confess the teachings of the Bible as taught in The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS);
- ◆ Acknowledge their sins and repent of their sins;
- ◆ Confess Jesus Christ alone as Savior from all sin;
- ◆ Believe with us that Christ's body and blood are truly present in, with, and under the bread and wine;
- ◆ Intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to amend their sinful lives and forgive others as Christ has forgiven them.

Guests who do not hold membership in a congregation of the LCMS are respectfully asked to visit with the pastor before or after the worship service regarding their desire to commune.

Martin Luther's "Christian Questions with Their Answers" on pages 329-330 in Lutheran Service Book is a good resource to use to prepare oneself to receive the Lord's Supper.

NOTES FOR COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

- ◆ Receive the bread—the body of Christ—in your hand.
- ◆ You may receive the wine—the blood of Christ—with either the individual cup or the common cup. Please assist with the common cup.
- ◆ The individual cups in the center of the tray contain reduced alcohol wine for those that need to receive Christ's blood this way.
- ◆ Those not receiving the Sacrament but wish to receive a blessing (including non-confirmed children) are asked to take a wooden cross from the basket next to the baptismal font. Hold the cross in front of you as the communion elements are distributed. As you then return to your pew, please place the cross in the basket next to the collection tray for individual cups.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Today (Sunday) we complete our current study on infant Baptism. Next Sunday (January 10) we begin our next topic: *The Pastoral Epistles (The Books of 1st & 2nd Timothy and Titus)*.

The public ministry of the Gospel, or the Office of Holy Ministry, is God's gift to the Church. In these three letters to two young pastors (Timothy & Titus), through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul provides warning and encouragement, instruction and blessing to both the recipients and to us. In this study you will learn:

- + The destructive nature of false doctrine and the importance of pure teaching based on God's Word;
- + The importance of mutual love, service, and respect between pastors and their parishioners;
- + The enduring order of God's creation for men and women within the home and the Church.

We meet in the Gathering Room at 9:15 a.m. ***ALL ARE INVITED!***

PASTOR'S TUESDAY MORNING STUDY

We resume this Tuesday, January 5 at 9:00 a.m. as we begin our new topic: *The Journey from Unbelief to Faith*. This four-session video-based study features LCMS pastor Dr. John Nunes and offers the viewpoints of four people who have made a remarkable journey. Theirs has been a pilgrimage from the outer edges of unbelief and apathy to a place where today Jesus Christ commands their heartfelt devotion. The road to faith was not easy for them, and many were the times when abandoning it seemed the preferred route to travel. Still, the persistence of the Holy Spirit's work in their lives brought about a different outcome, with an eternal transformation. All are invited each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.

SIGN-UP TO RECEIVE OUR E-MEMOS

We have discontinued the printing and mailing of the monthly *Memo* newsletter. Our main form of *print* communication will be the weekly bulletin. In place of the printed *Memo* we now have *E-Memos*, which will be distributed via e-mail. You may begin receiving *E-Memos* by signing up for them through our congregation website. Even though the church office may have your e-mail address, you will not automatically receive the *E-Memos*...***you must sign up through our website***. To receive E-Memos...

- ✦ Go to the homepage of our congregation's website (www.stmatthewmilan.org)
- ✦ Click on the box "Click here to sign up for our E-Memos"
- ✦ Follow the directions to sign up for the various e-mail communications of your choice

ALTAR DUTY

We are looking for ladies to sign up for altar duty for the months of January, February, and March. You can sign up for the whole month or just 1 week. You do not need to be a member of the LWML. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. If you have questions, contact Vicki Lude at 309-738-3953 or Mary Donegan at 309-781-2632.

CARD SHOP OPEN

The St. Matthew Women in Mission card shop is now open. Cards are in the hallway by the office. Payment envelopes are available on the stand.

DINING TOUR COUPON BOOKS ARE HERE!

St. Matthew Youth Ministry is selling Dining Tour Coupon books again this year. In the books are over 200, two-for-one coupons that can be used at local restaurants. The cost of the books are \$35.00 and the Youth Group gets to keep \$10.00. The books are good until Nov. 2016.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Today in Sunday School children studied “The Birth of John.” Zechariah spoke God’s Word announcing that this baby, John, would give people knowledge of salvation in the forgiveness of sins. God speaks through His holy Word to give us knowledge of salvation and forgiveness through Jesus, His Son. *In your family discuss, “How does Jesus remind us of the work He has done for us?”*

YOUTH MINISTRIES



CONNECT—Plans are to start back up Sunday Jan 10, so watch for details.

WHITE SERVICE FOLDER SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to all who participated in our recent survey regarding the white service folder included in each weekend’s bulletin. A total of 134 surveys were returned. Of the surveys returned:

- 62% indicated that they prefer to include in the service folder “ONLY THE PAGE NUMBERS in the pew Bibles for the Scripture readings and the page numbers in the hymnal for the liturgy.”
- 25% indicated that they wish to include “the FULL TEXT OF THE SCRIPTURE READINGS along with some liturgy surrounding the readings.”
- 13% indicated that they prefer to have “the ENTIRE LITURGY AND THE FULL TEXT OF THE SCRIPTURE READINGS” printed in the service folder.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Sunday School— The Birth of John

High School Bible Study—Revelation

Adult Bible Study— “Born Again! By Water and the Word”

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE EVENTS

CHILI COOK OFF and YOU are invited!

Congregational Life and Youth Ministry are hosting an evening of fun and food on Sunday, January 31. Whether you bring your favorite chili for the cook off or join us and enjoy sampling the chili, all are invited. Sign up on the bulletin board if you would like to bring a chili.

Also Congregational Life would like to try starting a book “exchange”. If you have books (children or adults) and would be willing to trade/exchange them bring them along and be a part of our first book exchange. Watch for more details.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Starting Wednesday Jan. 13, and meeting Jan. 20, 27, and Feb. 3 from 6:30 to 8:00 a new study will begin. This study is for men and women, couples, singles young adults and high school students, EVERYONE! The topic is “The Great Deceiver.” This 4-session study examines the most perverse character in Scripture: Satan. We will be studying the Bible and DVD input.

LADIES WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

STARTS JANUARY 6 at 9:30 am

Who doesn’t love the idea of a makeover at the hands of an expert? Someone to show us how to wear the right clothes, the best accessories. Someone to guide us to style perfection.

The world tells us that outward beauty is what counts. The problem is that when we judge ourselves by the world’s standards, we definitely fall short of those standards. But did you know that there is a different beauty standard, one that focuses on true loveliness? Did you know that there is Someone who makes us perfect?

God’s divine makeover will restyle your life and show you true beauty through His love for you. His makeover will transform your heart, soul, and mind.

This Bible study focuses on the inner beauty that we receive because of Jesus’ love for us. Each week for eight weeks, *Divine Makeover: God Makes You Beautiful* offers short readings and questions that guide you to Scripture, where God reveals His perfect makeover plan.

Come join us on Wednesday, January 6 at 9:30am. Hope to see you then!

SERVANTS IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

	5:30 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Lay Assistant	Jason Gorski	Bruce Hunt	Al Nordstrom
Ushers	Jerry & Mary Donegan	Jonathan Michel Anna Teggatz Josh Teggatz	Bill Burt Leah Dodd Hanna Dodd
Organist	Sue Michel	Sue Michel	Sue Michel
Acolytes	Mathilde Bodenbender-Benner Peter Bodenbender-Benner	Claire Henniges Jack Henniges	Madison McVay
Greeters	Dana & Pat Miller	Tom Krahl	Tom Krahl

Altar Guild:

Flowers: The DeGrauwe Family
Steve & Kathy Daack in Memory of Kathy's Parents

THIS WEEK THE LORD WILLING

Saturday, January 2	5:30 p.m.	Divine Service (Installation of Officers)
Sunday, January 3 <i>The Epiphany of Our Lord</i> (observed)	8:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Divine Service Sunday School Adult Bible Study Divine Service (Installation of Officers)
Monday, January 4	8:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Classical Conversations Lutheranism 101
Tuesday, January 5	9:00 a.m. 6:15 p.m.	Pastor's Bible Study Choir
Wednesday, January 6	9:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Ladies Bible Study Congregational Life Confirmation
Thursday, January 7	6:30 p.m.	Youth & Education
Friday, January 8	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Day Off Bulletins Assembled
Saturday, January 9	5:30 p.m.	Divine Service
Sunday, January 10 <i>The Baptism of Our Lord</i>	8:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Divine Service Sunday School Adult Bible Study Divine Service

LIFE THOUGHT FROM THIS WEEK'S READINGS

In the name of Jesus, who grew in wisdom and accomplished His Father's will, may His people today have the wisdom to discern between good and evil when it comes to the sanctity of life. Prayer: Wisdom from On High, in a culture where good and evil are blurred, help Your people be discerning of the truth and then share it boldly. Amen.

LIFE QUOTE FOR THIS WEEK

"God needs and wants you in His kingdom-building work. God thinks you are a valuable part of His team. God thinks that you have an important role to play. God thinks you are worth investing in. God actually stoops down to make you great. Seriously." *Pastor Marke Jeske, www.timeofgrace.org – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

OUR CHRISTIAN CALLING

Matthew 2:11 "And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh." Worship and the giving of gifts go together. This makes sense because God is the great Giver of every good gift and we worship Him and desire to grow into His image. We receive His gifts in worship and then, being conformed to the likeness of His image, we imitate His generosity.

MOBILE LUTHERAN BIBLE STUDY...

Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL. You can listen on-demand at www.issuesetc.org and on the new Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

PERCY THERAPY DOG

Percy is the name of the Michels' family dog—a goldendoodle, which is a cross-breed between a golden retriever and a standard poodle. Percy is a licensed therapy dog through the Quad Cities Canine Assistance Network (QC-CAN) and is available to make brief, individual pet therapy visits in homes, nursing/assisted living facilities, as well as hospitals in the Unity Point-Trinity system. Percy is experienced and comfortable with people of all ages. If you or a loved one would like a visit from Percy, please contact Pastor or Sue Michel.