

YOUTH MINISTRY (Grades 6-12)



Jr. and Sr. Youth – check with Greg on future events. The Youth and Education Committee would like your input.

Sunday, Dec 18 4:00-6:??

We will meet at church for Christmas Caroling, fellowship and food. (We are meeting in the Youth Room) Our plans are to visit some of St Matthew's home bound. After caroling we will return to church for supper. (At this time are thinking about ordering pizza.) This event is open to everyone; families, singles, youth and anyone else who would like to make a joyful noise to celebrate Jesus' birth. Questions contact Greg Mueller-DCE 309-236-8826.

Fund Raiser: Dining Coupon Books

We are selling Dining Coupon Books which have two-for-one meals for area restaurants. Cost is \$35.00 and students get to add \$10.00 per book in their student accounts to be used for any youth ministry trip or event.

REPORTS AVAILABLE

Copies of the monthly congregational financial report as well the recorded minutes of the Church Council meetings are available by request and may be obtained by contacting Karen in the church office (787-4295, stmatkarenb@gmail.com)

SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES

The account of "Joseph's Troubles" continues the study of Joseph's life in the Sunday School lesson for today. God was with Joseph; and in Christ, God is with us in all the situations of life, providing, protecting, and forgiving us. *As a family, you might discuss, "How do we usually react when we are falsely accused of wrongdoing? How can we learn to trust Jesus to work out all things for our good?"*

ADDRESS CHANGE

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Third Sunday in Advent December 10 & 11, 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.

SERVANTS IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

	5:30 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Lay Assistant	Jason Gorski	Jim Barrows	Dave Schroeder
Ushers	Ken Gorski	John Campbell Family	Bryan Cobert
Organist	Sue Michel	Sue Michel	Sue Michel
Greeters		Regina Hoffman	Bill & Eileen Leonard
Acolytes		Emma Slattery Lauren Slattery	Amanda Munson Jayla Upton

Altar Guild: Mary Donegan, Vicki Lude, Cindy Leonard

Flowers: The Chapman Family in Memory of Joshua and Olivia

THIS WEEK THE LORD WILLING

Saturday, December 10	5:30 p.m.	Divine Service
Sunday, December 11 <i>Third Sunday in Advent</i>	8:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m.	Divine Service Adult Bible Study Sunday School Program Practice Divine Service (Baptism of Kayden Bright) Children's Christmas Program
Monday, December 12	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m.	Classical Conversations Circuit Pastors' Meeting at St. Matthew
Tuesday, December 13	4:30 p.m. 6:15 p.m.	Lutheranism 101 Choir
Wednesday, December 14	11:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Advent Matins Service Advent Luncheon Advent Supper Set-up Advent Supper Advent Evening Prayer Service
Thursday, December 15		
Friday, December 16	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Day Off Bulletins Assembled
Saturday, December 17	5:30 p.m.	Divine Service
Sunday, December 18 <i>Fourth Sunday in Advent</i>	8:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 3-8 p.m. 4:00 p.m.	Divine Service Adult Bible Study Sunday School Divine Service Huisman's reserved gym & kitchen Caroling- "Everyone is Invited"

LIFE THOUGHT FROM THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Jesus shines God's attention and showers His assistance upon blind and deaf, lame and leprous, unresponsive and impoverished persons (Matthew 11:5), even though it earns Him opposition (Matthew 11:12). Better that we should patiently (James 5:10-11) endure violence against us as His kingdom than that any unborn, impaired, overlooked, elderly, or otherwise vulnerable suffer death. *O God our Lord, come and ransom every uncertain heart into everlasting joy. Amen.*

LIFE QUOTE FOR THIS WEEK

"Mary and Joseph's hardships serve as a vivid reminder that as God's children, we don't always have it easy either. But because Mary and Joseph followed God's will, countless generations benefit from the presence of this child's life in the world. Let's put that in the context of modern life—a young couple facing an unexpected pregnancy. If they follow God's will, abortion will be averted, and countless generations will benefit, albeit in a much smaller way, from their child's presence in the world." *Bradley Mattes, Executive Director of Life Issues Institute – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

OUR CHRISTIAN CALLING

Isaiah 35:4 "Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." The return of our Lord at the Last Day is a cause of joy and anticipation for us believers. We know our Lord and His love, and we look forward to His Second Advent. Indeed, how we live our lives here and now flows from our certain hope of resurrection and eternal life.

OLD THEOLOGY, NEW TECHNOLOGY...

Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL. This week's topics include: An Angel Appears to Jesus' Guardian Joseph, The Sacrament of the Altar, The Prophet Daniel, Jesus Teaches Nicodemus and more. You can listen on-demand at www.issuesetc.org and on the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

THANK YOU

- Sending a HUGE THANK YOU to all those who stirred, baked, cooked, decorated or purchased the cookies and candies for the St. Matthew Cookie Walk. What a blessing each of you are to this event. The Walk was a tremendous success and the cookie/candy selection beyond compare. The Milan Food Pantry will be able to purchase three tons of food for the pantry with the proceeds from this year's walk. Thank you all ever so much!

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

The Milan Christian Food Pantry needs our help for Christmas

The pantry is giving away 75 complete Christmas dinner baskets on December 17. Thanks to the Theisons Home Farm Auto Store grant, the pantry will purchase the turkeys, vegetables, dessert mix, brown sugar, butter, eggs, fresh produce, and misc. items. St. Matthew has been asked to donate:

- 75 **LARGE boxes** of instant mashed potatoes
- 75 cans of crème of mushroom soup
- Christmas kitchen dish cloths, towels, or potholders

All items are needed by Sunday, December 11, 2016.

IT'S A SHORT CONTRIBUTION WINDOW, DO DON'T DELAY!

USHERS NEEDED...

If you would like to volunteer to usher for any of the weekend services please call Tom Krahl at 309-235-0790 and leave a message.

BAPTIZED

Sunday, December 11, at 10:30am service

Kayden James Bright

Son of Jason and April Bright

Sponsor:

Christopher and Nicole Paar

*Here we bring a child of nature;
Home we take a newborn creature,
Now God's precious son or daughter,
Born again by Word and water.*

LSB 593, st 4

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Please join us Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the Gathering Room as we explore our topic for the month of December: ***“Joseph: Carpenter of Steel.”*** This study examines in rich and absorbing detail the fascinating life and times of Joseph, the foster-father of Jesus whom we encounter each year in the Christmas story. Video segments feature the Rev. Gregory Seltz, Speaker for *The Lutheran Hour*, as he sheds light on one of the New Testament's unsung heroes. Adding historical perspective to this study is LCMS scholar and best-selling author Dr. Paul L. Maier. ***All are invited*** to this fascinating study.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Sunday School— Joseph's Troubles

High School Bible Study— Christmas, “The Real Story...” pt.2

Adult Bible Study— Joseph: Carpenter of Steel

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Come join our Sunday school students on Sunday, December 11 at 4:00pm as they share the good news of Jesus' birth. Through song and words they will lead us in the program, “To Us a Child is Born”. Afterwards there will be refreshments in the gym.

RED CHRISTMAS STOCKING COLLECTION

We are collecting the red Christmas stockings for a Christmas gift for Missionary Alyssa Anders. There will be a collection basket out in the hallway to put the stockings in.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING FUN - for EVERYONE!

Sunday, Dec 18 4:00-6:?? We will meet at church for Christmas Caroling, fellowship and food. (We are meeting in the Youth Room) Our plans are to visit some of St Matthew's home bound. After caroling we will return to church for supper. (At this time are thinking about ordering pizza.) This event is open to everyone; families, singles, youth and anyone else who would like to make a joyful noise to celebrate Jesus' birth. Questions contact Greg Mueller-DCE 309-236-8826.

GIVING A GIFT CARD AS A GIFT?

Don't forget that St Matthew's youth sells gift cards to most restaurants and stores. You pay the face value and the business gives back to the youth group a percentage. Example, many restaurants give back 12% , so you pay \$25.00 and get a \$25.00 gift card and the youth group gets \$3.00. See Brandi Gale, Greg Mueller, or stop by the table to see the offerings.

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEKEND

Sat. 5:30 p.m.—55

Sunday School—17

Sun. 8:00 a.m.—70

Adult Bible Study—24

Sun. 10:30 a.m.—40

Advent Worship Dec. 7 11:00 a.m.—39

7:00 p.m.—65

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL SUGGESTIONS

- + Advent devotions produced by Lutheran Hour Ministries are available online at www.adventdevotions.net where you can sign up to receive the devotion each day via e-mail.
 - + A devotion booklet from Lutheran Indian Ministries is available on the Welcome Center table.
 - + Use the devotions in *Portals of Prayer*, available on the Welcome Center table.
 - + Those who own the book *Treasury of Daily Prayer* (available for \$40 through the church office) can continue with their readings from this year-round resource.
 - + *Today's Light* subscribers can continue in their readings from this year-round resource. To subscribe, a link is available on the "Devotions" page on our church Web site (www.stmatthewmilan.org).
 - + ABOVE ALL... Use whatever works for you and your family... The main thing is to be fed by the Word of God during the Advent season as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth.
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ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES

During this season of spiritual preparation, we encourage everyone to take time in your schedule to hear of your coming Savior's incredible love for you—whatever stage you may be at in life and whatever you may be going through.

As such we gather for special midweek services during this sacred season.

Midweek services will be Wednesdays, December 14 & 21 at 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. Note that the Scripture readings and the sermon will be identical at each service on a given Wednesday.

The overall midweek sermon theme is "*Fathers of the Season*" in which we explore how God demonstrates His incredible love for you through the lives and accounts of several Biblical fathers. This Wednesday hear of God's faithfulness and protection as we look at "God the Father: Faithful Father."

Following the 11:00 a.m. service, all are invited to stay for lunch. Prior to the 7:00 p.m. service, all are invited to supper with serving beginning at 6:00 p.m.

ADVENT SUPPERS

The youth will be serving supper (6:00pm-6:55) before our evening Advent Services. Mark your calendars to join us for supper and then join in our Advent worship at 7:00pm.

Proceeds from the suppers will go help our youth attend youth events/gathering/conferences. You can help by joining us on Wednesday, by donating food/money for suppers and/or sponsor an evening meal. Contact Greg Mueller-DCE if you have any questions.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Midweek Advent Services

Wednesday, December 14

Matins Service 11:00 am
Lunch follows Midday Service
Evening Prayer Service 7:00 pm
Supper prior to Evening Service; serving begins at 6:00 pm

Wednesday, December 21

Matins Service (with Christmas carol sing) 11:00 am
Lunch follows Midday Service
Evening Prayer Service (with Christmas carol sing) 7:00 pm
Supper prior to Evening Service; serving begins at 6:00 pm

Christmas Services

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 5:00 & 7:30 pm

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day Divine Service (Communion) 10:00 am

Saturday December 31

New Year's Divine Service (Communion) 5:30 pm

Sunday, January 1

New Year's Divine Service (Communion) 10:30 am
There is no 8:00am Service on January 1

DINING TOUR COUPON BOOKS

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 November 2017.

YEAR 2017 ENVELOPES

The 2017 offering envelopes are on the table in the hallway. Pick yours up today. If you do not have envelopes on the table and would like some, please sign the paper on the table. Any questions call the church office at 787-4295.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

The installation of all elected officers and board members of the congregation will take place at worship services the weekend of December 31 & January 1. This includes those serving on the Church Council as well as those serving on the Board of Lay Assistants for Membership Care and the Board of Mission and Ministry (Congregational Life, Outreach, Youth /Education Committees).

NO BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS DECEMBER 24 & 25

No bulletin announcements will be printed for services on December 24 & 25. Only the white worship folder will be printed and distributed at these services. The *St. Matthew at Prayer* sheet will be available on the hallway table. The entire bulletin will be printed for services the weekend of Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

PASTOR'S TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY - NEW TOPIC UPCOMING!

Pastor's Tuesday morning Bible study is taking a break during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Make plans to join us when we resume Tuesday, January 3 as we take up the topic "**Heaven and Hell.**" In this study we will uncover misunderstandings people have about life after death and explore the biblical truth about heaven and hell. Topics include:

- There Is a Heaven-Really!
- Popular Misconceptions
- Pictures of Heaven
- That Other Place
- Living for Heaven
- Curiosity Questions about Heaven

All are invited to join the study each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. beginning January 3.

LADIES WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY - NEW TOPIC UPCOMING!

The Ladies morning Bible study is taking a break during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Make plans to join us when we resume Wednesday, January 4, at 9:30am as we take up the topic "**Miracles, Mysteries and More.**" In this study we will explore the fascination people have with miracles, mysticism, near-death experiences, and similar topics. It will help you understand the mysteries of life from God's perspective and live with certainty in an uncertain world. Topics include:

- Miracles
- Mystical Experiences
- Near-Death Experiences
- Dreams
- Demons
- Angels

All are invited to join the study each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. beginning January 4.

FLU SEASON

As flu season begins, Pastor Michel and the Board of Lay Assistants for Membership Care encourage everyone to keep the following in mind...

- + Gathering in worship, studying God's Word, receiving the Lord's Supper, and sharing the peace of our forgiveness in Christ all are appropriate for God's people to do in any season. Fear is one tactic that Satan loves to use in discouraging Christians from engaging in these activities. We remember that in worship God promises great blessings, not a curse.
 - + Immediately prior to preparing and distributing the Lord's Supper, Pastor and Lay Assistants use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
 - + During distribution of the Lord's Supper, the chalice (common cup) is wiped by Pastor with a purificator (white cloth) moistened with Everclear (which is 95% grain alcohol). In fact, it is well documented that receiving the Lord's blood through the chalice may be more "sanitary" than through the individual cups, the rims of which are touched by several sets of hands.
 - + During the Sharing of the Peace, please do not feel obligated to shake hands with others. If you wish, you may simply say, "Peace be with you."
 - + Please do not feel obligated to shake hands with Pastor following the service. He will not be offended if you choose not to do so.
 - + Alcohol-based hand sanitizer is available at the Welcome Table in the hallway for all to use. Also, there are containers of hand sanitizer in each of the Sunday School classrooms.
 - + *If you are sick or your children are sick, please stay home. We will pray for you and look forward to seeing you in the Lord's house when you are well.*
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CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

The sign-up sheet for the poinsettias to go on the altar at Christmas is now on the flower chart. The price is \$8.00 each. You may pick up your poinsettias after service on December 25, 2016. Any questions contact Vicki Lude at 309-738-3953, Mary Donegan 309-781-2632, Cindy Leonard 309-738-7074.

2016—2017 SNOW SHOVELING

It's that time of year again. If you can help with the snow removal for St. Matthew, please sign the sheet on the St. Matthew bulletin board. You would be responsible for a week period from Monday thru Sunday. The more people who sign up, the less times each person will have to shovel. You will be shoveling the sidewalks in front and back. If you have any questions, please call Jerry Donegan at 781-2213.
