

Welcome to Worship at St. Matthew's

January 16, 2022



Welcome to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, each and every one of you, a chosen and beloved child of God. "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1): sky, waters, ground; sun, moon, stars; plants, animals, people. Then God rested. So, welcome to this time for rest and worship.

Holy Communion: All are welcome to come forward at the time of communion to receive God's gift of grace at the 11:00

service. Let an usher know if you'd like to have communion brought to you because of mobility challenges.

Sunday School: Please Note that there is NO Sunday School all month in January, due to the rising rates of Covid cases.

Child for Baptism: Clayton Thompson, child of Courtney (nee King) & Kyle Thompson, New Berlin, was born July 8, 2021. Sponsors are Nicole Boylan and Beckie Fon.

January 16 Adult Education – Local Partnerships – Social Ministry Focus: At today's adult education time, members of our congregation and guests who are involved in our partnerships with Reformation Lutheran and Cross Lutheran Churches in Milwaukee will offer information about their experiences with the partnerships and ways for you to become involved. It promises to be a fascinating look at the two-way ministry that is partnership. Meets in the Upper Room beginning at 9:45 a.m.

Continues January 19: Women's Book Discussion, Wednesday night from 7-8 p.m. "Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion."

Saints Older Adults Ministry Gathering will be held on Wednesday, January 19 beginning at 11:30 a.m. "**S.T.O.P. Senior Frauds and Scams**" People fall victim to fraudulent schemes every day. Find out more about the scams that are out there and how to detect them. This topic will be presented by Eras Senior Network with grant funding from the Wisconsin Consumer Antifraud Fund at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. Please sign up; lunch will not be offered for everyone's safety.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 30 from 9:45-10:45 a.m. It will be a hybrid meeting, both online and in person. Please plan to attend.

Bulletin Announcement Insert – January 16, 2022

Stitches of Love Quilt Ministry Blitz is Saturday, January 22nd: You are invited to help the Stitches of Love Quilting Ministry pack up boxes of large blankets and quilts for Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. After we complete the project, the ministry will continue to work on various tasks to prepare other quilts for other local charities that will be blessed on Mother's Day and sent into our community. A variety of tasks is available for different skill and interest levels. Please join us, and invite a friend or family member on Saturday, January 22nd from 9am-1:30pm in Fellowship Hall. Plan to wear a mask and bring a brown bag lunch and beverage to take a break.

Meeting to Help Refugees: A small group of people interested in helping refugees will be meeting **Sunday, January 23** between services (at 9:45) in the conference room near the office. We welcome additional interested people, since we are just getting started. No prior experience needed. Call Ed Weiskotten with questions: 414-232-2094.

Looking Ahead to Next Week's Adult Education - January 23: **Stewardship & Attitudes We Learn About Money--Led by the Pastoral Staff**

What messages did you receive about money when you were growing up? How does that shape your values around money today? Is money a tool? A status symbol? A necessary evil? Does how you spend your money reveal something about you? Come to an interactive adult forum to talk about the intersection of faith, money, culture and values.

2022 Youth Mission Trip Planned for Kenosha!

The plan is for this year's trip to be a "full" trip where we will actually stay in the city where we serve, just as we do when we travel to New Orleans, Washington, DC, or Colorado. The trip will take place from June 19th – 25th and is open to kids who are currently in 9th – 12th grades. This annual service trip is a great faith and community building experience as we work together to use our hands to do God's work, our minds to learn more about God's creation, and our hearts to reach out in compassion. We look forward to getting to know our neighbors to the south, to hearing their stories, and seeing the beauty that is as much a part of their story as the pain that has been in the news. If you are interested in being part of this experience, please contact Gretchen Haugse (ghaugse@me.com, 262-488-4040).

Healing Services offered each month both during services and smaller gatherings with just a handful of people. Here are the opportunities coming up:

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 After the 11:00 service

Sunday, Feb. 13 During both worship services at 8:30 and 11:00

A New Collection Now Begun for *Allies for Teens in Foster Care*

- Christmas wrapping paper
- New & almost new gift bags
- Hand-knit scarves

These items will be used for next Christmas's gifts for teens in foster care. There is a collection box outside the church office. What a great opportunity to divest yourself of that wrapping paper and those gift bags you keep every year and aren't going to use! Thanks in advance!

Wednesday Bible Study with Pastor Ann Williams meets from 10:00-11:00 a.m. each Wednesday. Anyone is welcome to join in at any time.

First Fridays Book Discussion Group

Discussions begin at 7 p.m. on the dates listed. For now, the meetings will continue through the use of Zoom. Those on the email list will receive a Zoom link for participation. All are welcome.

Feb. 4, 2022 Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison (581 pages)

Call Committee Update: Progress toward a New Lead Pastor The Synod Staff is providing names of potential candidates, and interviews have begun. Please keep the Call Committee in your prayers as they work confidentially in interviews and discussion. *Members of the Call Committee: Nancy Bowen, Andrew Cherney, Diane DuBois, Brian Due, Natalie Ford Sajdak, Michael Wolaver.*

Tanzania Partners Bishop Elias Kitoi and his wife Ellie are celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary in February. The Meru Partnership committee in our synod is collecting greetings for them. If you wish to send them an email greeting or a card, these can be collected in our church office, and we will forward them to Tanzania. Email greetings: office@stmattslutheran.org

Employment Opportunity at St. Matthew's:

Church Administrator: (*newly created position*) Full-time, salary commensurate with experience. Responsible for facilities management, human resources, financial, stewardship and overall operations of the church and its staff. Administrator must pay strong attention to details and manage simultaneous projects. Minimum requirements: Bachelor's degree in business or related field, or equivalent experience is preferred, and five or more years in program management and or leadership experience, preferably in non-profit or church environments. Resumés should be submitted to Pastor Karen Natterstad at prkaren@gmail.com by January 31, 2022. Questions or requests for the position description may be directed to Pastor Karen at 414.774.0441.

Covid Concerns.... Again

We are again experiencing a time of critical Covid-19 infections in our area, and are having to make the hard decisions about whether or not to risk gathering people in one space for worship and meetings.

Thank you for your understanding as we make the best decisions we can with the information we have, understanding that you will make the best decisions that you can about what is safe or risk-worthy for you and your family.

It seems more important than ever that we give each other understanding and grace as we navigate our way through events and situations and illnesses. Each one of us is making hard and personal decisions every day.

Beside the health of ourselves and our neighbors, we also consider strongly the health care system, and its workers, the nurses, doctors, support staff and everyone who works tirelessly to take care of anyone who shows up critically ill for any reason. These workers have been especially burdened with extra shifts and critical decisions, and we hold them in prayer.

Leadership decisions about St. Matthew's ministries will take into account the greater good in our community, including our health care workers.

Remember to check our website for:

- This week's bulletin announcements
- The latest issue of the Voice newsletter
- The church calendar
- The Sunday worship bulletin
- Prayer Request form for immediate needs
- Link to membership directory

www.stmattslutheran.org

Pastoral Staff: Karen Natterstad, Interim Lead; Ann Williams, Associate Pastor; and Sheila Rawn, Interim Associate Pastor.

Volunteer Ministries/Small Groups/Adult Education: Sue Swing

Youth Ministries & Children's Education: Gretchen Haugse

Children's Minister: Donna Gardner Manke.

Music Minister: John Paradowski.

Music Staff: David Mohr, Jeff Reeves, Amy Dankwardt, Heide Hughes

Older Adults Coordinator: Julia Murphy.

Technology Coordinator: Brian Smith.

Library Coordinator (volunteer) Linda Wunderlich.

Custodial Staff: Marsha Olson, Dave Fagerberg, Bob Gardner.

Office Staff: Al Van Lith, Bridget Smith, Sonja Mohr