

Welcome to Worship at St. Matthew's

January 23, 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.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity began this past week on January 18 and was first observed in January 1908.

Celebrated in the chapel of a small Atonement Franciscan Convent of the Protestant Episcopal Church, on a remote hillside fifty miles from New York City, this new prayer movement caught the imagination of others beyond the Franciscan Friars and Sisters of the Atonement to become an energetic movement that gradually blossomed into a worldwide observance involving many nations and millions of people.

Holy Communion: All are welcome to come forward at the time of communion to receive God's gift of grace at the 8:30 service. Let an usher know if you'd like to have communion brought to you because of mobility challenges.

Flowers at the altar are given by Dee & Don Birschel in honor of Ruth Baltzer's heavenly birthday (Dee's mother).

January 23 Adult Education – Stewardship & Attitudes We Learn About Money-- Led by Pastors Ann & Sheila What messages did you receive about money when you were growing up? How does that shape your values around money today? Come to an interactive adult forum to talk about the intersection of faith, money, culture and values. Meets in the Upper Room beginning at 9:45 a.m.

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.

Healing Service today after the 11:00 service: A Healing Service will be held in the worship space when the 11:00 service ends. All those desiring special healing prayers for themselves or for someone else are invited to attend, along with their support persons and/or family members.

Bulletin Announcement Insert – January 23, 2022

2021 ANNUAL REPORTS are available for pick-up today at the Welcome Center and across from the church office. You can also read the report online at this link:
<https://bit.ly/3tXHWwj>

Looking Ahead to Next Week:

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. Watch your email for a Zoom link to connect, or email the office to have it sent to you. office@stmattslutheran.org

Sunday School: Please Note that there is NO Sunday School all month in January, due to the high rates of Covid transmission at this time. We hope to resume in February.

2022 Youth Mission Trip Planned for Kenosha!

Last year's mission trip experience was an eye-opening look at the City of Milwaukee with participants seeing the need that exists just blocks away from where we live. This summer, we will be going a little farther from home, heading south to Kenosha, where we will serve with agencies addressing food insecurity, poverty, and inequity. The trip will take place the week of June 19th, and it will be a "full" trip where we will actually stay in the city of Kenosha. It is open to kids who are currently in 9th -12th grades. The deadline for signing up is January 31st.

If you are interested in being part of this experience or if you have any questions, please contact Gretchen Hauge (ghaugse@me.com, 262-488-4040).

Communion Class for 2nd Graders on February 13th Each year we have a special communion celebration for 2nd graders that begins with a class about the significance of the sacrament of communion. This year's class, taught by Pastor Ann and Gretchen Hauge, will be on Sunday, February 13th at 9:45. The class is for the 2nd graders *and parents*, and it is open to children who missed the class in previous years and would like to participate this year. Kids will also design and paint a communion glass that they will use to celebrate communion with their families at worship services throughout the spring. (Families will sign up for a service). If you would like more information, please contact Gretchen Hauge.

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)

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.

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.

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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 Hauge

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