

Welcome to Worship at St. Matthew's

February 6, 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.

Confirmation at the 8:30 service: Congratulations and God's blessings to two ninth graders being confirmed this morning: Jacquelyn Brown and Cameron Dahlquist will be affirming their baptism at the 8:30 am service.

Today Adult Education at 9:45 a.m. in the Upper Room: Dan Bice "Forgotten, Misrepresented, and Marginalized Figures of Early Christianity (Part One)" This one will be about John the Baptist; future topics in this intermittent series: James, Mary Magdalene, Mary, mother of Jesus. Dan Bice always gives a great presentation. If you haven't heard him before, please come and listen. It's sure to be educational and entertaining.

Sunday School Resumes this Sunday!

In-person Sunday school classes for preschool – 8th grade will resume on Sunday from 9:40-10:30. All 1st-5th graders will meet on 3rd floor for a big group. Preschool and middle school classes will meet in the rooms where they were meeting in the fall. All COVID protocols will continue to be in place: masking, distancing, and air purifiers. If you have any questions, contact Gretchen Hauge.

Lynne Thomas to Start as Sunday School/Youth Assistant:

We are excited to welcome Lynne Thomas to the St. Matthew's staff as the new assistant to Youth and Sunday School Ministries. Lynne will take on the responsibilities of the part-time position that had been held by Jenni Dugan, who returned to her nursing career in November. Lynne has been a frequent volunteer in the Sunday School and youth programs, as well as a regular VBS teacher. She also has a background in education and a wealth of volunteer experience in educational settings. We look forward to working Lynne and the talents she brings to this position!

Bulletin Announcement Insert – February 6, 2022

Annual Meeting Summary: At last week's Annual Meeting, we learned that our financial position is sound and that Pastor Sheila's last Sunday will be February 20. Also, four new council members were elected: Fred Heim, Carl Johnson, Allan Land and Michael Wolaver. We also heard a Call Committee update on the progress toward a new lead pastor (*more details below*) We give thanks to Pam Stokke-Ceci, congregational president, who has also been elected to another three-year term on council, providing continuity in leadership as Tara Laatsch accepts the presidency at their next meeting. Thanks to our church council for their dedication to St. Matthew's, and especially to Rob Wedel, our treasurer of 17+ years, for his steady guidance and leadership toward our sound financial position.

Call Committee Update: The first group of candidates provided by the synod office did not yield a candidate, and the committee has asked for another group of names. Brian Due, Chairperson of the Call Committee, spoke at the Annual Meeting and expressed the committee's disappointment over the necessity of lengthening the process for several more weeks and months. As soon as new names are provided, the Call Committee will determine whom to interview and move forward as quickly as possible. They feel the urgency that many have expressed to place a new lead pastor into ministry, but also feel a large responsibility to call the right person. Prayers are greatly appreciated for our Call Committee, as well as whomever may be our new lead pastor, now in discernment.

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.

Contributions for 2021 have been sent out by mail and email. If you did not receive one, please contact Al in the church office, 414.774.0441 or al@stmattslutheran.org

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

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

It's February - the best time to dream of all things green

Saints Older Adults Ministry Gathering: Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2022

“Nature’s Best Hope – A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard”

February is the best time of year to start planning for and dreaming of sunshine and green plants. Our presentation will lead us down that road with some novel ideas for how our yards, balconies, or even window sills can not only provide the plants we enjoy but also serve to make the planet a better place. Attendees are encouraged to bring a houseplant to this event as we will be transforming Fellowship Hall into a mini greenhouse. Speaker: Donna Miller, Schlitz Audubon Nature Center *Please sign up at the welcome center or the church office.*

Looking Ahead to Adult Education in February:

- **Feb. 13: The Music of St. Matthew’s from 1921–Today** - with John Paradowski
Enjoy a path down the musical journey of St. Matthew’s.
- **Feb. 20: Our Global Partnerships** – Learn about our partnerships with the Meru Diocese congregation of Sing’isi Lutheran Church in Tanzania and with Pan de Vida Lutheran Church in El Salvador
- **Feb. 27: Planning a Good Funeral** with Pastor Karen Natterstad; we’ll discuss what might be involved in leaving your loved ones some of your wishes for your ‘celebration of life.’

When do the youth choirs start?

Praise Kids begins February 10, meeting on Thursdays from 4:00-4:45pm

For children in grades 4K through second grade

New Creation Choir begins February 9, meeting on Wednesdays from 7-7:45pm

For children in grades 3-6

New Generation Choir began February 2, meeting on Wed. from 6:15-6:45pm

For youth in grades 7-12

Contact John Paradowski or Jeff Reeves for further information about these groups.

Your child is welcome!

Don’t forget Mt. Meru coffee when you are at church. We have regular and decaf in both drip grind and bean. They are still only \$10 for 12 oz. If you drink coffee during the coffee hour or another event at church, you are drinking Mt. Meru coffee.

Watch for a tasting event soon which will feature Peaberry coffee which is a premium coffee blend that is richer and less acidic than regular coffee. It is created when a single coffee bean is used that is grown within each coffee berry instead of the normal two beans, and only 5% of coffee is Peaberry. It will be available at \$15 for 12 oz., regular only. ***Justice never tasted so good!***

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.

Undie Sunday underwear collection runs February 13 - March 13
Benefits clients of Guest House & Benedict Center's Sisters Project

This is an annual collection which we last did in the fall of 2019. Here's what we're collecting:

Men's briefs or boxer briefs (Sizes S, M, L, 2X and 3X)

Men's Socks, size 6-12

Women's panties, sizes 4-24

Women's Bras, sizes 34A - 42C

Women's Socks

Women's pajamas and long underwear, sizes up to 2X

If you'd like to contribute to this donation, there will be a collection box outside the church office. Thank you for sharing of your resources to benefit those in our community worthy of some additional help.

Did you miss this Saints presentation in January? No matter your age, *It is worth seeing!* **STOP Senior Frauds and Scams** Watch the Video at this link:

<https://youtu.be/JYExXeOnQzg>

Tosa Community Food Pantry Open Board Position: The Tosa Community Food Pantry, a non-profit charitable organization affiliated with Hunger Task Force, seeks to fill the position of president of its Board of Directors. The ideal candidate is committed to relieving hunger in the Milwaukee area and serving our clients with dignity and respect. Good organizational skills and computer proficiency needed. This person will represent the pantry in the community and among our regular donors, including churches, schools and businesses. Average time commitment of 5-10 hours per week. Contact Judy Maret for more information at judymaret@wi.rr.com Tosa Community Food Pantry is located at St. Bernard Catholic Church in the Tosa village, near St. Matthew's.

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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, Lynne Thomas

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