

Welcome to Worship at St. Matthew's

March 6, 2022



Welcome to worship this Sunday in Lent as we journey toward the cross and the empty tomb. Wherever we have been, whatever we have done, our all-loving heavenly Father welcomes us into his arms.

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.

First Communion Celebration Today: A special welcome to Riley Braun, Violet Gifford and Connor Sieg and their families as they receive their First Holy Communion this morning at the 11:00 service. They attended the first communion class on February 13th with Gretchen Haugse and Pastor Ann Williams in preparation for this day. Your prayers are appreciated for God's blessing to be upon them as they take this important step in their faith journey.

Covid Protocols Update: St. Matthew's Return to Worship Task Force was advised at their meeting this week that the Covid rates, according to the new CDC guidelines, are currently "yellow" or low enough for small groups to follow the "masks are encouraged but not required" recommendation. We will wait for the "green light" from the CDC to do the same for large groups including Sunday worship. Some things to know:

- Masks may not be required (soon) but they will still be encouraged—they really are the best way for people with any health concerns to be in community
- Ministries like Sunday School and Praise Kids will continue to mask at least until the end of the academic year so that we can protect our youngest children.
- While we're excited to see your faces and sing loudly we are aware that Covid is here to stay. If another variant comes along we may require masks again. If numbers in our area go up during winter months—we may need to have a "seasonal" mask requirement.

In short, keep looking for updates and please continue to be flexible and gracious as we navigate this new reality together.

Today Adult Education at 9:45 a.m. in the Upper Room: A Prophetic Artist – An Asian artist whom many regard as the "Dean" of Asian artists is Pulidindi Solomon Raj, a true polymath who combined interests in batiks, woodblock prints, poetry, dance and drama. He died at the age of 98 two years ago in his native city in India, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh State. And surprise, he also had a Ph.D in communication from the University of Birmingham (UK) and was a Lutheran pastor! A visual presentation of his art and Christian message will be shared at the March 6 Adult Forum Class by Dr. David Zersen who served as his representative for over a decade.

Bulletin Announcement Insert – March 6, 2022

A Library Book has been donated to the church library by **Dee & Don Birschel** in honor of their grandson Gavin Bratz's birthday.

Would you like to receive a local daily devotion during Lent? Sign up to receive Outreach for Hope's daily devotions by email OR you can also download a .pdf of the whole season, and read them at your leisure. These devotions are especially interesting because each one is written/video-recorded by a different person connected with Outreach for Hope. You will learn about the many ministries of OFH while being inspired and nurtured in faith during lent. The link: <https://outreachforhope.org/subscribe/> Be sure to fill out the entire form, check the box for Lent devotions, and then click "subscribe" at the bottom.

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 13th Remember to Spring Ahead one hour before retiring on Saturday evening so that you arrive on time for church on Sunday morning.

Quilt Ministry Blitz is coming up Saturday, March 12. The time is 9:00 – 1:30 pm. Many projects have been completed and the March gathering will allow us to assess the quilts to be blessed on Mother's Day in May. You are invited to come, even if you haven't come in the past. Help us complete:

- Simple tasks of pinning, ironing, cutting fabric and organizing quilts/blankets to be blessed on Mother's Day
- Completing drawstring bags to be used at Christmas for gifts to be distributed to Allies for Teens in Foster Care
- Replenishing blankets for congregational baptisms during the spring and summer months

Feel free to bring a bag lunch and beverage for our lunch break and please wear a mask. Any questions, please contact Bev Etzelmueller at bevetz@sbcglobal.net or 262-250-3969.

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

There is a collection box outside the church office. Thank you for sharing of your resources to benefit those in our community who are clients of these organizations.

Youth Forum begins meeting today at 9:45 am in the Youth Room, for youth in 9th – 12th grade, led by Gretchen Hauge.

“Making Room: Renewing Our Practice of Christian Hospitality” Lent 2022 at St. Matthew’s

Making Room: Hospitality with



Family
Church
Neighbor
Stranger
Enemy

As we remember and give thanks for the welcome God gives us through Jesus Christ, we share in a ministry of extending that hospitality to family, friends, neighbors, and strangers. We can learn from the past, from scripture, from one another how this ancient Christian practice is much more than entertaining someone. We make room by being aware of those around you

each day, simply taking notice of who God puts in your path. We make room by adjusting our attitudes or actions. Together we journey to the cross and make room once again for the welcome God has prepared for us.

This Wednesday: *(and each Wednesday during Lent)*

Watch for a **midweek worship video** that will arrive in your email inbox, inviting you into reflection and prayer with the weekly theme.

Be part of a **small group conversation** during Lent **starting the week of March 6th.**

- **At Church: Tuesdays at 10:30 AM**
 - **Wednesdays at 10:00 AM & 6:15 PM**
- **On Zoom: Tuesdays at 7:00 PM** – Zoom link in emails or email the church office to have it sent to you: office@stmattslutheran.org

Sign up for a group in the Commons or just join us when you can!

FAMILY LENTEN TIME: March 9 – April 6, 2022 *Begins this week!*

Parents and younger children, come and join us in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday nights! Join us for the midweek family time, 6:15 to 7:00 each Wednesday. There will be stories, songs, projects, prayer, and a brief worship, led by Donna Gardner Manke. Children 3rd grade and younger are encouraged to attend with their parents. Participants will learn about Bible stories addressing our Lenten theme of HOSPITALITY.

Lenten offerings marked for “Lent offering” will be directed toward Ukraine relief through Lutheran Disaster Response and “Exploit No More,” a local organization working to address and prevent human trafficking.

Lutheran Disaster Response is already helping the people of Ukraine currently under attack by Russia. If you wish to make a donation to support LDR's assistance, you may write a check and mark it "LDR-Ukraine", give through our website at this link: Stmattslutheran.org/give or give through the Lutheran Disaster Response website: Elca.org/ldr Our prayers for the people of Ukraine are also very much needed.

Wednesday Bible Study with Pastor Ann Williams: Join us during Lent, March 9 – April 6, 10:00-11:00, for a study following our Lenten Theme of "Making Room: Renewing Our Practice of Christian Hospitality."

St. Matt's Ground Crew (New!)

Volunteers are needed who might enjoy helping to manage the St. Matthew's grounds. Skills with trimming bushes and trees, possible landscaping, desired. This newly formed Grounds Crew would work closely with the Garden Team and the Property Committee to care for or improve the landscape on our property. For more information contact Ed Bross: ecbross@gmail.com, or Pastor Karen: pastorkaren@stmattslutheran.org

Mount Meru Coffee: Check out the coffee cart between the 8:30 and 11:00 services and try one of our Mt. Meru flavored coffees: Chocolate Raspberry. In addition to our featured flavor we also have Butter Pecan, French Vanilla, and Hazelnut available for purchase. We also have our standard coffee in regular and decaf and premium Peaberry coffee which is made from coffee berries with single beans and is less acidic. Purchasing Mt. Meru coffee from our synod's partner in Tanzania helps more than 2000 peasant farmers and goes along way in helping to improve their standard of living. Checkout the coffee cart for all the choices.

Did you Miss the Communion Class on February 13th ? *Here's how you can make it up.* . . . If your child is in 2nd grade or older and you weren't able to attend the communion class on February 13th, you can still participate in a communion celebration with your child at one of several services this spring. Please contact Gretchen Hauge for information on how you can make up the class and sign up for a service.

Pastoral Staff: Karen Natterstad, Interim Lead and Ann Williams, Associate Pastor

Volunteer Ministries/Small Groups/Adult Education: Sue Swing

Youth Ministries & Children's Education: Gretchen Hauge, 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