



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve Holy Communion Candlelight Service

December 24, 2021

7:00 & 9:00 p.m.

E-mail: stmatthewluth@aol.com

Website: www.STMATTHEWLC.com

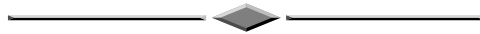
Pastor Traci Marriott 814-935-9267

9:30 Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

- **At the end of the service** please return the candle and candleholder to an Usher as you leave.
- **Individual candles** will be lit following the Post Communion Prayer
- **Safety Precaution:** When lighting candles, **tilt** the **unlighted** candle over the burning one.



Holy Communion: We are currently celebrating communion with prepared cups of wine and pre-packaged wafers which are available by the entrance. For safety, instead of coming forward, we will remain seated for the communion liturgy. All are welcome at the Lord's table.

For those who have difficulty seeing, we have large print bulletins. Or, if you are having **difficulty hearing** we have listening assistant devices. Ask an usher for assistance.

*AN * INDICATES TO STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE.*

This Week at St. Matthew . . .

Sun. 12/26 - NO in person worship. Watch the service on FACEBOOK

Mon. 12/27 - Mon. 1/3

- *Office is Closed*

- All 2021 donations must be in the church office by Monday, Dec. 27th
10:00 a.m.

Fri. - ***Have a Blessed New Year!***

Next Sun. 1/2/22 (Installation of Council Members will be at **both** services.)

- Worship in Sanctuary 8:30 a.m.

- Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

- Worship in Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 26 Worship will be on **FACEBOOK only**. There are pre-printed bulletins at the Usher Station for you to take home to follow along. There is **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL** either.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*INVOCATION AND ABSOLUTION

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth. **C Amen**

P Dear people of God, hear the good news: Christ the Savior is born! You are loved and forgiven in the name of † Jesus, who has come among us. You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved, because God's love is given to you as the most precious gift of all. Rejoice in this love and share it with the world. **C Amen**

*PROCESSION

O Come All Ye Faithful

Jacob Orzeck

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray . . . Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C Amen**

THE FIRST LESSON *Isaiah 9:2-7*

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

A *The word of the Lord.* **C** *Thanks be to God.*

📖 The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the Second chapter.

🎉 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Reading of the Gospel of St. Luke 2:1-20

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

📖 The Gospel of the Lord. 🎉 **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE HOMILY

Pastor Traci Marriott

THE NICENE CREED

P Let us confess our faith through the words of the Nicene Creed.

C **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

***THE PRAYERS**

P Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

P Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life. Merciful God, **C** **receive our prayer.**

P Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. Maintain healthy cycles of wake and sleep for all creatures. Where light pollution disrupts natural rhythms, encourage new practices. Merciful God, **C** **receive our prayer.**

P Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others, that they nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy. Merciful God, **C** **receive our prayer.**

- Ⓟ Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night. Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult. Merciful God, 🕊 **receive our prayer.**
- Ⓟ Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind. Merciful God, 🕊 **receive our prayer.**
- Ⓟ God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for Mary, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, Joseph the dreamer, and all who point toward your love. Merciful God, 🕊 **receive our prayer.**
- Ⓟ Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior. 🕊 **Amen**

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING...**

- Ⓟ The Lord be with you. 🕊 **And also with you.**
- Ⓟ Lift up your hearts. 🕊 **We lift them to the Lord.**
- Ⓟ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. 🕊 **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**
- Ⓟ Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, in the beginning your word brought light into the whole world.

In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. 🕊 **Amen**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

***INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

P Love has come: God's love for all people. Come and eat, for Christ invites you.

C **Amen**

THE DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

O Holy Night

Alyssa Clark

***THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C** **Amen**

P Let us pray. . . We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. **C** **Amen**

(INDIVIDUAL CANDLES WILL BE LIGHTED DURING THE READING.)

Everyone Is Invited to Sing the Hymn with your Mask ON.

***HYMN**

Silent Night, Holy Night!

1. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright, 'Round yon virgin, mother and child, Holy infant, so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light; Radiant beams from your holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace. Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

(INDIVIDUAL CANDLES ARE EXTINGUISHED.)

***BENEDICTION**

P The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh. **C** **Amen**

(PLEASE EXCHANGE OUR CANDLE FOR A GLOW STICK AND GATHER OUTSIDE THE MAPLE STREET DOORS FOR THE FINAL HYMN.)

***SENDING HYMN - OUTSIDE** *Joy to the World*

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;
Let every heart prepare him room, And heav'n and nature sing. (*repeat*)
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and
floods, rocks, hill, and plains Repeat the sounding joy. (*repeat*)
3. No more let sin and sorrow grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow Far as the curse is found. (*repeat*)
4. He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove The glories
of his righteousness And wonders of his love. (*repeat*)

***THE DISMISSAL**

☐ Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior. **☑** **Thanks be to God.**

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Also, please be advised that our parking lot has surveillance cameras and
that our worship service is video recorded.

The 2022 Altar Flower chart is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Altar Flowers are a perfect way to remember loved ones. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar. Price - \$40.00.



St. Matthew's Website
www.stmatthewLC.com

Have you checked out the website lately?

- ❖ You can find a monthly calendar of events
- ❖ Weekly copies of the Sunday Bulletin
- ❖ Monthly copies of "The Messenger"
- ❖ Links to ELCA important sites
 - ❖ Online giving options
 - ❖ And so much more

We also are on Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmatthewlc

2022 Offering Envelopes

Everyone who is a confirmed member or is a visitor and has requested envelopes receives Offering Envelopes. **The Offering Envelopes are MAILED directly to your home monthly.**

Ways to Support St. Matthew

Giving Online: Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

- 1) Visit the church website at “www.stmatthewlc.com”
- 2) Click on the “**Give**” button, (on the top white banner)
- 3) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.

BarCode Offerings:

- 1) Visit “**Play Store on your mobile device**”
- 2) Find QR Code (this app is free)
- 3) Click on the “**Install**” the app
- 4) Open the app on your device
- 5) Scan the BarCode: (follow the prompts)
 - a) in the bulletin OR b) in the Messenger OR c) on the church website above



Name Tags: In the Narthex are name tags that the Evangelism Committee would like for us to use so we can get to know one another again since the Pandemic. Please return them at the end of the service.

Martinsburg Food Pantry

As 2021 ends, we, at the Food Pantry, want to thank St. Matthew members who have contributed food, paper items, personal or cleaning supplies or monetary gifts during this year! It's been greatly appreciated in helping to serve those families in need. We ask for your prayers and continued support.

The Food Pantry will be open on Thursdays, January 6 and January 20 from 9:00 to 11:00am. It will open when needed by appointment. Volunteers from St. Matthew will be assisting in the distribution of food. If you can help, please let Elaine Buchart know for either Thursday.

The January Items most needed are: Ravioli, Pasta Sides, Pineapple, Jello, and Cleaning Supplies. THANK YOU! *Linda K. Smith*

Serving God and Us

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew

Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Pianist Today – Adam Day

Our Missionary Family – On Eagle’s Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson

Our Administrative Assistant – Lori Tremmel

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton – Phil Claar

Our Acolytes (7:00 p.m.) – Jeffrey Hoenstine, Max Baker, Mace Baker

Our Acolytes (9:00 p.m.) – Christopher Bush, Jacob Orczeck, Olivia Day

Our Lector – Lori Tremmel

Our Audio/Video Tech – Jay Hoenstine

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

Fourth Quarter Ventures in Faith to “*United Lutheran Seminary*”

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Shirley Acker, Carl & Dawn Alexy, John Aljets, Vivian Beach, Verna Blough, Fred Brandenburg, Clyde Claycomb, Betty Helsel, Jere Hess, Audrey Hite, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Janet Kreider, Joan Partner, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Don Smith, Bill Stahl, Joy Williams.

Prayer Concerns: Amy & Family, Pastor Denise Arpino, Diane Baer, Cindy Barnes, Randy Barrett, Diane Cappel, Greg Comer, Greg Dick, Brian Fleck, Jim Fritz, Shelby Gerrity, George Gilbert Sr., Dan Hershberger, Joe Hinton, Barrett Hoover, Marilyn Horton, Darren Kreutzer, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Nathan, Aunt Mica, Murtle Miller, Deb Peters, Dan Ross, Dorothy Ross, Paul Ruth, Barbara Smith, Don Smith, Luther Steele, Cindy Thomas, Norm Tremmel, Carol Weyandt, Jean White, Pete Williams, Jim & Ginny Zeek, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle’s Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.**

Our college students: Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jacob Orczeck.

Those Serving in the Army Overseas: Nathan Smith (Germany)

Mitten Tree Thank You!

Many Thanks to all who contributed so generously to the "Mitten Tree" by bringing colorful home-made, bought items, and financial donations for needy elementary school children! Because of your kindness, these children will have a warmer winter!

These items were distributed to Martinsburg and Spring Cove Elementary Schools. The total items received were (44 pairs of mittens and gloves; 5 hats; 13 sets of hats, 1 scarf; 24 pairs of socks; 1 pair of slippers).



SNOW CAMP 2022

Friday, February 25th to Saturday, February 26th
Camp Sequanota, Jennerstown, PA



Snow Camp is for 6th – 12 Graders
Games, Crafts, Food, Sledding, Worship, Learning
Accommodations in Sequanota's Winterized Cabins

Join with youth from around the Allegheny Synod
As we regroup and rediscover what it means to take part in

HOLY COMMUNITY

Space is limited! Registration will be open from
January 15th to February 13th

Register Online at www.sequanota.com

See brochure on Narthex bulletin board for more information.



Altar Guild Volunteers

Looking for volunteers who would like to serve on Altar Guild. Responsibilities include preparing Communion elements (wafers and wine), taking care of the candles, and preparing the sanctuary for worship.

Preparations for Easter and Christmas require a little more time. Usually Altar Guild members need only serve two months during a calendar year Please direct any questions and inquiries to Jane Fagans at jfagans@atlanticbb.net, landline at 793-4401, or text at 327-0786.

Christ gives us love and support in the fellowship of the church. He gives us the bread of life and the cup Of blessing in the Holy Communion. Christ's Spirit fills us with songs of thanksgiving for all that God has done for us.

In response to all this and all of God's other might acts, we are called to offer ourselves to Christ's service. The basic motivation for service is gratitude.

A Christmas Welcome

We warmly welcome all who have come to celebrate this glorious feast.

We welcome the stranger, the traveler and guest!

We welcome our students home from college for a good winter's rest!

We welcome parishioners who moved far away but join us today as old friends and guests!

We welcome all who have not been active of late in their faith; and hope they will find new hope and inspiration this Christmas to come back again and again!

We welcome our faithful parishioners, loyal and true; may the Lord bless you for all you do!

Welcome to all! May our gathering this day gladden our hearts and deepen our bonds.

We are after all one People of God—redeemed by the Light.

May we walk by the Light and live by the Light--together in love.

Christmas Blessings



*Merry Christmas to all of the members and visitors of
St. Matthew Lutheran Church from
Pastor Traci, Lori, Phil, Adam, Laura, Mary, Camden and Pastor Ed*