



*St. Matthew Lutheran Church*  
*Christmas Eve Holy Communion Candlelight Service*  
*December 24, 2022*  
*7:00 p.m.*

E-mail: [stmatthewmartinsburg@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthewmartinsburg@gmail.com)

Website: [www.STMATTHEWLC.com](http://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.

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**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.

*Masks are optional but available in the narthex for anyone who feels more comfortable taking that precaution for themselves or on behalf of others.*

AN \* INDICATES TO STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*INVOCATION AND ABSOLUTION

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation. **C Amen**

P Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God. **C Amen**

### \*HYMN

### *O, Come, All Ye Faithful*

ELW # 283



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

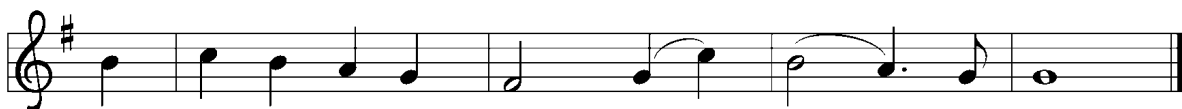


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

#### *Refrain*



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

## **\*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*

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You 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. <sup>4</sup>For 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. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For 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. <sup>7</sup>His 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.

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

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph 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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And 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.

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

<sup>15</sup>When 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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P The Gospel of the Lord. **C Praise to You, O Christ.**

**THE HOMILY**

*Pastor Traci Marriott*

\*HYMN

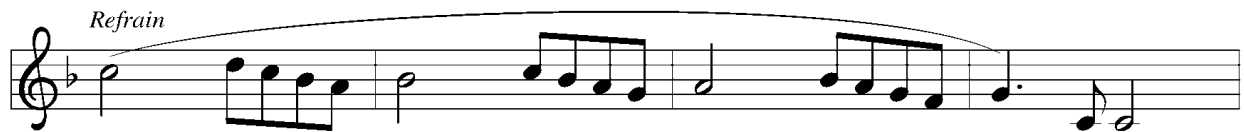
*Angels We Have Heard on High*



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864  
Music: GLORIA, French carol

**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 With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

P Your infinite love is born to us this night. With choirs of angels the church proclaims the good news. Send us out as messengers of the hope that has come to all people. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

P You are pleased to dwell with your creatures and the whole earth sings for joy. Renew the splendor of creation from the smallest cell to the widest galaxies. Guide us to be wise stewards of your gifts for the sake of generations to come. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

P Your authority is over the nations. Break the rod of oppression in every land and free all people from fear. Bring peace where there is war, compassion where there is suffering, and healing where there is disease. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

P You cherish those who are most vulnerable. Protect infants and children, and bless those who care for them. Watch over women giving birth, attend the dying, and relieve any who are in pain. Shelter refugee families and those who have no home. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

P Your lovingkindness embraces everyone in need. Help any for whom this season is lonely or joyless. Comfort those among us, or known to us, who are experiencing distress of body or mind, missing loved ones, or grieving. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

P You welcome those who have died into the joyous light of glory. We give thanks for the saints of every time and place who have praised you with lives of faith and humility. Inspire us by their example to love you by serving others. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

P Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God. **C Amen**

## **\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING. . .**

P The Lord be with you. **C And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts. **C We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P 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. **C 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 Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

**C Amen**

*Note: White grape juice is available in the cups in the center of the trays. The Usher will invite the lectern side, then the piano side, then the back section forward for communion.*

### **\*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.* . . God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C Amen**

(INDIVIDUAL CANDLES WILL BE LIGHTED DURING THE SINGING.)

**\*HYMN**

*Silent Night, Holy Night!*



*Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,*  
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



*ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.*  
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



*Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher*  
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



*Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.*  
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885  
 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

**\*BENEDICTION**

P God bless you and keep you, ✚ Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **C Amen**

(INDIVIDUAL CANDLES ARE EXTINGUISHED.)



**\*SENDING SONG**

*Joy to the World*

ELW # 267



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

**\*THE DISMISSAL**

**P** Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

**C** 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.



## SNOW CAMP 2023

Friday, January 27-29, 2023

Camp Sequanota, Jennerstown, PA



**Snow Camp is for 6<sup>th</sup> – 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 is open now.** [www.sequanota.com](http://www.sequanota.com)

#### Ways to Support St. Matthew

- \***You can give through** weekly offering envelopes.
- \***You can go to your bank** and have them direct a check every month to St. Matthew that either goes from bank to bank or a check that is sent to 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. There are fees that St. Matthew pay monthly for this service. Simply follow these easy steps:
  - 1) Visit the church website at “[www.stmatthewlc.com](http://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:** (there are fees that are taken from your offering or you can add the fees to your donation.)
  - 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



## Serving God and Us

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew

Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Pianist – Dr. Adam Smith

Our Organist – Mary Nelson

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 – Jeffrey Hoenstine, Max Baker, Mace Baker

Our Lector – Jeffrey Hoenstine

Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

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

### **This Week at St. Matthew . . .**

Sun. 12/25 - Lessons & Carols with Communion 10:30 a.m.

Mon. 12/26 - Tues. 1/3/23

- *Office is Closed*

- All 2022 donations must be in the church office by Monday, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m.

Next Sun. 1/1/23 - ***Have a Blessed New Year!***

- Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

- Worship in Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.

### **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 These items were distributed to Martinsburg and Spring Cove Elementary Schools. The total items received were (41 pairs of mittens and gloves; 49 hats; 14 sets of hats/mittens, 1 headband; 9 pairs of socks).

**The 2023 Altar Flower chart** is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Altar Flowers are a perfect way to remember loved ones or honor loved ones. There are plenty of open dates. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar. Price - \$40.00.

**Prayers are needed for our homebound:** Carl Alexy, Vivian Beach, Fred Brandenburg, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Janet Kreider, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Bill Stahl, Joy Williams.

**Prayer Concerns:** Amy & Family, Pastor Denise Arpino, Randy Barrett, Bonnie Brobst, Diane Cappel, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Terry & Cathy Creek, Brian Fleck, Jim Fritz, Lindsey Garrison, Dan Hershberger, Marilyn Horton, Audrey Kensinger, Darren Kreutzer, Carrie Lively, Kristen Malloy, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Kay McGraw, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Charles Minnick & Family, Nathan, Deb Peters, Paul Ruth, Hunter Smith, Luther Steele, Cindy Thomas, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.**

**Our college students:** Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Camryn Gates.

**Those Serving in the Army Overseas:** Nathan Smith (Germany), Melody Estep.

**Prayers and Christian Sympathy** go to the family of Don Smith upon his death on Sunday, December 18, 2022.

### **Martinsburg Food Pantry**

Volunteers from St. Matthew will be helping and assisting in the distribution of food on Thursdays, January 5 and January 19 from 9-11:00 a.m.

**The January items most needed are:** Cereal, Fruit, Pasta or Rice Sides, Ravioli, Laundry Detergent.

Our thanks to all who have contributed food, paper supplies or monetary gifts during this past year. We ask for your continued support and prayers in serving needy families during 2023!

***Linda K. Smith***



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