



## *First Sunday of Christmas*

*December 26, 2021*

### *St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church*

115 E. Penn Street, Martinsburg, PA 16662

Pastor Traci Marriott # 814-935-9267

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[www.Facebook.com/stmatthewLC](http://www.Facebook.com/stmatthewLC) Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

**Today's Altar Flowers** are placed to the Glory of God.

—◆—  
*Prayer throughout the week:*

The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven.

*Psalm 148:13*  
—◆—

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

Mon. 12/27 - Mon. 1/3

- *Office is Closed*

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

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

Next Sun. 1/2/22

- Worship in Sanctuary 8:30 a.m.

- Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

- Worship in Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.

## *A Service of Lessons and Carols*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

### **OPENING DIALOG...**

☐ As we hear again the good news the angels proclaimed: God has come for all people through the birth of the one named Jesus. Through Bethlehem's manger God comes into the chaos, messiness, and vulnerability of the world. In all things and at all times, we rejoice that God comes to save us and reigns in love. We come to adore Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

*Hymn* *Once in Royal David's City* (vs 1 & 2)

- 1 Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Genesis 1:1-5

*Hymn* *Love Has Come* (vs 1 & 3)

- 1 Love has come—a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.
- 3 Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas; Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

*Hymn* *Lo, How a Rose Is Growing* (vs 1 & 2)

- 1 Lo, how a rose is growing, a bloom of finest grace; the prophets had foretold it: a branch of Jesse's race would bear one perfect flow'r here in the cold of winter and darkest midnight hour.
- 2 The rose of which I'm singing, Isaiah had foretold. He came to us through Mary, who sheltered him from cold. Through God's eternal will this child to us was given at midnight calm and still.

3<sup>rd</sup> Reading Micah 5:2-5a



*Hymn*

*What Child Is This*

*(vs 1 & 3)*

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!
- 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him. The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby; joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

8<sup>th</sup> Reading

John 1:1-14

*\*Hymn of the Day*

*Good Christian Friend, Rejoice*

*(vs 1 & 2)*

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
- 2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

**\*THE PRAYERS**

- ☐ 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.
- ☐ You come to us in gatherings of your church across the globe. Unite us with those who celebrate your birth even when they are weighed down by grief, loss, poverty, hunger, or injustice. Merciful God, ☩ **receive our prayer.**
- ☐ You come to us in the diverse splendor of the universe. Grant us the humility to trust our place in the network of creation, that we live in service to you and the natural world. Merciful God, ☩ **receive our prayer.**
- ☐ You come to us through relationships of many kinds: families, friendships, communities, and nations. Guide us in these relationships, that we recognize the Christ child in one another and show your love to those most vulnerable. Merciful God, ☩ **receive our prayer.**
- ☐ You come to us through people whom the world forgets. Poor shepherds and an imprisoned Paul announced your good news. Send your Spirit to all who are imprisoned, struggling with addiction, unwell, or in any need this day. Merciful God, ☩ **receive our prayer.**

**P** You come to us in acts of justice and forgiveness. Open our hearts to forgive one another, without permitting injustice. Supply us with the wisdom to be clothed with love, binding all things together in perfect harmony. Merciful God, **C** **receive our prayer.**

**P** You come to us through those who have died yet live with you forever. We give thanks for Stephen, deacon and martyr, who gave his life to tell the story of your love. Merciful God, **C** **receive our prayer.**

**P** 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. **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**

### **\*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**

### **Hymn**

#### *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

**Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. **Refrain**
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. **Refrain**
- 3 Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born; and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain**

### **\*THE DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **\*POSTLUDE**

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

## **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*

**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, Brian Fleck, Jim Fritz, Shelby Gerrity, George Gilbert Sr., Dan Hershberger, Joe Hinton, Shearl Hite, 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, Dawn Theofield, 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!

## First Day Hike

Camp Sequanota, Saturday, January 1, 2022

11:00 a.m.

Some hot chocolate to warm up upon returning.

**Or**

The First Day Hike at Canoe Creek State Park on Saturday, January 1, meet us at Canoe Creek Nature Building at 1:30 p.m. The nature hike with naturalist begins at 1:45 p.m. campfire and hot chocolate are available for purchase at the Park.



## 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 Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

December’s Altar Guild – Jane Fagans

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

## SNOW CAMP 2022

Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup>

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 S ynod  
As we regroup and rediscover what it means to take part in

## HOLY COMMUNITY

Space is limited! Registration will be open from

January 15<sup>th</sup> to February 13<sup>th</sup>

Register Online at [www.sequanota.com](http://www.sequanota.com)

See brochure on Narthex bulletin board for more information.

