

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

10:30 a.m. Worship



We ask that all present sign our Friendship Sheet. After you add your name to the sheet, please pass it toward the center aisle. Then return it to the outside aisle so that you become familiar with our family in Christ. These sheets help our pastor and congregation with our ministry. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew to worship and serve Christ together!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **C: Amen.**

P: God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

P: Everlasting God,

C: you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

P: Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all. **C: Amen.**

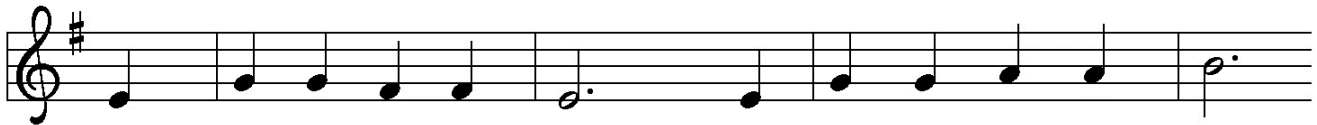
***OPENING HYMN**

Savior of the Nations, Come

ELW # 263

***GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory to God

ELW # S204a



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho-ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
 Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
 Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
 on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
 Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
 Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
 For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

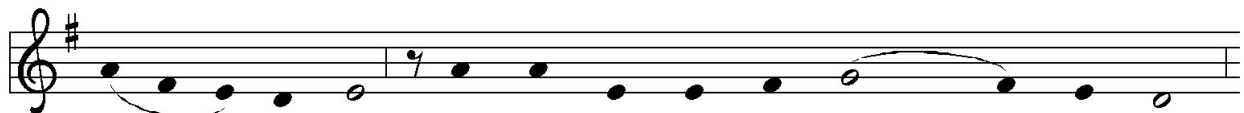
P: Let us pray ... Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

WREATH LIGHTING HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs 1)* *ELW #257*



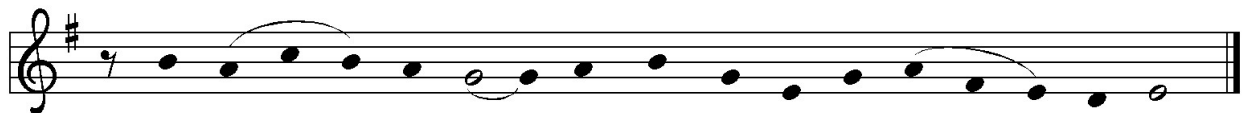
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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FIRST READING: ISAIAH 64:1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,

so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
⁸Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.
L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19 (*read responsively*)

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**
³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
⁴**O Lord God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**
⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,**

and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW # S 205a

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***Gospel: Mark 13:24-37**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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

HOMILY

Pastor Traci

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

The King Shall Come

ELW # 260

***APOSTLES’ CREED**

P: Let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

***C:* I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

A: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God’s day of restoration.

- A: Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things. Reenergize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion, especially those who serve as missionaries near and far. Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**
- A: All creation signals your presence, O God: the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living things that both rest and flourish. Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**
- A: Let the nations tremble at your holy presence, that justice and liberation prevail in all corners of the earth. Restore peace to nations in conflict, teach righteousness to corrupt leaders and systems, and bring stability to areas facing uncertain futures. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**
- A: Enrich the spirits of all who feel hopeless, fearful, or despairing. Stay close to those who await healing or relief. Deliver all in any need. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**
- A: Be with those who keep awake at night: nurses working overnight shifts, caregivers of newborns and aging adults, stargazers, those who are anxious, or those who are traveling. Reveal to all that the dark can be a place of calm and comfort filled with your presence. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**
- A: You have sent out your angels and gathered your faithful people from every time and place, calling them into one fellowship of saints. Bless the witness of those who dwell in your eternal presence. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**
- P: Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. **C: Amen.**

***THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please share the peace with those around you using a greeting that is comfortable for both you and them.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*An offering plate is located near the entrance to the nave;
we offer thanks for the abundance God has first shown us:*

- A: *Let us pray...* God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.
C: Amen.

***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 our thanks and praise.**

***PROPER PREFACE**

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, almighty and everliving God.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***SANCTUS**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

ELW # S207



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

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: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy 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 in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

*THE AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God

ELW # S208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

***INVITATION**

P: There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

COMMUNION HYMN

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

ELW # 254

***BLESSING**

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

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray... Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. **C: Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

***SENDING SONG**

Fling Wide the Door

ELW # 259

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Keep awake. **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 and/or live-streamed on social media.

Today's Altar Flowers are placed to the Glory of God and in memory of Colette and Garrett Bassler by Peggy Steinfurth.

Serving God and Us

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew
Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott
Our Organists – Mary Nelson, DeAnna Cree
Our Missionary Family – Robin Abrol, On Eagle’s Wings
Our Administrative Assistant – Jen Ripka
Our Financial Bookkeeper – Laura Orczeck
Our Sexton – Phil Claar
Our Assisting Minister – Martie Gilbert
Our Lector – Linda Smith
Our Acolyte – Lily Lightner
Our Usher – Martie Gilbert
Our Altar Guild – Jean Sinal, Cindy Snyder and Jane Fagans
Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster
Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

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

This Week at St. Matthew:

814-793-2413: Office Hours

Pastor Traci – Wed. 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Jen – Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

This Week Events

Today – Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship in Sanctuary 10:30 am
Congregational Meeting After Worship
Fellowship Hall In Use 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Monday – Cub/Boy Scouts, Scout Rooms 6:00 p.m.
Worship & Music Meeting on Zoom 6:00 pm

Friday – The Weekend Synod Youth Event grades 6-12

Saturday – Fellowship Hall in Use 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
The Weekend Synod Youth Event grades 6-12

Sunday – Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
The Weekend Synod Youth Event grades 6-12

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

Prayer Concerns: Amy & Family, Randy Barrett, Caleb, Diane Cappel, Ted Chipperfield, Phillip Claar, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Greg Dick, Brian Fleck, Ron Focht, Jim Fritz, Brenda Harley & Family, Rodger Hoover, Marilyn Horton, Baby James, Darren Kreutzer, Linda Lehman, Carrie Lively, Kristen Malloy, Ruth Marshall, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Kay McGraw, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Carl Miner, Charles Minnick & Family, Nathan, Deb Peters, Bob & Annette Ritchey, Paul Ruth, Dennis Smith (Lock Mtn.) Denny Smith (Shelly Hill), Cindy Thomas, Tiffany Townsend, Lyndsay Tremmel, Drew Wenzel, Craig Werner, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Pat Winston, Tom Woodrow, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings.**

Away at School: Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Camryn Gates, Elizabeth Haffling, Jeff Hoenstine.

Those Serving in our Armed Forces: Bradley Buchart, Melody Estep, Colin Guyer, Nathan Smith (Germany).

Reminder: Annual Meeting



This year's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held at the end of the 10:30AM worship service today. Copies of the 2024 Proposed Congregational Budget and the 2024 recommendations for Ventures In Faith and Special Envelopes are available at the usher station. The congregation will be asked to approve these proposals for 2024 at the 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting. If you have questions about the budget in advance of the meeting, please see Treasurer Beth Garner or Finance Committee Chair Jim Barley.

Mitten Tree



Our Mitten Tree is available to be decorated with mittens, hats, gloves, scarves, socks and earmuffs near the entrance to the Sanctuary until Sunday, December 17. All these items will be distributed to needy children at the local elementary schools before Christmas.



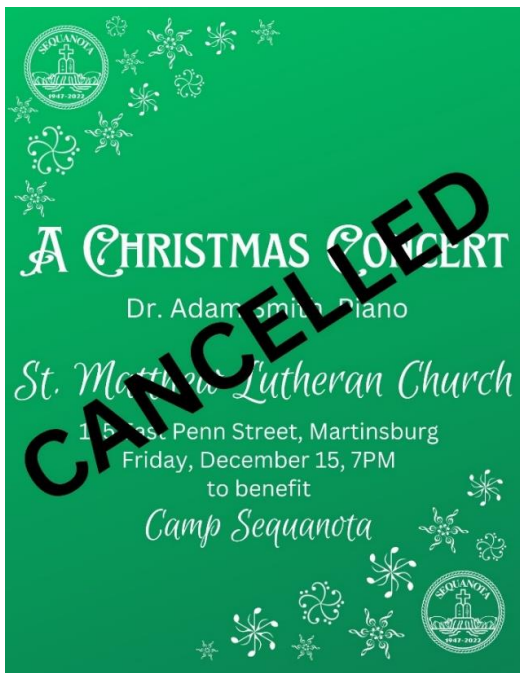
Any donations of money can be placed in a pew envelope marked with "Mitten Tree". These will be used to purchase needed items. Help children have a warmer Winter!

Cove Christmas Love



The Martinsburg ministerium is again helping to provide presents for children in need through Cove Christmas Love. We will have an additional tree in the nave with tags identifying the Christmas wishes of the recipients; our congregation's goal for this year is to provide 90 presents through this initiative. Please take a tag (or tags) no later than TODAY Sunday, December 3rd and shop for the items listed, returning them WITH THE TAG no later than Sunday, December 10th. You can direct any questions to Peggy Steinfurth. Thank you for sharing with the community in this time of Christmas cheer.

Please pick up a copy of Advent Reflections 2023, a booklet published by *On Eagle's Wings* containing daily devotionals to journey through each day of Advent. They are available at the usher station.



A Christmas Concert: Cancelled
Because of an unexpected conflict, we regret that Dr. Smith's concert is cancelled.

Longest Night Dinner & Worship



People have celebrated the winter solstice since they first recognized the darkest time of year and therefore the beginning of a return to longer, brighter days. In recognition that this season can be difficult, especially for those who feel loss more keenly during the holidays, we will be gathering for dinner at 6PM and worship at 7PM on Thursday, December 21, 2023, to spend the longest night together in community. The meal and the worship service will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

2023 National Youth Gathering Christmas Candy Sale

We are offering our famous White Chocolate Peppermint Bark and Dark Chocolate Peppermint Bark for \$6.50 per half pound



Orders will be accepted through TODAY, Sunday, December 3, 2023

All proceeds benefit youth attending the National Youth Gathering.

Payment is due at pick-up on Sunday, December. 17, 2023.



Checks made payable to: St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Order forms are available at the usher station. Please place your order form in the offering plate or return it to the office.

Donations of Cookies and Treats requested

The Social Ministry/Fellowship Committees will prepare and deliver Christmas Treat boxes to our Shut-in members, on Monday, December 11, 2023, at 1:30 pm in the church kitchen.

We are asking for your donations of cookies, snack mixes (i.e. Chex Party mix), candy, fudge, etc., to fill the boxes.

Bring your donations to the church by 1:30 pm on the 11th.

Please indicate below your donation and the amount. If you are able to help assemble and deliver the Boxes indicate your intent as well. Place in the offering plate, or Jane Fagans or Tina Harclerode's mailbox.

Yes, I will donate (indicate amount) _____ cookies, _____ candy/fudge; _____ other treats

For treat boxes for the shut-ins.

I will help assemble treat boxes on the 11th. _____

Martinsburg Food Pantry



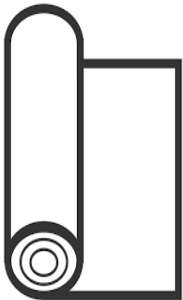
We will be open for food distribution on Thursdays, December 7 and December 21 from 9:00am until 11:00am. Volunteers from Refined Community Church will be assisting along with the regular helpers. There are 12 churches, one for each month that help at the food pantry.



Holiday foods will be the focus in December: Beverages, Canned Fruit, Scalloped Potatoes, Vegetables and Paper Towels.

We are grateful for the tremendous response of giving over the holidays!
Many thanks to all who generously gave all year!

Linda Smith



For Sale: A 12' x 21' roll of high-quality indoor/outdoor, coffee colored carpeting. It was originally purchased to replace the outdoor carpeting at the main entrance. After tearing up the old carpeting, it was discovered that the concrete was deteriorated and determined that carpeting will no longer be used there. Stop in at Cove Flooring to take a look or call the church office.

Church Messenger

The December 2023 *Messenger* is now available at the St. Matthew **Website** (stmatthewlc.com), and on your recent **Email** message from St. Matthew by using the link listed in the body of the message. A paper copy of the *Messenger* is available in the news rack in the church Narthex. By calling the church office at (814-793-2413), you can request a paper copy to be sent by mail to your home. Do not hesitate to call the church office if you need help in securing a copy of the *Messenger*. Your readership and articles are always appreciated.



2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

Please speak with Pastor Traci if you have any interest in attending the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering July 16-20, 2024 in New Orleans.



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,
hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue;
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. hymnal version
Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524
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1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

COMMUNION HYMN

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

ELW # 254



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835



1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's
3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true
4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen



comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his
king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the
wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows
hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and
Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -
Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We



praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.
a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.
praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!