

A Service of Lessons and Carols

December 29, 2024



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

The Holy Night *George M. Vail, Composer*

OPENING DIALOG...

P: 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.

<i>Hymn</i>	<i>Once in Royal David's City</i>	<i>(vs 1 & 2) ELW #269</i>
1 st Reading	Genesis 1:1-5	
<i>Hymn</i>	<i>Love Has Come</i>	<i>(vs 1 & 3) ELW #292</i>
2 nd Reading	Isaiah 9:2, 6-7	
<i>Hymn</i>	<i>Lo, How a Rose Is Growing</i>	<i>(vs 1 & 2) ELW #272</i>
3 rd Reading	Micah 5:2-5a	
<i>Hymn</i>	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	<i>(vs 1 & 4) ELW #279</i>
4 th Reading	Luke 1:26-35, 38	
<i>Hymn</i>	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels</i>	<i>(vs 1 & 2) ELW #270</i>
5 th Reading	Luke 2:1, 3-7	
<i>Hymn</i>	<i>Angels, from the Realms of Glory</i>	<i>(vs 1, 2,3) ELW #275</i>
6 th Reading	Luke 2:8-16	
<i>Hymn</i>	<i>In the Bleak Midwinter</i>	<i>(vs 1 & 3) ELW #294</i>
7 th Reading	Matthew 2:1-12	
<i>Hymn</i>	<i>We Three Kings</i>	<i>(vs 1 & 5) WOV #646</i>
8 th Reading	John 1:1-14	
<i>*Hymn</i>	<i>Good Christian Friend, Rejoice</i>	<i>(vs 1 & 2) ELW #385</i>

***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.

***THE PRAYERS**

A: Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A: For those who teach and those who learn, we pray. Bless the education ministries of your church. Guide Sunday school teachers, college and seminary professors, and Bible study leaders in our ongoing faith formation and curiosity. God of grace, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: For the thriving of creation, we pray. Protect the habitats of pangolins and porcupines, penguins and parrots, and all wild animals and creeping things. Increase our knowledge of the natural world and the care of its inhabitants. God of grace, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: For the nations of the world, we pray. Raise up rulers who lead with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Let your peace rule in their hearts and in all lands. God of grace, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: For the well-being of your people, we pray. Keep watch over all who travel this holiday season. Accompany those who are alone or ill. Console parents and children whose relationships are strained or severed. God of grace, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: For the ministry of this place, we pray. Let the word of Christ dwell among us. In times of conflict, clothe us in love and move us to forgiveness. God of grace, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: For your holy, beloved, and chosen ones of every time and place, we give thanks. Draw us all into everlasting praise and joy. God of grace, **C: receive our prayer.**

P: We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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.

EUCCHARISTIC 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.

At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

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.**

INVITATION

P: Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

COMMUNION HYMN

What Child Is This

ELW # 296

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... Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.

Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

BLESSING

P: God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW #290

***THE DISMISSAL**

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

***POSTLUDE**

Christmas Bells Sarah Douglas, Composer

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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 loving memory of our grandson Ryan from Dennis and Margie Smith.

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 Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton – Phil Claar

Our Assisting Minister – Elaine Smith

Our Lectors – Jane Hoenstine, AJ Hoenstine, Jeff Hoenstine, Pastor Traci

Our Usher – Tina Harclerode

Our Altar Guild – Tina Harclerode, Jackie Lightner, 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

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

This Week Events

Today – Service of Lessons & Carols with Communion 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday – New Year's Day

Office Closed

Thursday – Food Pantry, Allegheny St. 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Sunday – Epiphany

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Mary Jane Allision, Fred Brandenburg, Linda Claar, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger.

Prayer Concerns: Amy & Family, Avery, Randy Barrett, Greta Buchart, Caleb, Warren Campbell, Phillip Claar, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Terry Creek, Brian Fleck, Ron Focht, Jim Fritz, Marilyn Horton, Don Hosterman, Baby James, Ruth Johnson, Darren Kreutzer, Connie Lamborn, Linda Lehman, Bill Lively, Kristen Malloy, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Carl Miner, Pat Mountain, Nathan, Olga Perlov, Deb Peters, Dan Ross, John Russell, Paul Ruth, Karyl Sawinski, Dorothy Stahl, Jean Stonerook, Cindy Thomas, Steve Torres, Tiffany Townsend, Drew Wenzel, Susan Werner, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings.**

Away at School: Max Baker, Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jeff Hoenstine, Lacey Ripka.

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



Prayers and Christian Sympathy are requested for the family and friends of Rodger Hoover upon his death on Thursday, December 26th.

Martinsburg Food Pantry



Volunteers from St. Matthew will be helping and assisting in the distribution of food on Thursdays, January 2 and January 16 from 9:00-11:00 a.m.



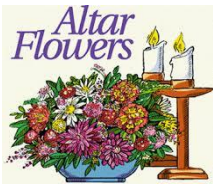
January food items most needed are: Fruit, Instant Oatmeal, Scalloped Potatoes, Ravioli, Rice Sides.

Our Thanks to all who have contributed food, supplies or monetary donations during this past year! We ask for your continued support and prayers in serving needy families in 2025.

Linda K. Smith

Church Messenger

The January 2025 *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 or provide an email address and a copy can be emailed to you each month as soon as it is published. 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.



The 2025 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