

# Nov 30 - Dec 7, 2025

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# Happening This Week

### **Sunday 11/30**

8:30a - Worship (Nave)

9:30a - Pageant Rehearsal (Lower Level)

9:30a - Adult Faith Connections & Confirmation

10:30a - Worship (Nave)

11:45a - Youth Handbells & Choir

11:45a - Church Decorating

#### Monday 12/1

6:00p - Girl Scouts

6:30p - Blue Christmas (Nave)

#### Tuesday 12/2

2:00p - WELCA Bible Study (2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Upper Room)

4:30p - Junior Choir/ Handbells (Lower Level)

5:45p - SoulFire Rehearsal

6:30p - Cub Scouts

#### Wednesday 12/3

7:00p - Boy Scouts

# Advent Devotionals are available to pick up on the Hospitality Desk and in the church office.

#### Church Decorating - Sun, Nov 30, 11:45am

All are invited to stay after the 10:30 service-help prepare our worship space. We'll hang greens, decorate the trees with Chrismons. There's something for everyone to do! Lunch is provided!

#### Blue Christmas — Monday, Dec 1, 6:30p

A service for anyone carrying grief or sadness of any kind this holiday season. Soft light, restful music, and words of hope and of Jesus' love. Emmanuel—God with us. You're not alone.

#### Mitten Tree

We are collecting winter items (coats, mittens, scarves, hats, socks, etc.) for those in need. Please be sure all items are new or very gently worn. There will be a bin in the Gathering Place until the Angel tree is free, and there will be a tree in the office.

#### Thursday 12/4

4:15p - Children's Choir (Lower Level)

6:00p - St. Matt Ringers (Nave)

7:00p - Adult Choir Rehearsal (Lower Level)

#### Friday 12/5

3:00p - Cookie Sale Set-Up

#### Saturday 12/6

9:00a - Cookie Sale

5:00p - Worship (Nave)

#### Sunday 12/7

8:30a - Worship (Nave)

9:30a - Pageant Rehearsal (Lower Level)

9:30a - Adult Faith Connections & Confirmation

9:45a - Splash Class (Lower Level)

10:30a - Worship (Nave)

11:45a - Youth Handbells & Choir

11:45a - Reception for Jane (Gathering Place)

3:00p - Community Meal (Fellowship Hall)

6:00p - Youth Group

# Cookie Sale - Dec. 6, 9:00-11:30a & Dec. 7, 9:30a Cookies: \$10/ Box

The Social Ministry committee is looking for donations of cookies to fill the boxes. We are asking bakers for 6 dozen cookies to share. Cookies can be dropped off in Fellowship Hall, Friday Dec 5 from 4-6:30p. We will begin packing boxes at 6:30p. Money raised will go to extended ministries of Tree4Hope. To volunteer or for more info contact Amy Beck (Abeck1976@comcast.net).

# Holiday Community Meal - Sun, December 7 3:00-5:00pm, Fellowship Hall

The Countdown is on for our Holiday Community Meal! Next Sunday, on December 7, 3-5:00 p.m., St. Matthew will host their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Holiday Meal for the community.

We are most in need of runners & servers from 4-5p and help with clean-up. To sign up to donate food or to volunteer, use the form on the Hospitality Desk or the QR code.



Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman - Lead Pastor pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org

Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt - Associate Pastor pastoralex@stmattlutheran.org

Pastor Faye Snyder - Visitation Pastor nicksong@comcast.net

Deb Smith - Interim Minister of Music dsmith@stmattlutheran.org

#### Where Faith & Life Intersect - Sundays, 9:30a

A discussion class based on current events and our faith, located next to the Gathering Place. Contact Beth Koontz at BethK9245@gmail.com for more information.

**SoulFire Band** - Tuesdays 12/2 at 5:45p Adult Bell Choir - Thursdays at 6p Adult Choir - Thursdays at 7p



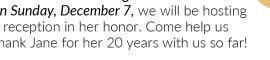
#### **Christmas Cheer Bags**

Know someone who has had a tough year and could use some extra cheer? We're delivering holiday gift bags again this year. To submit names or to volunteer, fill out the form using the QR code, visiting our website, OR by filling out a form on the Hospitality Desk and putting it in the offering basket. Names are due by December 15.



### Celebrating 20 years at St. Matthew

Jane Lawrence, one of our administrative staff, is celebrating 20 years in her role at St. Matthew. Following the 10:30 service on Sunday, December 7, we will be hosting a reception in her honor. Come help us thank Jane for her 20 years with us so far!



### WELCA Bible Study - December 2, 2:00pm

All women are invited to attend a Bible Study led by Pastor Kathy called Flourishing in Relationships. Come to discover how our relationships sustain us and help us to grow. For more information, call the church office.

#### Christmas Pageant - December 14, 9:30am

Come cheer on our kids as they present their Christmas pageant. Hear the Good News of Christmas through their voices!

#### Christmas Caroling - December 17, 5:30pm

Come join us as we go out to sing carols with those who may need a little encouragement this Christmas. We'll be at our first caroling site by 6pm and return for food and fellowship.

### Coffee & Cookie Fellowship & Christmas PJ/ Sweater Worship - December 21

Bring your favorite Christmas treat to share and enjoy cookies and coffee in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. Then, join us for 10:30 a.m. worship in your best Christmas pajamas or sweater.

### Young Adult Bowling and Lock-In Dec 27, 5:00p (Bowling) & 7:00p (Lock-in)

Young adults are invited to gather for an evening of fun - bowling, baking, a Christmas movie, and fellowship. More details to come!

#### Combined Worship Service - Dec 28, 9:30a

We will gather for one combined morning worship service at 9:30 a.m. (The 5:00 p.m. Saturday service will still be held as usual.)

## Mark Your Calendars

Nov. 30, 11:45a - Church Decorating

Dec. 1, 6:30p - Blue Christmas

Dec. 2, 2:00p - WELCA Bible Study

Dec. 6, 9:00a - Cookie Sale

Dec. 7, 11:45a - Thank You Reception

3:00p - Community Meal

Dec. 8 - Deadline for Christmas Poinsettias

Dec. 14. 9:30a - Christmas Pageant

Dec. 15, 10:00a - Senior Hangout

Dec. 17, 5:30p - Christmas Caroling

Dec. 19, 10:00a - Cheer Bag Packing & Delivery

Dec. 21, 9:30a - Coffee & Cookie Fellowship

10:30a - PJ and Christmas Sweater Worship

Dec. 24, 4:30p, 7:00p, 9:30p - Christmas Eve

Dec. 27, 5:00p - Young Adult Bowling & Lock-In

Dec. 28, 9:30a - Combined Worship Service

#### Children's Faith Connections - Sundays, 9:30a

Ages 3–5th grade. As we prepare for our Christmas Pageant, we will be rehearsing during our Faith Connections time. If you would like to be part of the pageant, there is still time! Come to Fellowship Hall on Nov 30, and Dec 7 to join the fun! Contact Missy Smith or Deb Smith for the schedule. Our regular Faith Connections will resume on January 11.

**Junior Choir & Bells** (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade) - Tuesdays 4:30-5:15p

**Children's Choir** (age 3-2<sup>nd</sup> grade) - Thursdays 4:15-5:00p

#### Splash Class - December 7, 9:45a Lower Level

Have you been wondering what comes after being "splashed in the waters of baptism"? Families with kiddos from 3 months old through 3 years old are invited to join us downstairs at 9:45am with Ms. Lindsay and Mr. Adam. Bring a friend and join in the fun! Contact Missy Smith with questions or for more information!

### Holiday Meal - Sun, Dec. 7, 3-5pm

Mark your calendars! In nest week—Sunday, December 7, 3–5 p.m.—St. Matthew hosts our 3rd Annual Holiday Community Meal. Bring the kids and enjoy a hearty turkey dinner, Christmas cheer - and a special visit from Santa Claus! It's a wonderful way for families to celebrate the season and share joy with our neighbors!



### Christmas Pageant December 14, 9:30a Fellowship Hall

Our children will perform their Christmas Pageant during our Faith Connections time on Dec. 14. All are welcome to join as we hear the Good News of Jesus' birth as told by our kids.

# PJ/ Christmas Sweater Worship Dec. 21, 10:30am

Come cozy, come festive, come ready to celebrate! As Advent draws to a close, we invite you to wear your favorite Christmas sweater or your comfiest pajamas as we gather for a joyful morning of worship.



Ministries for kids and their families from birth through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Missy Smith - Children & Family Ministries msmith@stmattlutheran.org

Deb Smith - Interim Minister of Music dsmith@stmattlutheran.org

# Family Christmas Eve Service December 24, 4:30pm

Mark your calendars for our Family Christmas Eve service. This kid-friendly service will bring us into the story of Jesus'



birth. The service will include some favorite carols and communion. People of all ages are invited to enter into God's love made real in the arrival of the baby Jesus. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to celebrate with us! All are welcome! Our Children and Junior Choirs will sing and play special music.

#### Puppet Show & Meal - Sat, Dec. 27, 5:45pm

Bring the kids (and the kids-at-heart) for a meal and a puppet show from St. Matthew's own Mini-Minister puppet team! Expect giggles, sing-along, and lots of fun. This is free and everyone is welcome! Come early for our 5pm worship!

### **Mark Your Calendars**

Nov. 30, 11:45a - Decorating the Church

Dec. 7, 3:00p - Community Meal

Dec. 14, 9:30a - Christmas Pageant

Dec. 17, 5:30p - Christmas Caroling

Dec. 21, 930a - Coffee & Cookie Fellowship 10:30a - PJ Worship

Dec. 24, 4:30p - Family Christmas Eve Service Children and Junior Choir

Dec. 27, 5:45p - Puppet Show and Meal

Jan. 11, 9:30am - Faith Connection Classes resume



Ministries for youth and their families in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades.

Tim Peck - Youth Ministry youth@stmattlutheran.org

Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt - Associate Pastor pastoralex@stmattlutheran.org

Deb Smith - Interim Minister of Music dsmith@stmattlutheran.org

#### Youth Faith Connections, Sundays 9:30a

Middle Schoolers (6th-8th grade) meet for **Confirmation** in the Youth Suite with Pastor Alex and Tim.

**High School Faith Connections** (9th-12th grade) meets for a narrative lectionary discussion with Jeremy and Chris.

Donuts and drinks are provided. ALL are welcome. Contact Pastor Alex or Tim for more information.

#### Youth Bells & Choir (6th-12th Grades)

Meets Sundays with Ms. Deb, 11:45a-12:45p. All youth are invited to be part of making music together!

#### Youth Group - December 7 from 6-8pm

All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to an evening of fellowship, faith, and fun! We meet on the  $1^{\rm st}$  and  $3^{\rm rd}$  Sundays of each month from  $6-8\,\mathrm{pm}$ . Youth are always welcome to bring friends to join us. We will have snacks and drinks. Contact Tim for questions or more information.

### Holiday Meal - Sun, Dec. 7, 3-5pm

Youth—let's spread some Christmas cheer! Our 3rd Annual Holiday Community Meal is coming and we need your help! Come serve meals, greet guests, help with crafts for kids, or even assist Santa himself. It's a fun and meaningful way to give back this season!

Sign up to help with the meal using the QR code. Contact Missy Smith (msmith@stmattlutheran.org) to help with crafts or for other roles!



#### Youth Lock-In - December 20-21

All youth in 6th-12<sup>th</sup> grade are invited for an unforgettable overnight full of games, laughter, and late-night snacks! (Note: last week's announcements had an error, indicating that it was for high school youth - this is for <u>all youth</u>, 6th-12th grade!)

# December 21 - Cookie & Coffee Fellowship AND PJ/Christmas Sweater Worship

Come cozy, come festive, come ready to celebrate! After the lock-in, join us for cookies and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall (9:30a) and come to worship (10:30a) in your best Christmas pjs or Christmas sweater.

# Mini-Minister Puppet Show - Dec 27, 5:45p

Our Mini-Minister youth will be hosting a puppet show for kids, their families, and the young at heart, following the 5pm service on Dec. 27. The puppet show will include a light meal.





# Winterfest (high school and college students) January 2-4, 2026

Join youth and young adults from across our synod for a weekend of worship, service, and community built around the theme "Better Together." Enjoy music, speakers, small groups, and a 30,000-meal food-packing service project! High school and college students can sign up with Tim. Cost: \$60 per youth. The church will cover the

Registration deadline: Dec. 5. Space is limited!

#### **Mark Your Calendars**

Dec. 7, 6:00p - Youth Group

remaining registration fee.

Dec. 14, 9:30a - Christmas Pageant

Dec. 17, 6:00p - Christmas Caroling

Dec. 20, 5:30p - Youth Lock-In

Dec. 21, 9:30a - Coffee & Cookie Fellowship

10:30a - PJ Worship

Dec. 24, 7:00p - Christmas Eve Service Youth Choir Rings & Sings

Dec. 27, 5:54p - Mini-Minister Puppet Show

Jan 2-4, 2026 - Winterfest (High School)