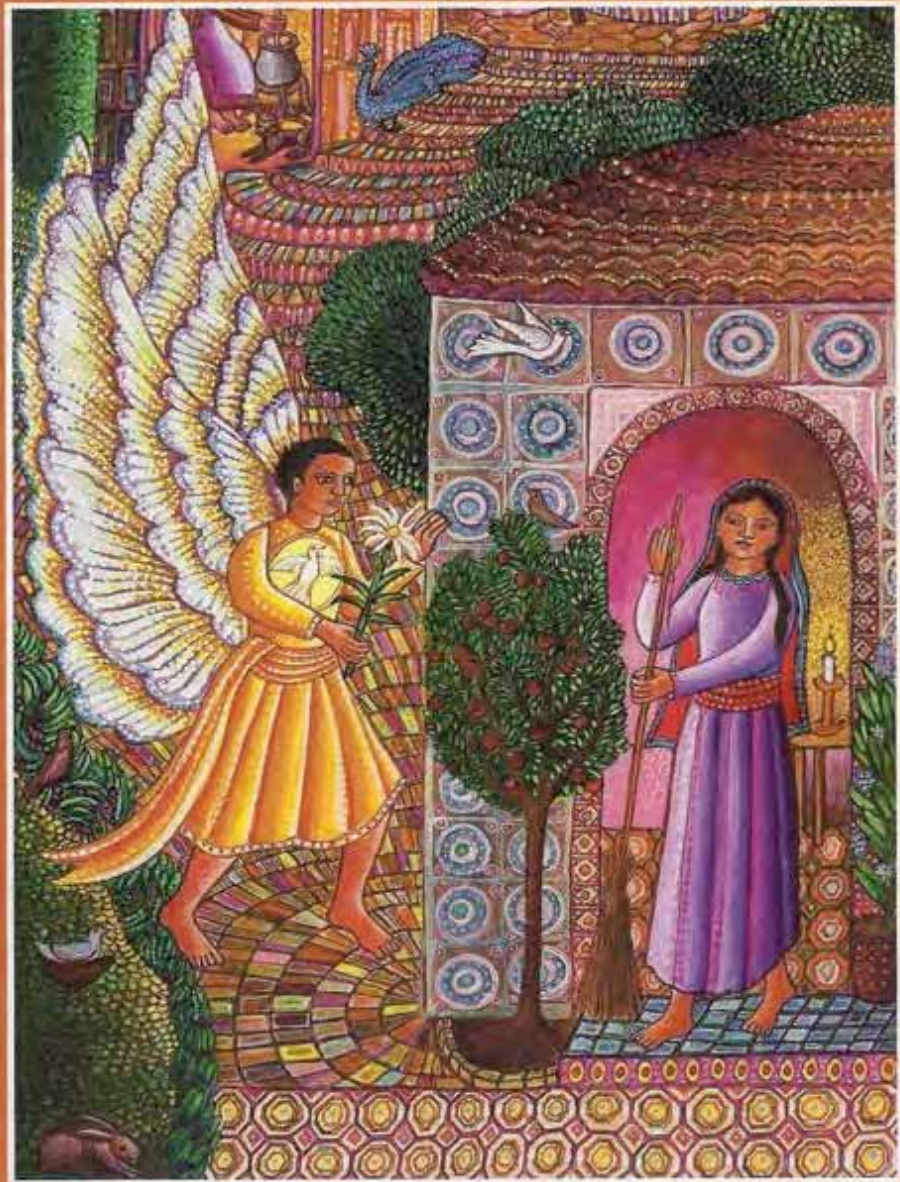


Greetings, favored one!  
The Lord is with you

LUKE 1:28



**ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Church Office: 717-637-7101**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**Sunday, December 20, 2020**  
**10:45 a.m.**



**WELCOME! ARE YOU NEW?** We are a group of people gathered together to make a difference. We seek to make a difference in ourselves, in our neighborhoods, and in our world. We are thankful that you are here today. Check out our website at [www.stmattlutheran.org](http://www.stmattlutheran.org), where you can find out more about us and get connected into our community.

**Please tear off and put in the offering basket as you leave:**

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Names of everyone attending Sunday, December 20, at 10:45 a.m.:

\_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be added to our email list? **Please list your name and email address:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Please list any prayer concerns you would like added to prayers that are said in the service \_\_\_ the prayer chain \_\_\_ or both \_\_\_ (Please check preference):

\_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be contacted by a pastor? Please list phone number:

\_\_\_\_\_

# Tune your radio to FM 101.5 to listen to our service!

We hope you find this worship service meaningful. If you have concerns about your car battery, we have people on the premises with battery cables should the need arise.

If you leave your vehicle for any reason, please be considerate of others and wear a mask. Thank you!

If there is an emergency in your car, please dial 9-1-1 and then let parking attendants know.

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+ Celebrating God's Love - Serving in Jesus' Name +

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GATHERING MUSIC

*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*  
(Susan Riley, Soloist)

arr. Pettman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN ..... *Hark, the Glad Sound!* - No. 239

Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come  
prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal  
pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

## **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH – CANDLE OF LOVE**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

**Oh, come, blest Day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by your advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16** *Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.*

Pastor: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: The holy gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38** *In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.*

Pastor: The gospel of our Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON**

**Pastor M. David Kiel**

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

***Mary's Song***

**Larson**

**(Emma & Susan Riley and Scott Fredericks, Soloists)**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH**

***Apostle's Creed***

Pastor: Let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

All: **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**

Each petition concludes, *“Hear us, O God.”* and the congregation responds, *“Your mercy is great.”*

## **LORD’S PRAYER**

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**All: 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.**

## **BLESSING**

*(Closing Hymn on next page)*

**CLOSING HYMN** ..... *Joy to the World – No. 267*



Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

**DISMISSAL**

Pastor: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

\* \* \* \* \*

Please note: Music for this service is covered under CCLI # 1000682 –  
Also #A-708989 *One License.net*

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church**

Phone: 717-637-7101

General mailbox ext. 221

Email: [info@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:info@stmattlutheran.org) [www.stmattlutheran.org](http://www.stmattlutheran.org)

The Rev. Kathryn Vitalis Hoffman, Lead Pastor, ext. 231

The Rev. M. David Kiel, Interim Associate Pastor, ext. 229

The Rev. Faye C. Snyder, Cong. Visitation Pastor

Deacon Jan M. Davis, Minister of Christian Education, ext. 232

Scott G. Fredericks, Minister of Music, ext. 235

***Our warm thanks*** to all those assisting in our worship services this morning:

Musicians .....Emma & Susan Riley and Scott Fredericks, Soloists

Parking Attendants .....Jeremy Bucher, Jan Davis, Roland Kunde,  
Tim Peck, Barb Rupp, Tom Shultz, Linda Wheeler

Worship Assistants ..... Joan Belt, Ardis Kunde, Gail Mummert

***THE ALTAR FLOWERS*** have been given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Kimberly F. Peck who would have observed her birthday on December 18 by the family; and in loving memory of Robin Miller by her parents Bill and Lois Miller; and in loving memory of Mildred I. Ahalt by the family; and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Bowman by their niece and family; and in loving memory of the George Sunday family; and in loving memory of Kenneth and Mary Utz by their loving daughter Bev Stevens and family; and in loving memory of Dick Stevens by his loving wife Bev and sons Rick and Craig and their families; and in loving memory of Charles and Anna Sullivan by Bill and Lois Miller.

***THE BULLETINS*** have been given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Roscoe and Helena Stewart and Francis (Bus) Smith and in memory of Helen Smith by Richard and Emily Stewart and family; Mr. and Mrs. Luther Bowman by their niece and family.



**RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM** in a private service on Sunday is Kamden Lee Waldren, son of Sarah Waldren. We welcome Kamden into the earthly body of Christ with membership here at St. Matthew Church.

**MANY THANKS TO** Karen and Dennis Axline, Rollie and Ardis Kunde, Nancy Leister, Dian Wisotzkey, Terry Schlitzer, Doug and Jane West and Scott Fredericks for decorating the church for this Christmas season. You will be able to see the beautiful decorations in the online services.

<b>Attendance:</b>	(12/12)	5:00 p.m. service .....	31
	(12/13)	9:00 a.m. service .....	173
		10:45 a.m.....	61
		<b>Total</b> .....	265

**RECOMMENDED SCRIPTURE READINGS** for the week of December 20-27:

Sunday: Luke 1:26-38	Thursday: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]
Monday: Hebrews 9:1-14	Friday: Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20
Tuesday: Romans 10:5-13	Saturday: Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60
Wednesday: Romans 13:11-14	

**St. Matthew Calendar for December 20 - 27, 2020**

- Sun. Drive-In Worship with Holy Communion..... 9:00 a.m.
- Mon. **No** Discovery Place Classes
- Tues. **No** Discovery Place Classes
- Wed. **No** Discovery Place Classes
- Christmas Eve Drive-In Worship Service (Parking lot) ..... 7:00 p.m.**
- Thurs. **Church Office Closes at Noon**
- Christmas Eve Drive-in Worship Service (Parking lot)..... 7:00 p.m.**
- Christmas Eve Drive-in Worship Service (Parking lot)..... 9:00 p.m.**
- Fri. **Church Office closed – Merry Christmas!**

Sat. **No** Worship Service

Sun. Drive-In Church Worship with Holy Communion ..... 9:00 a.m.



**OUR SPECIAL BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE** will be posted online at 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 20, and can be watched any time.

This service is for all those who are stressed, hurting, grieving or lonely in this holiday season. You can pick up a bulletin at the drive-in service to follow along.

**2020 HAS BEEN A VERY UNUSUAL YEAR** for all of us. The pandemic has turned our world upside down and has caused many problems. St. Matthew has a Human Needs Fund to help if you are having financial hardships. It may be very stressful for some to admit that they need financial assistance, but we are here to help and will keep it very confidential. Please call, 717-637-7101, ext. 225.

*Doris Deitzel, Lay Pastoral Assistant*

**St. Matthew  
Drive-In Worship Services  
are broadcast live within  
a half mile radius!  
Tune your radio  
to FM 101.5  
every Sunday, 9 a.m.,  
weather permitting.**

**Christmas Services**

**Wednesday,  
Dec. 23 at 7 pm**

**Thursday,  
Dec. 24 at 7 & 9 pm**



**AN UPDATE REGARDING INDOOR WORSHIP** - At their December 14 meeting, the Congregation Council made the difficult decision to suspend indoor worship until further notice. Unless the weather forbids it, we will continue to hold Drive-In worship every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. With the exception of December 27, a prerecorded indoor worship will be posted online at 10:45 a.m. (A recording of the December 27<sup>th</sup> Drive-In worship will be posted later that day.) We will post our Christmas worship at 6:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Our online worship services will be posted on Facebook, our YouTube channel and on our website, [www.stmattlutheran.org](http://www.stmattlutheran.org).

**AT THE RECOMMENDATION** of our Covid Task Force and Congregation Council, we have changed our Christmas Eve worship services. We will be having three drive-in Christmas worship services. One on Wednesday, December 23, at 7:00 p.m. and two on Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24, at 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. At these services we will be able to worship our Savior's birth by singing Christmas carols and greet one another through our car windows. The service will also be posted online.



**OUR 2021 GIVING ENVELOPES ARE** available in the hallway outside Fellowship Hall. **We have renumbered our envelopes for next year.** After many years, it was time to consolidate the numbers. This will save money in the number of envelopes we order moving forward. **The envelopes are in alphabetical order.** For the 9:00 drive-in service, please ask a parking attendant and they will bring you your envelopes. We will begin using these envelopes on January 2, 2021. Thank you for your patience! Many thanks to Ann and Bryant Meckley and Randy Kline for organizing the envelopes.



**DONATE NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS FOR THE CARING CUPBOARD** – Donations of food can be put directly in the cupboard, dropped off in the church office or in the box in the Gathering Place.

**IN ORDER FOR YOUR END OF YEAR OFFERINGS** to be posted in 2020, they must be **RECEIVED** in the church office by **Tuesday, December 29 at noon**. Any offerings arriving in the office after that date and time will be posted in January of 2021.

**“LOVING JESUS” BOOK STUDY** Pastor David will be leading a discussion group on a book entitled, *“Loving Jesus,”* by Mark Allan Powell. The book invites us to fall in love with Jesus all over again. Powell reminds us how loving Jesus is and how love worthy we are by God’s grace. His book rejuvenates our faith and outreach by teaching us how desperate for true love our world is and how thoroughly our spirituality can be imbued with love as it becomes more deeply formed by the Scriptures, prayer and worship.

Due to the recent changes to indoor meetings, the discussion group will only meet Wednesday evenings via Zoom beginning at 7:00 p.m. Books are available to purchase in the church office for \$10. They are also available on Amazon.



### **HANOVER AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (HACC) NEWS**

**PAL:** Sauerkraut, Large Cans of Green Beans, Sweet Potatoes, Pasta Sauces, Single Serve Fruits, Canned Pears, Scalloped Potatoes boxes, Corn Bread Mix, Beef and Chicken Broth, Ziploc Sandwich Baggies

**Changing Lives Shelter:** Large Trash Bags, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Disinfectant Wipes/Sprays, Umbrellas or Ponchos

**Clothing bank:** Family Sized Toiletries, Sheet sets- all sizes, Bath Towels, Men’s White T-shirts L & XL, Baby Diapers sizes 4-5

**Ruth’s Harvest:** Single serve entrees, cereal, juice boxes, snack or veggies (all single serve)

Volunteers are needed in many areas at HACC. Call their office to find out where you can help, 717-633-6353.

Please place the HACC items in the box near the elevator or bring them to the Church Office. For Ruth's Harvest, place your donation in the shopping cart in the Gathering Place. Thank you for your support!



**DISCIPLE TRAINING KITS** for 2 year olds through 6<sup>th</sup> graders are available now! Parents may pick one up in Fellowship Hall at any worship service or in the church office during the week. Kits contain Camper Leaflets and coloring/activity sheets for each Sunday and crafts and games. Bible stories and songs may be found on the Disciple Training Camp playlist on our St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Hanover PA YouTube channel. Bible stories are also posted on our Facebook page.



**THE MITTEN TREE** is now up in the church office lobby and is ready for decorations. A basket for decorations is also in the Gathering Place. Decorations may be mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, ear muffs or socks. We will also decorate with packaged/new underwear for children or adults and new or very gently used coats. Thank you for decorating our Mitten Tree with gifts that help keep people in need in Hanover warm this winter.

**ST. MATTHEW DAILY DEVOTIONS** have been from "Advent Reflections" provided by On Eagle's Wings. Copies of this devotion are available in the church office or the Gathering Place. Included are additional reflections than what were read on our Daily Devotions.

**OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES** will include a children's sermon. The theme will be "light" and we would like everyone, in addition to the children who will receive a special light, to participate. If your cell phone has a flashlight or candle app, be prepared to let it shine. You may also bring a flashlight or electric candle to shine your light.



**THE 2020 POINSETTIA LISTS** are available. Ask a parking attendant for your copy. Thank you to all who contributed! After printing costs are taken out, approximately \$1,600 will go to the ELCA Disaster Relief fund.



**FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

Now when [David] the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent."  
<sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

**Luke 1:46b-55**

or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

**SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27**

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

**GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."  
<sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.