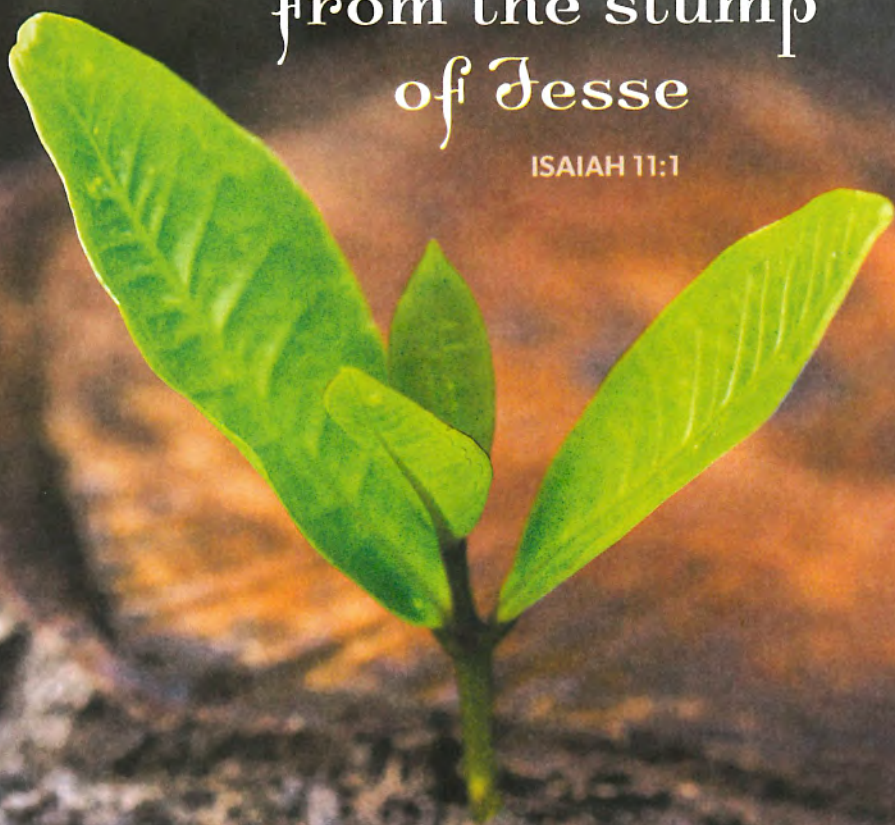


A shoot  
shall come out  
from the stump  
of Jesse

ISAIAH 11:1



**Second Sunday in Advent  
December 4, 2022**



**St. Matthew**  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**CENTERED IN CHRIST**  
Celebrating Love • Serving All

Phone: 717-637-7101  
General mailbox ext. 221  
30 W Chestnut Street Hanover PA 17331

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

Facebook: St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Hanover PA

Instagram: @stmatthanover

Livestream Worship:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/StMatthewLutheranChurchHanoverPA>

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

-----  
Names of everyone attending Sunday, **December 4, 2022, at 8:30 a.m.:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Names of everyone attending Sunday, **December 4, 2022, at 10:30 a.m.:**

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

**Sign up for the second Advent meal, Wednesday, December 7, 6:00 p.m.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ # Attending? \_\_\_\_\_



Welcome! Whether you are a long-time member of St. Matthew, a first-time visitor, or somewhere in between, we are thankful you are here today. If you have questions or need visual, audio, or mobility accommodations, please let a name-tagged usher know. We're excited about the many ministries of St. Matt's, and we hope you'll find a way to plug in that makes sense for you!

**For Children:**

Faith Connections  
Christmas Pageant  
Splash Class

**For Teens:**

Youth Connections  
Hanging of the Greens  
Faith Connections

**For Adults:**

Advent Devotionals  
Mission Trip  
Faith Connections

**About today:** *We gather as a community for worship around word, wine, and water. Put another way, in worship we meet Christ in scripture proclaimed in speech & song, in the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism celebrated or remembered, and in community gathered together.*

Our regular weekend schedule includes Saturday worship at 5 p.m., Sunday indoor worship at 8:30 a.m., and 10:30 a.m. (livestreamed). Our Faith Connections hour begins with refreshments in the Gathering Place at 9:30 a.m.

**Words About the Day:** *At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.*

---

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

---

(8:30) PRELUDE                      *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*                      Lau

(10:30) PRELUDE                      *Creation Will Dance and Rejoice!*                      Angerman  
(Judy Porowski, Helen Smith and Scott Fredericks, Soloists)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of  
our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may  
perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one  
another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Pastor: Most merciful God,

**All: we confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**

so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

All: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

Coffin/Praetorius



On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent  
that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
way for God with - in, and let us all our  
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther  
for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

## **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.**

**(10:30)** *Children ages 10 and under are invited to meet Stacy Parsons at the baptismal font at the front of the Nave. She will take the children for Children's Church at the "Pray-ground" in the Fellowship Hall. They will practice for the Christmas Pageant together. They will return during the passing of the peace.*

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

**THE READING: Isaiah 11:1-10** *Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.*

Lector: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – THE CANDLE OF PEACE**

Lector: We light these candles, the candle of joyful hope and the candle of proclaimed peace, in part to remind ourselves that we are a people rising toward God's promise. But we also light them as a sign to the world, an announcement there are some who hold on to hope and there are some who work the ways of peace. We stand as a sign that Emmanuel is still our fervent prayer.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION    *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel***

**Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times once gave the law, in cloud, and majesty, and awe.  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

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

**HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12** *Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.*

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**THE MESSAGE**

**Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman**

**(8:30) MUSICAL OFFERING    *Creation Will Dance and Rejoice!*                      Angerman**  
**(Judy Porowski, Helen Smith and Scott Fredericks, Soloists)**

**(10:30)                                      *Prepare the Way, O Zion*                      Tucker**  
**(Adult Choir with Bobbi Little, Flute)**

**Text:** Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!  
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.  
Greet one who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.  
O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name!

Christ brings God's rule, O Zion, he comes from heaven above.  
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.  
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.  
O blest, is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion! Your Savior's rule embrace,  
And tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.  
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.  
O blest, is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

### *Apostles' Creed*

Assisting Minister: 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

Assisting Minister: Each petition concludes, *"God, in your mercy,"* and the congregation responds, *"hear our prayer."*

## PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**All:** And also with you.

*(The congregation is invited to greet one another with the words "Peace be with you," and gestures respecting personal space and comfort levels.)*

**(10:30) Children return from Children's Church.**



## GENEROSITY MOMENT and Blessing of the Pledge Cards

### THE OFFERTORY

#### *He Came Down*

arr. Bell



He came down that we may have hope;      he came down that we may have hope;  
He came down that we may have peace;      he came down that we may have peace;



he came down that we may have hope:    hal-le- lu - jah for-ev- er- more.  
he came down that we may have peace:    hal-le- lu - jah for-ev- er- more.

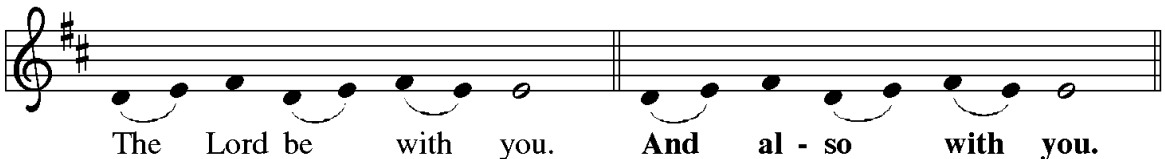
### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Eternal God,

**All:** you make the desert bloom  
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.  
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,  
and make us messengers of your mercy and love  
for all in need of your healing and justice.  
We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

### THE MEAL

#### GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you.      And al - so with you.

(Continued next page)

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### 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.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

#### DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*All are welcome to the Lord's Supper. The meal is served in several ways. Choose what is appropriate for you.*

***Continuous manner*** – *Come forward at the direction of the ushers, take the wafer from the pastor, "The body of Christ, given for you", and eat it. (Gluten-free wafers are available) Then move to the next station and take one of the cups of wine (red) or grape juice (white) "The blood of Christ, shed for you", and drink it.*

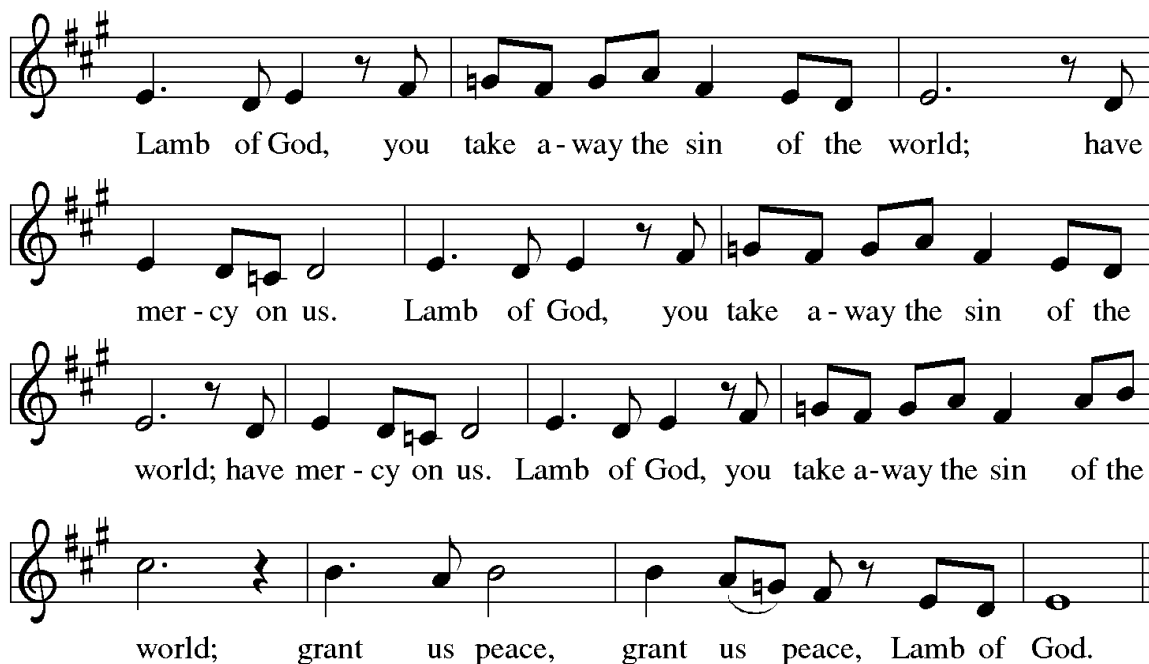
***Children who do not yet receive communion*** are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

***Individual packets*** are available for those wishing to remain in their pew.

***If you are unable to come forward***, but would like communion served by the pastor, please let one of the ushers know and the Sacrament will be brought to you at your seat.

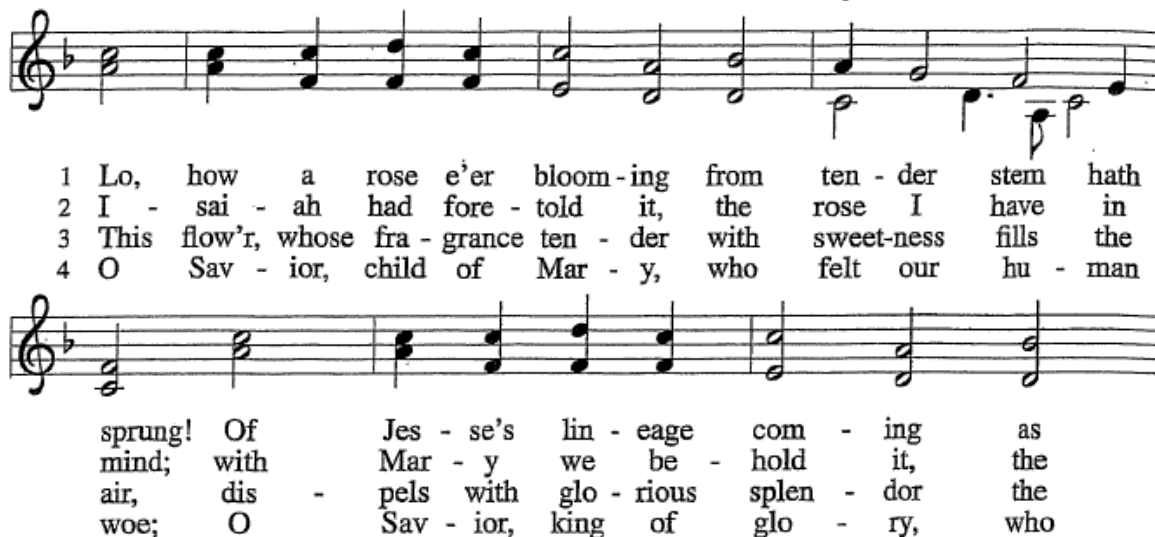
#### BLESSING OF IN-PEW COMMUNION

## LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

## COMMUNION HYMN .....*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* – Mattes/Praetorius



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath  
2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in  
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the  
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man  
sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as  
mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the  
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the  
woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -  
vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she  
dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from  
dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.  
bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.  
sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

### POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you  
and keep you in his grace.

**All: Amen.**

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Assisting Minister: 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.

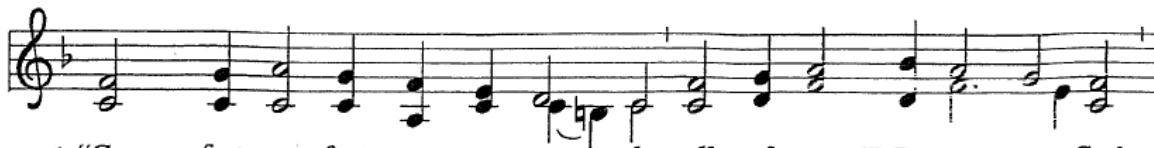
**All: Amen.**

### BLESSING

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face to shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**All: Amen.**

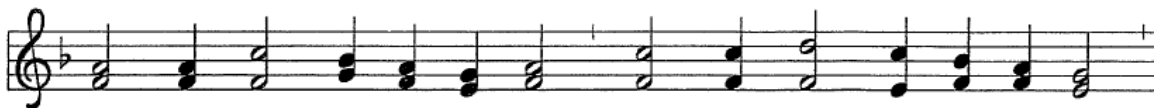
## CLOSING HYMN..... *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* – Olearius/Winkworth



- 1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
- 2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
- 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.  
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!  
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.  
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

## DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Christ is near.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

*Tell Out My Soul*

Manz

\* \* \* \* \*

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

## St. Matthew Lutheran Church

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

[pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org)

Rev. Taylor Berdahl, Associate Pastor, ext. 229

[pastortaylor@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:pastortaylor@stmattlutheran.org)

Rev. Faye C. Snyder, Visitation Pastor

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

Tim Peck, Youth Ministry, [youth@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:youth@stmattlutheran.org)

Stacy Parsons, Children and Family Ministry, [sparsons@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:sparsons@stmattlutheran.org)

Doris Deitzel, Lay Pastoral Assistant, [ddeitzel@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:ddeitzel@stmattlutheran.org), ext. 225



***Our warm thanks*** to all those assisting in the Sunday worship services:

Musicians .....8:30 Judy Porowski, Helen Smith and Scott Fredericks, Soloists

10:30 Judy Porowski and Helen Smith, Soloists; Bobbi Little, Flute; Adult Choir

Altar Guild ..... Nancy Oppedal, Penny Rutters

Assisting Minister..... 8:30 Diane Hoffman-Neail; 10:30 Hunter Crabbs

Communion Assistants ..... 8:30 Mike Jones, John Mancini

10:30 Andrea Hersh, Randy Kline

Communion Preparer .....8:30 Caralyn Mummert, Linda Wheeler

10:30 Deb Anker, Connie Granger

Couriers..... 8:30 Mike Jones, John Mancini 10:30 Andrea Hersh, Randy Kline

Greeters .....8:30 Joan Belt, Kathy McMaster, Gail Mummert

10:30 Debby Seibert, Lynda Sheffer, Aaron Smith

Lector .....8:30 Diane Hoffman-Neail 10:30 Gracie and Ryder Troup

Live Stream Technicians 10:30 ..... Tom & Susie Shultz

Ushers .....8:30 Team 1 – Tom Shultz, Bob & Kit Curlen, Sean Huston,

John Mancini, Linda Wheeler

10:30 Team 2 – Bryant & Ann Meckley, Andy Nace, Randy & Debby Seibert,

Ron Smith, Drew Steffens

Welcome Place Servers ..... Linda Sanders

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Ethel Rohrbaugh by her granddaughter Sally A. Staub.

**THE BULLETINS** have been given to the Glory of God.

**RECOMMENDED SCRIPTURE READINGS** for the week beginning Dec. 4:

Sunday: Matthew 3:1-12

Thursday: 2 Peter 3:1-10

Monday: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Friday: 2 Peter 3:11-18

Tuesday: Romans 15:14-21

Saturday: Luke 3:1-18

Wednesday: Matthew 12:33-37



**ADVENT DEVOTIONALS** from On Eagle's Wings are available on the Information Desk in the Gathering Place.

**PROPHETS AND PROMISES: An Advent and Christmas Daily Devotion Book** with daily readings, reflections and prayers, reveal how the ancient promises guide us in our advent journey to enrich our preparations and celebrations. A limited supply of large print books are available. This devotional is also available as a digital download from [www.augsburgfortress.com](http://www.augsburgfortress.com) for \$1.99.

**PRAYER LIST:** (Unless otherwise notified, names stay on the prayer list for 30 days.)

Derek

Linda

Elaine

Wanda

Judy

Larry

Judy

Vicki

Denise

Phillip

Grant

Sandy

Joanne

Don

Lynn

Lindsay

Mike

Bev

June

Raegan

Linda

Payton

Aimee



<b>ATTENDANCE:</b>	(11/26)	Saturday .....	43
	(11/27)	8:30 a.m. Service .....	73
		10:30 a.m. Service .....	156
	(11/21-11/27)	Online views .....	110
	<b>Total</b> .....		382



**GRACE IN ACTION: HOW GENEROSITY HAPPENS** This weekend in worship, we will offer our pledge cards and celebrate the love of God as we enter the new church year. There are pledge cards available on the Hospitality Desk.

**OUR 2023 GIVING ENVELOPES ARE** available in the hallway outside Fellowship Hall. The envelopes are in numerical order. There is a listing of names with envelope numbers available if you do not know your number. We will begin using these envelopes on January 1, 2023. Many thanks to Ann and Bryant Meckley and Randy Kline for organizing the envelopes.



**THE HISTORIC NEAS HOUSE**, located at 113 W. Chestnut Street, on the corner of Chestnut and High Streets, is open for visitors, Saturdays, December 10 & 17, 1-4 p.m. This residence built in 1783 by Mathias Neas will be decorated for the holidays much as it might have been during Mathias Neas' time. There will be exhibits and special surprises each Saturday! Free admission, but donations are appreciated. For more information, 717-632-3204.



Gift Bags

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED** to pack and deliver our Christmas Gift Bags on Friday, December 16 at 10:00 a.m. To volunteer, contact Pastor Faye, 717-451-0851, or email her at [nicksong@comcast.net](mailto:nicksong@comcast.net). Thanks for bringing much-needed cheer into lives this Christmas season.

# **St. Matthew Lutheran Church Calendar** **December 4 - 11, 2022**

Sun.	Worship with Holy Communion .....	8:30 a.m.
	Faith Connections .....	9:30-10:20 a.m.
	Splash Class (PrayGround) .....	9:45-10:15 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion .....	10:30 a.m.
	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (During Children's Church) .....	10:45 a.m.
	Hanging of the Greens and Pizza Dinner .....	3:00-5:00 p.m.
	Youth Christmas Party (Rm. 304).....	6:00-8:30 p.m.
Mon.	Discovery Place Classes.....	8:45-11:30 a.m.
	Girl Scouts .....	6:00-7:30 p.m.
Tues.	Discovery Place Classes.....	8:45-11:30 a.m.
	Staff Meetings (Library) .....	10:00 a.m.
	Primary Choir Rehearsal .....	4:20-5:00 p.m.
	Cub Scouts.....	6:30-8:00 p.m.
	Women of the ELCA Bible Study (Upper Room).....	6:30-8:00 p.m.
Wed.	Discovery Place Classes.....	8:45-11:30 a.m.
	Junior Choir Rehearsal .....	4:30-5:15 p.m.
	Advent Mid-Week Dinner (Fellowship Hall) .....	6:00-6:55 p.m.
	Advent Mid-Week Service (Nave).....	7:00-7:30 p.m.
Thurs.	Discovery Place Classes.....	8:45-11:30 a.m.
	Preschool Choir Rehearsal .....	6:15-7:00 p.m.
	St. Matthew Ringers Rehearsal .....	7:15-8:00 p.m.
	Adult Choir Rehearsal .....	8:00-9:00 p.m.
Fri.	Discovery Place Classes.....	8:45-11:30 a.m.
Sat.	Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast (Fellowship Hall).....	8:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave).....	5:00 p.m.
Sun.	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave).....	8:30 a.m.
	Faith Connections .....	9:30-10:20 a.m.
	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (During Children's Church) .....	10:45 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion .....	10:30 a.m.
	Mini-Minister Puppet Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)...	11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
	Blue Christmas Worship Service (Nave) .....	2:00-3:00 p.m.

## ***SUNDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS!***

The Christmas pageant rehearsals for children ages 3-18 are occurring during Children's Church at the 10:30 a.m. worship service on **December 4 and December 11**. It isn't too late to join in!

**Faith Connections - 9:30-10:20 a.m.**

**Lectors and Livestream Operator Training – 9:30-10:20 in the Nave**

**Splash Class! 9:45-10:15 in the Playground  
(in Fellowship Hall)**

**Hanging of the Greens – 3-5:00 p.m.  
and don't forget the pizza dinner at 4:30!**

**Youth Christmas Party 6-8:00 p.m.**

**You can find more info on any activity in the next few  
pages of the bulletin!**

## ***THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS!***

**Last day for Christmas Gift Bag recipients - Monday**

**Last day for Poinsettia memorials - Monday**

**Women of the ELCA Bible Study – Tuesday**

**Mid-Week Advent Meal and Worship Service**

**Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast – Saturday**

**Blue Christmas Worship Service – Sunday**





**THE MITTEN/SOCK/HAT/SCARF TREE** is ready for decorations in two locations, the church office lobby and the Gathering Place. Let's cover the trees with colorful mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, ear muffs, socks and other winter wear. Coats may be placed under the tree, too.

Please be sure all items are new or very gently worn. They may be for children or adults. Often people coming into the office during the week for assistance will choose something from our tree, so we hope to keep refilling it during the Advent season. Thank you for helping to keep our neighbors warm!

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE** Many thanks to all who came out on November 18 to donate blood. Twenty-Four units of whole blood and 8 units of Power Red, for a total of 32 units were collected. Well done donors!



**American  
Red Cross**

Thanks also to our faithful volunteers who check-in donors and serve snacks as they recover in the canteen. St. Matt Blood Drives run smoothly thanks to the warm and welcoming efforts of our volunteers. The need for blood is constant. Please continue to donate blood when you are able, to the Red Cross or Central Penn Blood Bank, at St. Matthew or elsewhere. Thank you.

*Barb Thomas, Blood Drive Coordinator.*

### **MANGER SCENES DISPLAY**

The Christmas season celebrates God's greatest gift to the world. Nativity scenes represent this generous gift in many unique ways. The Generosity Ministry Team would like to showcase how your family sees this event by displaying your family manger scene.

Between December 7 and 21, we would like to borrow your manger scene and display it in the secured glass showcase in the Fellowship Hall hallway.

If you would be willing to participate in this project, please contact Bob Strangfeld, 570-468-9679 or by email, [rstrangfeld133@gmail.com](mailto:rstrangfeld133@gmail.com). Thank you in advance!



**FAITH CONNECTIONS FOR ADULTS!** In December, the Generations class will join the Pastor's class.

**Special Note:** All Adults are invited to attend the Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 18, in Fellowship Hall.

**GPS: God's Positioning System - A Geography of Christmas** - On Sundays, December 4 and 11, the Pastor's Class is led by Pastor Mark Vitalis Hoffman, Professor of Biblical Studies at United Lutheran Seminary. He shows the significance of the geography of the events regarding the birth of Jesus. The Class meets in the Upper Room on the second floor and can be found by taking the steps or elevator by the glass doors off of the back parking lot.



**SPLASH CLASS** – this Sunday from **9:45-10:15** - Parents of infants and toddlers 3 months to 3 years old are invited to attend Splash Class- a “baby and me” style group class. Together, parents/caregivers and children will explore what's next after you've been “splashed” in the waters of Baptism. Adam Amspacher, registered and licensed pediatric occupational therapist, and Lindsay Amspacher, board-certified music therapist, are leading this 30 minute class at St. Matthew.

**WORSHIP ASSISTANT TRAINING** *Liturgy* means “the work of the people,” and it means so much to our identity at St. Matthew and as Lutherans. Worship always happens because of lots of work of “the people”- including you! You're invited to consider how the Holy Spirit might be nudging you to share your unique gifts through one of the many ways worship assistants offer their leadership in the church. This fall, we've been offering trainings for worship assistants in all kinds of roles. **Ages 11 to 111 are welcome to try out any role.**

**12/04/22 Lectors and Livestream Operators**

*Lectors read scripture lessons in worship. Livestream operators run the video and slideshow for the livestream of worship each week.*

**HOLY PRESENCE** On Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. on **December 7 and December 14**, the community of St. Matthew will gather to reflect on the ways Christ enters into our lives. This is the season of waiting and watching but it is also a time to return to our sense of expectation of God's coming into our world. In this worship series, we pay attention to opening ourselves to the ways God disrupts our lives in the most holy of ways. This 30 minute worship service will include word, prayer and song with personal accounts of the ways our lives are enriched in the rhythms of grace. Children's activities will be offered in Fellowship Hall. December 7<sup>th</sup>—*Receiving* December 14<sup>th</sup>—*Rejoicing*



### Advent Dinner



**MID-WEEK ADVENT MEALS** On Wednesdays prior to worship, we invite St. Matthew members and friends to come for a meal beginning at 6:00 p.m. Latecomers are welcome! Here's a way to take a break from a busy season to connect with one another in an informal way. Our second dinner on December 7, will consist of cheesy chicken penne pasta and dessert. Sign up for dinner on the tear-off of the inside cover of this bulletin, on the Hospitality Desk or by emailing the church office, [info@stmatthlutheran.org](mailto:info@stmatthlutheran.org) !

**HANGING OF THE GREENS AND PIZZA DINNER** - Come join us as we decorate our church for Christmas **THIS** Sunday, **December 4**, from 3-5:00 p.m. At 4:30 p.m. we will enjoy pizza for dinner. This is a wonderful day – come join us!



**WOMEN OF THE ELCA BIBLE STUDY** will be held **THIS** Tuesday, December 6, 6:30-8:00 p.m., in the Upper Room (enter elevator lobby). Pastor Taylor will be leading our Bible Study, the third session of *Jesus and Nature: Teachers of Faith- Creatures*. The lesson can be found in the November/December *gather* magazine. Please bring your magazine if you have one. All women are invited to attend and bring a friend. For additional information call Johnnetta Miller, 717-637-4259.



**BOY SCOUT TROOP 105** will be holding a **Pancake Breakfast** in Fellowship Hall **NEXT** Saturday, December 10, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. The cost is Adults \$9, Children 11 & under \$5. For information, call or text Manny Rivera @ 717-578-0575. Proceeds benefit St. Matthew BSA Troop 105's Northern Tier Expedition.

**BLUE CHRISTMAS** - A Worship Service for those who are stressed, hurting, grieving or lonely in this Holiday Season, Sunday, December 11, 2:00 p.m. Through candle-lighting, lovely readings, reflections, and sweet music, the message of Christ's hope and comfort will enfold us. Emmanuel...God is with us. You are not alone. All are welcome.



**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT!** Our children of St. Matthew will assist in sharing the Good News of Jesus' birth! The Children's Christmas Pageant is a great opportunity for children from 3-18 years of age to tell of the joy of Christmas. The pageant will be performed on December 18, during the Faith Connections time 9:30-10:20 a.m. If you would like to volunteer your time as an adult to help put this pageant on, please let Stacy Parsons, Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator, know either in person or via email, [sparsons@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:sparsons@stmattlutheran.org).

**COME JOIN US** as we Christmas carol to some of our homebound friends on Sunday, December 18. We will be caroling from **2-4:00 p.m.** Bring a plate of cookies to share at the conclusion of our afternoon of sharing Christmas Spirit! Song sheets will be provided. This special time of song and fellowship is so meaningful to our members. Bring the entire family! Our homebound friends seem to especially enjoy when our children join in. We will meet in Fellowship Hall and carpool, plus take the church van.







**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** to deliver the Christmas poinsettias to our homebound members. We will deliver them on Tuesday, December 27, at 9:30 a.m. Please call Doris in the church office, 717-637-7101, ext. 225, if you are able to help. Assisting Ministers who will deliver to their person can pick up a poinsettia after the 10:00 service on Sunday, December 25.

**THE GUATEMALA MISSION TEAM** will be hosting a New Year's Day pork and sauerkraut dinner, in Fellowship Hall, on Sunday, January 1, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The menu will be: roasted pork, sauerkraut, vegetable, mashed potatoes, hot dogs, and dessert. Eat in or carry out. Supplies are limited. Free-will offering is accepted. Proceeds from the dinner will fund the 2023 St. Matthew trip to Guatemala.



**THE MISSION TRIP** on July 19 -27, 2023, is taking shape! We will be helping at several locations and learning more about the resilient indigenous people of Guatemala. We ask for a \$300 deposit to hold your spot on the team. We want to have the team in place by January 1 so we can start monthly group meetings. Questions? Call Andrea Hersh, 717-968-7094, or Brad Hersh, 717-965-6585.

**OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY IS ONLINE!** To view our directory on-line, go to: [www.Members.InstantChurchDirectory.com](http://www.Members.InstantChurchDirectory.com) or scan the QR code. NOTE: You MUST have provided a valid e-mail address with your directory registration form to access the on-line version.



## December

- 3 9:00-11:00 a.m. Cookie Walk – elevator lobby
- 4 9:45-10:15 a.m. Splash Class – Pray-ground
- 9:40-10:15 a.m. Lector and Live Stream Operator training
- 10:45 a.m. Christmas Pageant rehearsal – in Fellowship Hall during Children's Church





3:00-5:00 p.m. Hanging of the Greens



7 6:00 p.m. Advent Dinner – Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Advent Worship Service - Nave

11 10:45 a.m. Christmas Pageant rehearsal – in Fellowship Hall during Children’s Church

2:00 p.m. Blue Christmas service – Nave and Live streaming

14 6:00 p.m. Advent Dinner – Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Advent Worship Service - Nave



18 9:30 a.m. Christmas Pageant – Fellowship Hall

2-4:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling to our Homebound

23 12:00 p.m. Church Office Closes

7:00 p.m. **Drive-in Christmas Eve - Eve Worship Service**

24 **Christmas Eve Services:**

CHRISTMAS EVE



5:00 p.m. **Family Service**

6:45 p.m. Nativity Recital

7:00 p.m. **Candlelight Service**

9:15 p.m. Nativity Recital

9:30 p.m. **Candlelight & Carol Service**

25 **10:00 a.m. Worship Service**

26 & 27 Church Office Closed

30 Church Office Closes at Noon

31 5:00 p.m. Worship Service (Nave)

5:45 p.m. Soup and Sandwiches

6:30 p.m. Mini-Minister Puppet Show



**(Continued next page)**

## January - 2023

- 1     **10:00 a.m. Worship Service**  
No Faith Connections
- 2     Church Office Closed
- 6-8   Winterfest (Offsite)
- 13    7 p.m. Joseph Martin & Friends Concert  
(Free tickets available December 20)
- 14    Choral workshop



**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS** - Members and friends who wish to honor or memorialize a loved one by placing a poinsettia in the chancel this Christmas are asked to **complete and return the form below with \$11** per listing to the church office. After the cost of the poinsettias is met, the memorials/honorariums will support Lutheran World Relief-Ukraine. **The deadline is Monday, December 5.** Please print clearly when filling in names. Please make checks payable to **"St. Matthew Lutheran Church"** with **"Poinsettias"** in the memo line.

2022 Christmas Poinsettias

I/We wish to (please check one)

\_\_\_\_\_ Honor    \_\_\_\_\_ Memorialize

*Tomorrow is the  
Final Day!*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
(Person to be memorialized or honored)

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Your offering envelope number \_\_\_\_\_

## CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS

Last Day to  
Submit Names

Help bring Christmas cheer to someone who is hurting...

We have delivered gift bags (containing fruit, candy, cookies, Christmas ornaments and more) to folks who are sad or upset for ANY reason. If you know someone who is having a difficult time, please help us by supplying their name, address and phone number. **Not limited to**

**members of St. Matthew, but MUST be located within a radius of 15 miles of Hanover.**



For questions or to give information, you can contact Pastor Faye Snyder through the church office, her email, *nicksong@comcast.net*; or to give information fill out the form below and drop in the offering plate or send to the church office **by December 4**. The bags will be delivered on December 16.

Recipient Name \_\_\_\_\_

Recipient Address \_\_\_\_\_

Recipient Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10**

A shoot shall come out from the stump  
of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
<sup>2</sup>The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of  
the LORD.  
<sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge  
the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the  
earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of  
his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the  
wicked.  
<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around  
his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.  
<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of  
the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the  
adder's den.  
<sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy  
mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the  
LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a  
signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of  
him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

**Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19**

**SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13**

[not printed]

**GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wil-  
derness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>"Repent, for the  
kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>3</sup>This is the one  
of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,  
"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.'"

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with  
a leather belt around his waist, and his food was  
locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of  
Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him,  
and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they  
were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confess-  
ing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees  
coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood  
of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath  
to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not  
presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as  
our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these  
stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even  
now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every  
tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut  
down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>"I baptize you with water for repentance, but  
one who is more powerful than I is coming after  
me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will  
baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His  
winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear  
his threshing floor and will gather his wheat  
into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with  
unquenchable fire."

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11.

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Tracks 1 and 2  
ELCA-R