

ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Proclaiming the Love of God for All People



December 5, 2021
Second Sunday in Advent

EUCCHARISTIC WORSHIP
December 5, 2021 11:00 AM

We welcome all today and are thankful you have chosen to participate in this service as you are able. We pray you are blessed by what you experience. If you have any spiritual needs or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Lesley at 817-292-1338 or pastor@stmatthews-elca.org. This service includes communion; if you are worshiping online, please have bread or crackers and wine or juice available to participate in the Eucharist.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

P. In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

C. Amen.

P. Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

You may kneel, sit or remain standing. Silence is kept for reflection.

P. God for whom we wait, **C. in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

P. God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon us! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † our sins are forgiven. We are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens us anew to follow the way of peace. **C. Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN 239 "Hark, the Glad Sound!"

CHESTERFIELD



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to • en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

GREETING

P. The light of our Lord Jesus Christ, the warmth of God the Creator, and the hope of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

C. Today and every day. Amen.

Come Lord Jesus

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



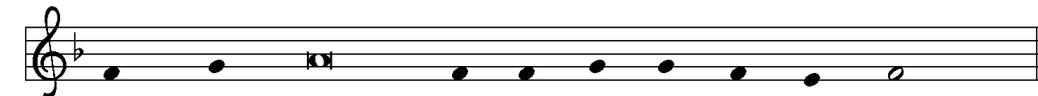
For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



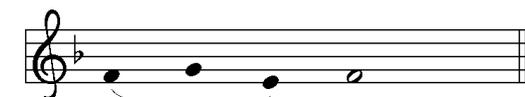
let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A. Let us pray: **C. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Frame Family

Let us pray: We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light two candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

The Advent wreath is lit as the congregation sings:

HYMN 240, v. 2 "Light One Candle to Wait for Messiah"

TIF IN VELDELE



- > 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.

A reading from Malachi, chapter 3:

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Word of God, word of life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: from Luke 1:68-79 *Read responsively, beginning with the Lector.*

⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.

⁶⁹**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

⁷⁰Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our
enemies, ⁷¹from the hands of all who hate us,

⁷²**to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.**

⁷³This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship you without fear,

⁷⁵**holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

⁷⁷**to give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

⁷⁸In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

⁷⁹**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**Refrain: In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break
upon us. (Luke 1:78)**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

A reading from Philippians, chapter 1:

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Word of God, word of life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

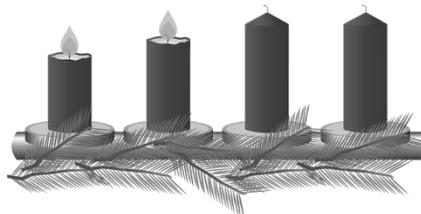
⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord. **C. Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Lesley M. Radius



Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY 249 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

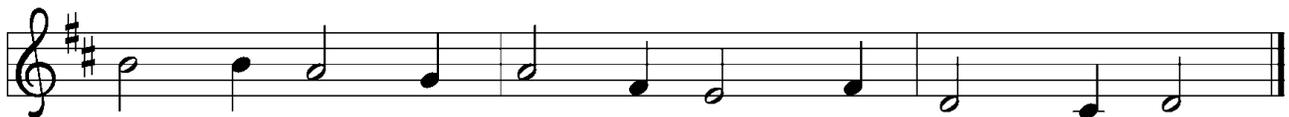
PUER NOBIS



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 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
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
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.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A. In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

You send messengers into the world to proclaim your coming. Instill in our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confidence in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send leaders to work on behalf of immigrants, the imprisoned, those living in poverty, and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use the ministries of St. Matthew's and St. Christopher to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill (*especially we pray for . . .*). Grant them healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered out loud or in our hearts.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember your saints, and are thankful for their example and witness. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P. God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect, and we thank you. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

PEACE P. The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C. And also with you.**

Please be seated.

ORGAN MEDITATION

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

A. Let us pray. **C. Holy God the earth is yours and everything in it. Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine, and strengthen us to be your body for the world through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

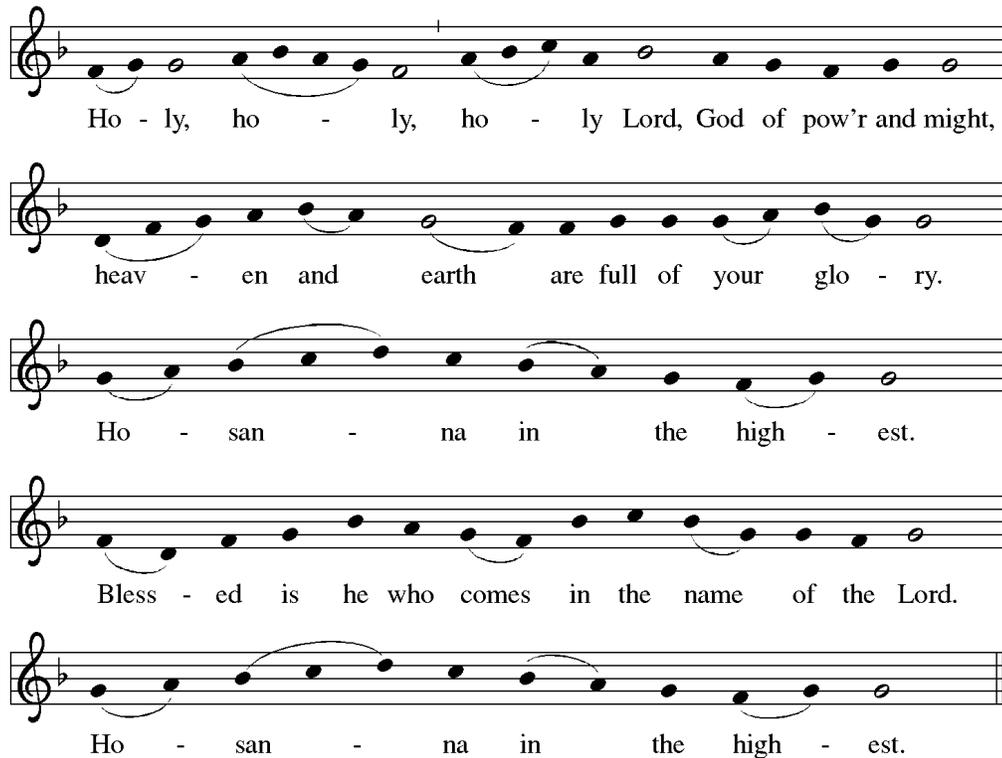
P. The Lord be with you. **C. And also with you.**

P. Lift up our 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.**

PREFACE

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy. . . And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav - en 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Please be seated.

ORGAN MEDITATION

After all have communed, please stand as you are able.

P. May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace. **C. Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A. O God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. **C. Amen.**

BENEDICTION C. Amen.

SENDING HYMN 246 "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"

MERTON



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is near," we
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther



hear it say. "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,
let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,
down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,
wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy
and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it



all you chil - dren of the day!"
shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
one and all, to be for - giv'n;
and with words of love draw near.
while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878
Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

THE SENDING

A. Go in peace. Christ is near. **C. Amen. Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

* * * * *

*International Copyright Secured All Rights Reserved Printed in U.S.A. One License.net license A-717433
Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #27628.
Livestreaming and music licenses current through CCLI Licenses #20809385, 20809402 & 20809392*

Today's flowers are in given in honor of Nick Washuta's 86th birthday.

LEADING TODAY'S WORSHIP

Presiding Minister: Rev. Lesley M. Radius
Choir Director: Adam Frame
Chancel Care: Jeri Manske
Ushers: Janice Kammer,
Chris Dunker

Assisting Minister: Mark Vinciguerra
Lector: Kelly Riddle
Organist/Pianist: John Wolf
Videographer: Jacob Martella

| | |
|---|---|
| <p><u>We Pray For:</u></p> <p>Craig Bridges T. J. Bridges Annasophia Reese Barbara Reid Tommy and Diane Higgs David Wester Sandy Heinrich Kathy Challgren</p> | <p>Liam Nephew of Barry Kammer & Janice Kammer</p> <p>Chris Johnson Nephew of Marj Rudolph</p> <p>James, Jessica and baby Kyler DeHut Neighbors of the Harro's</p> <p>Ron Kohn Uncle of Cindy Kohn</p> <p>Edith Smith Mother of Cindy Kohn's sister-in-law, Derinda Kohn</p> |
|---|---|

THIS WEEK WITH ST. MATTHEW'S

SUNDAY, December 5, Second Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 am Service of the Word with communion led by St. Matthew's**
- 9:30 am St. Matthew's Sunday School for all ages
- 9:30 am Eucharistic Worship led by St. Christopher, in person and online**
- 11:00 am Eucharistic Worship led by St. Matthew's, in person and online**
- 11:00 am St. Christopher Sunday School for all ages
- 6:00 pm Caroling to members of St. Matthew's (meet at church)

MONDAY, December 6

- 12:00 pm Staff Meeting

TUESDAY, December 7

- 8:00 am Men's/Women's Breakfast at Dixie House Café
- 10:00 am Women's Bible Study on Zoom
- 3:30 pm Ready, Set, Go! Center for tutoring/mentoring
- 6:45 pm Handbell Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, December 8

- 5:45 pm Family Faith Dinner (please note new time)
- 6:30 pm Advent Worship – Holden Evening Prayer, in person and online
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, December 9

- 6:30 pm Congregation Council Meeting on Zoom

SATURDAY, December 11

- 8:30 am Property Work Day (until Noon)

SUNDAY, December 12

- 10:00 am Lutheran-Episcopal joint service of celebration, including Pastor Lesley's Installation. Reception following**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALLING FOR SINGERS TO GO CAROLING We will go caroling to members of St. Matthew's **this evening at 6:00 pm!** Wear something festive. All singers are welcome! We will meet at church promptly at 6:00 pm.

PROPERTY WORKDAY There will be a **Property Workday on Saturday, December 11 from 8:30 am to Noon.** Please bring your work gloves, rakes, leaf bags, window washing items, etc. to make our facility spotless for our celebration Sunday on December 12 and for Christmas Eve.

ADVENT CALENDARS AND DEVOTIONALS Advent Calendars and devotional booklets are available on the table in the entryway by the bulletins.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2022 If you regularly use offering envelopes, your 2022 envelopes are available for you to pick up outside the sanctuary.

"I BELIEVE" Prayerfully consider your response to the **2022 Time and Talent form and your 2022 Pledge. What will you do after you say "I Believe?" Please return your forms to church by Dec. 18** by mail or in person – place your pledge in the designated box in the narthex; your Time and Talent form may be placed in the offering plate or turned in to the office.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS Poinsettias have been ordered for our sanctuary for Christmas. **The 6-inch plants are \$10 each.** If you wish to purchase one or more, **please sign up on the poster in the narthex.** Include your name, the number of plants you would like, and for each plant please print in whose honor or memory. Payment may be made by check to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. Plants may be taken home on or after worship on Dec. 26 (one service at 9:30 am).

GOSPEL ALIVE OPPORTUNITIES IN DECEMBER

ELCA Good Gifts – You are invited to make a donation to ELCA Good Gifts by choosing one or more gifts pictured on the ornaments on the entryway tree. These gifts help grow the church around the world, fight hunger and transform lives. The ornaments are in pairs – take one home, along with an ELCA Good Gifts order form, and sign the other ornament and leave it on the tree. You may make your donation to ELCA Good Gifts by phone, online or by mail as stated on the order form.

Towels for the Presbyterian Night Shelter – You may bring gently used or new towels to church through Dec. 26 for use at Fort Worth's Presbyterian Night Shelter. Place your donations in the designated box in the entryway.

2022 FLOWER CHART The 2022 Flower Chart is posted on the office window. You may choose one or more dates and designate if you would like to have flowers or give a donation to Neighborhood Needs (our local food pantry) or to ELCA Good Gifts. Regardless of your designation, a \$40 donation is requested.

SAVE THE DATE!

Sat., December 11 – 8:30 am to Noon; Property Workday

Tues., December 21 – 3:00 pm; Stone's Throw Farm produce truck at St. Matthew's

Advent and Christmas Worship –

Dec. 1, 8 and 15 6:30 pm Wednesday Advent Worship (Dinner at 5:45 pm)

Dec. 24 3:30 pm St. Matthew's/St. Christopher Family Christmas Worship
with children's Christmas program

6:30 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship led by St. Matthew's

8:30 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship led by St. Christopher

ST. MATTHEW'S MISSION STATEMENT

Living in Christ through faith. Living for neighbor through love.

We are Reconciling in Christ; welcoming to all!

CHURCH STAFF

Lesley M. Radius, Pastor

Adam Frame, Director of Music Ministries

John Wolf, Organist/Pianist

Kathy Challgren, Director of the Sounds of Exaltation Handbell Choir

Kelly Riddle, Office Assistant and Ready, Set, Go! Center Site Coordinator

Mary Nedde, Administrative Assistant

Jocelyne Angeles, C.J. Waiters, Valerie Dyke, Nursery Attendants

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

5709 Wedgwood Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76133

817-292-1338 | office@stmatthews-elca.org | www.stmatthews-elca.org