

ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Proclaiming the Love of God for All People

5709 Wedgwood Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76133
817-292-1338 office@stmatthews-elca.org

THE MESSENGER

KID'S EDITION

St. Matthew's Mission Statement:
Living in Christ through faith.
Living for neighbor through love.

WINTER 2023-2024

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, organized in 1953, is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Sunday Worship
8:15 and 11:00 am
Children's Church included at 11:00 am worship

Rev. Lesley M. Radius
Pastor
pastor@stmatthews-elca.org

Trent Ormsbee-Hale
Seminary Intern (January 2024)

Kelly Riddle
Community Engagement Coordinator
community@stmatthews-elca.org

Adam Frame
Director of Music Ministries
music@stmatthews-elca.org

John Wolf
Organist / Pianist

Shirley Johnson
Director of the Sounds of Exaltation Handbell Choir

Valerie Dyke, Erin Reigh
Nursery Attendants

Youth Commission Director
Adrienne Frame

Kid's Messenger Editor
Mary Nedde - Suggestions welcome!

ADVENT - December 3-24

The color for Advent is blue or purple. The word "advent" means coming. During Advent we wait and prepare to celebrate the coming of baby Jesus at Christmas. Symbols for Advent include:



Advent Wreath



Jesse Tree
See Isaiah 11:1

CHRISTMAS - December 24-31

The color for Christmas is white. We celebrate with joy that God has given us the gift of Jesus Christ! Symbols for Christmas include:

Jesus in the manger



Evergreens

EPIPHANY - Jan. 6 - Feb. 11

The color for Epiphany Day is white; the color for the Sundays in the Epiphany season is green. Epiphany means to realize something new, like an "aha" moment. Symbols for Epiphany include:

The 3 kings with gifts



Bright star

SUGGESTIONS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WITH CHILDREN

Instead of, or in addition to, a traditional Advent Calendar:

Create an Advent Tree. Use a small Christmas tree (3 feet tall or less) and take turns placing one ornament a day on the tree (homemade or one you have had for a long time) until Christmas Day. The person who puts the ornament on the tree tells why that ornament is important to them or to the Christmas story. On Christmas Day place a manger ornament on the tree and read the Christmas story — Luke 2:1-20.



Or:



Create a "Joy Jar." Every day in Advent, have your family members write down one thing that they did to bring joy to someone, or one thing that brought joy to them, and place the pieces of paper in the jar. By Christmas Day, you should find a full Joy Jar! On Christmas Day and the days after, share the joys from the Joy Jar.

And:

On YouTube, google Advent Godly Play and watch the videos for each of the four Godly Play stories for Advent (one per week) - ***Who Will Show Us the Way to Bethlehem?***

The Prophets
The Holy Family



The Shepherds
The 3 Kings

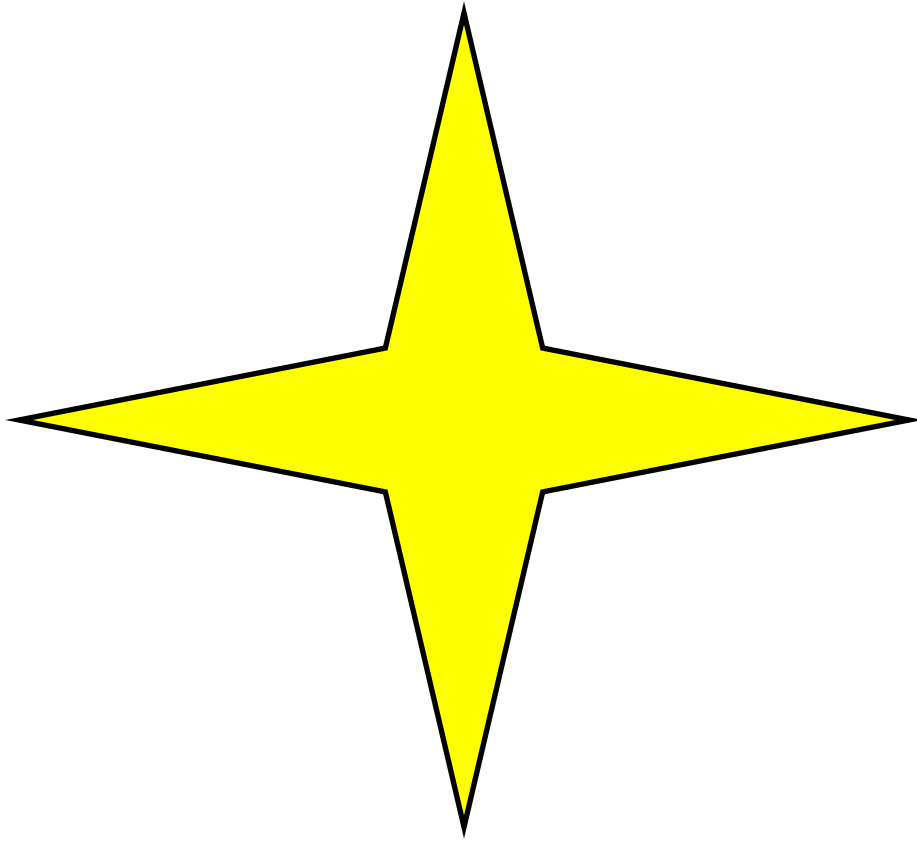
***May your Advent and Christmas season
be full of reminders of God's love!***

Christmas Eve Services at St. Matthew's:

Sunday, December 24

- 10:00 am - 4th Sunday of Advent; joint service led by St. Matthew's
- 6:00 pm - St. Matthew's Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
- 7:00 pm - Joint Fellowship Hour with St. Christopher
- 8:00 pm - St. Christopher's Christmas Eve Worship
- 10:00 pm - Joint Christmas Eve Worship led by St. Christopher

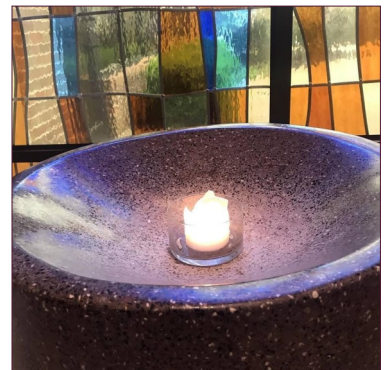
EPIPHANY AND JESUS' BAPTISM



January 6 is when Epiphany is celebrated. We remember the three wise men who followed a bright star to bring gifts to the baby Jesus. The story is told in the Bible in Matthew 2:1-12.

Make color copies of this star shape on white paper. Cut out the shapes and tape them to a sunny window to remind you of the bright star the wise men saw as they travelled to find baby Jesus.

The Baptism of Jesus will be celebrated in some churches on January 7, 2024. At Jesus' baptism, the Holy Spirit came to Jesus and blessed him. The symbols of baptism include a dove, a candle, a shell, and water. At St. Matthew's we give children a candle in a shell and a small stole, a special piece of cloth worn around the neck, that is a reminder of the new life with God given in baptism. If you have been baptized, ask your parents to show you your baptismal certificate and pictures of your baptism. Go on YouTube to find an animated story about Jesus' baptism.



CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Dear God: Thank you for the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. When I get excited about getting gifts, help me remember that we are celebrating Jesus being born—God's very special gift to us. Watch over all of my family; if they are traveling this season, keep them safe. Be with people who are sick and with those who aren't be able to be with family or friends for Christmas. In the new year, guide me like a bright light, and be with me as I grow and learn in school; and help me to be a good friend. Amen.



CHILDREN'S BOOKS

What Is GOD Like by Rachel Held Evans and Matthew Paul Turner

What is God Like? encourages young hearts to "think about what makes you feel safe, what makes you feel brave, and what makes you feel loved." This book was completed by Matthew Turner and Daniel Evans, Rachel's husband, after she passed away unexpectedly at age 38 in 2019. For ages 3-7.

This book is in St. Matthew's nursery, and can be bought on Amazon.

When I Pray for You by Matthew Paul Turner

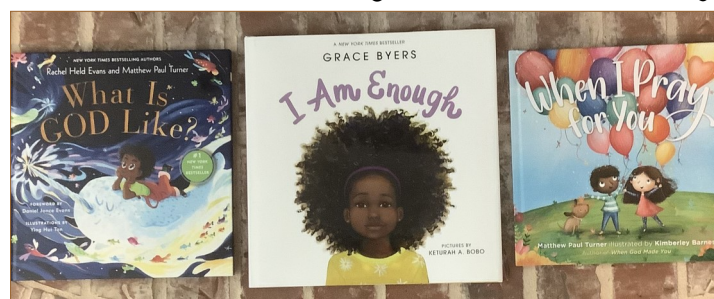
When I Pray for You celebrates the dreams, hopes, and longings parents pray over their children, and shares with little ones how much care and concern a loved one feels for them. For ages 1-5 (or older) and all who care for them.

This book is in St. Matthew's nursery, and can be bought on Amazon.

I Am Enough by Grace Byers (Mary Nedde's personal favorite.)

I Am Enough is an ode to loving who you are, respecting others, and being kind to one another. Although the author, bullied as a child, wrote the book to empower young girls, its message is for everyone. "We are all here for a purpose. We are more than enough. We just need to believe it." For ages 3-7.

This book is in St. Matthew's nursery, and can be bought on Amazon.

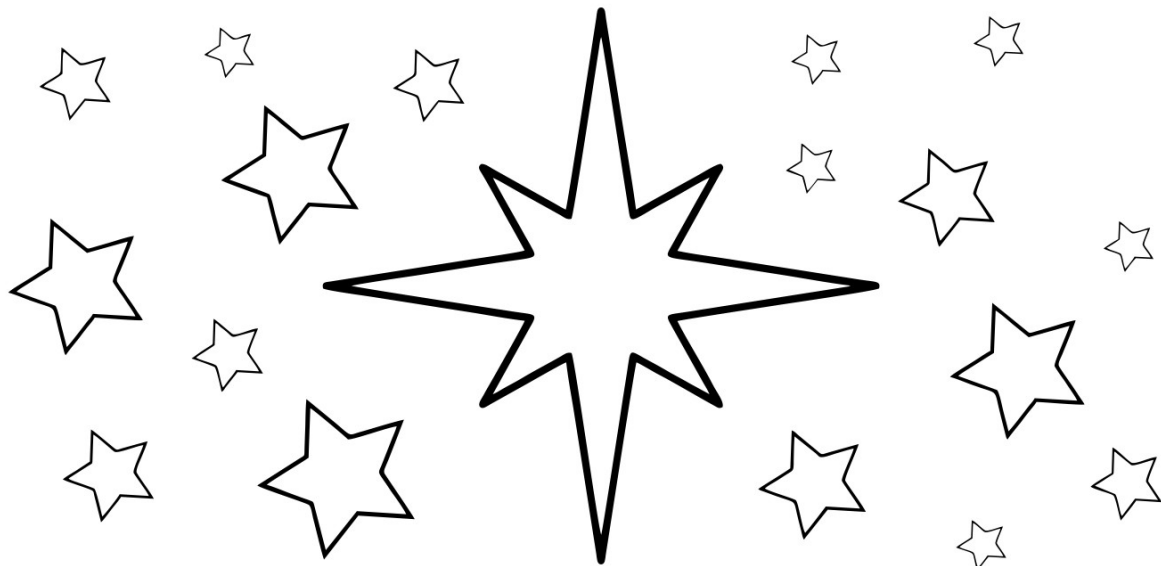




October 29
and
November 5
Photos



Coloring Page



CHRIST *the savior*
is BORN

