

Jesus  
increased in  
**wisdom**  
and in **years,**  
and in divine and human  
**favor** LUKE 2:52



**ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Church Office: 717-637-7101**  
**First Sunday of Christmas**  
**December 26, 2021**



**WELCOME!** 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. 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. To learn more about the ministries of St. Matthew, please page through the announcements in this bulletin and check out our website at [www.stmattlutheran.org](http://www.stmattlutheran.org). All are invited to join us any Sunday at 9:30 a.m. for Faith Connections, when there are opportunities for all ages to connect with God, our faith, and one another through learning and relationship. Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 for refreshments and information about ways to plug in.

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

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Names of everyone attending Saturday, **December 26, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.:**

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

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

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**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)

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

Rev. Taylor Berdahl, Associate Pastor, ext. 229

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's Ministry, [sparsons@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:sparsons@stmattlutheran.org)

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**FROM CONGREGATION COUNCIL - GUIDELINES FOR WORSHIP**

Due to the highly contagious nature of Covid and our desire to be welcoming to our youngest, oldest and others with health concerns, Council agreed on the following decisions:

- To **keep masks optional** for vaccinated people at our Saturday, 5:00 and Sunday 8:30 service. Those who are unvaccinated, please continue to wear a mask.
- To **require masks** at our 10:30 indoor worship regardless of vaccination status.
- To remain committed to **offering online worship** through live-streaming.

The Council hopes that this variety of worship offerings will provide you with options that fit a diversity of comfort levels and health needs.

- (1.) We continue to distance people by separating chairs and marking pews to be used.
  - (2.) We continue the current procedures for communion and offerings. A waste basket for the communion cups and napkins is placed at the exits.
  - (3.) Offering plates will not be passed. There is a basket at the door.
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Please note: Music for this service is covered under CCLI # 1000682 –  
Also #A-708989 *One License.net*

**GATHERING SONG**

*Carol of the Star*  
(Tori Keefauver, Soloist)

**Moore**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who sends the word with angels,  
who is made flesh among all peoples,  
and who breathes peace on all the earth.

**All: Amen.**

Pastor: In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Pastor: Holy God,

**All: we confess our sin before you.**

**We replace compassion with competition.**

**We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.**

**We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.**

**We have not put on love in harmony with you.**

**Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.**

**Swaddle our hearts with your peace,**

**that all we do, in word or deed,**

**may reflect your love born among us. Amen.**

Pastor: I bring you good news of great joy for all people:  
God has come among us  
in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord.

+ In Christ your sins are forgiven  
and you are clothed in peace

All: Amen.

OPENING HYMN.....*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* – Neale/Pearsall



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce      with heart and soul   and voice;  
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce      with heart and soul   and voice;  
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce      with heart and soul   and voice;



give ye heed to what we say:      Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye hear of end - less bliss:      Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
now ye need not fear the grave;      Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day!      Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this!      Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save!      Christ was born to save!

## **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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

## **HOLY BAPTISM (10:30)**

*At certain points during the service of Holy Baptism, the congregation will be invited to respond with the following prompts:*

Pastor: People of God, do you promise to support Brylee and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

**All: We do.**

Pastor: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**All: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share. Join us as we celebrate God's love and serve in Jesus' name.**

**(10:30)** *Children ages 10 and under are invited to meet Andrea Hersh 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 hear a Bible story from this week's lectionary in an age-appropriate format and spend some time exploring their faith and creativity together. If your child is not yet potty trained, please send a guardian along with them to Children's Church. They will return during the passing of the peace.*

**THE READING: Colossians 3:12-17** *Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with new garments upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.*

Pastor/Lector: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (To the Tune: *Angels We Have Heard on High*)**

Word of God to us declared, Word of Life with us now shared.  
Voiced by prophets long ago, now in Christ, God's love we know.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo: Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter.

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

**HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:41-52** *Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.*

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

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

**THE MESSAGE**

**Pastor Taylor Berdahl**

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

***The Wexford Carol***  
**(Tori Keefauver, Soloist)**

**arr. Hayes**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH**

***Apostles' 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, *"Merciful God."* and the congregation responds, *"receive our prayers."*

## **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 nods** and **waves**)*

*(Children return from Children's Church.)*

## **GENEROSITY MOMENT**

## THE OFFERTORY (Tune: *What Child Is This*)

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor: Gracious God,

**All: your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth.  
As we offer ourselves and these your gifts,  
prepare us to receive the grace and truth  
you offer at this table  
and renew in us the song of your salvation,  
in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## THE MEAL

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER WITH WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### 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

### RECEIVING OF THE ELEMENTS OF BREAD AND WINE

Pastor: The body of Christ, given for you.

**All: Amen.** *(Eat wafer)*  
*(Pause)*

Pastor: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**All: Amen.** *(Drink wine)*

### 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

Pastor: Let us pray. We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine.

As we have shared this feast of love,  
strengthen us to share your love with all the world.  
In Jesus' name we pray

**All: Amen.**

### BLESSING

Pastor: The God of hope  
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that we may abound in hope

by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
through Christ Jesus the word made flesh.

**All: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN.....Go Tell It on the Mountain – Work Jr.**



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho-rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

**DISMISSAL**

Pastor: Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**Good Christians Friends, Rejoice**

**arr. Hughes**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Our warm thanks** to all those assisting in this worship service:

Musician..... Tori Keefauver, Soloist  
Couriers..... Karen Axline, Ardis Kunde  
Greeters ..... Alan & Pam Cashman, Peggy Westerhold  
Lector ..... Diane Hoffman-Neail  
Ushers .....Team 9-Tim Peck, Hunter Crabbs, Steve Bell, Aaron Smith

**RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM** this morning is Brylee Carroll Berwager, daughter of Bryan and Amanda (Carroll) Berwager, with sponsors Ben and Damarys Shearer. We welcome Brylee into the earthly body of Christ with membership here at St. Matthew Church.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Mildred I. Ahalt by the family; and in loving memory of Elizabeth G. Hershey who would have celebrated her birthday on Dec. 26 by the Frederick 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 Carlynn Neiderer by her daughters Julie, Meg and Beth and her husband John; and in loving memory of Helen Hartman by Julie, Meg, Beth and John Neiderer; and in loving memory of Robin Miller by her parents Bill and Lois Miller; and in loving memory of Roy A. and Mabel Bream Sr., Joseph and Josephine Rill and Bernice Baumgardner by C. Derek, Lisa, Meredith and Ian Brown; and in loving memory of Charles and Anna Sullivan by Bill and Lois Miller; and in loving memory of Harry Auchey by his granddaughter Toni Hook College.

**THE BULLETINS** have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Charles L. Mummert who passed away on Dec. 27, 2005 by Nola, son Matthew, grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and in loving memory of Roy A. and Mabel Bream Sr., Joseph and Josephine Rill and Bernice Baumgardner by C. Derek, Lisa, Meredith and Ian Brown.

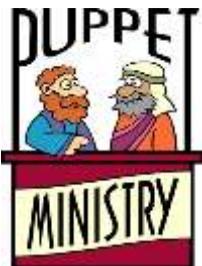
<b>ATTENDANCE:</b>	(12/18)	Saturday 5 p.m. service .....	45
	(12/19)	8:30 a.m. Worship Service .....	65
		10:30a.m. Worship service.....	172
	(12/13-12/19)	Online views .....	215
		<b>Total</b> .....	<b>497</b>

**RECOMMENDED SCRIPTURE READINGS** for the week beginning Dec. 26:

Sunday: Luke 2:41-52	Thursday: Mark 13:32-37
Monday: John 21:19b-24	Friday: John 8:12-19
Tuesday: Revelation 21:1-17	Saturday: Luke 2:15-21
Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 3:10-17	

**IN ORDER FOR YOUR END OF YEAR OFFERINGS** to be posted in 2021, they must be **RECEIVED** in the church office by this **Thursday, December 30 at 9 a.m.** Any offerings arriving in the office after that date and time will be posted in January of 2022.

**POINSETTIA LISTS** are available in the back of the church and on the Hospitality Desk in the Gathering Place. Thank you to everyone who sponsored poinsettias. After the costs of the plants are met, approximately \$1,550 went to support the ELCA Good Gifts that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives around the world.



**OUR MINI MINISTER PUPPETS** will present a show on **December 31, New Years' Eve, 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.** Invite your friends and neighbors for this family-oriented, entertaining show! Light refreshments will be provided. This is a great way to celebrate the new year with the entire family!

**St. Matthew Calendar**  
**December 26, 2021 – January 2, 2022**

- Sun. **NO** Worship Service .....8:30 a.m.  
**NO** Faith Connections  
Worship with Holy Communion (Nave) .....10:30 a.m.
- Mon. **Church Office Closed**  
**NO** Discovery Place Classes  
Girl Scouts ..... 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- Tues. **Church Office Closed**  
**NO** Discovery Place classes  
**NO** Primary Choir  
**NO** Congregational Council Meeting
- Wed. **NO** Discovery Place classes  
**NO** Junior Choir  
Boy Scouts ..... 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- Thurs. **NO** Discovery Place classes  
**NO** Preschool Choir  
St. Matthew Ringers & Adult Choir Christmas Party .....6:00 p.m.
- Fri. **Church Office Closes at Noon**  
Mini-Minister Puppet Show (Fellowship Hall) .....7:00 p.m.
- Sat. **NO** Worship Service
- Sun. Worship with Holy Communion (Nave) .....8:30 a.m.  
**NO** Faith Connections ..... 9:30-10:20 a.m.  
Food and Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) ..... 9:30-10:20 a.m.  
Worship with Holy Communion (Nave) .....10:30 a.m.  
Youth Party (Rm. 304) ..... 6:30-8:30 p.m.



**UNHANGING OF THE GREENS** - Sadly, our beautiful decorations will need to come down **THIS** Sunday, **January 2**, immediately following the 10:30 service. If everyone could help for a short time, we could have the decorations taken down and put away very quickly. We would be grateful for your assistance.

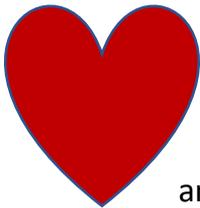


**OUR LIFE LONG ST. MATTHEW MEMBER** Betty Reichart will be turning 100 years young on January 8, 2022. If you would like to help Betty celebrate, please send a card to the church office and her niece will get the cards and well wishes to her, 30 W. Chestnut Street, Hanover PA 17331. Happy Birthday, Betty!

**OUR 2022 GIVING ENVELOPES ARE** available in the hallway outside Fellowship Hall. **The envelopes are in alphabetical order.** We will begin using these envelopes on January 2, 2022. Many thanks to Ann and Bryant Meckley, Randy Kline and Barb Thomas for organizing the envelopes.



**THE MITTEN/SOCK/HAT/SCARF TREE** is set up in the church office lobby. Let's cover the tree 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. Thank you for helping to keep our neighbors in need warm this winter!



**MANY MANY THANKS** from the church staff to everyone who remembered us during this Christmas season. We had cookies, candies, popcorn, warm peach cobbler, cards and prayers and we are very grateful for all of them! Thank you for thinking of us. It is an honor to be a part of St. Matthew Lutheran Church.

**PIANIST JOSEPH MARTIN** will be joined by Heather Sorenson, Lloyd Larson, Steve Roddy, violinist Chris Souza, and a 75-voice choir of choral directors in concert on Friday, January 14, at 7:00 p.m. This is always a great evening here at St. Matthew Church!



The Friday evening concert is free and open to the public, but a ticket is required to attend. We ask that everyone please wear a mask. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to January Concert, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 30 W. Chestnut Street, Hanover, PA 17331, with the number of tickets you are requesting. Tickets will be mailed January 4. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for this open-seating concert. A free-will offering will be collected.

This concert is part of a two-day event featuring the music of Shawnee Press/Hal Leonard Publishing. The pianists/vocalists will offer selections and the choir will sing several songs written by the featured guests. The music will be accompanied by organ and piano. The guest musicians entertain the audience with comical comments on music and music makers but also share inspiring stories of the power of music. The Saturday, January 15 workshop for choral directors is attended by hundreds of musicians from the East Coast.