



LIVING FAITH

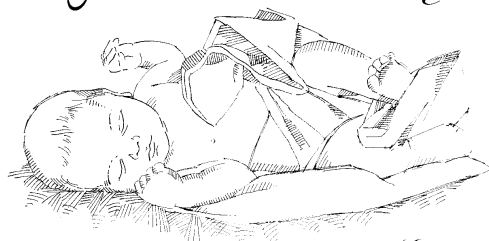
ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

email: stmatthews@stmatthews.us

www.stmatthews.us

December 2008

And he will be their peace



Micah 5:5

CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

CHILDREN'S SERVICE

Wednesday, Dec. 24, 5 p.m.

FAMILY SERVICES

Wednesday, Dec. 24, 7 p.m. & 9 p.m.

HOLY COMMUNION CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Wednesday, Dec. 24, 11 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY -- THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Thursday, Dec. 25, 11 a.m. Service followed by a reception, see poster to indicate your participation.



If you would like to help provide poinsettias for the Christmas services, see the sign-up poster on the bulletin board. Plants may be taken home after the 11 a.m. service on Christmas Day (except for the white altar poinsettias).

The Fellowship committee will host a gathering between the 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. services. Please bring a snack to share. Beverages are provided. Children welcome. See poster to sign up.



GREENING ACTIVITIES

Greens Cutting, Monday, December 15, 10 a.m.

Greens Making, Friday, December 19, 10 a.m. & 7 p.m.

Greening, Monday, December 22, 7:30 p.m.

Making of the greens! The smell of pine, hot chocolate, and popcorn, Christmas carols, setting up the crèche --the excitement of the season--the wait is almost over! Everyone is invited to help decorate our church. During the two sessions on Friday, we will make the greens. NO previous experience necessary. You may want to bring your garden gloves and clippers. The decorating will be done on Monday evening. Please join us! See you there!

ADOPTED FAMILIES

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Please check the sign-up poster in the narthex to help provide gifts for someone who needs some Christmas love. St. Matthew's has the names of families that we will be providing gifts and dinners for this Christmas. Food items will be provided by the SCS classes. Gifts are subscribed by signing the poster. Each item (clothing or toy) has a minimum amount of \$20. Gifts need to be brought to the church by **Wednesday, December 10**. See the poster for details.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



2-Brent Howard
Renee Evans
Kristen Kinneberg
Ron Schmitt
3-Obediah Baker
Birgit Ralston
Carolyn Hodne
4-Bryan Orndorff
Ralph Scronce
Chase Phillips
Jonah Clark
5-Rebecca Bish
Jan Mouw
Mary Smith
7-Nicholas Woessner
Jackson McCarthy

8-Matthew Capobianco
Kathy Lambert
Molly Parker
Bill Schwentner
9-Ed Bayne
Brian Stevenson
Bill McCormack
Christel Merk
Ginni Schimpf
10-Art Reynolds
Caylin Nethercutt
Steven Dopp
11-Emily Jacobson
12-Linda Ryson
Alexandra Gusberti
13-Caitlin Pfister
Natalie Martin
14-Pat Knock
Leslie Wilcox
15-Kevin Tamai
16-Glenn Renton
Zachary Larson
Michele Petrone
17-Vince Ogilvie
18- Lauren Kinneberg
Chris Skelley
19- Debbie Heimbach
Ian Knudson

20- Lynn Moonan
Matthew Smith
21-Darryl Lundgren
Donna Wiprud
Nancy Blazek
22-Kristen Wolf
Tim Miller
23-James Badger
24-Michelle Dorer
Tim Butcher
25-Richard Riley
Rex Stone
Emily Schreiber
26-Michael Urick
27-Marlies Smith
28-Sophia Nicolai
29-Patrick Young
Zoey Mattos
30-Sharon Riley
Ellen Agosta
31-Brad Leiby
Bruce Leiby
Johnathan Lyreman
Elly Wuchenich
Leslie Kinneberg
McKenna Nowell

ANNIVERSARIES

1-Stephen & Jean Payne
3 – Steve & Monica Debban
9 – John & Stacy Urick
14-Paul & Jennifer Knick
16-Brian & Katie Badger

Keith & Sally Cotner
17–Charles & Suzanne Harvey
Paul & Charlene Laird
21-Maureen & Randolph Steiner
22-Keith & Susan Kuhn

24-Ed & Carol Bayne
27-Mark & Sabrina Chandler
Anthony & Barbara Bombay
28-Charles & Marie Luedke
30-Rick & Holly Ouellette
31-Carl & Sally Lay



CHOIR SCHEDULE

Mark the following choir rehearsals on your calendar!

Thursday, December 18 –Cherub Choir, 6:15-6:45 p.m.
Youth Choir, 7-7:45 p.m.
Teen Choir, 8-8:45 p.m.

Friday, December 19 – Teen Caroling, 6 p.m.

Saturday, December 27 – Youth & Teen Choirs, 10-10:30 a.m.
Senior Choir – 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, January 3 – Cherub Choir, 10-10:30 a.m.



**Advent Dinner
November 30,
5:30 p.m.**

“The Story of the Jesse Tree” will be the theme of this year’s Advent Dinner.

Plan to welcome the season by sharing a meal with your St. Matthew’s family. Following a covered dish supper, guests will complete the decorating of a real Jesse Tree as they help to tell the story of waiting for the coming of the Christ child. Instructions for making a Jesse Tree and patterns for Jesse Tree symbols will be available for families to take home following the closing hymn.

Students in Grades 7 -12 will join in filling holiday stockings for others in need. See the poster on the bulletin board to indicate your participation in the stocking activity.

Visit the church bulletin board for more information and to sign up to attend.

Follow-up Advent activities for families to enjoy at home might be star gazing; baking star, sheep or angel shaped cookies; or driving through the neighborhood to enjoy the lights.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING &
CHURCH COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

A **Congregational Meeting** is scheduled for the period between the worship services on **December 14th**. Several very important items are on the agenda: we will vote on our Program Budget for 2009, we will select those who will provide the leadership for our congregation’s joyful work into the next year, and one member for the Mission Endowment committee.

Gifts of Hope

Gifts of Hope is a well loved part of Christmas in many Lutheran congregations in the Washington metro area. This year, as always, every penny spent on a Gift of Hope goes to the organization delivering the gifts. Come see this year’s exciting new catalog at the “Market Table” in the narthex. Included is a Christmas card and an insert describing your gift. [Great gifts for teachers, friends and grandparents!]

On-Going Ministries

Volunteer at the **ACTS Thrift Store**: Tues., Dec. 2 and Tues., Jan. 6, **2009**.

Help us collate, fold, label, sort, and bundle **church mailings**. Meet in the narthex at 10:00 a.m. on **Friday, December 12**. Enjoy chatting with other workers while your fingers fly.

Welcome New Members



Please welcome the following families who recently joined St. Matthew’s.

- Yoseph Amha & Rose Abraham; Leila & Ben Pam Alley
- Brenda Johnson
- Chris & Julie Moessner; Kirsten & Emily Stephen & Jean Payne
- Ben & Michele Petrone; Joe & Catherine Grace Stamper



**Church Women
News**

On Tuesday, December 9, at 7:30 PM, all women are invited to

Advent Reflections at Jan Mouw’s (12715 Knightsbridge Rd; 703/878-3259). During your Advent waiting, take a few quiet moments to consider the passing year and to anticipate the one ahead. Search out some appropriate words to share. These words will become a gift of encouragement for a sister in Christ.

We also will be collecting an offering that will include "stocking stuffers" for children (ages 4 and up) in Prince William County foster care.

See the poster on the bulletin board for more information and to sign up to participate. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Kuhn at 703-491-2898 or Sally Cotner at 703-878-4716.

THERE WILL BE **NO WOMEN'S EVENING STUDY GROUP IN DECEMBER**. THE NEXT SESSION WILL BE 7:30 PM, MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2009, at Pat Moler's (13014 Sturbridge Rd; 703/494-2373). The group will continue its study of The Screwtape Letters with Chapters 13-16. You're invited to begin a new year sharing discussion with this small group.

There will be a special **WOMEN'S RETREAT PLANNING MEETING** on Saturday, January 17, 2009, 10 a.m.. Come and help us get ready for the big, three-day event.

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday, January 13, at church, at 7:30 PM, guest presenter Sally Galloway, a holistic health counselor, will offer a fun and light-hearted approach to a new year of good nutrition. Learn how to have a healthier relationship between the foods you eat and the nutrition your body needs. Light refreshments and chocolate will be served. All women are welcome.

Tuesday, February 10, Cookie Bake, at church, at 7:30 PM. Parents, please update student addresses.

Mark your calendar for the **WOMEN'S RETREAT to Signal Knob March 13-15**.

CONFIRMATION MEALS FOR DECEMBER

<u>DATE</u>	<u>MEAL</u>	<u>COOKS</u>
3	PIZZA	1. Kim Lervold 2. Mary Gill
13	HOLIDAY	1. Nancy Zimmerman 2. Jane Tamai 3. Mary Gill 4. Theresa Tameris

PARKING FOR CONFIRMATION PICK-UP

Parents, to keep traffic flowing smoothly, please park in the lined spaces and encourage students to look for your car.

NEWSLETTER SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL Christmas Program Rehearsal Schedule

The Sunday School Christmas program is December 14, 6 p.m. Below is the rehearsal schedule.

Sat., Nov. 29

9:00-10:00—Narrators, John, Elizabeth, Zechariah, Speaking Angel

Sat., Dec. 6

9:00-12:00—Narrators, John, Elizabeth, Zechariah, Speaking Angel
10:00-11:00—Kindergarten & Grades 1, 6, 7 & 8
11:00-11:20—3 and 4 Year Olds
11:15-12:00—Grades 2, 3, 4 & 5

Sat., Dec. 13

Same Schedule as Dec. 6

Sun., Dec. 14

Short run-through during the regular SCS hour

On the evening of the program, (**Sun., Dec. 14**) all students should arrive **NO LATER THAN 5:40 P.M.** They should be dressed in costume and go directly to the area where their teachers have said they will meet them. **Each family** is asked to **bring 2 DOZEN COOKIES** to share at the reception following the program.

Costumes

3 and 4 Year Olds	Angels (provided)
Kinder/Grade 1	Old Testament People-Costumes not provided
Grades 2 & 3	Shepherds-Costumes not provided
Grades 4 & 5	Choir robes & colored collars-Costumes provided
Grades 6, 7 & 8	No costumes

7TH & 8TH GRADE YOUTH



Weather permitting, the Harris Pavilion in old town Manassas once again will be Youth Group's holiday, ice skating destination.



Sign up to meet at church at 11:30 AM, on Tuesday, December 30. We will skate, have lunch, and return to church at 3:30 PM. Admission is \$7.00, and skate rental is \$3.00. Bring additional \$ for food. Questions? Call Mrs. Kuhn at 703/491-2898.

Watch for a sign up sheet for the SKI TRIP ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 24.

Mark the date – SHEKINAH, MARCH 20-21.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

Circle these dates:

Fri.-Sun., Dec. 5-7, CHRYSALIS check the bulletin for departure information

Sun., Dec. 21, Christmas Party, 5:30 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 30, Ice Skating, 11:30 a.m.

LOOKING AHEAD: SKI TRIP



January 23 & 24
Watch for more info
and a sign up sheet.

Financial Secretary & Treasurer's Report, October 2008

October Giving by Category

Current	\$ 48,810
Benevolence	6,315
Building	11,893
Memorial	3,750
Pass Through	202
Total	\$ 70,961

Year to Date \$ 735,871

To date we have given \$88,702 toward our congregation's benevolence commitments. \$9,627 has been given through our Samaritan Fund towards emergency needs for utilities, rent, gas, food, car insurance, day care, medicine assistance for a family experiencing financial difficulties following the hospitalization of a child. As of October 31 our income was \$17,414 short of actual expenses. We have also delayed three remittances to benevolence. Your gifts have been strong in November. The last two months of the year have always made it possible to meet

NEWSLETTER

our benevolence commitments as we "catch up" and even move ahead in our giving. Your gifts matter! Thank you for your faithfulness in giving as we move toward the end of the year.

Bible Studies

Women's Bible Study

Weds., 9:30-11 a.m.

Childcare provided

Pr. Tarja Stevenson

Weekday Bible Study

Thurs., 10-11:30 a.m.

Pr. David Bohannon

Women's Evening Study

3rd Mon. of each month, 7:30 p.m.

Led by study group members

Men's Bible Study

Sun., 7:00 p.m.

Pr. David Bohannon

Accomplishing Stewardship Goals

Simply Giving is a program that permits any member of a Lutheran congregation to make regular contributions to the work of their church by means of electronic funds transfer. A variety of options are available regarding where the money comes from and how often it is sent to the account of the local congregation. There are no processing fees or membership requirements. An informative folder titled "*Simply Giving*" is available by contacting Sue Orndorff in the church office. Those electing to use the *Simply Giving* program must submit their application through the church office to insure proper coding and accounting for contributions. If you currently are using *Simply Giving* and want to make any changes, please contact Sue for the current forms.

In today's fast-paced world, almost everyone uses some form of automatic funds transfer to simplify schedules and to insure timely meeting of important obligations. Why not consider applying the same benefits of modern technology to your stewardship response?

Day School Holiday Mode

Last week some of the Day School children were learning to play a new “short path” game that their teacher made to give them a fun reason to count, read numerals, and take turns. They sat spellbound as the teacher moved the olive wood nativity figures along the path, first to the inn, then the stable, and lastly to the manger. As she did, she recited the words of a finger play and concern mounted: “This is Joseph; this is Mary. See how they are so very weary?” It told an awesome story; one that touches young and old alike. How will you share the Christmas story with your children? Will their hearts be touched?

Opportunities abound for gifts that bring life to the journey from Advent to Christmas. Introduce your child to the “adopted” families listed on the narthex bulletin board; shop for, wrap and give a gift to one or more of them. Provide tuition support for a child whose parents aren’t able to pay the full cost of a space in the Day School. Sign up to give Gifts of Hope in the name of folks on your Christmas list who have all they need. Sharing acts such as these are our life’s light shining, illuminating the true gift of Christmas.

If you have young children in your home, perhaps they would enjoy two of our Christmas rhymes. (To hear the tune of the game “How Many Miles to Bethlehem?” call the church during Day School hours – someone will sing it to you – and wish you a Blessed Christmas.)

A Christmas Fingerplay (spoken)

This is Joseph (*hold up one finger*);

This is Mary (*hold up one finger on other hand*)

See how they are so very weary (*put hands to forehead*)

Knock, knock, knock at the innkeeper’s door (*make knocking motion*)

He shakes his head, no room for more. (*shake head no*)

Go to the stable where the animals stay (*point away*)

You will find a place to sleep in the hay (*lay head down on hands*)

Quietly come to the manger and see (*put finger in front of mouth to hush*)

The baby Jesus born for you and for me. (*pretend to hold baby*)

How Many Miles to Bethlehem?

How many miles to Bethlehem?

Four score and ten.

Can I get there by candlelight?

Yes and back again.

Children form a circle. Two people form a “bridge” which everyone in the circle must pass under. On the last note of the song, the “bridge” catches someone.

Open the gates and let me through.

Toll first you’ll pay.

I have no gold, what shall I do?

Turn and walk away.

The person who was caught finds another to make a bridge. Now there are two bridges. Repeat and keep adding bridges until all are caught.

Day School Needs

If you have any of the used, no longer needed, or empty items listed below, bring them to the church office on Sunday or during the week.

1. Used Bath or Hand towels. You might not realize it but the Day School runs on TOWELS. We use a few washloads of towels every week to sop up spilled water, wipe off paint, clean up general messes. We use the hand towel size but would gladly cut up your old bath towels to fit our need.

2. Warming trays. Put paper on a warming tray. Give a child a crayon and watch her draw with delight. It’s art and science together. The homes of couples “of a certain age” all had a warming tray stashed somewhere. If you aren’t using yours anymore, consider donating it to the Day School, and we’ll create dozens of melted crayon masterpieces on it.

3. Small coffee cans. Kathy Lundgren makes drums each year with balloons and 11-13oz. coffee cans or their equivalent. (Almond Roca cans are also good, and we’ll take them empty or full). Bring clean empty cans of about that size whenever you have them. We need nearly 300, so yours won’t be turned away.

Thank you for your help.

Mary-Catherine Deadman

Confirmation Retreat Prayers

The following prayers are a sample of the worship offering at the Confirmation Retreat. The theme of the retreat was "Friendship."

Dear God,

Thank you for allowing me to come to this retreat and to learn how to be a better friend. During these lessons, I've learned how I can handle my relationships and I've realized who my real friends are and who are not. Thank you for the wonderful friendships you allowed me to have in church and school. Without them I'd be nothing. Thank you for the love I give and receive to my family and friends. I know I can be a better friend by being more persistent with my friendships and just be more talkative with people.

Thank you for this wonderful life.

Dear God,

How ya doing up there in heaven? I have been thinking about this friendship thing and have decided to apply this to my life. I know I have not been really good to my parents and will not let this happen anymore. The plan I have includes kindness, love, patience... I hope I can be like this with all of my friends and family and hope to do well with them.

Dear God,

I thank you every day for all the friends you have helped me to make. I thank you for all my friends, some living close to me and some far away. I will be more patient and kind to my friends and won't mouth off before thinking. I will be trustworthy and generous, and will practice loving my enemies.

Dear God,

Thank you for the friendships and love I have experienced in my life. I could be a better friend by being more patient with everyone. I could also listen more when my friends are telling a story. I could also forgive more easily too.

Amen.

Boy Scouts

The purpose of the Boy Scouts of America, incorporated on February 8, 1910, and chartered by Congress in 1916, is to provide an educational program for boys and young adults. The three aims of Boy Scouting are:

Character

A Boy Scout is expected to grow in moral strength and character. We may define this as what the boy is himself: his personal qualities, his values, and his outlook.

Citizenship

A second aim is participating in citizenship. Used broadly, citizenship means the boy's relationship to others. He comes to learn of his obligations to other people, to the society he lives in, to the government that presides over that society.



Fitness

The third aim of Boy Scouting is development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness. Fitness includes the body (well-tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think and solve problems), and the emotions (self-control, courage, and self-respect).

Scouting for boys includes Tiger, Cub, Webelos, Boy and Venture Scouts. In February of 2009, the Troop 1396 and Boy Scouts of America recognize Scout Sunday, which is the first day of Scout Anniversary Week. If your son is active in Scouting and has not yet participated, we'd like to include him in the Scout Sunday activities at Saint Matthew's. If he is not active and is considering joining, please encourage him to become involved in this worthwhile organization. Either way, please call Tom Bortner at 703-497-1280.

Boy Scouts turns 99 in 2009.