



LIVING FAITH

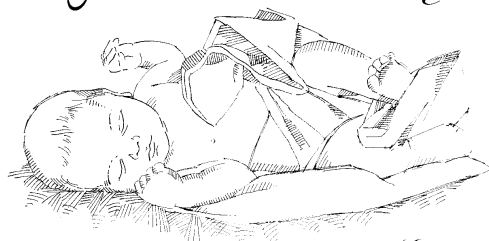
ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

email: stmatthews@stmatthews.us

www.stmatthews.us

December 2011

And he will be their peace



Micah 5:5

CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

CHILDREN'S SERVICE

Saturday, Dec. 24, 5 p.m.

FAMILY SERVICES

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

HOLY COMMUNION CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Saturday, Dec. 24, 11 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY -- THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Sunday, 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 19, 10 a.m.

Greens Making, Wednesday & Thursday,
December 21 & 22, 10 a.m.

Greening, Thursday, December 22, 7 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 session on Wednesday, 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 Thursday 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 several 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 14**. See the poster for details.



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

1-Allison Berg
 2-Brent Howard
 Kristen Kinneberg
 Ron Schmitt
 3-Obediah Baker
 Birgit Ralston
 Michael Murphy
 4-Bryan Orndorff
 Ralph Scronce
 Mike Mazzucchi
 Chase Phillips
 Jonah Clark
 5-Rebecca Bish
 Jan Mouw
 Mary Smith
 6-Emma Kaba
 7-Nicholas Woessner
 Ryan Werling

8- Kathy Lambert
 Molly Parker
 Skylar Johnson
 Lauren Murphy
 9-Ed Bayne
 Brian Stevenson
 Bill McCormack
 Christel Merk
 Ginni Schimpf
 10-Art Reynolds
 Caylin Nethercutt
 11-Emily Jacobson
 12-Alex Gusberti
 13-Caitlin Pfister
 Bryce Deem
 14-Pat Knock
 Leslie Wilcox
 15-Kevin Tamai
 Yoseph Amha
 Emily Drzewucki
 16-Glenn Renton
 Zachary Larson
 18- Lauren Kinneberg
 Chris Skelley
 19- Ian Knudson
 20- Lynn Moonan
 Matthew Smith
 Michael Doble
 21-Darryl Lundgren

Donna Wiprud
 Nancy Blazek
 Jeff Stutz
 22-Kristen Wolf
 Tim Miller
 24-Michelle Dorer
 Tim Butcher
 Francis Zakama
 25-Richard Riley
 Rex Stone
 Emily Schreiber
 26-Michael Urick
 Jim MacDonald
 27-Marlies Smith
 Shirley Prue
 29- Zoey Mattos
 Brandon Graham
 30-Sharon Riley
 Ellen Agosta
 Katherine Oros
 31-Bruce Leiby
 Johnathan Lyreman
 Elly Wuchenich
 Leslie Kinneberg
 McKenna Nowell

ANNIVERSARIES

1-Stephen & Jean Payne
 3-Steve & Monica Debban
 7-Jeff & Emily Stutz
 9-John & Stacy Urick
 14-Paul & Jennifer Knick
 16-Keith & Sally Cotner

17-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
 Mike & Jan Doble
 30-Rick & Holly Ouellette
 Ryan & Shauna Werling
 31-Carl & Sally Lay

Congregational Meeting Church Council & Mission Fund Elections

A **Congregational Meeting** is scheduled for the period between the worship services on **December 11th**. Several very important items are on the agenda: we will vote on our Program Budget for 2012, 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 Fund Committee and appoint our Trustees.

CHOIR SCHEDULE

Mark the following choir rehearsals on your calendar!

- Weds., Dec. 21** – Cherub/Youth, 6:15-6:45 p.m.
Teen, 7-7:45 p.m.
Senior, 8 p.m.
- Weds., Dec. 28** – Cherub/Youth, 6:15-6:45 p.m.
Teen, 7-7:45 p.m.
Senior, 8 p.m.

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.

The Social Ministry Committee has included two Congregation Selections as Gifts of Hope. One is for the Bill Mehr Drop-in Center to support daily operations of the center. The second congregational selection is for the ELCA Malaria Campaign to purchase mosquito nets. The ELCA Malaria Campaign is the focus of this year's Sunday Church School offering.

Included is a Christmas card and an insert describing your gift. [Great gifts for teachers, friends and grandparents!]



Church Women News

On Tuesday, December 13, at 7:00 PM, all women are invited to

Advent Reflections at Sally Cotner's 11671 Sandal Wood Lane, 20112). 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.

See the poster on the bulletin board for more information and to sign up to participate. Please bring a snack to share. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Kuhn or Kathy Meier.

THERE WILL BE NO WOMEN'S EVENING STUDY GROUP IN DECEMBER.

RETREAT PLANNING MEETING, Saturday, January 7, 10 a.m. Join us as we make plans for our 2012 retreat.

Church Women once again offers a January program celebrating possible resolutions for a new year. **Join us at 7:30 PM, on Tuesday January 10**, as we take time out to enjoy the healing effects of laughter. Sit back, breathe deeply, and laugh with us.

Laughter is the human gift for coping and for survival. Laughter springs from our emotional core and helps us feel better, see things more clearly, and creatively weigh and use our options. Laughter helps us roll with the punches that inevitably come our way. --
Laughter Therapist Edna Jenkins

... Laughing can also induce physical changes in the body. After laughing for only a few minutes, you may feel better for hours. –
Laughter exercises

Tuesday, February 14, Cookie Bake, at church, at 7:30 PM. Parents, please update student addresses through the church office.

NEED AN EXTRA SET OF HANDS THIS FALL AND WINTER?

Do you need a babysitter, leaf raker, present wrapper, secret shopper, snow shoveler, or other kind of handyperson? We have Senior High Youth eagerly awaiting assignment in the service of their fellow congregation members. While they will be volunteering their time and energy in your service, donations will be accepted by the Youth Group on their behalf, which will be put toward defraying the cost of our trip to New Orleans next summer for the ELCA National Youth Gathering.

If you are interested in getting some extra assistance around the house, while helping us send our youth to a transformative event, please see Pastors Stevenson or Johns or call the church at 703-494-3090 and we will connect you with (an) available youth so arrangements can be made between you and the youth.

CONFIRMATION MEALS FOR DECEMBER

<u>DATE</u>	<u>MEAL</u>	<u>COOKS</u>
7	PIZZA	1. Jim Miller 2. Laurie Brady
14	HOLIDAY HAM	1. Mike & Jan Doble 2. Carolyn Wixson 3. Rick Ouellette



7TH & 8TH GRADE YOUTH

Weather permitting, the Harris Pavilion in old town Manassas will be the Youth Group's holiday,

ice skating destination. Sign up to meet at church, on Wednesday, December 28. We will skate and have lunch. See the poster for admission and skate rental fees. Bring additional \$ for food. Questions? Call Mrs. Kuhn at 703/491-2898.

NEWSLETTER SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

Circle these dates:

Sun., Dec. 4, Meeting, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 10, Holiday Helpers

Sat., Dec. 17, Christmas Party

Weds., Dec. 28, Ice Skating

LOOKING AHEAD: Winter Celebration-Synodical Retreat, Jan. 27-29

On-Going Ministries

Volunteer at the **ACTS Thrift Store**: Tues., Dec. 6 and Tues., Jan. 3, 2012.

Help us collate, fold, label, sort, and bundle **church mailings**. Meet in the narthex at 10:00 a.m. on **Friday, December 16**. Enjoy chatting with other workers while your fingers fly.

Our Response to Operation Turkey



We provided 74 bags of supplies for our neighbors to enjoy Thanksgiving Dinner. 330 pounds of additional food items, along with 400 pounds gathered by the Day School children brought the total amount of food delivered to ACTS to 2,506 pounds.

Sunday Bulletin Prayer List

Requests for prayers for family members and friends in need of healing and the compassionate presence of God are listed in the Sunday Bulletin under **WE PRAY DAILY**. You may call the Church Office to have your prayer request included. Your prayer request should be renewed and confirmed each month. The Prayer List will be updated every 30 days. Requests not renewed will be removed. The list for our servicemen and women overseas and our expectant mothers will remain ongoing until the return from deployment or delivery are thankfully and happily realized.

Church Office: 703-494-3090.

Financial Secretary & Treasurer's Report, October 2011

October Giving by Category

Current	\$68,922
Benevolence	7,728
Building	14,443
Memorial	350
Mission Fund	1,050
Pass Through	5,021
Total	\$ 97,514
Year to Date	\$858,839

To date we have given \$131,687 toward our congregation's benevolence commitments. \$17,277 has been disbursed through the Samaritan Fund to emergency assistance for utilities, rent, gas, food, car insurance and medicine.

St. Matthew's "No Room at the Inn" Christmas Card Project

*"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."
— Luke 2:7*

Once again this Christmas season, St. Matthew's is conducting a "**No Room at the Inn**" Christmas Card Project to help those for whom there is also "No Room at the Inn" — the homeless of Prince William County's Bill Mehr Drop-In Center. There is a limited supply of unique St. Matthew's Christmas cards which may be purchased \$12.00 for a set of 20 Cards and Envelopes in the narthex. We will also have cards available for purchase from The Printery House. Catalogs and samples will be available in the narthex where you may place your order. All proceeds from the sale of these distinctive cards go to support the Drop-In Center.

**Thank you for your support of the
homeless in our community!**

NEWSLETTER SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL Christmas Program Rehearsal Schedule

The Sunday School Christmas program is December 18, 6 p.m. Below is the rehearsal schedule.

Sat., Dec. 3

10:00-11:00—Narrators

Sat., Dec. 10

9:00-12:00—Narrators

10:00-11:00—Grades 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8

11:00-11:15—3 and 4 Year Olds

11:15-12:00—Kindergarten and Grades 1, 2 & 3

Sat., Dec. 17

Same Schedule as Dec. 10

Sun., Dec. 18

Short run-through during the regular SCS hour

On the evening of the program, (**Sun., Dec. 18**) all students should arrive **NO LATER THAN 5:45 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	Carolers — street clothes (with colorful collars provided)
Grades 2 & 3	Shepherds—Costumes provided
Grades 4, 5 & 6	No costumes
Grades 7 & 8	No costumes

Childcare Providers & Babysitters

Do you or someone you know provide daytime childcare in your home? Occasionally Day School parents ask if the office can provide names.

Also, the office receives requests for the names of teens who babysit.

Please call the church office and speak to Sue Orndorff to add your name.



CHECK OUT BOOK GROUP

Ann Patchett's State of Wonder will be the topic of discussion at the next Book Group gathering on Sunday, December 11. You're invited to join in the conversation beginning at 2:30 PM, at Barbara's Leiby's home.

"State of Wonder" is an engaging, consummately told tale. Patchett's deadpan narrative style showcases a dry humor that enables her to wed, with fine effect, the world of "Avatar" or the "Odyssey" with that of corporate board meetings, R&D reports and peer review. This unlikely marriage of the magical and the prosaic, of poison-tipped arrows and Fourth of July barbecues, informs every line of her prose. She refers to the "midmorning shift" of insects and describes how the Lakashi Indians — who when first encountered by Marina in the jungle are ululating, flame-brandishing bacchantes — appear in the morning as "a working-class tribe, a sober group of people who went about the business of their day without fanfare or flame." And if she succeeds in domesticating the exotic, Patchett's even greater gift is in defamiliarizing the homey, giving suburban housewives and Minnesota flatlands the aching beauty and primal force of elements found in a creation myth. -- from a New York Times book review.

NEEDED – VOLUNTEERS FOR SNOW REMOVAL CREW

If you could be available for snow removal on the church lot and sidewalk, during the week or on weekends, please call the church office 703-494-3090, or speak to our property chair Karen Pallansch, or one of the pastors. We do light snow removal to prepare for Day School classes, and on weekends for church Services. We would like to develop a Snow Job list!

Meet and Greet Our New Members

The following families joined our congregation in November. Please welcome them to the St. Matthew's family!

David Auth and Julia Harder

Carl Carlson

Mike & Jan Doble, Sarah and Michael

Max & Jane Duggan, Will and Mary

Eugene & Jan Fosness, Alex and Stephanie

Mitch & Robin Kanefsky, Rachel and Aaron

Mike & Shayne Roberts, Braden

Ron & Sharon Rose, Victoria

BOY SCOUT TROOP & VENTURING CREW CHRISTMAS TREE SALES

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
Parking Lot

Starting Friday, November 26th, we will offer beautiful Balsam Fir trees for sale.

If you intend to buy a live tree this Christmas Season, consider buying from Troop 1396.

Some very good reasons:

- Support the Boy Scouts.
- Our prices are competitive.
- Sales lot is right here at St Matthew's.
- With each purchase, our Scouts will give the butt of your tree a fresh cut, professionally wrap it for transport, and mount it atop your vehicle.
- ALSO: Consider purchasing a tree for an organization or family in need. Troop 1396 will provide free delivery to your favorite charity.

Calendar for December 2011
(see bulletin and bulletin board for additional information.)

Bible Study	Thurs., Dec. 1, 10 a.m.
Staff Meeting	Thurs., Dec. 1, 12:30 p.m.
Cherub/Youth Choir	Thurs., Dec. 1, 7-7:45 p.m.
Teen Choir	Thurs., Dec. 1, 8-8:45 p.m.
Finance & Stewardship Committee	Thurs., Dec. 1, 8 p.m.
SCS Christmas Program Rehearsal	Sat., Dec. 3, 10-11 a.m. Narrators
Sr. High Youth	Sun., Dec. 4, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Men's Bible Study	Sun., Dec. 4, 7 p.m.
Mission Fund Committee	Mon., Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m.
Volunteers to ACTS	Tues., Dec. 6, 12-2 p.m.
Social Ministry Committee	Tues., Dec. 6, 8 p.m.
Women's Bible Study	Weds., Dec. 7, 9:30-11 a.m.
Confirmation	Weds., Dec. 7, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Sr. Choir	Weds., Dec. 7, 8 p.m.
Bible Study	Thurs., Dec. 8, 10 a.m.
Prime Timers	Thurs., Dec. 8, 12:30 p.m.
Cherub/Youth Choir	Thurs., Dec. 8, 7-7:45 p.m.
Teen Choir	Thurs., Dec. 8, 8-8:45 p.m.
Evangelism Committee	Thurs., Dec. 8, 8 p.m.
SCS Christmas Program Rehearsal	Sat., Dec. 10, 9 a.m. - noon
Congregational Meeting	Sun., Dec. 11, 9:45 a.m.
Book Group	Sun., Dec. 11, 2:30 p.m.
Council	Sun., Dec. 11, 7 p.m.
Christian Ed. Committee	Mon., Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m.
Church Women	Tues., Dec. 13, 7 p.m.
Women's Bible Study	Weds., Dec. 14, 10 a.m. Childcare provided
Confirmation	Weds., Dec. 14, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Sr. Choir	Weds., Dec. 14, 8 p.m.
Adopted Families Gifts Due	Weds., Dec. 14
Bible Study	Thurs., Dec. 15, 10 a.m.
Cherub/Youth Choir	Thurs., Dec. 15, 7-7:45 p.m.

Teen Choir	Thurs., Dec. 15, 8-8:45 p.m.
Fellowship Committee	Thurs., Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m.
Property Committee	Thurs., Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m.
Collating	Fri., Dec. 16, 10 a.m.
Teen Choir Caroling	Fri., Dec. 16, 5:30 p.m.
Set up for Adopted Families	Fri., Dec. 16, 6 p.m.
SCS Christmas Program Rehearsal	Sat., Dec. 17 9 a.m. – noon
Adopted Families Party	Sat., Dec. 17, 10 a.m. – noon
Sr. High Youth Christmas Party	Sat., Dec. 17
SCS Christmas Program	Sun., Dec. 18, 6 p.m. Reception follows program
Greens Gathering	Mon., Dec. 19, 10 a.m.
Day School Committee	Mon., Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m.
Greens Making	Weds., Dec. 21, 10 a.m.
Cherub/Youth Choir	Weds., Dec. 21, 6:15-6:45 p.m.
Teen Choir	Weds., Dec. 21, 7-7:45 p.m.
Sr. Choir	Weds., Dec. 21, 8 p.m.
Greens Making	Thurs., Dec. 22, 10 a.m.
Greening	Thurs., Dec. 22, 7 p.m.
Christmas Eve Worship Services	Sat., Dec. 24 5 p.m.-Children's Service 7 p.m.-Family Service 9 p.m.-Family Service 10 p.m.-Fellowship Gathering 11 p.m.-Worship Service with Holy Communion
The Nativity of Our Lord	Sun., Dec. 25, 11 a.m. Worship Service with Reception following Service.
No Sunday Church School	Sun., Dec. 25
Youth Ice Skating	Weds., Dec. 28
Cherub/Youth Choir	Weds., Dec. 28 6:15-6:45 p.m.
Teen Choir	Weds., Dec. 28, 7-7:45 p.m.
Sr. Choir	Weds., Dec. 28, 8 p.m.

