

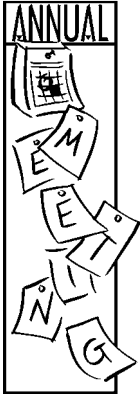
LIVING FAITH

ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.stmatthews.us

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JANUARY 2012



**ANNUAL REPORT
MEETING Part II
SUNDAY, JANUARY 22
9:45 A.M.
ALL CONFIRMED
MEMBERS**



EPIPHANY: A time to . . .

The word Epiphany means "to make known." It is derived from the Greek word, *epiphaneia*, which means "an appearance." On Epiphany, Christians celebrate the full revelation of God's glory in the coming of Christ to all people, Jews and Gentiles. The day of Epiphany (January 6) brings Christmas to a glorious conclusion, but we are not to stop there. The season of Epiphany is God's TIME to reveal God's glory. It is:

- **A time to worship** because it deals with the glory of God manifested in Jesus Christ. The season begins with the Wise Men coming to worship the newborn King. The season ends with the worship experience on the Mount of Transfiguration.
- **A time of light** because the light of Christ knows no end; it goes to the ends of the earth. He is the light to lighten the whole world. The light of Christ is not merely to shine on Christians, but through them, for the salvation of humankind.
- **A time to witness** because the light of Christ needs to be spread throughout a dark world.

Make known the presence of God through the witness of your life!

EPIPHANY DINNER

Sunday, January 8 5:30 PM.

ALL ARE WELCOME AT THIS ACTIVITY.

Details are on the bulletin board poster.

Please sign up.

ATTENTION ADVENT FRIENDS: BECAUSE YOU HAVE BEEN A KEY PART OF THE MYSTERY, YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THIS DINNER IS IMPORTANT TO YOUR SECRET FAMILY. OTHERS WILL BE WATCHING FOR YOU DURING THE SHARING, GUESSING, AND REVELATIONS.



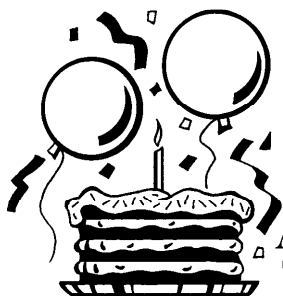
Offering Envelopes for 2012 are available in the Conference Room. Please make sure to pick up your box.

HOMELESS PREVENTION SHELTER SUPPORT

St. Matthew's will be providing food and serving the evening meals at the Homeless Prevention Shelter the week of **January 15-21**. Please see the poster on the bulletin board to sign up to support this ministry.

Reminder: Staff & Committee reports for 2011 are due Friday, January 6th.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



Birthdays &
Anniversaries
This Month!

1-Fran Lienau
Sean Graham
2-Pat Ball
3-Sarah Taylor
5-Catherine Robba
6-Meredith Bertrand
Phillip Gill
Eugene Fosness
7- Sheila Kober
Ross Pallansch
Derek Rigot
Molly Watts
8-Sally Lay
10-Dorothy Zahn
11-Taylor Bertrand
Barbara Harris

12-Keith Kuhn
Susan Thayer
Ellie Brady
13-Rebecca Pfister
Rachael Steinburg
Lisa Muschler
14-Bob Wolf
15-Linda Debban
Dianna Occhiuzzo
16-Pam Hoppe
Bob Goldschmidt
Ryan Moyer
Siatta Kaba
17-Heather Kline
Sophia Occhiuzzo
19-Karen Berg
Matthew Jackson
20-Patty Dorer
Marie Weaver
Sharon Rose
Jason Lerch
Jared MacFarlane
21-Corinne Doerr
22-Jerry Bortner

24-James Miller
Eethel Johnson
Carly Graham
Michael Seubert
25-Doug Robbins
Lana Capps
Dorothy Shackelford
26-Brandon Johns
27- Mason Werling
28- Jane Gullickson
29-Celene Bennett
Greer Riedl
30-Dave Heffernan
Charles Bertrand
Greg Gross
31-Kerry Kauffman
Craig MacFarlane
Alyssa Williams

ANNIVERSARIES

3-Fred & Molly Parker
6-Ione & Julian Kiedrowski
7-Kim & Michael Lervold
10-Ellen & Richard Agosta
18-Tony & Jenna Martucci
21-Gary & Eileen Eckhardt
28-John & Pat Ball
31-Everett & Eethel Johnson

If you or a family member have a January birthday or anniversary that's not listed here, please call the office so we can update our database. Thank you.

2012 SIGN-UP SHEETS ARE

POSTED

Be sure to check the bulletin board in the narthex to sign up for Flowers & Memorials for 2012.

ON-GOING MINISTRIES

Does your New Year's resolution include finding a way to serve others? Here are opportunities to consider:

DAYTIME DRIVERS: Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Thursday 10:00 a.m. – noon. Call 703/491-2898.

ACTS THRIFT STORE: Workday at Woodbridge Thrift Store on Tuesday, January 3, noon to 2 p.m. Other workdays are Tuesdays, February 7, March 6, and April 3. Call Susan Kuhn at 703/491-2898 for more information or if you need transportation.

St. Matthew's **Collators** sound like a fellowship activity if we forget to close the door. If your schedule permits join us afterwards; we go out for lunch together.

Here is the schedule for the beginning of **2012**. Please mark your calendars. See you in the narthex at 10:00 a.m. Newcomers are welcome to this group. If you have questions, please call 703-491-2898 for information.

Friday, Jan. 6 - newsletter

Friday, Jan. 20 - newsletter and annual report

Friday, February 17-newsletter



CHURCH WOMEN'S NEWS

There will be a special **Women's Retreat Planning Meeting** at church, at 10:00 AM, on Saturday, January 7, 2012.

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.

NEWSLETTER

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

January 16, 7:30 PM, at Sue Orndorff's home (3556 Eskew Court) **Women's Evening Study Group** will resume discussion of Counterfeit Gods by Timothy Keller. The evening's topic will be Chapter Three -- "Money Changes Everything."

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

Many thanks to our officers who faithfully served in 2011:

President: Kathy Meier

Secretary: Barbara Leiby

Treasurer: Birgit Ralston

Newly elected officers for 2012:

President: Tina Occhiuzzo

Secretary: Barbara Leiby

Treasurer: Nancy Blazek

Thank you for saying "yes" when asked to serve.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION Sunday, January 22, 2:30 p.m.

If you are interested in joining St. Matthew's in our worship and work, please speak to Prs. Bohannon, Stevenson or Johns. New members will be received on Sunday, **January 29** at the **11:00 a.m.** service. A reception welcoming the new members follows the worship service.

CHECK OUT BOOK GROUP

Sunday, February 26, at 2:30 PM, Book Group will discuss the Pulitzer prize-winning Washington, A Life by Ron Chernow.

In his introduction, veteran biographer Chernow is clear about his goals. Using the recent "explosion of research," he wants to render George Washington "real" and "credible," to replace "frosty respect" with "visceral appreciation." He gives us a Washington who starts with limited education and means and, through a remarkable combination of timely deaths, an incredible capacity for hard work, a shrewd marriage, astonishing physical hardiness and courage, a propensity for land speculation, and a gift for finding influential patrons, transforms himself into a soldier, well-to-do planter, local official, and eventually the only real choice to command the Continental army, preside over the Constitutional Convention, and serve as the first president. Chernow makes familiar scenes fresh (like the crossing of the Delaware) and expertly brings the provisional revolutionary and early Republican eras to life. -- From Publishers Weekly

Watch for a poster on the narthex bulletin board with more details and to sign up.

Bible Studies

Women's Bible Study
Weds., 10 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 p.m.
Pr. David Bohannon

Extra-Ordinary Sunday Prayer

The following prayer was written by the fourth grade Sunday School class as the closing prayer for Extra-Ordinary Sunday, November 6, 2011.

Leader 1: Dear Lord, we thank you for our blessings:

Thank you for our loving families.

Thank you for our friends.

Leader 2: Thank you for our homes, food, and neighbors.

Thank you for our church.

Lord, in Jesus' name,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader 3: Father In Heaven, help us to know your love for us.

May the seed of your love grow in us.

Help us be witnesses to your love in the world.

Leader 4: Help us to be kind to others.

Help us to be forgiving of others.

Lord, in Jesus' name,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader 5: God our Helper, we ask you to help us through bad times,

Help us to be good and be like Jesus.

Leader 6: Help us to do what you want us to do.

To always be helpful, kind, and true.

Lord, all this we pray to you in Jesus' name.

All: Amen

CALLING ALL ALUMNI!

Join us for an **Alumni Party, Friday, December 30, 1 p.m.** at church.

Share lunch and have fun playing some favorite games from Youth Group!

Please speak to Pr. Stevenson if you have any questions.

St. Matthew's Contact Cards

Contact Cards are now available for you to hand out to people you meet who may be looking for a church home. They are a great tool to remind someone how to find our church and our website! The cards are available on the information table in the narthex. Please take a few to carry with you to share your faith when the opportunity arises— cashiers, waiters, bulletin boards, neighbors, co-workers...the possibilities are endless!

As a reminder, New Neighbor packets, containing information about the life and work of St. Matthew's, and a listing of other local churches, are available at the Information Table. When a new family moves into your neighborhood, you are encouraged to welcome them with an invitation to join us for worship and a packet. Don't forget to remind them to sign the Guest Book!



NEWSLETTER 7TH & 8TH GRADE YOUTH

**Sunday, January 22—Pizza & Game Night,
6 – 8 p.m.**

Sunday, February 19 – Games Galore at Fastnacht

Saturday February 25 -- SKI TRIP and TUBING. WATCH FOR A SIGN UP SHEET. Meet in the church parking lot at 5:30 AM. Bring \$ for breakfast along the way, lunch, snacks, and fast food dinner on the way home. Check the sign up sheet for information about ski rental and lessons. Costs vary according to ski "package". Be sure to select the package which best suits your needs. Dress warmly, in removable layers, if possible. Parents, we need a permission slip for your child if you do not have one on file. Questions? Call Mrs. Kuhn at 703/491-2898.

SENIOR HIGH NEWS

January 8 – Epiphany Dinner

January 15 – Prepare and Serve Meal for Homeless Prevention Shelter. Watch for sign up poster.

January 27-29 – Winter Celebration

February 5 – meeting 6:30-8:30 p.m.

February 18 – Carnival set-up, 12:30 p.m.

February 19 - Fastnacht

February 24 & 25 – Ski trip & Overnight

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH WINTER CELEBRATION

It's not too late to register for the Senior High Synodical Retreat held in Lynchburg, VA January 27-29. See Pr. Stevenson for registration forms. Cost is \$150.

CONFIRMATION MEALS FOR**JANUARY**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>MEAL</u>	<u>COOKS</u>
4	Pizza	Nancy Zimmerman Karen Charoenthep
11	Chicken Nuggets	Cindy Schmitt Kelly Hill Alyssa Riedl
18	Lasagna	Jenni Rigot Sara Louise Dunn Nancy Blazek
25	No Confirmation	

Dear Church Family;

We wanted to take a few moments and thank you all for the love, support and, most importantly, the prayers you have all blessed us with as Sara Louise continues to recover from her heart surgery and the strokes she suffered after the surgery. We are seeing steady progress and Sara Louise continues to me amaze me each day with her resiliency and strength.

We know that one can never pay people back for this support but I know that we will pay it forward as we continue to thank God for every day and to remember that faith, friends and family are what really matters in life. We pray God's blessing upon each of you and all of us as a congregation.

Sincerely,
Al, Sara Louise, Joe & Graham Dunn

PARKING FOR CONFIRMATION

Parents, help keep traffic moving by parking in the lined spaces while awaiting passengers.

Reminder: If school is closed because of inclement weather, there is no confirmation program that evening.

**SPIRIT NIGHT
for the
BILL MEHR DROP-IN CENTER
Tuesday, January 10
Chili's**

Enjoy a dinner out, greet fellow St. Matthew's diners and support the Bill Mehr Drop-in Center – a well-rounded evening!

See the flier included in this newsletter for more information. **Remember to bring it with you to Chili's!**

January 2012 Calendar
(see bulletin and bulletin board for more
information)

Worship Services No Sunday Church School	Sun., Jan. 1, 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Volunteers to ACTS	Tues., Jan. 3, 12-2 p.m.
Degreening	Tues., Jan. 3, 7 p.m.
Social Ministry Committee	Tues., Jan. 3, 8 p.m.
Women's Bible Study	Weds., Jan. 4, 10 a.m. Childcare provided.
Confirmation Resumes	Weds., Jan. 4, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Sr. Choir	Weds., Jan. 4, 8 p.m.
Bible Study	Thurs., Jan. 5, 10 a.m.
Cherub/Youth Choir	Thurs., Jan. 5, 7-7:45 p.m.
Teen Choir	Thurs., Jan. 5, 8-8:45 p.m.
Finance & Stewardship Committee	Thurs., Jan. 5, 8 p.m.
Collating	Fri., Jan. 6, 10 a.m.
Council Dinner	Fri., Jan. 6, 7:30 p.m.
Annual Reports Due	Fri., Jan. 6
Women's Retreat Planning Meeting	Sat., Jan. 7, 10 a.m. – noon
Spring Timers	Sat., Jan. 7, 2 p.m.
SCS Resumes	Sun., Jan. 8, 9:45 a.m.
Extra-Ordinary Sunday, Grades K, 1, 2, & 3	Sun., Jan. 8, 9:45 a.m. Parents invited to attend
Set up for Epiphany Dinner	Sun., Jan. 8, 2 p.m.
Epiphany Dinner	Sun., Jan. 8, 5:30 p.m.
Council	Mon., Jan. 9, 7 p.m.
Church Women	Tues., Jan. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Women's Bible Study	Weds., Jan. 11, 10 a.m. Childcare provided.
Confirmation	Weds., Jan. 11, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Sr. Choir	Weds., Jan. 11, 8 p.m.

NEWSLETTER

Bible Study	Thurs., Jan. 12, 10 a.m.
Staff Meeting	Thurs. Jan. 12, 12:30 p.m.
Cherub/Youth Choir	Thurs., Jan. 12, 7-7:45 p.m.
Teen Choir	Thurs., Jan. 12, 8-8:45 p.m.
Evangelism Committee	Thurs., Jan. 12, 8 p.m.
Homeless Prevention Shelter Week	Sun., Jan. 15 – Sat., Jan. 21
Sr. High Youth Prepare & Serve Meal at Homeless Shelter	Sun., Jan. 15, be at St. Matthew's 5:30 p.m.
Office Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King Holiday	Mon., Jan. 16
Women's Evening Study	Mon., Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m.
Worship & Music Committee	Tues., Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m.
Women's Bible Study	Weds., Jan. 18, 10 a.m. Childcare provided.
Confirmation	Weds., Jan. 18, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Sr. Choir	Weds., Jan. 18, 8 p.m.
Bible Study	Thurs., Jan. 19, 10 a.m.
Prime Timers	Thurs., Jan. 19
Cherub/Youth Choir	Thurs., Jan. 19, 7-7:45 p.m.
Teen Choir	Thurs., Jan. 19, 8-8:45 p.m.
Fellowship Committee	Thurs., Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m.
Property Committee	Thurs., Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m.
Collating	Fri., Jan. 20, 10 a.m.
Together in Mission	Sat., Jan. 21
Congregational Annual Meeting	Sun., Jan. 22, 9:45 a.m.
New Member Orientation	Sun., Jan. 22, 2:30 p.m.
7 th & 8 th Grade Youth	Sun., Jan. 22, 6-8 p.m.
Men's Bible Study	Sun., Jan. 22, 7 p.m.
PreSchool Choir Begins	Mon., Jan. 23, 4-4:30 p.m.

Women's Steering Committee	Tues., Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m.
Women's Bible Study	Weds., Jan. 25, 10 a.m. Childcare provided.
No Confirmation	Weds., Jan. 25
Sr. Choir	Weds., Jan. 25, 8 p.m.
Bible Study	Thurs., Jan. 26, 10 a.m.
Cherub/Youth Choir	Thurs., Jan. 26, 7-7:45 p.m.
Teen Choir	Thurs., Jan. 26, 8-8:45 p.m.
Christian Ed. Committee	Thurs., Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m.
Sr. High Youth Winter Celebration	Fri., Jan. 27- Sun., Jan. 29
Tables of Fellowship	Sat., Jan. 28
New Members Received	Sun., Jan. 29, 11 a.m. Worship. Reception follows.
Men's Bible Study	Sun., Jan. 29, 7 p.m.
PreSchool Choir	Mon., Jan., Jan. 30 4-4:30 p.m.

Christmas 2011

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are on the threshold of the Christ Mass.

There are so many things to be thankful for again this year as we celebrate the birth of Jesus and the signs of God's love that are marks of his kingdom breaking in . . . in our families, church and community.

Bless you this Christmas, for your response to God's natal light in you that nurtures and strengthens our life together in Christ.

Blessings for the gifts, resources and hands on support that provide for our growth in Christ and our congregation's benevolent commitments. May they manger God's glory!

Blessed be --

- all who were faithful in worship and service to our Lord throughout the year.
- our council leaders, especially those completing their terms: Mike Mazzucchi, Steve Zimmerman, Christine Johns and Deb Hallgren.
- our Sunday Church School, Confirmation and Day School teachers and staff, all who work with and support our youth.
- kudos to Mike Mazzucchi, Keith Cotner and Sam Holbrook and all who care for and maintain our church property, inside and out, and weekly order our kitchens, bathrooms and gathering places.
- our musicians and choirs for their work throughout the year, and especially for the music that graced the Advent- Christmas season, with thanks to all who assisted Kathy Lundgren in providing support for our SCS Christmas Program.
- our nursery, acolyte, lector & communion assistants, greeters, ushers & Daytime Drivers & coordinators.
- our Program, Administrative Staff, and volunteers, including Paul & Sharen Moessner who fold and collate our Sunday bulletins.
- our sextons: Ed Baron, Chad Deem and Zachary Zimmerman.
- Peggy & Dave Heffernan who deliver our altar flowers each week.
- for the two truckloads of food (4,315 pounds) delivered to ACTS for the Pantry and Operation Turkey.
- all whose graciousness and care provided gifts and food for our 24 Christmas families, the Gifts of Hope and Christmas card proceeds for the Drop-in Shelter.
- all who helped with the "nativity" decorations and who "greened" the church.
- all of you for your faithful and generous giving in the challenging times of 2011, your gifts to the Mission and Roof Funds, Disaster Relief and for your 2012 commitments to our life and service in +Christ our Lord.
- Blessed be and thanks from our houses to yours, thanks so much for your kind greetings, gifts and thoughtful remembrances as we celebrate the birth of Christ our Lord.

"A Blessed Christmas & New Year"

Your Pastors,

David, Tarja, Brandon

