

The Bridge Builder

St. Matthew's Weekly News

DECEMBER 17-18, 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT



Christmas Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 18

9:00 am Worship with Sunday School Christmas Program

Saturday, December 24

3:00 pm and 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 25

10:00 am Christmas Day Worship

Weekly Worship Assistants

Date	Time	Deacons	Acolytes	Altar Guild
12/17/2022	5PM	Bob Klukas	Anthony Samanich	Pam Samanich Amy Selle
			Logan Borth	
12/18/2022	9AM	Ron Kolzow	Charlie Brandt	
12/24/2022	3PM	Bob Klukas	Scott Cronin	Lenore Duffy Karen White
12/24/2022	9PM	Jim Selle	TBD	
12/25/2022	10AM	Mike Shackel	Ian Novak	

Christmas Poinsettias



Poinsettias can be picked up after Christmas Day Service or by calling the church office the week after Christmas. Thank you for helping to make our altar even more beautiful as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

A'Caroling We Will Go!

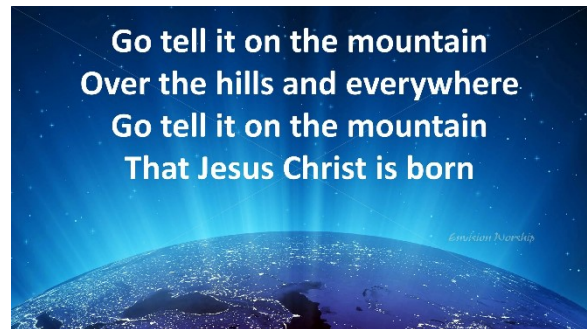


All carolers will meet in the church basement at **11:20 am this coming Sunday morning**, and we will depart from church to bring some Christmas cheer and the joy of Jesus to our shut-ins and others who are so deserving. We will return to church after caroling. All are invited to join! The more the merrier, so come on out for a great time and help make someone else's Christmas brighter!

Issues, Etc. This Week

EDUCATION & EDIFICATION...Issues, Etc. and LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken present this week's interview topics: The Movie "Avatar," Marriage Enrichment, Looking Forward to Christmas Sunday, Jesus Heals Jairus's Daughter, and more. You can listen on-demand on the website www.issuesetc.org, on the LPR mobile app, and your favorite podcast provider.

Fourth Sunday Giving



The last Fourth Sunday Giving of 2022 will be at **Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services on the weekend of December 24–25**. The Board of Human Care and Outreach hopes that you will give an offering to assist in sharing the Good News of Jesus everywhere. The Ferry Family will be the recipient of Fourth Sunday Giving funds received during the last quarter of this year. Check out the Missions bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary to learn about their work as LCMS career missionaries in Asia, or visit <https://www.lcms.org/Ferry>.

Portals of Prayer

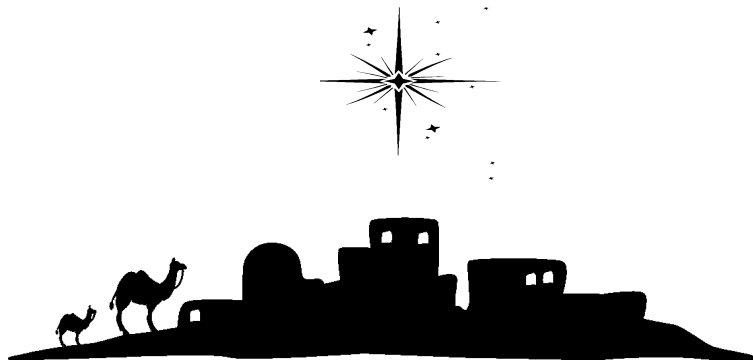
Portals of Prayer issues for **January through March, 2023** are now available for pick-up in the narthex. Large print copies are also available. Simply leave your payment in the collection plate or at the church office. Be sure to write "POP" in the memo section of your check.

Expressions of Gratitude to St. Matthew Congregation

I have started and erased this message three times now, because I can't seem to find the right words and thank you just doesn't seem like enough. You have no idea how much this helps just taking away the stress of figuring out what my kids are going to eat at night while I'm at the hospital with Dave. As most of you know Dave and I were in an accident a few weeks ago and while I walked away with minimal injury he came into the hospital completely paralyzed due to a broken neck, the prognosis was not good and he went in for spinal surgery on Sunday morning to repair the damage and create room for the swelling of his spinal cord, the neurologist came out after the surgery and basically told us that Dave would never walk again, but on Monday Dave was able to move his toes and feet as well as his legs and arms and the neurologist decided that he needed to do one more surgery to repair some damaged disks in the front of Dave's neck, this way he would give him the best chance of recovery. Dave went in for his second surgery early Wednesday morning, and everything went well. There have been some minor setbacks these last couple of weeks but since both surgeries Dave has gained more movement in his arms, legs, and feet, he still has no grip strength and very minimal use of his hands, but he has been able to stand and move to a chair with assistance and when sitting on the edge of the bed he has regained enough core strength that the physical therapist doesn't have to hold him up. He has a long road ahead of him and we don't know what he will get back and what is going to be gone. Between going back to work this week and then going to the hospital to help him, while making late night trips to the grocery store to grab a few things here and there and trying to make it to programs that the kids have it's been exhausting, I feel like I'm not only burning the candle at both ends but completely destroyed it. Coming home to this gift of kindness for our family, it was emotional to say the least. To know that one thing can be completely covered takes a huge weight off my shoulders and makes me feel relieved knowing that at least they have eaten. So thank you so much from my whole heart, you have no idea how much this means and how much it helps, thank you. ~ Maureen Graczyk

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The Graczyk Family would like to thank everyone from St. Matthew Church for all of their prayers and gift cards and all of the support you have given us. David still has a long road ahead of him. Continued prayers are needed. ~ Thanks, The Graczyk Family



Contribution Report December 10-11, 2022

December 10-11, 2022 PLATE Offerings for Ministry Operations

General Fund	\$1,555.00
General Fund: Building Repairs	\$200.00
General Fund: Env Midweek Advent	\$150.00
General Fund: Flowers Altar	\$17.00
General Fund: Poinsettias	\$100.00
General Fund: Youth Group Soup Supper Fundraiser	\$48.00
Total Plate Offerings December 10-11, 2022 for Ministry Operations	\$2,070.00

Other Dedicated Funds Received Not Included In Ministry Operations Total—None

2023 Contribution Envelopes

Contribution envelopes for 2023 are now available for your pick-up in the Bible Study room in the church basement. Please look for the box with your name on it. If you cannot locate a labeled box with your name, just take an unmarked box.

St. Matthew Cookbooks Still Available!



We have many extra cookbooks left over from our pre-Covid 2019 Fall Church Cookbook Fundraiser. They are filled with an assortment of delicious recipes from the kitchens of generations of our members. Consider gifting these to your friends and family this Christmas! All proceeds will be directed to the church to help offset our roof and boiler repairs from this year. We accept cash or check. Please make checks payable to St. Matthew Lutheran Church for \$15.00, with a note in the memo line "Cookbooks," and place in the offering basket. You may also pay online via the church website by clicking on the orange "Donate Now" button and choosing the Miscellaneous button where you can type in "Cookbooks" in the Note section. You may also stop by the church office to pay for and pick up cookbooks. Just call ahead to make sure that someone is in the office to let you in.

Thank you for your support!

Food Pantry Donations

Please consider donating the following items to Bethany's Food Pantry during this Christmas season. There is special need for: *small and large cans of beef stew, cleaning products, and laundry detergent.* **All donations are gratefully accepted.** Thank you for your generosity.



850 kHzAM

In Our Thoughts and Prayers This Month

Those who are sick, recovering, in the hospital, or have other needs...(* new entry to list)

Members (S=Shut-in, M=Military)

Betty Boldt (S)
John Boldt, Jr.
Dan Crane
Jean Delgado
Gertrud Deubler (S)
David Graczyk

Dale Kramer
Grace Laskowski (S)
Lois Mankowski (S)
Ina Nathan
Janel Schiffman
Elsie Schultz (S)
Amy Selle

Relatives and Friends

Mary Bayer
The Ferry Family
Missionaries
Missionary Deanne
Gochanour
Amanda Harrison
Fran Jackson
Jonathan Shoup
Lisa Vedok

Those Celebrating Birthdays

Tori Baires	Dec 4	Eric Deubler	Dec 13	Dean DeLaCruz	Dec 22
Elsie Schultz	Dec 4	Mike Shackel	Dec 15	Kelly Teska	Dec 22
Wayne Shoup	Dec 4	Aidan Thomas	Dec 15	Carl Filippelli	Dec 25
Bella Birk	Dec 5	Mark Liset	Dec 18	Kelly Jensen	Dec 26
Leah Mollo	Dec 5	Alex Braun	Dec 19	John H. Boldt, Jr.	Dec 27
Colin Crane	Dec 7	Diane Jackson	Dec 20	Jack Bort	Dec 28
Krystal Mueller	Dec 9	Kevin Jensen	Dec 20	Jean Delgado	Dec 28
Betty Boldt	Dec 11	Noah Lisk	Dec 20	Anya Haucke	Dec 30
Susan Nathan-Butt	Dec 11	Denise Burger	Dec 21		

Those Celebrating Wedding Anniversaries

Wayne and Shirley Shoup	Dec 15, 1956
Andy and Krysta Alongi	Dec 19, 2008
Mark and Deanna LaChappell	Dec 19, 2016
Alberto, Jr. and Rachel Gamez	Dec 30, 2011



Bridge Builder

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ST. MATTHEW EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

305 LEMONT STREET

LEMONT, IL 60439

St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

REVEREND MICHAEL GUDGEL, PASTOR

JASON RANDALL, ORGANIST AND MUSIC DIRECTOR

DANA PRICE, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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The church office is open varying hours Monday-Saturday. Please call ahead if you need assistance.

Pastor's E-mail: michael.gudgel@gmail.com

Church Office's E-mail: office.stmatthewlemont@gmail.com

Website: www.smlclemont.com

Facebook: St. Matthew Lutheran Church – Lemont, IL

Saturday Worship 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School, High School, and Adult Bible Study 10:15 a.m.

Online Giving Available On Our Website



St. Matthew's website, **www.smlclemont.com**, is set up to receive secure, online donations. Just click on the "Donate Now!" button in the upper right corner on the home page, or scan this QR code with your smart phone to set up your account and make a contribution. You can choose a one-time donation, or set up a recurring weekly or monthly credit card, debit card, checking account, or savings account donation.

Choose "Create Profile" if you have never set up a login and password before. If you would prefer for us to set up recurring automatic giving for you, please contact Financial Secretary Danny Crull.

Electronic Givers: Please remember to notify Danny Crull if your credit card information changes so that your contributions may continue to process electronically. We are charged a fee every time a credit card is declined.

Reaching the lost and encouraging the found with the saving grace of Jesus Christ