

THE WIDOW'S MITE

"...but she, out of her poverty, put in all the livelihood that she had" Luke 21:1-4



Advent Services

Nov. 30th- Dec. 21st

There will be two Sunday service offerings during Advent.

The 8:15 Holy Eucharist will feature a streamlined version of our traditional service. It will offer quieter worship without music, include a single lesson and the Gospel reading. Instead of a traditional sermon, Rev. Susan will thoughtfully provide a reflection.

The 10:00 Holy Eucharist will follow our traditional format, including full choir, all lectionary readings and a sermon.



Christian Formation

Jenifer Woytowich, Director

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Dear St. Matthew's Family,

The season of Advent is upon us—a time of anticipation, reflection, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. December is always a meaningful and joy-filled month within our formation programs, and I am grateful for the excitement and faith your families bring to this sacred season.

I invite everyone—families, individuals, children, and adults—to join us in preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. This year's **Advent Series** offers a meaningful and creative way to journey together. We will meet **Sundays at 9:00 a.m.**, gathering for short lessons, hands-on crafts, and time to connect as a church family. (Please note: **Regular Sunday School classes will NOT meet during Advent.**)

Each week highlights a special tradition and Saint:

- ◆ **Nov. 30: Advent Wreaths – Waiting for the Light** — Advent wreath kits are available for \$9.00 (*Gruman Hall*)
- ◆ **Dec. 7: St. Nicholas – A Heart for Giving** (*CE Building*)
- ◆ **Dec. 14: St. Lucy – Shining God's Light** (*Gruman Hall*)
- ◆ **Dec. 21: St. Francis – Loving God's Creation** (*Gruman Hall*)

Another highlight this month is the **Children's Christmas Pageant**, taking place during the 4:00 p.m. Family Service on Christmas Eve. Our *Paper Bag Christmas Pageant* brings together children, youth, adults, friends, family, and guests to tell the story of Jesus' birth with joy and simplicity. With easy-to-wear costumes, simple props, and opportunities for spontaneous participation, this intergenerational tradition beautifully reflects the spirit of Christmas.

I will have plenty of extra angel costumes available for children who join us that evening; these roles can be filled without attending rehearsal. Walkthrough practices for children participating in assigned roles will be held on **December 14 and 21 at 11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.** Please contact me if you would like your child (ren) to have an assigned part, would like to participate and attend walk through rehearsals.

Sunday School Information for Parents:

If you haven't already, please help us keep our records current by emailing me or filling out the student information forms in the Christian Ed classrooms. We still need this information even if your child only occasionally attends. This information helps us care for your children and communicate effectively.

Please include:

- ☒ Parent name ☒ Phone number & email address ☒ Child's name(s) & age(s) ☒ Any allergies

Please, be sure to **pick up your children from Sunday School by 9:50 a.m.** so everyone has ample time to get to the service.

Interested in Teaching?

We are always grateful to welcome new volunteers into our Sunday School teaching ministry. If you feel called to teach or assist with our youth, please reach out—I would love to connect and share more about this meaningful work.

Gratitude Tree

Don't forget to add a leaf to our parish Gratitude Tree! We would love to see it in full bloom as we head into the Advent season. Leaves will continue to change out seasonally, offering a beautiful reflection of our shared blessings.

Blessings,

Jen Woytowich

Christian Formation Director

christianed1@stmatthewmedian.org

Episcopal Youth Community

Jann Eich, Director



EYC December Schedule 2025

FRI, DEC 12-SET UP FOR
CHRISTMAS CAMP 4-6:30 PM

SAT. DEC 13-CHRISTMAS CAMP!
9AM-2PM. (PLEASE ARRIVE AT
8:30 AM.

FRI. DEC 19TH EYC CHRISTMAS
PARTY RSVP

No Sunday School!
Intergenerational Advent
Series in Gruman Hall
through Dec. 21st. 9 am



youth news

Episcopal Church Women

Melissa Barton, President

The Rummage sale was a great success, the sale raised \$8181.04. We couldn't have done it without all of you. Thank you. We voted on 10 different groups to support. The list of recipients has been posted on the ECW bulletin board.

This month we are going to dinner at Luigi's Italian Grill on December 11th at 6pm. A sign-up list is posted in the Narthex. All ladies are invited to attend.

Next month in January we will be putting together our calendar for the year. If you have any suggestions of places to go or events to have, please let me know. We especially want to discuss any sort of fundraisers that could replace the Rummage Sale.

The December Senior Ladies' Lunch has been cancelled. They will meet again on January 27, 2026, at a restaurant to be determined. All senior ladies are invited to join in the fellowship!

God Bless

Melissa Barton

ECW President



Prayer List

Please pray for St. Matthews's members who are distressed in body, mind, or spirit:

Bill Byrd, Chuck, Lorna, and Roy Vickers, Dottie Aldredge, Gina Centanni, Terry Schuster, David Osmond, Anna Post, Bev Ryberg, David Newton, Jane Prince, Mary Travers, Anne Sullivan, Judy Elkins, Lynda Johnston, Bob & Eileen Bogard, Roger & Rhoda Kitchen, Brenda Kirkendall, Chris King, Eileen Lewis, Molly Killian, the Sloan Family, Trudie Gruman, Ray and Shirley White, George and Sandra Burgess, Norm Smith, Keith Ulrich, Tyron Newton, Clarissa Dozier, Andy Williams, Darryl Carpenter, Carmen M. Colon, Robert Sampson, Deborah Harrison, Dennis and Beth Blanco, Scott Cechovic. Beau Womack and Joan East.

Also pray for our friends and family members, especially:

Brenda Anderson, Diana Parks, Martha Bergmann, Chuck Sewell, Wes Patterson, Richard Hattoway, Jenny Williams, Rosie Brown, Jewell Newton, Ginger Eich, Catherine S. Williams, Joe Allen, Caroline Thomas, Elyssa Nelson, Bill Fischer, Sally Flanigan, Theresa Richerson, Scott Marbut, Todd Newman, Cathy Taveras, Fran Woytowich, BB McCalpin, Stephen Byrd, Bronwen Murray, Katie Ray, Peggy Wagner, Joe Frank Trevino, Emmy & Drew Champion, Ron Mandelbaum, Dave Knowles, Wade Allen, Emily Nebrig, Bobby Paysinger, Barbara Lemley, Steve Sands, Felicia Temple, John David Landin, Mike Bolton, Dr. Mark Bronner, Ashley Jenkins,, John Freedman, Mark Anderson, Judy Tuck, Kathleen Glor, Ann Reid Cronin, Elizabeth Hodges, Jill Kanuchok, Mike Mumfrey, Joyce Lewis, Allan Scott, Christine Van Dyke, Christopher Taveras, Mike Rice, Suzette Rice, Vaughn Cassell, Shannon Carpenter, Jarilyn Alleman, Jake Sowder, Cheryl Lavazza, Margaret McHugh, Shawn and Rachel Blanco.



December Readings

<u>November 30th</u>	<u>December 7th</u>	<u>December 14th</u>	<u>December 21st</u>
<u>Isaiah 2:1-5</u>	<u>Isaiah 11:1-10</u>	<u>Isaiah 35:1-10</u>	<u>Isaiah 7:10-16</u>
<u>Romans 13:11-14</u>	<u>Romans 15:4-13</u>	<u>James 5:7-10</u>	<u>Romans 1:1-7</u>
<u>Matthew 24:36-44</u>	<u>Matthew 3:1-12</u>	<u>Matthew 11:2-11</u>	<u>Matthew 1:18-25</u>
<u>Psalms 122</u>	<u>Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19</u>	<u>Psalms 146:4-9</u>	<u>Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18</u>
	<u>December 28th</u>		
	<u>Isaiah 61:10-62:3</u>		
	<u>Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7</u>		
	<u>John 1:1-18</u>		
	<u>Psalms 147 or 147:13-21</u>		

December Servers

	<u>Dec. 7th</u>	<u>Dec. 14th</u>	<u>Dec. 21st</u>	<u>Dec. 28th</u>
VOD	J. Anderson	R. Franz	M. Ott	D. Utt
Altar Guild				
Ushers				
Lector.	T.Clem	A.Modrall	B. Williams	M. Pezzula
Epistoler.	Jeff Anderson	F. Looney	L. Lanier	L. Mack
Intercessor	T. Sampson	Jeanne Anderson	C. Lanier	A. Williams
LEM.		K. Barr	K. Price	
Crucifer.	A.Maddox	E. Bruce	A. Maddox	A. Utt
Gospeler.	E. Maddox	A. Wales	E. Maddox	E. Bruce
Torch Bearer.	N. Rasmussen	M. Pezzula	N. Lapacek-Trout	
Torch Bearer.	M. Rasmussen	S. Pezzula	C. Trout	
Counter	M.Harrison S.Cox	K.Modrall P.Lewis	M. Barton A.Coiner	M.Harrison S.Cox
Hospitality	J. Turner	M. Brown	T. Sampson	K. Hicks
Nursery.	A. Anderson M. Brown	A. Anderson M. Brown	A. Anderson M. Brown	A. Anderson M. Brown
8:15 Readers	W. Christopher	A. Turner	B. Pope	
8:15 Counters	W.ChristopherC.Byrd D.Mack J.Cooper	D.Mack J.Cooper	H.Tidwell R.Driesbach	
		<u>Christmas Eve - 4:00pm</u>		<u>Christmas Eve - 10:30pm</u>
VOD		D. Burns		R.Centanni
Crucifer		S. Jones		A. Utt
Gospeler		B. Watson		C. Bagwell
Torchbearer		N. Rasmussen		N. Lapacek-Trout
Torchbearer		M. Rasmussen		C. Trout
Lector		Readers TBD		A. Utt
				N. Lapacek-Trout

December 2025 Church Calendar

Weekly Recurring Events

Sunday

8:15 a.m. - Eucharist/Reflection

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 am - Sunday School

10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, Nave

Monday

5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. - Scouts BSA #628

6:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. - Bells Angels

Tuesday

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. - Men's Breakfast

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - Reunion Group

Wednesday

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Reunion Group

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Noon Eucharist

Thursday

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Ladies Bible Study

Friday - Office Closed

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Cleaning crew

Saturday - Office Closed



Other Scheduled Events

Sunday, Dec. 7-Lessons and Carols at 5pm with reception following

Monday, Dec. 8 - Sewing Sisters at 9am in Gruman Hall

Wednesday, Dec. 10 - ECW meeting at 10:30 in Gruman Hall

Thursday, Dec. 11 - Madison Quilt Guild in Gruman Hall

Tuesday, Dec. 16 - Wing and a Prayer at Crickets

Friday, Dec. 19 - EYC Christmas party at 6pm in Gruman Hall

Sunday, Dec. 21 - Christmas Pageant Rehearsal at 11:30am in the church nave

Wednesday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Family Service at 4pm in the church nave

Wednesday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Service with carol singing at 10:30pm in the church nave

Monday, Dec.24 - Friday, Dec. 27 - Church office closed for Christmas Holiday

Wednesday Dec. 31 - Friday, Jan 2 - Church office closed for New Year's Holiday
