

St. Matthew Lutheran church
115 West 12th Avenue, Milan IL 61264
Phone (309) 787-4295 Fax (309) 787-4312
Email: stmatthewmilan@gmail.com
Web: www.stmatthewmilan.org

The Rev. Kurt Larson Mr. Gregory Mueller, DCE
Mr. Joel Chapman, RN, Parish Nurse

Third Sunday in Advent December 14 & 15, 2024



ST. MATTHEW NEWS

A NOTE TO OUR GUESTS AND VISITORS: Greetings in Christ!
Thank you for visiting with us today. We encourage you to continue to come back in the weeks to come! If there's anything we can do for you, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. If you would like to join the St. Matthew Family please contact Pastor Larson or the Church Office. Our church website is at www.stmatthewmilan.org and our phone number at the church is (309) 787-4295. Thanks for joining us for worship!

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD

To those who are unable to listen to services online, we now offer the option to listen via a new toll free telephone number. St. Matthew's toll free number is (844) 700-9449. Give us a listen! The worship service will be recorded and available via this phone by late Sunday afternoon.

PASTOR IS AVAILABLE to bring you communion in your homes or in small groups at the church. Please call (309-787-4295) if you'd like to arrange a visit or wish to come to the church to receive.

If you need a large print bulletin or would like to use a hearing impaired device, please speak with an Usher or Lay Assistant.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

Wearing a mask is optional for church activities at this present time. The chairs will remain set up on each side of the sanctuary. We will continue to broadcast the service to the parking lot on FM 89.7 for those of you who prefer to not enter the sanctuary at this time. We will continue to bring communion to all in the parking lot. In addition, the worship service will be available as a livestream on our Facebook page. As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact one of the members of our Board of Lay Assistants.



Holiday Worship Schedule



Midweek Advent Worship

Wednesday, December 18

Midday Service.....11:00 am
Light Lunch after Midday Service.....12:00 pm
Light Supper before Evening Service.....5:15 pm
Evening Prayer Service.....6:30 pm

Christmas Services

Children's Christmas Program Practice....December during Sunday School

Sunday, December 15 Children's Christmas Program.....4:00 pm

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.....6:00 pm

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day Divine Service (Communion).....10:00 am

Tuesday, December 31

New Year's Eve Worship6:00 pm



2024—2025 SNOW SHOVELING

It's that time of year again. If you can help with the snow removal for the Church sidewalks, please sign the sheet on the St. Matthew bulletin board. You would be responsible for a week period from Monday thru Sunday. The more people who sign up, the less times each person will have to shovel. You will be shoveling the sidewalks in front and back of church. There is a sign up sheet on bulletin C. If you have any questions, please call Norm Mandle at 309-235-2395 or Joel Chapman



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

You can attend our weekly Bible study in two ways:

- ◆ Sunday mornings—8:45am in the Gathering Room
- ◆ We are recording the Sunday Adult Bible Study and you can watch it on Face book live , or go to the webpage stmatthewmilan.org. to get the link.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

The Grief support Group will be meeting **Tuesday, December 3**, at 10:30 a.m. in the Gathering Room. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Larson.

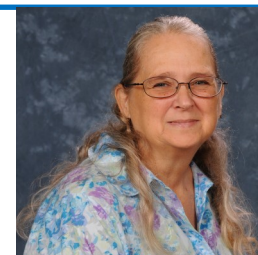
THE MEN'S NETWORK

Our next Men's Bible Breakfast will be **December 14** at 8:00am.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

We welcome into membership Beth Dorr, by Transfer from Holy Cross Lutheran, LCMS, Moline IL.

We hope that her membership with us will be a source of mutual blessing.



POINSETTIAS SIGN-UP

It is time to help beautify the Altar for the Christmas season. There is a Poinsettias sign-up sheet on the flower bulletin board A. Cost is \$10.00 each. **Final day to order will be December 15, 2024.** You may pick up your Poinsettias from the Altar area after December 25, 2024.



INK CARTRIDGES AND TONER

We no longer collect ink cartridges or toner to recycle. Please do not bring them to church to be recycled.

GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

DEC. 14-15 **SEM. JOSHUA TEGGATZ**
GUEST PREACHER

DEC. 21-22 **UNEXPECTED JOY**
GABRIEL & MARY LUKE 1:26-38

SERMON SERIES FOR DECEMBER

GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

DEC. 24 **GREAT JOY**
CHRISTMAS EVE LUKE 2:1-20

DEC. 28-29 **PATIENT JOY**
SIMEON & ANNA LUKE 2:25-38

JAN. 4-5 **OVERJOYED**
THE WISE MEN MATT. 2:1-12

| | | |
|----------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Flowers | Steve & Karen Walters in Memory of Albina Bowin | |
| Lay Assistant | 5:30 p.m. Dennis Ziegler | 10:00 a.m. Jeff Martens |
| Altar | Vicki Lude and Sue Witmer | |

| ATTENDANCE | | | |
|------------------------------|------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Last Weeks Attendance | 5:30 p.m. | 41 | Outside |
| Last Weeks Attendance | 10:00 a.m. | 129 | 2 Outside |
| Adult Bible Study | 46 | Sunday School | 18 Children |

THIS WEEK THE LORD WILLING

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday 7:00am — 2:00pm, Friday 7:00am—11:00pm

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Saturday, December 14 | 8:00 a.m. 5:30 p.m. | Men’s Network Worship |
| Sunday, December 15 <i>2nd Sunday in Advent</i> | 8:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m. 4:00 p.m. | Sunday School Adult Bible Study Sunday School Program |
| Monday, December 16 | | Karen out of Office/Mary in Office |
| Tuesday, December 17 | 6:15 p.m. | Karen out of Office/Mary in Office Choir |
| Wednesday, December 18 | 11:00a.m. 12:00 p.m. 5:15 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. | Midday Advent Service Light Lunch Light Supper Confirmation Worship Karen out of Office/Mary in Office |
| Thursday, December 19 | 6:30 p.m. | Council |
| Friday December 20 | 9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. | Bulletin Assembled In a Kid’s World Christmas Program |
| Saturday, December 21 | 5:30 p.m. | Worship |
| Sunday, December 22 <i>2nd Sunday in Advent</i> | 8:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m. 4:00 p.m. | Sunday School Adult Bible Study Sunday School Program |

CURRENT DFM PROJECT

Water heater for Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, East Moline

Dollar for Missions (DFM) contributions in late 2024 will help to pay for a new water heater at Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, East Moline. The church’s previous water heater is almost 20 years old.

“This is another ‘non-glamor’ item,” said CID Mission Executive Ken Schurb. “Yet to proclaim the Gospel in Spanish at Cristo Rey, especially in winter time, a reliable hot water heater is a helpful piece of equipment to have.” Plumbing as well as painting and many other such things have their place in a mission.

Cristo Rey is CID’s only congregation in which the ministry is conducted almost entirely in Spanish. It serves, particularly, Spanish-speaking people in the Quad Cities.

Pastor Pablo Dominguez has served in East Moline for over 20 years. First he was a CID missionary-at-large, then subsequently pastor of Cristo Rey. The congregation formally joined the Synod in 2018.

Amount to be funded: \$1,000

Project: Replace water heater at Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, East Moline.

REPORTS AVAILABLE

Copies of the monthly Congregational Financial reports as well as the recorded minutes from the Church Council meetings are available by request and may be obtained by contacting Karen in the church office (787-4295, or e-mail stmatkarenb@gmail.com).

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to help beautify the altar with flowers, the sign up sheets are on bulletin board A. **Because of the increase in flower cost, the cost this year is \$20.00.**

Please put your payment with your name on it in the offering plate and note that it is for flowers on your envelope. Contact Vicki Lude if you have any questions.





***Protecting Albino Children -
Tanzania Children's Home
Evangelical Lutheran Church
of Tanzania, Africa***



In Tanzania, Africa, albinos (absence of skin pigment) represent one in every 1429 births, a much higher rate than in any other nation. Such children are persecuted because witch doctors promote a belief in the magical and superstitious properties of albinos' body parts. These children are seen as bad omens and treated as unwanted or even have body parts amputated and sold to witch doctors.

Parents of albino children will protect their children by sending them to an orphanage offering them more security. The Ev. Lutheran Church of Tanzania has a training center for Mwadui church leaders. This campus also contains a Lutheran Boarding School.

In 2021, an orphanage was built to provide a home and school for albino children. Since the orphanage is located next to the Lutheran boarding school and training center, the albino children are integrated into a more normal life and are not isolated. There they are cared for, body and soul, and reared knowing Christ's love and His gift of salvation.

The purpose of this \$74,500 mission grant will purchase a bus to transport children from their homes to school and assist with the funding of the children's care. To learn more and see a video on this project, visit

www.lwml.org/2023-2025-mission-grant-19.

This and other LWML mission grants are funded through monies received in LWML's mite boxes. You can help by dropping coins into a mite box and return to any Sunday's collection plate, or designate a Mite Box donation with your regular envelope offering.



ST. MATTHEW AT PRAYER



NEW/UPDATED REQUESTS THIS WEEK

Vern Winters (recovering)
Jan Benson, sister-in-law of Rexann Garmoe (preparing for surgery)
Nancy Mayer, co-worker of Susan De Loose (cancer)
Sharon Knipe, sister of Mary Newswander (cancer)

Those Hospitalized

Don Timmermann, friend of Angi Lindley
Candy Carmack

Those Who Have Cancer

Jana K, friend of Susan De Loose
Jim, friend of Eileen Leonard
Bev Kluever, sister of Jan Siebke
Judy Liles, sister-in-law of Janet Meeks
Kate Snyder, daughter-in-law of Deb Snyder
Fred Spencer, brother of Sandy Dutler
Shirley Teggatz, mother of Doug Teggatz
Jeff Thompson, brother-in-law of the Van Severen's
Pam Whittington

THOSE RECOVERING

Carol Appelquist
Karen Edmund
Carol Greenwood
Tom Krahl
Jojo Laureano, friend of Al & Kerry
Mary Newswander
Cindy Terrill
Fern Tucker

CONTINUING REQUESTS

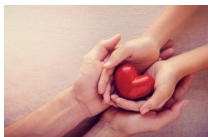
Wendy Gurnwald, daughter of Janet Meeks (ALS)
Rebecca Heick, cousin to De Loose, Lude & Leonard Family (health issues)
Roxanne Knauss, daughter of Carole Hartley (pneumonia)
Patricia Moore (memory care)

SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES—THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Lieutenant Zach Chapman (Deployed to Djibouti)
Kyle Mandle (Stationed in Norfolk, VA)
Lieutenant Adam Witmer (Iowa National Guard)

BUDDY BAGS

When children go into foster care they are removed from a home that has been deemed a risk. They often leave the home with no belongings. A blanket or stuffed animal can provide comfort for a child going to an unfamiliar home. It is something they can call their own. These children also often do not have the basic necessities such as a toothbrush, comb or basic hygiene items. Babies often have few or no diapers. A buddy Bag can help assist a child transition to a sometimes unfamiliar living arrangement.



NEEDS:

Sippy Cups and Baby Bottles (high need) Blanket, Stuffed Animal, Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Soap, Deodorant, Diapers (all sizes), Baby Wipes, feminine products

Any questions, contact Greg Mueller, DCE or someone in Mission and Ministry. **Please put items on the table in the hallway by the library.**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS..

Plan on joining us for upcoming opportunities for food, fun, fellowship and service. Have a suggestion for future activity, contact Greg Mueller or Angie Lindley.

2024 Upcoming Events

| | | |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| Advent Meals | December 18 | |
| December 7 | 9:00am –12:00pm | Cookie Walk |
| January 10 | 7:10pm | Storm Game |
| February 2 | SOUPer of caring Soup & Chili Cookoff after church | |
| February 22 | 6:00pm | Trivia Night |

REMINDER—DECEMBER 27, 2024

As we approach the end of 2024, you may consider extra donations to St. Matthew for tax purposes. All monies for 2024 must be in the office by **December 27, 2024**. After that date it will be counted for 2025. Any questions, call the church office. **The office will be open December 26-29 from 9-12:00.**



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Plan on joining us on Sunday, Dec. 15 at 4:00pm for our Sunday School's Children Christmas Program. Invite your family and bring a friend as we listen to the Christmas account in words and songs. Don't forget there will be refreshments afterwards.



NEEDED VOLUNTEER / OVERSEER

We are in need of someone who will oversee the nurse room. We need someone who will make sure toys are appropriately clean, books are good, furniture is not broken. You will be responsible for seeing that the nurse is clean and safe. Questions, Contact Norm Mandle.

2025 ENVELOPES

The 2025 Offering envelopes are on the table in the hallway. If you are a member and did not find envelopes for you and would like to receive envelopes please sign the sheet on the table and we will get you envelopes. Any questions, contact Vicki Lude or Karen Walters.

A HUGE THANK YOU from the Cookie Walk Committee

What fabulous bakers, crafters, candy makers, shoppers and helpers y'all are! Thanks to everyone who helped make Saturday's Cookie Walk the best one ever in our 20 years of the Walks. Your generous donations of time, cookies, candies and crafts will allow the Milan Christian Food Pantry to purchase over 3 tons of food and feed more than 125 families.



We often hear from the customers that St. Matthew has the best cookie walk in the area. We know the Walk's success is because of your generous donations and support, so again....Thank You So Much!!

Cookie committee: Cindy Leonard, Vicki Lude, Dean & Sandy Young