

December 15 & 16 – Announcements

This Week at St. Matthew

Sunday (12/16)

- **Underground/Sunday School**
 - *Immediately after worship*: children ages 3-12 will be excused to the side doors in the assembly. Parents may accompany them. At **11:00am** this morning the children will be traveling to Appleton Retirement Community to sing carols for the residents. Parents and families are encouraged to accompany them.
- **Teen Bible Study**
 - Meets at **10:15am** in the church basement.
- **Bible Study**
 - Meets at **10:30am** in room 108. Study: *The Psalms of Advent* – Psalm 24

Tuesday (12/18)

- **Piecemakers** (Quilting and Sewing Group)
 - Meets at **9:30am** in the church basement.
- **Appleton Retirement Community**
 - Service at **2:00pm** at Appleton Retirement Community.
- **Outreach Meeting**
 - Meets at **6:30pm** in room 108.

Wednesday (12/19)

- **Advent Worship**
 - Services at **10:00am** and **6:30pm**.
 - Supper from **5:00 – 6:00 pm** in room 108.
- **Confirmation**
 - Meets at **5:15pm** in the Underground.
- **Choir**
 - Meets at **7:30pm** in room 108.

Thursday (12/20)

- **Thursday Bible Study**
 - Meets at **10:00am** and **6:30pm** in room 108.
 - *The Psalms of Advent* – A weekly study, being led by Pastor Mielke, on the selected psalm of the week for each week of Advent. Join us as we walk through *Psalm 85*.

Saturday (12/22)

➤ **GriefShare**

- Classes resume on **January 5** at 9:00am.
- The next session: “Guilt and Anger”
- For more information on *GriefShare* contact one of the pastors or Joyce Schroeder at joymarie48@yahoo.com.

Other St. Matthew Announcements

➤ **New Christmas Tree**

- The new Christmas tree is in memory of parents, Harland & LaJoy Thern, and their grandparents, Victor & Frieda Schroeder, by the Thern children; Nancy, Bryan, Laurie & Bradley.

➤ **Thanks for a Wonderful *Christmas for Kids***

- We were very blessed to have great event of celebrating Jesus' birth and the blessings of fellowship he's given us with God and each other.
- Thanks to the many who served the newborn king and all the kids & families, as well as those in our church family who made contributions to the event.

➤ **Plan ahead for Scrip**

- Buy your Christmas Scrip now. Additional Scrip cards can not be ordered after **December 17** and special orders until after **January 1** from the scrip center.

➤ **Advent Supper**

- Please join us before the Advent Service on **December 19** for food and fellowship. Supper will be served from 5:00pm – 6:00pm in room 108 with church services following at 6:30pm.
- Sign up sheets will be available on weekend services to give an idea of how many will be attending.
- *Please note:* even if you do not sign up you are still welcome to join us!

➤ **Greeters for the Holidays**

- There are a few spots still open during the Holidays, please consider signing up to greet for the services. The sign up sheet is at the back of church.
- For questions contact Laurie Thern at 731-2119.

➤ **Poinsettias and Church Decorations**

- Anyone wishing to donate towards the poinsettias may do so with the special pew envelope. If you wish to have the donation in honor or memory of a loved one please write the information on the envelope. Please submit by this weekend **December 16**.

➤ **Coffee House Ministry**

- Members continue to have the opportunity to support this ministry with a special gift that will be *double* matched until the donations reach \$15,000. We are getting very close – nearly at the \$12,000 mark! Handouts are available for more information, as well as envelopes for donations. Be sure to check the funds chart in back of the sanctuary as we “fill the cup.” Thank you to all of our donors!

Church Community News

➤ **Christmas Dessert Donations Needed**

- The Hope Center is providing a Christmas lunch for the Pillars Homeless Resource Center and they are looking for donations of Christmas Desserts.
- If your willing to help, please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f48acab28a3f85-cookies>. Please plan to drop off your goodies at The Hope Center (Door 5) on Wednesday, **December 19** from 2:30pm – 4:30pm or Thursday, **December 20**, from 11:00am – 12:00pm. Any questions call the Hope Center at 739-0039.

➤ **Camp Phillip Summer Camp**

- Summer camp registrations started on Sunday, **December 2**.
- Register online at www.campphillip.com/registration. Early bird discounts expire at 11:00pm on **December 31**.

➤ **FVL Choirs**

- The FVL Choirs invite you to attend their annual Christmas concert this **Sunday, December 16** at 4:00pm.
- The concert is free and open to all. Come and enjoy these songs dedicated to the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus. The concert will be live streamed on the FVL YouTube channel. You can go to fvlhs.org for the link.

➤ **Apple Valley Food Pantry**

- Next collection date is **January 13**.
- Items needed are Chunky soups, hamburger, tuna and chicken helpers, canned fruit, spaghetti, boxed and canned potatoes, all crackers, cookies, and personal care and household cleaning products. We are also collecting baby items for the Hope Center.
- Thank you all for your help in spreading the word for the needs of the pantry. God bless you all and enjoy a Merry Christmas.

➤ **FVL Musicfest**

- FVL Musicfest 2019 will be held **January 27** with performances beginning at noon. Doors will open at 11:30am.
- Musicfest is currently seeking items or basket donations for the Silent Auction.

- Find out more at fvlhs.org/fvl-musicfest or call Megan Beyer at 560-5122. Please bring donations to the FVL School Office by **January 17**.

➤ ***Pathways to Christ Retreat***

- Sisters in Christ, please consider attending the 19th *Pathways to Christ* Retreat on **March 8-10, 2019** at LaSure's Hall in Oshkosh. The 2019 theme is "*I Have Learned the Secret of Being Content.*" (Philippians 4:11-13)
- Registration forms can be downloaded from their website: pathwaystochrist.org. Early registration with discount ends **January 7**. If you don't have internet access, the church office can provide you with a brochure.

➤ ***Men of His Word Conference***

- The 10th Annual Men of His Word Conference will be held at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Convention Center in Oshkosh on Saturday, **January 9, 2019**. The theme is "*Built on the Rock.*"
- Please register online at www.menofhisword.org and get schedules. Adult registration fee is \$50 and youth is \$25. Fees increase after January 27 to \$60 and \$30.

December Special Worship Schedule

Wednesday, December 19

Midweek Advent Worship 10:00am & 6:30pm

Ruth: A Woman Who Wouldn't (Pastor Meier)

Light Supper (in Room 108) 5:00pm – 6:15pm

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Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve Worship 4:00pm & 9:00pm

Candlelight Service

Tuesday, December 25

Christmas Day Worship 9:00am

Pre-service Carol Singing, 8:45am

Monday, December 31

New Year's Eve Worship 5:30pm

Holy Communion

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Please pick up several "Light in the Darkness" postcards to invite family and friends to these special services.