

December 29 & 30 – Announcements

This Week at St. Matthew

Saturday (12/29) & Sunday (12/30)

➤ **Farewell Fellowship for the Mielke's**

- Please gather in the back after the service for some snacks and time with the Mielkes. We'll honor Pastor Mielke's last weekend of serving St. Matthew as one of our pastors. He & Laura and the family will remain members here.
- **Save the date! Sunday, February 3rd.** There will be a more elaborate farewell fellowship meal following the service. In the service Pastor Mielke will also be installed as our district's Deferred Planned Giving Counselor.

Sunday (12/30)

➤ **Underground/Sunday School**

- No Underground today due to the holiday weekend. We'll resume next Sunday at **10:00am**.

➤ **Teen Bible Study**

- No teen class today. We'll meet next Sunday at **10:15am**.

➤ **Bible Study**

- No Bible study today. We'll resume next Sunday at **10:30am**.

Monday (12/31)

➤ **New Year's Eve Worship**

- Service at **5:30pm** with Communion.

Tuesday (1/1)

➤ **Office Closed**

- **A BLESSED NEW YEAR** to all!

➤ **Piecemakers** (Quilting and Sewing Group)

- Does not meet this week.
- Meets next week at **9:30am** in the church basement.

Wednesday (1/2)

➤ **Confirmation**

- Does not meet this week.
- Meets again next Wednesday, January 9, at **5:30pm** in Room 108.

➤ **Adult Choir**

- meets in the church at 7:00pm

Thursday (1/3)

➤ **Thursday NEW Bible Study**

- “*So What Do You Lutherans Teach?*” January 3rd at 10:00am and 6:30pm in room 108.
- Get some “easy to relate explanations” for when you're asked about our church. Comparisons will be made between our worship practices and other churches, and the teachings behind them.
- Learn positive ways to explain differences between churches, with a gospel emphasis to impact others with the Holy Spirit's power.
- **This Bible study is repeated next Sunday at 10:30am.**

Saturday (1/5)

➤ **GriefShare**

- Classes resume this coming Saturday at 9:00am.
- This session: “*Guilt and Anger*”
- For more information on *GriefShare* contact Pastor Kuske, or Joyce Schroeder at joymarie48@yahoo.com.

Other St. Matthew Announcements

➤ **Church Envelopes**

- Your 2019 church offering envelopes are in your mailbox.

➤ **Thank You from Your St. Matthew Pastors & Staff**

- We are grateful for the many kind cards, generous gifts, and dedicated services, which we received this December. Thanks much for your outpouring of love and support. We are very blessed to serve here in our St. Matthew family!

➤ **Thank You from *Pillars* Guests**

- Please see the “thank you's” wreath from the *Pillars Resource Center* displayed in the back of church. On it are hand written notes from some of the 40+ guests who visit the Resource Center each day at St. Matthew. They are grateful for our compassion in opening our campus to services for them.

➤ **Ushers**

- (From Dave Loewenhagen) “*I have decided to step down as usher coordinator at the end of the year. Keith Stoop will take over and can be reached at 850-1416 or email at klstoop@aol.com. I would like to thank Jim Ulrich & Richard Johnson for their service as ushers as they are stepping down also, and would like to welcome Curt Wentzel to the usher team. It was a pleasure working with all of you and I thank you for ushering for St. Matthew.*”
- To volunteer for this important service to our congregation, please contact the office or Keith Stoop.

➤ **Dorcas Christmas Party**

- All ladies of the congregation are invited to the Dorcas Post-Christmas luncheon on Saturday, **January 12** at 12:30pm at *Wilder's Bistro*, 2639 S. Oneida St., Appleton.
- You may bring a \$10 wrapped Christmas present to exchange if you wish.
- Also a reminder to Dorcas members that we will be collecting for SOS and FVL Musicfest.
- Please sign up on the sheet in the hallway by **January 7** if you plan to attend. Any questions, please contact Janet Meyer at 757-5589 or janbil@new.rr.com.

➤ **Thanksgiving Gift for *Underground*, & Matching Opportunities**

- A \$500 gift in thanksgiving for Everleigh Willie has been received to purchase visual learning tools like Betty Lukens flannelgraphs, and a new DVD player.
- An additional \$500 gift has been offered as a matching gift for other special contributions to our *Underground*/Sunday School. We'd like to purchase a few tablets that would allow students and their families to access Bible learning tools on-line that they can then also access at home.
- For questions, or to learn more, contact Pastor Kuske.

➤ **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 just passed over 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!

➤ **Christmas Card Collection**

- Bring any Christmas cards you're not saving to church. The teens are collecting them for veterans. Please drop them in the collection box in back of church.

Church Community News

➤ **Camp Phillip Summer Camp**

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

➤ **Lutheran Vanguard**

- Lutheran Vanguard marching band's PREVIEW will be held **January 5** from noon-5:00pm at Fox Valley Lutheran High School in Appleton. Vanguard is still recruiting for wind instruments, all percussion (including keyboards), and color guard dancers.

- Please join us for PREVIEW to see what joys are in store! For more info visit www.lutheranvanguard.org or email LVWmarchingband@gmail.com.

➤ **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.

➤ **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.

➤ **DivorceCare Offered**

- *DivorceCare* is a teaching tool to support anyone who has been hurt by the pain of divorce or separation. This program will be held at Immanuel, Greenville in the Emmaus Library on Tuesdays from 6:30pm – 8:30pm starting **January 8 – April 2**.
- This program offers short videos each week, a helpful workbook, and ample time for group discussion and support. To register visit www.divorcecare.org or call 757-5639. The cost is \$20 for the workbook.

➤ **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, **February 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.