

January 5 & 6 – Announcements

This Week at St. Matthew

Sunday (1/6)

- **Underground/Sunday School**
 - *Immediately after worship*: children ages 3-12 will be excused to the back of church. Parents may accompany them.
- **Teen Bible Study**
 - Meets at **10:15am** in the church basement.
- **NEW Bible Study**
 - Meets at **10:30am** in room 108. We're studying: "*So What Do You Lutherans Teach?*" Join us to get ready answers not just to familiarize people with our church, but to give them the hope of being saved.

Monday (1/7)

- **Christmas Tree un-decorating**
 - The Christmas Tree in church will be taken down at **6:30pm**. Anyone who can come and help is welcome.

Tuesday (1/8)

- **Piecemakers** (Quilting and Sewing Group)
 - Meets at **9:30am** in the church basement.
- **Church Council**
 - Meets at **6:00pm** in room 108.

Wednesday (1/9)

- **Confirmation**
 - Meets at **5:30pm** in Room 108.
- **Choir**
 - Meets at **7:00pm** in the church at 7:00pm

Thursday (1/10)

- **Thursday Bible Study**
 - "*So What Do You Lutherans Teach?*" **10:00am** and **6:30pm** in room 108.
 - Learn positive ways to explain differences between our church and others, with a gospel emphasis to impact others with the Holy Spirit's power.
 - **This Bible study is repeated next Sunday at 10:30am.**

Saturday (1/12)

➤ **GriefShare**

- Meets from **9:00am – 11:00am** in room 108.
- This session: “*Complicating Factors*”
- For more information on *GriefShare* contact Pastor Kuske, or Joyce Schroeder at joymarie48@yahoo.com.

➤ **Dorcas Christmas Party**

- Meets 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.

Other St. Matthew Announcements

➤ **Church Envelopes**

- Your 2019 church offering envelopes are in your mailbox.

➤ **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 handwritten 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.

➤ **Dorcas Thank You**

- The Dorcas Society's Christmas Giving Tree project was a big success again this year thanks to many generous contributions from our members.
 - \$505 in gift cards to 21 foreign missionary children
 - \$200 in gift cards to our four “Adopt-a-Seminarian” students
 - \$153 to “Befriend a Mission” - Peace Lutheran Church, Trinity, FL
 - \$150 to “Befriend a Mission” - Malawi, Africa Mission
 - \$133 to our “Mission Partner” - Evangelical Lutheran Church of Russia
 - \$200 in gift cards/cash for The Hope Center, plus many donations of paper products, laundry detergent, dish soap, cleaning supplies, hats, mittens, slipper socks and personal hygiene products
- Thank you for sharing your blessings from God with others. “*And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*” Colossians 3:17

- **Volunteers (& Cooks!) Wanted for the Mielke Farewell**
 - The Mielke's Farewell Dinner on Sunday, **February 3** will be held in the gym after the service.
 - We would like to serve lasagna along with a salad bar and breadsticks. Would you be willing to make 1 or 2 pans of your favorite lasagna for this dinner?
 - Sign up sheets in back of church and side hallway. Also, please sign up if you plan to attend.
 - Any questions please call Leanne Stoop at 850-5835 or Curt Wentzel at 915-4892.

- **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 \$13,000 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

- **Apple Valley Food Pantry**
 - Next collection date is **January 13**.
 - Items needed are baked and pork 'n beans, carrots and mixed vegetables, all crackers, spaghetti noodles & sauce, canned fruit, boxed & canned potatoes, dish & laundry soap, paper toweling, hamburger helper, all canned meats such as chicken and manwich.
 - Thank you all for your help in spreading the word for the needs of the pantry.

➤ **Faith Fit Dance Fitness Class**

- Our Shepherd Child Care & Family Ministry, 3335 North Lynndale Drive, Appleton will host an 8-week Dance Fitness Class on Mondays from 5:30pm–6:15pm beginning **January 14**. Faith Fit is a dance fitness class (*think Zumba-esque*) that encourages women of all ages and abilities to continue on their fitness journey, one step at a time! No matter where you are at on your journey- YOU MATTER. We dance to positive uplifting music from the likes of TobyMac, Mandisa, and more! The class is free, but childcare is available for a small fee.
- For more information contact Emily Suedmeier by email at: churchoffice@bethanyappleton.org.

➤ **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 fvls.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.