



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

# Herald

Special Edition

Advent 2014

Volume 8, Issue 4.5

## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, November 9.** Sunday School Program practice . 9:30 a.m.

**Saturday, November 15.** Women's Ministry Cookie Exchange at 12:30 p.m.

**Saturday, November 22.** Choir rehearsal for Christmas Program. 10:00am to noon. Sunday School Program rehearsal 12-2 p.m.

**Sunday, November 23.** Congregational Voter Meeting. 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Sunday School Program practice 9:30 a.m.

**Wednesday, November 26.** Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service. 7:00 pm.

**Thursday, November 27 & Friday, November 28.** Church Office closed for Thanksgiving

**Sunday, November 30.** Sunday School Program rehearsal 9:30 a.m.

**Wednesday, December 3.** Advent Service. 11:00am & 7:00pm

**Saturday, December 6.** Choir rehearsal with Orchestra. 11:00am

**Sunday, December 7.** 10am Choir Christmas Program. No Sunday School.

**Wednesday, December 10.** Advent Service. 11:00am & 7:00pm

**Friday, December 12.** Fellowship Club Christmas Party at Pastor and Kristen Wiesenborn's. 7:00pm - 10:00pm.

**Saturday, December 13.** Children's Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal. 10am - 12.

**Sunday, December 14.** 10am Children's Christmas Program.

**Wednesday, December 17.** Advent Service. 11:00am & 7:00pm. Choir Rehearsal

**Wednesday, December 24.** 6:30pm Family Christmas Eve Service

**Wednesday, December 24.** 11:00pm Candlelight Communion Service

**Thursday, December 25.** 10:00am Christmas Communion Service

**Wednesday, December 31.** 7:00pm New Year's Eve Service



# STEWARDSHIP

From Your Stewardship Board Chairman:

First, I would like to thank everyone in the congregation FOR ALL YOU DO. Each and every member of our congregation contributes to the life of our church with your mere attendance. But, of course, your Stewardship Board wants more than mere attendance. We want your active and engaged involvement and participation. We want you to search your heart for ways in which you can contribute your time, talent, treasures and TLC (tender loving care). [Let me digress....for those of you that heard my last "temple talk", I told you that I wanted to add "TLC" to our list of stewardship contributions. I told you that Confirmation Sunday in May was the inspiration for this. I shared how you, as individuals and as a congregation, LOVED on my confirmand Harrison and on our family with your thoughtful gifts and your kind and loving words of encouragement. It was a wonderful and amazing day. My family was uplifted greatly by your tender loving care and genuine involvement in the joy of confirmation. In my temple talk, I went on to say that loving one another is our greatest act of stewardship and all other acts of service will follow.]

It has been a real pleasure to see how some of our newer members are getting involved. Some are teaching Sunday school (a big and very loving commitment), several helped with VBS and there is a new bible study that has been started. We also have some folks willing to help with our youth. THANK YOU! These are incredible ways to share your time, talent, treasures and TLC.

Now I would like to talk about our church budget. Church council is currently in the process of setting and preparing the annual budget. This process can be quite challenging to say the least. To be blunt, we are in the red. We need more giving. As I have said in

the past, we are absolutely bare bones on our expenses. There is no luxury spending. There is no frivolous spending. We pay for personnel and salaries, and we pay our bills. I encourage everyone to get involved in the process, ask questions, learn about it, see where our income goes AND GET INVOLVED. Let's all make a strong end-of-year push. As we enter the season of spending, let's invest in our church, in the Body of Christ. When we invest in our church, we invest in people, in each other, in our mission.

In addition to monetary giving, please also consider other ways in which you can serve.

Would you consider joining the choir?

Would you consider being an usher or greeter?

Do you like to plan and participate in social events?

Have you been putting off attending Sunday school and only attending church?

Could you use your expertise to sit on a committee or board?

Would you be able to assist your elder in contacting and supporting our shut-ins?

Would you commit to thinking about ways to show your tender loving care to member and guests?

If any of these ideas interest you, please contact me, Pastor Wiesenborn, or your Elder.

In closing, I want to thank you again. Thank you for your attendance, your participation and your willingness to prayerfully consider your level of stewardship here at St. Matthew.

~Casey Garrett



## Fellowship Club Christmas Party

*Friday, December 12th, at 7:00 pm at the home of Pastor and Kristen Wiesenborn. All adults are invited to this annual event! Festive buffet and assorted beverages provided. Free will offering to cover expenses (recommended \$10 per person). Watch the bulletin for more details.*

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**Congregational Meeting** on Sunday November 23 at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall. Budget and election of officers. Please attend!

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## **Ushers & Greeters Needed**

Please consider being an usher or a greeter! For more information you can contact Frances Taylor 713-433-6844 or the church office.

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Thank you to everyone who as donated to our Water to Thrive fund. We are coming close to our goal of \$5,000. Please consider donating to this wonderful cause.

If you plan on doing your holiday shopping online, here is a new way that you can support St. Matthew Lutheran Church at the same time!

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that has all of the advantages and products of Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the eligible charitable organization of your choice, hopefully St. Matthew Lutheran Church!

On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you will be prompted to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation.



For more information, go to <http://smile.amazon.com/gp/charity/pd.html>



**Be a part of the Herald!!**

Take advantage of the opportunity to make announcements, publicize an event, tell a story or whatever else you feel is newsworthy.

Send information to:

Robyn Albright at [ofcmgr@stmatthewhouston.org](mailto:ofcmgr@stmatthewhouston.org)



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Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Mark Wiesenborn

Organist: Kelly DeVany

Choir Director: Sean Saunders