

Join us....

- **8:00 a.m. And 10:45 a.m. Worship Every Sunday**
- **9:30 a.m. Sunday School for Children and Bible Study for Adults**

Please note that there will be only one Sunday worship service beginning at 10:00 a.m. on December 11, 18, 25 and January 1!

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, November 23. Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service. 7:00 pm.

Thursday, November 24 & Friday, November 25. Church Office closed for Thanksgiving

Wednesday, November 30. Advent Service. 11:00am & 7:00pm, Choir Rehearsal 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 4. Normal Worship Schedule. Choir Rehearsal with Children 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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

Friday, December 9. SMLC Christmas Party at the Wiesenborn's from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 10. Choir Rehearsal 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m., Decorate the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 11. 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Rehearsal, 10am Christmas Program with Choir and Sunday School Children

Wednesday, December 14. Advent Service. 11:00am & 7:00pm.

Saturday, December 17. Women's Ministry Cookie Exchange at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, December 18. 10:00 am Advent Services

Wednesday, December 21. Advent Service 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 24. 6:30 pm Family Christmas Eve Service. 11:00pm Candlelight Communion Service

Sunday, December 25. 10:00am Christmas Communion Service

There will be no New Year's Eve Service this year.





SMLC Women's Ministry by Brenda Johnson

The Women's Ministry Group met on Saturday, November 12 to create wreaths. What a group of talented women! Yours truly, watched and assisted Mickey repair the outdoor wreaths for the church. Kirsten Green showed the group how to create a wreath.

The next event is on December 17 at 9 AM and will be the annual Christmas Cookie Exchange. See more details in the weekly program.

Many thanks to Brooke Fullner, Kirsten Green and Anna Wilde for their leadership.

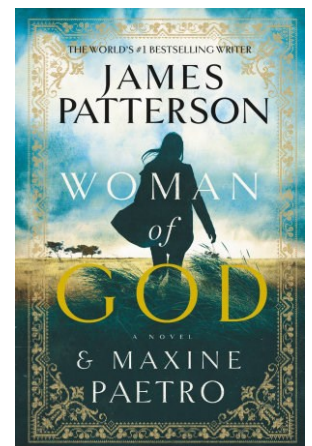


SMLC Book Club by Brenda Johnson

Many thanks to Jackie Geyer for hosting the last St. Matthew Book Club Meeting. Jackie, Marian Meyer and Mary Niemann prepared a wonderful meal. The next meeting is Friday, January 20, 2017 (yes 2017!) and will be held at the home of Bill and Marla Niksch. The book is A Woman of God by James Patterson

which will be reviewed at the January meeting. The March 2017 book is The Clowns of God by Morris West.

If you have not attended the book club meeting, we encourage you to attend. This is a great opportunity for Christian fellowship and expanding your knowledge by reading. Happy reading!!



Campbell's Food Labels

The Good Samaritan (Bethesda) Home in Cypress is so appreciative of your donations of Campbell food labels. The funds are used to purchase needed supplies for educational and leisure equipment.

Thank you for your continued support.

Who is in Charge? By Fred Harwell

My Wife went to vote today at our local Library *at about noon*. They were lined up to present picture ID, etc., and then vote. The long line snaked out a door and down a sidewalk out into the hot sun. An Election Judge walked by speaking to the long line of voters who were beginning to get hot. As he got near Martha, she said,

"Excuse me, sir..."

"Yes ma'am..."

"The last time we voted here, we were allowed to stand under that porch over there out of the sun. Is there any reason why we can't now?"

"Ma'am, this is just the way the voters lined up *this morning*. There is no reason why you can't run the line over under that porch. EVERYBODY! Keep your exact places...and snake this line over under that porch! Thank you." And he went back inside

Martha said it was cool and there was even a slight breeze under the porch. She was much more comfortable.

Later, she said the Election Judge walked back out and said, "Well, it IS more comfortable under this porch, isn't it. AM I YOUR HERO?"

The crowd laughed and said, "Why, no sir, you're not, but (pointing at Martha) SHE SURE IS..."

Anyway, now that Martha has been down to vote and has gotten the line as nice, cool, and as comfortable as is possible, I think I will go vote now.

Well, I am back again. A completely different set of people *several hundred* up the Voting Line were still talking about how *nice* the breeze was and how *cool* it was *after* you got under the porch. I just smiled a knowing smile.

I usually just say "I am with her..." and that is enough to cover the situation.

GOD bless her and all of us.

Kroger Community Rewards Program and Randall's Good Neighbor Program

There are two grocery store programs that benefit St. Matthew:

If you are interested participating the Kroger Community Rewards Program, SMLC's number is **83042**. You can call 800-576-4377 or go to Kroger.com to sign up for their program.

Randall's Good Neighbor Program can be accessed by using the number **4559**. You can also go to the website and click on Community Rewards or just take the number to the Customer Service desk where someone should be able to help you.

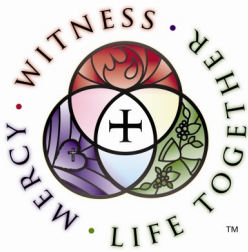
Work Day

The St. Matthew Work Day was a huge success. I want to extend a big thank you to all that participated in preparing the church for the upcoming holiday season.

It was a blessing to witness the wonderful fellowship and strengthening of friendships.

Music and laughter made the hard work a little easier to accomplish.

One of the brightest moments was when we looked back from the altar and noticed the beautiful colors reflecting off the newly-polished pews as the sun streamed through the stained glass windows as if the Lord was saying, "Job well done!". *Doyle Del Bosque*



Stas Venglevski & Accordion Chamber Orchestra by Brenda Johnson

Stas Venglevski and his orchestra performed before a packed audience. I never knew such lovely music could come from an accordion. I was also amazed with the passion and emotion of the performers. They truly have a passion for their music. Our own, Kelly DeVany, also played the flute with Stas. Many thanks to Megumi Hada for organizing this wonderful concert. It was truly a magical evening. Below is some information re Stas:

Stanislav, "Stas," Venglevski, is a native of the Republic of Moldova, part of the former Soviet Union, increasing acclaim as a virtuoso of the Bayan. A two-time first prize winner of Bayan competition in the Republic of Moldova, Stas is a graduate of the Russian Academy of Music in Moscow where he received his Masters Degree in Music under the tutelage of the famed Russian Bayanist, Friedrich Lips. In 1992 he immigrated to the United States.

Stas is an Accordionist, a Musician, an Arranger, an Entertainer and a Teacher. Stas' repertoire includes his original compositions, a broad range of classical, contemporary and ethnic music. He has toured extensively as a soloist throughout the former Soviet Union, Canada, Europe, and the United States, including numerous performances with Doc Severinsen, Steve Allen and with Garrison Keillor on the *Prairie Home Companion* Show.

He is a regular participant the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's Arts in Community Education Program (ACE); has performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Tacoma Symphony Orchestra; has done television commercials and performed in theater productions; produced numerous recordings including a transcription of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite* for Bayan as well as one of original compositions. He has published several books of original compositions.

The brilliant artistry and musical virtuosity of Stas afford an expanded dimension in music and an innovative musical adventure to the audience.



Save the Date!

The 2016 St. Matthew Christmas Party will be held on December 9th from 7-11 pm at the home of Pastor and Kristen Wiesenborn.

This will be a wonderful event and we hope to see everyone there.



We are now taking poinsettia orders and dedications! Please fill out your order form as soon as possible.

The plants will be delivered in early December

Stamps for Lutheran World Relief

Thanks to all your fellow believer for donating stamps to help defray costs of shipping emergency supplies to areas where a catastrophe has happened. Please continue to donate stamps-especially commemorative to this worthy mission program. Cut stamps with a one quarter inch edge or just bring the envelope and volunteers will trim the stamps for purchase by collectors

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.



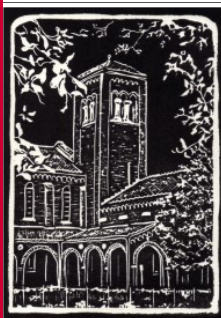
For more information, go to <http://smile.amazon.com/gp/charity/pd.html>

Member Update by Brenda Johnson

Our beloved long time church member, Martha (Marty) Graham, has moved from her long term home in Meyerwood to assisted living. I remember Marty as one of the first people that welcomed, and comforted me, when I attended at my first church service at St. Matthew. Finding the right church was a big step for us and a difficult one. Thanks to Marty and many other loving members of St. Matthew, we did. Marty is a "second mom" to many of at St. Matthew and we love her dearly.

She is very happy in her new home and loves the food! She is five minutes away from Ad and Johanna Graham. They plan on bringing her to church. She was there this past Sunday!!!

Moving from your home to assisted living is a HUGE decision. I cannot imagine going thru your life long belongings – deciding what to keep, what to give to family and importantly "who" in the family to give your treasures to. Please keep Marty in your prayers. The church directory has her cell phone number of drop her a line at 9889 Kempwood Drive #2213, Houston, Texas 77080.



**ST MATTHEW LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

5315 Main St.
Houston, TX 7004

We would like to invite you to worship with us.

We pray that St. Matthew can be a place where you can develop relationships that are supportive and encouraging in your daily life, as together we grow in faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The people of St. Matthew Lutheran Church seek to encourage individuals, couples, and families through worship, prayer, counseling, educations, Bible study, and special events.

Come join our church family.

Phone: 713.526.5731

Fax: 713.524.1709

Email: ofcmgr@stmatthewhouston.org

Visit our website: www.stmatthewhouston.org

Pastor: Rev. Mark Wiesenborn

Organist: Kelly DeVany

Choir Director: Laura Bohlmann

Business Administrator: Robyn Ackerman