

DECEMBER 2022



THE MESSENGER

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

St. Matthew's Staff

The Rev. William Jeff Hurst
Priest-in-Charge

Sherry Minzey
Admin. Assistant

Patti McGill
Music Director

Officers

Judy Taylor
Senior Warden

Carl Turlin
Junior Warden

David Macey
Treasurer

Linda Gerding
Secretary

Service Times

10:00 a.m.
Sunday Services

10:00 a.m.
December 25th
Christmas Day Service



Dear Church family,

It's hard to believe that the Advent and Christmas season is breaking upon us! We attempt to remember and reflect on this paradox of living between the first and second coming of Jesus. Furthermore, we are asked to wrestle with this dynamic in one of the busiest and hectic of the year. It takes patience to practice this art of quieting our minds to ponder these grand truths. We are intentionally waiting on Christ's Second coming while we are preparing anew to receive the babe who was laid in the manger amidst shopping and Christmas parties.

Advent challenges us to be ready and awake for the Second Coming of Christ by reminding us how it was in the days of Noah when people got distracted by the normal processes of daily living. We might respond, "We have to eat and drink, we have to get married you know, we have to work overtime when the boss asks us, right? Paying attention and preparation are vital we are exhorted.

Advent reminds us that the best part of our discipleship is making preparation for Jesus Christ to feel at home in us. "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths", Isaiah calls to us through John the Baptist, this last O.T. prophet who is eager to help us get ready for Jesus. I am reminded of the Charlie Brown Christmas Special that we all watch each year. Charles Schultz was cautioned by the directors about Linus reading the Nativity story from Luke on prime-time TV! The gospel was presented to millions that night in spite of the possibility the public would reject it. What did they sing at the end of the show but "Hark the Herald the Angel's Sing." And notice the portion of that stanza in verse 4, "Fix in us thy humble home." Thank God for that Anglican hymn writer in Methodist disguise, Charles Wesley! Truly we should repent

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and turn away from anything that would hinder us in meeting Jesus anew.

Let us not be like the Innkeeper who turned away Mary and Joseph and the unborn Jesus on that magnificent night when heaven and earth rejoiced in a lowly animal's shelter. If we are humble and open, perhaps we will see the heavens open and hear the Angel's song. Let us make room to receive the humble King who comes to us again and again.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

Blessings,
Fr Jeff



Stewardship - What giving means to me

I love our church, the friends the community, the warm caring feelings shared here.

Jason and I started visiting back when we were dating, got engaged and went to premarital counseling with Father Bob. Later got married in this beautiful sanctuary. That was 19 years ago.

I have learned so much about myself and what it means to be a Christian. I owe that and so much more to the understanding and generosity of the family of St. Matthew's. In the early days of our marriage, we had some struggles, some financial difficulties. I came to our church and asked for help, we got that help. I wasn't made to feel ashamed for asking or receiving. I also found help locally at REAP, other food pantries and community outreach events. It was hard to swallow my pride and ask for help. I did it for my family, that is what is important. I am thankful for the support that we received when we needed it. I give freely of my time and abilities not just to give back but, because I know what it feels like to need help.

Christina Brooks



GIVING REMINDER

Just a reminder that you have options on how you can send in your pledge.

By mail: Dave Macey's address:
2200 NW Summerfield Dr.
Lee's Summit, MO 64081



You will also find a Special Christmas Offering envelope in your bulletin. You can also give a Christmas Offering online.

Online: Online Giving Link:
<http://stmatthewsraytown.org/>



CROP WALK 2022

ST. MATTHEW'S-"ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME"

Saturday Oct. 8, 2022 ~ 2:00pm

This year the World was somewhat back to normal after combatting COVID-19 for nearly two years. The Crop Walk was going to take place in person on Saturday October 8th. That date again conflicted with another Run/Walk that this Team Captain was in charge of (Run for Excellence) ...so of course THAT WALK didn't happen for St. Matthew's team. What did happen was the faithful and steadfast support of St. Matthew's Church to make donations almost up to the deadline for the cutoff of Matching Grant requests to the Diocese. St. Matthew's has been faithful for many years to represent our Parish in its efforts to donate to help in the fight against world hunger, and for the past 3 years the Diocese has granted our Matching Grant request.

St. Matthew's raised \$365.00 this year, and with the approval of the Matching Grant from the Diocese **\$730.00** was donated to Church World Service in behalf of St. Matthew's. A BIG THANKS goes to the very appreciated generosity of the following:

Jim & Brenda Laney
Mary & Charles Cease
Linda Gerding
Janie Matson
Janet Anderson

Darrel & Beth Cook
Fr. Jeff & Brenda Hurst
Judy Taylor
Christina & Jason Brooks

By supporting the Crop Walk, the opportunity to help "eradicate extreme poverty and hunger" worldwide, has been met.

As always, we pray for those less fortunate, hungry, and in need: "Oh God, to those who have hunger, give bread. And to those who have bread, give hunger for justice." (Latin American prayer)

Blessings,

Linda Gerding
Crop Walk Chair-2022
Community Service & Outreach Commission





Our partnership with

You may have noticed the basket in the Narthex asking for hats and gloves for Robinson Elementary. We have partnered with an organization called Caring for Kids KC, they form relationships with business and non- profits like us to help the children in the metro area. We have been partnered with Robinson Elementary. Stacy Wagstaff and I are the representatives from St. Matthew's.

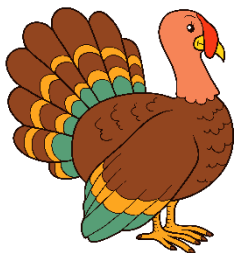
In addition to the hats and gloves, which we will be collecting throughout the year. I have signed up to deliver cookies this month for a special event they are having. We are looking forward to this new opportunity to help our Raytown neighborhood.

Christina Brooks

REAP THANKSGIVING DISTRIBUTION



Linda Gerding
Community Service & Outreach



REAP held their annual distribution of food to help their clients enjoy a Happy Thanksgiving meal. Linda Gerding volunteered, representing St. Matthew's, to help pass out potatoes, carrots, bread, desserts, and sacks with various sides included. Like last year, clients showed their ID and email from REAP, then were given a \$20 HyVee gift card to purchase a Turkey. From 12:00 to 1:30 pm there was a steady line of cars driving through the parking lot. Mike Watson, Executive Director of REAP, said 287 families had signed up. It certainly seemed like everyone showed up, and everyone had big smiles and said Happy Thanksgiving. Our community is so blessed to have REAP!





Thanksgiving Luncheon- Nov. 20, 2022

A wonderful pot-luck luncheon was enjoyed by parishioners after church from 1:00-3:00pm. Meat was provided by Hospitality Chair Christina Brooks and festive decorations by Zella Forsythe.

This was the first time celebrating a Thanksgiving Luncheon...but enjoyed by all, it may not be the last!

Linda Gerding-Reporting





L-R Patti McGill, Zella Forsythe, Mary Cease, Marci Turlin, James Laney, Brenda Laney

COMMUNITY OF CHAPLAINS

The Chaplains met in the Library after church on November 13th. Zella Forsythe was host, and in “Zella style” decorated in keeping with the Thanksgiving season. She provided delicious pumpkin pie and LOTS of whipped cream....as Patti McGill will attest.

It was decided to forego the December meeting, as it is such a busy time of year for everyone, and in the words of St. Benedict “to begin again” in the New Year.

Linda Gerding
COC Facilitator



COFFEE HOUR & CLEAN UP CREWS



Reminder: if you have coffee hour duty, you need to empty all trash, put it in the “Ted’s “receptacle, and take it to curbside in front of the bell tower, for trash pick-up on Monday.

Anyone cleaning up after an event and taking out trash be sure to put it in the third receptacle from the building, which says “Ted’s”. Overflow trash can be put in the other two receptacles but only when Ted’s receptacle is full.

This will eliminate having to haul two or more receptacles to the curbside when they aren’t full.

Thank you,
Linda Gerding
Vestry



Merry Christmas From Flying Solo



Flying solo met on Saturday November 12th in the Parrish Hall to play board games and enjoy pizza. There were four people in attendance. We played Mexican Train and Apples to Apples. We also enjoyed a line yogurt parfait with a cherry on top!





PARKING LOT REPAIR

Our parking lot has been repaired and can be driven on. It has also been re-stripped where it was repaired only and not the entire lot.

Blessings,

Carl Turlin

Jr. Warden-Properties Chair

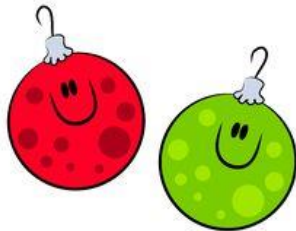


Christmas Craftiness

Sunday, December 11th

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
9349 East 65th Street, Raytown, MO**



**Bingo
Craft Making
Games**

**Gingerbread House Decorating
Ornament Making**



**FREE
Cookies, Hot Cocoa
and
Popcorn**





It's time to bring some holiday cheer to some in our community who can't get out and about. And besides who doesn't love to sing some of their favorite Christmas songs! St Matthew's will be going Christmas caroling again this year on Saturday, December 17th. If you have someone you know who would enjoy our not so professional group of merry singers, please let me know so they can be included! Please contact them in advance to see if they would like to be caroled to and then give me their names, phone numbers and addresses by December 14th. I will contact them and give them an approximately time we will be arriving.

The caroling will start at 1:30, so please meet at St Matthew's by 1:15. If you are not wanting to sing, or are unable to be out in the weather, please consider join us at the hall for some cookies and hot chocolate afterwards. We are planning to be there by 3pm.

Also, this year I hope to put together some new song books. If you have a song you would like to include, please send me the lyrics this week so it can be included. Contact me at 816-885-7021 Bcook301@yahoo.com.

Hope to see you there! Beth





CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS



If you would like to make a special offering for plants and flowers for Christmas, please use the Christmas Flower Envelopes that are available on the Narthex table.

The thanksgiving or memorial designation will be printed in the Christmas Eve service leaflets, and the names of all donors will be listed in the January Messenger. **Please send in your envelopes as soon as possible.** The last day to assure that names will be listed in the Dec. 25th bulletin, and Messenger, is Sunday, December 11.



ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

The homeless animals in the kennels at Wayside Waifs need clean, used towels and blankets for bedding to keep warm in winter. Other items on their wish list include kitty litter, treats, large stuffed animals, cat and kitten toys, dog and cat treats, ball and rope toys, Kong toys, and newspapers.

Please bring these items to the Narthex Cloak- Room and place them in the appropriate boxes.

Thank you for your compassion for these animals.





Christmas Day Service

**St. Matthew's Christmas Service
Sunday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m.**



**Sunday, January 3, 10:00 a.m. Service will be
Lessons & Carols**



**JANUARY
MESSENGER/CALENDAR
DEADLINE**

DECEMBER 20th

