

ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Proclaiming the Love of God for All People

5709 Wedgwood Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76133
817-292-1338 office@stmatthews-elca.org

THE MESSENGER

KID'S EDITION

St. Matthew's Mission Statement:
Living in Christ through faith.
Living for neighbor through love.

WINTER 2024-2025

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, organized in 1953, is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Sunday Worship 11:00 am
Children's Sun. School 10:45 am

Rev. Lesley M. Radius
Pastor
pastor@stmatthews-elca.org

Trent Ormsbee-Hale
Seminary Intern
intern@stmatthews-elca.org

Kelly Riddle
Community Engagement
Coordinator
community@stmatthews-elca.org

Adam Frame
Director of Music Ministries
music@stmatthews-elca.org

John Wolf
Organist / Pianist

Shirley Johnson
Director of the Sounds of
Exaltation Handbell Choir

Valerie Dyke, Erin Reigh
Nursery Attendants

Youth Coordinator
Adrienne Frame

Kid's Messenger Editor
Mary Nedde - Suggestions welcome!

ADVENT December 1-23

The color for Advent is blue or purple. The word "advent" means coming. During the seasons of Advent we wait and prepare to celebrate the coming of baby Jesus at Christmas.



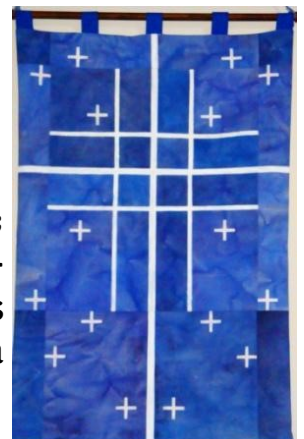
CHRISTMAS December 24-January 5

The color for Christmas is white. We celebrate with joy that God has given us the gift of Jesus Christ!

EPIPHANY

January 6-February 11

The color for Epiphany Day is white; the color for the Sundays in the Epiphany season is green. Epiphany means to realize something new, like an "aha" moment.



The banners shown will be hung in our church in each season.

SUGGESTIONS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WITH CHILDREN

Instead of, or in addition to, a traditional Advent Calendar:

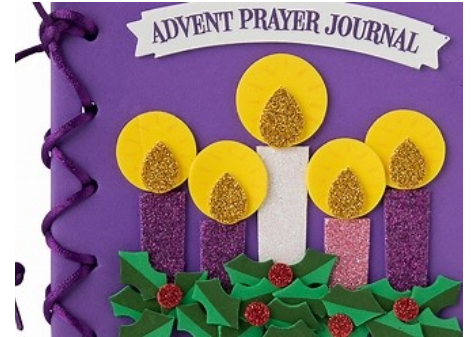
Create an Advent Prayer Journal. Write prayers using the themes for each week of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

Helpful questions to ask when writing your prayers:

What do you hope for?

How can you be peaceful?

How can you bring joy to people? How do you show love?



Create a family Advent Wreath



You will need:

4 toilet paper tubes + one longer tube

Hand shapes - trace the hands of your family members on green paper and cut them out, enough to make a wreath as shown. Glue the hands together to make a circle of hands.

Wrap 3 tubes in purple or blue paper and label them Hope, Peace (or Prepare) and Love. Wrap 1 tube in pink paper and label it Joy; wrap the tallest tube in white paper and label it Christ, for Christmas.

Use orange and yellow tissue paper, or cut out orange or yellow flames and attach them to the top of each tube. ***On each Sunday in Advent attach the candles to the "hand" wreath in this order: December 1, Hope; December 8, Peace; December 15, Joy; December 22, Love. On Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, add the Christ candle in the middle of the wreath.***

***May your Advent and Christmas season
be full of reminders of God's love!***

Advent and Christmas Worship Services at St. Matthew's:

Wednesdays, December 4, 11 and 18

6:00-6:30 pm Praying with the Saints Advent Reflection. Joint worship is followed by a soup and salad fellowship meal. A time of learning about four saints begins at 7:00 pm.

Tuesday, December 24

4:00 pm - Family Christmas Eve Worship, led by St. Christopher Episcopal Church

6:00 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, led by St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

8:00 pm - Christmas Eve Worship, led by St. Christopher

There will be a reception after the 4:00 and 6:00 pm services, hosted by St. Christopher

Wednesday, December 25

10:00 am - Christmas Day Worship, led by St. Christopher

EPIPHANY

January 6 is when Epiphany is remembered. We remember the three wise men who followed a bright star to bring special gifts to the baby Jesus. The story is told in the Bible in Matthew 2:1-12. Epiphany will be celebrated in our church on January 5.

Questions for children -

If you have stars on your Christmas tree, they can remind you of Epiphany – can you find them on your tree?

Are there any ornaments on your Christmas tree that show the three wise men?

What gifts will you give to others in the coming year - think of things that you don't need to wrap!

Ask your parents to show you any Christmas cards they have received that have stars or the wise men on them.



Gift Suggestions for Kids and Adults Who Love Animals

Fort Worth Zoo Animal Adoptions: www.fortworthzoo.org/adoptions

There are a variety of opportunities to adopt an animal - for the holidays (this year it's a tiger), general adoptions (starting at \$50), baby animal adoptions (\$50), birthday buddies (\$70, several zoo animals are suggested for each month), and digital adoption. The birthday buddies for December birthdays are: Madeline the tortoise, Gus the gorilla and Alice the penguin.



ELCA Good Gifts: goodgifts.elca.org Click on the "Shop Now" button

The gifts shown below will help provide families around the world with food and/or income:

Goat - \$50 Chicks - \$10 Piglet - \$30 Honey bees - \$20

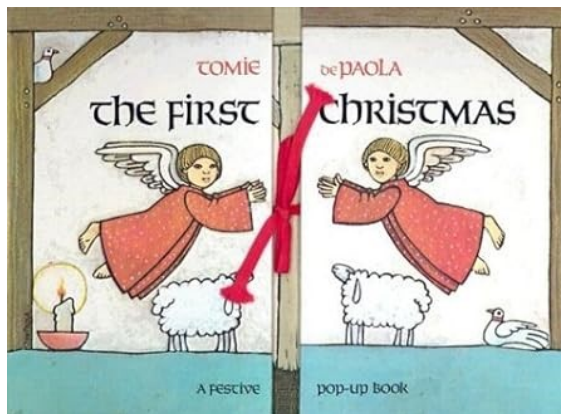


CHILDREN'S PRAYERS FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR

Dear God: I pray that this Christmas brings hope and love to people's hearts. Please take away all the bad feelings and upsetting emotions in people, and show them your love this Christmas. Please let everyone feel your peace. Amen.

Lord God: In the excitement of the Christmas and New Year holidays, help me to remember to thank you for the blessings you give me - my home, my friends, good food, singing, fun games, and all the people who love me. In the new year, keep close to me and keep me safe. Amen.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

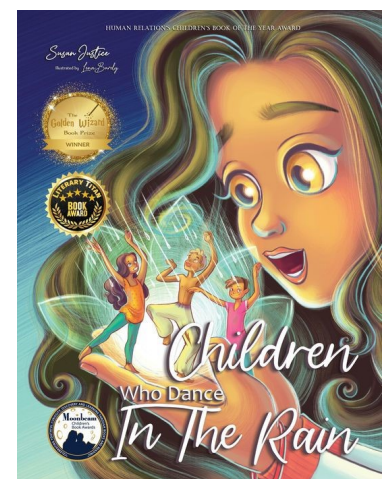


The First Christmas—a Festive Pop-Up Book by Tomie dePaola

Tomie dePaola re-creates the story of the first Christmas in 3-dimensional scenes that change and move, including a Christmas creche scene. For ages 3-10 (and up to adult—the Nedde family has had their book for over 30 years and Miss Mary still displays it!) Available on Amazon—worth the cost!

Children Who Dance in the Rain

Children's Book of the Year Award; a book about kindness, gratitude, and a child's determination to change the world. This book celebrates resilience and the spirit of children who don't wait for the storm to pass. Discover the joy of dancing in the rain, even during life's toughest challenges. By Susan Justice, April 15, 2023. Available on Amazon and at Barnes and Noble.



“There are a whole lot of things in this world
you haven't started wondering about yet.”
Roald Dahl in *James and the Giant Peach*

Photos from Fall 2024

Pet Blessing

Signing cards for college students and homebound church members



Trunk or Treat



Photos from Fall 2024

Congratulations to Liam's football team for getting to their Championship game!



An Acolyte and his sister



Confirmation Sunday for Peyton - Congratulations and God's Blessings!



Also congrats to Peyton for coming in 9th out of 58 for the Middle School All-Region Band.



Coloring Page

JOY TO



The World