



# St Matthew In Action



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**ACTIVE  
CHRISTIANS  
TOGETHER  
IN  
OUTREACH**

**&**

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The time is fast approaching when Christmas will be here. I'm sure many of you have started making preparations. Perhaps you've started checking wish lists. I suspect many of you have at least thought a little about Christmas decorations. We have just under a month until Christmas is here.

I suspect many of you feel the urgency of making sure you have all your plans in place. There are cards to send out, things to bake, and gifts to buy. Or maybe you're thinking you've got all sorts of time. After all there's still three or four weeks until Christmas is actually here, plenty of time to get everything done.

This time of year is always one of preparation. We make ready our homes, our gifts, our food, our cards... and on the list goes. But this season we also take some time to remember someone else who called for preparations to be made. Matthew 3 tells us of John the Baptist who was that voice in the wilderness calling for the people to be prepared:

“For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” - Matt 3:3

This time of year isn't just about us getting ready for our Christmas parties and other celebrations. This time of year is also a reminder that we should always be prepared for Christ to return.

Jesus himself warns about this time and again throughout the gospels. We see it in Mark's Gospel as Jesus tells them a parable of a master who went away on a journey and came back unexpectedly to find his servants unprepared. There we read,

“Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—“ - Mark 13:35

Jesus knows the day when He returns will come as a surprise to those who follow Him. And so He warns them time and again to be ready for that day.

So then, how do we make ourselves ready? What is there that we can do to be prepared for his coming if it is going to be so unexpected? Jesus tells a parable of 10 women waiting for a wedding party in Matthew 25. Five were ready, lamps ready to go and extra oil on hand so they could light the way. Five were unprepared, they brought no extra oil and when the time came in the middle of the night they were unprepared.

Our lives should be lives of expectation and anticipation of His coming. And so we should always be ready. Making our preparations by continuing to study His Word. Keeping our lamps trimmed and our oil stocked by continuing week after week to be filled with the good gifts He has to give us of forgiveness and His freely given Spirit.

God regularly offers us His food that we might be properly nourished so that when the day comes we are ready. This He does through the Lord's Supper where He feeds us with His own body and blood. He encourages us through our brothers and sisters in Christ as we gather together to support one another and build up the body of Christ.

We prepare for that day as we make the house ready, not literally, but remembering our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit as St Paul reminds us in 2 Cor 6:19. All these preparations are made so that when the day comes we are ready to meet Him with joy. And the beauty of all this is, He too is preparing.

In John 14, Jesus tells us,

“In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?” - John 14:2

He has gone to prepare a place for you. So let us prepare for Him this advent season as we look forward to His coming. In the midst of your gift buying, decorating, baking, card making, and whatever else you're doing to prepare, may you be reminded to make ready for His return as well. That together we may all be prepared for that final day.

A blessed Advent time and Christmas to you all! In Christ, Pastor Nathan Peitsch

**White** is the color of purity and completeness. The theme for the “great fifty days” of Easter is supported by the use of white. This color, used primarily during these Sundays, assists in bearing the message that “though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow.” Christ's triumph from the grave on Resurrection day is the cause for our rejoicing. His purity before his Father becomes our purity. White reinforces that message of joy.

In addition to its use during Eastertide, white is the appointed color for such festive Sundays as Christmas and its twelve days; Epiphany (Jan. 6) and the first Sunday following it, observed as the Baptism of Our Lord; the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, also known as Transfiguration Sunday; Holy Trinity Sunday; and twenty-one minor festivals and occasions listed on the church year calendar in *Lutheran Service Book*. In all, white serves as the best festive color for the church year.

**Blue:** the first color of the “Bg-Bgs-Pwr” scheme, is the more contemporary color increasingly used by many congregations in their observance of a new church year. Advent, a preparatory time of waiting and watching, communicates the message of hope. BLUE-the color of the sky-helps convey that powerful message. Our Christian faith rests on the hope that Christ, who came in history assuming our flesh, will also return on the last day of time from that same blue sky he ascended long ago.



SEASON	DATE	FESTIVAL	FIRST READING	PSALM	EPISTLE	GOSPEL
<b>ADVENT 2023</b>	Dec 3, <b>2023</b>	First S. in Advent	Isaiah 64:1–9	Psalm 80:1–7	1 Cor. 1:3–9	Mark 11:1–10 or Mark 13:24–37
	Dec. 10	Second S. in Advent	Isaiah 40:1–11	Psalm 85	2 Peter 3:8–14	Mark 1:1–8
	Dec. 17	Third S. in Advent	Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11	Psalm 126	1 Thess. 5:16–24	John 1:6–8, 19–28
	Dec. 24	Fourth S. in Advent	2 Sam. 7:1–11, 16	Psalm 89:1–5 (19–29)	Rom. 16:25–27	Luke 1:26–38
	<i>or</i>	The Nativity of Our Lord ( <i>Christmas Eve</i> )	Isaiah 7:10–14	Psalm 110:1–4	1 John 4:7–16	Matt. 1:18–25
<b>CHRISTMAS 2023</b>	Dec. 25 <i>Mid-night</i>	The Nativity of Our Lord ( <i>Christmas Midnight</i> )	Isaiah 9:2–7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11–14	Luke 2:1–14 (15–20)
	Dec. 25 <i>Dawn</i>	The Nativity of Our Lord ( <i>Christmas Dawn</i> )	Isaiah. 62:10–12	Psalm 98	Titus 3:4–7	Luke 2:(1–14) 15–20
	Dec. 25 <i>Day</i>	The Nativity of Our Lord ( <i>Christmas Day</i> )	Isaiah 52:7–10	Psalm 2	Heb.1:1–6 (7–12)	John 1:1–14 (15–18)
	Dec. 31 ( <i>Day</i> )	First S. a Christmas	Isaiah 61:10–62:3	Psalm 111	Gal. 4:4–7	Luke 2:22–40
	Dec. 31 ( <i>Eve</i> )	Eve of the Circ. and Name of Jesus ( <i>New Year's Eve</i> )	Isaiah 30:(8–14) 15–17	Psalm 90:1–12	Rom. 8:31b–39	Luke 12:35–40

Janeal Holmes 712-899-8095

## Altar Guild for December





# Christmas By The Book

## Christmas Program

December 24<sup>th</sup>

Sunday Service at 9am

Performed by our

Children of St. Matthew



# Advent services



December 6, 2023 services at 6:30 pm

December 13, 2023 services at 6:30 pm

December 20, 2023 services at 6:30 pm

**SOUP**  
suppers



**Advent** supper at 5:30 pm in the church basement provided by the  
**1. Outreach**  
**2. Elders**, and the  
**3. Property boards** prior to the services.

# BAKE SALE

We had our annual bake sale held on Nov. 25th at the small business Saturday. We had a large donation of baked items. We had a great sale with proceeds of \$936.25. Thank you to all who donated the great baked items and also to the wonderful workers that helped package and getting the baked sale items ready for purchasing. This was a very fun event to have participated in.



## Cinnamon Rollups

- 16 Slices white bread
- 8oz cream cheese
- 3/4 c. powdered sugar (cream together with the cream cheese)
- 1t vanilla
- 1c sugar
- 1t cinnamon
- 3/4 c butter

Trim crusts from bread. Roll each piece flat. Mix cream cheese, sugar & vanilla. Spread 1 T. on each piece & roll up. Freeze—easier to work with. Dip in butter & roll in cinnamon/sugar mixture. Place on baking sheet. 350\* for 15 minutes.



## OFFERING ENVELOPES

Our offering envelopes have arrived. We have them ready in the back of the church to be picked by. Do not start them until January 1st.



Once again the mitten, sock, hat and scarf tree is set up in back of church. This is for all ages. Again anyone can donate any one of these items., Just new socks. Just hang them on the tree. Also a gift wrapped box is in the Narthex for any non-perishable food items, cleaning supplies or tooth paste, mouth wash, deodorant etc. All items from the Christmas tree and donated items will be delivered to the food pantry by December 19th. Thank You, The Our Reach Board.



There are 4 boxes of Christmas cards for \$5.00 a box in the narthex, if anyone is interested. Just put your payment in the collection plate and mark it "card money". There is also come Christmas cards in a box, no charge for them. The Card Ministry.

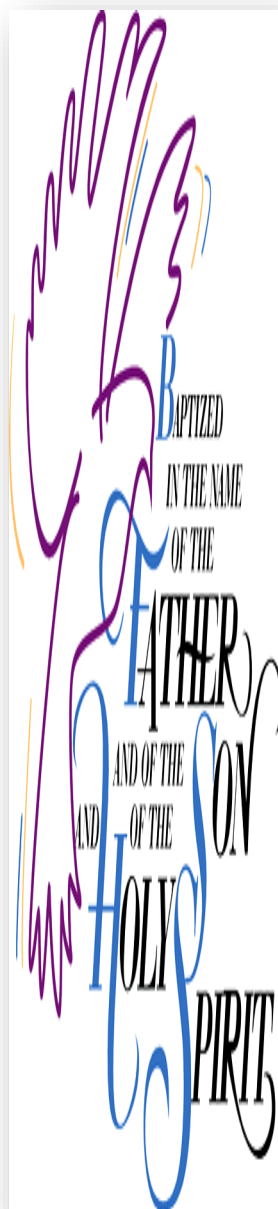


## THANK YOU FOR DECORATING

How thankful we should be for all the hard work that was done to clean and decorate our church. How beautiful it looks. Please enjoy, come and help us worship our Savior and Lord. PLEASE ENJOY!! A GREATFUL MEMBER.

## December Birthdays

JESUS OUR LORD	
John Arndt	1937-12-26
Ashlyn Davis	2006-12-13
Dr. James Else	1953-12-10
Madisyn Goslar	2021-12-21
Janeal Holmes	1951-12-26
Ryan Jacobson	1982-12-19
Gene Kaderabek	1962-12-18
Jessica Krohn	1986-12-12
Jeff Krusen	1957-12-11
Ryan Paulsen	1965-12-05
Tyler Paulsen	1990-12-30
Steve Pickel	1972-12-11
Carol Pritchard	1957-12-30
Tyler Paulsen	1990-12-30
Steve Pickel	1972-12-11
Carol Pritchard	1957-12-30
Sheryl Schelm	1960-12-23
Kurt Schmidt	1980-12-03
Theodore Thoreson	1968-12-12



## December Baptisms

Julie Bollig	1959-12-13
Crystal Bretthauer	1956-12-16
Kenneth Carley	1994-12-04
Donna Goslar	1949-12-05
Rustin Hinrickson	1979-12-30
Nicole Jacobson	1977-12-25
Vernon Jahn	1969-12-28
Cole Jensen	1997-12-07
Delbert Kroll	1953-12-27
Nolan Lamb	2007-12-07
Linda Means	1963-12-18
Trista Ohlmeier	2006-12-19
Ryan Paulsen	1965-12-19
Kade Rotnicke	1998-12-20
David Schrader	1962-12-23
Carolyn Sexton	1939-12-02
Tyler Soukup	1988-12-18
John Stacy	1961-12-28
Mardelle Vandevanter	1951-12-17
Ramona Weber	1961-12-03
Michael Wood	1953-12-20



We pray for the family of Phyllis Fick age 95, of Battle Creek Nursing Home, went to be with Jesus. May they find comfort in, *John 11:25-26* "I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord. "He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."

## December Anniversary



Duane and Marilyn Hamann	60 years	1963-12-01
Gene and Nazaria Kaderabek	26 years	1997-12-16
Darrell and Lin Scott	59 years	1964-12-13

## December 80+ Birthdays

Jesus	++	
John Arndt	1937-12-26	86 yrs.
Kay Elmquist	1937-12-31	86 yrs.
Fred Fletcher	1940-12-18	83 yrs.
Dora Witzel	1937-12-23	86 yrs.



# Guess the Carols

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

Guess the Christmas carols and songs pictured below.

<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p> 	<p>3</p> 	<p>4</p> 																																										
<p>5</p> 	<p>6</p> 	<p>7</p> 	<p>8</p> 																																										
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<p>13</p> 	<p>14</p> <p>ABCDEFGHIJ KLMNOP QRSTUVWXYZ</p>	<p>15</p> 	<p>16</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">DECEMBER</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>1</th> <th>2</th> <th>25</th> <th>4</th> <th>5</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>7</td> <td>25</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>25</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>25</td> <td>15</td> <td>25</td> <td>17</td> <td>25</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>21</td> <td>25</td> <td>23</td> <td>25</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>25</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	DECEMBER								1	2	25	4	5		25	7	25	9	10	25	12	13	25	15	25	17	25	19	25	21	25	23	25	25	26	27	28	29	25	31		
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Answers will be in January's addition. Submit your answers to the Editor and a prize will be given to the first person that gets them all correct.



## DECEMBER 2023

## ST MATTHEW CALENDAR

SUN: Pick up 8am Take home after service	MON	TUES: Pick up 8am Take home: 3:30 pm	Wed: Catechism class held in Ute	THUR	FRI	SAT
<p><b>3 1st Sun.</b> in Advent services 9am Elder: Mark Witzel Reader: Mark Witzel Screens: Dennis Muckey Sun. Sch. &amp; Bible Cl a Services</p>	<b>4</b>	<p><b>5 Rev.</b> Nathan Peitsch in office 8:30am-3:30pm Uber:</p>	<p>6 Helping Hands 1 pm to 4 pm Catechism Class 4:30 PM 5-6 6 pm Catechism 7-8 Advent supper 5:30 pm (Outreach) Advent services 6:30pm Elder: Ryan Paulsen</p>	<b>7</b>	<b>8 Pas-tors Family Day</b>	<b>9</b>
<p><b>10 2nd Sun.</b> in Advent services 9a.m. w/HC Uber: Brian Brown Elder: Brian Brown Reader: Karen Kueny Screens: Dennis Muckey Sun. Sch. &amp; Bible Cl a Services</p>	<p><b>11</b> Cleaning at the church 9-11 am </p>	<p><b>12 Rev.</b> N. Peitsch in office 12N to 3:30 pm Winkle Conference Uber: Sue Kruse</p>	<p>13 Helping Hands 1 pm to 4 pm Catechism Class 4:30 PM 5-6 6 pm Catechism 7-8 Advent supper 5:30 pm (Elders) Advent services 6:30pm Elder: Mark Witzel</p>	<b>14</b>	<b>15 Pas-tors Family Day</b>	<b>16</b>
<p><b>17 3rd Sun.</b> in Advent services 9am Elder: Joe Hogan Reader: Joe Hogan Screens: Mark Witzel Sun. Sch. &amp; Bible Cl a Services</p>	<b>18</b>	<p><b>19 26Rev.</b> N. Peitsch in office 8:30 am to 3:30 pm Uber: Pick up: 8am Take home: 3:30 pm In the Word 10 am Uber for the Board of Elders 7 pm (Mark Witzel)</p>	<p>20 Helping Hands 1 pm to 4 pm Catechism Class 4:30 PM 5-6 6 pm Catechism 7-8 Advent supper 5:30 pm (Property) Advent services 6:30pm Elder: Brian Brown</p>	<b>21</b>	<b>22 Pas-tors Family Day</b>	<b>23</b>
<p><b>24 The Nativity of Our Lord</b> 9a.m. w/HC Uber: Mark Greiner Elder: Brian Brown Reader: Karen Kueny Screens: Dennis Muckey Sun. Sch. &amp; Bible Cl a Services <b>24 PM Service 6:30 pm</b> Elder: Ryan Paulsen Reader: Ryan Paulsen Screens: Dennis Muckey</p>	<p><b>25 Christmas Day 10 am service</b> At Ute. No Christmas Day Service here.</p>	<p><b>26 Rev.</b> N. Peitsch in office 8:30 am to 3:30 pm : Janeal Holmes Board of Directors 7pm Uber: Mark Witzel</p>	<p>27 Helping Hands 1 pm to 4 pm Catechism Class 4:30 PM 5-6 6 pm Catechism 7-8</p>	<b>28</b>	<b>29 Pas-tors Family Day</b>	<b>30</b>
<p><b>31 1st Sun.</b> a Christmas services 9am Elder: Mark Witzel Reader: Mark Witzel Screens: Joe Hogan Sun. Sch. &amp; Bible Cl a. Services</p>	<p>Pastor Peitsch at Ute with their children's Christmas Program at 6:30 pm.</p>					
<p>Church Office (712) 881-2243 Email: <a href="mailto:office@stmatthewmapleton.org">office@stmatthewmapleton.org</a> Rev. Nathan Peitsch, Vacancy Pastor Pastor's Cell: (515) 570-8078 Ryan Paulsen, Head Elder (712) 840-0125 Mark Witzel, President (760) 500-8902</p>						



*The prayer of a righteous man  
is powerful and effective."*



Members of St. Matthew with Special Needs and Concerns

Nazaria Kaderabek      Selma Schrader      Myrna Gosch      Fred Fletcher      Marlene Phillips  
Roberta Conyers      Deloris Boysen      Maxine Thies      Mark Greiner

Family / Friends of Members with Special Needs and Concerns

**Ron Kraffle** (friend of Marla & Joe Hogan); **Beth Weber**, (cousin of Dean and Ramona Weber); **Tammy Tollfuson**, in 3rd stage heart failure (relative to Dean and Ramona Weber); **Suzie Jacapello**, (sister of Nazaria Kaderabek); **Tim Sanderson** (friend of Dennis Muckey); **Kristin Webb** (Sarah Schmidt's best friend's sister) diagnosed with the rarest form of leukemia AML, she is only 39; Hiedi Zimmer; P.O. Box 272 Early, IA 50535 (Joan Chander's daughter); **Sandy Donovan**, (Nazaria Kaderabek's mother.) **Jerri Haindfield** (daughter of Marilyn & Duane Hamann); **Annie Greiner** (sister-in-law of Mark Greiner) **Doug Von Weihe** (uncle to Sarah Schmidt) **Clayton Kluver** (friend of Marla and Joe Hogan);

Military

**Ryan Trucke** serving with U.S. Air Force at FE Warren AFB in Wyoming son of Beth & Ed Trucke, Grandson of Kay and Richard Johnson)

**Jackie Cardwell** serving U.S. Airforce at 17728 Margo S. Omaha, NE 68136 (niece of Jeff & Karen Krusen)

**Marcus Roupe** serving in USA (nephew of Marilyn & Duane Military)

**Ryan Trucke** serving with U.S. Air Force at FE Warren AFB in Wyoming son of Beth & Ed Trucke, Grandson of Kay and Richard Johnson)

**Jackie Cardwell** serving U.S. Airforce at 17728 Margo S. Omaha, NE 68136 (niece of Jeff & Karen Krusen)

**Marcus Roupe** serving in USA (nephew of Marilyn & Duane Hamann)

*Please drop them a line or two, they love getting mail and they would love hearing from their church family.*

**Selma Schrader**

1 Sunrise Ave.  
Maple Heights Nursing Home  
Mapleton, IA 51034

**Nazaria Kaderabek**

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**Cecil, Fred Fletcher**

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Danbury, IA 51019

**Marlene Phillips**

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**Bonnie Banks**

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Mapleton, IA 51034

**Deloris Boysen**

Accura Skilled Care  
954 7th Ave South East  
Le Mars, IA 51031

**Delbert Kroll**

815 Ring Street  
Mapleton IA 51034

**George Koithan**

1 Sunrise Ave.  
Maple Heights Nursing Home  
Mapleton, IA 51034

**Myrna Gosch**

Pleasant View Care Center  
200 Shannon Dr. Rm #108  
Whiting, IA 51063

**Roberta Conyers**

306 S. 9th St  
Mapleton, IA 51034





St Matthew Lutheran Church  
504 Walnut Street  
Mapleton, IA 51034

In His Footsteps: The  
way to God is with  
faith in your heart take  
the path that He trod.  
The way of the cross

**LET'S STAY CONNECTED** OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO CONTINUE TO FILL UP WITH JESUS By READING AND LISTENING TO THE BIBLE **Mission Central...** [www.missioncentral.us](http://www.missioncentral.us) **Lutheran Family Service:** [www.lfsiowa.org](http://www.lfsiowa.org) **WEB SITES:** [Iowa District West—www.idwlcms.org](http://www.idwlcms.org) [Camp Okoboji – www.campokoboji.org](http://www.campokoboji.org) **“THY STRONG WORD”** is a daily devotion airing at 6:25 am Monday through Saturday on KDSN (104.9 FM) **“THE LUTHERAN HOUR”** can be heard every Sunday on radio station—KDSN-FM (104.9) at 6:30 am and 1530 at 10:30 am. It is available 24 hours a day on the internet in Real Audio. Visit [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org) and click on the Lutheran Hour on the left side of the page **“THE GOOD SHEPHEARD HOUR** airs on the following stations every Sunday: 8 am Fort Dodge-KVFD 1400 AM; 8 am Sioux City—KSCJ 1360 AM; 10:30 am Storm Lake—KAYL 101.5 FM **Lutheran Family Services:** [www.lofsiowa.org](http://www.lofsiowa.org) **MainStreet Living**— is a Television Program that is endorsed by the Iowa West District of the LCMS This program is broadcast on KCAU, the ABC network affiliate in Sioux City on Sunday morning, starting at 10:00 AM. The first 30 minutes are remastered episode of “This is the Life” The second half of the program is a modified Lutheran worship service that features a different Pastor each week, from the area.



Dear Lord, let me be a faithful servant who strives to do Your will, and as I do, let me find contentment and balance. Let me live in the light of Your priorities for my life, and when I have done my best, Lord, give me the wisdom to place my faith and my trust in You. Amen. ✝