



From the Pastor's Desk...

"Epiphany reveals two truths. The first is that God really means business when that all are welcome. God is all about a manger scene that's full of unlikely unsuspecting worlds colliding and becoming the community of God. The God brings outsiders in, Herod stands in like a placeholder for all of us, become tight-fisted, selfish, and hostile when our privilege or status is

Boundaries Rearranged, Gospel Message for Epiphany

Epiphany is one of my favorite seasons of the church year. Several years was in Mexico and observed that Epiphany was central to the culture and Plazas, buildings, homes, mercados and churches were decorated as if it were still Christmas. Poinsettias bloomed brightly and were everywhere.

The excitement was infectious as seminary students struggled with their Spanish to connect with their host families to learn more about *Día de Reyes* or *King's Day*. The unlikely teachers were our host families who were very poor, but that didn't stop them from sharing with us all that was theirs to give. They were living out God's truth that all are welcome to build the community of God.

I like to think that as St. Matthew's, we offer that same kind of hospitality to those crossing our threshold, regardless of the occasion, or who the guest might be. Welcoming others into the community of God calls for us to put aside our prejudices, precepts, even our "entitlement" as those already part of the community. Welcoming others means to put aside catching up or sitting with our friends, to sit by and help the newcomer through the service and taking time to introduce them to others in our family of faith. Gracious hospitality doesn't look for something in return but continues to offer freely the love of the kingdom. This is quite the opposite of what we encounter in this dog eat dog world we live in. Our push back to Herod's world is to live in love and kindness, to look critically at ourselves and where we can do better.

Against all odds, Christ still came into the world. Three foreigners followed a star to Bethlehem and were welcomed into a place that wasn't even the home of the hosts! The Magi brought precious gifts only the privileged could bring. I imagine that Jesus' young parents were astounded when they arrived but still welcomed them into their humble surroundings.

As we enter into the time of Epiphany, let us remember to always extend to others a warm welcome into the community of God. Our hospitality is to be enveloped in the love of Christ, offering to those hungry for the spiritual food we've already been blessed with as the children of God.

Shalom,

Pastor Christine



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Letter from the Council President:



"We are called to proclaim God's grace by sharing the story of Jesus to bring light, hope and healing to the world."

January 2019 - A letter to the congregation of St. Matthews

St. Matthews Church Council met on Tuesday December 11th. The Council Meeting Agenda and meeting minutes are posted on the board in the Hallway. Please contact any council member if you have any questions. Your church council is working on goals for 2019 including reviewing and updating church policies. A task force has also been set up to update our church constitution to align with changes made to the Synod constitution. We will also be updating our Bylaws to incorporate the changes we have made with redevelopment.

As mentioned at our November Congregation meeting, we are unsure about funding for Redevelopment in 2019. Changes are being made at churchwide for congregations under redevelopment and we are waiting to hear what is decided. Our Director of Evangelical Mission (DEM) for the Rocky Mountain Synod, Matt Barnhouse, is actively pursuing our request to continue funding to support our redevelopment initiatives. Our contract currently ends after January 2019.

Also mentioned at our November meeting was the great news that our mortgage on the building will be paid off in August 2019. *Yeah!* This is so exciting! We have been truly blessed at St. Matthews with a beautiful building and dedicated congregation that supports our ministries.

A big special thank you to Stacy Frandsen who has been publishing the St. Matthews newsletter for more years than I can remember! We really appreciate all the work she has done to get our newsletter out every month. Amanda Ventura has agreed to pick up this responsibility moving forward. Thanks Amanda! If you know of anyone who is not receiving the newsletter please let Amanda know so she can add their name to the distribution list.

God is surely working through the people of St. Matthews! God's Work, Our Hands!

Happy New Year!

Peace,
We are Christ Church, Better Together!

Mary Kay Arnold

"The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever." Psalm 121:8

St. Matthew's Information:

- **Announcements** – if you have an announcement that isn't listed on the insert, please refer to the volunteer sign-up sheet to notify the correct contact for the week. If you would like Amanda Ventura to include in the bulletin please email office@stmatthewsut.org or put it in her box.
- **Fellowship Hour** – we would like to encourage anyone able to help, please sign up on the sign-up sheet. Your help and donation is much appreciated. Please contact Mary Kay Arnold on council to sign up.
- **Our Food Pantry** – is located in the Narthex. If you or anyone you know is in need of food items, please take items from our food pantry. Food donations are always appreciated to help others in times of need.
- **Recycling Bin** – we are in danger of losing our paper recycling bin. Please support by bringing your newspaper, card board, magazines, junk mail, and other "clean" paper.

Opportunities to Serve:

- **Altar Guild** – contact Mary Wimmer for the next training date and to be added to the schedule.
- **Choir or Special Music** – the choir sings several times a year and practices for 20-30 minutes following worship most Sundays. For more information contact Leandra Ludlam.
- **Counters** – contact Karla Stoker to be trained and added to the schedule.
- **Facilities & Grounds** – upkeep of the facilities requires many hands & a variety of talents. Contact Mike Stoker.
- **Faith Formation** – Sunday School Teachers needed for the upcoming year. We use the Spark Lectionary Series. Contact Samantha Johnson for more information.
- **Fellowship** – get together with a few others and sign-up to provide a simple meal or treats on Sunday morning following worship. Sign-up sheet is located in the Narthex area.
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry** – do you knit or crochet. Contact Henny Johnson for more information.
- **Outreach Ministry** – needs help with the Food Pantry, meals for Family Promise, special collections for organizations that St. Matthew's supports. Contact Jenny Cox.
- **Worship Ministry** – Worship Assistants, Lectors, Ushers, Greeters, Cantors, Acolytes – contact Mary Kay Arnold to be trained and then added to the schedule.



January Newsletter Articles:

- **Address Change Request Forms** – *Have you moved? Has your email changed? Have you eliminated your land line and now just use a cell phone? Is your information listed incorrectly in the church directory?* If you answered yes to any of these questions, please fill out an “Address Change Request Form” found in the Narthex’s Welcome Center. Please give completed forms to anyone on the Communications Ministry Team: Brian Schuster, Mike Stoker, or Amanda Ventura.



- **Hospitality Ministry** – The 2019 list for hosting St Matthew’s Hospitality Hour (previously known as Fellowship) is located on the bulletin board in the narthex as you enter church. If you would like to sign up please check with Mike Stoker or Pastor Christine to check for available dates.

Everyone appreciates the time we get together every Sunday following church and it is a great way to get to know each other and visitors a bit better. Moving forward you will receive a reminder card a week before the date you agreed to host the hospitality hour. Put together a team or a family. If you have several helpers, clean up takes just a few minutes. If you need ideas for something to bring, reach out to Mike Stoker and he can help with ideas. Remember to use the reusable dishes and silverware to help keep as much as possible out of the landfill and do our part to honor God’s creation.

- **Save those Coupons!** – These are collected and given to schools in our area who are in need. Please put all box tops and other coupons for education in the envelope on the sign-up bulletin board in the Narthex.



- **Spread the Word** – Check into Facebook every time you are here at St. Matthew’s. Tell folks what you are doing, post pictures, and tag your friends. Do you have an Instagram account? If so, take pictures to show your friends and family where you are and what you are doing at St. Matthew’s.

- **St. Matthew's Epiphany Annual Party** - On Sunday, January 6th, the Faith Formation Ministry will be hosting a special hospitality hour. Join us for some great fun and learn more about Epiphany and how different cultures celebrate this important day! Watch for ways that you can help later in December.



- **Communication's Help Desk** - will be held on January 13th following service. Bring your tablets, smart phones, and questions. Please join your fellow congregational family in helping to save the environment one bulletin at a time.

- **Taize Vespers** - is a meditative, music-filled, evening liturgy with songs from Taize, scripture reading, and time for silence and prayer. All are welcome. It will be held on Sunday, January 13th at 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm at All Saints Episcopal Church. Located at 1710 S. Foothill Drive.



- **Utah Conference Bunco Party** - Children, youth, and adults are invited to join in our next UT Conference Event on Sunday, January 27, 2019 for a rousing game of Bunco! If you can roll dice, you can master this game. Playing is good for the soul, so come out and have some fun and laughs. We'll gather at Zion Lutheran in Salt Lake City (1070 Foothill Dr.) from 2-4 p.m. Snacks will be served. Bragging rights will go to the four people who end up at the top table. Carpooling will be available for those needing transportation. See anyone on the Hospitality Team to sign up if you can drive or need a ride.

- **Faith & Poverty Day at the Capital** - will be held on Thursday, January 31st from 10:00 am - noon. Join Pastor Christine and CORC (Collation of Religious Communities) in talking with our state representatives about issues that impact the most vulnerable in our communities: housing, taxation on food, health care, childhood homelessness and more. As Christians we understand God's word, *"As I have loved you, love one another."* ^{John 13:34} As Lutherans we understand speaking for the marginalized is our civic duty. *"As a public church, we have a responsibility to address issues that affect our neighbors in communities throughout the world."* ELCA's Being Public Church Bishop Jim Gonia will be one of the highlighted speakers. Let Pastor Christine know if you are interested by January 27th.



Outreach Ministry:



- **Souper Bowl of Caring** - Will Kick-Off on Sunday, January 6th! We will be + collecting food for the Crossroads Urban Center Food Pantry. We will also be collecting money for the ELCA World Hunger. Bins will be located in the Narthex and marked as NFC and AFC Division for non-perishable food items. Support your team by donating!

- **Warm Clothing Drive** - Gloves, hats, scarves, socks, coats, sweaters, sweatshirts, blankets are being collected between November - February. Donations will benefit VOA Youth Center, the Downtown Rescue Mission, and the Crossroads Urban Center. Please leave your donations in the bin located in the church narthex. Thank you for your generosity.



- **Dream Academy 2019** - Thank you for all of the donations and help with the Dream Academy! It was a blast.



January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		New Year's Day 1	Pastor Vacation 2 Bible Study & Bulletin Prep 10a	3	Pastor Off 4	5
SS/Ad Forum 9a 6 Worship 10a and Epiphany Party 11a Super Bowl of Caring Kick Off	7 Prayer Shawl Min 2p Office Hrs. 3-8:30p	8 Council & Min Reports Due by end of day Worship & Music Min 7p	9 Bible Study & Bulletin Prep 10a Const. Update 6:30p	10 Redevelopment 7p	Pastor Off 11	12 Caring Ministry 9:30a
13 SS & Ad Forum 9a Worship 10a Comm Help Desk after Worship	14 Office Hrs. 3-8:30p Outreach 6:30p	15 Breakfast Club 9a Council 7p	16 Bible Study & Bulletin Prep 10a Hospitality 7p	17 Const. Update 6:30p	Pastor Off 18	19
20 Newsletter Art Due SS & Ad Forum 9a Worship 10a	21 ML King BD Office Closed Communications 7p	22 Stewardship 7p	23 Bible Study & Bulletin Prep 10a Facilities 4:30p Faith Formation 7p	24 Redevelopment 7p	Pastor Off 25	26 SAS Co-Hort Zoom Meeting 9:30a-10:30a
27 SS & Ad Forum 9a Worship 10a Conf Bunco Party @ Zion LC 2-4p	28 Office Hrs. 3-8:30p	29 Breakfast Club 9a	30 Bible Study & Bulletin Prep 10a Const. Update 6:30p	31 Faith & Poverty Day at the Capitol 10a-12p		

**ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH ACTIVITIES -
MINISTRIES-EVENTS**



We are called to proclaim God's grace by sharing the story of Jesus to bring light, hope and healing to the world.
St. Matthew's Mission

Schedule is subject to change, check weekly bulletins.
Choir after worship check bulletin for dates.

January 2019

10:00 AM	Worship Assistant	Cantor	Lector	Acolyte	Children's Message	Greeter	Usher
6-Jan	Mary Kay Arnold	Leandra Ludlam	Eric Stoker	Paxton Solum	Mary Kay Arnold	Mary Wimmer	Erich T. & Frank C.
	Counters: Cindy & Jacki	Sign:	Cleaning:	Coffee Hour:		Altar Guild: Mary W.	Announcements: Marvin May
13-Jan	Leandra Ludlam	Harmony Thaumert	Rachel Petzold	Jack Ballard	Alex Hilse	Mary Kay Arnold	Brian & Ronda Schuster
	Counters: Kathy & Debbie	Sign:	Cleaning:	Coffee Hour:		Altar Guild: Mary W.	Announcements: Marvin May
20-Jan	Sam Johnson	Morgan Ballard	Pam Lawrence	Rylan Solum	Pam Lawrence	Craig & Sandi Widdowson	Debbie & Amanda Ventura
	Counters: Kelli & Ronda	Sign:	Cleaning:	Coffee Hour:		Altar Guild: Mary W.	Announcements: Marvin May
27-Jan	Mary Kay Arnold	Alex Hilse	Harlan Bengtson	Cash Ballard	Leandra Ludlam	Brian & Ronda Schuster	Cindy B. & Jacki P.
	Counters: Mary B & Mary W	Sign:	Cleaning:	Coffee Hour:		Altar Guild: Mary W.	Announcements: Marvin May

If you are unable to serve as scheduled, please switch with someone or find someone to take your place.
Thanks, Mary Kay Arnold 801-232-7564

January Birthday Wishes:

- Bobbi Salas January 4
- Josh Arnold January 5
- Harmony Thaemert January 9
- Nhung Ta January 15
- Dylan May January 16
- Neleh Thaemert January 16
- Scott Frandsen January 19
- Craig Widdowson January 19
- Cayson Lawrence January 25
- Les Petzold January 27
- Pat Erickson January 28
- Curtis Peercy January 31



Prayer Chain:

For Healing in Mind, Body, or Spirit:

Mavis Agar, Kaylee Brady, Robert Dewey, MacKienze Erickson, Richard Griffin, Gloria Hokr, Amanda Johnson, Elmae Johnson, Millie Lorbeck, Jennifer Peterson & Family, Tiffany Pettigrew, Kerrigan Taylor Petzold, Lorraine Ponzurick, Martin Powers, Diana Rasmusman, Jessica Ross, Pastor John & Jackie Sandstrom, Shy & Layne Schaugaard, Kathie Smith, and Josh & Cami Williams.

Our Homebound:

Phyllis Anderson, Rosecella Beck, Vern DeGrey, Robin and Doug Ericksen, Margaret Galgerud, Dean and Sally Marty, Lynn Milsap, and Les Petzold.

Those Who Mourn:

The family and friends of Phyllis Anderson upon her death. (Mother of Linda MacDonald, Grandmother of Elizabeth Hawke). The friends and family of Robert Dewey, father of Paul Dewey.

Military & Other Public Servants:

1st Lt. Wiliam Clausen, US Army; Austin (Hess) Lassih, US Navy; Andrew Nguyen, US Air Force, & Cadet Evan Schomaker, US Army.

The Community & World:

Our prayer partner congregation, Mt. Tabor; schools; all victims of violence and/or warfare; those who have lost homes and business in the fires and those recovering from addictions.

