

Sermon Notes

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 18 & 19, 2021



Greetings Friends,

I'm thinking back to our cantata a couple of weeks ago and one song in particular. You know, Christmas songs are joyful and upbeat and full of good thoughts and good feelings. And in a way, they are almost too nice. We had a cantata song called "Somewhere in Your Silent Night." Some of the words were:

*All is calm and all is bright everywhere but in your heart tonight.
They're singing carols of joy and peace,
But you feel too far gone and out of reach.*

Those are not the thoughts we generally associate with Christmas. They are a far cry from "Joy to the World" and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing." And yet they are so fitting to the message of Christmas. And to the song Mary is singing in our Gospel reading.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Bill Hugo

WORSHIP NOTES: In this, the fourth weekend in Advent, we concentrate on Mary's song of praise, The Magnificat, as well as the candle theme of peace. Both choral offerings at the 10:00 a.m. service will reflect these thoughts. Our thanks to the choirs, the music team (10:00), and all worship assistants for their leadership throughout the weekend. To God be the glory!

Prayers for the Week of December 19

GIVING TO THE LORD

Weekly Worship Attendance: 164
December Tithes & Offerings to date: \$10,018
December Budgeted Offerings: \$28,885

Bill Hugo, Pastor † Carol Blase, Coordinator of Music
Brenda Hugo, Coordinator of Children's Ministries † Faustina Allen, Director of Teen Ministries
Kathy Rosenberg, Parish Nurse † Sarai Kretschman, Pastoral Care Assistant † Martin Cornes, Pastor
Julie Allen, Office Manager † Julie Sventek, Director - DCLC - 763-789-4030

4101 Washington Street NE † Columbia Heights, MN 55421 †
www.stmatthew-ch.org † 763-788-9427

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Tuesday, December 21

7:30 AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY ONLINE

Wednesday, December 22

5:00 PM ADVENT SERVICE
6:00 PM BROWN BAG SUPPER & BIBLE STUDY
6:15 PM CHILDREN'S CHOIR
7:00 PM CANDLELIGHT REHEARSAL
7:00 PM TEEN MINISTRY

Thursday, December 23

9:30 PM WOMEN'S GROUP
6:30 PM YOUTH/ADULT CHOIR

Friday, December 24

4:30 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
11:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Saturday, December 25

10:00 AM CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
(NO 5:30 PM WORSHIP SERVICE)

Sunday, December 26

8:30 AM ADULT BIBLE CLASS *live and on ZOOM*
9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL—CHILDREN/YOUTH
10:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE (*online and in-person*)

TAKE HOME DETAILS AVAILABLE IN NARTHEX

Pick one up today!

Children's Ministries: (contact: brenda.hugo@stmatthew-ch.org)

Advent Calendar Available! On the 'Welcome Table' are copies of an Advent Reading (and Coloring) Calendar. Feel free to pick up a copy for you and/or family members.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES during the upcoming weekend will include great choral and instrumental music. The schedule is:

- Christmas Eve, Friday, Dec. 24 – 4:30 p.m. – Pastor Hugo preaching on the theme “Christmas and the Real World”; Cantata Choir presenting “Adore”.
- Christmas Eve, Friday, Dec. 24 – 11:00 p.m. – Pastor Hugo preaching on the theme “A Beautiful Mess”; Candlelight Choir and instrumentalists presenting new settings of Christmas favorites.
- Christmas Day, Saturday, Dec. 25 – 10:00 a.m. – Pastor Hugo preaching on the theme “Can You See Jesus”; Cantata and Children's Choirs presenting “He Shall Reign Forevermore”; instrumental quartet leading joyous hymns; *no evening service.*
- Sunday, Dec. 26 – 10:00 a.m. – Regular Sunday worship with Pastor Hugo preaching, and we continue singing carols of the season. *We return to regular weekend worship on Jan. 1 (5:30 p.m.) and Jan. 2 (10:00 a.m.)*

Golden Keys Do you see any children wearing golden keys Sunday morning? They made it out of the 'Nativity Escape Room' during the Sunday school period!

Child. Ministry Dates:

Sun., Dec. 26 and Jan. 2 at 9:00A.M. – Holiday movie days for Sunday school

Wed., Jan. 5 – Set 2 of Confirmation, Hand in Hand, Children's choirs, gym, etc., resumes.

“The Chosen” Season 2 episodes will be shown & discussed in the Fellowship Hall on Saturdays at 1:00, beginning Jan. 8. Please sign up if you plan to attend, for weather postponement notification purposes. Additional info is on the sign-up board and in the upcoming January Newscene.

