

# First Sunday of Advent

## Holy Communion

9:00 a.m., December 1, 2024



### Welcome to worship this morning!

We are glad you're here! Please know that **children** are welcome to remain in worship; they are also welcome to take a break in our "Kid's Korner" in the Gathering Space where the service audio is played through speakers. **Bathrooms** are located down the hall, past the church office. **Hymns** are printed in the red book (ELW) available in the pew rack.

We practice **open communion** at St. Matthew, meaning all who desire the sacrament of Holy Communion are welcome. If you prefer, you may also come forward for a blessing. During the distribution of Holy Communion, ushers will direct the congregation forward to receive communion in a **continuous line**. The pastor will distribute communion wafers, which you may intinct (dip) into red wine, or white grape juice, held by communion assistants. Please do not drink from the chalices. Gluten free wafers are also available. The pastor will deliver the sacrament to anyone unable to come forward. You may also use a pre-filled communion kit, available at the usher's table.

All are welcome!

**PRELUDE: *Wachet auf!***

**by J.S. Bach, arr. Lynne Latham**

## WELCOME

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
alive in the world,  
reviving creation,  
arriving soon.

**Amen.**

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and our neighbor. I invite you into a prayerful posture of kneeling, standing, or sitting.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of all time,

**We confess that we have not prepared the way for your merciful reign among us. We trust only earthly powers and human authority. We grow fearful and we cling to false comforts. We have ignored our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of peace, justice and goodwill on earth. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says our God.

In Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. †  
Rejoice, Rejoice Emmanuel shall come to you! Hear this Good News.  
**Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN: *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers***

**ELW 244**

### **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

# LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Ryan

Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for  
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the  
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your  
church gath - ered to - day.

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## FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

*In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The Lord is our righteousness”—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.*

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>14</sup> The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10**

We will now read responsively from the Book of Psalms:

<sup>1</sup> To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup> **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup> Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup> **Show me your ways, O Lord,  
and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup> **Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup> Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness,  
O Lord.

<sup>8</sup> **You are gracious and upright, O Lord;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

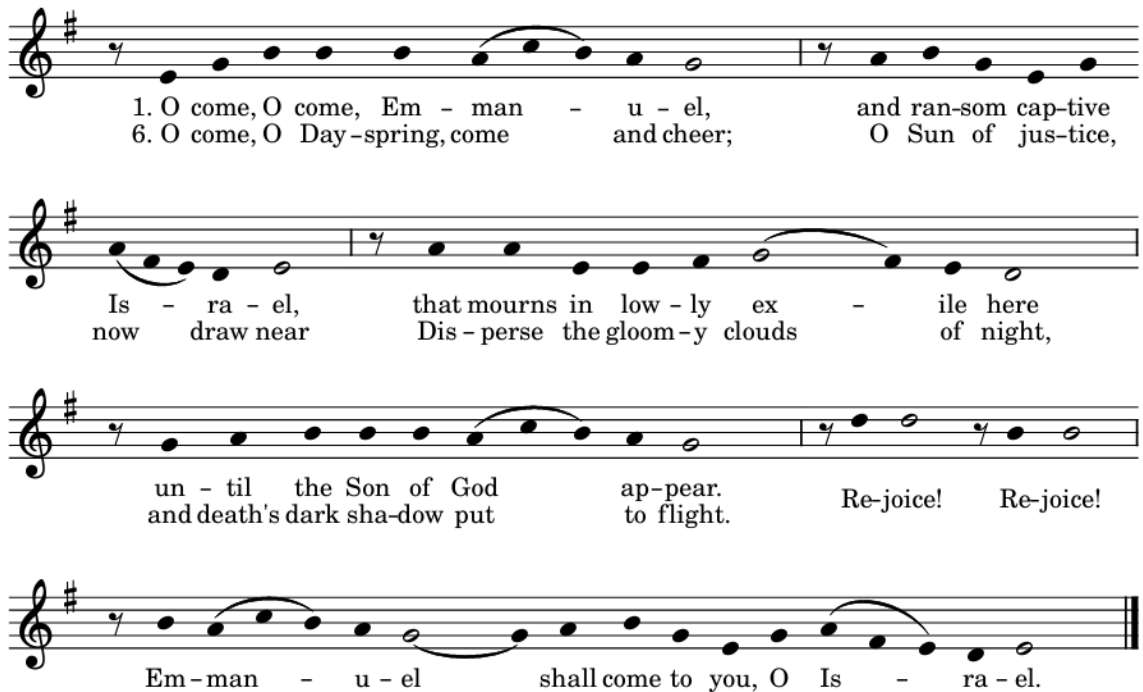
<sup>9</sup> You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup> **All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive  
6. O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer; O Sun of jus-tice,

Is - ra - el, that mourns in low - ly ex - ile here  
now draw near Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,

un - til the Son of God ap-pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
and death's dark sha-dow put to flight.

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

## HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

*God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup> "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

<sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON:

Pastor Brian

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Canticle of the Turning*

ELW 723

#### APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. We pray for all animals of the earth. This Thanksgiving weekend we pray especially for turkeys and all animals which are part of the human diet. Guide us to raise and butcher responsibly; teach us to respect the dignity of their lives and to not inflict needless suffering. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another, especially we ask your blessing on our healing prayer ministry. Fill our healing prayer ministers with your Spirit and bless all for whom they pray. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died. Especially this day we remember Danton Tuve, Richard Krompegal, and Debroah Cromack. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## OFFERING

*At this time, ushers will pass the offering plate if you desire to give a financial gift. Donations may also be given online at [stmatthewavon.org/give](http://stmatthewavon.org/give), using the QR code in this bulletin, or mailed directly to the church. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithfulness!*

## OFFERTORY: *Advent Sonatas*

by Dietrich Buxtehude

## PRESENTATION HYMN

*All rise as the gifts are brought forward.*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

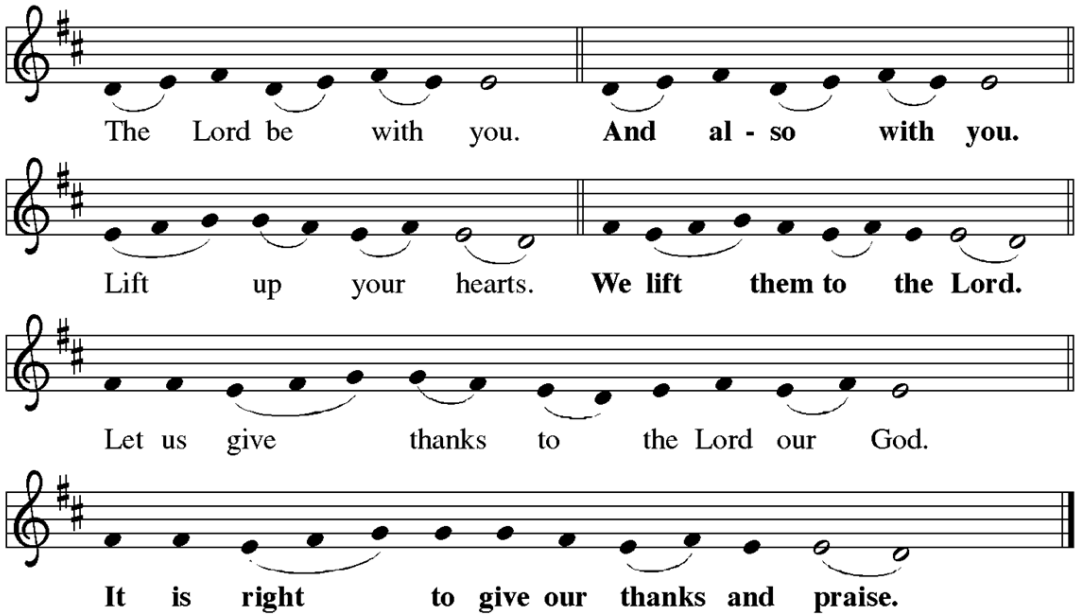
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.



## OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God,  
you made the whole world,  
even the farthest stars,  
and you draw near to feed us.  
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.  
Strengthen us with this food  
that we may live in expectation  
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## HOLY COMMUNION



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first measure. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS

ELW Setting 3



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*At this time, ushers will direct the congregation to form two lines. You will receive a communion wafer from a pastor, which you are invited to intinct (dip) into the red wine or white grape juice held by the communion assistants. Please do not drink from the chalices. You may also use a pre-filled communion kit in your seat or indicate to an usher to have a pastor deliver the sacrament to your seat.*

The table is prepared for us. Christ is near.

## HEALING PRAYER

*During the distribution of Holy Communion, healing prayer ministers will be available to pray with you. After you receive Holy Communion, you are invited to approach a healing prayer station where you can share a prayer request for which they will pray.*

## THE DISTRIBUTION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

## AGNUS DEI

ELW Setting 3

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMN: *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*

ELW 436

### BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, for whom we wait,  
you have fed us with the bread of eternal life:  
keep us ever watchful,  
that we may be ready to stand with the Son of man,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

God of endings and beginnings,  
God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey,  
✠ bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Entrance of the Queen of Sheba*

by G.F. Handel, arr. Lynne Latham

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Special thanks to our guest violinist, Linda Beers.

Today's Altar Flowers are provided by George Spoering in memory of loved ones.

Altar Flowers have also been provided by the Tuve family in loving memory of Dan.

MANY THANKS FOR TODAY'S VOLUNTEER WORSHIP LEADERS

Altar Guild: Deb Brodeur & Lynn Metz

Assisting Minister: Roy Zurell

Ushers: Kevin Reichler

Coffee Hour: Anne Fenn

Acolyte

Lector: Anne Fenn

Live Stream: Ben Wright

Violinist: Linda Beers

STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Rajcok – [pastorbrian@stmatthewavon.org](mailto:pastorbrian@stmatthewavon.org)

Associate Pastor: The Rev. Ryan Heckman – [revryan@stmatthewavon.org](mailto:revryan@stmatthewavon.org)

Director of Music: Sarah Schiener-Redenz – [music@stmatthewavon.org](mailto:music@stmatthewavon.org)

Office Administrator: Paul Martin – [office@stmatthewavon.org](mailto:office@stmatthewavon.org) or (860) 673-3301

Sexton: Roy Zurell – contact the office

VISIT US ONLINE

Website: [www.stmatthewavon.org](http://www.stmatthewavon.org)

Facebook: [Facebook.com/SaintMatthewLutheranChurch](https://www.facebook.com/SaintMatthewLutheranChurch)

YouTube: @StMatthewAvon

Instagram: @stmatthewlutheranavon

## THE WEEK AHEAD

<b>Sunday</b>	9am: Sanctuary Worship w/ Holy Communion		
<b>Tuesday</b>	10am: A.A. (Open to All)		
<b>Wednesday</b>	9:30am & 5:15pm: W.W	7pm: O.A.	7pm: Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thursday</b>	10am: Bible Study		2pm: Centering Prayer
<b>Sunday</b>	9am: Sanctuary Worship w/ Holy Communion	10:20am: Homebound Christmas Card Event	

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### POINSETTIA SEASON!

Get into the festive spirit and help us adorn our Christmas Eve services with the beauty of poinsettias! Starting today, we are opening sign-ups for those interested in purchasing these lovely plants for \$21.50 each. Your contributions will enhance the holiday ambiance. Don't miss this chance to participate in our holiday traditions; the sign-up deadline is December 8th, so secure your poinsettias and let the Christmas spirit bloom!

You may sign-up by using the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space, or emailing the office. Please try to write your dedications as clearly as possible, so they can easily be typed into the bulletin. The checks can be made out to St. Matthew Lutheran Church with "Poinsettia" written in the memo line.

### WORSHIP WITH TRINITY EPISCOPAL

Pastor Brian will be preaching and presiding at a worship service with our friends at Trinity Episcopal in Collinsville on Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. There will be a pizza dinner to follow. We hope you'll join us for this Saturday evening Advent worship service.

### SMLC WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

**Tuesday, Dec. 17 from 1-3 pm**

On Nov. 12th around 17 women gathered for the third women's fellowship. There is always food, candlelight, socializing, praying, and this time we were treated to a demonstration by Robin Pietrick - as she showed us how to create a really cool Thanksgiving centerpiece.

Our next gathering on Tuesday, December 17th (1-3pm), will be a totally fun Christmas party! Those who enjoy baking Christmas cookies will bring some to share, we'll listen to Christmas music, maybe sing a few carols, and play a few Christmas games. This promises to be a really fun time! We would love to see many SMLC women at this next event! If you have any questions, reach out to Anne Fenn at [journeywriting8@gmail.com](mailto:journeywriting8@gmail.com).

### **CONFIRMATION CAROLING 5pm on Dec. 15** **(before the Youth Christmas party!)**

Confirmation students will be caroling at the homes of members who can no longer drive to church! Confirmands will meet at St. Matthew at 5:00pm – we'll go to 5 or 6 homes and then come back to the church for the Youth Christmas Party.

### **YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY | Sunday, Dec. 15**

The High School Youth Group is planning a Youth Christmas party for the evening of Sunday December 15. All High Schoolers and Confirmation students are invited! The party will begin at 6:30pm and will conclude around 8pm. There will be pizza, soda and other snacks available, so come hungry! Activities will include:

- Gathering Space Christmas Tree Decorating
- Christmas Cookies
- Screening of the movie The Santa Clause
- Yankee Swap

### **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

**Sunday, December 22 during worship at 9am**

The Children's Christmas Pageant will take place during 9AM worship on Sunday December 22! Our rehearsal for the pageant will be on Sunday December 15 during the regular Sunday School time (10:20-11:30am). We hope your Sunday Schooler is able to be a part of this dress-up experience of the Nativity Story of Jesus Christ!

### **ST. MATTHEW RIDE ASSISTANCE**

We are developing a list of members who are willing to drive other members to church. If you would be willing to drive someone, please write your name on the bulletin board, including your phone number and address or general location so that those in need of a ride can connect with someone close by.