



THE VOICE

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, AVON, CT Dec. 2011

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 tion
 St. Matthew Lutheran Church
 224 Lovely Street
 Avon, CT 06001-4018
 (860) 673-3301
 Website: www.stmatthewavon.org
 Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m.
 and 11:00 a.m.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

December 7, 14, 21 - Advent Morn-
ing Prayer 9:00 a.m.

December 10, Advent Retreat
9:00a.m. - Noon

December 11 - Advent Cantata,
8:30a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

December 24 - 5:30 Family Christ-
mas Celebration, 7:30 Candlelight
Christmas Vespers, 10:30 Candles,
Carols and Holy Communion

December 25 - 10:00 a.m. Christ-
mas Eucharist

LOOKING AHEAD:

January 21- Chili Cook-Off

January 22 - Noon, Annual Meet-
ing

A LETTER FROM PASTOR

W.H. Auden is one of my favorite poets. He wrote a Christmas Oratorio in memory of his Mother, who died in 1941. It is called "For the Time Being." It begins with a dark Advent passage and ends, after Christmas, back at the office, so to speak, with a Chorus about this Christ of ours. In between are 59 pages with words to and from and about all the characters we expect...Mary, Joseph, Herod, the Shepherds, the Angels, the Star of the Nativity, the Wise Men, Simeon, Anna, and even a Narrator. (We'll look at Joseph's Temptation in our Advent Retreat).

Here is just a taste...first the dark Advent foreboding of winter:

Darkness and snow descend;

The clock on the mantelpiece

Has nothing to recommend,

Nor does the face in the glass

Appear nobler than our own

As darkness and snow descend

on all personality.

And the closing Chorus about our Christ:

He is the Way.

Follow Him through the Land of Unlikeness;

You will see rare beasts, and have unique adventures.

He is the Truth.

Seek Him in the Kingdom of Anxiety;

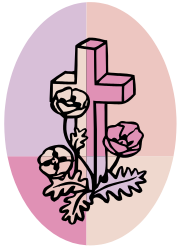
You will come to a great city that has expected your return for years.

He is the Life.

Love Him in the World of Flesh;

And at your marriage all its occasions shall dance for joy.

Pastor William Carter



Thank You...

On behalf of the Jensen and Steinberg families, we want to thank the Pastors and people of St. Matthew for your support on the passing of our father, Kristian Jensen Jr. The prayers, cards, kind words and thoughts have all been very much appreciated. This is yet another example of what a wonderful church family we have.

Sincerely,
Debbie & Kristian

Noon Readers

On Tuesday, December 6 we will meet at Judy Haag's home to review *The Christmas Blessing* and *The Christmas Hope*, by Donna Van Liere. Bring a sandwich and join us! All are welcome.



Evening Readers

We will meet on Tuesday, December 13 at Deb Steinberg's home at 6:30p.m. Bring a dessert, appetizer or veggie dish and a wrapped book to swap. We will discuss *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* by Barbara Robinson. All are welcome

St. Matthew Sanctus Singers

Advent Cantata

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

(Come, Thou of Man the Saviour)

By J.S. Bach

December 11, 2011

8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Michelle Davis, flute

Fred Fenn, bassoon



The following members joined our church family on November 11. Please add their names to your church directory.

Rick & Wendy McLaughlin

Elizabeth

88 Beverly Dr., Avon, CT 06001

860-318-5771

John & Susan Rossignol

Adele, Evan

9 Gregory Lane, Simsbury, CT 06070

860-651-5813

Steve & Debbie Stickel

Paige, Casey

27 Silverbrook Lane, North Granby, CT 06060

860-653-1276

Save the date!

The 5th Annual Chili Cook-off is scheduled for Saturday, January 21, 2012 and there will be 2 new categories: vegetarian chili and macaroni and cheese!

Prizes will be awarded for: sweetest chili, spiciest chili, most unusual chili, best vegetarian chili, best overall chili, best macaroni and cheese, best cornbread and best dessert.

We will play games after prizes are awarded, so please plan to bring a favorite to play with others that evening.

Sign-up sheets will be up by the first of the year. Watch for further details!

Advent is and means Coming...

Advent continues on December 4, 11, and 18

Watch the lighting of the Advent Wreath at worship

Advent Morning Prayer, each Wednesday in Advent at 9:00 a.m.

December 7th with Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (d. 397)

December 14th with St. John of the Cross (d 1591)

December 21st with Joseph himself, the carpenter

A brief, quiet, spoken service of Morning Prayer in the Celtic Tradition, listening and praying, watching and waiting for the coming of the Savior of the world.

Advent Retreat "What are you Waiting For?"

Saturday, December 10th, 9:00a.m. until noon

Gather with Pastor Carter to find some of the answers to that Advent question, as we all pray and watch and wait...quiet worship, time alone, and the conversations rooted in W.H. Auden and Joseph...as we watch and wait.

Advent Cantata with the St. Matthew Sanctus Singers

Sunday, December 11th at 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. "Come, Thou of Man the Saviour"

Bach's Cantata 61 is composed for Advent in 1714 in the Weimar Court Chapel.

Christmas Eve

5:30 Family Christmas Celebration

7:30 Candlelight Christmas Vespers

10:30 Candles, Carols and Holy Communion

Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Christmas Eucharist



MOUSE

What a busy month it has been here at St. Matthew! With so many festivities and opportunities for fellowship, the church has been full of hustle and bustle despite that pesky storm...In the face of the chilly days and dark nights at the beginning of the month, it was a joy to see so many people come out for the NYC bus trip. It seems that every week there are more and more children in the back corridor for Sunday School...what a wonderful job our Sunday School Teachers are doing to mold and direct our youth...A special welcome goes out to the new families who have joined us here at St. Matthew, the Rossignol family, the Stickel Family and the McLaughlin family and to Joseph Amara who joined us as a newly baptized brother in Christ. Welcome to this place that we all call home. Gayle Murphy has been running so hard it makes me tired to watch her. Her amazing efforts with the photo directory are paying off, though I wish there was an animal section...The Fellowship Committee threw a wonderful Fall Festival with lots of yummy food and wonderful conversation, good times were had by all...Pastor Hille even introduced a new game called "cornhole", thanks to the talents and skills of David Betsch who built this fun game...From all the commotion I hear on Tuesday nights, it sounds like the confirmation classes are going very well, thanks to Maggie Anderson Murphy and Pastor Hille.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dec. 2011				1 Directory Photos 2:00-9:20	2 Directory Photos 2:00-9:20	3 Directory Photos 9:30-5:30 10:30-12:00 Advent Cantata Rehearsal
4 8:30 Worship 9:40 Sunday School + Adult Forum 11:00 Holy Comm. 1:00-2:00 Pageant Rehearsal	5 9:30 Staff 7:00 Finance	6 Noon Readers at Haag's 4:15 Grace Notes & Leading Tones 7:30 Church Council	7 9:00 Advent Morning Prayer 9:30 Bible Study 7:30 Advent Cantata Rehearsal	8	9	10 9:00-Noon Advent Retreat
11 8:30 Holy Comm 9:40 Sun School/Adult Forum 11:00 Worship Advent Cantata at Both 1-2:00 Pageant Re- hearsal VOICE Deadline	12 9:30 Staff	13 4:15 Grace Notes & Leading Tones 6:30 Evening Readers at Steinberg's 7:00 Evangelism 7:00 Endowment	14 9:00 Advent Morning Prayer 7:30 Sanctus Singers	15	16	17 9:00-11:00 Pageant Rehearsal
18 8:30 Worship 9:40 Sun School +Adult Forum 11:00 Holy Comm. 4:00 Sun. School Christmas Pageant + Ice cream Social	19 9:30 Staff	20 6:30 Property	21 9:00 Advent Morning Prayer 9:30 Bible Study 7:30 Sanctus Singers	22	23 9:30 Altar Guild	24 Christmas Eve 5:30 Family Christmas Celebration 7:30 Candlelight Christmas Vespers 10:30 Candles, Carols and Holy Communion
25— 10:00 Christmas Eucharist	26 Office Closed	27	28	29	30 Annual Reports Due	31



SAINT MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH
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