

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 5 & 8, 2024

*We Re-dedicate this Building to the
Glory of God*

Opening Hymn 912, “Open, Lovely Doors”

Responsive Opening (*Follow along on screen*)

Order of Service (**From Supplement**) Gathering Rite on the Word of God, Page 11

Prayer of the Day: O almighty, everlasting God, you have joined together all believers into one spiritual temple in Christ. Come and be present by your Word in this place of worship and instruction. Make it a workshop of your Spirit in which your people, both young and old, will be made wise for salvation and trained for willing service in this life to the glory of your name; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING

Psalm of the Day (*On Insert*).....Psalm 84B vv. 1-3

SECOND READING

Gospel Acclamation Verse: Alleluia. *I rejoiced with those who said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”* Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Hymn of the Day 855, “The Church’s One Foundation”

SERMON..... “**We Love Your House, O Lord**” Psalm 26:8

Offering Hymn 748 v. 1, “Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly”

Apostles’ Creed Page 20

RE-DEDICATION OF CHURCH (*Follow along on screen*)

Prayers/Lord’s Prayer

Hymn 576, “Amazing Grace”

Closing Prayer/Benediction

Closing Hymn 582, “Not unto Us”

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 8:54-63

King Solomon and the people of Israel dedicate the Temple of the Lord.

When Solomon finished offering all these prayers and pleas for mercy to the Lord, he got up from the altar of the Lord, where he had been kneeling with his hands spread out toward heaven. Then he stood and blessed the whole congregation of Israel with a loud voice: Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to his people Israel, just as he said he would. Not one word has failed from all his good words which he spoke through Moses his servant. May the Lord our God be with us, just as he was with our fathers. May he never leave us or abandon

us. May he turn our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways and to listen to his commands, regulations, and ordinances, which he commanded to our fathers. May these words which I have prayed before the Lord be near the Lord our God day and night so that he provides justice for his servant and for his people Israel forever, so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God. There is no other. May your hearts be fully committed to the Lord our God, in order to walk in his regulations and to keep his commands, just as is the case today.

Then the king and all Israel with him offered sacrifices before the Lord. Solomon sacrificed fellowship offerings to the Lord: twenty-two thousand cattle and one hundred twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the people of Israel dedicated the House of the Lord.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:8-10,19-22

As we re-dedicate this building to the glory of God, Paul reminds us that in reality we are part of the church through faith.

Indeed, it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance so that we would walk in them.

So then, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of God’s household. You have been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the Cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you too are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-19

Jesus reminds us that the church is built on the same confession that Peter made, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But you, who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEAD USHERS: Lyle Moldenhauer/Chris Zwygart; next Sunday: Don Koch/Doug Schulz

ADVENT WREATH: We continue lighting the candles on our Advent wreath today. The second candle, which is purple in color, represents peace. Christmas is known as a season of peace. Jesus came to bring us spiritual peace and is known as the Prince of Peace.

CALL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: At the Call Meeting which was held last Sunday a divine pastoral call was issued to Pastor Andrew Schrimpf of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Pastor Schrimpf is currently serving the Lord at Cross of Glory Lutheran Church in Baton Rouge. It is our understanding from the Synod that his current church is no longer able to support him as their pastor, and there is a possibility of that church closing. Pastor Schrimpf and his wife, Sarah, have five children ranging in age from 14 down to 4. Please keep Pastor Schrimpf and his family in your prayers as he deliberates our call.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR: All are invited to stay for the refreshments being served immediately following Sunday's worship service as we continue to celebrate our church's re-dedication. We thank the Service Group for hosting this fellowship hour!

A FREE-WILL OFFERING will be taken **TODAY** to defray the costs of this year's Christmas gifts for the children. The children will be receiving Christmas ornaments. Please look for the designated plate on the table at the back of church.

THANK YOU to everyone who (will be decorating)/(decorated) the church for the Christmas season! We appreciate your time and talents in helping to beautify our church!

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Boxes of Christmas cards are available for purchase from the "Greeting Card Corner" display in the church basement. Just pick out the boxes that you wish to purchase, complete a payment envelope, and give it to **Diane Koch** or place it in her church mail slot.

CHRISTMAS SEASON SERVICES: Christmas Eve services will be held on **Tuesday, December 24**, at **3:00 PM** and **5:00 PM**. The Christmas Day service will be held on **Wednesday, December 25**, at **9:00 AM**. Our regular Sunday morning worship service will be held on **Sunday, December 29**, at **9:00 AM**. There will also be New Year's Eve communion worship service on **Tuesday, December 31**, at **7:00 PM**. There will be **NO** worship service on Thursday evening, **December 26**.

SEMINARY CHORUS CHRISTMAS CONCERT: The Seminary Chorus, a 70-voice choir composed of men studying for the pastoral ministry at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, WI, will present its Christmas concert on **Sunday (TODAY), December 8**, at **3:00 PM** and **7:00 PM** in the campus auditorium. The program includes anthems by the choir and hymns for the congregation. The **3:00 PM** concert will also be live-streamed at livestream.com/WLSLive.

WELS WIND ENSEMBLE CHRISTMAS CONCERT: The WELS Wind Ensemble will present their Christmas concert entitled, "How Great Our Joy," on **Sunday (TODAY), December 8**, at **2:00 PM** in the **Fall River High School Auditorium**. There is ample parking and NO stairs. All are welcome!

LUTHER PREP CHRISTMAS CONCERTS: The Luther Prep, Watertown, Christmas concerts will be held on **Sunday, December 15**, at **3:00 PM** -and- **Thursday, December 19**, at **10:00 AM**. Both concerts will be held in the **Luther Prep gym**. All are welcome!

WLA CHRISTMAS CONCERTS: The WLA Sacred Christmas concerts are scheduled for **Thursday, December 19**, at **7:00 PM** -and- **Friday, December 20**, at **1:00 PM**. These performances will be held in the **WLA gym**. All are invited!

SCRIP: If you are still looking for some Christmas gift ideas, check out our scrip (gift card) program. There are various ways to place your order and to obtain your cards. Please direct any questions you may have to **Holly Daley**, our scrip coordinator. There is just **ONE** ordering deadline left before Christmas—**Thursday, December 12**. **No** orders will be taken after that date until January.

WE THANK the students in Gr. 1-8 as well as our Adult Choir for beautifying our Sunday worship service with their songs!

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Attendance: Thanksgiving Day: 121; Sunday: 94

Offerings: Thanksgiving Day: \$10,528.50 (*Church Refurbishment*)
Sunday: \$5,459.00

(*Budget Amount Needed Each Week: \$7,355.00*)

Special Funds: Debt Retirement: \$320.00

Memorials: In Memory of Ruth Schultz: \$60.00 (*Church Refurbishment*)



We invite you to support this ministry through financial offerings out of thanksgiving for the Gospel you have received here. Offerings may be placed in the plates located on the tables at the back of church, or you may scan the QR code to give electronically.

OUR WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday: **Church Re-Dedication** Worship Service 9:00 AM
Fellowship Hour to follow

Tuesday: School Board Meeting 7:15 PM

Wednesday: Nominating Committee Meeting 6:15 PM
Church Council 7:00 PM

Thursday: Communion Worship Service 7:00 PM
Adult Choir 8:00 PM
Scrip Orders Due – Last Day to Order in 2024!!

Sunday: Communion Worship Service 9:00 AM
Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School 10:15 AM

84B How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place Psalm 84B sts. 1-3



1 How love - ly is your dwell - ing place, O God, I
2 As yearns the spar - row for her nest, so yearns my
3 How rich the joy to live with you, and sing your



long to see your face. My soul in - to your
heart to find its rest be - fore your al - tar,
praise my whole life through; how hap - py those who



courts would wing and, in your pres - ence, glad - ly sing.
there to stay and make my home through night and day.
trav - el here to find their God is ev - er near.

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