



A Children's Christmas Service

*St. Matthew's Lutheran Church and School
Winona, MN*

December 21, 2025 9:00 a.m.

December 23, 2025 9:30 a.m.



A Children's Christmas Service

Welcome to St. Matthew's! Today the children of our church and school will recount for us God's great love for a world of sinners. That love showed itself in God taking on flesh to live, die and rise again for all of us. May the love of Jesus, who brings God's free gift of forgiveness, bring you true joy today and always!

OUR FACILITIES

A restroom is located in the Mother's Room at the back of church and also in the church basement. There is also a handicapped accessible restroom in the back of church. Ask an usher for help and directions. The members of St. Matthew's believe that families should be allowed to worship together. If the need arises, we have an audio-equipped children's room just outside of the church doors to your left. If you need anything during the service, please feel free to ask an usher.

Out of courtesy for your fellow worshipers, please silence all electronic devices.

Welcome by Mr. Sell

Our students are supporting mission work in African this year with their chapel offerings and have a personal connection with a missionary who is a friend of Mr. Bode. In October we learned the song "Siyahamba" in the Zulu language and we are now pleased to sing this song today with additional English verses.

Processional by Children: "Siyahamba"

- 1 Zulu
- 2 We are marching in the light of God
- 3 We are singing for the Lord is our light

Song: (sung by congregation): “Joy Has Dawned” CW 352

352 Joy Has Dawned

CW 352



1 Joy has dawned up - on the world, prom - ised from cre - a - tion—
2 Sounds of won - der fill the sky with the songs of an - gels
3 Shep - herds bow be - fore the Lamb, gaz - ing at the glo - ry.
4 Son of Ad - am, Son of heav'n, giv - en as a ran - som;



God's sal - va - tion now un - furled, hope for ev - 'ry na - tion.
as the might - y Prince of life shel - ters in a sta - ble.
Gifts of men from dis - tant lands proph - e - sy the sto - ry:
rec - on - cil - ing God and man, Christ, our might - y cham - pion!



Not with fan - fares from a - bove, not with scenes of glo - ry,
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in dark - ness,
gold— a king is born to - day; in - cense—God is with us;
What a Sav - ior! What a friend! What a glo - rious mys - t'ry!



but a hum - ble gift of love— Je - sus born of Mar - y.
cling now to a moth - er's breast, _ vul - n'ra - ble and help - less.
myrrh— his death will make a way, and by his blood he'll win us.
Once a babe in Beth - le - hem, _ now the Lord of his - t'ry.

Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963

Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963

Text and tune: © 2005 Thankyou Music, admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 715394

Song: "How Great Our Joy"

Please join in singing verse 4.

Pre-K-8th Grade:

- 1** While by the sheep we watched at night,
Glad tidings brought an angel bright.
How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

1st-4th Grade:

- 2** There shall be born, so He did say,
In Bethlehem a Child today.
How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

5th-8th Grade Girls:

- 3** There shall the Child lie in a stall,
This Child who shall redeem us all.
How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

Congregation:

- 4** This gift of God we'll cherish well,
That ever joy our hearts shall fill.
How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

Narration: Old Testament Prophecies

Song: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Please join in singing verses 3 and 4.

5th-8th Grade:

- 1 O come, O come Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!
- 2 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

Congregation:

- 3 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*
- 4 O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind.
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace. *Refrain 2X*

Narration: Luke 2:1-7



Song: "Away in a Manger"

Please join in singing verses 3.

Pre-K-Kindergarten:

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus – no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus. Look down from the sky
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Congregation:

- 3 **Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay,
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and take us to heaven, to live with you there.**

Narration: Luke 2:8-14

Song: "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

Please join in singing verses 2 and 3.



Kindergarten-8th Grade:

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good-will to men, from heaven's all gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Congregation:

- 2 **Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.**

- 3 And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

Kindergarten-8th Grade:

- 4 For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
When with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

Narration: Luke 2:15-20

Song: "Jesus Is His Name" and "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Please join in singing verses 2 and 3 of "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly."

Jesus Is His Name

3rd-8th Grade:

- 1 While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground, The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.
"Fear not!" said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled minds.
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind."

Refrain:

All glory be to God, And to the earth be peace;
Let good will to all begin and never cease.
All glory be to God, And let the world proclaim
The Savior has come, and Jesus is his name, Jesus.

3rd-8th Grade Girls:

- 2 "To you, in David's town, this day
Is born of David's line
A Savior, who is Christ the Lord,
And this shall be the sign:
"The heav'nly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid." *Refrain*

* * *

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

3rd-8th Grade:

1. Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all.
Swift are winging, angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all! Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all!

Congregation:

- 2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new.
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ, the Babe, was born for you! Christ, the Babe, was born for you!
- 3 Born Thy people to deliver, born a Child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
Joy of every longing heart! Joy of every longing heart!

Christmas Message Shared by the Children: "Joy that Jesus Brings"



Song: “Born That We May Have Life” by Chris Tomlin

Kindergarten-8th Grade and Mr. Sell:

- 1 No reputation, no stately bearing, no palace bed for royalty;
but a star in the heavens, a sign full of wonder
announcing the coming of the King of kings.

Refrain: Rejoice! O world, your Savior has come
through the love of a virgin’s womb.
Son of God, Son of man born that we may have life.
You were born that we may have life.

- 2 A throne in a manger, the cross in a cradle,
The hidden revealing this glorious plan
of a Child who would suffer, the Child who would conquer
the sin of every woman, the sin of every man.

Refrain

Christmas Message Continues: “Joy that Jesus Brings”

Song: “Joy of the Lord” by Twila Paris

Pre-K-8th Grade:

- 1 The joy of the Lord will be my strength.
I will not falter, I will not faint.
He is my Shepherd; I am not afraid.
The joy of the Lord is my strength.

Refrain: The joy of the Lord, the joy of the Lord
the joy of the Lord is my strength.

- 2 The joy of the Lord will be my strength.
He will uphold me all of my days.
I am surrounded by mercy and grace.
The joy of the Lord is my strength.

Refrain & Interlude

- 3 The joy of the Lord will be my strength.
I will not waiver, walking by faith.
He will be strong to deliver me safe
The joy of the Lord is my strength

Refrain

Musical Offering: "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Please join in singing the verses.

Pre-K-K:

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills, and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.

Congregation:

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. *Refrain*

- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

- 3 Down in a lowly manger
Our humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Narration

Song: "Joy to the World"

Please join in singing verses 2 and 3.

Pre-K-8th Grade:

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Congregation:

- 2 Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

1st-8th Grade:

- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Recessional: Please wait for the children to leave before getting up

Thank you for joining us today as the children shared the amazing message of our Savior's birth. Thank you, students!

Thank you to all the teachers and musicians for the countless hours spent preparing the children for this special service.

Please join us downstairs for refreshments and fellowship.

Let's Celebrate!

Christmas Worship Schedule

Children's Christmas Service Dec. 23, 9:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Dec. 24, 2 p.m. & 5 p.m.

Christmas Day Dec. 25, 9 a.m.

Please note that due to our vacancy, there will not be worship services at St. Matthew's on



Announcements

December 21, 2025

Children's Christmas Service Leader – Jeff Sell

**Organist/Musicians – Sarah Sell, Tamara Koenig, Cora Isakson, Tom Frisk, Michael Sell,
David Sell, Shannon Bohme, Amanda Wenzel**

Audio – Aaron Bode

Councilmen on Duty this Weekend

Sunday 9AM – Ryan Brink

Ushers on Duty this Weekend

Sunday 9AM –Ryan Brink Group

Altar Committee – Savannah Kubis & Andrea Frick

Last Week Attendance: Saturday – 35; Sunday: 9am – 106, Candlelight - 179; Wednesday - 92

This Week – Dec. 21 - 28

Sunday	9:00 AM	Children's Christmas Service
	10:15 AM	Reception following the service
	11:00 AM	Worship Service Radio KAGE 1380AM or 101.5FM
	12:00 PM	Public School Catechism (at Trinity, Wilson)

Monday		Finance #3
Tuesday	9:30 AM	Children's Christmas Service
	6:30 PM	Bible Basics Class @ Trinity, Wilson
Wednesday	2:00 PM	Christmas Eve Worship
	5:00 PM	Christmas Eve Worship
	7:00 PM	Worship Service broadcasted on HBC Channel 20
Thursday	9:00 AM	Christmas Day Worship/Communion
Friday		
Next		Worship/Communion
Saturday	5:00 PM	
Next Sunday	9:00 AM	Worship/Communion/Children's Church
	10:15 AM	Bible Class
	11:00 AM	Worship Service Radio KAGE 1380AM or 101.5FM

Financial News

Weekly Budget for Envelope Offerings: \$8,173.08

Offerings received December 13 & 14: \$8,938.00

Boiler Fund Goal: \$733,435

Boiler Fund Total Received: \$733,756 (up \$997 wk/wk)

Boiler Fund Pledges Outstanding: \$385

Note: The Building and Grounds Team is reviewing the work and invoices to close out this project.

Boiler Fund Contributions: Please either write separate checks for the boiler fund or clearly mark on your envelope how much is to be contributed to the Boiler Fund.

Church Announcements:

Thank you to the church and everyone that gave gifts for the Wish Tree! All the cards were taken and filled, and the gifts have all been picked up and are being delivered! Thank you to the Wish Tree committee for all their hard work and Alyssa Passehl for helping us coordinate with the county on lists and delivery! Merry Christmas everyone and thank you again for your generosity!

Ways to Serve

- **If you would like to sponsor a Radio broadcast**, similar to a bulletin sponsorship, the cost is \$100.00. Please contact Lindsey by email: smoffice@stmatthewswinona.org or by phone: 507-454-3083. If you would like to donate to the Radio Broadcast fund, please use your designated offering envelope.
- **Bulletin Sponsorship:** Upcoming bulletins available for sponsorship: **Dec. 28 and Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25.** The cost is \$30.00. If you would like to sponsor a bulletin, you may email the information to Tamara Koenig tkoenig@stmatthewswinona.org or contact Lindsey in the office @507-454-3083.

Club 3:16 is selling Cross Wall Decorations to help raise money for the youth rally this summer. Size and color can be customized! Prices start at \$25. Call Kris Anderson to order- 507-459-0044



**Today's bulletin is sponsored by Sandra Lisowski
in memory of Ray Lisowski**

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church & School

766 West Wabasha Street, Winona, MN 55987

Pastor Winfried Schroeder ♦ 605.281.0155 ♦ winfriedj6@gmail.com

Pastor Jason Threlkeld ♦ 414.943.4461 ♦ pastorthrelkeld@gmail.com

507.454.3083 ♦ www.stmatthewswinona.org ♦ www.facebook.com/stmatthewswinona