



St. Matthew

# CONNECT

Share Life. Create Friendships. Inspire Hope.

WINTER 2023



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## Feed My Starving Children 2023

Numbers don't lie! 1,354 volunteers – men, women, children, from throughout our community all coming together at St. Matthew! 342,144 meals packed! 934 children being fed nourishing, life-sustaining meals for a FULL YEAR! 342,144 meals being sent to schools, orphanages, clinics, and feeding programs around the world to break the cycle of poverty and to deliver hope – and with it the hope and love of Jesus! And here's another number; \$15,000 given by St. Matthew, which

purchased roughly 60,000 meals! What a privilege for each of us at St. Matthew to be the hands of Jesus in such a powerful way! Thank you to all who were able to volunteer your time and work in so many ways! And thanks be to God who has so worked generosity in all of us together that we could have this special privilege to do such a great thing in Jesus' name! I can't wait for next year!!



*"And Jesus took the children in His arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them." Mark 10:16*

*"But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of daughters and sons."*

Galatians 4:4



# Youth Corner

## Save the Date!

**11/19:** Friendsgiving! High School students are invited to come and hangout from 11:30 AM - 1 PM for our first annual Friendsgiving lunch! Bring a dish to share and let's get our thankfulness on!

**12/1:** Cookies & Coffee! Parents of 7th-12th grade students, come and get to know some of your student's leaders and other parents from 7-8 PM!

**12/10:** High School Ministry is heading to the For King & Country Christmas Concert! Space is limited, so keep an eye out for sign-ups coming soon!

**12/15:** High School Christmas Party! Join us from 5:30-7:30 PM! More information to come!

**12/27-30:** High School Ministry is heading to Pasadena, California to participate in decorating Lutheran Hour Ministries Rose Parade Float! Sign-ups happening now on the church website!

**1/3 :** H2H is heading to Placer County Food Bank to volunteer from 1:30-3:30 PM! Keep an eye out for sign-ups coming soon!

**High School Ministry (5:30-7:30 PM)**  
11/8 & 12/6

**H2H & Club 56 (5:30-7:30 PM)**  
11/15 & 11/29 & 12/13

**ST. MATTHEW**  
*Students*

Chancel Choir and Chamber Orchestra Presents:

## Christmas Around the World



Christmas is celebrated by many people all over the world, each with unique traditions and customs to usher in the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Come and experience the joy of Christmas with the Chancel Choir and Orchestra as they present, "Christmas Around the World!" This year, we will perform a variety of Christmas songs and carols in different languages expressing a myriad of musical traditions from all over the globe. This interactive musical experience is becoming a yearly tradition that you do not want to miss - reserve your Christmas Concert tickets today!

**Friday, December 8th @ 7:00 p.m.**  
**Saturday, December 9th @ 2:30 p.m.**

## Children's Christmas Program

Mark your calendars! Our Children's Christmas Program, "A Christmas Story: Through the Eyes of a Child", is scheduled to be performed at the Sunday services, December 17th. This production will present the story of Jesus' birth through singing, dancing, acting and video. Rehearsals will be during Sunday school beginning November 19th. Mandatory Saturday, rehearsals on December 2nd and December 16th from 9-1 p.m. with lunch provided. Casting for speaking roles will also begin on November 19th. Sign-ups are open now! Please email Jen Casey at [jcasey@stmatthewrocklin.com](mailto:jcasey@stmatthewrocklin.com) if you would like your child to participate.

**Sunday, December 17th @ 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services**

## WinterFest 2023

We have rebranded our "Christmas Block Party" to *Winterfest 2023*. Join us for a wonderful evening of family fun as we gather as a church community to play games, make Christmas crafts, make smores & drink hot chocolate, sing carols, and hear from Pastor Brad before all our Christmas Eve services. This event is always a "calm before the storm" evening as we gather just to relax, have St. Matthew family time, and have some Christmas fun. Don't forget to bring the entire family and invite your neighbors.

**Wednesday, December 20th @ 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

# From the Pulpit



## Christmas is here!

The greatest, most fabulous time of the year! Christmas, where seemingly the whole world dares to believe again - even if just for a moment - that hope, joy, peace, and love can be real and can be ours! Christmas, where the longing of every heart is met with "Immanuel, God with us." Christmas, where each of us can be an angel sharing the invitation of God to "come and see!"

We **SHARE LIFE** in worship. Our short, three Sunday December focus will be on the stories surrounding Christmas and how the grace of God calls us to know them as our stories...our **FAMILY** Stories. Christmas is a time for family...the family we all long for - and are meant to be a part of in Jesus. Do you know someone that needs family this Christmas? They may just be waiting for your invitation!

We **CREATE FRIENDSHIPS** just as Jesus did. And in this season, where so many feel alone and isolated far from the happiness and connection they see all around them, opportunities abound! The Chancel Choir and Orchestra concerts, the Children's Christmas program, and Winter Fest; all opportunities for each of us to give an invitation of friendship to another.

We **INSPIRE HOPE** by sharing Jesus love in concrete ways in our world, especially during this wonderful season of Christmas; Operation Christmas Child (go ahead, pick up a box and touch a child's life!) or buying a gift for a foster child are just two of the many opportunities to **INSPIRE HOPE** in our community...or maybe taking cookies or a Starbucks Card to your neighbors? Whatever it is, tis' the season!

**Merry Christmas!**  
Pastor Brad and Pastor Nathan

# Community Corner



As part of St. Matthew's continuing outreach to our community, the kids in our children's ministry recently took part in making blankets which were donated to the inpatient pediatric floor at Kaiser Roseville Women and Children's Center. Our TK-4th grade children tied knots around the edges of 25 fleece blankets which were then wrapped by Women in Mission with a bow and a little card—Made For Kids By Kids at St. Matthew's.

These soft, colorful blankets are touching the wide array of children affected by illness. From a grade schooler needing surgery, to an infant admitted for an infection, to a teenager undergoing cancer therapy, it has been a blessing to see firsthand how these decorative and cozy blankets bring a fun pop of color to the room as well as a touch of warmth and comfort during an otherwise difficult time.



# SAVE the DATE!

<b>NOV 13-20</b>	<b>Operation Christmas Child</b> St. Matthew (Drop Off Boxes)
<b>NOV 20</b>	<b>"Deck the Halls" Decoration Night</b> Church Lobby @ 6:00-10:00 PM
<b>DEC 06</b>	<b>Advent Service #1 Waiting</b> 5:30 PM Soup Supper   Service 6:30 PM
<b>DEC 08</b>	<b>"Christmas Around the World" Choir Concerts</b> Traditional Sanctuary @ 7:00 PM
<b>DEC 09</b>	<b>"Christmas Around the World" Choir Concerts</b> Traditional Sanctuary @ 2:30 PM
<b>DEC 10</b>	<b>3rd Traditional Service</b> Traditional Sanctuary @ 10:45 AM

<b>DEC 13</b>	<b>Advent Service #2 Preparing</b> 5:30 PM Soup Supper / Service 6:30 PM
<b>DEC 20</b>	<b>WinterFest 2023</b> Church Lobby @ 6:00-8:00 PM
<b>DEC 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Services</b> 8:30 AM   10 AM   3 PM   5 PM   7 PM
<b>DEC 25</b>	<b>Christmas Day Service</b> Traditional Sanctuary @ 10:00 AM
<b>DEC 31</b>	<b>New Year's Eve Service</b> 8:30 AM   10:00 AM
<b>JAN 14</b>	<b>3rd Traditional Service</b> Traditional Sanctuary @ 10:45 AM

**IN!**

**New to St. Matthew?**



<https://stmatthewrocklin.churchcenter.com/people/forms/469847>

**Get Connected Today!**

## OFFERING INFORMATION



**IN PERSON**

secure boxes located at the sanctuary exits



**ONLINE**

[stmatthewrocklin.com/give](https://stmatthewrocklin.com/give)

**84321**



**TEXT 2 GIVE**

Text a \$ amount to 84321



**BY MAIL**

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