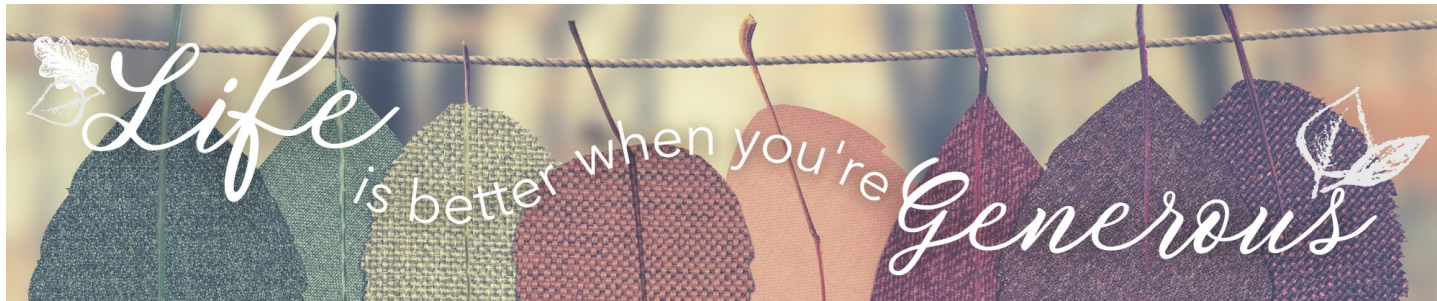




A Message from our Asst. Rector, Rev. Mary Margaret Winn



Dear St. Matthew's friends and family,

Life is better when you're generous.

This may seem counterintuitive. After all, isn't our generosity about helping those in need? What does that have to do with me?

As we move toward the year's end and take stock of 2021 and look ahead to 2022, I want to challenge us to consider generosity in broader, less conventional terms.

First off, generosity can be more than writing a check. We've all experienced the difference it makes to travel on a mission trip or volunteer for an event and make a human connection. The generosity of our time and energy in outreach can help us transcend a helper/helped relationship and instead become members of a loving community.

Our society pushes us to acquire greater and greater wealth and possessions. This can hinder our walk with Jesus by making us overconfident in our plans, and it can keep us under the illusion that we can "do it all." Only when there's scarcity, of time or resources or energy, are we able to make meaningful contributions, like the widow who put her only two coins in the temple collection (Mark 12:41-44). When you're generous, you open the door for God to do greater things than you could plan or imagine.

And, life is better when we're generous.

Generosity can move beyond individuals into a community of givers. That's what we are called to be at St. Matt's: a community that gives generously of our time, talent, and treasure to help share God's love in Sterling and beyond. When we collectively get behind a cause like feeding the children of St. Mathieu's in Haiti or clothing those without coats this winter, our experience is enriched and our capacity is extended far beyond what we could do alone.

By this point, you may be feeling nervous about your generosity. Am I giving enough? Am I volunteering enough? The last thing you may want is another commitment. So, I want to challenge you to be generous in what can be the hardest way. Be generous with yourself. You are already unconditionally forgiven and loved by God.

Life is better when you're generous with yourself, and when we're generous with one another.

So, I invite you to be generous but also creative and prayerful in discerning where God is calling you to be more generous: to yourself, to others, and with others.

Faithfully,

Rev. Mary Margaret

P.S. Join me on November 21st for Rob's return from Sabbatical! We're so excited to welcome him and Linda home!

This issue:

- Father Rob Returns Nov. 21st!
- Children's Christmas Pageant
- Advent Wreath Making
- Outreach Updates
- November Youth Events

WAYS TO CONNECT



In-Person & Online Sunday Worship

Sundays at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00am

Faith Factory for Kids

Sundays at 9:30am & 11:00am

Youth Group Sunday (Not) School

Sundays at 10:15am in the trailer

Raising Teens Connection Group

Sundays at 10:15am Classroom 4

Young Professionals (YoPros)

2nd/4th Sundays at 7:00pm

Contact Caitlin.Dronfield@stmtts.org for location information.

Compline

Monday - Friday at 8:00pm

Facebook Live: [stmtts.org/live](https://www.facebook.com/stmtts.org/live)

Social Time with Candace

Mondays at 12pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 681-861-620

STAY CONNECTED VIRTUALLY AND IN-PERSON

Bread of Life Small Group

Mondays at 7pm

Email Darrell: Darrell@stmtts.org

Social Time with Kevin

Mondays at 8:30pm on Zoom

Email Kevin Fletcher: Kevin@stmtts.org

Sandwich Generation Small Group

1st/3rd Tuesdays at 7:30pm

Outreach Meeting

Second Tuesday at 6:00pm on Zoom

Email Kristin.Drummond@stmtts.org

WatCh (Wednesdays at Church)

Wednesdays at St. Matthew's from 7pm–8pm

Women's Group

Thursdays at 12:15pm on Zoom

Zoom ID: 886 5270 7607 Passcode: church

Men's Group

Saturdays at 8:00am

Email Linden: Linden@stmtts.org

RETURN FROM SABBATICAL SUNDAY SERVICES & FOOD DONATION COLLECTION

Join us as we welcome back Father Rob & Linda from their sabbatical! To celebrate their return, we invite you to join them at church on Sunday, November 21 for a reception between services and an old fashioned "pounding". Please bring a pound of non-perishable food (such as beans/rice) to be donated to LINK and Tree of Life Ministries in honor of their heart for service.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR
THEIR RETURN ON NOVEMBER 21ST!**



NOV. SERVICES & EVENTS



ALL SOULS DAY SERVICE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND AT 7 PM

All Souls Day is when we remember the saints who have died, but whom we are still connected to through Jesus Christ. There will be a time during the service to light a candle in honor of your loved one.



VETERAN'S DAY WORSHIP

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH AT 12 PM

Join us as we honor and pray for all those who have served in our country's armed forces.

Services in-person and online.



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS BRUNCH & GAMES

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH AT 10 AM

Are you in your 20's or 30's and looking to explore your spirituality and find fellowship? Join our Young Professionals Group aka YoPros on Sat. Nov. 20th for fun, food, and games.

Food will be provided. For more information, contact YoPro Coordinator, Caitlin Dronfield:

Caitlin.Dronfield@stmtts.org



2021 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

BEGINNING NOVEMBER 28TH

#AdventWord, will offer 28 daily meditations and images during this holy season beginning Sunday, November 28.

Join an international community in prayer to explore the mystery of Advent! AdventWord provides visual and written meditations during the Advent season.

www.AdventWord.org

NOV. CHILDREN & FAMILY EVENTS



JOIN US IN THE PARISH HALL - FAMILIES WELCOME!
8:45 AM - 9:25 AM or 10:15 AM - 10:55 AM

The Nativity Story

Children's Christmas Pageant



AGES PRE-K -8TH GRADE

(OPEN FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS - NEW THIS YEAR)

Speaking & Non-speaking parts available!

SPEAKING PART AUDITIONS:

Sunday, Nov. 14th following
9:30 Service in Classroom 2.

LEARN MORE: stmtts.org/pageant



ONLINE FAMILY ADVENT CALENDAR

Take your family on a daily fun-filled journey toward better knowing the Nativity and the events surrounding Jesus' birth.

Spend time each day with devotions, activities and learnings about the true meaning of Christmas.

Beginning Nov. 28th!

stmtts.org/FamilyAdvent

NOV. YOUTH EVENTS



SUNDAY
(NOT) SCHOOL
SUNDAYS AT 10:15 AM

TACKLING LIFE'S BIG QUESTIONS:

Youth are encouraged to decide for themselves based on their faith, experiences, and relationships (with God, family, and each other).

YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12

Middle school (6th-8th): left side of trailer

High school (9th-12th): middle room of trailer

YOUTH GROUP HIKE & PICNIC AT BURKE LAKE PARK

SAT. NOV 13 | 2-5 PM:

Join us as we try to catch the last of the fall foliage!

FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Sign up here:
stmtts.org/BurkeLake



YOUTH GROUP MOVIE NIGHT AT ST. MATTHEW'S

SAT. NOV 27 | 7-9 PM:

It's never too early for a Christmas movie! Join us as we kick off the Advent season (the time when we prepare for and get excited about the birth of Jesus). Movie snacks are a given!

More information: stmtts.org/YouthMovie



EVENTS & OUTREACH



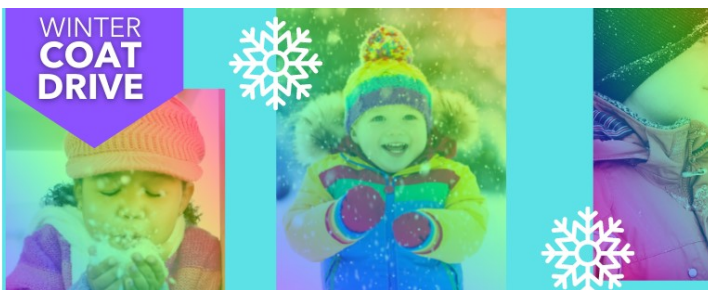
THANKSGIVING FOOD BAGS

It's that time of year again! We are now collecting bags of food and other necessities for our local families that we will distribute the week before Thanksgiving.

ALL BAGS MUST BE RETURNED BY NOV. 9TH!

Food bag packing help is needed on Saturday, November 13th from 9 am-12 pm

Sign up here to pack bags stmmts.org/BagPacking
For more information, visit stmmts.org/ThanksgivingBag



NEW AND GENTLY USED (CLEAN) COATS
CHILDRENS SIZE 6-16 | DROP OFF BY 11/9/21

Drop off Sun 8-12 or Tues/Thurs 8-4



FRIENDS OF HOMELESS ANIMALS

ST. MATTHEW'S VOLUNTEER EVENT

Attention animal lovers - St. Matt's is assembling a group to help spruce up a local animal shelter in Aldie (FOHA) from 9am-12pm on Saturday, November 20th. Your hard work will be rewarded with visits with some furry friends at the end of the event! Space is limited so please sign-up now:

www.stmmts.org/FOHA

BACKPACK BUDDIES

Through our Backpack Buddies program, we currently provide support to dozens of local children in need. Each child receives a bag filled with six meals, snacks, and milk each weekend during the school year. Here's how you can help:

- MAKE A FINANCIAL GIFT | stmmts.org/give.
- DONATE FOOD | Tues/ Thurs 8 - 4, Mon/Wed 12 - 4 or Sun 8 - 12 stmmts.org/shopbb
- HELP PACK | Tuesdays at 11 am (or the first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm) or pack on your own. (No packing on Nov. 2, 2021)

For more information, contact Hilary Hultman-Lee at HHLlearning@gmail.com

CELEBRATION GARDEN

What a fantastic garden season! We continue to provide fresh produce to LINK, Tree of Life Ministries, and St. Matthew's Care

Response Team. A special thank you to our regular volunteers who came out almost every week: Julianne Lindemann, Pete & Mary Lunn, Mike Brennan, Hadda Boughanmi, & Kona the garden dog!

While we have several fall crops growing, we will no longer offer our weekly Tuesday morning volunteer sessions.

The Garden will be getting a tool shed built in early Nov. (Benjamin Levine Troop 966), just in time to store our garden hoses & tools for the winter!



LINK FOOD PROGRAM

LINK exists to provide emergency food and financial assistance to qualified people in need in the Sterling, Herndon, and Ashburn communities. LINK needs volunteers on an ongoing basis to help run their food pantry distribution, make deliveries and help unload bulk food deliveries. You can sign-up to help at

www.stmmts.org/link

There are also vacancies for the Treasurer position, Food Coordinators, and Food Packers that need to be filled.

For more information, please contact Melissa Hancock at melissahancock@hotmail.com.

UPCOMING OUTREACH MEETINGS

Please join our monthly Outreach meetings to share your ideas and volunteer! Contact Kristin Drummond at kristin.drummond@stmmts.org for meeting dates/times.