

FIRST READING 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Having dedicated her son Samuel to God’s service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband Elkanah come to the temple to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all. Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife and say, “May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the loan that she made to the LORD,” and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

SECOND READING Colossians 3:12-17

Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with new garments upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God’s gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ. As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

GOSPEL Luke 2:41-52

Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission. Now every year [Jesus’s] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents were unaware of this. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day’s journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished, and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you.” He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them, and his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favor.



Sunday December 29, 2024 @ 11:00 am

“In response to God’s love, St. Matthew’s is a faith community welcoming all to grow in faith, to worship Christ and to reach out to everyone.”

**Welcome and Merry Christmas!**

**Order of Worship**

Today's Order of Worship and hymns are both located in **the Evangelical Lutheran Worship**.

**If you missed last week’s sermon, it is available on our website.**

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**St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
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Vice-Chairperson: Dianne Yungblut  
Church Secretary: Rona Devreese .....  
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Organist: Lily Jasinskas

*The lines of the Psalm printed in bold font are sung in unison to the tune of a familiar hymn. The lines in plain font are read by the leader.*

Psalm 148 - Hymn Tune ELW #380 Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!  
Fred Til Bod 77 77 77

Melody

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

Praise the LORD, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

Praise the LORD, heav-en of heavens,  
and you waters a-bove the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

who made them stand fast forev-er and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.

Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, do-ing God’s will;

mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;

sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

young men and maidens, old and young together

Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!

Upcoming Dates and Things to Remember

Please take a copy of our November newsletter to friends who do not have email.

November council minutes are now posted in the Church office.

Next Church Council Meeting is Sunday January 19th, after the Service.

Our Annual General Meeting will be Sunday, Feb. 2nd, 2025, after the Church Service.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship  
Service of the Word ELW Page 210

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness.....	ELW page 211
Hymn.....	ELW #269
Once in Royal David’s City	
Prayer of the Day	

WORD

First Reading.....	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm #148.....	Printed in Bulletin
Second Reading.....	Colossians 3:12-17
Gospel Acclamation.....	Hymn ELW #291 v.1 + Refrain
	“Glory to you, O Lord”
Gospel.....	Luke 2:41-52

“Praise to you, O Christ.”

Sermon	
Hymn of the Day.....	ELW #288
Good Christian Friends Rejoice	
Creed .....	ELW page 217
Prayers of Intercession	
Peace (non-contact gestures)	

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving for the Word.....	ELW Page 220
The Lord’s Prayer.....	ELW page 221

SENDING

Announcements	
Blessing	
Sending Hymn .....	ELW #299
Cold December Flies Away	
Dismissal .....	ELW page 222
Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.	
“Thanks be to God”	