



**HISTORIC ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH
"COMEDOR POPULAR" SOUP KITCHEN**

2108 W. 21st Street, Chicago, IL 60608

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"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat"

Christmas, 2011

WEBSITE: stmatthewchicago.org

ST. MATTHEW'S JOURNEY OF FAITH CONTINUES ON

CHRIST'S BIRTH LIT A LIGHT OF HOPE AND JOY FOR MANKIND

"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.'"

St. Luke 2:13-14

Dear Friends and Relatives:

May the joy and love of Christ dwell in your heart as we celebrate Christmas. Again there is a special excitement and joy in our cities and the sound of Christmas music saturates the air in the shopping malls and many have high expectations to give or receive gifts.

Yet in the midst of the human excitement, often the message of the Good News of Jesus being born to bring us a message of God's love, redemption of our souls, hope and change for a better life is lost in the midst of the commercial emphasis and personal satisfaction.

At this special time of the Christmas Season, we at St. Matthew Lutheran Church wish to thank you very much for your love, your prayers and support to St. Matthew's ongoing mission of love and compassion amongst the homeless and unemployed in Chicago.

WE WITNESS JESUS THE LIGHT OF HOPE, JOY AND SALVATION. In a Catechism test given to St. Matthew's students, one of the questions asked was: "Who is Jesus?" one student answered: "He is a man." Of course Jesus was born as a man, but we expected that the young person would also understand that Jesus was more than just a man; He was born as the Son of God, to heal the sick, to become the light to lead us to forgiveness and salvation of our souls.

"TODAY IN THE TOWN OF DAVID A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU". By faith, we have accepted this message, and decided at St. Matthew to walk in the footsteps of Jesus to feed the homeless and low income families, to bring about healing of body and soul in Christ Jesus,

the way Maria Leal at St. Matthew found healing for her cancer to continue to feed the hungry in Chicago. This unique ministry in the heart of Chicago has brought us together as partners in mission. Like you, we continue to be driven by our Savior's love and compassion.

CHRISTMAS DINNER CELEBRATION. On Thursday, December 22, at 12:00 p.m. at St. Matthew Center, a special meal will be served to the homeless and unemployed. Maria and her volunteers will cook a special meal and will give hygiene packages as Christmas gifts. In the midst of a cold day; the neglected, the suffering and hungry people will be embraced with the warmth of Christ's love that inspired "the poor to serve the poor".

CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATION, "LA PASTORELA". On Saturday, December 24, at 5:30 p.m. a special Christmas Eve services will be held at St. Matthew with the participation of Catechism students. The Pastorela, as the Hispanics call it, will share the story of Christ being born according to the Gospel of St. Luke. Christmas gifts donated by St. Paul Lutheran Church at Matteson and other fellow Lutherans will be given to all the children. However the greatest gift will be the message of Christ being born in our hearts.

A NEW BOILER WAS INSTALLED AT ST. MATTHEW CENTER. We thank our partners in Christ, for the new boiler installed at the St. Matthew Center where we have the El Comedor Popular Soup Kitchen. We no longer have to serve food in a cold place, the heat makes dining more pleasant and also the volunteers do not have to wear heavy clothes all the time.

ST. MATTHEW'S NEEDS FOR THE YEAR OF 2012. Like most churches St. Matthew Lutheran Church will face an increase in expenses for the ministry of Word and Sacrament and the St. Matthew Soup Kitchen. We are projecting expenses of \$160,000.00 for Word and Ministry and \$95,000.00 for El Comedor Popular Soup Kitchen. We pray the Lord will continue to provide through our partners in mission.

As we enter into a new year, I wish you a blessed Christmas and may the Light of Christ shine in your lives through next year.

In Christ,



Pastor Julio Antonio Loza

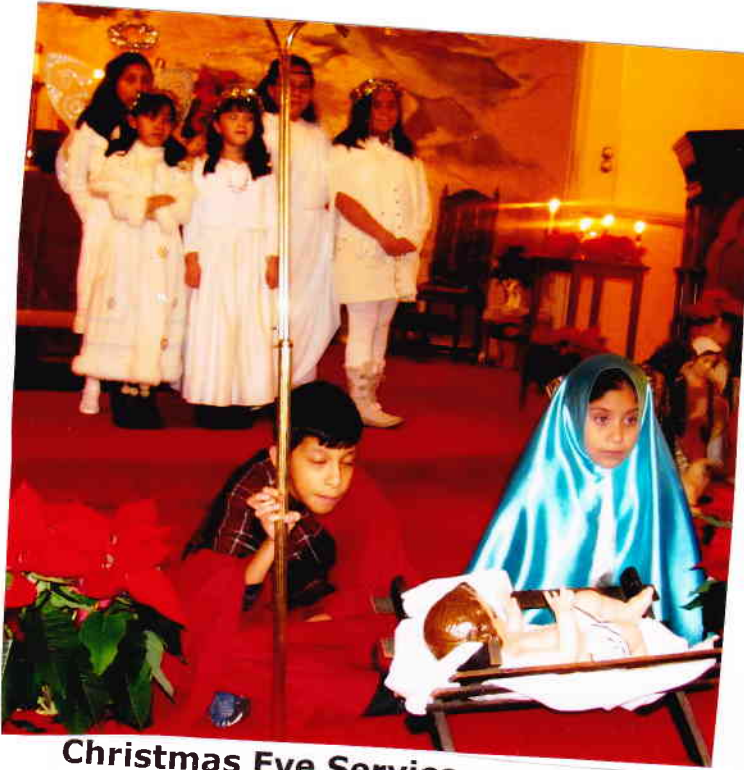
Please see Photo News on Page 3.

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Christmas, 2011 "CHRIST'S BIRTH LIT A LIGHT OF HOPE AND JOY FOR MANKIND

PHOTO NEWS



**Christmas Eve Service
"La Pastorela", St. Matthew**



**Lizeth Teran from Monterrey,
Mexico, serves food at St. Matthew**



**Thanksgiving, Rev. Matthew
Troester from St. Paul Lutheran,
Matteson, feeds the hungry.**



**Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner
Sharing God's blessings**