



St. Matthew
LUTHERAN CHURCH of HANOVER

January 4-11, 2026

info@stmattlutheran.org
717-637-7101

Happening This Week

Sunday 1/4

8:30a - Worship (Nave)
10:30a - Worship (Nave)

Monday 1/5

7:00p - Girl Scouts

Tuesday 1/6

2:00p - WELCA Bible Study (2nd floor, Upper Room)
5:45p - SoulFire Rehearsal
6:30p - Cub Scouts

Wednesday 1/7

7:00p - Boy Scouts

Thursday 1/8

6:00p - St. Matthew Ringers (Lower Level)
7:00p - Adult Choir (Lower Level)

Saturday 1/10

5:00p - Worship (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday 1/11

8:30a - Worship (Nave)
9:30a - Faith Connections Resumes
10:30a - Worship (Nave)
11:45a - Welcome Ethan Draper (Fellowship Hall)
11:45a - Youth Choir & Handbells (Lower Level)

Unhanging of the Greens will happen THIS Sunday, January 4 following the 10:30 service. Anyone who can help for even just a few minutes would be greatly appreciated!

Mitten/Scarf/Sock Tree

We are collecting winter items (coats, mittens, scarves, hats, socks, etc.) for those in need. Please be sure all items are new or very gently worn. Trees are in place in the Gathering Place and in the main office.

Christmas Eve - Thank you!!

Thank you to all who made our Christmas Eve services possible - to the altar guild, to our communion preparers, to our communion assistants, to our choirs and special music, to our ushers and greeters, to our livestream techs, and to anyone else who served in any way. Thank you!

Young Adult Lock-In

Ten young adults participated in a lock-in on Dec 27. We had a great time talking about our faith and their personal lives. We participated in the annual making of paper airplanes and launching them from the balcony, then having a discussion in the Nave. It was a pleasure to give them the time to catch up with us and others they don't see that often.

Welcome Ethan Draper

Our new Organist and Choir Director

Ethan will begin his ministry at St. Matthew on January 5. We are grateful for the gifts Ethan brings, and we are excited for the leadership he will offer in worship and music ministry. Please join us in warmly welcoming him to St. Matthew Lutheran Church. ***Please join us for a welcome reception on January 11 following the 10:30 service.***

SongFest Concert: *The Gift of Alleluia*

Friday January 16, 7:00pm

featuring Joseph Martin, Sean Paul, Steve Roddy, Patti Drennan and the SongFest Choir.

The concert is part of a two-day event - Music in the Valley. The concert is always a great evening here at St. Matt. It is a free event, open to the community. No tickets are required.

Pastor Kathy's Sabbatical - Starts Jan 19th

Beginning January 19th, Pastor Kathy will be on a Sabbatical until Monday, March 16th. If you are in need of a pastor, you may contact the church office to get in touch with Pastor Alex or Pastor Faye. If you call after office hours, the voice message will indicate contact information for the pastor on call.



Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman - Lead Pastor
pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org

Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt - Associate Pastor
pastoralex@stmattlutheran.org

Pastor Faye Snyder - Visitation Pastor
nicksong@comcast.net

Deb Smith - Interim Minister of Music
dsmith@stmattlutheran.org

Where Faith & Life Intersect - Sundays, 9:30a

A discussion class based on current events and our faith, located next to the Gathering Place. Contact Beth Koontz at BethK9245@gmail.com for more information.

Together by Grace: Bible Conversations, John, 8 week study, beginning Jan 11 at 9:30a

Beginning January 11th, all adults are invited to come to the upper room on the second floor for a Bible Study on the Gospel of John. This eight week series picks up on the major themes of John. This study takes a unique approach encourages participants to not just learn about Jesus but to recognize how Jesus leads us in a life of meaning and purpose.

SoulFire Band - Tuesdays 1/6, 2/3, 2/17 at 5:45p

Adult Bell Choir - Thursdays at 6p, *resumes Jan 8*

Adult Choir - Thursdays at 7p, *resumes Jan 8*

WELCA Bible Study, Tuesday, Jan 6 2:00pm, 2nd Floor, Upper Room

All women are invited to attend a Bible Study led by Pastor Kathy on stewardship and generosity. Come to discover how our relationships sustain us and help us to grow. For more information, call the church office.

Newsletter Articles - Due Thursday, Jan 15

This newsletter will cover February, March, and April and celebrate recent ministries. Please submit articles to Pastor Alex.

Senior Hangout - Monday, Jan. 19 10:00am-12:30pm, Fellowship Hall

This month, we'll be joined by Pastor Mark Vitalis Hoffman for a presentation on Turkey and Greece and their relevance to the Bible. There will also be games, art projects, and cookies!

CyberWomen - Tuesday, Jan 20 Meal - 5:30pm; Conversation - 6:00pm Panera Bread, North Hanover

CyberWomen starts back up again this month! More details and the topic of conversation will be announced soon.

Annual Reports - Due Monday, Jan 26

Please email your committee report to info@stmattlutheran.org. If you can't email, drop a typed copy at the office. For questions or past reports, contact Jane or Stacy at 717-637-7101.

New GriefShare group 13 Week Session, beginning Jan 26 3:00-4:30 on the 2nd floor, upper room.

You are welcome in our GriefShare group. You don't need to be alone in your grief. To register call the church office (717-637-7101). For questions or more information, contact Pastor Faye at nicksong@comcast.net or at 717-451-0851.

Guess who is coming to dinner on February 6?

Mark Your Calendars

Jan. 6, 2:00p - WELCA Bible Study

Jan. 11, 9:30a - Faith Connections Resume

Jan. 11, 11:45a - Welcome Reception for Ethan

Jan. 13, 7:00p - All Committee Night

Jan. 15, 4:00p - Newsletter Articles Due

Jan. 16, 7:00p - Joe Martin Concert

Jan. 17, 9:00a - Council Retreat

Jan. 19 - Pastor Kathy's Sabbatical Begins

Jan. 19, 10:00a - Senior's Hangout

Jan. 20, 6:00p - Cyberwomen

Jan. 26, 12:00p - Annual Reports Due

Jan. 26, 3:00p - GriefShare Begins

Jan. 27, 7:00p - Council

Feb. 6 - Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

Children's Faith Connections - Sundays, 9:30a

Ages 3–5th grade. Our regular Faith Connections will resume on January 11. Contact Missy Smith with questions or for more information.

Junior Choir & Bells (3rd-5th grade) - Tuesdays 4:30-5:15p. **Resumes on Jan 13.**

Children's Choir (age 3-2nd grade) - Thursdays 4:15-5:00p. **Resumes on Jan 15.**

Faith Connections classes will resume NEXT

Sunday, Jan 11 in the Lower Level. We are excited to get back into our regular lessons after the holiday break. We will see you in the Lower Level to enjoy music time, activities and lesson that will help us learn the stories of the Bible.

THANK YOU from Missy Smith

I would like to thank all of the kids and their families for such an amazing job with the Christmas pageant! Ms. Deb and I are so proud of you. We could not have asked for a better crew to help us share the Christmas Story with our friends and families. Thank you all for your time and talents to make this such a great performance!

Discovery Place Preschool

Open House

Thurs., Jan 29, 5:30-7:00pm.

It is hard to believe that it is already almost time to register for the 2026-2027 school year! We will be having our Open House to learn more about the preschool and to meet the teachers on Thurs, Jan 29. Please share our preschool information with families that have young children!



Celebrating Christmas Eve - Thank you!

Thank you for being part of our 4:30pm Christmas Eve Services. Thank you to the families who came to celebrate the birth of Jesus with us. It was a special night for all of us. And YOU made it possible. Thank you! Everyone did such a wonderful job - the Children and Junior Choirs, the special music, and the readers. We give God great thanks and praise for each and every one of you.



Ministries for kids and their families from birth through 5th grade.

Missy Smith - Children & Family Ministries
msmith@stmattlutheran.org

Deb Smith - Interim Minister of Music
dsmith@stmattlutheran.org

Splash Class - Sun, Feb 1, 9:45am, Playground

Our Splash class is our class geared toward the littlest among us and their families. Led by Ms. Lindsay and Mr. Adam, families with babies and toddlers are invited to join them as they dive into what it means to have a child "splashed" in the waters of baptism. This highly interactive class includes music, play, and connection -- offering space to grow in faith together through movement, song, and joy.



Steven Courtney Concert **Sun, Feb 22 at 4:00pm**

We're thrilled to announce that beloved children's musician Steven Courtney is joining our 2026 Concert Series! With fun, engaging songs that spark imagination and joy, Steven's music is perfect for kids and families alike. Mark your calendars and get ready for a lively, laughter-filled afternoon you won't want to miss!

Mark Your Calendars

Jan. 11, 9:30am - Faith Connection Classes resume

Jan 29, 5:30p - Discovery Place Open House

Feb. 1, 9:45a - Splash Class

Feb. 22, 4:00p - Steven Courtney Concert

Mar. 8, 9:45a - Splash Class

Mar. 8, 11:45a - Communion Milestone Class

Mar. 15, 11:45a - Communion Milestone Class

Mar. 22, 11:45a - Bread Baking for Maundy
Thurs & Comm. Milestone



Ministries for youth and their families in 6th-12th grades.

Tim Peck - Youth Ministry
youth@stmattlutheran.org

Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt - Associate Pastor
pastoralex@stmattlutheran.org

Deb Smith - Interim Minister of Music
dsmith@stmattlutheran.org

Youth Faith Connections, Sundays 9:30a
Youth Faith Connections will resume Jan 11 at 9:30am

Middle Schoolers (6th-8th grade) meet for **Confirmation** in the Youth Suite with Pastor Alex and Tim.

High School Faith Connections (9th-12th grade) meets for a narrative lectionary discussion with Jeremy and Chris.

Donuts and drinks are provided. ALL are welcome. Contact Pastor Alex or Tim for more information.

Youth Bells & Choir (6th-12th Grades)

Meets Sundays with Ms. Deb, 11:45a-12:45p. All youth are invited to be part of making music together! ***Will be on break Jan 4.***

Youth Group - Youth Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Everyone in 6th-12th grade is welcome to come for games, fellowship, and growing in faith together!

Celebrating Christmas Eve - Thank You!

We're so grateful you joined us for our 7:00 PM Christmas Eve services. A huge thank you to all who came to celebrate Jesus' birth with us; it was a night to remember! Your participation made everything possible, and for that, we're truly thankful!

A special shoutout goes to the Youth Choir and Bells, as well as the cross bearer and torch bearers, for their amazing contributions. We give God our deepest thanks and praise for each and every one of you.

Youth Group - Jan 4, 6-8pm

3rd Floor, Youth Suite

We will be sharing our Winterfest weekend with everyone, plus have some games and time together.

Family Game Night - Jan 18, 6-8pm

3rd Floor, Youth Suite

Youth and their families are invited to join us for a family game night. Bring a favorite family-friendly game to play! It will be a fun evening for all!

Save the Dates

Confirmation Retreat (6th-8th grade) - June 14-19

All Saint's Confirmation camp, Camp Nawakwa
It is a week that you get to experience camp and meet new friends, plus it will give you a fresh way to look at confirmation. This year's theme is **Faith and Doubt**. It is expected that Confirmation students attend this annual retreat at least once during their time in Confirmation - but we encourage participation each year.

Mission Trip (9th-12th grade) - July 5-11

We will be partnering again with LutheranHands for our annual mission trip. This year's trip is a bit closer to home - in Philadelphia, PA. It is a week of helping a community that needs help with their homes and surroundings. It is always a rewarding week for all that attend, so mark your schedules to go and serve in Philadelphia with us.



Mark Your Calendars

Jan 4 - HS Youth Return from WinterFest

Jan 4, 6:00p - Youth Group

Jan 11, 9:30a - Confirmation & Faith
Connections Resumes

Jan 18, 6:00p - Family Dinner & Game Night

Jun 14-19 - All Saints' Confirmation Camp

July 5-11 - Mission Trip with LutheranHands