



St. Matthew
LUTHERAN CHURCH of HANOVER

January 25 - February 1, 2026

info@stmatthlutheran.org
717-637-7101

Happening This Week

Sunday 1/25

8:30a - Worship (Nave)
9:30a - Faith Connections
10:30a - Worship (Nave)
11:45a - Youth Choir & Handbells (Lower Level)

Monday 1/26

3:00p - GriefShare (Upper Room)
6:00p - Girl Scouts

Tuesday 1/27

4:30p - Junior Choir & Handbells (Lower Level)
6:30p - Cub Scouts
7:00p - Council (Upper Room)

Wednesday 1/28

7:00p - Boy Scouts

Thursday 1/29

4:15p - Children's Choir
5:30p - Discovery Place Open House
6:00p - St. Matthew Ringers (Lower Level)
7:00p - Adult Choir (Lower Level)

Saturday 1/31

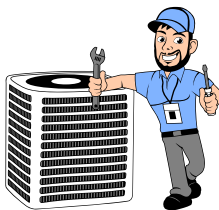
5:00p - Worship (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday 2/1

8:30a - Worship (Nave)
9:30a - Faith Connections
9:45a - Splash Class (Fellowship Hall, Playground)
10:30a - Worship (Nave)
11:45a - Youth Choir & Handbells (Lower Level)

Congregational Meeting Results January 18, 11:45a

Last Sunday, we held a special congregation meeting to vote on a proposal from Council for replacing our HVAC system for the Nave and to make associated roof repairs. The proposal passed. We thank you for your support as we begin these necessary repairs. Information regarding a Capital Campaign to offset the costs will be coming soon.



Annual Reports – Due Monday, Jan 26

Please email your committee report to info@stmatthlutheran.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.



Lent & Easter at St. Matthew

Feb 18, 7pm

Ash Wednesday

Weds. Feb 25 thru
Mar 25, 6:00pm

Dinner Church - This is My Story

Mar 28 & 29

Palm Sunday Weekend
Children's Parade @ 10:30

Mar 29, 11:45am

Easter Egg Hunt & Lunch

Apr 2, 7:00pm

Maundy Thursday
with Communion Milestone

Apr 3, 7:00pm

Good Friday

Apr 4 & 5

Easter Weekend

Pastor Kathy's Sabbatical - Jan 19 through Mar 15

Pastor Kathy is 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

Ethan Draper - Music Ministry
edraper@stmattlutheran.org

Deb Smith - Music Ministry
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, January 11 - March 1 at 9:30a

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, taking a unique approach and encouraging participants to not just learn about Jesus but to recognize how Jesus leads us in a life of meaning and purpose.

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

Adult Bell Choir - Thursdays at 6p

Adult Choir - Thursdays at 7p



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?

Love good food, meaningful conversation, and a little mystery? Sign up to be a host or a guest at a dinner that brings together St. Matthew folks who may not know each other yet. Pick up a flyer at the Hospitality Desk for full details. Or sign up to be a host or a guest at the Hospitality Desk!

Annual Meeting - February 15, 11:45am

Following the 10:30 service on Feb 15, we will hold our annual meeting. Please plan on attending this important meeting. Annual Reports will be available for you to learn about what is happening here at St. Matthew!

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 7:00pm

Join us for Ash Wednesday worship as we begin the season of Lent—a time to pause, reflect, and remember God's grace. All are welcome.



Lenten Dinner Church - This Is My Story

Wednesdays, Feb 25 - March 25, 6:00pm

In addition to eating a delicious meal served by our committees and other groups, we will have a short worship with prayer, song and the opportunity to hear faith stories from members of our congregation.

Blood Drive - March 26, 12pm-6pm

St Matthew in conjunction with Central Pa Blood Bank will be holding a drive on March 26 from 12-6 PM. Please mark your calendars and plan to support this worthwhile cause.

Mark Your Calendars

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

Jan. 26, 3:00p - GriefShare Begins

Jan. 27, 7:00p - Council

Feb. 3, 2:00p - Women of the ELCA

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

Feb. 15, 11:45a - Annual Congregation Meeting

Feb. 16, 10:00a - Senior Hangout

Feb. 17, 6:00p - Cyberwomen

Feb. 18, 7:00p - Ash Wednesday

Feb. 25, 6:00p - Dinner Church Begins

Children's Faith Connections - Sundays, 9:30a
Ages 3-5th grade. Our regular Faith Connections continues through May. Contact Missy Smith with questions or for more information.

Junior Choir & Bells (3rd-5th grade) - Tuesdays
4:30-5:15p.

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

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

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.

What's Up, Zak? Musical - Apr. 26, 10:30am

Info Sessions: Feb 8 @ 1pm OR Feb 13 @ 6pm

Calling all actors in Kindergarten through 5th grade. We would love to have you participate in the musical, What's Up, Zak?, the story of Zaccheaus.

Tiny Tunes - 12:00-12:45p

Saturdays Feb 21 & 28

Tiny Tunes (ages 2-4) is an opportunity for our little ones to come together with their grown-ups and make music together! Contact Deb Smith for more information. Sign up with the QR code.



Music JAM, Sat. Feb 28 9:00a-11:00a

Music JAM (K-4th grade) brings kids together to play music and praise Jesus. Kids will even make their own instruments! Registration is required. Contact Deb Smith for more information. Sign up with the QR code.



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

We're thrilled to announce that beloved children's musician Steven Courtney is joining our 2026 Concert Series! With fun, engaging songs that spark 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!



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

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

Deb Smith - Music Ministry
dsmith@stmattlutheran.org

Communion Milestone: Come to the Table

March 15, 11:45a-12:30p - Class

March 22, 11:45a-12:30p - Bread Baking

April 2, 7:00p - Maundy Thursday worship

Is your child ready to explore the gift of Communion? This milestone is for children 5th grade and younger who are not yet receiving communion, haven't had a class, or would like a refresher. Families are encouraged to participate together in this time of learning and growing in faith. Contact Pastor Alex or Missy Smith with questions or concerns. Sign-up using the QR code.



Easter Egg Hunt - March 29, 11:45am

Kids are invited to join us on Palm Sunday - March 29 following the 10:30 service - for an Easter Egg Hunt. Join us for lunch, games, crafts, and an egg hunt hosted by our youth. There will even be a visit from the Easter Bunny!

Mark Your Calendars

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

Feb. 1, 9:45a - Splash Class

Feb. 8, 1:00p - Info Session for Musical

Feb. 13, 6:00p - Info Session for Musical

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

Mar. 8, 9:45a - Splash Class

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

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

Mar. 29, 11:45a - Easter Egg Hunt & Meal

Apr. 2, 7:00p - Maundy Thurs & Communion
Milestone

Apr. 26, 10:30a - What's Up Zak? Musical



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 - Music Ministry
dsmith@stmattlutheran.org

Youth Faith Connections, Sundays 9:30a
Youth Faith Connections will resume THIS Sunday, 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!

Youth Group, 1st & 3rd Sundays
6:00-8:00pm, 3rd Floor Youth Suite
No Youth Group on Feb 1

Are you ready to make a difference, build lasting friendships, and grow in our faith? Our Youth Group is committed to fun, fellowship, and making a positive impact in the world around us. Here, youth can show up just as they are, grow in their relationship with God, and build lasting friendships.

Easter Egg Hunt - March 29, 11:45am

Youth volunteers are needed! The Youth will be hosting the Palm Sunday Lunch & Egg Hunt on March 29, following the 10:30 service. Come and serve lunch, lead games and crafts, and more to help make Easter a fun celebration for all!



Save the Dates

Summer Camps

St. Matthew hosts 3 summer camps for kids throughout the summer. Middle school and high school youth are invited to help with our summer camps for younger kids. Camp leaders get to share their faith in real ways, grow leadership skills, and serve as role models—while still having plenty of fun along the way. More info to come. The dates are below:

- Day Camp (June 8-12, 9am-3pm)
- Vacation Bible School (June 22-25, 9am-12pm)
- Music Camp (August 3-7, 9am-11am)

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

Mar 29, 11:45a - Easter Egg Hunt and Meal

Jun 8-12 - Day Camp

Jun 14-19 - All Saints' Confirmation Camp

Jun 22-25 - VBS

July 5-11 - Mission Trip with LutheranHands

Aug 3-7 - Music Camp