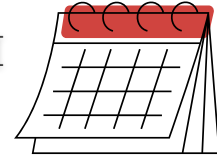




This week

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 23 - MARCH 2, 2025



Sun:

Worship with Holy Communion (Nave) 8:30 a.m.
 Faith Connections 9:30 a.m.
 Strategic Plan Forum (Fellowship Hall) 9:30 a.m.
 Worship with Holy Communion (Nave) 10:30 a.m.
 Youth Choir/Handbells (Rehearsal Room)
 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
 Black Rose Chorale Rehearsal (Nave) 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Mon:

Girl Scouts 6:00-7:30 p.m.
 GriefShare (Upper Room) 6:30-8:00 p.m.
 Strategic Plan Forum (Online/Zoom) 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Tues:

Jr. Choir & Handbells 4:30-5:15 p.m.
 Cub Scouts 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wed:

Midweek Book Study (Upper Room) 2:00 p.m.
 Boy Scouts 6:00-8:30 p.m.
 Midweek Book Study (Upper Room) 7:00 p.m.

Thurs:

Children's Choir 4:15-5:00 p.m.
 Adult Bells 6:00-7:00 p.m.
 Adult Choir 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Fri:

Sat:

Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast (Fellowship Hall).....
 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
 Worship Service (Nave) 5:00 p.m.

Sun:

Worship with Holy Communion (Nave) 8:30 a.m.
 Faith Connections 9:30 a.m.
 Splash Class (Pray Ground) 9:45-10:20 a.m.
 Worship with Holy Communion (Nave) 10:30 a.m.
 Congregation Meeting (Fellowship Hall) 11:45 a.m.
 Youth Choir/Handbells (Rehearsal Room)
 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
 Youth Group (Room 304) 6:00-8:00 p.m.
 Black Rose Chorale Rehearsal (Nave) 7:00-8:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Strategic Plan Forums

Two different Forums will offer members of our community the opportunity to learn more about our new strategic plan and ask questions. We hope you will be able to attend one of these forums:

- **Sunday, February 23** at 9:30-10:20 in the Fellowship Hall
- **Monday, February 24** at 7:00-8:00 by zoom. (Send an e-mail to info@stmattlutheran.org to get the link.)

A congregational meeting will be held on **Sunday, March 2** at 11:45 following the late worship service. At this meeting members will have the opportunity to vote on this plan.



Name Tag Sunday

A reminder that next Sunday, (the 1st Sunday of each month) is Name Tag Sunday, which we hope, with time, will promote camaraderie, and enhance our human connection. Let's enjoy getting to know one another!



Faith Connections for Children

Kids ages 3 years old - 5th grade can join us in some music, Bible stories and activities in the Lower Level from 9:30-10:20 a.m. on Sunday mornings.



Black Rose Chorale

Do you love to sing? Are you looking for a community singing group? The Black Rose Chorale is for you! Rehearsals start this Sunday, **February 23**. Please check the St. Matthew Facebook/website registration for more information, or talk to Ben Boellner (bboellner@stmattlutheran.org) or Deb Smith (dsmith@stmattlutheran.org). The Black Rose Chorale is for everyone! We welcome ALL!



Midweek Book Study

Wednesdays through February 26 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Join as we wrap up our discussion of Rachel Held Evan's book, Inspired. This Wednesday, February 26, we will be discussing "The Letter", Chapter 8 "Church Stories," and the Epilogue. For questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Alex at pastoralex@stmattlutheran.org.



BSA Troop 105 Pancake Breakfast

Come support the Boy Scouts on **Saturday, March 1** between 8:00-11:00 a.m. for their all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast! This will be held in our Fellowship Hall. Adults are \$9 and children under 11 are \$5. Proceeds benefit BSA Troop 105 trips and activities. For more info, contact Manny Rivera at 717-578-0575.



Splash Class

The next Splash Class will be held next Sunday, **March 2** at 9:45 a.m. in the Pray Ground in Fellowship Hall. This class is for our families with kids ages 3 months- 3 years to join in the exploration of what comes after being "Splashed" by the waters of Baptism.

Dates to Remember:

March 8, 2025 - Winter Jam in State College. All are welcome to go. Let Tim Peck (youth@stmattlutheran.org) know by February 23.

March 21, 2025 - Newsboys at the Appell Center in York, PA . All are welcome to join!

~ Look for flyers around the church ~

Youth Group

Our next Youth Group (6-12th grade) is next Sunday, **March 2**, in the Youth Suite on the third floor (304) from 6:00-8:00 p.m. All are welcome!



Confirmation & High School Youth Connections

Confirmation (6th-8th grade) and High School Youth Connections (9th-12th grade) will meet this Sunday, **February 23**, in the Youth Suite on the third floor (304) from 9:30-10:20 a.m.



Discovery Place Preschool's Annual Spring Craft Fair!

March 15, 2025 from 9am - 3pm

Come enjoy: a bake sale, local small businesses and vendors, home decor, a silent auction, food trucks, face painting (9 a.m. - 12 p.m.), a story time for children (10:30 a.m.), and a St. Matthew Mini Ministers puppet show (11:30 a.m.). This event happens once a year, so don't miss out! Admission is free and proceeds go directly towards Discovery Place Preschool.

For vendor registration or more information:
discoveryplacehanover@gmail.com

If anyone would be able to donate baked goods for the Bake Sale, they can be dropped off on Friday, March 14 at the church office.



Music for the Homebound

Ben Boellner and Deb Smith would like to provide music for our homebound congregation members. Deb or Ben will go to their home and play music for about 1/2 hour. They will bring their own keyboard. If you are interested or know someone who is interested, please call the church office at 717-637-7101 and leave your name and phone number.

Communion Milestone: Come to the Table

Is your child ready to explore the gift of Holy Communion? Join us for our Holy Communion Milestone! Geared toward children in 5th grade and younger and their families who: are not yet receiving Communion and want to start, are already receiving Communion but haven't had a communion class, OR would like a refresher! Key Dates:

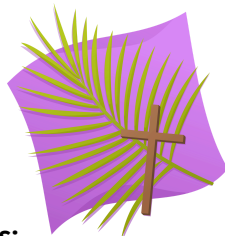
- Sunday, March 23: Class following the 10:30 service (approx. 11:45-12:30 p.m.)
- Sunday, April 6: Bread baking following the 10:30 service (approx. 11:45-12:30 p.m.)
- Thursday, April 17: Maundy Thursday Worship at 7 p.m., celebrating the Holy Communion Milestone



If you're unable to attend one or more of the classes, please reach out to Pastor Alex to set up another time. For questions or concerns, contact our Children and Family Ministry Coordinator, Missy Smith (msmith@stmatthlutheran.org), or Pastor Alex (pastoralex@stmatthlutheran.org).

Lent 2025: All We Need

This year's theme, "All We Need," invites us to explore what we need to survive and thrive—individually, as a church, and as a community. With guidance from Barn Geese Worship, we'll reflect on scripture's insights into our deepest needs.



Lenten Worship Themes:

- Ash Wednesday (March 5): Our Own & Others' Needs
- March 8/9: The Need to Embrace Vulnerability
- March 15/16: The Need for Sleep
- March 22/23: The Need for an Advocate
- March 29/30: The Need for Change
- April 5/6: The Need for Beauty
- Palm & Passion Sunday (April 12/13): Jesus Needs Our Help
- Holy Week (April 17-19): The Need for Love, Protection & New Life
- Easter Sunday (April 20): The Need to Rejoice

Dinner Church Returns!

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. (starting March 12), featuring a meal and healing service reflecting the previous Sunday's theme. Hosting the dinners this year are:

- March 12 - Music and Worship
- March 19 - Finance and Evangelism
- March 26 - Faith Formation
- April 2 - Social Ministry
- April 9 - Council

All are welcome to journey with us this Lent! Contact either Pastor Kathy (pastorkathy@stmatthlutheran.org) or Pastor Alex (pastoralex@stmatthlutheran.org) for more information!