

# The St. Matthew Messenger



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

February 2020

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## From the Desk of Pastor Moore:

### So Long and Thanks for All the Fish



I told my oldest son that I would soon be finishing my time as your Interim

Lead Pastor and I was thinking about what I would say to you in my last sermon (February 9th, by the way). His suggestion was "So Long and Thanks for All the Fish." For those who don't know *CLASSIC* literature, that's from the book series "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" by Douglas Adams.

Instead I decided to go back and look at what I wrote to you in my first article for *The Messenger*. In that article I talked about the seven holy words of the church – "We've Never Done It That Way Before." In case you haven't noticed, we have been doing things differently around here! I have been doing things differently because the only constant in any organization, including the church, is change. At least if we wish to continue to be relevant to an ever-changing world.

At the same time, there is one constant that does not change – and that is Jesus. Jesus is not only

always our Lord and Savior; he also shows us how we are to always live in an ever changing and confusing world.

Think about it. Jesus was always, always thinking about others before he thought of himself. He fed the hungry (even 5,000 of them!), he healed the sick, he even thought about others (his mother) while he was dying on the cross ("Jesus said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home." – John 19:26).

Many of us pine for the church as it was – filled with people and the social center of the community. That makes sense. We want to give to our children and our grandchildren the wonderful life we had growing up in the church.

But here is where that reality about things always changing comes into play. Not only is the world very different from when most of us were growing up, our children and grandchildren are very different from when we were kids.

But what is the same is the call to be like Jesus. Younger generations today are attracted to groups that are making a difference in their community and in the world. So my final message to you is a call to make a difference – in our community and in our world. **Continued on next page**

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First, find a way to do that in your own life. Every single person at Saint Matthew's has been gifted by God to do the ministry that God is calling each of us to do. Find out what that gift is and use it to make our community and our world a better place. Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, care for

the sick, and visit the imprisoned.

Second, find a way to do that as a congregation. Focus the ministry of the congregation to those who are outside of the walls of the church. Start and grow the ministries of the congregation that feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, care for the sick, and visit the imprisoned.

Saint Matthew is a wonderful congregation. But it can be even better. As you welcome your new Lead Pastor to this great congregation, do so with an excitement for reaching out to those in need and an understanding of what it means to be called to be like Jesus.

And as you go on from here, may our Lord Jesus Christ go with you. May he go before you to show you the way. May he go above you to watch over you. May he go behind you to lift you up. And may he go beside you to be your friend.

+ Peace +

Pastor Rob Moore  
Soon-to-be-Former Interim Lead Pastor



***I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY*** to thank my St. Matthew friends for the overwhelming love and comfort extended to me and my family at the time of my son's death. Blessings to you all this New Year. Mary Herring

***THANK YOU*** for the generous gift presented to me for my 30<sup>th</sup> year as an Associate in Ministry and now deacon in the ELCA. I very much appreciate your recognition of this milestone in my calling and career. It continues to be my honor and joy to serve as your Minister of Christian Education. Thank you again for all your support and good wishes. Miss Jan Davis

**AT A SPECIAL REORGANIZATION MEETING** of the Congregation Council on December 8, Vicki Wildasin was elected president, Doug Stambaugh, vice president; Lynelle Livelsberger, secretary; and Karyn George, re-elected as treasurer of Church Council for 2020. Thanked are outgoing officers Jeremy Bucher, vice president and Laurel Bell, secretary. May God bless and guide our congregation/council officers. Also, thank you to Kit Curlen, Bill Ritter and Emily Crouse, youth representative, for their service to Council these past three years.

**AT THE SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING** on January 5, the Rev. Kathryn Vitalis Hoffman was called to serve as Lead Pastor here at Saint Matthew. Pastor Kathy accepted the call and will begin her pastorate here near the beginning of Lent. May God bless and guide her during this time of transition.

**THE CALL COMMITTEE** would like to thank the congregation for the wonderful attendance at the "meet and greet" and the excitement at the combined church service on January 5. We were honored to represent the congregation in this Lead Pastor call process.

**THANK YOU** to all who brought in cards, snacks and well wishes to the church office during the Christmas season. We are very grateful for your thoughts and prayers.





**A PRAYER CHAIN MEETING** is scheduled for Wednesday, February 5 at 10:30 a.m. in the Library. If you have any changes or updates for the prayer chain, please notify Gloria Koontz, 717-637-7434, prior to the meeting. Persons or situations added to the prayer chain are kept on the list for 3 months. At that time they are removed if there have been no calls asking to extend their stay on the list. Our pray-ers do like to hear about prayers answered, so please keep them updated as to the person/situation. Thank you to all who assist in this ministry.



## *Shrove Tuesday*

**February 25,**  
begins at 5:30 p.m.  
in Fellowship Hall



**Everyone is invited** to join us the day before Ash Wednesday as we begin our Lenten Journey to Easter.



Our dinner menu is eggs, bacon, sausage and pancakes and of course donuts!  
Free-will offering will be accepted.



**LENT BEGINS ON FEBRUARY 26** this year with our Ash Wednesday service which begins at 7:15 p.m. This service features an extended confession of sins, imposition of ashes (optional,) communion and the Adult Choir singing. Please join us on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. for a Shrove Tuesday dinner of donuts, eggs, bacon, sausage and pancakes to prepare for the Lent season and then join us Wednesday evening for SAW including our Ash Wednesday service. It is a very meaningful way to begin our journey to Easter.

**DURING THE WEDNESDAYS IN LENT**, St. Matthew will engage in worship using the liturgy "Holden Evening Prayer." Holden Evening Prayer was written in 1985 by composer Marty Haugen (Haugen has numerous songs in our ELW hymnal.) He wrote the liturgy for the evening worship (Vespers), at a Lutheran Retreat Center in Holden, Washington, known as Holden Village.



Holden Evening Prayer is a beautiful sung liturgy that is easy to follow. It is centered around Jesus being the Light of the World. If you liked the communion liturgy St. Matthew did during Advent, you will like this liturgy. (The sung communion liturgy will be offered again starting Ash Wednesday evening and every Sunday during Lent.

In addition, members of St. Matthew will share their faith stories on these five weeks between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week. Don't miss it!

# Save the Date!

## Thursday, April 30

For the  
next  
Red  
Cross  
Blood  
Drive







# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



**CHILDREN'S SERMONS** are another way that children may feel involved in worship. While they are participating with their own prayers and praises and listening to God's word

throughout the service, children's sermons provide a time when God's word is spoken especially for them. They are offered on the first and third Sunday of each month at the 8:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. service. All children through the sixth grade, are invited to come forward immediately after the reading of the gospel. Parents are welcome to accompany children, especially infants and toddlers, to share in this time.

## ST. MATT'S LUNCH-OUT

welcomes all to dine at Hoss's on Thursday, February 13, beginning at 11:45 a.m. Hoss's is located at 1180 Carlisle Street, Hanover.

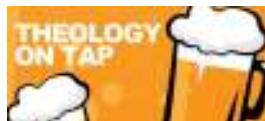
They have a large soup, salad and dessert bar which can serve as a whole meal plus a large menu of sandwiches, steak and more. Enjoy good conversation over a good meal with nothing to prepare nor dishes to wash!



**CYBER WOMEN** will gather at Panera at 75 Eisenhower Dr. in Hanover on Monday, February 17, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Women of all ages are welcome to the table as we share thoughts about faith issues. Articles from the monthly Café magazine, found at [www.boldcafe.org](http://www.boldcafe.org), focus our discussion.



**THEOLOGY ON TAP (ToT)** is for our "over-21" crowd to meet over lunch and beverages and have time to talk about faith issues. ToT will be at Miscreation on the Hanover Square on Sunday, February 23, immediately following the 10:45 a.m. service. We'll make a delivery order from Sal's Pizza while having beverages from Miscreation's menu of craft beers, wines and soft drinks.



**HOLY BOWLERS** meets the first and third Thursday at South Hanover Lanes, 1767 S. Baltimore St, Hanover. Bible study, where we discuss the lessons for the up-coming Sunday, begins at 1:00 p.m. Bowling, where we emphasize fun and fellowship more than our scores, begins at 1:45 p.m. The snack bar will be open for sandwiches, pizza, soft pretzels, beverages and more so you may have lunch or refreshments any time during Holy Bowlers. Bowling is \$5 for three games, including shoe rental. Even if you haven't bowled in years, now could be the time to begin again!



**DISCIPLE TRAINING CAMP** gives our 2 year olds through 6<sup>th</sup> graders the opportunity to learn about God and to explore their faith. Our camp has Bible stories that introduce and reinforce the message of God's Word. Special events are included throughout the year to make camp more appealing and hands-on to younger disciples. On January 26, an impetuous disciple will visit to tell his story. (Can you guess which one it might be?) On February 9, all campers will go to the Upper Room to make a salty treat as they hear Jesus' story about salt and light. Disciple Training Camp welcomes new participants all year long, so if you haven't been to our camp yet, it's not too late! We meet in the education building each Sunday from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.



**THE YARN EXCHANGE** is now available for all our prayer shawl and finger labyrinth knitters and crocheters! Using Thrivent Action Dollars, yarn has been purchased for your use in creating these important ways to pass prayer along to those in need. The yarn may be found in the closet in the Lounge in the Administration Building, which is open during office hours and on Sunday mornings between 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sign out the yarn you need (three skeins for a shawl or two for a finger labyrinth), complete your project, return it to the Lounge and sign it in the appropriate record book. The Action Team will attach a charm (usually a cross) and a note about your shawl or labyrinth.



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**YOUTH GROUP** continues to be a comfortable and very special place for our 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade youth. February literally “kicks off” with a fantastic Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 2. Starting at 6:00 p.m., enjoy the Big Game in the Youth Suite, located in rooms 303 and 304 on the third floor of the youth building (the one with the gym.) Please bring a treat to share. If you arrive after kick-off, the doors will be locked, but you may call/text 717-476-9977 and they’ll open them for you. Also, you may stay til the end of the game or have your parents pick you up at any time.



**The Cookie Bake-Off postponed** from January will take place on Sunday, February 16, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Get a great cookie recipe from an adult member of our congregation and direct your team in baking your creation at the bake-off. Might there be a prize for “best cookie?” Come and see!

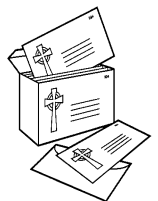


The **Youth Ministry Team** meets 6:00 to 7:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall on All Committee Night, the second Tuesday of each month. We always have an open invitation for parents or other adults who would like to be a part of our youth ministry.

Be sure you are signed up for **REMIND** notices on your phone. That’s where you’ll get any last minute changes that are made due to weather or other circumstances. Please contact Tim or Chris Peck at 717-476-9920 or 717-476-9977 if you are not already on or for more information.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE?** Sometimes this world seems so cold and hard. There are so many who are suffering. Have you ever wished you knew what you could do to help? It is so easy to become a **VISITING MINISTER** at St. Matthew. A one-hour visit to a home-bound member of St. Matthew once a month and a periodic check-in meeting is the extent of your commitment. There is a brief training course, so you’re never ‘out there on your own.’ Visiting ministers have peer and leader support. We are planning a training course soon. Please pray and ask if God is leading you to be involved in this compassionate ministry. Call **Pastor Faye at 717-451-0851** if you have questions, to hear more, or to sign up.

**THANK YOU TO ALL** who are filling out your giving envelopes denoting where the monies are to be spent. Envelopes that are received blank will be split as your 2020 pledge states. If there is no 2020 pledge and the envelope is blank, the monies will be divided 75% to Parish Ministries and 25% to World Mission, just as loose offerings are treated. This applies to any amount under \$1,000. This was voted on and passed by the Finance Committee in January of 2019.



### NOVEMBER 16, 2019 – JANUARY 15, 2020

#### Baptisms

January 11 - **Weston Ryan Bailey**, son of Cody and Allie (Kessel) Bailey, with sponsors Stanley and Lauren Herring

**Braxton Roland Madrigal**, son of Rolando and Morgan (Long) Madrigal, with sponsors Susan Bonnevillie and Caleb Nahory

**Thomas Scott Stauffer**, son of Ian and Taylor (Feaser) Stauffer

#### Deaths

November 19 – Doris Zumbrum

November 22 – Sharon Hess

November 29 – Betty Brenner

December 1 – William “Bill” Herring

December 5 – Barbara Delozier

## *Mini-Minister Puppets!*

14th Annual Puppet Marathon

Sunday, February 9

2-4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

You may come and go as your time permits.  
Don't miss this fun family event —  
all are welcome!



The Rev. Robert Moore, Interim Lead Pastor  
The Rev. M. David Kiel, Interim Associate Pastor  
The Rev. Arthur L. Ruths, D.D., Pastor Emeritus  
The Rev. Dr. E. Edward Keyser, Cong. Visitation Pastor  
The Rev. Faye C. Snyder, Cong. Visitation Pastor  
Deacon Jan M. Davis, Minister of Christian Education  
Scott G. Fredericks, Minister of Music

30 West Chestnut Street  
Hanover, PA 17331

Phone: 717-637-7101

Fax: 717-637-4961

Email: [info@stmatlutheran.org](mailto:info@stmatlutheran.org)

[www.stmatlutheran.org](http://www.stmatlutheran.org)