



The St. Matthew
MESSENGER

CENTERED IN CHRIST
Celebrating Love • Serving All

June/July
Vol. XLI Issue 2

From the Desk of Pastor Taylor:

To the beloved community of & around St. Matt's,
I pray the (somewhat fickle) warming of the weather is warming your hearts the way it's warming mine. I pray you're finding rest in this season when our rhythms are often shifting, if not always *slowing*.

Growing up in a busy family when extra time (or funds) were hard to come by, we didn't go on very many vacations in my childhood. Because of that, the trips we did take stand out in my memory as very special, and one commonality I remember from those childhood family trips was worshiping in new places. Always a church nerd, I of course loved exploring vacation, funeral, or wedding destinations through church buildings we would find on our ways. But the worship experience I remember most clearly? It's not that famous cathedral in New Orleans or even the tiny Lutheran church in Seattle that doubled as a homeless shelter- it was the mini worship service we had in our hotel room, just the 6 of us, somewhere in Orlando in the middle of the Disney trip we'd won in a raffle. We fumbled through some songs, prayers, and readings together before a full day of amusement park-ing, intent on marking this part of our weekly rhythm even if it didn't make sense to travel to a church offsite that day.

Our hope for members of this community of all ages is that you find **a faith that sticks**- a relationship with God that sustains and moves you throughout your everyday life *and* that grows and changes with you throughout the many seasons of your life. This is as lofty a goal as it is a simple one. We trust that the promises made in baptism carry us throughout our lifetime.

My personal experience and lots of recent research shows that the **faith that sticks** is usually faith that gets taken home. Whether you live alone, with a partner, or with multiple generations...

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...taking faith home can enliven your relationships as you further integrate your spirituality into the other aspects of who you are. What does taking faith home look like? It can be as simple as starting a habit of praying regularly- something you may already do whenever you share a meal with someone. It could look like making a point to ask questions of your loved ones like, “What did you learn about in Faith Connections this week?” or, “Where did you see God today?” It could look like sharing your favorite Bible stories or learning new ones together. There are physical changes to your space that can facilitate **faith that sticks**, too.

Newest Home Decor Trend: Sticky Faith Chic

- Think about creating a designated **sacred space** somewhere in your home that physically signals to you (and especially to little ones) to notice and appreciate God’s presence. There’s no right or wrong way to do this, and use your family’s collective imagination to put it together. See how many of the 5 senses you can engage in your home altar with candles, elements from creation, treasured trinkets, artwork, etc.
- Prayerfully consider a scripture story or verse that is especially meaningful or encouraging to you and yours, and incorporate a visual reminder of it into your decor. Maybe there’s some artwork that depicts a scene from that story you love, or one of those classic Bible verse signs you can find at a local crafting store. Maybe something as small as a sticky note with some key reminder words is more your speed. Again, a **visual scripture reminder** could be a great opportunity for collaborative creativity- the sky’s the limit!
- Pick out a **prayer bowl** that can hold slips of paper with names or situations in need of prayer written on them. Create a habit in your household of gathering regularly to pick out a few at a time, talk or think about who or what you’re praying for, and pray together. See if any prayer requests can be taken out of the bowl and add in anything new that’s not yet there, and return again to the bowl together the next week/month/day.

These are just a few ideas to try out that could help ground your faith life Monday through Saturday, especially in the summertime. Taking faith home is, in a nutshell, living out our baptismal promises. And none of our baptismal promises- not the ones made by adults, parents, sponsors, or confirmands- are made alone. The church you were baptized in and the church universal enters into the covenant of baptism with you, and at the end of the day, it is God’s promise to us that seals the deal. We at St. Matthew are responsible for equipping you to live out your baptismal promises on your own, with your families, and out in the world. We hope that weekly worship (available online if you’re traveling on weekends this summer!) can renew and enliven your faith through scripture and sacrament. We seek to provide meaningful faith formation experiences for a variety of ages in a variety of contexts that can be “starts” rather than “ends” to your God-encounters. All said, we seek to live into a faith community here at St. Matthew that is something like a laboratory for God-talk, practicing faith-based conversations with your siblings in Christ in a context facilitated by spiritual leaders that you can continue throughout your week in other contexts.

We know taking faith home isn’t easy, and you never do it alone. We are here to help you find a **faith that sticks**.

Peace,
Pastor Taylor Berdahl

PLEASE REMEMBER to complete your registration forms for the church directory.



Registration forms are available on the hospitality desk, or from an usher, and can be found on the church website. Completed forms may be placed in the offering baskets at any worship service. If you need assistance with forms or pictures, you may call the church office or Mike Jones, 717-965-6680.

APRIL BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS

Thank you to all the donors and volunteers who made our recent blood drive a success! Thirty-six donors participated in the Red Cross Blood Drive held on April 28, and a total of 30 units of blood were collected. The next Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for Monday, August 22, in Fellowship Hall.



Blood Drive

GOT A GREEN THUMB

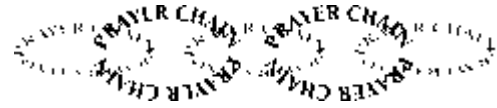
AND A HEART TO SERVE?



Spring is here! You know what that means? Time for the garden — the Healthy Hanover Community Garden, that is.

St. Matthew is seeking volunteers to take a one-week turn to help weed, water and harvest produce from our plot along Chestnut Street near the porte co-chere. All vegetables will support the Hanover Area Council of Churches, with extra produce donated to other agencies such as God's Meal Barrel and New Hope Ministries. No real experience necessary but we are planting now so now is the time to act! If you are interested in helping, please contact Gail Mummert, 717-574-6992.

**Church Office contact info: 717-637-7101
or info@stmattlutheran.org;
website www.stmattlutheran.org**



A PRAYER CHAIN MEETING is scheduled for Wednesday, June 1 at 10:30 a.m. in the Library. If you have any changes or updates for the prayer chain, please notify Beth Koontz at 717-968-1207 or email, bethk9245@gmail.com, 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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS



Spend some summer nights with your church family this June! After officially welcoming new members to our community in May, we'll be hosting meals at St. Matt's at 5:30 p.m. on June 1, 8, 15, and 22. Come to eat and to build community. RSVPs (by phone or email) to the office are helpful but not necessary.

INTERGENERATIONAL FAITH CONNECTIONS SERVICE PROJECT

The St. Matthew Women of the ELCA invite everyone to join in the bold endeavor to create **279 Personal Care** kits to help the war victims of Ukraine. This bold challenge is marked by the 279 years St. Matthew has been a church. **Attend the all community intergenerational event on Pentecost Sunday, June 5 at 9:30 a.m.** when kits will be assembled. All participants will meet in the Fellowship Hall between services. A second packing event will be held on Tuesday, June 7, at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall to finish packing. Please consider helping at either or both events! **THANK YOU!** For questions, please call Johnnetta Miller, 717-637-4259.

MORNING OF SERVICE

Saturday, June 18, 9:00 a.m.-noon at Hanover Council of Churches - **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** for a morning of sweeping, scrubbing, and cleaning!

The Hanover Area Council of **HELPING** Churches has asked for our help in getting a small section of the 3rd floor of their building scrubbed and cleaned. The space includes **HANDS** two rooms, plus one kitchen and one bathroom. This space may be converted into an apartment for transitional housing. But, getting it cleaned is the first step!

If you are free on Saturday morning June 18, and don't mind rolling up your sleeves for a little hard work, then please call or text Barb Thomas to sign up to volunteer, 717-586-7047. If you can bring along a bucket, rags, broom, flat-head screwdriver (to remove carpet staples) dustpan, brushes and/or mop, please let Barb know when you call or text. Cleaning solutions will be provided. Up to twelve volunteers will be needed, so this can be a great service activity for families and friends. Thank you in advance!

~ The Social Ministry Committee

DEVOTIONAL BIKING & WALKING GROUP

Lace up your sneakers and buckle on your helmets! As we are looking forward to warmer weather, we are launching a new ministry for a season to get outside and encounter God together in community, creation, and scripture through a Devotional Biking & Walking group.

Beginning June 6, we will gather as a group at 6:00 p.m. on Mondays at Moul Field in Hanover and participate in a devotional reading and prayer before heading out to the trails, where we'll split off to a 3-mile walking trail or a 5-mile bike/modified bike ride. We plan to play Christian music to accompany our journeys and encourage reflection. Bikers & walkers of all ages and speeds are welcome.

If you or someone you know would like to be included in updates and weather calls about this group, please let the office know. For questions or more information, email Amy Schlitzer at asms1210@gmail.com.

**PRAYER PALS FOR SUMMER MINISTRIES**

Our kids, tweens, and teens have some exciting faith formation happening this summer through St. Matt's.

They'll be embarking on Day Camp, VBS, Confirmation Camp, a Mission Trip, and lots more! Help us show them the support of their church family by signing up to be a "Prayer Pal" this summer! If you decide to take part in this, you'll be assigned someone to pray for and given their age and the dates of their participation. You will be expected to write them a note, passed on through the church office, introducing yourself and offering a blessing or a prayer for their experience. We'll also ask that you intentionally pray for them on those noted days from afar. If you'd like to sign up or have more questions, talk to a pastor or let the office know by June 5!

**CHURCH FAMILY MILESTONES**

April 1 - May 13, 2022

Baptism

May 1 - Nash Bryan Burkentine, son of Bryan and Cooper (McGarvey) Burkentine, with sponsors Kaitlin and Bryce Burkentine and Emily and Michael Burkentine

Affirmation of Baptism

May 8 - Mady Little

Deaths

April 7 – Pastor E. Edward Keyser

April 16 – Tracy (Dulling) Bollinger

PARENTING WITH THE FIVE LOVE LANGUAGES

Parents and caregivers of all varieties are invited to join us for a parenting class this summer at St. Matt's. The class, based on the book *The Five Love Languages for Children*, will be held on the following Thursdays from 6:00-7:00 p.m.:

	7/21/22, 7/28/22
	8/4/22, 8/11/22
	8/18/22, 8/25/22

Mark your calendar! There will be specific topics for each session and you can attend one session without attending all sessions. RSVP is not necessary for attendance, BUT if you would like your own copy of the book (around \$10) OR if you anticipate needing childcare, please let the church office know by 6/30/22.

TIM ZIMMERMAN AND THE KING'S BRASS

Tim Zimmerman and the King's Brass will be appearing in concert here at St. Matthew on Sunday, June 12 at 4:00 p.m. Free tickets are required for admission and can be ordered by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: "June Concert" St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 30 W. Chestnut St. Hanover, PA 17331. Please state the number of tickets you desire. The doors will open at 3:30 p.m. This concert is being presented in memory of Mary Moore.



Tim Zimmerman and The King's Brass present classics, patriotic selections and hymn classics and with a contemporary flair. The King's Brass features three trumpets, three trombones, a tuba, percussion and keyboards. These instruments blend together to create a time of innovative musical experience that will be enjoyed by all generations. The brass will play several songs with the St. Matthew 14,470 pipe Austin organ which is one of the ten largest pipe organs in the world.

The King's Brass, formed four decades ago, is comprised of professional musicians from across the country, who desire to use the instruments they love to lead others in praise, worship and concert. Based out of Fort Wayne, Indiana, the group plays over 150 concerts per year from coast to coast as well as international destinations. Secular and sacred music critics alike applaud their concerts as "superb in every way" and "innovative and well played." "Truly, an unforgettable experience!"

This year the group is introducing their eighteenth recording which is titled "Christmas Joy." They have recorded a number of Christmas CDs, classical recordings, CDs with brass and organ, collections of classic hymns, and recordings of patriotic music.



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH
COMING TO A SCREEN NEAR YOU!**

Heartbroken about missing in-person worship while you're away on vacation? Loving our livestream option but wishing there was something just for the kids in your life? You've come to the right place! Starting June 1, there will be a playlist added to our Youtube Channel under the Children's Church playlist. There will be a new kid-friendly Bible story each week read by members of the congregation that coincides with one of the lessons that are read during worship that week. Watch together, play the video before bedtime, or make a game out of it!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is quickly approaching and will be held on June 27-29th from 9 a.m.-noon. It will be an enjoyment for the kids 4 years old-5th grade to learn about God's ability to do the impossible through Jesus' miracles. **There is still space available for children to get signed up - www.stmattlutheran.org!**


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 717-637-7101
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www.stmattlutheran.org
www.facebook.com/groups/stmattlutheran



We will begin our summer **weekly** Youth Connections on **WEDNESDAY, June 1** at the church from 6:30-8:30 p.m. As in summers prior to Covid, we will meet at the church and venture to places around town for the evening - Codorus, ice cream, sand volleyball, etc. So, if you are coming but running late, we suggest you text/call Tim at 717-476-9920 so you can be dropped off where we are headed. Pick-up will be back at the church unless otherwise announced.

July 23 - July 29 Pre-registered high school youth will travel to Minneapolis for the Lutheran Hands Mission Trip

Tentative - August 12-14 Beach Retreat -- details pending confirmation of date availability



***There are a few spots remaining
at DAY CAMP!***

- Dates are June 20-24, 2022, 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day, Monday through Friday.
- St. Matthew will host children needing to be brought before the starting time and kept after the ending time upon request.
- Ages: children entering grades 1 through grade 6 in the fall of 2022
- Visit our website for more information and to sign-up