

The St. Matthew MESSENGER

CENTERED IN CHRIST
Celebrating Love • Serving All

November 2022
Vol. XLI Issue 6

From the Desk of Pastor Taylor:

St. Matthew members, family, and friends,

As the leaves start to change here in the mid-atlantic, I am reminded of a lasting image of God I encountered in Autumn of 2019. This particular time, it wasn't God revealed in a passage of scripture or theology, it was God revealed in creation. I love when that happens.

I was driving from Gettysburg, PA to Austin, TX, "in between" two places I found myself calling home during a very "in between" season of my life. I was already in ministry but not yet ordained to it. I was already engaged to Andrew but not yet married to him. I was already an adult but not yet entirely grown up. (By the way, if anyone has figured out how to grow up, please do let me know.) On this journey "in between," the foliage of the Blue Ridge foothills took my breath away.

I grew up in a place that no one visits for the autumn views, so almost any view of trees changing colors is enough to make me giddy. This view especially struck me as I noticed with a new appreciation the evergreen trees that served as the backdrop for all the changing leaves that were taking the spotlight. The days were getting shorter for all of the trees. Some of them changed. Some of them stayed the same. All of them were beautiful reflections of God's beautiful imagination. All of them stayed by each other, passing time together.

At the time, I was planning my wedding while one of my good friends from college was planning her mother's funeral after a devastating bout of cancer. I was grieving with her, upset at how unfair it all seemed. This extraordinary sight of an ordinary and predictable pattern of flora was, for me, like God jumping out in front of my car in the middle of a long road trip. These trees- like me and my friend- were standing by each other at such different seasons of their lives as the same time ticked by for all of them.

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From Pastor Taylor (Con't.)

My hope for St. Matthew is that we can learn from the trees and all they have to teach us. In this community drawn together by one simple commonality- our Triune God- we are all in different seasons of our lives, too. The Holy Spirit has gathered us to stand by each other through it all. As we look toward Advent, that “in between” time focused on a Jesus who has already redeemed our broken world but has not yet returned to restore it fully, I wonder what divine beauty we might notice in one another. Just as evergreens need not try to become deciduous for the forest to be beautiful, we can support each other *through*- rather than *in spite of*- our differences in life experiences or seasons. What a glorious, forest-y community God has called us to be.

Blessings,

Pastor Taylor Berdahl



WORSHIP ASSISTANT TRAINING

Liturgy means “the work of the people,” and it means so much to our identity at St. Matthew and as Lutherans. Worship always happens because of lots of work of “the people”- including you! You’re invited to consider how the Holy Spirit might be nudging you to share your unique gifts through one of the many ways worship assistants offer their leadership in the church. We are offering training for worship assistants in all kinds of roles. Check out the schedule and pick one (or several) to join. **Trainings occur on Sundays, 9:40-10:15 a.m.**



11/06/22 **Ushers** - *Ushers help the service run smoothly by directing people to seats and to Communion among other responsibilities.*

11/13/22 **Communion Assistants and Communion Preparers** - *Communion assistants serve Communion to worshipers alongside the pastor(s). Communion preparers gather and prepare the elements and dishware to be used during Communion.*

12/04/22 **Lectors and Livestream Operators** - *Lectors read scripture lessons in worship. Livestream operators run the video and slideshow for the livestream of worship each week.*

If you’re not sure whether you’d like to be a worship assistant yet but would like to explore, come to a training workshop and find out if it’s right for you! If you’d like to learn a particular role but have a conflict that day, contact the office and we’ll figure something out. **Ages 11 to 111 are welcome to try out any role.**

Learn
&
Grow

SPLASH CLASS

Parents of infants and toddlers 3 months to 3 years old are invited to attend Splash Class- a “baby and me” style group class. Together, parents/caregivers and children will explore what’s next after you’ve been “splashed” in the waters of Baptism. Adam Amspacher, registered and licensed pediatric occupational therapist, and Lindsay Amspacher, board-certified music therapist, will lead this 30 minute class at St. Matthew from **9:45-10:15** on the following Sunday mornings: **12/4, 1/22, 3/5, and 4/16**. Mark your calendars and invite a loved one along!



ANGEL TREE



Once again the Social Ministry Committee will have an ingathering of Christmas Gifts through New Hope Ministries to be distributed to those who otherwise may not have any Christmas gifts. The Christmas tree will be displayed in the Gathering Place during the month of November. Please remove an ornament, purchase the gift and return the gift **unwrapped**, with the ornament attached and placed under the tree by **Sunday, November 27**.

Social Ministry Committee will deliver the gifts to New Hope in time to be delivered to Hanover area families by Christmas. We are also collecting Wal-Mart gift cards in the amount of \$25 for the HUD residents. There will be envelopes on the tree marked for HUD. Please put the gift card in the envelope and place it in the offering basket or return it to the church office by **Monday, November 28 at 9 a.m.** Thank you for making a difference in the lives of these families and making this year a brighter Christmas.

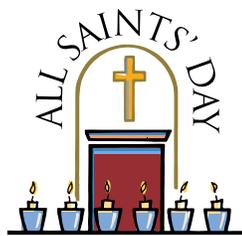
Social Ministry Committee

2023 GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP

On Wednesday, November 2 at 6:30 p.m., there will be an informational meeting in Fellowship Hall for anyone who would like to learn more about next summer's mission trip to Guatemala. The dates of the trip are Wednesday, July 19, 2023 – Thursday, July 27. David & Jennifer Hope-Tringali will be here for the meeting and together we hope we can answer any questions you might have! Come for the info even if you are not planning on going on the trip – who knows, you might change your mind!!



ALL SAINTS WEEKEND



On the weekend of **November 5 and 6**, we will be remembering the saints who have died this past year. Candles will be lit and prayers will be offered for members of our St. Matthew community. We are inviting St. Matthew members to add the names of immediate family members who have died since November 1, 2021. Names may be given to the office by e-mail at info@stmattlutheran.org, by phone, 717-637-7101 or on the tear-off sheet in worship. **Deadline for**

submitting names is Monday, October 31.

We will have white roses placed on the altar representing each of the saints who died this past year and following the worship service, a family member may come forward to receive a rose as a remembrance of this day.

VETERANS RECOGNITION

On the weekend of November 12 and 13, we will recognize and thank our veterans at all worship services.



GRACE IN ACTION: HOW GENEROSITY HAPPENS



On the weekends of November 12 and 13, 19 and 20, **the emphasis in worship will focus on the way generosity flows from grace.** As we ourselves are dealing with stress, uncertainty and challenges, we are reminded that the early Christians had challenges of their own. As it is noted in 2 Corinthians 8, "They voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means."

Later this month, be sure to watch for a special letter from the *Generosity Ministry Team* regarding the ways you can make a financial commitment to the ministries of St. Matthew. In worship **on the weekends of November 26 and 27 and December 3 and 4**, we will offer our commitment cards and celebrate the love of God as we enter the new church year.

HYMNS FOR HOPE GALA!

St. John's Lutheran Church is holding a gala to benefit New Hope Ministries as they celebrate their 40th anniversary. Good food and drinks mixed together with great music, singing and spirit filled fellowship - there will be several food and dessert options, plus a cash bar. Invite a few friends and help support New Hope Ministries! The event will be held on **Tuesday, November 15**, at the Highland Taps and Table, 925 Westminster Avenue, Hanover, 5:30-8:00 p.m., \$25 per person. All profits going to support New Hope Ministries, Inc.



THIS THANKSGIVING, GIVE THANKS, GIVE LIFE BECOME A BLOOD DONOR



A blood drive will be held on Friday, November 18, in Fellowship Hall. Appointments available between 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Visit www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-733-2767 today to schedule your donation appointment. If you have questions about your eligibility to be a whole blood or Power Red donor, please visit www.redcrossblood.org for more information. You may also call the Red Cross at 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) with specific questions about your individual medications, health conditions, travel history and how these factors may impact your eligibility.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Barb Thomas, Blood Drive Coordinator 717-586-7047

THANKOFFERING WEEKEND

St. Matthew Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America invite our church community to help support the ministries of women and give thanks for God's blessings to all of us the weekend of November 19 & 20. Envelopes will be available from the ushers and at the Hospitality Desk. Watch for more details in the bulletin that weekend.



ADVENT INTERGENERATIONAL FAITH CONNECTIONS

Mark your calendar for our Advent Intergenerational Faith Connections event on **November 27** at 9:30 a.m.! All classes will take a pause from their regular schedule to come together for this opportunity for Advent celebration and connection. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall with our church family of all ages to connect over crafts, caring conversation, prayer, music, service activities, and more. Brad & Andrea Hersh will be there to share a little bit about Christmas in Guatemala that they've learned through our partnership with Tree 4 Hope ministries. Feliz Navidad!



HOLY PRESENCE: WEDNESDAYS IN ADVENT



On Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. on **November 30, December 7 and December 14**, the community of St. Matthew will gather to reflect on the ways Christ enters into our lives. This is the season of waiting and watching but it is also a time to return to our sense of expectation of God's coming into our world. In this worship series, we pay attention to opening ourselves to the ways God disrupts our lives in the most holy of ways.

This 30 minute worship service will include word, prayer and song with personal accounts of the ways our lives are enriched in the rhythms of grace. Children's activities will be offered.

November 30th—*Releasing* December 7th—*Receiving* December 14th—*Rejoicing*

MID-WEEK ADVENT MEALS

On Wednesdays prior to worship, we invite St. Matthew members and friends to come for a meal beginning at 6:00 p.m. Latecomers are welcome! Here's a way to take a break from a busy season to connect with one another in an informal way.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

As we continue through a time of Thanksgiving and start to prepare for Advent, the Children's Christmas Pageant is returning to St. Matthew! This is a celebratory time where the children of St. Matthew can assist in sharing the Good News of Jesus' birth. The Children's Christmas Pageant is a great opportunity for children aging from 3-18 to tell of the joy of Christmas. The Children's Christmas Pageant is titled "***The Story of Christmas.***" Rehearsals for the pageant will occur during Children's Church at the 10:30 a.m. worship service on November 27, December 4 and December 11. The



pageant will be performed on December 18, during the Faith Connections time 9:30-10:20 a.m. If you want to have your child(ren) be a part of this cherished tradition at St. Matthew or would like to volunteer your time as an adult to help put this pageant on, please let Stacy Parsons, Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator, know either in person or via email, sparsons@stmattluther.org.



A WORSHIP SERVICE for those who are stressed, hurting, grieving or lonely in this Holiday Season. Sunday, December 11, 2:00 p.m. Through candle-lighting, lovely readings, reflections, and sweet

music, the message of Christ's hope and comfort will enfold us. Emmanuel...God is with us. You are not alone. All are welcome.

A helpful, encouraging seminar for people facing the holidays after losing a loved one will be held on Saturday, November 12 at 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. in the Upper Room #201.



The seminar features video interviews with counselors, grief experts, and other people who have experienced the holidays after their loved one's death and who offer practical suggestions and reassurance. These people share honestly about:

- Being prepared for surprising emotions that may hit over the holidays
- What to do about traditions and other coming changes
- How to handle holiday parties and invitations
- How to survive potentially awkward moments with other people
- Where to find comfort, strength and hope in a seemingly hopeless time

Those who attend will receive a Survival Guide filled with practical tips, encouraging words, journaling ideas and exercises for daily help through the holiday season. There is no cost.

For more information or to register, call Pastor Faye Snyder at 717-451-0851 or email nicksong@comcast.net. Deadline November 7.

Or you may sign up below and drop into offering plate by November 6.

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS SEMINAR Registration

Name _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

9TH ANNUAL COOKIE WALK

On **Saturday, December 3**, we will once again be having the Cookie Walk 'Covid Style' and will be selling already packaged homemade cookies for \$10 a box. Money raised will go toward our Tree 4 Hope Education & Food sponsorships. We need lots of bakers this year!! If you are interested in baking or helping out, please call Andrea Hersh, 717-968-7094. Thank you & remember – It's much harder to be sad while eating a cookie!!



HANGING OF THE GREENS AND PIZZA DINNER

Come join us as we decorate our church for Christmas on Sunday, **December 4**, from 3-5:00 p.m. At 4:45 p.m. we will enjoy pizza for dinner. Sign up by emailing us at info@stmattlutheran.org, sign up in the Gathering Place or call the office, 717-637-7101, so we know how many will be helping and how much pizza to order. This is a wonderful day – come join us!



CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS

Help bring Christmas cheer to someone who is hurting...



During the past two Christmases, a small group of members have delivered gift bags (containing fruit, candy, cookies, Christmas ornaments and more) to folks who are grieving, have lost their job, are sick, injured, lonely, sad or upset for ANY reason. We are asking for your help to locate them. If you know someone who is having a difficult time, please help us by supplying their name, address and phone number. **Not limited to members of St. Matthew, but MUST be located within a radius of 15 miles of Hanover.**

For questions or to give information, you can contact Pastor Faye Snyder through the church office, her email, nicksong@comcast.net; or to give information fill, out the form below and drop in the offering plate or send to the church office **by December 4**. The bags will be delivered on December 16.

Recipient Name _____

Recipient Address _____

Recipient Phone Number _____

Your Name _____

Your Phone Number _____

Family Milestones
September 23 - October 24, 2022



Baptism

October 16 - Madeleine Sofija Bralj, daughter of Mladen and Jaclyn Foltz-Bralj
October 23 - Alexander Robert Eyler, son of Erik and Lea (Harman) Eyler, with sponsors Michael and Angela Bruckart

Wedding

October 22 - Tyler and Madison (Pool) Klenk

Deaths

September 26 – Matthew L. Doll
October 1 – William (Bill) Miller
October 1 – Dianne M. Jacoby



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS - Members and friends who wish to honor or memorialize a loved one by placing a poinsettia in the chancel this Christmas are asked to **complete and return the form below with \$11** per listing to the church office. After the cost of the poinsettias is met, the memorials/honorariums will support Lutheran World Relief-Ukraine.

The deadline is Monday, December 5. Please print clearly when filling in names.

2022 Christmas Poinsettias

I/We wish to (please check one)

Honor Memorialize

Name(s):

(Person to be memorialized or honored)

Given by:

Your offering envelope number _____

Please include \$11 per listing and make check payable to "St. Matthew Lutheran Church" with "Poinsettia" in the memo line. **Deadline is Monday, December 5.**