



The St. Matthew MESSENGER

CENTERED IN CHRIST
Celebrating Love • Serving All

Dec./Jan. 2023
Vol. XLI Issue 7

From the Staff:

The Staff of St. Matthew Lutheran Church
wish you all a most joyful and peaceful holiday season.
May the light of Christ shine upon you always!



The Rev. Kathryn Vitalis Hoffman, Lead Pastor
The Rev. Taylor Berdahl, Associate Pastor
The Rev. Faye C. Snyder, Visitation Pastor
Scott G. Fredericks, Minister of Music
Tim Peck, Youth Ministry
Stacy Parsons, Children's Ministry
Stacy Brodbeck, Administrative Assistant
Jane Lawrence, Administrative Assistant
Doris Deitzel, Lay Pastoral Assistant
Wayne Redding, Building and Grounds

**Join us as we celebrate the birth
of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ!**

Fri.	23	7:00 p.m. Drive-in Christmas Eve Eve Service
Sat.	24	Christmas Eve Services:
	5:00 p.m.	Family Service
	6:45 p.m.	Nativity Recital
	7:00 p.m.	Candlelight Service
	9:15 p.m.	Nativity Recital
	9:30 p.m.	Candlelight Service
Sun.	25	10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Sat.	31	5:00 p.m. Worship Service
		5:45 p.m. Light dinner
		6:30 p.m. Puppet Show
Jan.		
Sun.	1	10:00 a.m. Worship Services
		No Faith Connections



Messages for You

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Ministerial Staff:

Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman
Lead Pastor
pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org

Pastor Taylor Berdahl
Associate Pastor
pastortaylor@stmattlutheran.org

Pastor Faye Snyder
Visitation Pastor
nicksong@comcast.net

Scott G. Fredericks
Minister of Music
scottfred@stmattlutheran.org

Tim Peck, Youth Ministry
youth@stmattlutheran.org

Stacy Parsons, Children's Ministry
sparsons@stmattlutheran.org

(See full schedule on calendar insert page)

To All PAL Program Volunteers

Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you!

Your continued support of the PAL program at Hanover Area Council of Churches is more valuable than you know!

The PAL Program can continue because of your support and service. You are

Rock Stars!

Thank you!

Blessings,

Pastor Bonnie

Rev. Bonnie J. Whittier

HACC Board President

CORN DRIVE Thank You!

Thank You to everyone that brought in corn for the annual corn drive. St. Matthew collected 900 cans of corn, plus \$305 for New Hope, so each family will get at least 1 can of corn to complete their Thanksgiving meal. All your support and enthusiasm is greatly appreciated. Barbara Eisenhart shared one of her family's favorite corn recipes:

Baked Corn

In a casserole dish, mix the following ingredients:

3 eggs, beaten 2 T. Flour

2 T Sugar 1 tsp Salt

¼ c milk

1 can whole yellow corn, drained

1 can creamed yellow corn

Top with 2-3 pats of butter or margarine

Bake at 450 degrees for 10 minutes, then at 325 degrees for 25 minutes. **ENJOY!**

From DISCOVERY PLACE PRESCHOOL

MANY THANKS to everyone who donated baked goods for our Election Day Bake Sale. Discovery Place sold out mid-afternoon! In addition to the sales, several voters also made donations to our preschool. Our grand total was \$350.50! This was not only a great blessing for Discovery Place - many people visiting the polls were thankful for the opportunity of delicious snacks after voting. We will definitely plan on this fundraiser for next fall! **THANK YOU** again for your donations and support of our preschool program.

Finally, Discovery Place will host an **Open House** on **Friday, January 27** from 5:30-7:30 p.m. to open registration for Fall 2023. Any interested families are invited to come visit our classrooms, meet our teachers, and pick up our registration information during this event.

Spread the word to any young families to come visit Discovery Place during the Open House!

MISSION TRIP on July 19 -27, 2023, is taking shape! We will be helping at several locations and learning more about the resilient indigenous people of Guatemala. WE ask for a \$300 deposit to hold your spot on the team. We want to have the team in place by January 1 so we can start monthly group meetings. Questions? Call Andrea Hersh, 717-968-7094, or Brad Hersh, 717-965-6585.



For December: Faith Connections for Adults

9:30 to 10:20 on Sundays

Pastor's Class - GPS: God's Positioning System—A Geography of Christmas

On Sundays, December 4 and 11, the Pastor's Class will be led by Pastor Mark Vitalis Hoffman, Professor of Biblical Studies at United Lutheran Seminary. He will show the significance of the geography of the events regarding the birth of Jesus. The Class meets in the Upper Room on the second floor and can be found by taking the steps or elevator by the glass doors off of the back parking lot.



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!



Special Note: All Adults are invited to attend the Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 18 in Fellowship Hall.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT TRAINING

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.*

In previous weeks, we have had training for Assisting Ministers, Greeters, Cross and Torch Bearers, Altar Guild, Ushers, Communion Assistants and Communion Preparers. All of these positions are essential to our worship services. 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 had a conflict that day, contact the office and we'll figure something out. **Ages 11 to 111 are welcome to try out any role.**

PROPHETS AND PROMISES: An Advent and Christmas Daily Devotion Book Short daily devotions based on the book of Matthew are available. They can be found on the Hospitality Desk and in the church office.

HOLY PRESENCE 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 everyone to come for a meal at 6:00 p.m. Latecomers are welcome! Take a break from a busy season to connect with one another in an informal way. Our first dinner on November 30, will consist of hamburger vegetable barley soup, chicken corn noodle soup and a variety of subs (from Sal's Pizza and Subs). Sign-up in the Gathering Place, call the church office or email, info@stmattlutheran.org

FAMILY MILESTONES

October 25 - November 18, 2022

Baptisms

November 6 - Charlotte Christine West, daughter of Brian and Jocynl (Myers) West, with sponsors Eric and BriAnna Thomassy

November 13 - Addyson Louise Trostle, daughter of Andrew Trostle and Jennifer Keeney, with sponsor Scott Fredericks

Confirmands

October 30 - Lilian Crabbs, Kennedy Ray, Alayna Smith, Nicholas Hersh, Jackson Hersh, Emma Holmberg, Ava Wilke, Elyse Wilke

New Members

November 12/13 - Jaclyn (Jackie) Foltz Bralj and Madeleine; David Camden; Geoff and Kim Cherry, Lucas and Molly; Gordon and Kay Grady; Teresa Hocker; Rick and June Hutchison; Robert and Pat Moseley; Neil and Diana Rasmussen

Life Events in the



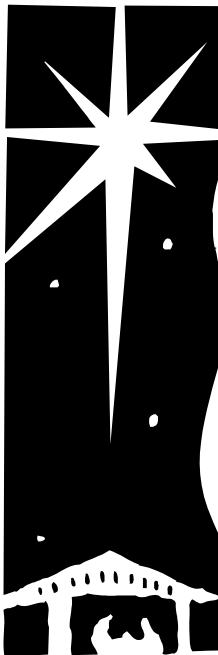
THE MITTEN/sock/HAT/SCARF TREE is ready for decorations in 2 locations, the church office lobby and the Gathering Place. Let's cover the trees with colorful mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, ear muffs, socks and other winter wear. Coats may be placed under the tree, too. Please be sure all items are new or very gently worn. They may be for children or adults. Often people coming into the office during the week will choose something from our tree, so we hope to keep refilling it during the Advent season. Thank you for helping to keep our neighbors in need warm this winter!

MANGER SCENES DISPLAY

The Christmas season celebrates God's greatest gift to the world. Nativity scenes represent this generous gift in many unique ways. The Generosity Ministry Team would like to showcase how your family sees this event by displaying your family manger scene.

Between December 7 and 21, we would like to borrow your manger scene and display it in the secured glass showcase in the Fellowship Hall hallway.

If you would be willing to participate in this project, please contact Bob Strangfeld, 570-468-9679 or by email, rstrangfeld133@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for your participation!



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 from 3-18 years of age to tell of the joy of Christmas. The pageant is titled "**The Story of Christmas.**" Rehearsals will occur during Children's Church at the 10:30 a.m. worship service on **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@stmattlutheran.org.

9TH ANNUAL COOKIE WALK - On **Saturday, December 3**, we will be having a Cookie-Walk-To-Go and will be



Cookie Walk

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!



BLUE CHRISTMAS - 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.

COME JOIN US as we Christmas carol to some of our shut-ins Sunday, December 18. We will be caroling from **2-4:00 p.m.** Bring a plate of cookies to share at the conclusion of our afternoon of sharing the Christmas Spirit! Song sheets will be provided. This special time of song and fellowship is so meaningful to our members. Bring the entire family! Our shut-ins seem to especially enjoy when our children join in. We will meet in Fellowship Hall and carpool, plus take the church van.





OUR MINI MINISTER PUPPETS will present a show on Saturday, **December 31, New Years' Eve, 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.** Invite your friends and neighbors for this family-oriented,

entertaining show! This year we will have soup and sandwiches at 5:45 p.m. following our 5:00 worship service, with the puppet show beginning at 6:30. You can attend all three parts – worship, dinner and the puppet show - or just the parts that fit your schedule. This is a great way to celebrate the new year with the entire family!

UNHANGING OF THE GREENS -

Sadly, our beautiful decorations will need to come down on Sunday, **January 8**, immediately following the 10:30 service. If everyone could help for a short time, we could have the decorations taken down and put away very quickly. We would be grateful for your assistance.



THE GUATEMALA MISSION TEAM will be hosting a New Year's Day pork and sauerkraut dinner, in Fellowship Hall, on Sunday, January 1, from 11:30 to 2 p.m. The menu will be:

roasted pork, sauerkraut, vegetable, mashed potatoes, hot dogs, and dessert. Eat in, or carry out. Supplies are limited. Free-will offering is accepted. Proceeds from the dinner will fund the 2023 St. Matthew trip to Guatemala. Sign up by calling the church office, email info@stmattlutheran.org or on the Hospitality Desk in the Gathering Place.

PIANIST JOSEPH MARTIN will be joined by Robert Sterling, Composer/Conductor; Sue Martin and Scott Camerson, Vocalists; Steve Roddy, Accompanist, and a 75-voice choir of choral directors in concert on Friday, January 13, at 7:00 p.m. This is always a great evening here at St. Matthew Church! The Friday evening concert is free and open to the public, but a ticket is required to attend. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to January Concert, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 30 W.



Chestnut Street, Hanover, PA 17331, with the number of tickets you are requesting. Please send your request by December 20. Tickets will be mailed January 4. This concert is part of a two-day event featuring the music of Shawnee Press/Hal Leonard Publishing. The pianists/vocalists will offer selections and the choir will sing several songs written by the featured guests. The music will be accompanied by organ and piano. The guest musicians entertain the audience with comical comments on music and music makers but also share inspiring stories of the power of music. The Saturday, January 14 workshop for choral directors is attended by hundreds of musicians from the East Coast. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for this open-seating concert. A free-will offering will be collected.



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

32 W. Chestnut Street

Hanover PA 17331

717-637-7101

info@stmattlutheran.org

www.stmattlutheran.org

www.facebook.com/groups/stmattlutheran

“Transformed Community: Freed and Empowered for Radical Welcome” Study

In January & February, join us for this Bible study that was written as a collaborative effort of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, and the ELCA/AMMPARO. In six sessions, participants will explore their relationship with immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in relation to biblical stories of generosity, inclusion, compassion, justice, and forgiveness. Centered on Romans 12:2, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds,” the Bible study will assist groups to:

- Recognize how transformed understandings of generosity, inclusion, compassion, justice, and forgiveness make Christian community an agent of God’s love;
- Be encouraged in the experience of community and inspired to trust in the countercultural ways of God’s will, especially with regard to the realities of refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers;
- Commit to engagement and action to energize the community as God’s agent of change in the world with respect to refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers.

Join us for this Pastor’s Class in person during the Faith Connections hour, 9:30-10:30 on Sunday mornings, in the Upper Room from January 8th through February 12th. If you would be interested in the class at a different time or in a different format, let us know here: <https://forms.gle/fKoc4viBVyaAAxB19>. For more information, contact Pastor Taylor, pastortaylor@stmattlutheran.org.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR-NEIGHBORHOOD MEALS

Thank You to everyone who has helped to make our first 3 neighborhood meals a success. We continue to welcome new neighbors each month and everyone is very appreciative. Our next meal will be Wednesday, January 25, and the menu will be soups, bread, and dessert. The date of the February meal will be Wednesday, February 15, and the menu will be Casseroles and Dessert. Both meals will begin at 5:00 p.m. and will be in Fellowship Hall. If you would be willing to make a pot of soup for January or a casserole for February or donate a loaf of bread or dessert, please let Amy Beck know, abeck1976@comcast.net or 717-404-1994. It is always good to have a variety, so if you have a favorite soup or casserole that you are willing to share, we would love to hear from you. Also, volunteers are always needed to help set up/clean up and serve the meals. It is always great to see our community coming together for a meal and conversation. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**



OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY IS ONLINE! To view our directory on-line, go to: www.Members.InstantChurchDirectory.com or scan the QR code. NOTE: You MUST have provided a valid e-mail address with your directory registration form to access the on-line version. Watch the weekly bulletins for information on when the hard copies will be available.





Faith Milestones

THE HOLY COMMUNION MILESTONE ceremony is back for another year and will take place during the Maundy Thursday worship service, which is the time in the church year that we mark the night of Jesus' last supper with his disciples. In preparation for this service, there will

be a series of 4 classes on the sacrament of Holy Communion including an interactive workbook for the children that can function as both a learning tool and a keepsake from this special season in their life of faith. We ask that each child brings along an adult (parent, grandparent, guardian, baptismal sponsor, Godparent, etc.) to accompany them through each class and to continue conversations about faith outside the walls of our building. Once we have a total number of participants in the milestone ceremony, we will work with those participants to schedule the dates of the four classes.

Maundy Thursday is April 6, 2023. The four classes will be held prior to the week of this service. Please communicate your desire to participate by February 23, 2023, so that we can order materials and schedule classes. This can be completed by emailing myself at sparsons@stmattlutheran.org or notifying the church office.

If you have questions or anticipate adaptations to be able to participate, please do not hesitate to reach out. We are grateful to partner with you in living out our baptismal promises with our children through God's grace.

AT THE CONGREGATION MEETING on Sunday, November 13, the budget was approved for 2023. There are copies available in the church office if you would like one. We voted into Council the following members: Dana Farmer, Rollie Kunde, Walt Porowski, Barb Rupp, and Youth Rep Gracie Troup. We thank outgoing Council members Mike Jones, Tyler Klenk, Jane West, Shelley Zumbrum and Youth Representative Mya Maloney. We also thank all Congregation Council members for their service to St. Matthew.

December

- 3 9:00-11:00 a.m. Cookie Walk elevator lobby
- 4 9:45-10:15 a.m. Splash Class – Pray-ground
9:40-10:15 a.m. Lector and Live Stream
Operator training
- 10:45 a.m. Christmas Pageant rehearsal – in the PrayGround during Children's Church
- 3:00-5:00 p.m. Hanging of the Green
- 7 6:00 p.m. Advent Dinner – Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. Advent Worship Service - Nave
- 11 10:45 a.m. Christmas Pageant rehearsal – in the PrayGround during Children's Church
2:00 p.m. Blue Christmas service – Nave and Live streaming
- 14 6:00 p.m. Advent Dinner – Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. Advent Worship Service - Nave
- 18 9:30a.m. Christmas Pageant Fellowship Hall
2-4:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling
- 23 **12:00 p.m. Church Office Closes**
7:00 p.m. **Drive-in Christmas Eve - Eve Worship Service**



24 Christmas Eve Services:

- 5:00 p.m. **Family Service**
- 6:45 p.m. Nativity Recital
- 7:00 p.m. **Candlelight Service**
- 9:15 p.m. Nativity Recital
- 9:30 p.m. **Candlelight & Carol Service**

25 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

26 & 27 Church Office Closed

30 Church Office Closes at Noon

- 31 5:00 p.m. Worship Service (Nave)
5:45 p.m. Soup and Sandwiches
6:30 p.m. Mini-Minister Puppet Show

January - 2023

- 1 **10:00 a.m. Worship Service**
No Faith Connections
- 2 **Church Office Closed**
- 6-8 Winterfest (Offsite)
- 13 7 p.m. Joseph Martin & Friends Concert
(Free tickets available December 20)
- 14 Choral workshop
- 25 Neighborhood Meal

Happy New Year