

Blessed
are those
who mourn

MATTHEW 5:4

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 29, 2023



St. Matthew

LUTHERAN CHURCH

CENTERED IN CHRIST

Celebrating Love • Serving All

Phone: 717-637-7101

General mailbox ext. 221

30 W Chestnut Street Hanover PA 17331

Email: info@stmattlutheran.org www.stmattlutheran.org

Facebook: St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Hanover PA

Instagram: @stmatthanover

Livestream Worship:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/StMatthewLutheranChurchHanoverPA>

Please tear off and put in the offering basket as you leave:

Names of everyone attending Sunday, January 29, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.:

Names of everyone attending Sunday, January 29, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.:

Would you like to be added to our email list? Please list your name and email address:

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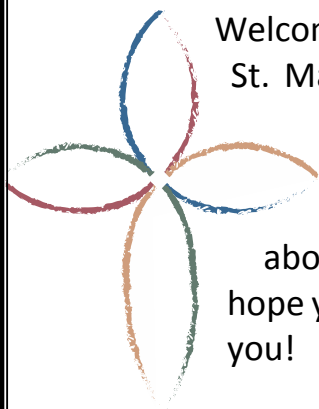
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Names of everyone attending Sunday, **January 29, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.:**

Names of everyone attending Sunday, **January 29, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.:**

Would you like to be added to our email list? **Please list your name and email address:**



Welcome! Whether you are a long-time member of St. Matthew, a first-time visitor, or somewhere in between, we are thankful you are here today. We have more information for you to read on the welcome sheet in the pew. We're excited about the many ministries of St. Matt's, and we hope you'll find a way to plug in that makes sense for you!

About today: *We gather as a community for worship around word, wine, and water. Put another way, in worship we meet Christ in scripture proclaimed in speech & song, in the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism celebrated or remembered, and in community gathered together.*

Our regular weekend schedule includes Saturday worship at 5 p.m., Sunday indoor worship at 8:30 a.m., and 10:30 a.m. (livestreamed). Our Faith Connections hour begins with refreshments in the Gathering Place at 9:30 a.m.

Words About the Day: *Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.*

PRELUDE

On Eagle's Wings
(Jeanie Mummert Kent, Soloist)

Joncas/Hayes

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy triune + God,
who makes all things new,
whose mercy endures forever.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of
our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Holy One, source of our renewal,

**All: we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,
and cannot free ourselves.**

We have not practiced your righteousness.

Our hearts have turned away from you.

**For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us,
that we may be reconciled to one another
for the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Thus says our God:

"The former things have come to pass
and new things I now declare."

God's mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of + Christ our Savior.

All: Amen.

OPENING HYMN.....*All Are Welcome* – Haugen

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
Refrain
Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
claim the faith of Je - sus:
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

(10:30) *Children ages 10 and under are invited to meet Stacy Parsons at the baptismal font at the front of the Nave. She will take the children for Children's Church at the "Pray-ground" in the Fellowship Hall. They will hear a Bible story from this week's lectionary in an age-appropriate format and spend some time exploring their faith and creativity together. They will return during the passing of the peace.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8 *With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.*

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 *According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.*

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 5th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12 *Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.*

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

THE MESSAGE

Pastor Taylor Berdahl

MUSICAL OFFERING

Many Gifts, One Spirit

Hannibal/Raney

(8:30 - Jeanie Mummert Kent and Scott Fredericks, Duet)

(10:30 - Adult Choir with Jeanie Mummert Kent, Soloist)

Many gifts, one spirit, many ways to serve, many gifts, one Spirit in Christ.

Knowledge of God's teachings wisdom for the right,

Love that heals a heart broken, faith to seek the light.

Many gifts, one spirit, many ways to serve, many gifts, one Spirit in Christ.

Hands that reach to others, arms with warm embrace,

Love that binds us together, hearts to share God's grace.

One in spirit, one in faithfulness, one in love for the Son.

(Continued Next Page)

Ev'ry gift a blessing given from our gracious God.
Many gifts, one Spirit, many ways to serve, many gifts, one Spirit in Christ.
Hearts to feed the hungry, strength to win the fight,
Love that holds us forever in God's eternal light.
One in spirit, one in faithfulness, one in love for the Son.
Ev'ry gift a blessing given from our gracious God.
Many gifts, one Spirit in Christ.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

Assisting Minister: Let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS

Assisting Minister: Each petition concludes, "*Merciful God,*" and the congregation responds, "*receive our prayer.*"

(10:30) *Children return from Children's Church.*

PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

(The congregation is invited to greet one another with the words "Peace be with you," and gestures respecting personal space and comfort levels.)

MUSICAL OFFERING

Offertory

Beck

(Jeanie Mummert Kent, Soloist)

GENEROSITY MOMENT *We celebrate God's generosity embodied in this community's time, talents, and treasures shared with one another. **Thank you for your presence** in worship today- we ask that you would mark it as you feel comfortable by filling out the front page of the bulletin, tearing it off, and leaving it behind to let us know you're here. **Thank you for offering** the "first fruits" of your finances back to God- we ask that you would donate as you feel comfortable by leaving physical offerings in the baskets near the entrances/exits of the worship space or through online giving on our website or the QR code on the staff page of this bulletin. **Thank you for sharing** your spiritual gifts with our church, local, and global communities- we ask that you would look through our announcements and see where you could help out with the work of St. Matt's ministry.*

OFFERTORY

Arise, Your Light Has Come

Duck/Walter

A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Liberating God,

**All: you break the bonds of injustice
and let the oppressed go free.**

**Receive these offerings in thanksgiving
for all your works of merciful power,**

and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.

You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

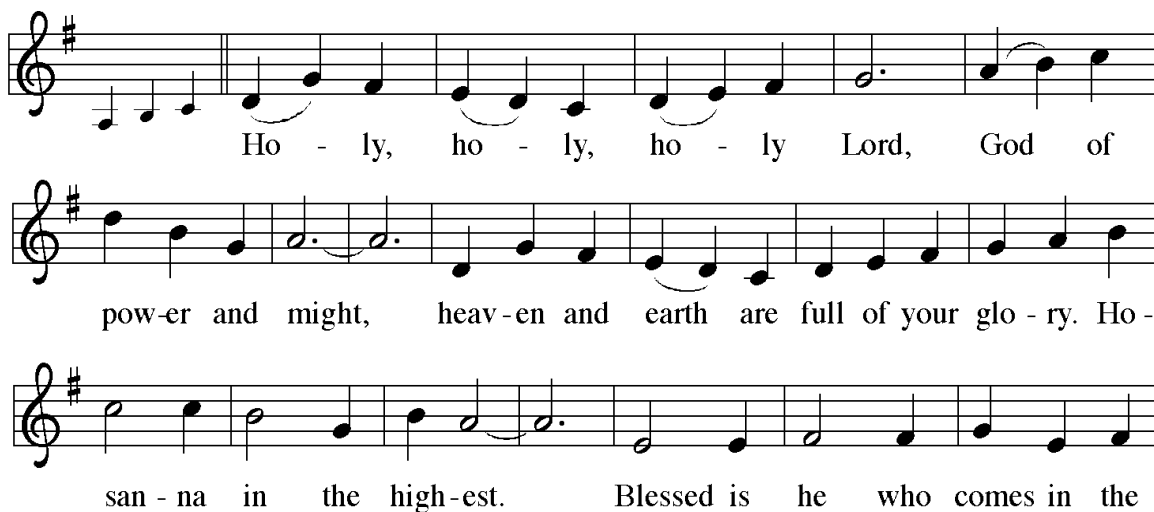
All: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

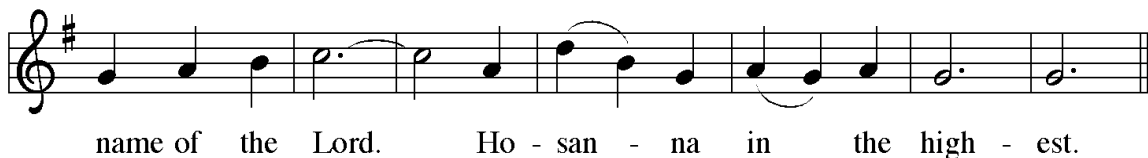
Pastor: It is indeed right...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of'. The second staff contains 'pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -'. The third staff contains 'san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the'.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER WITH WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All are welcome to the Lord's Supper. The meal is served in several ways. Choose what is appropriate for you.

Individual packets are available for those wishing to remain in their pew.

If you are unable to come forward, but would like communion served by the pastor, please let one of the ushers know and the Sacrament will be brought to you at your seat.

Continuous manner – Come forward at the direction of the ushers, take the wafer from the pastor, "The body of Christ, given for you", and eat it. (Gluten-free wafers are available) Then move to the next station and take one of the cups of wine (red) or grape juice (white) "The blood of Christ, shed for you", and drink it.

Children who do not yet receive communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

IN-PEW COMMUNION

Pastor: The body of Christ, given for you.

All: Amen. (*Eat wafer*)

(*Pause*)

Pastor: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

All: Amen. (*Drink wine*)

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION HYMNOne Bread, One Body – Foley

Refrain
One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of
bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y

through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.

1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
 2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
 3 Grain for the fields, scat - tered and grown,

Refrain
 wom - an or man, no more.
 one in the Lord of all.
 gath - ered to one for all.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Holy One,
 we thank you for the healing
 that springs forth abundantly from this table.
 Renew our strength to do justice,
 love kindness, and journey humbly with you.

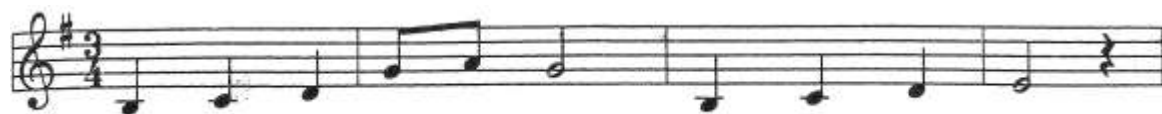
All: Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor: The God who faithfully brings forth justice
 and breaks the oppressor's rod
 ✚ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,
 today and always.

All: Amen.

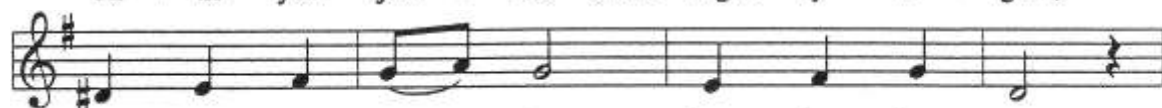
SENDING HYMN *Beauty for Brokenness* – Kendrick



1 Beau - ty for bro - ken - ness, hope for de - spair;
 2 Shel - ter for fra - gile lives, cures for their ills,
 3 Ref - uge from cru - el wars, ha - vens from fear,
 4 Rest for the rav - aged earth, o - ceans and streams,
 5 Light - en our dark - ness, breathe on this flame,



Lord, in the suf - fer - ing this is our prayer.
 work for the crafts - men, trade for their skills;
 cit - ies for sanc - tu - a - ry, free - doms to share;
 plun - dered and poi - soned, our fu - ture, our dreams.
 un - til your jus - tice burns bright - ly a - gain;



Bread for the chil - dren, jus - tice, joy, peace;
 land for the dis - pos - sessed, rights for the weak,
 peace to the kill - ing fields, scorched earth to green,
 Lord, end our mad - ness, care - less - ness, greed;
 un - til the na - tions learn of your ways,

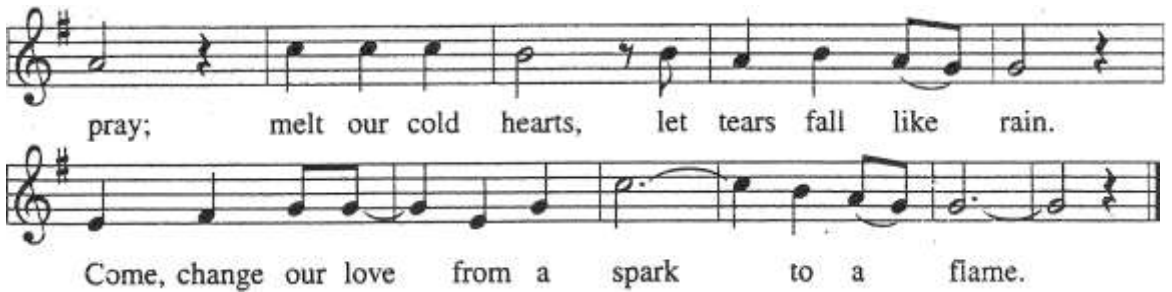


sun - rise to sun - set your king - dom in - crease.
 voic - es to plead the cause of those who can't speak.
 Christ for the bit - ter - ness, his cross for the pain.
 make us con - tent with the things that we need.
 seek your sal - va - tion, and bring you their praise.

Refrain



God of the poor, friend of the weak, give us com - pas - sion, we



DISMISSAL:

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Toccata in G

Eliot

* * * * *

Please note: Music for this service is covered under CCLI # 1000682 –
Also #A-708989 *One License.net*

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Rev. Kathryn Vitalis Hoffman, Lead Pastor, ext. 231

pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org

Rev. Taylor Berdahl, Associate Pastor, ext. 229

pastortaylor@stmattlutheran.org

Rev. Faye C. Snyder, Visitation Pastor

Scott G. Fredericks, Minister of Music, ext. 235

Tim Peck, Youth Ministry, youth@stmattlutheran.org

Stacy Parsons, Children and Family Ministry, sparsons@stmattlutheran.org

Doris Deitzel, Lay Pastoral Assistant, ddeitzel@stmattlutheran.org, ext. 225



Our warm thanks to all those assisting in the Sunday worship services:

Musicians	8:30 Jeanie Mummert Kent, Soloist	10:30 Jeanie Mummert Kent, Soloist; Adult Choir
Altar Guild	Janice Peck, Beth Koontz	
Assisting Minister.....	8:30 Linda Wheeler	10:30 Mike Jones
Communion Assistants	8:30 Dana Farmer, John Mancini	10:30 Barb Rupp, Tom Shultz
Communion Preparer	8:30 Janice Peck, Barb Rupp	10:30 Bob & Barbara Strangfeld
Couriers.....	8:30 Dana Farmer, John Mancini	10:30 Tom Shultz, Walt Porowski
Greeters	8:30 Lynda Sheffer, Ron & JoAnn Smith	10:30 Alan & Pam Cashman, Hunter Crabbs
Lector	8:30 Caralyn Mummert	10:30 Melissa Crabbs
Live Stream	Brad & Andrea Hersh	
Ushers	8:30 Team 6 – Jim Menges, Kim Beard, Sharon Bollinger, Sally Staub	10:30 Team 7 – John & Barb Frederick Jr., Tom Bell, Grant Frederick, Lance Frederick, Deb Hansford, Ken Warner
Welcome Place Servers	Linda Sanders	

THE ALTAR FLOWERS have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Richard (Dick) Stevens on the anniversary of his death on January 31, 2011, by his wife Bev and sons Rick and Greg and their families; and in loving memory of my brother Carl H. Nace by Myrtle Satterfield and family.

THE BULLETINS have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my brother Carl H. Nace by Myrtle Satterfield and family.

RECOMMENDED SCRIPTURE READINGS for the week beginning Jan. 29:

Sunday: Matthew 5:1-12

Thursday: 1 John 5:1-5

Monday: Philemon 1-25

Friday: James 3:13-18

Tuesday: James 5:1-6

Saturday: Mark 7:1-8

Wednesday: Luke 6:17-26

PRAYER LIST: (Unless otherwise notified, names stay on the prayer list for 30 days.)

Loretta	Carol	Mike
Wanda	Lindsay	Raegan
Judy	Payton	Aimee
Mary	Linda	Elaine
Joan	Linda	Larry
Rick	Josie	Denise
Seamus	Judy	Sandy
Donna	Vicki	Bev
Cathy	Grant	Linda
Logan	Joshua	
Joanne	Don	

ATTENDANCE:	(01/21)	5:00 p.m.....	35
	(01/22)	8:30 a.m.....	74
		10:30 a.m. Service	137
	(01/16-01/22)	Online views	276
	Total		522

ANNUAL REPORTS are due in the office, info@stmattlutheran.org by **THIS Tuesday, January 31!** Thank you to everyone who has already sent them.

THE MESSENGER DEADLINE is also Tuesday, January 31. Any articles for the newsletter can be sent to info@stmattlutheran.org by Tuesday morning.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church Calendar

January 29 – February 5, 2023

Sun.	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave).....	8:30 a.m.
	Faith Connections	9:30-10:20 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave).....	10:30 a.m.
	Youth Connections (Rm. 304) <i>The Parent Bowl</i>	6:00-8:00 p.m.
Mon.	Discovery Place Classes.....	8:45-11:30 a.m.
	Girl Scouts	6:00-7:30 p.m.
	Grief Share Support Group (Upper Rm.)	6:30-8:00 p.m.
Tues.	Discovery Place Classes.....	8:45-11:30 a.m.
	Staff Meetings (Library)	10:30 a.m.
	Primary Choir	4:20-5:00 p.m.
Wed.	Discovery Place Classes.....	8:45-11:30 a.m.
	Prayer Chain Meeting (Library).....	10:30-11:30 a.m.
	Junior Choir Rehearsal	4:30-5:15 p.m.
	Boy Scouts.....	6:00-8:30 p.m.
Thurs.	Discovery Place Classes.....	8:45-11:30 a.m.
	Preschool Choir Rehearsal	6:15-7:00 p.m.
	St. Matthew Ringers Rehearsal	7:15-8:00 p.m.
	Adult Choir Rehearsal	8:00-9:00 p.m.
Fri.	Discovery Place Classes.....	8:45-11:30 a.m.
Sat.	Mini-Minister Puppet Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall).....	10:00-10:45 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Fellowship Hall)	5:00 p.m.
Sun.	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave).....	8:30 a.m.
	Faith Connections	9:30-10:20 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave).....	10:30 a.m.



DAY CAMP will be at St. Matthew again! Please save these dates in your calendars, June 19-23, with more details coming soon!

VBS will be back at St. Matthew again this summer with an extra day! Save these dates June 26-29, with more details to come!



HOLY COMMUNION is an important aspect of the religious experience and one that St. Matthew loves to share with our community of members. While the Holy Communion milestone is being offered for those children currently in 3rd grade, everyone has the opportunity to share in this milestone if as a member of the St. Matthew Community, you want to participate or have your child/youth participate. The Milestone consists of 4 short classes and then the Milestone is celebrated during the Maundy Thursday service on April 6. Please plan to **register by February 12**, so that we can order enough materials and plan out the dates for the classes. If you are interested in signing up or have additional questions, please contact Stacy Parsons, Youth and Family coordinator at sparsons@stmattlutheran.org.



DEADLINE TO REGISTER for the **LutheranHANDS** mission trip for rising 9th graders and older to New Orleans July 16-24 is **February 28**. If you missed the information sessions but are interested in seeing if this trip is for you, contact Tim Peck, youth@stmattlutheran.org, or 717-637-7101.

THE PARENT BOWL Skip the cooking and come eat with us on the 3rd floor in the Youth Suite on January 29, when the high school youth will challenge the skills of their parents during a game night. Let's see if the youth or their parents are capable of taking on the challenge. If you accept this challenge, be at the Youth Suite from 6-8:00 p.m.! Excellent company and a lot of fun!!

THERE WILL BE NO Youth Connections on February 5. We will meet again on February 19.

DIRECTORIES ARE AVAILABLE! The directories will be available at the Hospitality Desk on Sunday morning from 9:30-10:30. We are asking for \$10 to cover the cost of printing.



FAITH CONNECTIONS FOR ADULTS! There are two opportunities for adults to meet for learning and fellowship at 9:30 on Sunday mornings.

The **Generations Class** meets in the Parlor right off the Gathering Place. This class focuses on the intersection between current events and our Christian faith. For more information contact Beth Koontz at bethk9245@gmail.com.

Transformed Community: Freed and Empowered for Radical Welcome Study

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.

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 through February 12.

AS PART OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH, Deb Smith will give a Marching Down Freedom's Road presentation. This will include highlights of her Civil Rights trip with the Classrooms Without Borders group. The presentation starts in Atlanta and ends in Memphis. Some sites include the Legacy Museum, the Rosa Parks Museum, the Edmund Pettus Bridge, and the National Civil Rights Museum. Join us on Tuesday, February 7, at 7:00 p.m. at YWCA Hanover.



Annual Puppet Marathon
Sunday, February 12
2-3:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
You may come and go as your time permits.
Don't miss this fun family event —
All are welcome!

OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING will be held immediately following the late worship service on February 19, 2023 with a snow date of February 26. Please plan on attending this important meeting. It should not last long and is a good time to learn more about what is happening here at St. Matthew!



Tuesday, February 21 – Shrove Tuesday event

Ash Wednesday service – February 22, 7:00 p.m. and Lent begins!

Watch for more details!

FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³"O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of
Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

⁶"With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Psalms 115**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

The message about the cross is foolishness to those
who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is
the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will
thwart."

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe?
Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made
foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the
wisdom of God, the world did not know God through
wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our

proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews
demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we
proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews
and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are
the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of
God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness
is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is
stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not
many of you were wise by human standards, not many
were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But
God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the
wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame
the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the
world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things
that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence
of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus,
who became for us wisdom from God, and righteous-
ness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order
that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in
the Lord."

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the moun-
tain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.
²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be
comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the
earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righ-
teousness, for they will be filled.

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive
mercy.

⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see
God.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be
called children of God.

¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righ-
teousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and per-
secute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely
on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward
is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted
the prophets who were before you."

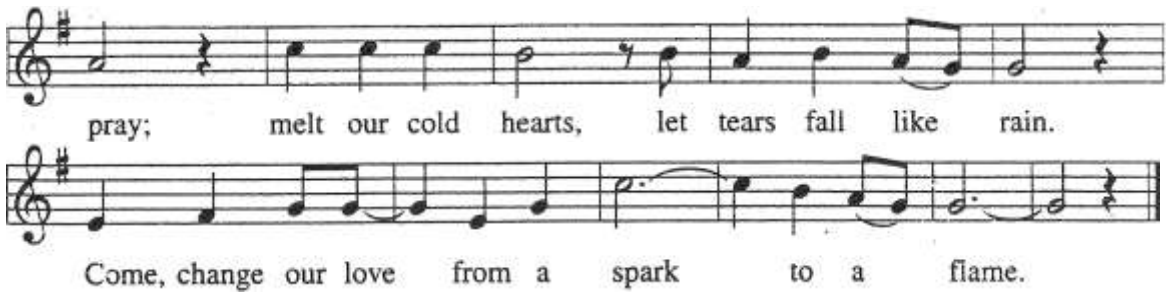
Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]; Psalm 112:1-9 [10]; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]; Matthew 5:13-20.

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DISMISSAL:

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Toccata in G

Eliot

* * * * *

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