



Lord,
I believe

JOHN 9:38

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2023



St. Matthew
LUTHERAN CHURCH
CENTERED IN CHRIST
Celebrating Love • Serving All

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Facebook: St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Hanover PA

Instagram: @stmatthanover

Livestream Worship:

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

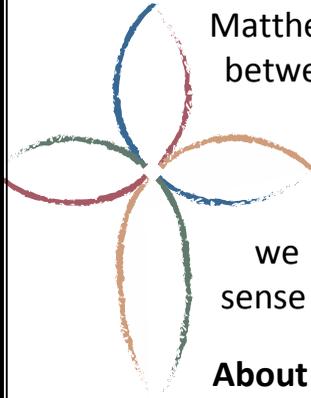
Please tear off and put in the offering basket as you leave:

Names of everyone attending Sunday, **March 19, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.:**

Names of everyone attending Sunday, **March 19, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.:**

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

Number Attending Wednesday Church Dinner: _____ Adults _____ Children



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.

As we honor and explore the holiness of questions, our theme for this Lent is “Ask,” based on resources put together by Barn Geese Worship. We look forward to embracing exciting *and* scary questions and how they just might shape our faith for the better. How might the Holy Spirit rush in through the doors that questions open?



‘Ask’ Worship.” © 2023 by Barn Geese Worship. Used by permission of Barn Geese Worship. [Adapted by Pastor Taylor Berdahl.]

+ Celebrating God's Love - Serving in Jesus' Name +

| | | |
|----------------|--|----------|
| PRELUDE (8:30) | <i>Adagio</i> | Loeillet |
| (10:30) | <i>A Lenten Prayer</i> Junior Choir | Powell |

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: When God made us, God knew what we needed to thrive. But when God gives us an orchard, we hunger for more. As we confess our sins together, first consider: Where have you gone wrong this week? How have you harmed your relationship with God, with your neighbor, and with yourself?

Silence for reflection

Pastor: Now, let us confess our sins together.

All: We know we have harmed each other and damaged our relationship with you. We fear that admitting our sin will only drive us deeper into isolation. So we sneak a bite from the fruit that is not ours to take. We throw away the evidence of our disloyal decisions. We create distractions to hide what we have done. We point our fingers at the faults of others. We accuse those who have no reason to lie. We avoid you. We have broken trust, abandoned faith, and invested in lies. You always discover the wreckage that bears our fingerprints. Our shame feels more intimate than your love. What have we done? Is it too late to receive your forgiveness?

Pastor: Friends, even when we sin, God is not accusing. God only asks what we have done so we can set down our guilt. God asks

where we have gone because God wants to bring us back. +
Jesus died to reveal the limitless depth of God's love. You can
doubt this love, but the truth of God's love for you remains.
God knows all and forgives all. May we endeavor to trust this
love so freely given.

**All: We embrace your mercy, and we thank you, loving God.
Amen.**

OPENING HYMN..... *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness* – Edwards/Wyeth



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



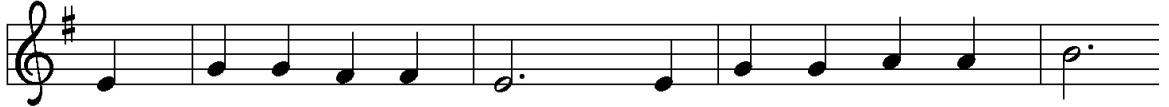
calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

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.

KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

(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: Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

THE READING: Ephesians 5:8-14 *Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.*

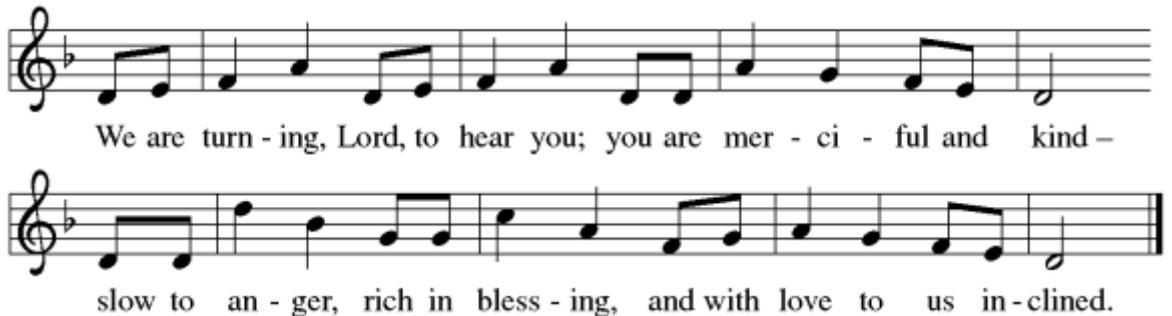
⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,
“Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

(Please remain seated for the Lenten Acclamation and the Gospel Reading)

LENTEN ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -
slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 9th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 9:1-41 *Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.*

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

Newton



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

(Remain seated for Confession and Prayers)

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

Assisting Minister: Let us respond to questions of faith with the words of the
 Apostles' Creed.

Do you believe there is a God who made us?

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

Assisting Minister: Do you believe there is redemption for humanity?

**All: 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.**

Assisting Minister: Do you believe God is with us today?

**All: 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 (8:30)

Holy Manna

Raney

Adult Choir with Dennis Koontz, Percussion

Text: Lord! Shower us with holy manna from above.

We gather here to sing hosanna, we gather to share your love.

We have gathered here to worship and adore the Lord, our God.

Will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the Word?

All is vain unless the spirit of the Holy One comes down.

Christians pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.



pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
 store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
 and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. God, what will you do with these gifts?

All: We may never know.

But we carry a faith passed to us through generations.

We set the table with food and drink harvested by many hands. We break the bread of answered prayers.

Use the gifts we give today to grow tomorrow's mercy.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Where is our God?

All: God is here in this place.

Pastor: Where are your hearts?

All: We have given them to God.

Pastor: What shall we do in the presence of our God?

All: We shall give our thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER WITH WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Jesus, you asked us to ask you for all our needs. So we 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



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN *Come, Let Us Eat – Kwillia*

(Next Page)



1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
3 In Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest,
4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word,



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come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
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rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word.



Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,
In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom,



our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er.
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er.
in the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er.
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom.

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. Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.

With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and touch the world with your love.

All: Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor: God, the giver of love,
✚ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.

All: Amen.

SENDING HYMNAwake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death – Tucker/ Gläser



A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

DISMISSAL:

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Serve in love.

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Grand Choeur

Handel

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 Dieringer, 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, ext. 230

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

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



Scan for
e-giving

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

Musicians .8:30 Dennis Koontz, Percussion, and the Adult Choir 10:30 Junior Choir
Altar Flower Delivery Pam Cashman

Altar Guild Anna Marchio, Doris Deitzel, Liam

Assisting Minister..... 8:30 Amy Beck 10:30 Randy Kline

Communion Assistants8:30 Barb Rupp, Sara Staub
10:30 Randy Kline

Communion Preparer ..8:30 Sara Staub, Meredith Staub 10:30 Mike & Mary Jones

Couriers.....8:30 Barb Rupp, Sara Staub
10:30 Walt Porowski

Greeters 8:30 Joan Belt, Debby Seibert, Lynda Sheffer
10:30 Tom & Susie Shultz, Aaron Smith

Lector 8:30 Randy Luckenbaugh 10:30 Tom Shultz

Live Stream Brad & Andrea Hersh

Ushers .8:30 Team 2 – Bryant & Ann Meckley, Andy Nace, Randy & Debby Seibert,
Ron Smith, Drew Steffens

10:30 Team 3 – Darlene Klenk, Terry Badman, Tyler Klenk,
Barb Rupp, Dirk Wildasin

Welcome Place Server Barb Rupp

THE ALTAR FLOWERS have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory Ralph E. Doner by his loving wife Judy and family; and in loving memory of Catherine Phillips by Gary and Jean Mummert and family; and in loving memory of Nina Clark by her daughter Sharon Bollinger; and in loving memory of Betty Reichart on the anniversary of her death on March 17 by Marsha Hartman and Elaine Sheely.

THE BULLETINS have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory Ralph E. Doner by his loving wife Judy and family.

RECOMMENDED SCRIPTURE READINGS for the week beginning March 19:

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sunday: John 9:1-41 | Thursday: Revelation 10:1-11 |
| Monday: Acts 9:1-20 | Friday: Revelation 11:15-19 |
| Tuesday: Colossians 1:9-14 | Saturday: Luke 24:44-53 |
| Wednesday: Matthew 9:27-34 | |

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| ATTENDANCE: | (03/08) | Dinner Church 7 p.m. | 84 |
| | (03/11) | 5:00 p.m..... | 42 |
| | (03/12) | 8:30 a.m..... | 55 |
| | | 10:30 a.m. Service | 188 |
| | (03/06-03/12) | Online views | 116 |
| | Total | | 485 |

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

| | | |
|-----------------|---------|---------|
| Susan | Sally | Joshua |
| Anna | Lindsay | Don |
| Richard & Aleta | June | John |
| Loretta | Erika | Mike |
| Seamus | Jeanne | Aimee |
| Joanne | Linda | Elaine |
| Carol | Josie | Larry |
| Jodd | Vicki | Marlene |
| Yvonne | Grant | Linda |

St. Matthew Calendar for March 19-26, 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) | 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. |
| | Primary Choir | 4:20-5:00 p.m. |
| | Discovery Place Board Meeting (Library) | 6:00-7:30 p.m. |
| | Cub Scouts..... | 6:30-7:30 p.m. |
| | Communion Milestone Class (Upper Room) | 6:30-7:30 p.m. |
| Wed. | Discovery Place Classes..... | 8:45-11:30 a.m. |
| | Junior Choir Rehearsal | 4:30-5:15 p.m. |
| | Lent Dinner Church (Fellowship Hall) | 5:30 p.m. |
| | Boy Scouts..... | 6:00-8:30 p.m. |
| | Communion Milestone Class (Upper Room) | 6:30-7:30 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. | Women's Retreat (Upper Room)..... | 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. |
| | Cub Scout Pinewood Derby (Fellowship Hall) | 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. |
| | Worship with Holy Communion (Nave)..... | 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. |
| | Communion Milestone Class (Upper Room) | 1:00-2:00 p.m. |

ARE YOU WILLING to drive members to medical or other necessary appointments? If you are interested or have questions, please call Ella Hostetter, 717-476-9616, or Walt Porowski, 717-476-6459.

DINNER CHURCH: Lenten Midweek Worship Through March 29, we are having dinner church in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday nights. It is a family-friendly worship opportunity in a casual setting around tables. You can expect food, Bible stories, guided conversation, communion, prayer and music. We will start serving food at **5:30 p.m.**, liturgy will start at **5:45**, and we'll be done by 6:30. Sign up on the inside cover of this bulletin or in the Gathering Place!



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.

The **Pastor's Class** is a continuation of the theme of Lent regarding the questions we ASK. It is a lectionary study of the Sunday's readings with a focus on the back-and-forth conversations in scripture and between ourselves. This class meets in the 2nd floor Upper Room. Use the stairs or elevator by the glass doors at the back of the church, Sundays 9:30-10:20 a.m.

THE LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF team is coordinating a response in Turkey, and it is the compassion and generosity of congregations like ours that make this possible. **You may give online through our website at www.stmatthlutheran.org, write a check to St. Matthew with "quake" on the memo line** or give directly to Lutheran World Relief at lwr.org/quake or at PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061. This is the last week we are receiving gifts before we send the check.



MARCH NEIGHBORHOOD MEAL – Monday, March 27, at the Hanover YWCA (across Chestnut Street from St. Matthew) *Please Note the location*

This month's meal will be served at the YWCA. We will begin serving dinner around 5:00 p.m. This month's meal will be prepared at the YW. We will be making English Muffin pizzas, carrots/celery and ranch dip, and cookies.

Here are ways you can help:

- 1) Distribute door hangers after Dinner Church on Wednesday, March 22.
- 2) Arrive at the YWCA at 3:30 to help set up
- 3) arrive at the YWCA to prepare pizzas
- 4) Bake and bring cookies
- 5) Attend the meal to meet our neighbors
- 6) Contact Amy Beck know, Abeck1976@comcast.net or 717-404-1994 if you can help in any way.

Thanks So Much for all your support for these meals!

PALM SUNDAY, April 2, is the date of our yearly **Easter Egg Hunt!** If you would like to donate Easter candy which is individually wrapped, donation boxes are located by the elevator and in the Gathering Place.



Palm Sunday, we will be having our annual Easter egg hunt **LUNCH** complete with grilled hamburgers and Italian sausages, salad and mac and cheese and a variety of desserts. This will serve as a fundraiser for our youth mission trip to New Orleans with LutheranHANDS. We will collect a free-will offering. The Easter Bunny will then join us to search for Easter eggs. It's going to be an egg-citing day to look for Easter eggs! For more info, contact Tim Peck at youth@stmattlutheran.org.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS On the weekend of April 30, we will be welcoming a group of new members to St. Matthew in worship. Mark your calendars to meet and greet our siblings in Christ after worship at our **new member brunch** in the Fellowship Hall at 11:45 a.m. If you or someone you know would like to **officially join** our congregation, please contact the office, info@stmattlutheran.org, to let them know. If you are interested in potentially being a **sponsor** for a new member, please contact Mike Jones, majones91914@outlook.com, and let him know.



PRAYER PALS This summer, our youth are off to experience their faith anew in offsite settings like church camp and service trips. We are looking for Prayer Pals who are interested in being paired up with someone to pray for and write to through these transformative experiences. If this sounds like you, please contact Pastor Taylor to express your interest or ask for more information!

GRADUATION MILESTONE On April 30, we will celebrate a Graduation Milestone in worship for our members who are earning (or have earned in the past 12 months) diplomas, degrees, and certificates. If you or someone you know would like to participate in this milestone, please let the office know **by April 21**. You may submit a bio to be included in a bulletin insert that weekend. Help us celebrate you together!

GENEROSITY OPPORTUNITY: The Caring Cupboard Ministry Team is seeking a volunteer to stock the Caring Cupboard on the 4th Saturday of each month. Please contact Robert or Barbara Strangfeld, 570-468-9679, or bstrangfeld133@comcast.net if you feel called to do this much needed and appreciated community ministry. Food donations to the Caring Cupboard or Stockpile Closet are always welcome and appreciated. Stand-alone food items that are suitable for those who have minimal cooking facilities (microwave) are most needed.





THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA and the INTERGENERATIONAL FAITH CONNECTIONS are collecting items to assemble **Personal Care Kits** for Lutheran World Relief. People who must flee their homes quickly due to disasters or safety often do not have time to pack essential items. Personal

Care Kits can help those in need to maintain personal hygiene while living away from their homes. The Kits also contribute to a new start for those who can return home.

Each Personal Care Kit includes:

- *One new bath-size towel(approx.52”X27”), dark color recommended
- *Two bath-size bars(4-5oz) of soap (must equal 8-9 oz.) in its original wrapping
- *One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- *One sturdy, wide-toothed comb
- *One metal nail-clipper

You may drop off items in the designated boxes located in the elevator lobby or the church office. Monetary donations may be made to be used to purchase bulk items (checks should be made payable to *St. Matthew Lutheran Church* with “Care Kits” in the memo line). A \$10 donation will buy items for one kit. The Women of the ELCA and the Intergenerational Faith Connections are combining their efforts for this event. **The packing of the kits will take place in June.**

CHILDREN’S CHURCH OFFERING COLLECTION Throughout March, April and May, the Children’s Church team is collecting items for the personal care kits St. Matt’s will be packing together at Intergenerational Faith Connections in June with the Women of the ELCA. We will collect these items during Children’s Church on Sunday mornings in a special basket. Children are invited to bring a bar of **soap**, an **adult-sized toothbrush** or a **wide-toothed comb** to add to our collection for displaced persons in our country and around the world who are being cared for by Lutheran World Relief. This is a great way to start teaching the children in our church about the importance of giving.

Ministering to Members

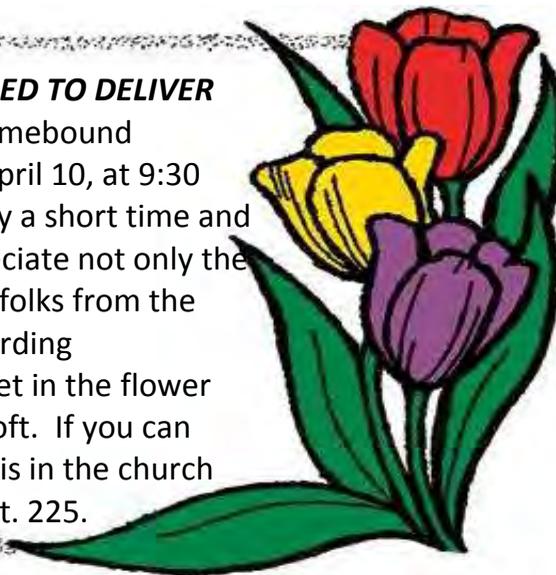
WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE? Sometimes this world seems so cold and hard. There are so many who are lonely and suffering. Have you ever wished you knew how to help?

It's 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 (717-451-0851)** with questions, to hear more, or to sign up. Or fill out the slip on the last page of this bulletin.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO DELIVER

Easter flowers to our homebound members on Monday, April 10, at 9:30 a.m. It usually takes only a short time and our shut-ins really appreciate not only the flowers but talking with folks from the church. It is a very rewarding experience. We will meet in the flower room behind the choir loft. If you can help, please contact Doris in the church office, 717-637-7101, ext. 225.





WHAT'S NEXT? NEXT is a partnership ministry of the Lower Susquehanna Synod. It is a faith-based community of young adults that exists to support and care for each other as they navigate life together. Are you looking for a community where you can be yourself, share conversation, a meal and wrestle with the questions of life and faith? We celebrate, mourn, laugh and cry as we walk through our trials and joys. Join us to explore what's **NEXT?**

Upcoming events for NEXT:

- April 15: 6:00 p.m. Meal at St. Peter Middletown

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



DISCOVERY PLACE NEWS!



What do you know about St. Matthew's Discovery Place Preschool, our teachers, our preschool program and summer camps? Visit us during our next **OPEN HOUSE Thursday, April 27 6:00-7:30 p.m.** We will have registration information for both fall enrollment as well as Summer Discovery Camps. Come meet the preschool staff, see our classroom spaces and get to know your church preschool program!

We are currently registering for our **FALL 2023 classes**, with all classes still available. Our **SUMMER DISCOVERY 2023 CAMPS** for children age 4-6 have been announced for the month of June, and many of our camps are already filling up! We have several fun themes this summer, each camp theme for one week. Our camps are 9-12 noon weekdays, and are packed with lots of fun!

Information for both fall preschool and summer camps is available at the church office, in the Gathering Place kiosk, and on the church website on the preschool pages. Discovery Place information can be found under the "Connect" tab from the website menu.

Vacation Bible School Registration



“In the depths of a colorful underground cave is the beating heart of the hero community. In the Hero Headquarters, everyone’s gifts are valued and every hero has a role to play in following Jesus, helping others, working together, listening to God, and showing grace.” Vacation Bible School (VBS) registration for the summer of 2023 is officially open!

This year, VBS will be held from June 26-29, from 9 a.m.- 12 p.m. The VBS theme is the **Hero Hotline**, which is a curriculum created to call one and all together to serve God. Children and Youth from grades Kindergarten-5th grade are encouraged and welcome to attend this 4-day extravaganza of learning about answering the call to be more like Jesus every day. The week will include crafts, stories, music and activities all promoting the overall theme, which comes from Romans 14:19 “So let’s strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up.” This QR code is for the VBS registration form.



VBS Volunteers



Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held from June 26-29 from 9 a.m.- 12 p.m. Interested in being a volunteer? Want to help with crafts, lunch, activities, storytelling, or walking a class from activity to activity? If interested, please

contact Stacy Parsons at sparsons@stmattlutheran.org



Last Chance !



EASTER GARDEN: Members and friends who wish to honor or memorialize a loved one by donating to the Easter Garden are asked to complete and return the form below with **\$10** per listing to the church office by **Monday, March 20**. The Easter flowers will be delivered to our shut-ins by volunteers on Monday, April 10.

After the cost of the plants is met, the balance of the memorials/honorariums will be sent to New Hope Ministries.

I would like to sponsor an Easter flower in the church.

In honor of _____ In memory of _____

Name(s) being honored or memorialized (Please print clearly):

Given by: _____

Envelope Number _____ **Amount Given \$** _____

Please include \$10 per listing. Make checks payable to **St. Matthew Lutheran Church** with “Easter Garden” in the memo line. Deadline is **Monday, March 20**.

I would like to help by being a Visiting Minister:

Name _____

Email Address _____

Phone number (s) _____

Palm Sunday Lunch and Easter Egg Hunt sign-up:

Name: _____

Number of Adults: _____ **Number of Children:** _____

Continental Easter Breakfast sign-up:

Name: _____

Number of Adults: _____ **Number of Children:** _____

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 [not printed]

Psalm 23

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14 [not printed]

GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked

them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

Next Sunday's Readings: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45.

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Tracks 1 and 2
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