



ENTER INTO JOY

MATTHEW 25:21



St. Matthew

LUTHERAN CHURCH

CENTERED IN CHRIST
Celebrating Love • Serving All

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

WE WELCOME YOU!

Date: November 19, 2023

Name(s): _____

Attending **10:30 a.m.**

___ I/We would like to add or update my email for the Messenger and other email updates. (Be sure to include email address changes below.)

___ I/We would like to add or update my/our address for mailings. (Be sure to include name & contact changes below)

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

St. Matthew

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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>



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 and 10:30 a.m. with 10:30 being livestreamed also.

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

25th Sunday after Pentecost
November 19, 2023

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

PRELUDE

Thanks Be to Thee

Handel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one
another.

Silence for self-examination.

Pastor: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have turned from you
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**

We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

**In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown, things we have done
and things we have failed to do.**

**Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: God, who is rich in mercy,
loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.
By grace you have been saved.


In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
 Almighty God strengthen you with power
 through the Holy Spirit,
 that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

All: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God

Winkworth/Crüger



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
 2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
 who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
 the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,
 who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
 and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;
 with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to day.
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

This Is the Feast

Refrain

Leader:



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and

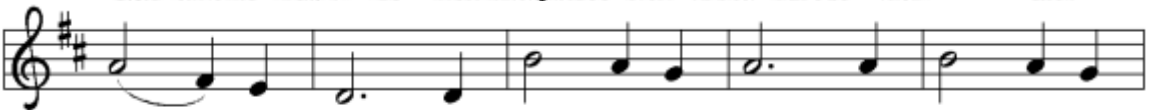


strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



Please be seated.

MUSICAL OFFERING

We Are Thankful the Choir Members/Amspacher
Preschool and Primary Choirs

I Give Thanks

Sullivan

Love the Lord Your God

Stewart

Junior Choir

Text: Love the Lord your God with all your heart And all your soul and all your mind and Love all of mankind as you would love yourself and Love the Lord your God with all your heart With all your soul and mind and love all mankind We've got, Christian lives to live we've got Jesus love to give we've got nothing to hide Because in Him we abide.

Children ages 10 and under are invited to meet our Children's Church Leader 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: Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

Psalm 90:1-8, 12 *(Please read responsively)*

¹Lord, you have been our refuge

from one generation to another.

²**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.**

³You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, O children of earth."

⁴**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night;**

⁵you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

⁶**in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

⁷For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.

⁸**Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

¹²So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 *Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 25:14-30 *Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.*

Lector: The Gospel of our Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

THE MESSAGE

Pastor Faye Snyder

MUSICAL OFFERING

Gentle Voice
Adult Choir

Dengler & Dengler

Text: Far above the noise of life there's a voice that is gently calling.

"Leave behind your cares and strife. Come to me I will give you rest.

Bring your fear and bring your pain. Bring your anger, and bring your worry."

Do you hear the voice of Jesus, gently calling, "Come unto Me"?

Gentle voice, so meek and mild; gentle words of understanding.

"You are my beloved child. Come to Me. I will give you rest.

Bring your grief and bring your cares. Bring your heartaches and bring your sorrow."

Do you hear the voice of Jesus, gently calling, "Come unto Me"?

Gentle voice so full of love. gentle words so rich in mercy.
"You are my beloved child. Come to Me. I will give you rest."

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION OF FAITH *Apostles' Creed*

Confirmation Student: 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, "*Hear us, O God.*" and the congregation responds, "***Your mercy is great.***"

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.)

Please be seated.

MUSICAL OFFERING

A Heartsong Blessing
Spirit Singers

Martin

GENEROSITY MOMENT – Barbara Strangfeld for the Generosity Team

*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.*

Please stand as you are able.

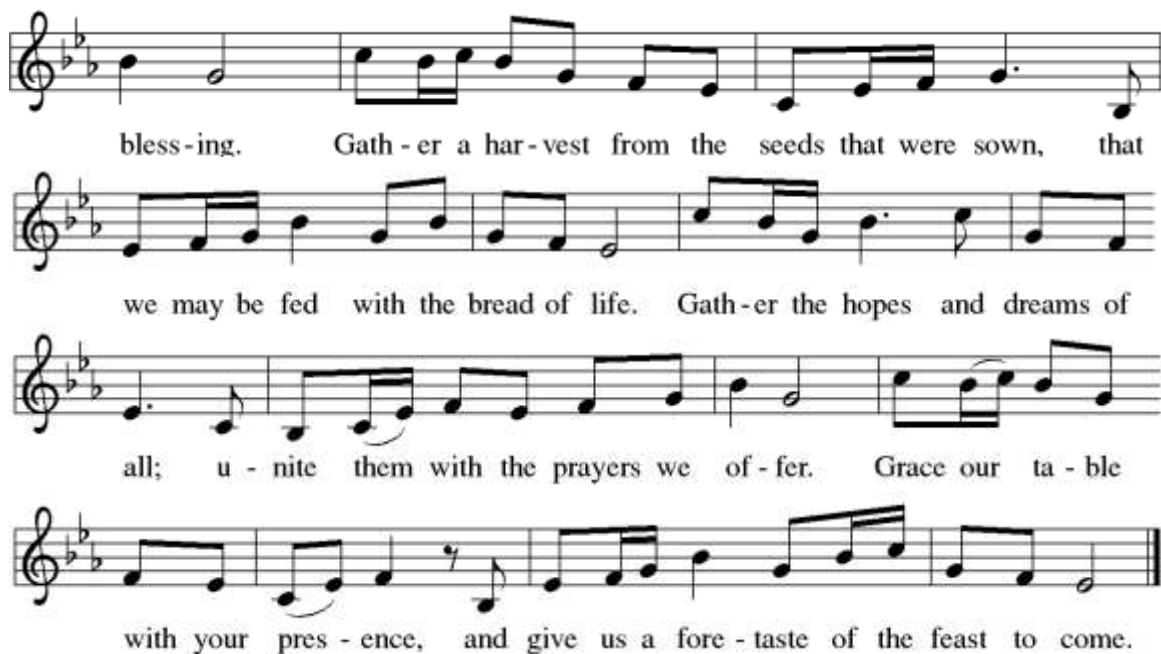
OFFERTORY

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Nelson



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray.

All: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:
ourselves, our time, and our possessions.
Use us, and what we have gathered,
in feeding the world with your love,
through the one who gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE MEAL

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

Please be seated.

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)

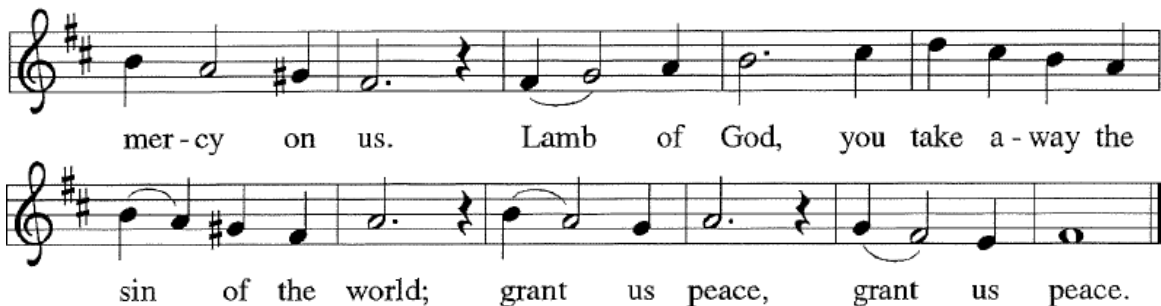
LAMB OF GOD



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



COMMUNION HYMN

Praise and Thanksgiving

Bayly

1 Praise and thanks-giv-ing, God, we would of-fer for all things
2 God, bless the la-bor we bring to serve you, that with our
3 Fa-ther, pro-vid-ing food for your chil-dren, by Wis-dom's
4 Then will your bless-ing reach ev-'ry peo-ple, free-ly con-
liv-ing, you have made good: har-vest of sown fields, fruits of the
neigh-bor we may be fed. Sow-ing or till-ing, we would work
guid-ing teach us to share one with an-oth-er, so that, re-
fess-ing your gra-cious hand. Where you are reign-ing, no one will
or-chard, hay from the mown fields, blos-som and wood.
with you, har-vest-ing, mill-ing for dai-ly bread.
joic-ing with us, all oth-ers may know your care.
hun-ger; your love sus-tain-ing show-ers the land.

Please stand as you are able.

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. We give you thanks, almighty God,
that you have refreshed us
through the healing power of this gift of life.
In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift,
in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the name of the Father, and of the + Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Christ, Be Our Light

Farrell



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



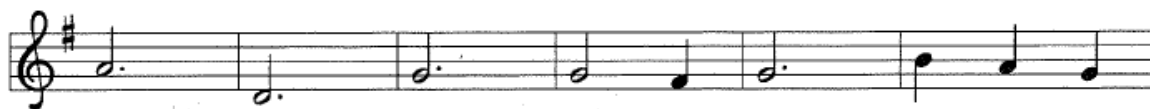
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

DISMISSAL:

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Celebrate God's love.

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Doxology

arr. Labenske

* * * * *

Please note: Music for this service is covered under CCLI # 1000682 –

Also #A-708989 *One License.net*

St. Matthew Lutheran Church



Scan for
e-giving

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

pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org

Rev. Faye C. Snyder, Visitation Pastor

Rev. Mark Vitalis Hoffman, Interim Teaching Pastor

PastorMark@CrossMarks.com

Tim Peck, Youth Ministry, ext. 230, *youth@stmattlutheran.org*,

Melissa Smith, Children and Family Ministry Coordinator, ext. 229

msmith@stmattlutheran.org

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

Deb Smith, Interim Youth and Adult Music Ministry Leader,

musicmama1@comcast.net

Lindsay Ampsacher, Interim Children's Music Ministry Leader,

Lindsay.ampsacher@gmail.com

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

MusiciansKarl Mincemoyer, Organist; Adult Choir with Deb Smith, Director

Preschool and Primary Choirs with Lindsay Ampsacher, Director;

Junior Choir with Addyson Trostle & Hallie Doll Assistants; Spirit Singers

Altar Flower Delivery Doris Deitzel

Altar Guild Martha Hempfing, Sally Staub

Assisting Minister..... Hunter Crabbs

Children's Church Leader..... Melissa Smith

Communion Assistants Charley Lidard, Lexi

Communion PreparerMike & Mary Jones

Couriers..... Mike Jones, Roland Kunde

Greeters Martha Hempfing, Ron & JoAnn Smith

Lector Bobbie Lidard

Live Stream Jody & Deb Ruhlman

Ushers Team 4 – Steve & Penny Rutters, Tom Cramer, Dennis Koontz,

Chris Raubenstine, Kelli Reed

Welcome Place Barb Rupp

THE ALTAR FLOWERS have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Virginia Lee Coleman by her loving husband Ron Coleman; and in loving memory of Donna Mae Yost by the family.

THE BULLETINS have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Donna Mae Yost by the family; and in loving memory of Katie M. Zinn by Michael and Cynthia Zinn.

Attendance:	(11/11)	5:00 p.m.....	42
	(11/12)	8:30 a.m.....	70
		10:30 a.m.....	145
	(11/06-11/12)	Online views	124
	Total	381

RECOMMENDED SCRIPTURE READINGS for the week beginning November 19:	
Sunday: Matthew 25:14-30	Thursday: Revelation 14:1-11
Monday: Romans 2:1-11	Friday: Revelation 22:1-9
Tuesday: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18	Saturday: Matthew 12:46-50
Wednesday: Matthew 24:45-51	

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

Pat	Kinsley	Grant
Barb	Kinleigh	Joe
Sandy	Mike & Linda	Bob
Jeffrey	Esther	Mike
Harriet	Masyn	Bill & Carole
Vicki	Linda	Abbey
Kathy	Joanne	Aimee
Loretta	Marie-Louise	JoAnn
Donald	Yvonne	Scott
Rob	Lindsay	Kiera
Linda	Harold	

St. Matthew Calendar November 19 - 26, 2023

Sun.	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave).....	8:30 a.m.
	Faith Connections	9:30-10:20 a.m.
	Thrivent Financial Presentation (Upper Room).....	9:30-10:20 a.m.
	Splash Class (Playground).....	9:45-10:15 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave).....	10:30 a.m.
	Spirit Singers Rehearsal (Rehearsal room)	11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
	Youth Handbell Rehearsal (Rehearsal Room).....	5:00-5:45 p.m.
	Youth Night (Rm. 304)	7:00-8:30 p.m.
Mon.	Discovery Place Classes.....	8:45-11:15 a.m.
	Grief Support Group (Upper Room)	6:30-8:00 p.m.
Tues.	Discovery Place Classes.....	8:45-11:30 a.m.
	Junior Choir Rehearsal	4:40-5:15 p.m.
	Cub Scouts.....	6:30-7:30 p.m.
Wed.	Church Office Closes at Noon	
	NO Discovery Place Classes	
Thurs.	Church Office Closed – Happy Thanksgiving!	
Fri.	Church Office Closed	
Sat.	Worship with Holy Communion (Fellowship Hall)	5:00 p.m.
Sun.	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave).....	8:30 a.m.
	NO Faith Connections	
	Pastors' Ordination Anniversary (Fellowship Hall).....	9:30-10:20 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave).....	10:30 a.m.



LET'S CELEBRATE! Please join us **NEXT** Sunday, November 26 at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall as we celebrate the Ordination Anniversaries of Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman, Pastor Mark Vitalis Hoffman, and Pastor Faye Snyder. A reception with light refreshments will be served as we recognize 35 years each for Pastor Kathy and Pastor Mark and 20 years for Pastor Faye. St. Matthew is blessed to have them serving our Church!



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 and Lindsay Amspacher, will lead this 30 minute class at St. Matthew from 9:45-10:15 **THIS** Sunday, November 19.

LEARNING FROM OUR CONFIRMATION STUDENTS about the Apostle’s Creed
Our confirmation students have been learning the Apostle’s Creed. As they learn about it, they are also learning what each of the three articles mean by using Martin Luther’s Small Catechism. At the 10:30 service this Sunday, November 19, the confirmation class will lead us in reciting the creed and offer explanation for the third section.



THANKOFFERING WEEKEND is THIS weekend,

November 18 & 19. The Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are a community of women whose mission and ministry impacts the whole church, men and children included. Thankoffering is one way that Christian women have encouraged the link between

gratitude and giving. Begun in the late 19th century, the Thankoffering tradition encourages women to take a daily account of God’s blessings. Thankofferings support all the ministries of Women of the ELCA – from advocacy and education to discipleship and outreach. The Women of the ELCA combine their individual collections to support mission and ministry in the church. To help support the national Women of the ELCA and give thanks to God for his blessings to us, envelopes will be available on the Hospitality Desk and at the rear of the Nave. Please make checks payable to the *Women of the ELCA*. Place envelopes in offering plate or send to the church office.



THE ANGEL TREE is on display in the Gathering Place through the end of November. Please remove an ornament, purchase the gift and return the gift **unwrapped, with the ornament attached** and place under the tree by next **Sunday, November 26**. 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 27 at 9.** Thank you for making a difference in the lives of these families and making this year a brighter Christmas. *Social Ministry Committee*

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2023! Preparations are under way but it is not too late to join! The pageant is titled "*The First Christmas.*" Rehearsal will occur during Faith Connections from 9:30-10:20 a.m. on November 19. December 3, we will hold rehearsal during Children's Church at the 10:30 service. Dress rehearsal will be December 10 during Faith Connections from 9:30-10:20.



The pageant will be performed on December 17 at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. 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 Melissa Smith, Children and Family Ministry Coordinator, know either in person or via email, msmith@stmattlutheran.org.



COME, EMMANUEL: An Advent and Christmas Daily Devotion Book Short daily devotions for Advent are available. They can be found on the Hospitality Desk and in the church office. There are large print and pocket size copies available. For ebooks, go to www.augsburgfortress.org There are also the On Eagle's Wings devotions available.

Ponder Anew, What the Almighty Can Do!

The Generosity Ministry Team invites the St. Matthew Community to consider the ways God is preparing us for a future filled with hope. We are in a season of transition when we are intentionally paying attention to the ways God is leading us. Early in 2024, we will have our purpose clarified and our plans identified for the next couple of years. It is in the spirit of God's generosity that we are asking for your financial pledge for 2024.



In worship through the end of November we will be ***pondering anew*** what God is doing through St. Matthew at our Generosity Moments. More information will be coming through the mail. On November 25 and 26, we will give ***Praise to the Lord*** as we offer our commitment cards to God.



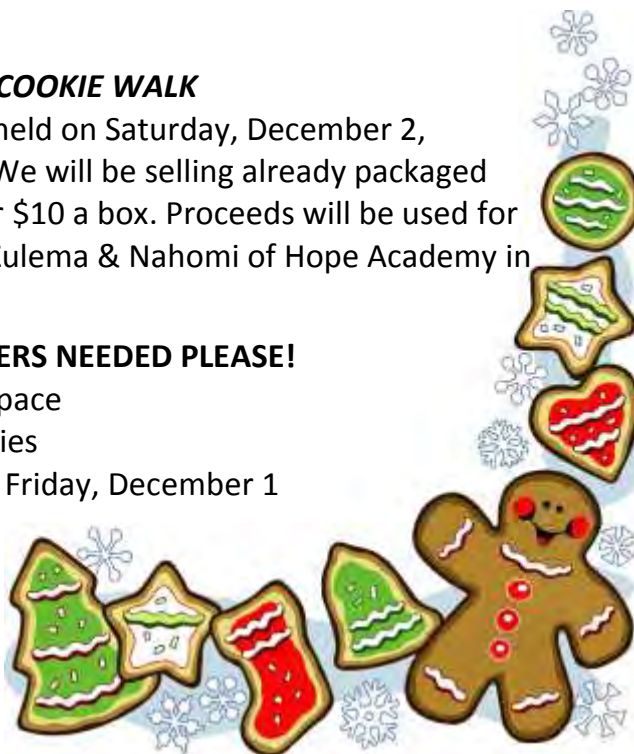
2023 COOKIE WALK

This year's Cookie Walk will be held on Saturday, December 2, 9-11:00 a.m. or until Sold Out! We will be selling already packaged boxes of homemade cookies for \$10 a box. Proceeds will be used for the education sponsorships of Zulema & Nahomi of Hope Academy in Guatemala.

COOKIE BAKERS NEEDED PLEASE!

- Signup sheets in Gathering Space
- Bake 6 dozen (or more) cookies
- Deliver to Fellowship on Hall Friday, December 1 between noon & 6:00 p.m.

Contact Andrea Hersh for questions, 717-968-7094





THE GENEROSITY TEAM IS PLANNING once again to show the many ways that Nativity scenes are portrayed. Beginning on December 1, we hope to begin showing our church member's temporarily loaned Nativity scenes in the main hallway in our secured, glass display shelves. Last year we had 30 different versions of this Christmas-time event. Please contact Robert Strangfeld at rstrangfeld133@gmail.com or by cell phone, 570-468-9679, if you would like to see your Nativity set on display. Please let me know as soon as possible, so we can accommodate as many sets as possible. Thank you from the *St. Matthew Generosity Team*.

INTERGENERATIONAL FAITH CONNECTIONS

Advent Event

December 3, 9:30-10:20 a.m.

Please join us and begin the Advent season with some time together while talking about the upcoming season. We will make ornaments for our Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall and to take home!



YOUTH MINISTRIES



COOKIE BAKE-OFF for the Cookie Walk for all youth! The bake-off will be held on Wednesday, November 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Let Tim know if you will be attending!

SECOND SUNDAY CONVERSATION High School Youth will gather the 2nd Sunday monthly for faith-focused conversation. This month we will meet Sunday, **December 10 at 9:30-10:20 a.m.** in the Youth Suite.



**Faith Connections Adult Offerings
are held each Sunday 9:30-10:20 a.m.**

Discussing current events through a faith lens with the Generations Class through a resource called *Wired Word* that connects scripture to current/everyday events for exploration of what it means to be a follower of Jesus today. This class meets in the Parlor near the Gathering Place.

The Generosity Committee invites members of St. Matthew to attend a special presentation by Ann Seitz-Brown of Thrivent Financial on key aspects of Retirement and Financial Planning. Please join us for this informative program as well as light refreshments **THIS Sunday, November 19, in the Upper Room from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.**



HANGING OF THE GREENS AND PIZZA DINNER - Come join us as we decorate our church for Christmas on Sunday, **December 3**, from 3-5:00 p.m. At 4:45 p.m. (or when the decorating is finished!) we will enjoy pizza for dinner. Everyone will begin in Fellowship Hall with instructions. Sign up by emailing us at

info@stmattlutheran.org, or fill out the last page of this bulletin and place in the offering baskets or call the office, 717-637-7101, so we know how many will be helping and how much pizza to order. This is a very fun day – come join us!

BLUE CHRISTMAS - A Worship service for those who are stressed, hurting, grieving or lonely in this Holiday Season will be held on Monday, December 4 at 6:30 p.m.



in the Nave. 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.

Promises Fulfilled? Promises Unimagined. Promises Kept!
Dinner Church is back for Advent!

There will be **two Wednesday evening Advent Dinner Church services, December 6 and 13 at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** The meal will be served at 5:30 and while people are finishing up with their dinner, the service will begin at 5:55. Our time together will include table discussions, singing, a short Bible study and new this year, age appropriate activities at the table for children.

Our focus is on the Advent themes of how God's promises are fulfilled, (un)imagined, and kept.

- **Wednesday, December 6: Promises Fulfilled?**
Who exactly was John the Baptist? What was his role in preparing for Jesus? Was Jesus the fulfillment of a promise God made to Israel? Or do we wonder when John asked Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" (Luke 7.20) How do we handle situations when it is unclear whether promises will be fulfilled or not?
- **Wednesday, December 13: Promises Unimagined. Promises Kept!**
John the Baptist's parents were quite old. Were they even imagining that they might still have a son? Were Jesus' parents ever imagining that Mary would get pregnant in some unbelievable way? Where have you experienced the promises of God in your own life in ways you never imagined?

Advent is a time of preparation, and it is a time when we see God's love and grace unfolding in marvelous promises made and promises kept! Dinner Church is time well spent for Advent. Sign-up on the tear off sheet on the last page of this bulletin, the Gathering Place, or call the church office or email, info@stmattlutheran.org.

As a follow up to the discussions around the tables on Wednesdays, Pastor Mark will be leading a class on Sunday, December 10 at 9:30 a.m. in the Upper Room.

**St. Matthew Lutheran
Church
30 W. Chestnut Street
Hanover, PA**

**Sunday, December 10
5:00 pm**



**COMMUNITY MEAL
WITH
CHRISTMAS STORYTIME & CRAFT**

**Join Ms. Lindsay and Ms. Deb for
Christmas storytime and craft.
Community Meal 3:00-6:00
5:00 Story and Craft**

**Please register for storytime and craft online
www.stmattlutheran.org
and on the last page of this bulletin.**

All Are Welcome



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

3:00-6:00 p.m.

WE NEED YOU! We will be having a free holiday meal for the Hanover Community at St. Matthew, and we are going to need lots of help. The menu will be Turkey, Ham, Filling, Corn, Potatoes, Rolls, Desserts. We will need help setting up, preparing food, serving the meal, cleaning up, making centerpieces, photographers and much more. If you are willing to help, please complete the sign-up sheet in the tear off portion of the bulletin or email Amy Beck at Abeck1976@comcast.net. We are hoping this is the beginning of a yearly tradition!

COMMUNITY HOLIDAY MEAL

Name _____ Phone # _____

Email _____

Yes, sign me up for:

_____ Baking a Turkey

_____ Photographer

_____ Baking a Ham

_____ Making Centerpieces

_____ Preparing Other Food (Corn, Potatoes, Gravy, Rolls)

_____ Making a Dessert

_____ Other

_____ Set Up

_____ Serve Meal

_____ Clean Up



COME JOIN US as we Christmas carol to some of our shut-ins Sunday, December 17. We will meet in Fellowship Hall at 1:45 and share some cookies before beginning caroling from **2-4:00 p.m.** Bring a plate of cookies to share! 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.

November

18/19 Thankoffering weekend

19 9:30-10:20 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal – Fellowship Hall

19 9:45-10:15 a.m. Splash Class – Pray-ground

22 12:00 p.m. Church Office closes

23/24 Office Closed

25/26 Pledge weekend

26 9:20-10:30 a.m. Pastors' Ordination Anniversary celebration!

29 6:30-8:30 p.m. Youth Cookie Bake-off for the Cookie Walk



December

2 9:00-11:00 a.m. Cookie Walk – elevator lobby



3 3:00-5:30 p.m. Hanging of the Greens with Pizza dinner

4 6:30-7:30 p.m. Blue Christmas worship service - Nave

5 6:30-8:00 p.m. Women of the ELCA Bible Study

6 5:30-6:00 p.m. Advent Dinner – Fellowship Hall

6:00-6:30 p.m. Advent Worship Service – Fellowship Hall

10 9:30-10:20 a.m. Christmas Pageant Dress rehearsal – Fellowship Hall

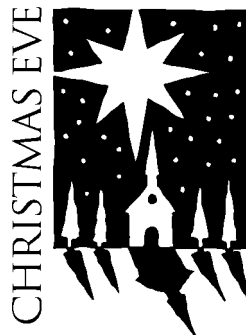
9:45-10:15 a.m. Splash Class



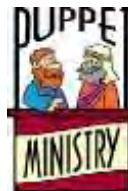
- 3:00-6:00 p.m. Community Meal – Fellowship Hall
 5:00 p.m. Story Time and Craft – Upper Room
- 13 5:30-6:00 p.m. Advent Dinner – Fellowship Hall
 6:00-6:30 p.m. Advent Worship Service – Fellowship Hall
- 15 10:30 a.m. Discovery Place Preschool Christmas Program - Nave
- 17 9:30 a.m. Christmas Pageant – Fellowship Hall
 1:45-4:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling to our Homebound
- 22 10:00 a.m. Packing and delivering Gift Bags – Fellowship Hall
 12:00 p.m. Church Office Closes
- 23 5:00 p.m. Saturday Worship Service



- 24 9:30 a.m. Worship Service**
- 24 Christmas Eve Services:**
 4:30 p.m. **Family Service**
 7:00 p.m. **Candlelight & Carol Service**
 9:30 p.m. **Candlelight & Carol Service**
 25 & 26 Church Office Closed



- 29 12:00 p.m. Church Office Closes
- 30 5:00 p.m. Worship Service (Fellowship Hall)
 5:45 p.m. Soup and Sandwiches
 6:30 p.m. Mini-Minister Puppet Show
- 31 9:30 a.m. Worship Service**



January - 2024

- 1 Church Office Closed
- 5-7 Winterfest (Offsite)
- 7 9:45-10:15 a.m. Splash class
- 12 7 p.m. Joseph Martin & Friends Concert
- 13 Choral workshop



Christmas Gift Bags

Who in your life has had a difficult year and needs to be cheered up?

Relative? Friend? Fellow Church Member? Co-worker?



You can help cheer them up by supplying information below.

We will deliver Gift Bags (fruit, candy, cookies, Christmas ornament, and more) to folks in grief, lost their job, sick, injured, lonely, sad or upset for ANY reason.

Please help locate them.

Not limited to St. Matthew members, but MUST be located within 15 miles of Hanover.

Questions? Submitting a recipient? Helping to pack or deliver?

Contact Pastor Faye through the office, or at nicksong@comcast.net.

Or drop filled-out form into offering basket by **Deadline December 11.**

Recipient Name _____

Recipient Address _____

Recipient Phone number _____

Your name _____

Your phone number _____

Help pack on December 22? _____ Help Deliver on December 22? _____

News from Discovery Place Preschool !



THANK YOU to all the fantastic bakers who donated to the preschool Election Day Bake Sale. We had an impressive amount of baked goods, and a wide variety as well! While the voter turnout was extremely low this year, our baked sale proceeds was almost identical to last year. **NEXT** November's election is expected to have much higher voter turnout, so we anticipate another successful bake sale. Again, thank you bakers!

Another way to help support your church preschool program is by displaying a CAR DECAL with the Discovery Place Preschool logo. There are some available at the hospitality desk, with a suggested donation of \$5. Help us advertise our preschool with a decal on your vehicle.



Registration for the 2024-2025 preschool year will begin in late January. An Open House to meet the teachers will be announced online in the new year - keep watch on our Facebook and Instagram accounts. Please share our preschool information with families with young children.



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 \$13** per listing to the church office. After the cost of the poinsettias is met, the memorials/honorariums will support ELCA Good Gifts . **The deadline is Monday, December 4.** Please print clearly when filling in names. Please make checks payable to ***“St. Matthew Lutheran Church”*** with ***“Poinsettias”*** in the memo line.

2023 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 _____

HANOVER AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES has volunteer positions available!

Please consider helping out where you can:

We need runners and drivers Monday through Friday to deliver hot meals to our elderly clients between the hours of 10:30 am - 11:30 am.

PAL is looking for volunteers to help with the lunchtime program, and donation pick-ups from stores around the Hanover Area, on select weekdays & weekends!

The Changing Lives Shelter is looking for volunteers to help from 5pm-7pm to assist with dinner prep and serving. Volunteers and groups are also welcomed to provide evening programs, music, & game nights.

We could use volunteers on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays to sort, organize and maintain the Clothing Bank Store.

We are seeking help on Tuesday and Thursday mornings to sort and pack donations, and Fridays to deliver meals to schools in the Hanover Area.

PAL is now serving meals from 11:30am to 12:30pm daily. We are in great need of 9 x 9 3-Compartment White Foam Clamshells, and Plastic Cutlery Packets - Knives, Forks, Spoons, Napkins, Salt Pepper sets. Your donation will help support over 235 meals daily. We appreciate your help!

For information and to sign up, email HACC at, officeassist@hanoverareacouncilofchurches.org or call 717-633-6353.

SIGN-UP FORM

[Please fill out the section(s) that pertain to you (and your family and friends),
tear off the page and place in the offering basket at the rear of the Nave. Or
email the church office, info@stmattlutheran.org]

Hanging of the Greens – December 3 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Name: _____

Helping to decorate _____ # Staying for pizza _____

Community Meal – December 10 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Name: _____

Attending Meal _____ # Attending Craft & Story Time 5:00 p.m. _____

Advent Dinner/Church

Name: _____

Attending December 6: _____ # Attending December 13: _____

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

[not printed]

Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way,

the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?' ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Next Sunday's Readings: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46.

Cover: Stained glass mosaic of sun pattern in church, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Photo copyright © Gaerline/Namy Stock Photo. Used by permission.

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Tracts 1 and 2
ELCA-RI