



Phone: 717-637-7101

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Email: info@stmattlutheran.org www.stmattlutheran.org Facebook: St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Hanover PA Instagram: @stmatthanover Livestream Worship:

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

Inis can be torn off and placed in the offering basket at the rear of the Nave.
Name(s):
Attending 8:30 or 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 address changes below)
Email:
Phone:
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: In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany January 28, 2024

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

PRELUDE Andante Tranquillo Mendelssohn

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,

creator of darkness and light, word of truth,

wind sweeping over the waters.

All: Amen.

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

another.

Silence is kept for reflection

Pastor: God, our rock and refuge,

All: we pour out our hearts before you.

We have known you but have not always loved you.

We have wounded one another

and sinned against you.

We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit

dwelling in each of us.

Remember your covenant.

Renew your creation.

Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all.

Amen.

Pastor: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.

By the authority of + Jesus Christ,

your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

All: Amen.



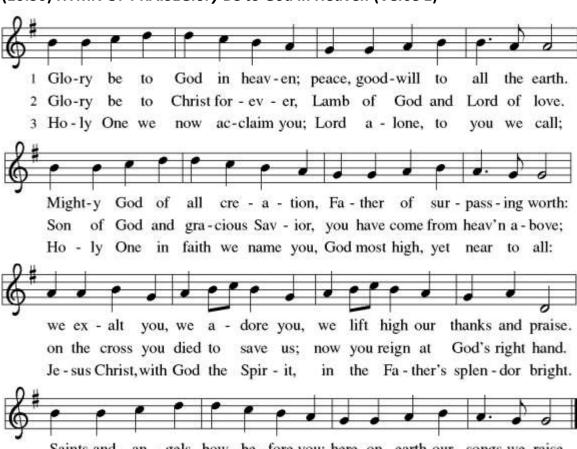
APOSTOLIC GREETING

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) HYMN OF PRAISEGlory Be to God in Heaven (Verse 1)



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise. Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand. For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

(10:30) Children ages 10 and under are invited to meet Alexis Poling 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: Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

THE READING 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 111 (Please read responsively)

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

²Great are your works, O LORD, pondered by all who delight in them.

³Majesty and splendor mark your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever.

⁴You cause your wonders to be remembered; you are gracious and full of compassion. R

⁵You give food to those who fear you, remembering forever your covenant.

⁶You have shown your people the power of your works in giving them the lands of the nations.

⁷The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice; all of your precepts are sure.

⁸They stand fast forever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity.

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant

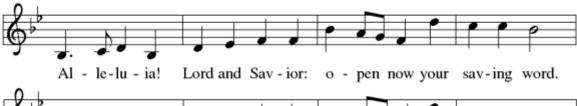
forever;

holy and awesome is your name.

¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;

all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



in the last many the string for the good news than you or

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28 Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

THE MESSAGE

Pastor Faye Snyder

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, "God of grace," 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.)

(8:30) MUSICAL OFFERING Wie Schindler leuchtet Der Morgenstern Reinhard (Daniel Deitzel III, Organist)

(10:30) MUSICAL OFFERING God's Love Never Changes Adult Choir

arr. Greer

Text: All the world is longing to know security; All the world is list'ning, trying to hear words they can believe. But there is only one voice calling us by name. One truth we can hold on to: forever He remains the same.

Oh, I want you to know that God's love never changes. His love never fails.

When the world is shaken, we can put our faith in knowing that His love will never change.

Never separated, never far away, God alone is faithful, proving His love with the price He paid.

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. **Thank you for offering** the "first fruits" of your finances. Offerings may be placed in the baskets near the entrances/exits of the worship space or through online giving on our website. **Thank you for sharing** your spiritual gifts with our church, local, and global communities.



THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Blessed are you, Holy One,

All: for all good things come from you.

In bread and cup you open heaven to us.

Meet us at this table,

that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus,

in whose name we pray. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

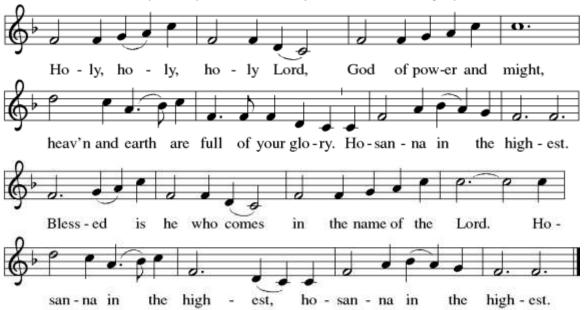
All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

(10:30) Pastor: It is indeed right...

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



EUCHARISTIC 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



- 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

There Is a Balm in Gilead African American Spiritual



There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;



there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.



- 1 Some times I feel dis cour-aged and think my work's in vain,
- 2 If you can not preach like Pe ter, if you can not pray like Paul,
- 3 Don't ev er be dis cour-aged, for Je sus is your friend;



but then the Ho-ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain. you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all." and if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll ne'er re-fuse to lend.

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. Giver of every gift,

Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.

Raise us to life by your power

for the benefit of all and to your glory,

now and forever.

All: Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor: God who names you, Christ who claims you,

and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,

+ bless you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing Fawcett/Thring SENDING HYMN with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace; Lord, dis - miss us ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound. give and Thanks we when your love shall call us from our strug-gling pil-grim way, Sav - ior. each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri-umph in re - deem-ing grace. let. us your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound. May the fruits of let fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum-mons to o - bey. по



DISMISSAL:

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Nun Danket Alle Gott

Cruger/arr. Hall

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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

Benjamin Boellner, Minister of Music, ext. 235 bboellner@stmattlutheran.org

Tim Peck, Youth Ministry, ext. 230, youth@stmattlutheran.org, Melissa Smith, Children and Family Ministry Coordinator, ext. 229 msmith@stmattlutheran.org

Deb Smith, Interim Youth Music Leader, musicmama1@comcast.net Lindsay Amspacher, Interim Children's Music Ministry Leader, Lindsay.amspacher@gmail.com

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

Musician	Jusician Daniel M. Deitzel, III, Org (10:30) the Adult Choir with Deb Smith, Di			
Altan Flanca Dal	•			
	•			
Altar Guild	•••••	Penny Rutters, D	Diane Hoffman-Neail	
Assisting Minister	er	8:30 Amy Beck	10:30 Randy Kline	
Children's Churc	th Leader (10:3	0)	Kim Cherry	
Communion Ass	istants	8:30 Darlene 10:30 Randy	Klenk, John Mancini Kline, Bobbie Lidard	
Communion Pre	parers	8:30 Meredi 10:30 I	th Staub, Sara Staub Deb Anker, Gary Kyp	
Couriers		8:30 John 10:30 Carolyn Ma	Mancini, Sara Staub arkle, Walt Porowski	
Greeters		8:30 Jeremy & Abbi Bu 10:30 Lance Frederick, L	ucher, Lynda Sheffer	
Lector		8:30 Caralyn Mummert	10:30 Bobbie Lidard	
Live Stream (10:	30)		Doug & Jane West	
Ushers8:30 Team 3 – Darlene Klenk, Terry Badman, Tyler Klenk, Barb Rupp, Dirk Wildasin				
10	:30 Team 4 - S	teve & Penny Rutters, Tom Cra Chris Rau	mer, Dennis Koontz, Ibenstine, Kelli Reed	
Welcome Place			Barbara Hoffman	
ATTENDANCE:	(01/20) 5:00) p.m	22	
		D a.m. Service		
	` ' '	30 a.m		
		Online views		
	•			

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 Craig and 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.



OUR NEW MINISTER OF MUSIC Ben Boellner has already hit the ground running and now it's time to celebrate! On Sunday, February 25 after the 10:30 service, the choir is hosting a welcome reception for him. We hope you will be able to attend.

PRAYER LIST: God hears and understands our prayers. Fully putting our trust in God, we lay our requests before him. Our next prayers are in gratitude, knowing that God is already at work in our situation. Names will stay on our Prayer List for a maximum of 30 days. If you would like us to remove your name sooner, please notify the office. You may also access our Prayer Chain by contacting Beth Koontz at 717-968-1207.

Esther Gary Jerome
Harold & Elizabeth Marsha Cathy
Chris Lynne Tom
Kathy Susan Vicki

RECOMMENDED SCRIPTURE READINGS for the week beginning Jan. 28:

Sunday: Mark 1:21-28 Thursday: Galatians 5:2-15 Monday: Acts 21:17-26 Friday: 1 Corinthians 9:1-16

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 7:32-40 Saturday: Matthew 12:9-14

Wednesday: Mark 5:1-20

St. Matthew Lutheran Church Calendar January 28 – February 4, 2024

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.
	No Youth Connections	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 Group (Upper Room)	6:30-8:00 p.m.
Tues.	Discovery Place Classes	8:45-11:30 a.m.
	Junior Choir Rehearsal	4:30-5:15 p.m.
	Cub Scouts	6:30-8:00 p.m.
Wed.	Discovery Place Classes	8:45-11:30 a.m.
Thurs.	Discovery Place Classes	8:45-11:30 a.m.
	Preschool & Primary Choir Rehearsal	4:15-5:00 p.m.
	Discovery Place Preschool Open House (Admin. Building)	6:00-7:30 p.m.
	St. Matthew Ringers	6:00-7:00 p.m.
	Adult Choir	7:15-8:00 p.m.
Fri.	Discovery Place Classes	8:45-11:30 a.m.
	Youth Retreat weekend	
Sat.	Worship with Holy Communion (Fellowship Hall)	5:00 p.m.
Sun.	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave)	8:30 a.m.
	Splash Class (Prayground)	9:45-10:15 a.m.
	Faith Connections	
	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave)	10:30 a.m.
	Youth Movie Night (Rm. 304)	6:00-8:00 p.m.

LAST CALL for committee **Annual Reports**! Please have them emailed to the office at *info@stmattlutheran.org* by **THIS** Monday, January 29, at 4 p.m. Thank you to everyone who has sent them in already – we appreciate your promptness!



SAVE THE DATES!

We are excited to announce that dates have been set for this year's Day Camp and Vacation Bible School!

Day Camp – If your child is entering 1st to 5th grade, save the dates for June 17-21. The camp will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day here at St. Matt's.

VBS – Vacation Bible School is geared towards Pre-K to 5th grade. The dates are June 24-27 and runs 9 a.m. to noon each day here at St. Matt's.

More information as well as registration links will be released for both events soon. Keep an eye out in the bulletins, on the website or on Facebook! Reach out to Missy Smith, msmith@stmattlutheran.org with any questions.

Discovery Place News- After more than 6 years, Mrs. Martha Lobaugh, has resigned as our director of Discovery Place Preschool. Martha has taken on a new opportunity that is a better fit for herself and her family. Her last day was January 19. We wish Martha the best in her new venture.



We are pleased to announce Amber Keating and Amy Wolf, veteran teachers for our 3 and 4 year olds, will be co-chairing our preschool for the remainder of the school year. We have been blessed to have such caring and knowledgeable staff working with the children and families of our Discovery Place Preschool.

Discovery Place will host an **Open House** on **Thursday, February 1** from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. to open registration for Fall of 2024. Any interested families are invited to come visit our classrooms, meet our teachers, and pick up our registration information during this event.

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

Intergenerational Faith Connection Event

Sunday, February 11, 9:30-10:20 a.m.



You can't make the game-winning touchdown if you're sitting on the sidelines. We will learn that God wants us to get into the game and win for him. Join us as we see that you can't win the day if you never get into the game. Goliath terrorized the Israelites for days because no one had the courage to face him. All of God's army ran and hid any time Goliath stepped out on the battlefield. It took the faith of a young shepherd to take down a giant, and when he stepped onto the battlefield, God gave him the victory.

Splash Class - Parents of infants and toddlers 3 months to 3 years old are invited to attend Splash Class- a "baby and me" style group class. Together, parents/caregivers and children will explore what's next after you've been "splashed" in the waters of



Baptism. Adam Amspacher, registered and licensed pediatric occupational therapist, and Lindsay Amspacher, board-certified music therapist, will lead this 30 minute class at St. Matthew from **9:45-10:15** on the following Sunday mornings: **2/4**, and **3/3**. Mark your calendars and invite a loved one along!



THE HOLY COMMUNION MILESTONE is a special moment in someone's life of faith, and you are invited to prepare for and celebrate this milestone with us. **All ages are welcome to participate in this milestone.** If you aren't sure whether your

child is ready for this milestone, please talk to one of the pastors. The milestone consists of 2 classes and then the Milestone is celebrated during the Maundy Thursday service on March 28. Please plan to **register by Sunday February 11**, 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 Missy Smith, Children and Family Ministry Coordinator at *msmith@stmattlutheran.org*.

Ash Wednesday Worship



On Ash Wednesday, February 14, we will gather at 7:00 p.m. for worship in the Sanctuary. At this service we will be introduced to our Lenten Theme, *Pray This Way*.

This Ash Wednesday worship will also be live streamed. If you would like to pick up a packet of ashes prior to the service, please contact the church office at *info@stmattlutheran.org* or

717-637-7101 no later than Thursday, February 8.

Mid-week Dinner/Church is back! Beginning Wednesday, February 21, all are welcome to gather from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Children's activities will be offered. Signup on the last page of this bulletin and put in the offering basket or by sending an email to *info@stmattlutheran.org*. It helps us to know how much food to have!

"Pray this way...": A Study of the Lord's Prayer

What is the best way to pray? Jesus provides an answer when he taught his disciples, saying, "Pray this way: 'Our Father in heaven...'" (Matthew 6.9) In this Lenten series we will study the Lord's Prayer with attention to its meaning for us today and also to the way in which it serves both as a model for prayer and a model for life. Pastor Mark will be leading a Sunday morning Bible study at 9:30 a.m. in the



Upper Room. The Sunday session will be linked to the Wednesday Dinner Church service that same week where there will be more time for discussion around the tables. The five sessions topics are:

Feb 18 / 21: What's in a Name? Feb 25 / 28: Just Let It Be Done

March 3 / 6: How Much Is Enough? March 10 / 13: No Trespassing!

March 17 / 20: Hear No Evil, See No Evil, Speak No Evil

Please come on Sundays and / or Wednesdays as we learn and practice more meaningfully to pray as Jesus taught.



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.

Pastor Mark is leading a Bible study on "Matters of Life and Death." How are we to think about death? About eternal life? About what death means for life now? What difference does being a Christian make? The topics for the study are:



28 January: Life *After* Death: 1 Corinthians 15 4 February: Life *Without* Death: Revelation 21-22

The class meets in the Upper Room at 9:30. Take the elevator or the stairs to the second floor.

2024 ST. MATTHEW WOMEN'S RETREAT "Leaning Into God's Blessings"



Are you in need of a special gift, a treasure, a treat, a blessing, some humor, a spiritual renewal? Come join us for a day apart with our, nationally and internationally known guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Leanne Hadley from Louisville, Kentucky. Bring a friend! Saturday, March 2, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Upper Room, take the stair or the elevator to the second floor. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided. Cost is

\$25. Child care can be provided. Check out Leanne Hadley's website to learn more. Sign-up forms are on the Hospitality Desk. Space is limited so sign up by Sunday, February 25.

Contact Sue Covert cvrtstew@aol.com with any questions.

PERSONAL CARE KIT PROJECT





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). The packing of the kits will take place Sunday, May 19, in Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. during Faith Connections.

Can St. Matt meet the goal? 500 Kits! Together, we can do anything...

OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING will be held immediately following the late worship service on **February 18**, with a snow date of February 25. 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!

Help and encouragement after the death of a loved one. At our 13-session GriefShare group you'll find understanding, guidance, relief, and a safe place to navigate the challenges of grief. Come join us! Mondays 6:30 – 8 p.m. January 29 through April 22, in the Upper Room. Call or email the Church Office to register. You may email Pastor Faye at nicksong@comcast.net or call her, 717-451-0851; or fill out the tear-off sheet below and place in the offering basket.

Grief Share - 1/29 to 4/22/24						
Name	Phone #					
Address		-				
	Women's Detweet Sign up					
	Women's Retreat Sign-up Saturday, March 2, 2024					
	Cost is \$25 (Please include payment with sign-up form.)					
	Makes checks payable to "St. Matthew Lutheran Church"					
	with "Women's Retreat" in the memo line.					
Name(s) o	f those attending:					
Email						
Phone						
Amount in	ncluded: \$					

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

[Moses said:] "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." 17 Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. 18I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. 19 Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. 20 But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

Psalm 111

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁵yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

7It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. 8"Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. 10 For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? 11So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. 12 But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. 22 They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. 23 Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, 24 and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." 25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" 26And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. 27 They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching-with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." 28At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.