



I am  
the vine,  
you are the  
branches

JOHN 15:5



# St. Matthew

LUTHERAN CHURCH

CENTERED IN CHRIST

Celebrating Love • Serving All

Phone: 717-637-7101

General mailbox ext. 221

30 W Chestnut Street Hanover PA 17331

Email: [info@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:info@stmattlutheran.org) [www.stmattlutheran.org](http://www.stmattlutheran.org)

Facebook: St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Hanover PA

Instagram: @stmatthanover

Livestream Worship:

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

This can be torn off and placed in the offering basket at the exits.

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Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Attending **10:30**

\_\_\_ 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. If you have questions or need visual, audio, or mobility accommodations, please let a name-tagged usher know. 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 worship at 8:30 a.m., Faith Connections on Sunday at 9:30 a.m., and Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m. (livestreamed). Our Faith Connections hour includes opportunities for all ages to connect with God, our faith, and one another through learning and relationship. Meet at the Hospitality Desk at 9:30 for refreshments and more information about ways to plug in.

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**April 28, 2024**

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

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**PRELUDE**

*Here I Am to Worship*  
Junior Bells

arr. Labenske

*Calling*  
Gabby, Soloist

arr. Patterson

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Pastor: In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

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

**All: Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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

*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

ELW #836



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing, foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

## **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.**

## **SONG OF PRAISE**

***Make Music for the Lord***  
**Junior Choir**

**arr. Sleeth**

*Children ages 10 and under are invited to meet our children's 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: Let us pray. O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

**FIRST READING 1 John 4:7-21** *We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.*

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 22:25-31** *(Please read responsively)*

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before  
the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



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



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Pastor: The holy gospel according to John, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**HOLY GOSPEL: John 15:1-8** *On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.*

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **THE MESSAGE**

**Pastor Alexis Sheppard-Witt**

## **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, *"hear our prayer."*



## 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.)*

*Children return from Children's Church.*

## MUSICAL OFFERING *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

Baker

Adult Choir

Text: ELW #502

## 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.*

## OFFERTORY

### *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah*

(Sing Twice)

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -  
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -  
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Risen One,

**All: you call us to believe and bear fruit.**

**May the gifts that we offer here  
be signs of your abiding love.**

**Form us to be your witnesses in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.**

## THE MEAL

### 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, our duty and our joy.....we praise your name  
and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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 -



## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER WITH WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### 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 *We Know That Christ Is Raised*

ELW #449

Geyer/Stanford



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.  
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.  
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em-braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,  
Re-born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,  
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.  
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.

and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.  
 as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.  
 Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.  
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:

Hal - le - lu - jah!

### 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. Shepherding God,  
 you have prepared a table before us  
 and nourished us with your love.  
 Send us forth from this banquet  
 to proclaim your goodness  
 and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,  
 our redeemer and friend.

**All: Amen.**

### BLESSING

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: The God of resurrection power,  
 the Christ of unending joy,  
 and the Spirit of Easter hope  
 ✚ bless you now and always.

**All: Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

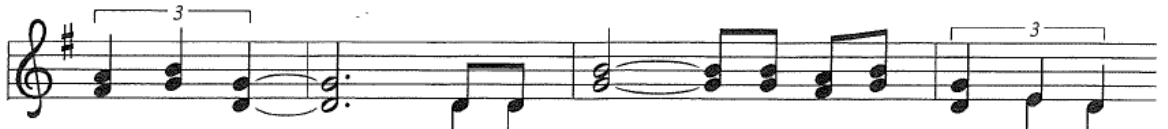
*We Are Marching in the Light*

ELW #866

South African Traditional



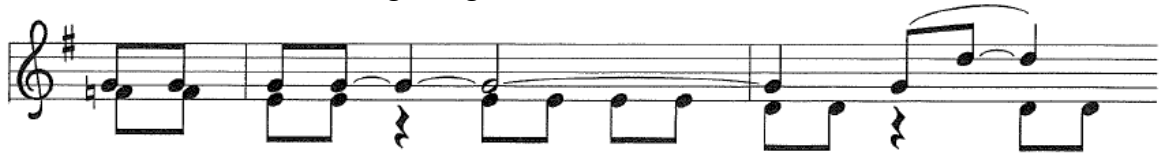
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march-ing in the  
We are danc - ing...  
We are sing - ing...



light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,  
We are danc - ing...  
We are sing - ing...



we are march-ing in the light of God.  
we are danc - ing...  
we are sing - ing...

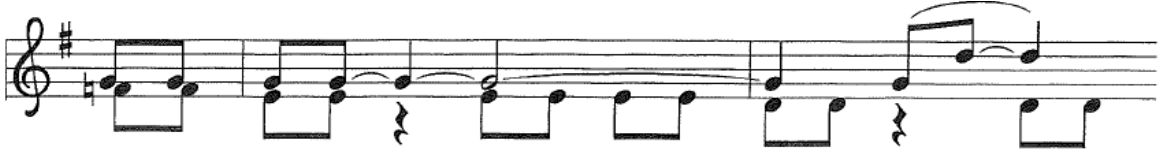


We are march - ing \_\_\_\_\_ oo \_\_\_\_\_  
We are danc - ing...  
We are sing - ing...



we are march-ing in the light of God.  
We are danc - ing...

We are sing - ing...



We are march - ing \_\_\_\_\_ oo \_\_\_\_\_  
We are danc - ing...  
We are sing - ing...



we are march - ing in the light of God.  
we are danc - ing...  
we are sing - ing...

**DISMISSAL**

Assisting Minister: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE**

*Fanfare and Processional*

Wagner

\* \* \* \* \*

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

**OUTDOOR WORSHIP BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY 8:30 a.m. in your car or on the lawn!** Bring your lawn chair and your cow bell!



Next Sunday is **NAME TAG SUNDAY!** We hope, with time, to promote camaraderie, and enhance our human connection. Let's enjoy getting to know one another!

## 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*

Deb Smith, Associate Minister of Music, *dsmith@stmattlutheran.org*

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

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

*msmith@stmattlutheran.org*

Lindsay Amspacher, Interim Children's Music Ministry Leader,

*Lindsay.amspacher@gmail.com*

***Our warm thanks*** to all those assisting in our worship services this morning:

Musicians ..... Gabby, Soloist; Junior Bells; Junior & Adult Choirs

Altar Flower Delivery ..... Tina Schaffner

Altar Guild ..... Anna Marchio, Penny Rutters

Assisting Minister..... Aaron Smith

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

Communion Assistants ..... Roland Kunde, Carolyn Markle

Communion Preparers..... Bob & Barbara Strangfeld

Couriers..... Roland Kunde, Carolyn Markle

Greeters ..... Barry & Lori Unger

Lector ..... Penny Rutters

Live Stream ..... Lexi, Doug West

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

Chris Raubenstine, Kelli Reed

Welcome Place ..... Teresa Hocker



**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Robert Proctor by his wife Barb and daughter Robin; and in loving memory of Doris Krug by her granddaughter Tami Feeser; and in loving memory of Larry Showers who would have celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 30 by Faye, Jen and Rick.

**THE BULLETINS** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Larry Showers who would have celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 30 by Faye, Jen and Rick.

**A CELEBRATION OF LIFE** will be held for Ken Smith on Monday, April 29, at 11 a.m. here at St. Matthew Church. Though we celebrate the departure of his life to be with the Lord, we also include in our prayers of support his friends and family and all those who are grieving.

**RECOMMENDED SCRIPTURE READINGS** for the week beginning April 28:

Sunday: John 15:1-8

Thursday: Acts 10:1-34

Monday: Galatians 5:16-26

Friday: Acts 10:34-43

Tuesday: James 3:17-18

Saturday: Mark 10:42-45

Wednesday: John 14:18-31

**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.

Susan Clark

Tom Bell

Doris Deitzel

Jamickh Harris

Tami Furr

Diane Wagaman

Faye Showers

Harold & Betty Kepler

<b>Attendance:</b>	(04/20)	5:00 p.m.....	56
	(04/21)	8:30 a.m.....	81
		10:30 a.m. Service .....	120
	(04/15-04/21)	Online views .....	93
	<b>Total</b>	.....	350

**HANOVER AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES NEEDS for May:**

**PAL** - Cans of mixed vegetables, corn, green beans, peas, carrots, Bags of potatoes and scalloped potatoes, Oils: vegetable, olive, spray oil and Butter, Dry goods: Sugar and salt, Milk, Snacks, Fruit cups, Tea bags or iced tea bags, Grocery and/or shopping bags

**Changing Lives Shelter** - Hygiene and toiletry products (shampoo, conditioner, soap, body wash) Clorox wipes, Kitchen trash bags, Ziploc bags (sandwich and gallon sizes)

**Clothing Bank** - Children and teen clothing (all sizes) Men’s jeans waist sizes 30-34, Shoes/sneakers (all sizes), Grocery, shopping, and/or reusable bags, White garbage bags 13 gallon size

**Ruth’s Harvest** - Single serve fruit cups, Single serve cereals, Single serve granola bars

**MOW** – Handkerchiefs, NO-rinse bathing wipes, Bath gloves, NO-slip socks, Journal books, Puzzles – NO mini pieces, 300-500 pieces at most

***SPRING BLOOD DRIVE UPDATE:***

Many thanks to the congregation for the overwhelming support and success of the Central PA Blood Drive at St Matthew. We had 34 donors and collected 26 units of blood. In turn, this will help to save 78 local lives.



Our next Blood Drive will be Wednesday, August 14, here at St Matthew. Due to the success of our spring drive, our Central PA Blood Bank coordinator will be opening up more time slots for August. Much more info will be forthcoming.



***ST. MATTHEW WILL CELEBRATE PENTECOST*** with Bishop Dunlop.

Bishop Jim Dunlop will be with us by preaching at our worship services on the weekend of May 18 & 19.

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church Calendar**  
**April 28 – May 5, 2024**

Sun.	<b>NO 8:30</b> Worship service	
	Faith Connections .....	9:30-10:20 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave) .....	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>
	Congregation Meeting (Nave) .....	11:30 a.m.
	Organ Recital (Nave) .....	4:00 p.m.
Mon.	Discovery Place Classes.....	8:45-11:30 a.m.
	Devotional Biking/Walking Group (Moul Field parking lot) .....	6:00 p.m.
	Girl Scouts .....	6:30-7:30 p.m.
	Grief Share (Upper Room) .....	6:30-8:00 p.m.
Tues.	Discovery Place Classes.....	8:45-11:30 a.m.
	Staff Meeting (Library).....	10:30 a.m.
	Junior Choir Rehearsal .....	4:30-5:15 p.m.
	<b>NO</b> Cub Scouts	
	Soul Fire Rehearsal (Praise Team) (Nave).....	7:00-8:00 p.m.
Wed.	Discovery Place Classes.....	8:45-11:30 a.m.
	Boy Scouts.....	6:30-8:00 p.m.
Thurs.	Discovery Place Classes.....	8:45-11:30 a.m.
	Preschool & Primary Choir Rehearsal.....	4:15-5:00 p.m.
	St. Matthew Ringer Rehearsal .....	6:00-7:00 p.m.
	Adult Choir Rehearsal .....	7:00-8:00 p.m.
Fri.	Discovery Place Classes.....	8:45-11:15 a.m.
Sat.	Worship Service (Fellowship Hall) .....	5:00-6:00 p.m.
Sun.	Worship with Holy Communion (Parking Lot).....	8:30 a.m.
	Faith Connections .....	9:30-10:20 a.m.
	New Member Breakfast (Fellowship Hall).....	9:30-10:20 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave).....	10:30 a.m.
	Teacher Appreciation Luncheon (Upper Room).....	12:30 p.m.
	Community Meal .....	3:00-6:00 p.m.
	Youth Group (Rm. 304).....	6:00-8:00 p.m.

## **YOUTH MINISTRIES**

**Youth Connections-** May 5 & 19 6-8 p.m. in Youth Suite, 3rd floor

**Faith Formation** for all High Schoolers Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in Youth Suite

**All-Saints Confirmation Camp** at Camp Nawakwa- June 9-14, for all 6th - 8th graders! This is a fun-filled week learning and meeting new friends! Registration due by May 1.

**May 19** - Youth help with the **Personal Care Kits** during Faith Formation



**HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR MILESTONE SUNDAY** is May 12. There will be a milestone celebration during the 10:30 service. Seniors, look for an email request for a bio of your achievements and your plans for after high school. If you didn't receive the email, I will have some flyers available at the Hospitality Desk.

**Contact Tim Peck** with any questions, [youth@stmatthlutheran.org](mailto:youth@stmatthlutheran.org) or by phone, 717-637-7101, ext. 230.



### ***GIVING TREE***

***Give a little...***

***Give a lot!***

Support our youth traveling to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this July.

Find the tree in the Gathering Place, pick as many envelopes as you wish, insert the amount written on the outside of the envelope. Return via the offering basket, the Youth Drop Box in the Gathering Place or mail to the church office. Make checks payable to: *St. Matthew Lutheran Church* and in memo line put *Youth Gathering Fundraiser*.



**ORGAN RECITAL SERIES IS BACK!**

Our own Ben Boellner will be doing his first organ recital **THIS** Sunday, April 28, at 4 p.m. No tickets required. We look forward to hearing our grand instrument in concert once again!

**A VOCAL WORKSHOP** on singing basics with our own Dr. Charlotte Aiosa is coming in May. It will be held Thursdays May, 16, 23 and 30, at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. If you have ever been curious about how to sing better and use better technique, this is the class for you!

A promotional graphic for St. Matthew Music Camp. The background is dark blue with musical notes and stars. The text is white and yellow. The main title "ST. MATTHEW MUSIC CAMP" is in large white letters. Below it is a list of activities: Music Games, Play Instruments, Snacks, and Fun! The registration information includes dates (Monday, August 5- Friday, August 9), time (9-11 am), location (Fellowship Hall), and age range (Ages 5-12). It also mentions a musical performance on Sunday, September 15. The website "www.stmattlutheran.org" is listed at the bottom. A large yellow star is in the bottom right corner.

**ST. MATTHEW  
MUSIC CAMP**

- Music Games
- Play Instruments
- Snacks
- Fun!

Register Today  
[www.stmattlutheran.org](http://www.stmattlutheran.org)

Monday, August 5-  
Friday, August 9  
9-11 am in Fellowship Hall  
Ages 5-12  
We will perform our  
musical on Sunday,  
September 15. Stay tuned  
for the name of the  
musical!

Dear St. Matthew family,  
*Have you ever thought about serving, especially being a communion assistant? New members, this is a great place to meet others! Helping one another experience the eternal love and grace of God is a moment to behold. This is not a weekly commitment. This is open to all who are willing to participate. We will show you the ropes. Once we have enough interest, we will hold a group training session. Please contact Ben Boellner, Minister of Music at [bboellner@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:bboellner@stmattlutheran.org) or Jane Lawrence, Administrative Assistant at [info@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:info@stmattlutheran.org) for more information. We are excited to hear from you.*



**ST. MATTHEW SCHOLARSHIPS** are offered to students who are voting members of our congregation. Information, guidelines and applications are on our website or in the church office. Applications, grade transcripts and letters of reference are due in the office by June 1 and personal interviews will be scheduled the

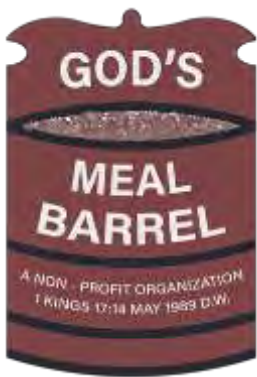
last week of June. You may apply for most of the scholarships twice. If you have any questions, contact Randy Kline at [rldkline@yahoo.com](mailto:rldkline@yahoo.com)

### **DISCOVERY PLACE NEWS!**

We are currently registering for our **FALL 2024 classes**. We have availability in our 3s MWF class, 4s MWF class and 4s T/TH class. Our **SUMMER DISCOVERY 2024 CAMPS** for children age 4-6 have been announced for the month of June, and many of our camps are already filling up! Information for both fall preschool and summer camps is available at the church office and on the church website on the preschool pages. Discovery Place information can be found under the "Connect" tab from the website menu.



**Memorial Service for a Pregnancy Loss:** Families who have suffered this loss at any point in their lives, are invited to a Memorial Graveside Service at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 4, 2024 at Mount Olivet Cemetery. While we will have a casket with babies that have been born still this past year and have been held by the hospital, all are welcome to write letters to their child/children and place them in the grave. This service is offered by Panebaker Funeral Home and UPMC Hanover. For more information call 717-316-6905.



## **May Food Drive to Support God's Meal Barrel**

St. Matthew has a history of helping to feed those in need — Ruth's Harvest, the Biennial Meal Packing event, our Annual Corn Drive for New Hope's Thanksgiving Meals, our support for World Hunger through the Synod, PAL Lunches, our Community Garden and our periodic food drives to aid local agencies such as the Hanover Area Council of Churches. This year we will be holding a drive to collect food for **God's Meal**

**Barrel in May.** They are in need of Spaghetti and Sauce, boxed Mac and Cheese, Tuna, Peanut Butter, canned Beans, canned Vegetables (corn or green beans), Fruit cans, Snack pack Pudding or Jello, and canned Beef Stew or Spam. Please remember God's Meal Barrel and those they serve and give as you are able. Collection bins will be in the Gathering Place.

***The Devotional Biking & Walking group*** joins together **Mondays at 6:00 p.m.** at the Moul Field parking lot. Our time together begins with a devotional reading and prayer before heading out on a 3-mile walking route or a 5-mile bike/modified bike ride. Christian music accompanies our journey and encourages reflection. Bikers & walkers of all ages and speeds are welcome. For questions or more information, please reach out to Amy Schlitzer via text or phone call 717-515-8133, or email [asms1210@gmail.com](mailto:asms1210@gmail.com)







## Summer fun for elementary age youth!

### Day Camp at St. Matthew!

We are hosting Day Camp this summer on our church property. This is a fun-filled week of worship, Bible study, games, nature, study, singing, recreation, meeting new friends and sharing!

◇ Dates are June 17-21, 2024, 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day, Monday through Friday.

◇ Ages: Children entering grades 1 through grade 5 in the fall of 2024

◇ Space is limited to 32 children.



Registration forms are available in the church office or on the website or use the QR code! Contact Tim Peck with any questions, [youth@stmatthlutheran.org](mailto:youth@stmatthlutheran.org) or by phone, 717-637-7101, ext. 230.



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

**June 24-27, 2024**

**9 a.m.-12 noon**

Join us while we dive deep into finding the ways God is always with us!

We welcome children who are 4 years old through 5th graders.

Registration forms ARE available at the church and on the website or use the QR code.



### We are always looking for volunteers!

Contact Missy Smith with questions at [msmith@stmatthlutheran.org](mailto:msmith@stmatthlutheran.org) or call the church office, 717-637-7101, ext. 229



**Our bulletins** serve as an excellent week-long resource with prayers, scripture and important information regarding our congregation’s ministries. Recycle bins are at the doors for the bulletins that are not taken home.

**YOU CAN MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE!**

Sometimes this world seems so cold and hard. Many are lonely and suffering. Have you ever wished you knew how to help?

**What being a VISITING MINISTER means to me, from Mary Herring:**

“I've gotten more than I could possibly give. It warms my heart to see the smiles that light a sweet face when I walk in. I love the hugs from my shut in. It’s been interesting to learn more about the area from each one and to hear a different perspective about their time in our church. I have seen their faith and strength in God in their later days of life and that has strengthened my own faith. I thank the people of St. Matthew and my God for this opportunity to serve as a Visiting Minister.”



Call **Pastor Faye, 717-451-0851**, with questions, to hear more, or to sign up. Or fill out the slip below. Drop it in the offering basket or at the Church Office,

**I would like to make a difference by being a Visiting Minister**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number (s) \_\_\_\_\_

## A New Goal has been set – 800 Kits! Keep those towels coming!

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. 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. Financial donations may be made to be used to purchase bulk items. \$10 could cover the cost of a kit and assist with shipping costs. 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.

**CHURCH DIRECTORY** For many of us, spring brings thoughts of green grass, flowers, dogwoods in bloom, birds singing, the Orioles back at Camden Yards, and of course updating our St Matthew Church Directory.

With our on-line *Instant Church Directory*, it's never too late to register for inclusion in the directory; and changes for your listing for things like addresses, phone numbers, email, even photos may be done at any time and the updates appear on your listing typically the same day.



Our plan is to print an updated spiral bound directory sometime around Labor Day or shortly after. That gives everyone time to get their fam together during vacay, summer picnics, or after worship on Sunday for the latest and greatest family pic. If you don't

have a digital picture, no problem; I am happy to meet with you and take your picture for the directory....FREE !!!

Directory registration forms may be found on the Hospitality Desk in the Welcome Place. Please complete the form front & back, and place in the offering basket or return to the church office. If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact: Mike Jones, email: *majones91914@outlook.com* or cell, 717-965-6680. **No need to fill out a form if your information is already in the online directory and is all correct.** You can update your picture at any time!

**COMMUNITY MEAL** *Sunday, May 5, 3:00-6:00 p.m.*



We are coming together as a community again with our neighbors to laugh, sing, play, and of course enjoy some delicious food. Since it is Cinco de Mayo, we will be serving a Mexican meal made by our neighbors at La Libertad Mexican Restaurant. We will be having games and other activities for the family.

As with our December meal, we will need help with set-up, clean-up, decorations, serving the meal, and with games. We will also be looking for donations of the following items: Desserts, Bottled Water, Hot Dogs, Hot Dog Rolls, Capri Sun/Hugs/Juice Boxes for the children. If you would be willing to donate any of those items, please drop them off at St. Matthew before May 5.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email Amy Beck at *Abeck1976@comcast.net*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

I am willing to:  Set-Up  Clean-Up  Decorate  
 Serve the Meal  Help with Games

I am willing to donate:  A Dessert  Bottled Water  
 Hot Dog Rolls  Capri Sun/Hugs/Juice Boxes for the Children

**FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40**

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**Psalm 22:25-31****SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this

way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

**GOSPEL: John 15:1-8**

[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."