



The St. Matthew MESSENGER

CENTERED IN CHRIST
Celebrating Love • Serving All

April/May 2024

Vol. XIV Issue 2

From Pastor Kathy's Perspective:

Dear St. Matthew Friends,

Easter Greetings! As I write this letter, we have Holy Week ahead of us but you will receive this newsletter a day or two into the 50 days of Easter. Because of the resurrection, we celebrate the reality that we are not bound by our past. As the Easter story is told in the gospel of Mark, the ending of the gospel is open ended for us to behold the expanse of a new beginning. This does not mean we ignore our past, indeed we come to see it with a fresh lens. It is the living Jesus who is beckoning us into the future with hope.

We are doing this as a congregation. It is with a spirit of life and hope and new beginnings that we are paying attention to God as we listen to scripture, one another and our neighbors. As we learned this past weekend, we discovering this sweet spot where the needs of our neighbors and the passions and strengths of our congregation meet in a way that the love of Christ shines bright.

The scriptures that our LEAD Team have been considering have helped us identify the many and various ways God transforms the lives of people. From Matthew 14:22-23, we discover the importance of keeping our eyes on Jesus as we take risks. From Samuel 3:1-8 we recognize how we need to listen and keep listening to God's voice who calls us to this new way of life. From Acts 8 we recognize the power of chance meetings and conversation to share the faith to the most unlikely ones. And from Habakkuk 2:2 we realize that our purpose needs to be plain and clear even so that our ministries impact for an ever changing context.

Our facilitators from LEAD, Peggy Hahn and John Auger, have inspired us to wonder together as we clarify our purposes, guiding values and specific goals. I offer these questions to you and encourage you to prayerfully consider how you are called to be connected to the Holy Spirit's work among us. (Continued on page 2)

Messages for You

Pastor Kathy Continued	2
Thank you	2
Church Directory	2
Discovery Place News	3
Generosity Committee	3
New Members!	3
Lutheran World Relief	3
Bishop to preach	3
Music Ministry	4
Many Thanks!	5
Organ Recital	6
Youth Information	6
Life Events	6
Why Personal Care Kits?	7
Golden Visions collection	8
Visiting Minister sign-up	8
God's Meal Barrel for May	9
Community Meal	9
Day Camp and VBS	10
Calendars	

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msmith@stmattlutheran.org

From Pastor Kathy:*(Continued from page 2)*

What are the values that hold us, guide us, and lead us into the future?
 What is our purpose for existing?
 What goals are ours to focus on in this day and time?
 Who are our stakeholders?
 How will we know if we are doing what God has called us to do?
 How will we partner with our neighbors?
 How will we welcome new people into our congregation?
 Is it time for us to align our ministry in new ways?
 What do we celebrate? What do we tweak? What do we delete? What do we add?

My deep gratitude to our LEAD Team, Congregation Council and Staff. Thank you as well, to all who gathered for these important conversations at the Forum on March 17.

Listening with you,
Pastor Kathy



WE AT ST. MATTHEW are truly blessed with so many gifted, talented and giving members of our congregation. We take so much for granted because these people are always there, usually in the background, making everything run smoothly.

We are remiss in acknowledging and saying thank you to all of our worker angels more often. This in no way lessens the gratitude we feel in our hearts. We just had two special projects, the music director's office and the Pastor's Sacristy, redone. Both turned out beautifully, but when asked if we could acknowledge the workers involved, the response was "We were just doing God's work."

From the altar guild, the kitchen workers, the choirs and bell ringers, the cleaners, the painters, the floor installers, the problem solvers, all of the committee members, the organizers, the pray ground leaders, the adult education leaders, the coffee- between-services preparers, the funeral luncheon crews, the cleaner uppers, the robe launderers, ushers, lectors, assisting ministers, communion preparers and servers, all of the staff and everyone else who lends a hand without taking credit, we say **THANK YOU** and want you all to know how much your work and giving hearts mean to all of us

here at St. Matt's. You truly exemplify "God's Work, Our Hands." Bless you all.

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 a 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.



717-637-7101
info@stmattlutheran.org
www.stmattlutheran.org
www.facebook.com/groups/stmattlutheran

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! We have several fun themes this summer, each camp theme for one week. Our camps are 9 a.m.-12 noon weekdays, and are packed with lots of fun! Information for both fall preschool and summer camps is available at the church office and on the church website on the preschool ages.

Discovery Place information can be found under the “Connect” tab from the website menu.

The Generosity Committee is pleased to announce that:

Ann Seitz-Brown from Thrivent, will be here at St. Matthew on Sunday, April 14, at 9:30 a.m. She will be giving a talk on **Legacy and Charitable Giving** in the Fellowship Hall. There will be light refreshments and coffee. Ann is a certified financial planner and will provide examples of people who have established legacy gift strategies. Please plan to attend this Informational only, 45-minute talk.

FOR ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED in becoming members of St. Matthew! You are invited to an **Orientation Class on Sunday, April 7, at 9:30 to 10:20** in our Fellowship Hall. Pastor Kathy will lead the discussion about Lutheran Basics and what it means to be a member of St. Matthew.



New Member Class

On Sunday, May 5, we will welcome new members to our congregation at

the 8:30 Outdoor/Drive-In worship and the 10:30 indoor worship. You choose which service you'd like to attend. On that day, we will also celebrate you with a continental Breakfast at 9:30 to 10:20 in Fellowship Hall. You will be welcomed by members of our Evangelism Committee, staff, church leaders and new member sponsors. You will also learn more about our congregation and how you may choose to connect. There will be activities for children. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Administrative Assistant, Stacy Brodbeck at sbrodbeck@stmattlutheran.org If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Kathy, pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org. Both Stacy and Pastor Kathy can be reached by phone at 717-637-7101.



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

ON SUNDAY, APRIL 21, we welcome Emma Wagner, Senior Advisor, Congregational Engagement of Lutheran World Relief to St. Matthew. She will share a message at our Generosity Moment and lead a forum on the work of Lutheran World Relief and how our offerings and especially our Personal Care Kits make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

ALL ARE WELCOME to attend Faith Connections (9:30-10:20) in the Fellowship Hall to learn about Lutheran World Relief. Come to find out how our 500 Personal Care Kits will bring the love of Christ to those most in need.

ST. MATTHEW CELEBRATES PENTECOST with

Bishop Dunlap. Bishop Jim Dunlap will be celebrating Pentecost with us by preaching at our worship services on Sunday, May 19.



Dear St. Matthew Family,

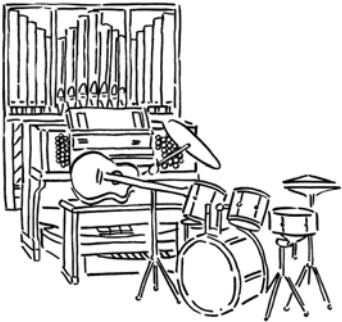
I am pleased to welcome Deb Smith as our Associate Minister of Music. She has been a fixture in the community for over 30 years. She brings a Heart for God, talent, kindness and an energy that is unmatched. As a choral Director for over 33 years in the public school system, her knowledge is extensive. She is superb with children and youth, the finest accompanist and even more, an incredible person. I am looking forward to the many years ahead of working with one another. We are excited to see what God has in store here at St. Matthew, especially for the new things that are going on with the music ministry.



Please be sure to give Deb a warm welcome.

In His name,

Ben Boellner, Minister of Music



Dear St. Matthew family,

Thank you to everyone who is making our Music Ministry such a success. Your time and talent is a gift to God and makes the difference. When words fail, Music speaks!

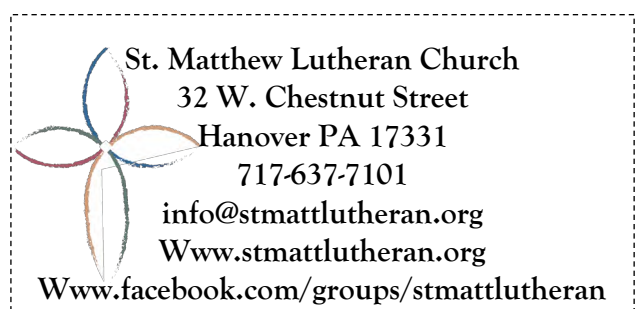
Spring is in the air, and what a glorious time of year this is. The newness and rebirth of the flowers, sunny days and warmer weather. There are so many things happening here in the music ministry. With the spring and new beginnings, I am looking forward to two things coming up: The first is the Praise Team. We are going to be doing more modern music. We will welcome EVERYONE. Please let me know if you play an instrument, sing, want to help with setup, etc. God has a place for you. As we get moving, I look forward to seeing how this ensemble will enhance our ministry and worship together. We are also looking forward to the return of outdoor, drive-in worship. The praise team will be leading at least once a month, along with soloists, guests and more. I will be playing the keyboard outside and joining right in the service with you.

Spring and Summer are a great time to try something new, and the music ministry is always taking new people. Music reading is not a requirement, but an attitude to make a joyful noise and have a ton of fun are the only requirements. We could use some volunteers for some summer cleaning and reorganizing projects. Please see me or Deb Smith.

I look forward to an incredible time of Serving God together and making that joyful noise.

Remember you are too BLESSED to be STRESSED.

Ben



MANY THANKS!

Dear St. Matthew Handbell members,

I wanted to thank you for your dedication and time in making sure the St. Matthew handbell choir continued. Church members had many nice comments about your playing and how the music enhanced the service. I would like to thank the Council members for giving me the opportunity to work with the handbell choir and for entrusting me with the continued success of the handbell choir. I wish to personally thank the handbell choir members for their support and willingness to work with me during my interim time. I would also like to thank the handbell members for the gracious gift. I really appreciate it! Working with everyone was a great joy and pleasure!

Sincerely,
Sue Gross

Dona & Maynard Warner and family would like to express their sincere appreciation for the many prayers during their son Scott's illness and expressions of sympathy after his passing.

Harold Kepler would like to thank everyone for helping him and his wife with meals. They appreciated it very much.

Dear people of St. Matthew,
Thank you for your most recent generous gift to Lutheran World Relief. Your love is being put to work right away in places like Gaza where medical supplies are urgently needed or like Türkiye where families are still living in tents after the devastating earthquake last year. You are providing hope and comfort to our neighbors around the world who are sometimes forgotten. We are so grateful for your partnership.

Blessings, Emma Wagner

Thank you! I would like to thank everyone for the many well wishes and inspirational cards. The retirement reception and gifts I received were very much appreciated. The angel wing necklace will always remind me of the prayers and support this congregation has given to me over the past sixteen years. It certainly was my privilege to serve St. Matthew and the Hanover community. It has been a blessing! Thank you!

Doris Deitzel

On behalf of Golden Visions, I would like to thank you for your generous donations to Golden Visions Adult Day Services. Your donation will help us continue to provide high quality care to local seniors by helping them age in place within our community. Your continued support enables our dreams to become a reality. We ask that you keep us in your prayers and help us spread the word about Golden Visions.

Again, we want to thank you for your generosity.

God Bless,
Buffy Rice, Executive Director

Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,736.90 to ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) through ELCA Good Gifts.

Your Good Gift is a very good gift indeed. Through resources such as seedlings and seminary courses, vaccinations and vegetable gardens, Bibles, and blankets, you equip God's people—around the world and around the corner—with what they need to live abundant lives.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

With gratitude,
Rachel Wind
Executive for Development



Organ Recital Series is Back!

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

YOUTH INFO

APRIL

Youth Connections-April 7, 28 6-8 p.m. in Youth Suite, 3rd floor

Blue-White Game on April 13? Let Tim know if you are interested!

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

Save the date!! **All-Saints Confirmation Camp**- June 9-14, all 6th through 8th graders! Please let Tim know if you are interested.



MAY

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

May 1 - Due date for All-Saints Confirmation Camp Registration.

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

LIFE EVENTS

January 14—March 15, 2024

Baptisms

January 14 – Andrew Polling

January 21 – Leo George Amspacher, son of Adam and Lindsay (Zumbrum) Amspacher, with sponsors Ashley and Justin Peterman

February 18 – Ruby Margaret Bobb, daughter of Derrik and Tasha (Koontz) Bobb, with sponsors Kyle and Samantha Cox and Brooke Bobb

Deaths

February 21 - Linda M. Zinn

February 22 - Esther Ells

March 9 - Walter J. Porowski

March 16 - Sandra R. Meyers

March 19 - Linda M. Bream

Life Events in the



WHY THE ST. MATTHEW PERSONAL CARE KIT MINISTRY FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF IS SO IMPORTANT

Lutheran World Relief seeks to address two questions: How are immediate needs being addressed and how are long term needs being met.

We can see this very clearly in the way Lutheran World Relief approached the recent earthquake in Turkey.

Devastation was everywhere. People were living in tent and container cities. People are focused solely on how to survive the day. Initially people lived in their cars. Lutheran World Relief provided food and personal care kits because stores were not open and there was no employment. So for the Turkish people at the time of their greatest devastation, their very first moment of hope was a meal and personal care kit items from Lutheran World Relief. But that was only the beginning of help provided by Lutheran World Relief.

From their cars, people moved to tent cities. In addition to the food and basic supplies there was a need for basic Sanitation. Lutheran World Relief employed two methods to assist in getting this need met. The first was direct assistance and the second is working with other organizations that share the values of Lutheran World Relief. In particular they work with a group called Young Life. This group uses earthquake survivors to help in their projects because they have found one of the best ways to heal is to help others.

From the tent cities, family units of at least 4 people are moved into a container city. These are small temporary housing units that must be sustainable for at least 3 years since rebuilding the permanent housing in Turkey is estimated to take at least that long. The container city that Lutheran World Relief assists with currently has 400 units plus a community center for educational assistance, meetings, community meals, laundry and large kitchen facilities. Each container unit has electricity, sanitation and heating. Families there are provided with one hot meal per day. There is free transportation to school and jobs. A container house is well insulated and has windows with screens. There is a bedroom, bathroom and living area with an efficiency kitchen. These units are provided by Lutheran World Relief. Container homes from Lutheran World Relief focus on quality installation and plumbing, with no short cuts.

These are just some of the ways that Lutheran World Relief brings vital supplies to people in need the world over. With their emphasis on providing a real presence, quality products and services as well as genuine empathy and caring, they are truly doing God's work in our very needy world.

Join us on Sunday, May 19 at 9:30-10:20 as we work to prepare 500 Personal Care Kits!

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.



GOLDEN VISIONS ADULT DAYCARE – The Social Ministry Committee will be collecting items for Golden Visions during the month of **April**. There will be a box located in the Gathering Place marked “Golden Visions.” If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make checks payable to *St. Matthew Lutheran Church* with “Golden Visions” in the memo line. The following items are requested:

Laundry detergent	Dryer sheets	Large bags of snacks
Dish detergent	Paper towels	Individual snacks
Tape	Toilet paper	Cake mixes
Envelopes	Stamps	Cookie mixes
Craft supplies	Bingo prizes	Individual Jell-o/pudding

Thank you!

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?

It's easy to be a **VISITING MINISTER** at St. Matthew. A one-hour visit to a home-bound member once a month and a periodic check-in meeting with other Visiting Ministers is the extent of your commitment. There is a brief training course, so you're never 'out there on your own.' Visiting Ministers have peer and leader support. We are planning a training course soon. Please pray and ask if God is leading you to be involved in this compassionate ministry.

Call **Pastor Faye, 717-451-0851**, with questions, to hear more, or to sign up. Or fill out the slip 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 _____

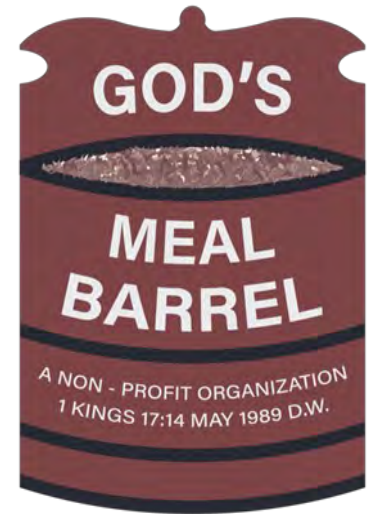
Email Address _____

Phone number (s) _____



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.



COMMUNITY MEAL

You guessed it...Sunday May 5, 3:00-6:00 p.m.



Let us come 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 by Sunday, April 21.

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 Dogs
 Hot Dog Rolls Capri Sun/Hugs/Juice Boxes for the Children



Summer fun for elementary age youth!

Day Camp at St. Matthew!

We will be hosting Day Camp again 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.

Watch the website, church bulletins or the QR code for more information and registration forms!



VBS

June 24-27

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 will be available at the church and on the website
or by using the QR code.



We are always looking for volunteers!

Contact Missy Smith with questions at msmith@stmattlutheran.org

Or call the church office, 717-637-7101, ext. 229