



The St. Matthew MESSENGER

CENTERED IN CHRIST
Celebrating Love • Serving All

June/July 2024

Vol. XIV Issue 3

From the Desk of Pastor Alexis Sheppard-Witt:

I am thrilled to be joining the St. Matthew family as part of the pastoral team. I bring with me a conviction that there is nothing that can separate you from the love of God we've found in Jesus (Romans 8:31-39). There is nothing about who you are or what you carry or what you have done or will do or what you experience that can keep God from loving you. We are invited to dwell, to abide in that love. My other ministry passions include: biblical studies, teaching & preaching, pastoral care, full inclusion of all people in the church, companion congregation relationships, and the building of ecumenical and interfaith partnerships.

I am coming from serving two congregations in Williamsburg, VA with my loving wife, Caitlin, and our beloved pup, Ginger. This is a return home for me, as a Red Lion graduate. Most of my family lives in York. We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of our niece this fall. We enjoy spending time with family and friends, playing games (of all kinds), and being outdoors. I also enjoy knitting (Caitlin says I have too much yarn!), bike riding, tennis, and baseball. Caitlin enjoys photography and quiet walks through the woods - even in the snow.

Peace,
Pastor Alex



St. Matthew Lutheran Church
32 W. Chestnut Street
Hanover PA 17331
717-637-7101
info@stmattlutheran.org
www.stmattlutheran.org
www.facebook.com/groups/stmattlutheran

Messages for You

PAL Lunch volunteers	2
Turkey & Greece Trip	2
Summer Interns	2
Discovery Place News	2
Music Ministry	3
Generosity Committee	4
Life Events	4
Thank you!	4
Youth News & Events	5
Calendars	

Ministerial Staff:

- Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman
Lead Pastor
pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org
- Pastor Alexis Sheppard-Witt,
Associate Pastor
- Pastor Faye Snyder
Visitation Pastor
nicksong@comcast.net
- Pastor Mark Vitalis Hoffman
Interim Teaching Pastor
PastorMark@CrossMarks.com
- Ben Boellner, *Minister of Music*
bboellner@stmattlutheran.org
- Deb Smith, *Associate Minister of Music*, dsmith@stmattlutheran.org
- Tim Peck, *Youth Ministry*
youth@stmattlutheran.org
- Melissa Smith, *Children and Family Ministry Coordinator*
msmith@stmattlutheran.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH PAL LUNCHES

Would you be willing to help prepare and serve lunches at the Hanover Area Council of Churches? St. Matthew is looking for additional volunteers to help the weeks that they are scheduled to serve. Set up starts at 8:15 a.m. and everything is done by 12 noon. If you are interested, please email Amy Beck, abeck1976@comcast.net and



she will get you connected with the group.

VISIT SITES OF PAUL AND REVELATION IN JANUARY 2025

Pastor Mark is leading a tour to Turkey and Greece in January 2025 that includes many incredible biblical, historical and cultural sites. It is a trip connected with United Lutheran Seminary, but it is open to anyone. We cover a lot of ground and do a lot of walking, but it is an amazing experience at a great price for an 18-day trip. I hope you can join us! More information is at: CrossMarks.com/2025TurkeyGreece

INTRODUCING OUR SUMMER INTERNS

We are pleased to introduce our two summer interns for 2024, Mya Maloney and Aaron Smith. Mya attends Lebanon Valley College, while Aaron attends Messiah University. They both have been involved in Youth Group and other ministries throughout St. Matthew. They will learn how the church operates and will be involved in the summer activities programming. When you see them, kindly greet them!

DISCOVERY PLACE PRESCHOOL

We would like to **THANK YOU** for your support of our children and programs all year. We had a fantastic preschool year and we are actively planning for another GREAT year for 2024-2025. Please share our registration information with any family interested in preschool for 3 & 4 year-old children.

Our teachers are excited for another summer full of **DISCOVERY** camps! Only 3 spots available in the last 2 weeks! Camp information can be found on the church website or in the church office.

Discovery Place is excited to add a **NEW CLASS** for the 2024-25 school year. We will be teaching a pre-K class on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m.– 2 p.m. Enrollment is already full! We are in need of rest mats for our young learners. A \$20 donation will purchase one mat, although any donation is greatly appreciated. Donations may be made by cash or check, payable to *Discovery Place Preschool*. You may place donations in an envelope marked *Discovery Place* and place in our offering baskets or dropped off at the church office. Any donations received over the cost of the mats will be used for additional curriculum material.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

We Are Hiring! We are looking for Assistant Teachers for 3 different classes. **See the website for more information, www.stmatthlutheran.org** and email your resume to:

discoveryplacehanover@gmail.com





Dear Church family,

How are we already heading into "Summer mode?" I sure am looking forward to the warmer weather and being able to be outside.

Over the coming months, there are many projects that need to be done in the lower level of the church building. Specifically, to the music ministry areas. We need volunteers to work with Deb Smith and me. She will need assistance getting the stage and puppet ministry area in good order and organized.

I will need help with the children's choir room cleanout, reorganization of the hand bell library and closet, as well as boxes and boxes of scores that need organizing. If you are willing and able, please see me or Deb. This will be done on a Saturday, when we can have the maximum volunteers. Lunch will be provided.

We are also looking for folks to sign up for the summer musical offering spot, at one or both services. Again, see Deb or me. We are happy to help!

There are so many spectacular things coming in the fall, stay tuned.

See you around!

Ben Boellner,

Minister of Music and Organist

From the desk of Deb Smith, Associate Minister of Music:

We have had a great spring in the music ministry and are looking forward to the summer and the St. Matthew Music Camp version 2024. There will be time for music, games, fun, food and rounding it out with a **BIG MUSICAL** on Sunday, September 15. Camp is **FREE**, so please register today on the website and get ready to make music! Camp will be held from August 5-9, 9-11 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for children ages 5-12. Join us for **Noah's Rockin' Ark Adventure**: *Noah's Soda Shoppe* specializes in ice cream floats and shakes. And Noah is one righteous, cool dude in the eyes of God. But today isn't just another day at the Shoppe. Noah has heard from God that He's going to flood the earth and clean the land of its wicked ways... so Noah had better build a big boat.



BEGINNING IN AUGUST, Ben Boellner and Deb Smith would like to provide music for our homebound congregation members. Deb or Ben will come to your home and play music for you (about 1/2 hour). We will bring our own keyboard. If you are interested or know someone who is interested, please call the church office at 717-633-7101 and leave your name and phone number.



October 6, 2024 - Organ Recital with world-renowned organist Dan Miller
October 27, 2024 - Halloween Organ Concert with Ben Boellner

Generosity Corner



Thank you for joining God
in His work in this world.

Summer is quickly approaching, and families will be travelling to the beach, the mountains, visiting family in other states, and otherwise enjoying their time together. Maybe you're just taking a Staycation and getting things done around the house. Everything tends to slow down in the summer and that includes weekly giving. St. Matthew does not take a summer vacation and the church continues to do God's work. We need your support for the programs, not only in the summer, but throughout the year.

Online giving is easy and you can give even while sitting on the beach! Information can be found on our website, www.stmattlutheran.org

*A Message from the
Generosity Committee*

LIFE EVENTS

April-May, 2024

Baptisms

- April 7 - Nalani Kay Peck-Epps, daughter of Courtney Peck and Vada Epps, with sponsors Elijah and Kaitlyn Fisher and Darius Bradford
- April 7 - Willow James Fisher, daughter of Elijah and Kaitlyn (Peck) Fisher, with sponsors Courtney Peck and Drizzt Testerman

Deaths

- April 23 – Kenneth L. Smith
- May 7 – John (Jack) Shultz

Life Events in the



**CHURCH
FAMILY**



TO EVERYONE who contributed to the Cinco de Mayo community meal, THANK YOU! We had between 250-300 people join us for an afternoon of good food, music by Soul Fire, and games for the children. Those that attended were very appreciative and grateful. We are to be the hands and feet of Christ serving our community and this was a great example of that in action, so Thank You!



ALL YOUTH (grades 6-12) are invited to **Faith Connections, Sundays in June from 9:30 - 10:20 a.m. in the Youth Suite, (room 304, third floor).**

We are covering the awesome lessons developed by the organizers of the ELCA Gathering that some of our youth and young adults are attending in July. There will be watch parties scheduled during the week of the Gathering where we can come together and listen to the speakers and performers. Your experience will be enriched if you join us in preparing our hearts and minds as we ponder together the theme, *"Created to Be..."*

**June/July
Events!**

June 9 - 14 is All Saints Confirmation Camp

June 17 - 21 is Day Camp

June 24 - 27 is VBS

July 14-16 Lutheran Hands Pre-Gathering Mission Trip

July 16-21 is ELCA Gathering in New Orleans

July 28-August 3 is Youth Leadership Training (LT) Camp

Join us for **Summer Youth Connections** on the 1st & 3rd Sunday evenings from 6-8:00 p.m. in room 304. Event details and information about events added will be sent via Remind so if you are not currently receiving notifications, email Tim at youth@stmattlutheran.org with your name and mobile phone number with questions or to be added.

June 2 – Summer Kick-off Family Event

June 16 – Father's Day Family Bowlerama

June 30 - Swim Night

July 7 – Youth Connections

July 21 – Welcome Back from New Orleans Party

Other events that might be added include: Coffee House, Gettysburg Bike Tour, Museum of the Bible, Hiking and more!

Day Camp at St. Matthew!

Summer fun for elementary age youth!

June 17-21, 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day,
Monday through Friday, for children
entering grades 1- 5 in the fall of 2024

Register on the website or use the QR code!

Contact Tim Peck with any questions,



youth@stmattlutheran.org or by
phone, 717-637-7101, ext. 230.

Vacation Bible School!

June 24-27, 9 a.m.-12 noon

We will dive deep into finding the ways God is
always with us! Children age 4 to 5th graders!

Register on the website or use the QR code.

We need volunteers!

Contact Missy Smith with questions or to
volunteer at

msmith@stmattlutheran.org or call
the church office, 717-637-7101,
ext. 229



PERSONAL CARE KIT WRAP UP
GOAL – 500 CHALLENGE – 800



It is with profound, heartfelt gratitude that the Women of the ELCA and the Faith Formation Committee offer our sincere appreciation to all who contributed to the Personal Care Kit Mission Project.

Your donations of towels, toothbrushes, clippers, combs, soaps and money enabled us to roll and pack an amazing 822 personal care kits!

As we reflect on our time together, we can't help but think of those desperately needing the meager items we gathered and touched... assembled by young and old alike. They will be touched many more times by people around the world until they end up with someone...maybe a mother with a small child with dirty face. She'll wash his face, then hers. She'll brush his hair and then her own. She'll brush his teeth and then hers. And maybe that time of personal care will give her hope to go on for another day. We'll never know. What we do know is that each kit was lovingly folded and tied and is filled with love...love from the people of St. Matthew.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!