



**From the Desk of Pastor Alex:**

Beloved Siblings in Christ,

I have been reflecting much on how important our ministries with children, youth, and families truly are. When kids are baptized, parents are trusted with certain responsibilities:

- to live with them among God’s faithful people,
- to bring them to the Word of God and the Lord’s Supper,
- to teach them the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
- to place in their hands the Holy Scriptures,
- to nurture them in faith and prayer so that they may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ in word and deed, care for others and the world God has made, and work for justice and peace.

As the Church, we don’t expect parents to do these things on their own. We help provide those opportunities to learn and to grow in faith. Worship, Milestones, Faith Connections, VBS, Day Camp, Music Camp, etc. All of these are opportunities for parents to nurture their kids in the faith with the help of the church.

I wouldn’t be here as your pastor without the nurturing of both my parents and my home congregation. With the Confirmation families, I said that I don’t remember much about the classes themselves. And yet, without a doubt, Confirmation is what led me to ministry. I had already been highly involved – I was a lector, an acolyte, in the choir, etc. And yet, there, in that classroom, I was able to dive into my faith, ask questions, and start to figure out who Jesus is for me and for all of us. And I loved it. Church was life-giving in a period of time in my life when I experienced bullying amid all of the changes that middle school brings. It was on my Confirmation Sunday that I first heard the call to ministry.

Throughout Faith Connections, our children and youth have the opportunity to learn about Jesus, to explore their faith, and to build relationships with one another and with trusted adults. These pieces of Faith Connections, we hope, extend beyond the moment in the classroom. They are building blocks of a life of faith that brings hope and life and love. They are the building blocks of a life of faith that sustains in the good times and in the struggles.

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From Pastor Alex:  
(Continued from page 1)

Faith Connections may not lead a child into ordained ministry – I know I'm an odd one there. But looking back on my life, I am so thankful that my parents brought me up in the church and brought us to Sunday School. I may not remember the specific lessons, but the faith formed there goes with me and sustains me. And it will for the rest of my life. I developed a faith in a God made known in Jesus that refuses to let me go, who walks through the valleys of the shadow of death and climbs to the highest mountains with me, and who will let nothing come between me and the love we've found in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We know that families have too much to do and too little time to do it. But we truly believe that nurturing a life of faith is one of those things that is worth the time and the energy. The relationships we build with Jesus and with one another are invaluable. What starts here can last a lifetime.

Peace,  
Pastor Alex



### Reformation and Confirmation

#### Pastors' Class to focus on Lutheran Basics in October

All are welcome and especially newcomers are invited to the Pastor's Class on Sundays October 6 and 13.

**October 6:** Bible Basics through a Lutheran Lens

**October 13:** All things Lutheran

Classes meet at 9:30-10:20 in the Upper Room on the second floor. Take the stairs or elevator by the back door.

On the weekend of October 26 and 27, we celebrate the Reformation with a focus on our heritage as Lutherans. In addition, we will Celebrate Confirmation at the 10:30 service. But we are not simply celebrating events, we are also embracing a new way of life. I like to think of it as a Celebration that has us reforming our actions and confirming our faith. No matter which time you worship, it will be a festive gathering! Be sure to wear red!

### *Where the welcome is wide and the Love is real*

Through October we continue our series focused on the biblical themes of our purpose and core values.

October 5/6: Deepening our faith in Jesus

October 12/13: Engaging children and youth

October 19/20: Walking with our neighbors

October 26/27: Embracing one another as God created us

*Our worship also includes the celebration of our heritage as reforming Lutherans*



#### All Saints Weekend

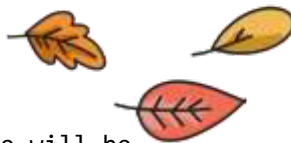
On the weekend of **November 2 and 3**, we will be remembering the saints who have died this past year. Candles will be lit and prayers will be offered for members of our St. Matthew

community. We are inviting St. Matthew members to add the names of **immediate family members who have died since November 1, 2023**. Names may be given to the office by e-mail at

[info@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:info@stmattlutheran.org), by phone,

717-637-7101 or on the tear-off sheet in

the bulletin. **Deadline for submitting names is October 28**. We will have white roses placed on the altar representing each of the saints who died this past year and following the worship service, a family member may come forward to receive a rose as a remembrance of this day.



#### New Member Orientation Breakfast on Sunday, October 20

For all who are interested in becoming members, we invite you to an orientation breakfast in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30-10:20 on October 20. Come to meet members of our Evangelism Committee, staff, Council members and other newcomers to our church. Sign-up for the orientation by contacting the church office at [info@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:info@stmattlutheran.org) or 717-637-7101.

Please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Alex, [pastoralex@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:pastoralex@stmattlutheran.org) or Pastor Kathy, [pastokathy@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:pastokathy@stmattlutheran.org). We welcome New Members the week-end of November 9 and 10



*From the Minister of Music:*

Dear St. Matthew Family,

Happy Fall to everyone! We had such an incredible summer of music and activities. I was privileged to lead music and teach for Day Camp and VBS., work with summer soloists, and more. I am looking forward to such an amazing season of Worship and Music together. If you haven't had a chance to hear the new Concert grand piano, I encourage you to take a listen. This is such an incredible upgrade to the music ministry.



Please mark your calendars for 2 upcoming organ recitals:

- Sunday, October, 6 at 4 p.m. internationally renowned organist Dan Miller, will be playing a full solo recital. You will not want to miss this!
- Sunday, October, 27 at 4 p.m. Ben Boellner and friends will be playing an "All Hallows Eve" recital with The Classics, Phantom of the Opera, and more.

Deb Smith and I will also be launching the new "Black Rose Chorale," our new community choir here at St. Matthew. Please see the website for more info and registration.

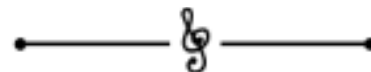
Attached to this newsletter is a list of all of the Music Ministry rehearsal times. You do not have to be a member to join any of our groups. Just a smile and willingness to make a joyful noise.

I would be very remiss if I did not take the time to say thank you to my musical partner and our immensely talented and devoted Associate Minister of Music, Deb Smith. She has worked tirelessly this summer to bring the children's musical, work with soloists and more. We are so fortunate to have her gifts and talents.

This is such an exciting time for St. Matthew as we are exploring our Core values and who we are. Remember to listen to the Holy Spirit.

**He is at work!**  
**Ben Boellner**  
*Minister of Music*

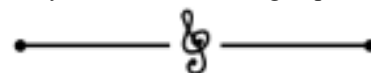
Join us on Saturday, October 19 from 9:00-9:45 a.m. for Music Makers Toddler Time in the Playground (Fellowship Hall). A music program for 2, 3, and 4 year old children. Each child must be accompanied by an adult. Please register on line.



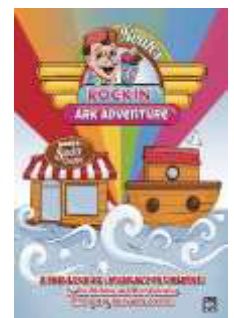
**Upcoming events for kids in K-5th grade!**

On Saturday, October 5 from 9-11 a.m., we will have Music JAM (Jesus and Me). The free program includes playing instruments, playing music games, making an instrument, and a snack. Please sign up on line.

Pajama Storytime for kids and families is on Sunday, November 3. Join us at 5 p.m. for a light meal and 5:30 p.m. for a story and craft. Please sign up on line.



Great job to Noah's Rockin' Ark Adventure. The kids were fabulous! Thank you to the parents and families, our adult and youth helpers, to all who attended the show, and for all who supported us through prayer. Special thanks to Nadine and Lee Baughman for creating our set.



*-Deb Smith*

**REHEARSALS**

- ◆ Youth Choir/Handbells (grades 7th-12th):  
11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. on Sundays
- ◆ Junior Choir/Handbells (grades 3rd-6th):  
4:30-5:15 p.m.
- ◆ Children's Choir (ages 3,4,5, Kindergarten, grades 1st, 2nd): Thursdays 4:15-5:00 p.m.
- ◆ Adult Bells: 6:00 p.m. on Thursdays
- ◆ Adult Choir: 7 p.m. on Thursdays
  
- ◆ Mini Ministers Puppet Team (grades 6th-12th):  
Saturday, October 5: Rehearse 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.  
Saturday, October 12: Rehearse 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (set up the puppet stage in the Nave)  
Sunday, October 13: Puppets at both services  
Saturday, November 9: Rehearse 11:00-11:45 a.m.  
Saturday, November 16: Rehearse 11:00-11:45 a.m.  
Saturday, December 28: New Year's Show
  
- ◆ SoulFire:  
Tuesday, October 1 at 6:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, October 15 at 6:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, November 5 at 6:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, November 19 at 6:30 p.m.



## ATTENTION YOUTH

St. Matt's Youth Group meets from 6-8 p.m. in the Youth Suite on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. For questions, please contact Tim Peck (youth@stmatthlutheran.org) or call the church 717-637-7101 Ext. 230.

ALL 6-12TH GRADERS ARE WELCOME! BRING A FRIEND!  
YOU DON'T NEED TO BE A MEMBER TO COME AND SHARE GOD'S LOVE!

### October & November Youth Group Dates:

- October 6 & 20—Regular Gatherings
- October 28—Help with Trunk or Treat and Community Meal
- November 3 & 17—Regular Gatherings
- November 22-24—Youth Retreat at Camp Nawakwa

### Youth Faith Connections (9-12th grade)

Meets on Sundays during Faith Connections (9:30 a.m.) in the Youth Suite on the third floor.

### Confirmation (6-8th grade)

Meets on Sundays during Faith Connections (9:30 a.m.) in the Youth Suite on the third floor. This year we'll be exploring what the Bible is, what it isn't, and why it matters for us. This is your time to ask questions, to wrestle with what you believe, and to discover who Jesus is for you as we seek to deepen our faith in Jesus. Hope to see you there! For questions or more information, contact Pastor Alex (pastoralex@stmatthlutheran.org) or Tim Peck (youth@stmatthlutheran.org).

### Important Confirmation Dates:

- October 27—Reformation Sunday, help with Confirmation banquet
- November 10—Serve Veteran's Breakfast
- November 22-24—Youth Retreat at Camp Nawakwa

Confirmation Sunday is quickly approaching! On October 27, join us as we celebrate our 9th graders who have completed Confirmation and are being Confirmed. We will mark their Confirmation during the 10:30 a.m. service and with a banquet following.



### TRUNK OR TREAT AND COMMUNITY MEAL OCTOBER 28, 2024 5:30-7p.m.

- If you want to display a trunk contact Tim Peck youth@stmatthlutheran.org or call the Church office 717-637-7101 Ext. 230 (Tim Peck)
- We will have trunks and activities
- For the October meal, we will be having chili, corn bread/muffins, hot dogs, water, and popsicles.
- Social Ministry invites the congregation to help with donations of Chili, chicken corn soup, corn bread/muffins, bottled water, and popsicles. If you could let Amy Beck abeck1976@comcast.net know by October 13 what you are bringing.
- We need help with setup, serving, and clean-up.

### FALL YOUTH RETREAT AT CAMP NAWAKWA!

- We will be having our Fall Retreat coming November 22-24, 2024
- All 6th-12th graders are encouraged to attend this retreat filled with a weekend of faith, fun, conversation, and worship.
- The theme will be announced coming up!
- Look for the flyer and sign up soon!



## *Generosity Corner*

Thanksgiving is just around the corner. This holiday, more than most, is filled with Traditions that are passed down generation to generation, like Aunt Millie's corn pudding or Cousin Julie's pecan pie. The smells alone can evoke so many memories. We have a tradition in our home where we go around the table and each person tells what they're most thankful for, from the youngest to the oldest. And the comments we hear are sometimes comical, like, the latest matchbox car, or good grades on a math test or a good haircut and other times, the comments can be sobering. During Covid, one grandson said he was thankful that he hadn't died that year! (His Mom had a long talk with him after dinner.)

As Christians, we have so much to be thankful for. We have such a generous God who showers us daily with gifts of His love. His greatest gift, of course, was His Son, Jesus Christ, who came to us as human and died on the cross so our sins could be forgiven.

This Fall, we're kicking off our stewardship campaign called "Building a Culture of Generosity." The focus will be on giving with an attitude of gratitude for all that God has given us. He calls us to be generous (Malachi 3:10) and promises that He will open the floodgates of heaven and pour out blessings without measure. In fact, He says, *Test Me!*

We live in an uneasy time, prices are up everywhere. It costs more to go to the supermarket, pay tuition, or go to the gas station and here we are, talking about being generous. But the Lord wants us to give from our first fruits, meaning pay Him first, not from what's leftover and He will reward us with abundant blessings. So, in this time of Thanksgiving, pray, discern, discuss and then pray some more. Look at what you're giving now and ask yourself, am I really giving all that I can to support God's work in the church?

Have a blessed and love-filled Thanksgiving.

***A Message From  
Your Generosity Ministry Team***



**SUNDAY DECEMBER 15  
3:00-6:00 P.M.  
WE NEED YOU!**



Our first community holiday meal was a huge success thanks to all of you. Plans are under way for our 2024 Community Holiday Meal and just like 2023, we will need lots of help. The menu will be turkey, ham, filling, corn, potatoes, rolls, and desserts. We will need help setting up, preparing food, serving the meal, clean up, making centerpieces, photographers, and much more. If you are willing to help, please complete the sign-up sheet in the tear off portion of the bulletin/newsletter, or email Amy Beck at [Abeck1976@comcast.net](mailto:Abeck1976@comcast.net). As we get closer to December, Amy will provide updates so we make sure we have everything covered.

**COMMUNITY HOLIDAY MEAL**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, Sign me up for:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baking a Turkey<br><input type="checkbox"/> Baking a Ham<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preparing Other Food (Corn, Potatoes, Gravy, Rolls)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Making a Dessert<br><input type="checkbox"/> Set Up<br><input type="checkbox"/> Serve Meal | <input type="checkbox"/> Photographer<br><input type="checkbox"/> Making Centerpieces<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other<br><input type="checkbox"/> Clean Up |
|--|--|

## *Children and Family Ministry*

### October

**Discovery Place Sunday**- Please welcome our preschool families on Sunday, October 13. Our 3 and 4 year olds have been making music with Ms. Deb and learning about God with Pastor Alex and Ms. Missy for the past few weeks. We would like to thank everyone for the donations made for the preschool! This allows us to make sure all of the kids get to experience all of our activities without worry to the families. Loose Change donations on the 13<sup>th</sup> will be given to Discovery Place.

**Splash Class is back again!** Lead by Lindsay and Adam Ampsacher again this year. With 6 classes for the year, kids and parents who are 3 months – 3 years old are invited to attend our 30 minutes class from 9:45- 10:15 a.m. in the Playground (Fellowship Hall) on the following Sundays. Oct 20, Dec 8, Jan 19, Mar 2, Apr 6 and May 4.

### November

**Intergenerational Event- Pre-Advent Ornaments**- Join us on November 17 as we gather in Fellowship Hall from 9:30-10:20 for some fun for all generations! Let's come together and see how many ornaments we can make for our homebound friends. There will be a few options to choose from. You can make one, or all of them!



### SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

**Saturday, November 9, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

**St. Matthew Upper Room #201**

**A helpful, encouraging seminar for people facing the holidays after losing a loved one.**

This seminar features video interviews with counselors, grief experts, and other people who have experienced the holidays after their loved one's death and who offer practical suggestions and reassurance. These people share honestly about:

- Being prepared for surprising emotions that may hit over the holidays
- What to do about traditions and other coming changes
- How to handle holiday parties and invitations
- How to survive potentially awkward moments with other people
- Where to find comfort, strength, and hope in a seemingly hopeless time

Those who attend will receive a Survival Guide filled with practical tips, encouraging words, journaling ideas, and exercises for daily help through the holiday season.

There is no cost.

**For more information or to register, call Pastor Faye Snyder at 717-451-0851 or email [nicksong@comcast.net](mailto:nicksong@comcast.net). Deadline November 4.**

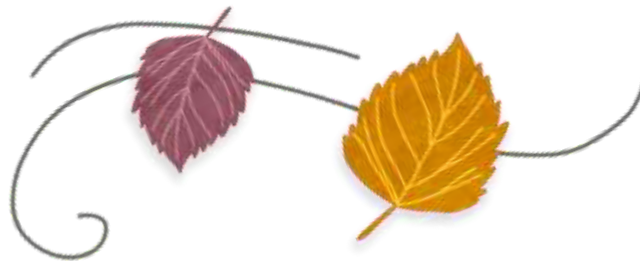
### SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS SEMINAR Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



- December 2 – Blue Christmas Worship
- December 7 – Cookie Walk
- December 8 – Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal
- December 8 – Decorate Church
- December 15 – Christmas Pageant / Community Meal
- December 18 – Caroling to Shut-ins
- December 28 – Puppet Show & Meal
- December 31 – New Year’s Eve Lock-in
- January 3-5 – Winterfest for 9-12th graders and Young Adults



*The next issue of the Messenger will cover December & January.  
Articles for the next Messenger are due by November 15.*



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