

St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
Hanover, PA



Baptism of our Lord  
with the installation of Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt  
& the baptism of Zelda Lynn Witt

Saturday, January 11, 2025  
5pm



# St. Matthew

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## LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Where the welcome is wide  
and the love is real.

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**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!

### **Our Purpose:**

Welcoming all as we share God's love.

### **Our Core Values:**

**Celebrating** together in worship

**Deepening** our faith in Jesus

**Engaging** children and youth

**Walking** with our neighbors

**Embracing** one another as God created us

**Baptism of our Lord**  
**January 11, 2025 – 5:00pm**

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**✠ GATHERING ✠**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please stand as you are able.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**adapted from Enfleshed  
& Call to Worship**

Pastor: In baptism, God claims us

**All: and names us Beloved.**

Pastor: In baptism, Christ joins us

**All: to himself and to one another.**

Pastor: In baptism, the Spirit is

**All: poured out upon us.**

Pastor: Since the beginning, God has been  
relentlessly pursuing us in love.

Though our faithfulness ebbs and flows,

**All: God's love endures forever.**

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Pastor: Blessed be the Triune ✠ God,  
our Creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

**All: Amen**

Pastor: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditation of our  
hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Pastor: Merciful God,

**All: You speak blessing and compassion into the world.**

**Forgive us for the ways we act  
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**

**We ignore the needs of our neighbors.**

**We resist your call to oppose injustice.**

**We assume the worst about one another.**

**Cleanse us from our faults, and release us from their grasp.**

**Show us your lovingkindness.**

**Restore our hearts and repair your world,  
that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

Pastor: God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy,

live anew as beloved children of God.

**All: Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

***God, We Gather As Your People***

**ACS 1038**

**Lohman**



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -  
2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be  
3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and  
4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.  
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,  
shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.  
wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we  
that they nev - er have a rea - son to  
May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your  
As they grow in strength and stat - ure. may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.  
doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.  
love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.  
join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.



Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

## 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.**

*Please be seated.*

## BAPTISM

Zelda Lynn Witt

*At certain points during the service of Holy Baptism, the congregation will be invited to respond following the pastor's prompts.*

Pastor: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**All: We welcome Zelda into the body of Christ and into the mission we share – welcoming all as we share God's love.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**All: Amen**

## ✠ WORD ✠

### PSALM 29 (Read Responsively)

- <sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- <sup>2</sup> **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name;  
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**
- <sup>3</sup> The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;  
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.
- <sup>4</sup> **The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**
- <sup>5</sup> The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- <sup>6</sup> **the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
- <sup>7</sup> The voice of the Lord

bursts forth in lightning flashes.

**<sup>8</sup> The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup> The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"

**<sup>10</sup> The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup> O Lord, give strength to your people;  
give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

*Please stand as you are able.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

### HOLY GOSPEL

**Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the third chapter.

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

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit

descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Pastor: The gospel of our Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

## THE MESSAGE

Pastor Jacki Roderick

*Please stand as you are able.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Baptized and Set Free*

ELW 453

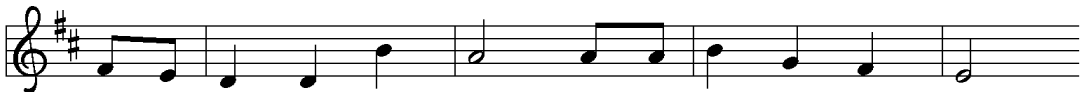
Skogen-Soldner



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.  
2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.  
3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,  
4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.  
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.  
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.  
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door  
For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:  
As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:  
Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.  
end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.  
pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.  
one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!



*Please be seated.*

## **INSTALLATION**

**Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt**

**Pastor Cynthia Chambers – Dean, Hanover Conference**

*At certain points during the service of Installation, the congregation will be invited to respond following the prompts.*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Assist. Min: 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.)*

## **MUSICAL OFFERING**

***I Choose Love***

**Mark Miller**

**Adult Choir**

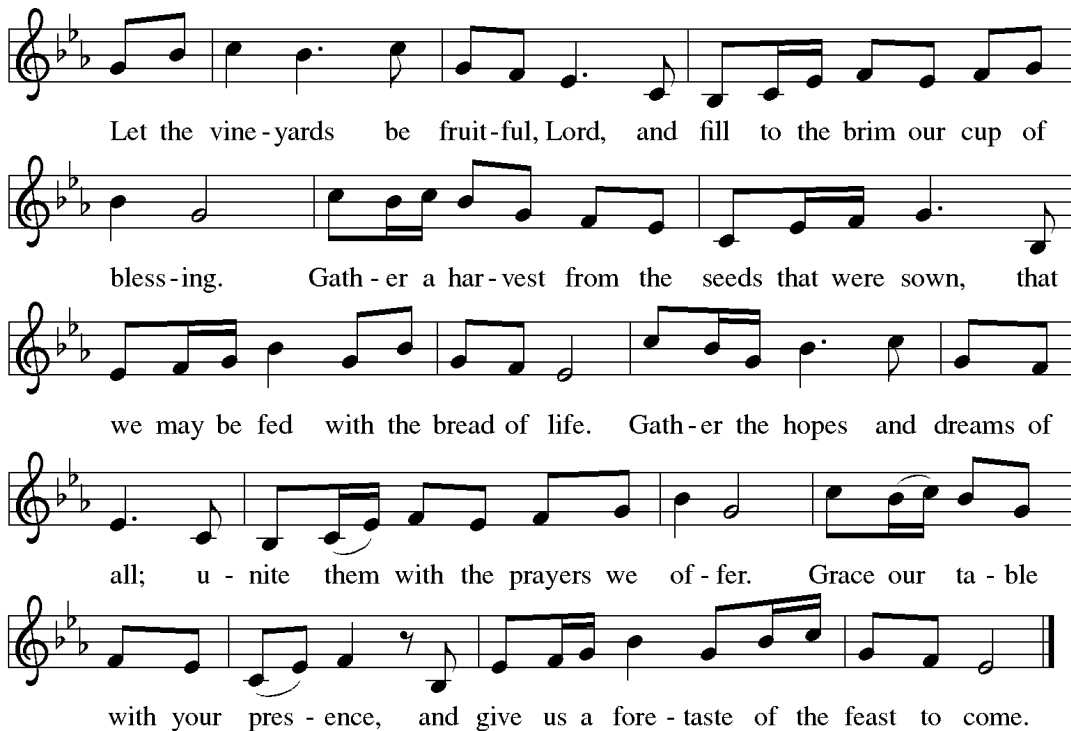
## **GENEROSITY MOMENT**

*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. Offering 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.*

*Tonight, we’re holding a special offering for Lutheran World Relief in response to the wildfires in California. Loose offerings will go to Lutheran World Relief. Checks can be made to St. Matthew with Lutheran World Relief in the memo line.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## OFFERTORY



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assist. Min: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,

**All: And your abundance to the depths of the seas.**

**Bless what we offer to your service:**

**our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.**

**Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,  
now and always. Amen**

✠ MEAL ✠

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

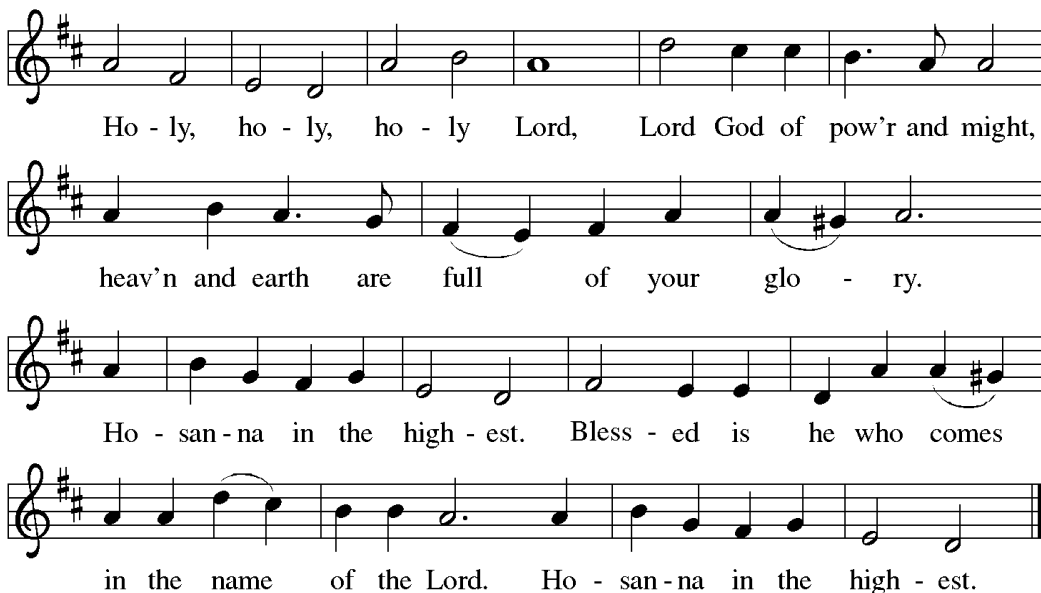
**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

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, Lord God of pow'r 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 - san - na in the high - est.

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER WITH WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*Please be seated.*

## **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

*All are welcome to the Lord's Supper. The meal is served in three 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 a pastor, please let one of the ushers know, and the Sacrament will be brought to 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 (WITH PACKETS)**

Pastor: The body of Christ, given for you.

**All: Amen.** *(Eat wafer)*

Pastor: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**All: Amen.** *(Drink wine or grape juice)*

## **LAMB OF GOD**



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**COMMUNION HYMN**

*Just as I Am*

**ELW 592**

**Elliott, Bradbury**



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was  
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y\_a con - flict,  
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,  
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry



shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
man - y\_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,  
cleans, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,  
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

**COMMUNION HYMN*****We Come to the Hungry Feast*****ELW 479****Makeover**

1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.  
 2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased  
 3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,



To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is  
 from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,  
 and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay



not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.  
 poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.  
 with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

*After the communion has been served, please stand as you are able.*

**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**

Assist. Min: Nourishing God,  
 at this table you have refreshed us  
 with holy gifts of food and drink.  
 Strengthen us for service,  
 and send us out to embody your good news  
 of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.  
 In the name of Christ we pray,

**All: Amen**

✠ SENDING ✠

**BLESSING**

Pastor: Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit  
bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion,  
and send you in love.

**All: Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

*Here I Am, Lord*

**ELW 574  
Schutte**

**(Next Page)**



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.  
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.  
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.  
 I will break their hearts of stone. give them hearts for love a - lone.  
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"  
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"  
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

*Refrain*



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.



## DISMISSAL

Assist. Min: Go in peace, live in hope.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

\* \* \* \* \*

*Please note: Music for this service is covered under  
CCLI #1000682 and OneLicense #A-708989.*

*Please join us in the Fellowship Hall following the service  
for a reception hosted by the Call Committee.  
We thank the Call Committee for all of their hard  
work during the call process and for hosting the reception.*



**RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM** on Saturday evening, January 11, is Zelda Lynn Witt, daughter of Zachary and Jamie (Sheeler) Witt with sponsors Alexis and Caitlin Sheppard-Witt. We welcome Zelda into the earthly body of Christ with membership here at St. Matthew Lutheran Church.



**RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM** on Sunday morning is Myla Rose Burkentine, daughter of Bryan and Cooper (McGarvey) Burkentine with sponsors Kaitlin and Bryce Burkentine and Emily and Michael Burkentine. We welcome Myla into the earthly body of Christ with membership here at St. Matthew Lutheran Church.

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

Preacher.....Rev. Jacki Roderick  
Musicians..... Adult Choir  
Altar Flower Delivery ..... Pam Cashman  
Altar Guild ..... Beth Koontz, Janice Peck  
Assisting Minister.....Mike Jones  
Communion Assistants ..... Tom Shultz, Carolyn Markle  
Communion Preparers..... Penny Rutters, Sara Staub  
Greeters ..... Jim, Doreen, Tim and Brody Rummel  
Lector ..... Jane Lawrence  
Livestream ..... Doug West  
Ushers ..... Youth

***THE ALTAR FLOWERS*** have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Donald Krug by his granddaughter Tami Feeser; in loving memory of Jere Dubs by the family; in loving memory of my daughter M. Sue (Cover) Nicks who passed away January 12, 2020 and my son Robert W. Cover who passed away January 4, 2022 by their mother Loretta and family.

***THE BULLETINS*** have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my daughter M. Sue (Cover) Nicks who passed away January 12, 2020 and my son Robert W. Cover who passed away January 4, 2022 by their mother Loretta and family; in loving memory of Ralph W. Snyder by Tom, Laurel, Nicholas and Paige Bell.

***RECOMMENDED SCRIPTURE READINGS*** for the week beginning January 12:

Sunday: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	Thursday: Acts 8:18-24
Monday: Ephesians 6:10-17	Friday: 1 Corinthians 7:1-7
Tuesday: 1 John 5:13-21	Saturday: Luke 11:14-23
Wednesday: Luke 1:33-36	

**PRAYER LIST:** In our intercessory prayers we pray for individuals who have offered permission to have their names included. These names will be listed up to a month unless otherwise requested. After that time, prayers will continue for each person through our prayer chain. Newly added names will appear in bold. If you would like to be included in the prayers of the prayer chain **but not listed** in the bulletin, you may contact Beth Koontz at bethk9245@gmail.com or by calling the church office at 717-637-7101.

**Faye Snyder**

**Ardis Family**

Robert Mosely

Diana Altand

Gladys Despines

Dan Weigle

Mike Cromer

Bill Schlitzer

Kent Woods

Laurel Bell

Tom Bell

Nancy Leister

Harold Kepler

**DEATHS:** George Zinn

Our Pastor Faye will be having surgery on Wednesday, January 15. We ask that you keep her in your prayers for a full recovery. Pastor Faye will be unable to minister to members during her convalescence, through the end of February. If anyone is in need of pastoral care, please call the church office, 717-637-7101, and Pastor Kathy or Pastor Alex will be available. Thank you for your understanding.

## ST. MATTHEW SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

St. Matthew is offering an exciting opportunity for young adults by offering two paid internship positions. During this 9 week internship, the interns will:



- Gain leadership skills in a variety of ministries
- Enhance the summer ministries of St. Matthew
- Increase our Community Outreach with children, youth and young adults
- Grow in Faith and Service

High school graduates with at least one year of college are invited to apply for these paid summer internships and must be a member of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Hanover PA. Job descriptions and application forms are available by contacting Tim Peck, St. Matthew Youth Ministry and Community Outreach Leader at [youth@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:youth@stmattlutheran.org) or 717-637-7101 ext. 230 or Pastor Alex at [pastoralex@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:pastoralex@stmattlutheran.org) or 717-637-7101 ext. 229. Application deadline is Monday, February 24, 2025.

**TO ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS: ANNUAL REPORTS** are due in the church office by Monday, January 29. Remember that this is a historical document and we like to have a clear report of the past year at St. Matthew and our activities. If you have email access, please email your report to [info@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:info@stmattlutheran.org). If you do not have e-mail access, we would appreciate if you could have the report typewritten. If you need a copy of your committee's report from last year or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Stacy, ext. 223, or Jane, ext. 226, in the Church Office, 717-637-7101. Thank you for your time!



## **IN RESPONSE TO THE CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES: AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE**

St. Matthew received an invitation from Lutheran World Relief to be one of five congregations who would each commit to giving \$5,000 each for a total of \$25,000 as matching funds. Would you like to be a part of this initiative to respond directly to the people impacted by the wildfires in California? Checks may be written to St. Matthew and earmarked CA. Wildfires. Donations are also received online by going to the website and choosing LWR-Wildfires. Loose offerings will also be used for our California neighbors in need.

## **WINTERFEST**

It was a terrific weekend to talk about the theme “Fingerprints” at the High School Youth Winterfest. We had 15 people in total – 8 high school youth, 5 young adults, and 2 advisors. We looked at how we make our “mark” and show the world Christ’s forgiveness, love, and grace. For a preview of the weekend, check out the display cases by the elevator.



## You Are Welcome in our GriefShare Group.

- Be with other people who are grieving.
- You can say exactly how you feel to others who understand your pain.

Our 13-session GriefShare support group is scheduled to begin **Monday, February 17, 2025 6:30-8 p.m.** St. Matthew in the Upper Room, located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The room can be reached by elevator or stairs from the glass doors on Franklin Street.

To register, call the church office, 717-637-7101. If you have questions, you may email Pastor Faye at [nicksong@comcast.net](mailto:nicksong@comcast.net) or call her at 717-451-0851.

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Name

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Phone Number

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E-mail

### ***SIGN-UP FORM***

Please fill out the pertinent part(s) for you, tear off this page and put in the offering basket or email the church office at [info@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:info@stmattlutheran.org), listing what you are signing up for and the information requested. See Announcements Page for more details.

\_\_\_\_\_ I'd like to receive \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail updates and/or \_\_\_\_\_ newsletter in the mail.  
(Provide name, e-mail, and/or mailing address)

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a member of St. Matthew and below is updated contact information.

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Name

---

Phone Number

---

E-mail

---

Mailing Address



# St. Matthew Lutheran Church

[www.StMattLutheran.org](http://www.StMattLutheran.org)

30 W. Chestnut St. Hanover, PA 17331

717-637-7101

General Mailbox: 221

[info@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:info@stmattlutheran.org)

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Rev. Kathryn Vitalis Hoffman, Lead Pastor, ext 231  
[pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org)

Rev. Alex Sheppard-Witt, Associate Pastor, ext 229  
[pastoralex@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:pastoralex@stmattlutheran.org)

Rev. Faye C. Snyder, Visitation Pastor, ext 225

Benjamin Boellner, Minister of Music, ext 235  
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Deb Smith, Associate Minister of Music, ext 236  
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Tim Peck, Youth Ministry, ext 230  
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Melissa Smith, Children & Family Ministry, ext 232  
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Hannah Chiacchierini, Communications Administrator  
[hannahc@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:hannahc@stmattlutheran.org)

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