

Blessed  
are you

LUKE 6:22





# 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

**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 indoor worship at 8:30 a.m., and Sunday indoor worship at 10:30 a.m. (livestreamed).



Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the “blessed are” and the “woe to” are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.

**Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**  
**February 16, 2025**

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**(8:30) PRELUDE**

*People Need the Lord*  
Madison Maloney, Vocalist

**MacDonald**

**(10:30) PRELUDE**

*Sweet Hour of Prayer*  
Deb Smith, Piano

**Raney**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

**All: Amen.**

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

*Silence 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.**

OPENING HYMN

*Let Justice Flow Like Streams*

ELW#717  
Huber/Williams



- 1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar - kling wa - ter, pure,
- 2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
- 3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,



en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.  
an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.  
and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

**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*

**(10:30)** During the singing of the Hymn of Praise, *Children second grade 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.*

**(10:30) HYMN OF PRAISE**



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,  
in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**All: Amen.**

### ✠ THE WORD ✠

#### THE READING: Jeremiah 17:5-10

*These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.*

Lector: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### Psalm 1 (Read Responsively)

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup>**Their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season,  
with leaves that do not wither;  
everything they do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup> **It is not so with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind<sup>1</sup> blows away.**

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup> **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

### HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26

*After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.*

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

### THE MESSAGE

**Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman**



## Verse 4

Wordsworth, Hintze



4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;  
 grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;  
 that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,  
 and may praise thee, ev - er blest, God in flesh made man - i - fest.

*Please stand as you are able.*

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

*Apostles' Creed*

Assist. Min: 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**

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.)*

**(10:30)** *Children return from Children’s Church.*

**(8:30) MUSICAL OFFERING**

***Here I Am Lord*  
Adult Choir**

**Schutte**

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry.

All who dwell in deepest sin My hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain: Here I am, Lord, is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night,

I will go, Lord, if You lead, I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people’s pain.

I have wept for them, they turn away. I will break their hearts of stone,

Give them hearts for love alone. I will speak My word to them,

Whom shall I send? Refrain.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give My life to them, Whom shall I send? Refrain.

**(10:30) MUSICAL OFFERING** *People Need the Lord*  
**Madison Maloney, Vocalist**

**MacDonald**

**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*

*Please stand as you are able.*

**OFFERTORY**

**ELW184**

**(Next Page)**

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.

## THE 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.**

## ✠ THE MEAL ✠

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

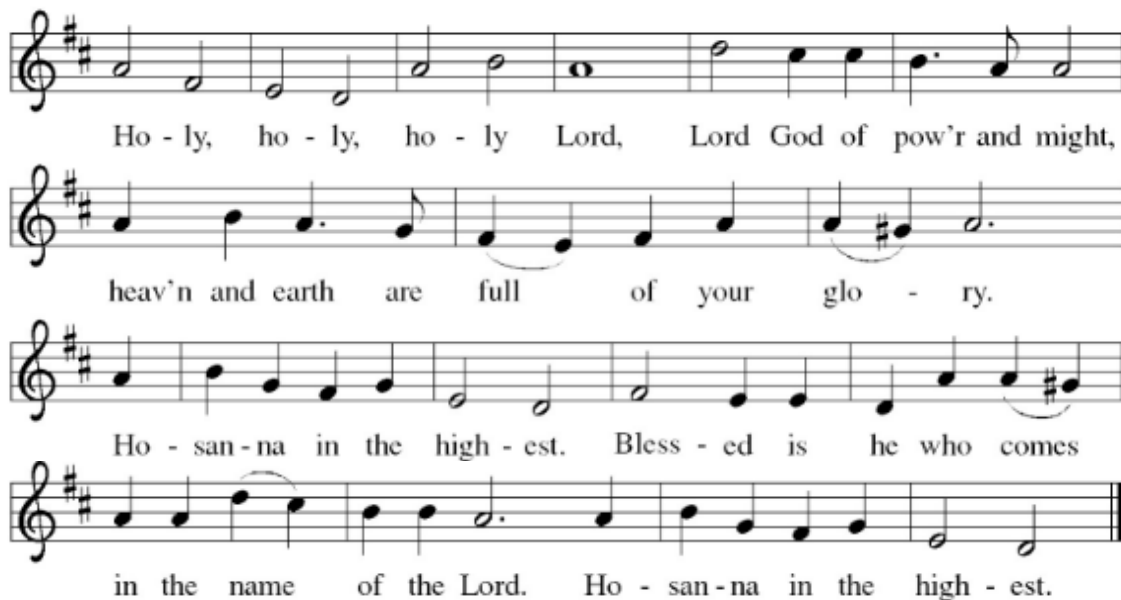
**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**(10:30)** 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 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 (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*)

## 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

*Canticle of the Turning*

ELW#723

Irish Traditional

Lead By:

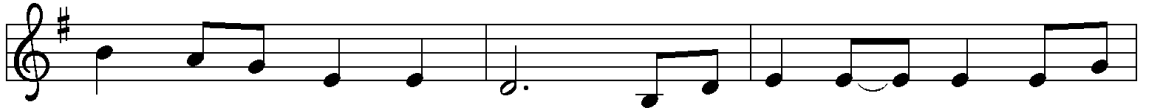
(8:30) Adult Choir

(10:30) Madison Maloney, Vocalist

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1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.  
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the  
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be





name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

*Refrain*



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

*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.**

## 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

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

ELW#705  
Hughes

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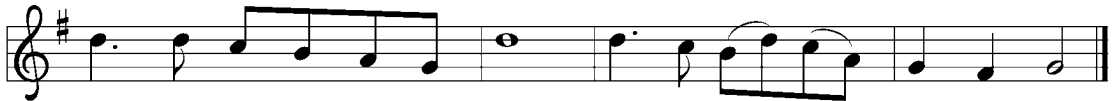
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -  
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;  
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us  
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,  
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.  
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

**DISMISSAL:**

Assist. Min: Go in peace. Live in hope.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho*  
 Deb Smith, Piano

Raney

\* \* \* \* \*

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

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

Musicians .....8:30 Adult Choir, Madison Maloney, Vocalist, Deb Smith  
..... 10:30 Madison Maloney, Vocalist, Deb Smith  
Altar Flower Delivery ..... Doris Deitzel  
Altar Guild ..... Diane Hoffman-Neail, Nancy Oppedal  
Assisting Minister..... 8:30 Diane Hoffman-Neail, 10:30 Phil Covert  
Children’s Church Leader..... Missy Smith  
Communion Assistants .....8:30 Rollie Kunde, Lee Baughman  
..... 10:30 Irvin Sowers Jr, Bobbie Lidard  
Communion Preparers..... 8:30 Janice Peck, Bonnie Williams  
..... 10:30 Diane Hoffman-Neail, Penny Rutters  
Couriers .....8:30 Rollie Kunde, Lee Baughman  
..... 10:30 Irvin Sowers Jr  
Greeters .....8:30 Lance Frederick, Ardis Kunde  
..... 10:30 Meredith Staub, Sara Staub  
Lector ..... 8:30Karen Sowers, 10:30 Tom Shultz  
Live Stream ..... Doug West  
Ushers .....8:30 Team 3 – Darlene Klenk, Terry Badman,  
.....Tyler Klenk, Barb Rupp, Dirk Wildasin  
..... 10:30 Team 4 – Steve Rutters, Tom Cramer, Dennis Koontz,  
..... Chris Raubenstine, Kelli Reed, Penny Rutters  
Welcome Place ..... Shelley Zumbrum

***THE ALTAR FLOWERS*** have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Robert Schriver Jr. by Dorothy Schriver and family.

***THE BULLETINS*** have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Dwayne (Bink) Dubs by the family.

**RECOMMENDED SCRIPTURE READINGS** for the week beginning February 16:

Sunday: Luke 6:17-26

Thursday: Romans 8:1-11

Monday: 1 Corinthians 15:20-34

Friday: 1 John 2:12-17

Tuesday: 2 Corinthians 1:12-19

Saturday: Luke 12:57-59

Wednesday: Luke 11:37-52

**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](mailto:bethk9245@gmail.com) or by calling the church office at 717-637-7101.

**Brad Maloney**

Fred Kauffman

Faye Snyder

**June Hutchison**

Rich Carson

Ardis Family

**Elaine Sheely**

Megan Kim

Laurel Bell

**Suzanne Boellner**

Isaiah Walter

Tom Bell

Robert Mosely

Peggy Warner

Nancy Leister

Dolly Topper

**DEATHS:** Terry Brillhart

**PASTOR FAYE** has had surgery on Wednesday, January 15. We ask that you keep her in your prayers for a full recovery. She 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.

~ **ANNUAL REPORTS** are available at the Hospitality Desk. ~

I would like to thank everyone at St. Matthew — those who were able to join us in Fellowship Hall last Sunday for my "retirement" get together, those who expressed kind words over the years and especially the staff, who allowed me to share in the ministry of this wonderful church. Your generosity, support and encouragement meant more to me than I can ever express. Thank you so very, very much and may God Bless you All.

thank you

~Doug West

A special thank you is in order for several of our congregation members who have been very busy helping to refresh our kitchen in the Fellowship Hall. Those helpful folks are Janice Peck, Ardis Kunde, Ella Hostetter, Amy Beck, Lee and Nadine Baughman and our Building Administrator, Dave Brodbeck. Please thank them if you get an opportunity. We will keep you updated as work is done for a thorough cleaning and refreshing.

~Barb Rupp, Council President



## GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP MEETING

There will be a meeting this Sunday, February 16, after the 8:30 service (about 9:40) in Fellowship Hall for those already signed up and/or interested in joining us in October 2025 as we travel to Guatemala to visit the Hogar Miquel Magone Orphanage and attend Graduation at Hope Academy. Come meet fellow travelers, discuss the trip and costs and have all your questions answered. If you **might** be interested but aren't sure yet, come to the meeting to find out what it's all about. Contact Bobbie Lidard, 717 634-7362 or [bclidard@comcast.net](mailto:bclidard@comcast.net) with any questions.

## ***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 using the QR code or 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.**







**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* 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*, 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.

---

Name

---

Phone Number

---

E-mail

---

Mailing Address



**St. Matthew Lutheran Church**  
www.StMattLutheran.org  
30 W. Chestnut St. Hanover, PA 17331  
717-637-7101  
General Mailbox: 221  
info@stmattlutheran.org

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Rev. Kathryn Vitalis Hoffman, Lead Pastor, ext 231  
pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org

Rev. Alex Sheppard-Witt, Associate Pastor, ext 229  
pastoralex@stmattlutheran.org

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

Benjamin Boellner, Minister of Music, ext 235  
bboellner@stmattlutheran.org

Deb Smith, Associate Minister of Music, ext 236  
dsmith@stmattlutheran.org

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

Melissa Smith, Children & Family Ministry, ext 232  
msmith@stmattlutheran.org

Hannah Chiacchierini, Communications Administrator, ext 222  
hannahc@stmattlutheran.org

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**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 17:5-10**

Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals  
and make mere flesh their strength,  
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>They shall be like a shrub in the desert,  
and shall not see when relief comes.  
They shall live in the parched places of the  
wilderness,  
in an uninhabited salt land.

<sup>7</sup>Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,  
whose trust is the LORD.

<sup>8</sup>They shall be like a tree planted by water,  
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,  
and its leaves shall stay green;  
in the year of drought it is not anxious,  
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

<sup>9</sup>The heart is devious above all else;  
it is perverse—  
who can understand it?

<sup>10</sup>I the LORD test the mind  
and search the heart,  
to give to all according to their ways,  
according to the fruit of their doings.

**Psalm 1****SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:  
12-20**

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup>If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; <sup>14</sup>and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. <sup>15</sup>We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.

<sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. <sup>17</sup>If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

<sup>18</sup>Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup>If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

**GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26**

[Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>18</sup>They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. <sup>19</sup>And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

<sup>20</sup>Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.

<sup>21</sup>“Blessed are you who are hungry now,  
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup>“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup>Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

<sup>24</sup>“But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have received your consolation.

<sup>25</sup>“Woe to you who are full now,  
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,  
for you will mourn and weep.

<sup>26</sup>“Woe to you when all speak well of you,  
for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

Next Sunday's Readings: Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38.

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