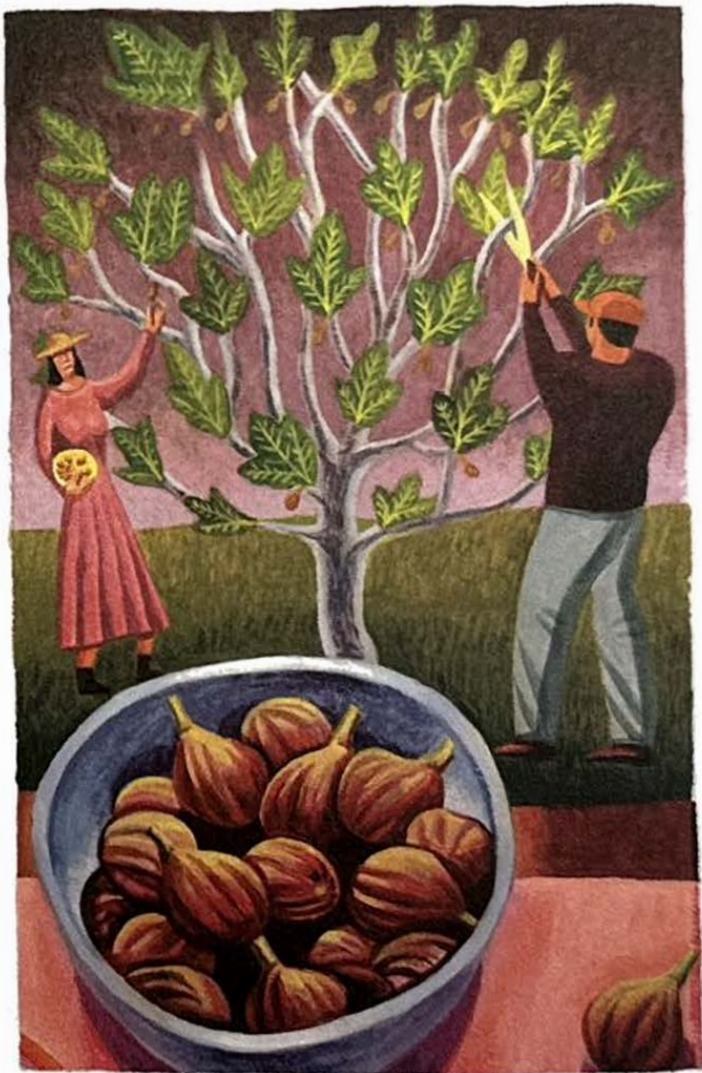


I have come looking for fruit

LUKE 13:7





# St. Matthew

## 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 any needs, please let a name-tagged usher know. We hope that you experience God's love during worship today.

### **Our Purpose:**

Welcoming all as we share God's love.

### **Our Core Values:**

**Embracing** one another as God created us

**Celebrating** together in worship

**Deepening** our faith in Jesus

**Engaging** children and youth

**Walking** with our neighbors

### **Our Goals:**

**Enliven** faith through worship and learning

**Cultivate** shared leadership as disciples of Jesus

**Connect** with children, youth, and families

**Bridge the gaps** with home-insecure neighbors

**Build** authentic relationships across difference

**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).



*The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!*

**Third Sunday in Lent**  
**March 23, 10:30 a.m., 2025**

*All We Need.* ©2025 Barn Geese Worship. Used by permission.

Adapted for St. Matthew by Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt and Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman.

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**PRELUDE**

*Just As I Am, I Come*  
**Tasha Bobb, Soloist**

**arr. McDonald**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: People of God, what do you need today?

**All: We need God's help.**

Pastor: Then come, let us worship God,

**All: whose hands hold us up,  
who nurtures our growth,  
who walks with us through every trial  
and gives us the strength we need.**

Pastor: We gather in the name of our ✝ Triune God,  
our Help,  
our Rock,  
and our Advocate.

**All: Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Pastor: Trusting in our God, who knows our hearts and who provides  
our need for grace and mercy, we confess our sins.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

Gracious God,

**All: have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we have turned from you  
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**In your compassion, forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown, things we have done,  
and things we have failed to do.**

**Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,  
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: God who is rich in mercy, loved us even when  
we were dead in sin, and made us alive  
together with Christ. By grace you have been saved,  
In the name of Jesus Christ †, your sins are forgiven  
and you are entirely loved.

**All: Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN**

***What a Friend We Have in Jesus***

**ELW#742**

**Scriven/Converse**

**(Next Page)**



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?  
 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—  
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - row share?  
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

**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*

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

**Zaccheus**  
**Children's and Junior Choirs**

**arr. Wright**

**May the Words of My Mouth**  
**Junior Choir**

**Martin/Nix**



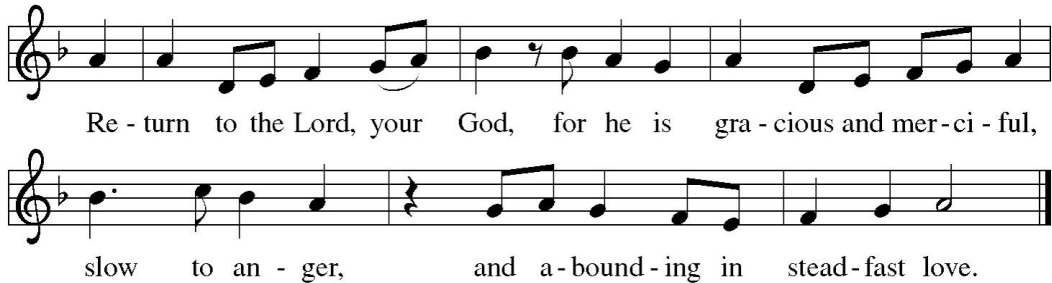
- <sup>3</sup> For your steadfast love is better than life itself;  
my lips shall give you praise.
- <sup>4</sup> **So will I bless you as long as I live  
and lift up my hands in your name.**
- <sup>5</sup> My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
- <sup>6</sup> **when I remember you upon my bed,  
and meditate on you in the night watches.**
- <sup>7</sup> For you have been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- <sup>8</sup> **My whole being clings to you;  
your right hand holds me fast.**

Lector: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,  
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

### HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

*Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.*

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

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



*Please be seated.*

## THE MESSAGE

Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

### *Apostles' Creed*

Leader: 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

Leader: Each petition concludes, *"God, in your mercy,"* and the congregation responds, *"receive 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.)*

*Children return from Children's Church.*

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

***Lenten Carol***  
**Adult Choir**

**Schwartz**

As my Savior died in grief, I heard his mother say,  
"Take away the pain I see, and let my Jesus lay,  
This my Jesus, this my Son, no more his face to see."  
These were words that Mary spoke that day on Calvary.  
From the darkness of the cross, a vision of his grace  
Brought the light for all to see upon his holy face.  
In God's love he dies for us that we may ever be  
In his ways and in his life, God's son has set us free.

**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

*Lenten Offertory*

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you glad - ly  
free - ly of Your own. With the sun - shine of Your  
good - ness melt our thank - less hearts of stone. Till our  
cold and self - fish na - tures, warmed by You at  
length be - lieve that more hap - py and more  
bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.

## THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Leader: As we make our offerings, we pray:

**All: God, you gave us what we needed today.**

**Now we offer a portion of these gifts,**

**A harvest of the love you planted.**

**Now bless our gifts and use them in your service.**

**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.**

Pastor: It is not only right, but even needful  
for us to thank you, God,  
for the cosmos overflows with your goodness.  
You open your hand to satisfy the needs  
of everything that you have made,  
and all of creation sings its thankful praise.  
And so we join the echoing song.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, followed by a double bar line. After the bar line, it continues with quarter notes: D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F#6, G6, A6, B6, C7. The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes: D7, E7, F#7, G7, A7, B7, C8, D8, E8, F#8, G8, A8, B8, C9. The lyrics are written below the notes: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -".

san - na in the high - est. Blessed 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 MUSICAL OFFERING**

**Fairest Lord Jesus**  
**Junior Handbells**

**arr. Ingram**

COMMUNION HYMN

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

ELW#773  
Dorsey/Allen



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,  
2 When my way grows . . drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,  
3 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws . . near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
when my life is . . . al - most . . gone,  
and the day is . . . past and . . . gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.  
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.  
at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.

Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

*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

Leader: Let us pray,  
O Jesus, you have fed us  
with the bread that has no price  
the precious gift of your own self.  
By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## ✠ SENDING ✠

## BLESSING

Pastor: Now may God,  
who is our refuge and our safety,  
who is our help and our stay,  
who is our advocate and our defender,  
bless you and sustain you.  
Today God has answered your need,  
and now the Spirit sends you out

**All: Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*Lead Me, Guide Me*

**ELW#768  
Akers**

**(Next Page)**



*Refrain*

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;  
 for if you lead me, I can - not stray.  
 Lord, let me walk each day with thee.

1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r  
 2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,  
 3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,

to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.  
 be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.  
 I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.

Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.  
 I am put - ting all . . . my trust in thee.  
 Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

*Refrain*

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

**DISMISSAL:**

Leader: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**

*Fugue in G Minor*

Bach

\* \* \* \* \*

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 ..... Tasha Bobb, Soloist; Adult Choir, Children’s Choir, Junior Choir
- Altar Flower Delivery ..... Doris Deitzel
- Altar Guild ..... Doris Deitzel, Anna Marchio
- Assisting Minister..... Phil Covert
- Children’s Church Leader..... Missy Smith
- Communion Assistants ..... Randy Kline, Ellen Shenk
- Communion Preparers..... Deb Anker, Eva Hobbs
- Couriers ..... Randy Kline, Ellen Shenk
- Greeters ..... Bob & Kit Curlen
- Lector ..... Melissa Crabbs
- Live Stream ..... Jodi Ruhlman
- Ushers ..... Team 6 – Jim Menges, Kim Beard, Carolyn Markle,  
..... Debby Seibert, Sally Staub
- Welcome Place ..... Barb Hoffman

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Catherine Phillips by Gary and Jean Mummert and family; in loving memory of Nina Clark by her daughter Sharon Bollinger.

**THE BULLETINS** have been given to the Glory of God.

**RECOMMENDED SCRIPTURE READINGS** for the week beginning March 23:

- Sunday: Luke 13:1-9
- Monday: Romans 2:1-11
- Tuesday: Romans 2:12-16
- Wednesday: Luke 13:18-21
- Thursday: 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:5
- Friday: 2 Corinthians 5:6-15
- Saturday: Luke 15:1-10

**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.

**Bert Elsner**

**Conner Thompson**

Chuck Ehrman

Allison Luckenbaugh

Dan Weigle

Mike Cromer

Mary Jane Legore

Joe Markle

Lucas Cherry

Nancy Leister

**DEATHS:** Donna Burrs (Debbie Riddle's sister)

## ***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

**EASTER GARDEN:** Members and friends who wish to honor or memorialize a loved one by donating to the Easter Garden are asked to complete and return the form below with **\$10** per listing to the church office by **Monday, March 31. After the 10:30 service on Easter Sunday**, those who have paid for honorariums or memorials for the garden can take a flower for themselves or to give to someone. If you are unable to be here after the 10:30 service, you can stop in Tuesday thru Thursday of Easter week, between 9:00 and 1:00 p.m. to pick up a flower.

After the cost of the plants is met, the balance of the memorials/honorariums will be sent to the local Tender Care.

I would like to sponsor an Easter flower in the church:

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_ In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) being honored or memorialized (Please print clearly):

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Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope Number \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Given \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please include \$10 per listing. Make checks payable to **St. Matthew Lutheran Church** with "Easter Garden" in the memo line. Deadline is **March 31**.



## Transitioning Online Giving Providers

Last weekend, we announced that we are switching our online giving provider. Our mission is to better steward every gift contributed to our church, and that's why, as of this week, we're beginning to use Breeze as our new online and text-giving platform, replacing Vanco. We truly appreciate that many of you took advantage of Vanco, either through one-time or recurring gifts, and we're excited to transition over to Breeze for future online and text donations.

A lot of thought went into switching giving providers, and ultimately, because of all the benefits that come with using Breeze, we decided it was the right move for us. First, we recently **began using** Breeze as our church management system, and online and text giving is built-in. This means we don't have to pay a monthly fee for giving software and we can put that money back into the church. Plus, it helps us consolidate tools and manage all gifts in one secure system making daily admin tasks much easier.

Thank you to all who have made the switch! Here's how to get started:

For **One-Time Gifts**: If you would like to give a one-time gift, simply give using Breeze instead of Vanco by going to <https://stmatthewlutheranchurch.breezechms.com/give/online> following the instructions on the page. You can also access this webpage by going to our website, [www.stmatlutheran.org](http://www.stmatlutheran.org), click **ONLINE Giving** in the center of the page, and click on the https link. It takes you directly to the giving page.

(More Information on Next Page)

Or, **text the amount** you'd like to donate (example: 50) to **(717) 613-6204** and follow the prompts for a one-time set up. In the future, you'll simply be able to text the gift amount to our giving number and hit send! To text a donation to a specific fund, text the amount and then (example \$25 PM):

**PM** – Parish Ministry

**WM** – World Mission

**SN** – Special Needs

**FCI** – Future Capital Improvements

**PCK** – Personal Care Kits

Next Steps for **Recurring Givers**: **First cancel your recurring giving through Vanco.**

- Then, go to  
<https://stmattlutheranchurch.breezechms.com/give/online>
- Enter the amount you'd like to give
- Click the dropdown that shows the words "one time gift" and select a different frequency from the menu (weekly, every two weeks, monthly, yearly)
- Select your Payment Method and click "Continue"
- Now, enter your Contact and Payment Information and choose if you would like to cover the processing fees
- Click the "Give \$" button

If you have questions as you go through any of these processes, please do not hesitate to reach out. Colleen Dubs, our Financial Secretary is usually in the office on Monday and Thursday mornings. If you leave a message with the office staff, she can return your call. Or you can reach her at [cdubs@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:cdubs@stmattlutheran.org). I also can answer some questions regarding Breeze and you can reach me in the office, 717-637-7101, ext. 226 or at [info@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:info@stmattlutheran.org).

**We truly appreciate your help as we make this transition. It is through your generous gifts that we're able to make a real impact in our community when people need it most. We're so grateful for your continued support which allows St. Matthew Lutheran Church to be faithful to our mission.**

## **PERSONAL CARE KITS PROJECT**

***When you leave home for church, don't forget your coat, car keys, wallet and towel for the PCKs!***



The Women of the ELCA and the Intergenerational Faith Connections will be collecting items to assemble **Personal Care Kits** for Lutheran World Relief. People who must flee their homes quickly due to disasters or safety often don't have time to pack essential items. Personal Care Kits help those in need maintain personal

hygiene while living away from their homes. The Kits also contribute to a new start for those who can't return home. LWR is expanding to reach our neighbors in need in the United States, as well as world-wide as they have before. That means that kits will now comfort families here in the U.S. and abroad!

### **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, the Gathering Place, or the church office. Monetary donations may be made to be used to purchase bulk items (checks should be made payable to *St. Matthew Lutheran Church* with "Care Kits" in the memo line). \$10 will cover the cost of the items and help with shipping costs. The Women of the ELCA and the Intergenerational Faith Connections are combining their efforts for this event. The packing of the kits will take place on **Sunday, May 18, in Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m.** during Faith Connections.

**Can St. Matthew meet the goal? 1,000 kits!  
Together, we can do anything...**



**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  
nicksong@comcast.net

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

### Connect With Us!



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www.StMattLutheran.org



Scan for  
E-Giving

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9**

Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
 come to the waters;  
 and you that have no money,  
 come, buy and eat!  
 Come, buy wine and milk  
 without money and without price.  
<sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is  
 not bread,  
 and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
 Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
 and delight yourselves in rich food.  
<sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me;  
 listen, so that you may live.  
 I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
 my steadfast, sure love for David.  
<sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
 a leader and commander for the peoples.  
<sup>5</sup>See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
 and nations that do not know you shall run  
 to you,  
 because of the LORD your God, the Holy One  
 of Israel,  
 for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
 call upon him while he is near;  
<sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake their way,  
 and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
 let them return to the LORD, that he may have  
 mercy on them,  
 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
 nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.  
<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
 so are my ways higher than your ways  
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.

**Psalms 63:1-8****SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,  
 that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all  
 passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into  
 Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the

same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual  
 drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that fol-  
 lowed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless,  
 God was not pleased with most of them, and they  
 were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things occurred as examples for us,  
 so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not  
 become idolaters as some of them did; as it is writ-  
 ten, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and  
 they rose up to play." <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual  
 immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three  
 thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ  
 to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed  
 by serpents. <sup>10</sup>And do not complain as some of them  
 did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup>These  
 things happened to them to serve as an example,  
 and they were written down to instruct us, on whom  
 the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup>So if you think you  
 are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup>No  
 testing has overtaken you that is not common to ev-  
 eryone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be  
 tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he  
 will also provide the way out so that you may be able  
 to endure it.

**GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9**

At that very time there were some present who told  
 him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had  
 mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>[Jesus] asked them,  
 "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered  
 in this way they were worse sinners than all other  
 Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you  
 will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who  
 were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—  
 do you think that they were worse offenders than all  
 the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but un-  
 less you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree  
 planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for  
 fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gar-  
 dener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking  
 for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut  
 it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' <sup>8</sup>He re-  
 plied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig  
 around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next  
 year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32.

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