Easter Sunday



April 20, 2025

St. Matthew Lutheran Church



St. Matthew LUTHERAN CHURCH

Where the welcome is wide and the love is real.

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 nametagged 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).



Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!

The Resurrection of Our Lord

Order of Worship 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise (Christ the Lord is Risen Today) Adult Handbells arr. Edwards

WELCOME

Please stand as you are able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

All: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good; God's mercy endures

forever.

All: Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endured forever"

Pastor: I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have

become my salvation.

All: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief

cornerstone.

Pastor: By the Lord has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.

All: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad

in it.

Please turn and face the cross at the back of the church. During the processional, continue to face the cross.





- 1 Christ is ris-en! Al le lu ia! Ris en our vic to rious head!
- 2 Christ is ris-en! All the sad-ness of our Lent-en fast is o'er;
- 3 Christ is ris-en! All the sor-row that last eve-ning round him lay
- 4 Christ is ris-en! Hence-forth nev-er death or hell shall us en thrall.



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead! through the o - pen gates of glad-ness he re-turns to life once more; now has found a glo-rious mor-row in the ris - ing of to - day. We are Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have tri-umphed o - ver all.



Grate-ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears; death and hell be - fore him bend-ing see him rise, the vic - tor now, See the grave its first-fruits giv - ing, spring-ing up from ho - ly ground; All the doubt-ing and de - jec - tion of our trem-bling hearts have ceased;



bow - ing down in joy be-fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears. an - gels on his steps at-tend-ing, glo - ry round his wound-ed brow. Christ was dead, but now is liv-ing; he was lost, but he is found. hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

Refrain

Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to-rious head!



Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

EASTER PROCLAMATION

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Please be seated.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Rise and Sing
Adult Choir

McDonald/Nordmeyer

Dawn breaks with golden rays. Rise and sing a joyful song!
Hope wakes the earth with praise. Rise and sing a joyful song!
Come, celebrate the day; old things have passed away.
God's grace is on display. Rise and sing a joyful song!
This is a time for dreams. Rise and sing a joyful song.
Share truth and noble themes. Rise and sing a joyful song.
Let us resolve to share Christ's good news ev'rywhere.
This is our fervent prayer: rise and sing a joyful song!
People of light and love, rise and sing a joyful song!
Join with the saints above, rise and sing a joyful song!
With all the world rejoice; lift high a grateful voice.
Come make a glorious noise, rise and sing a joyful song! Arise!

(10:30) 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 the Easter story and spend some time exploring their faith and creativity together.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives

and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

FIRST READING Acts 10:34-43 Peter crosses the immense religious and social boundary that separates Jews from Gentiles in order to proclaim the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, so that God's forgiveness in Jesus' name would reach out to all people.

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Pastor: The holy gospel according to Luke, the 24th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 24:1-12 Evidently expecting to find Jesus' corpse, some of the women among his followers go to the tomb with embalming spices. After a perplexing encounter with the empty tomb and angelic visitors, the women become the first to proclaim the amazing news of resurrection.

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord.

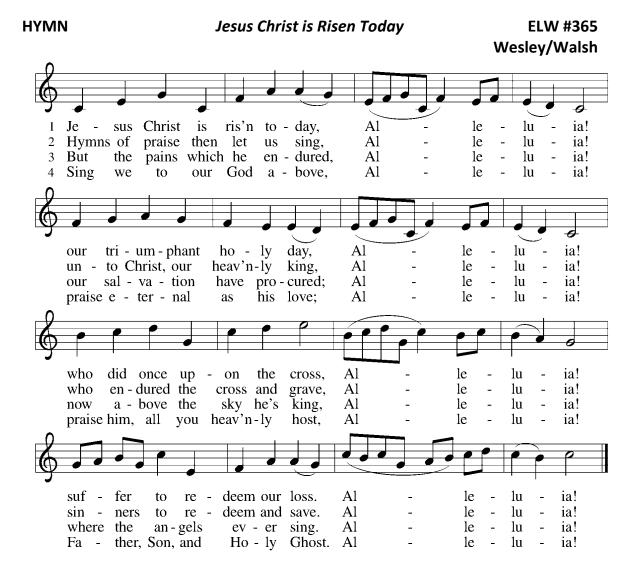
All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

EASTER MESSAGE

Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman

Please stand as you are able.



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

Pastor: 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.

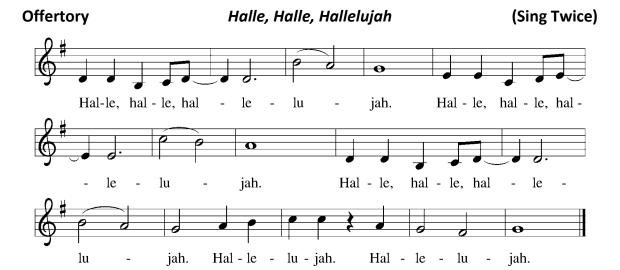
(The congregation is invited to greet one another with the words "Peace be with you," and gestures respecting personal space and comfort levels.)

Please be seated.

(10:30) Children return from Children's Church.

Thine is the glory, risen, conq'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry
Thou o'er death has won. Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes where Thy body lay.
Now let the heav'ns be joyful! Let earth her song begin!
The world resound in triumph, and all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen, their notes of gladness blend;
For Christ the Lord is risen, our joy that has no end.
Alleluia, hearts to heav'n and voices raise; sing to God a hymn of gladness,
Sing to God a hymn of praise. He who on the cross as Savior
For the world's salvation bled, Jesus Christ, the King of glory,
now is risen from the dead. Now the iron bars are broken,
Christ from death to life is born; glorious life, and life immortal,
On this resurrection morn. Christ has triumphed, and we conquer
By His mighty enterprise; we with Him to life eternal By His resurrection rise!
Alleluia! Amen!

GENEROSITY MOMENT WITH ANNOUNCEMENTS 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, or through our text-to-give program. More information on online and text giving on pg. 23. **Thank you for sharing** your spiritual gifts with our church, local, and global communities.



OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor: Risen One,

All: you have gathered us around your table of grace

along with these gifts we bring.

Come among us again,

breathe your life into us,

and enliven us with this meal,

that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.

THE MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

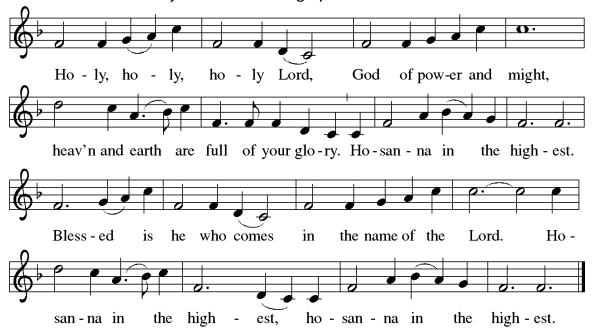
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

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 indeed right, our duty and our joy......we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER WITH WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

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)

COMMUNION ANTHEM Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee Men's Choir

arr. Stamegna

Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love; Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, op'ning to the sun above. Jesus Christ is ris'n today. Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia! Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away; Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.



The Day of Resurrection!

ELW #361 Ellacombe



- 1 The day of res ur rec tion! Earth, tell it out a broad,
- 2 Let hearts be purged of e vil that we may see a right
- Now let the heav'ns be joy ful, let earth its song be gin,
- 4 All praise to God the Fa ther, all praise to Christ the Son,



glad - ness, the of the pass - o ver pass - o - ver of God. Lord in res - ur - rec - tion light, the rays e ter - nal of the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in. ter - nal Three in One! praise to Spir - it, God the e -

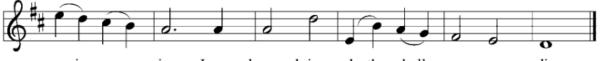


From death to life nal, from e - ter lis - t'ning to his ac cents, may and un - seen, their all things, seen and Let ran-somed num - ber fall Let the all

sin's do - min - ion free, hear, so calm and plain, notes of glad - ness blend; down be - fore the throne,



Christ has brought us 0 ver with hymns of vic - to - ry. our own "All hail!" and glad re - frain. his hear - ing, may raise the Christ the Lord has ris joy that has no end! for en, our hon - or, pow'r, and glo and as - cribe to God a - lone! ry



ring. Love, drowned in die. prais - es death, shall nev - er now, touch - ing place and here and and ev -'ry time. loves the more, and lives, where ven hope has died. e re - vealed in life. the truth. Je freed for all. sus. ring with joy, with jus tice. love, and praise. 0 cean

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

Pastor: Living One,

in this feast you have made yourself known to us.

Send us now to tell of your wonders,

sing of your glory,

and proclaim your risen life

to a wounded and weary world.

All: Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: The God of resurrection power,

the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope → bless you now and always.

All: Amen.

(During the recessional, please turn to face the cross as it passes your pew.)





vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! greets thee, scat-ters fear and gloom; out thee; aid us in our strife; An - gels in bright rai - ment let his church with glad - ness make us more than con - qu'rors,



rolled the stone a - way, hymns of tri - umph sing, through thy death - less love; kept the fold - ed grave - clothes for the Lord now liv - eth; bring us safe through Jor - dan



where thy bod - y lay.
death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring
to thy home a - bove.



DISMISSAL

Pastor: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

* * * * * * * * * * *

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:	
	Deb Smith, piano; Tim Braband, organ; Adult Handbells;Adult Choir; Men's' Choir
Altar Guild	Penny Rutters, Bonnie Williams
Communion Assistants	8:30 Sally Staub, John Mancini
	10:30 Bobbie Lidard, Charley Lidard
Communion Preparers	8:30 Erika Kovacevic, Kelli Reed
	10:30 Mike & Mary Jones
Couriers	
Greeters	8:30 Ken & Gloria Koontz
	10:30 John & Barb Frederick
Lectors	8:30 Penny Rutter, 10:30 Aaron
Live Stream (10:30)	Jody Ruhlman
	8:30 Team 3: Darlene Klenk, Henry Miller, Tyler Klenk, Barb Rupp, Dirk Wildasin
	10:30 Team 9: Tim Peck, Hunter, Tyler, Elijah,
	William, Aaron, Addyson, Landen

We welcome Tim Braband as our guest organist today.

Tim is Minister of Music Emeritus at St. James Lutheran Church in Gettysburg following a tenure of 45 years.

THE EASTER GARDEN LISTING is available on the Hospitality Desk in the Gathering Place and also from an usher. Thank you to everyone who sponsored flowers. After the cost of the flowers is met, the remainder of the monies will be sent to the local Tender Care.



An **EASTER BREAKFAST** of egg bakes and assorted rolls and breads will be available after the 8:30 service, from approximately 9:30 to 10:20 in Fellowship Hall. There will be no Faith Connections.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Robert J. Cover who entered into God's care on April 21 by his loving family; in loving memory of Joseph and Thelma Cookson by Ron and JoAnn Smith; in honor of Rhonda Smith Gehman by Ron and JoAnn Smith; in loving memory of Ralph E. Heusner and Mrs. Helen Heusner Schaeffer; in loving memory of Jeffrey Greenholt by Judy, Keith, Julie, Kyle and Maryann Greenholt and families; in loving memory of the George Sunday family which includes Mrs. Jeannie Sunday, Ruth Feiser, Mrs. Ida Sunday Hull, Mrs. A. Laura S. Hersh, Charles and George Sunday; also A. Canton and Jennie Ruth Feiser and their children Elton Sunday Ruth and Helen L. Ruth; in loving memory of Chester and Elizabeth Hoke by their children and grandchildren; in loving memory of Carlynn Neiderer by her loving husband John Neiderer; in loving memory of Helen Hartman by Danni, Randy, Emily and Beth.

THE BULLETINS are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Robert J. Cover who entered into God's care on April 21 by his loving family; in loving memory of Colleen Reed by David, Kelli and Adam Reed; in honor of Rhonda Smith Gehman by Ron and JoAnn Smith; in loving memory of Ralph E. Heusner and Mrs. Helen Heusner Schaeffer; in loving memory of Jeffrey Greenholt by Judy, Keith, Julie, Kyle and Maryann Greenholt and families; in loving memory of Chester and Elizabeth Hoke by their children and grandchildren.

RECOMMENDED SCRIPTURE READINGS for the week beginning April 20:

Sunday: Luke 24:1-12 Thursday: Acts 5:12-16 Monday: 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8 Friday: Acts 5:17-26

Tuesday: Revelation 12:1-12 Saturday: Luke 24:36-40

Wednesday: Luke 24:1-12

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.

Arie Rayn Furr Harriet Wensel Conner Thompson
Diane Edris Ethan Conner Chuck Ehrman
Francine Harris Shirley Moncrief Lucas Cherry
Bobby Porter Bert Elsner Nancy Leister

"For me? Oh I love it! So beautiful and soft. Thank you so much!" As visitation pastor, I have been blessed to present beautifully-crafted prayer shawls to our sick and home-bound members, and to see the joy on their faces as they wrap themselves in it. If you like to knit or crochet, (or if you want to learn) you can bring warmth, comfort, and healing to those who need it most. Email Pastor Faye at nicksong@comcast.net or call the church office (717-637-7101) with your name and phone number.

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

PERSONAL CARE KITS PROJECT Please Help Support the PCK Project



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...

Transitioning Online Giving Providers

Thank you to everyone who has made the switch to Breeze! We truly appreciate the quick response and hope it has been a positive experience. If you haven't tried Breeze yet, for **One-Time Gifts**, go

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.stmattlutheran.org, click ONLINE Giving in the center of the page, and click on the https link. It takes you directly to the giving 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



Scan to Give

If you have questions, 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. 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.

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.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

www.StMattLutheran.org 30 W. Chestnut St. Hanover, PA 17331 717-637-7101

> General Mailbox: 221 info@stmattlutheran.org

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

Deb Smith, Interim 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 hannahc@stmattlutheran.org









Scan for E-Giving