

A watercolor illustration of Jesus with a long brown beard and hair, wearing a red sash over a yellow tunic. He is holding a small, light-colored lamb against his chest. The background is a soft, textured wash of blue and green. The entire illustration is framed by a white border with a dark blue vertical strip on the left side.

*My sheep  
hear my  
voice*

JOHN 10:27



# 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 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).

**YOU** belong  
**HERE!**

*The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those “who have come out of the great ordeal” in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**10:30 a.m., May 11, 2025**

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**PRELUDE**

*The Gift of Love*  
**Charlotte, Vocalist**

**Hopson**

**WELCOME**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**APOSTOLIC GREETING & GREET ONE ANOTHER**

Pastor: The peace 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.**

*(The congregation is invited to greet one another and for introductions use gestures respecting personal space and comfort levels.)*

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**All: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity ☩ one God,  
our light and our salvation.

**All: Amen.**

Pastor: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism we give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**All: We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.**

Pastor: Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

**All: At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as your children, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.**

Pastor: We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

**All: Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

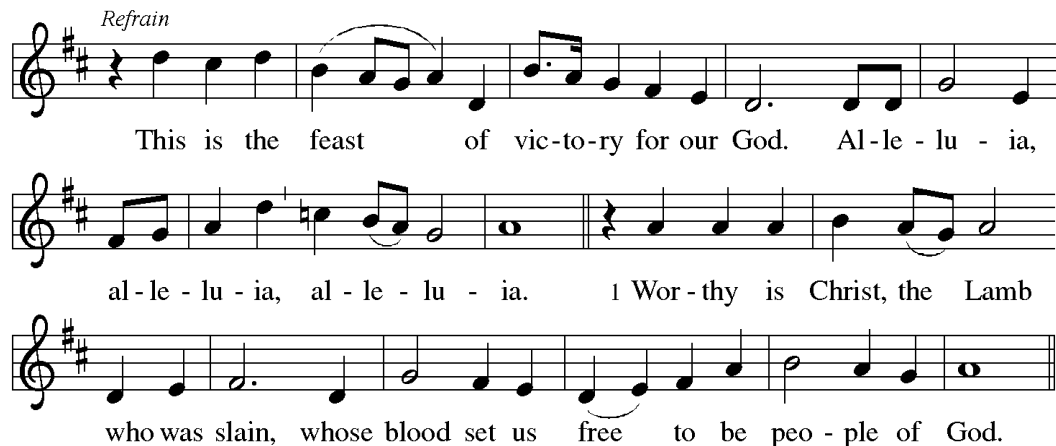
Pastor: To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

*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 Musical Offering.*

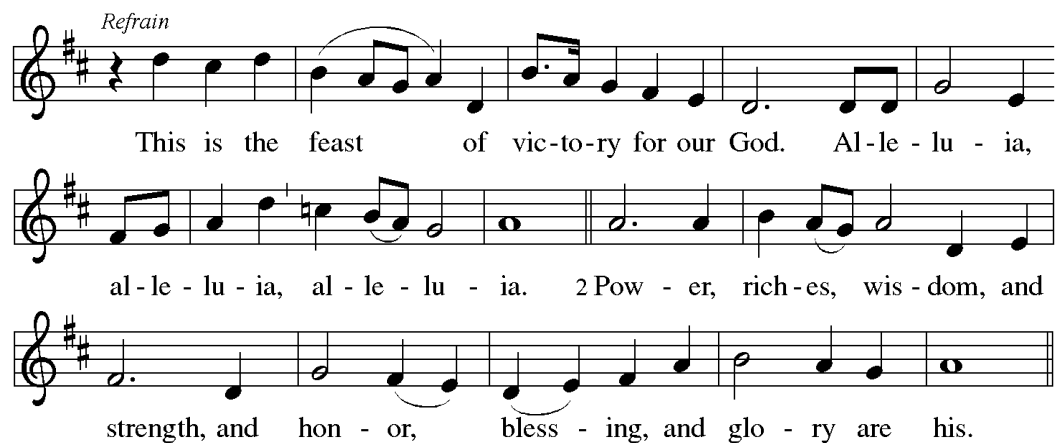
## HYMN OF PRAISE

*Refrain*



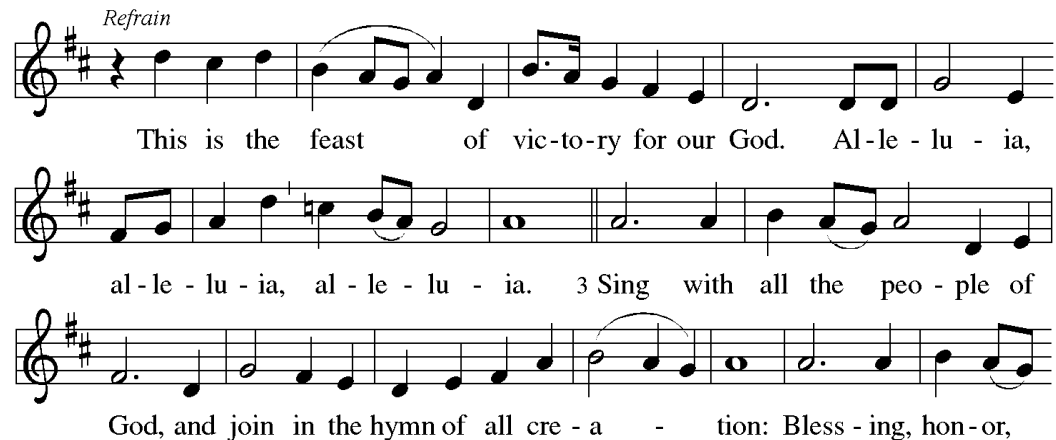
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb  
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and  
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of  
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

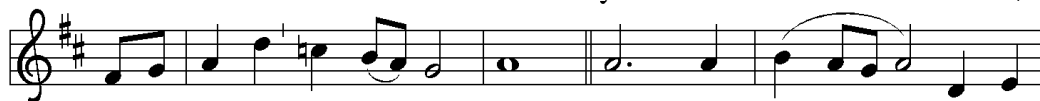


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## ✠ THE WORD ✠

### THE READING: Acts 9:36-43

*Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing were well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.*

Lector: Word of God, Word of Life.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 23 *(Read Responsively)*

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup> **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

*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. Al - le - lu - ia.



Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

**HOLY GOSPEL: John 10:22-30**

*Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.*

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

**Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

***The King of Love My Shepherd Is***  
**(Verses 1, 2, 4, and 6)**

**ELW#502**

**Baker**

**(Next Page)**



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness  
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed  
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant  
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der  
Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.  
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;      6 And so, through all the length of days,  
thine unction grace bestoweth;      thy goodness faileth never.  
and, oh, what transport of delight      Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
from thy pure chalice floweth!      within thy house forever.

## 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, “*Hear us, O God,*” and the congregation responds, “*your mercy is great.*”

*Please be seated.*

## MUSICAL OFFERING

*Galilean Waters*  
Dan Deitzel III, Organist

Riggs

## 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 at 717-613-6204. **Thank you for sharing** your spiritual gifts with our church, local, and global communities.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## OFFERTORY



2 Faith of our moth - ers, dar - ing faith, your work for Christ is  
love re - vealed, spread - ing God's word from pole to pole,  
mak - ing love known and free - dom real. Faith of our moth - ers,  
ho - ly faith, we will be true to you till death.

*Refrain*

## THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Leader: 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.**

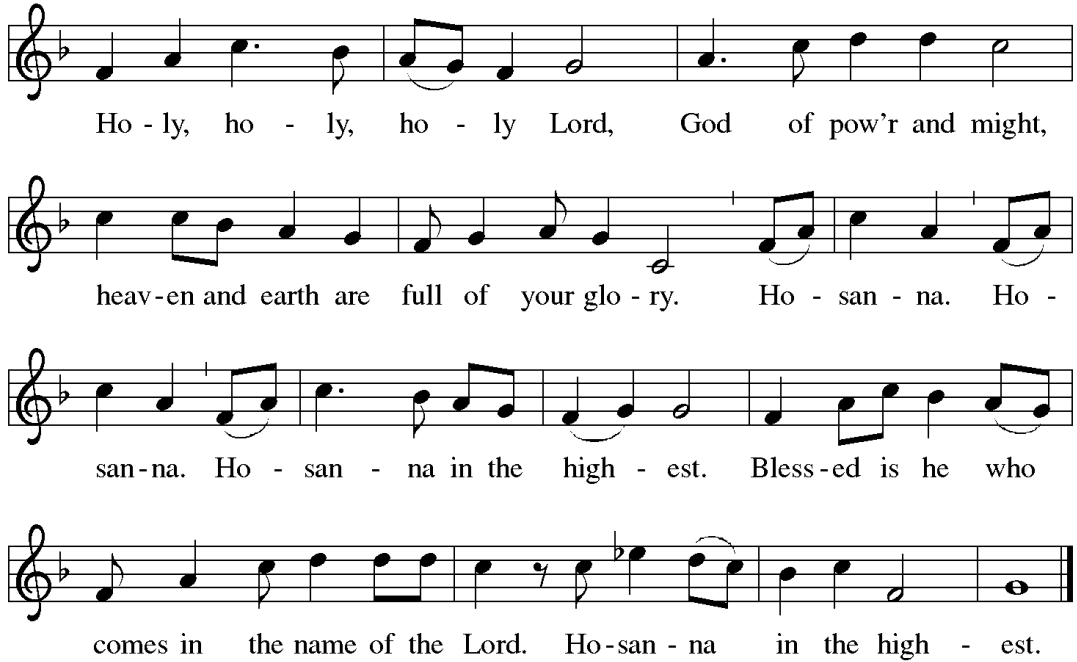
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**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, that we should at all times and in all places... we praise your name and join in their unending hymn.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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.

## 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.

## COMMUNION HYMN

### *Blessed Assurance*

ELW#638  
Crosby/Knapp

(Next Page)



1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!  
2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;  
3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.  
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

*Refrain*



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

*Please stand as you are able.*

### **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you  
and keep you in his grace.

**All: Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Leader: Living One,  
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.  
Send us now to tell of your wonders,  
singing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life  
to a wounded and weary world.

**All: Amen.**



✠ **SENDING** ✠

**BLESSING**

Pastor: The triune God,  
who was, who is, and who is to come,  
Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit,  
light your way with resurrection dawn,  
now and always.

**All: Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

**ELW#631  
Wesley/Prichard**

**(Next Page)**



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

**DISMISSAL:**

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**All: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Leader: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Postlude on Madrid*  
Dan Deitzel III, Organist

\* \* \* \* \*

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 .....Charlotte, vocalist; Dan Deitzel, organist
- Altar Flower Delivery ..... Doris Deitzel
- Altar Guild ..... Deb Anker, Judy Porowski
- Assisting Minister..... Hailey
- Children’s Church Leader..... Missy Smith
- Communion Assistants ..... Sue and Phil Covert
- Communion Preparers..... Nancy Oppedal, Debby Seibert
- Couriers ..... Sue Covert, Randy Kline
- Greeters ..... Lexi, Doris Sterner
- Lector ..... Tom Shultz
- Live Stream ..... Jody Ruhlman
- Ushers ..... Team 9: Tim Peck, Hunter Crabbs, Tyler Fett, Elijah Fisher  
..... William Rhoderick, Aaron Smith, Addyson Trostle, Landen Zinneman
- Welcome Place ..... Lori Unger

***THE ALTAR FLOWERS*** have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Carlynn Neiderer and Helen Hartman by John Neiderer, Elizabeth Reese, Danni Pittinger, Randy Pittinger, and Emily Volleim; in loving memory of Clarence and Marie Nace by Myrtle Satterfield and family; in loving memory of Yvonne Bixler by her daughter and son-in-law Carolyn and Joe Markle and her granddaughter Stacy Parson in celebration of Mother’s Day; in loving memory of Minnie B. Mummert by her daughter Martha Hempfing.

**THE BULLETINS** have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Gloria Frederick who would have celebrated her birthday on May 11 by her sons John, Grant and Lance Frederick and families; in loving memory of Clarence and Marie Nace by Myrtle Satterfield and family; in loving memory of Yvonne Bixler by her daughter and son-in-law Carolyn and Joe Markle and her granddaughter Stacy Parson in celebration of Mother's Day.

**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.

**Nathalie Richard**

Jeff Bair

Randy Luckenbaugh

Gloria Stauffer

Pastor Faye Snyder

Diane Edris

Bobby Porter

Ethan Conner

Bert Elsner

Conner Thompson

Chuck Ehrman

Lucas Cherry

Nancy Leister

**RECOMMENDED SCRIPTURE READINGS** for the week beginning May 11:

Sunday: John 10:22-30

Monday: Revelation 15:1-4

Tuesday: Acts 9:32-35

Wednesday: John 10:31-42

Thursday: Revelation 10:1-11

Friday: Revelation 11:15

Saturday: Revelation 11:16-19



This week we celebrate God's love as we honor and remember mothers and those who provide motherly care. Carnations will be offered to women at all services.

### **Bio for Dan Deitzel III, Organist**

Dan began his career as a social worker in skilled nursing after graduating with his Master's degree in Counseling from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, South Carolina, in 1998. He has been in the long-term care field since then. He obtained his Nursing Home Administrator's license in 2001. He also holds a Bachelor's degree in Public Relations from Susquehanna University.

Most recently, Dan began his duties as Vice President of Operations in January of 2025 at Luthercare. Prior to this appointment, he served the last nine years as Executive Director and Senior Director of Healthcare Services for Luthercare. Previously, he spent 15+ years in the for-profit sector of long term care services. His experience has provided him with significant financial and regulatory expertise.

Dan and his family live in Mount Gretna, Pennsylvania and are active in the Mount Gretna United Methodist Church. They have one daughter Elaina, and two dogs, Cooper and Dixie. In his spare time, Dan enjoys reading and spending time at their cabin in West Virginia.

***We want your feedback!*** We are working with LEAD to complete a communications audit in order to find our strengths and weakness around how we communicate as a church to the congregation and to the wider community. We would greatly appreciate your input through this survey. All are welcome to fill it out. Just scan the QR code! There will be some physical forms available at the Hospitality Desk. Links can also be found online. The deadline to complete this is May 26.



**If you knit or crochet, (or want to learn) St. Matthew's Prayers Shawl Ministry needs you.** You can bring warmth, comfort, and healing to those who need it most. Email Pastor Faye at [nicksong@comcast.net](mailto:nicksong@comcast.net) or call the church office (717-637-7101) with your name and phone number.



### **Instant Church Directory - Reminder for updates**

A friendly reminder to update your directory listing and pictures. A great benefit of our on-line directory is the ability for our members to enter listing updates and change photos at any time, instantly...well, almost instantly. You may enter your updates from your PC / MAC or smartphone anytime, however they will not appear in the directory until acknowledged by the Administrator, usually the same day.

We're looking ahead to publishing a printed copy of the directory late summer-early fall, but of course we want to be certain everyone has taken time to review their listing, and to enter any updates they may have as well as pictures.

If you have any questions or need help with entering updates or uploading pictures, please reach out to me. I will always be happy to assist you. Mike Jones  
e-mail: [majones91914@outlook.com](mailto:majones91914@outlook.com) Cell: 717-965-6680

## **WE'RE ALMOST THERE!**

### ***PERSONAL CARE KITS PROJECT - Around the World and Here in the U.S.A.***



Thanks to your generous towel donations, we need just a few more to reach our goal of 1,000!

Our second challenge is just as important! In order to complete the Personal Care Kits, we need monetary donations for the bulk purchases of soap, combs, clippers and shipping costs. To make your donations, envelopes are available in the Gathering Place and the Fellowship Hall. Checks should be made payable to *St. Matthew Lutheran Church* with "Care Kits" in the memo line.

The Women of the ELCA and the Intergenerational Faith Connections have been 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

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...**



## ***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](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  
[nicksong@comcast.net](mailto:nicksong@comcast.net)

Deb Smith, Interim Minister of Music, ext 236  
[dsmith@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:dsmith@stmattlutheran.org)

Tim Peck, Youth Ministry, ext 230  
[youth@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:youth@stmattlutheran.org)

Melissa Smith, Children & Family Ministry, ext 232  
[msmith@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:msmith@stmattlutheran.org)

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**FIRST READING: Acts 9:36-43**

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. <sup>37</sup>At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. <sup>38</sup>Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." <sup>39</sup>So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. <sup>40</sup>Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. <sup>41</sup>He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. <sup>42</sup>This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup>Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

**Psalm 23****SECOND READING: Revelation 7:9-17**

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup>They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God  
who is seated on the throne,  
and to the Lamb!"

<sup>11</sup>And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom  
and thanksgiving and honor  
and power and might  
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" <sup>14</sup>I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup>For this reason they are before the throne of God,  
and worship him day and night within his temple,  
and the one who is seated on the throne  
will shelter them.

<sup>16</sup>They will hunger no more, and  
thirst no more;  
the sun will not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat;

<sup>17</sup>for the Lamb at the center of the throne will  
be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs of the  
water of life,  
and God will wipe away every tear from  
their eyes."

**GOSPEL: John 10:22-30**

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup>and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. <sup>24</sup>So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." <sup>25</sup>Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; <sup>26</sup>but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. <sup>27</sup>My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup>The Father and I are one."

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35.

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