

A bronze statue of a woman stands with her back to the viewer, arms raised high. In her right hand, she holds a dove with spread wings. She wears a simple, draped garment. The statue is positioned in front of a dense thicket of trees with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of yellow and orange. To the left, a portion of a light-colored stone wall is visible. In the background, the dark roof and architectural details of a building can be seen through the branches.

Woman,
you are set free
from your ailment

LUKE 13:12



St. Matthew

LUTHERAN CHURCH *of* HANOVER

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 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 Goals:

Enliven faith through worship and learning
Cultivate shared leadership as disciples of Jesus
Engage children, youth, and families
Bridge the gaps with home-insecure neighbors
Build authentic relationships across differences

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



Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.

11th Sunday after Pentecost
10:30 a.m., August 24, 2025

PRELUDES

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken
Doug Mummert, Piano

Jeffors

WELCOME

Please stand as you are able.

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.

(The congregation is invited to greet one another and share the peace respecting personal space and comfort levels.)

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

**All: you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life. Amen.**

Pastor: You belong to Christ Jesus, and you are God's children through faith.

The good news is that God does not give up on any one of us.

In the cross of ✝ Christ,

and through the power of the Holy Spirit,

Your sins are forgiven.

Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

All: Amen.

Please be seated.

During the singing of the hymn, 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

Morning Has Broken

ELW#556

Farjeon

(Next Page)



1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing;
2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en,
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing,



black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird.
like the first dew - fall on the first grass.
born of the one light E - den saw play!



Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry morn - ing,



Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

✠ THE WORD ✠

THE READING: Isaiah 58:9b-14

God promises those who have returned from exile that where justice and mercy prevail, the ruins will be rebuilt and light will rise in the darkness. It is a day for new beginnings.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

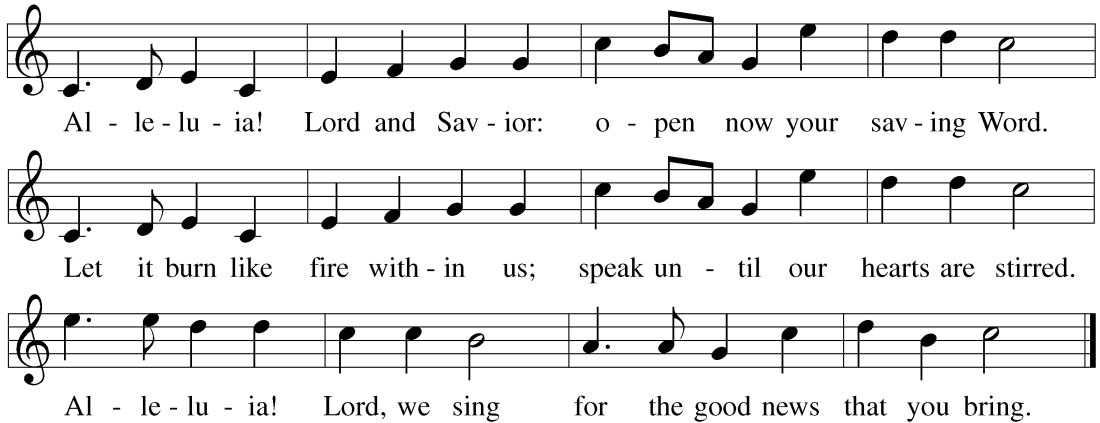
All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 103:1-8 (*Read Responsively*)

- ¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
- ² **Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**
- ³ who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;
- ⁴ **who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**
- ⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- ⁶ **O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**
- ⁷ You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.
- ⁸ **LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love**

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.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 13th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 13:10-17

Jesus heals a woman on the sabbath, offering her a new beginning for her life. When challenged by a narrow reading of the sabbath command, Jesus responds by expanding "sabbath work" to include setting people free from bondage.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman

Please stand as you are able.

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e - ad to make the wound - ed whole;



there is a balm in Gil-e - ad to heal the sin - sick soul.



- 1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,
- 2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,
- 3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

Refrain

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
 you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."
 and if you lack for knowl - edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

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.

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

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW#685

Havergal



1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Leader: Creator God,

**All: in your wisdom, you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.**

**Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
and our labor, that we may work for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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.

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



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

HYMN

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

ELW#773
Dorsey/Allen

(Next Page)

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.

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: God, our loving parent,
you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit,
to love our neighbors as ourselves
and to proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

✙ **SENDING** ✙

BACKPACK BLESSING

BLESSING

Pastor: The love of God abound in you;
the grace of Jesus fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit
✙ Bless you and give you peace.

All: Amen.

HYMN

We Are Marching in the Light

ELW#866

South African Traditional

(Next Page)

We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,
we are march - ing in the light of God.
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO
we are march - ing in the light of God.
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Victory March
Doug Mummert, Organist

Mallard

* * * * *

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:

- Musician.....Doug Mummert
- Altar Flower Delivery Doris Deitzel
- Altar Guild Beth Koontz, Janice Peck
- Assisting Minister..... Mike Jones
- Children’s Church Leader..... Amy Beck
- Communion Assistants Bobbie Lidard, Charley Lidard
- Communion Preparers..... Christine & Dave Myers
- Couriers Irvin Sowers, Ellen Shenk
- Greeters Doris Deitzel, Doris Sterner
- Lector Raegan Ross
- Live Stream Jody Ruhlman
- Ushers Team 8: Irvin Sowers, Gordon Grady, Karen Sowers,
.....Barry & Lori Unger

MEET THE ORGANIST, DOUG MUMMERT: I was Director of Music at Solomons Lutheran Church in Chambersburg, PA for 33 years. My wife Zoe and I have 2 sons and 2 grandchildren. We recently retired and moved to Gettysburg to be closer to family. We are currently members of Christ Lutheran Gettysburg.

We welcome Doug and thank him for being with us.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Rosa Klenk by Jeff and Darlene Klenk and family; in loving memory of Joyce Kintzing on the anniversary of her death by Joan Marchio and Ron Rohrbaugh.

THE BULLETINS have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Joyce Kintzing on the anniversary of her death by Joan Marchio and Ron Rohrbaugh.

RECOMMENDED SCRIPTURE READINGS for the week beginning August 24:

Sunday: Luke 13:10-17

Thursday: 1 Peter 3:8-12

Monday: Hebrews 3:7-4:11

Friday: 1 Peter 4:7-11

Tuesday: Revelation 3:7-13

Saturday: Matthew 20:20-28

Wednesday: Luke 6:6-11

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.

Cameron Stevens

Barb Strausbaugh

Janet Maloney

Dave Maus

Eva Hobbs

Nancy Leister

Carolyn Markle

Donna Holz

Lucas Cherry

Pearl Wintrose

Kim Beard

The church office will close at **noon on Friday, August 29 and will be closed **Monday, September 1** for Labor Day weekend. We will reopen on Tuesday morning, September 2 at 8:30 a.m.**

FOLLOWING THE STORY FROM BEGINNING TO END!

With the Narrative Lectionary, the community of St. Matthew is hearing the stories of scripture as a way to hear the whole story of God's love. (Read more information in the September Newsletter.) We are excited for everyone to be enlivening their faith through worship, at home opportunities for families and adults and mid-week Bible Studies.

Mark your calendars!

September 6 and 7: Genesis 1:1-24a

God's Good Creation

September 13 and 14: Abraham and Isaac

September 20 and 21: Jacob Steals a Blessing

September 27 and 28: The Burning Bush



Our first mid-week Bible Study will be held in the Upper Room on the second floor, Wednesday, September 3 at 6:30-7:30 p.m. with a look at the upcoming reading. Has it been awhile since you have picked up the bible? No worries, we all are learning the stories in new ways. For more information contact Pastor Kathy at pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org or Pastor Alex at pastoralex@stmattlutheran.org or by calling 717-637-7101.

YOUTH AT GUPPY GULCH

Our youth and families had a beautiful day at Guppy Gulch last weekend with 22 people enjoying the inflatable slides, climbing walls, and jungle-gyms. They left at 8:15 a.m. and got home around 6:00 p.m., a long but great day.



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

Home Phone Number

E-mail

Cell Phone Number

Mailing Address



You Are Welcome in Our GriefShare Group.

- Be with other people who are grieving. You don't need to be alone in your grief!
- This is a safe place where you can be yourself.
- You can say exactly how you feel to others who understand your pain.
- Your participation in this group will change you.

Our 13-session GriefShare support group begins **Monday, August 25, 2025, 6:30-8:00 p.m.** (NO meeting on Labor Day) at St. Matthew in the Upper Room, located on the 2nd 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 717-637-7101 ext. 225.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

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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, ext 222
hannahc@stmattlutheran.org

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E-Giving

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:9b-14

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
¹¹The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.
¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many
generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

¹³If you refrain from trampling the sabbath,
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
if you call the sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
serving your own interests, or pursuing your
own affairs;
¹⁴then you shall take delight in the LORD,
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the
earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor
Jacob,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Psalms 103:1-8

SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:18-29

You have not come to something that can be
touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom,
and a tempest, ¹⁸and the sound of a trumpet, and a
voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another
word be spoken to them. ²⁰(For they could not
endure the order that was given, "If even an animal
touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death."
²¹Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said,
"I tremble with fear.") ²²But you have come to Mount
Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly

Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,
²³and to the assembly of the firstborn who are
enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and
to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴and
to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the
sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the
blood of Abel.

²⁵See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking;
for if they did not escape when they refused the
one who warned them on earth, how much less will
we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven!
²⁶At that time his voice shook the earth; but now
he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not
only the earth but also the heaven." ²⁷This phrase,
"Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is
shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot
be shaken may remain. ²⁸Therefore, since we are
receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us
give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable
worship with reverence and awe; ²⁹for indeed our
God is a consuming fire.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:10-17

Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues
on the sabbath. ¹¹And just then there appeared a
woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen
years. She was bent over and was quite unable to
stand up straight. ¹²When Jesus saw her, he
called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free
from your ailment." ¹³When he laid his hands on
her, immediately she stood up straight and began
praising God. ¹⁴But the leader of the synagogue,
indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath,
kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on
which work ought to be done; come on those days
and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." ¹⁵But the
Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does
not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his
donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give
it water? ¹⁶And ought not this woman, a daughter
of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long
years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath
day?" ¹⁷When he said this, all his opponents were
put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at
all the wonderful things that he was doing.