



# St. Matthew

LUTHERAN CHURCH *of* HANOVER

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**Where the Welcome is Wide and the Love is Real**

September 14, 2025  
10:30 a.m.

**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 to worship God by singing, praying, listening to scripture, hearing a message and celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The scripture readings are chosen through the Narrative Lectionary which follows the biblical story from beginning to the end. It was initiated by Lutheran professors in partnership with congregations who recognized the importance understanding the bible's message as the source of our faith in Jesus Christ.

Our regular weekend schedule includes Saturday worship at 5:00 p.m., Sunday indoor worship at 8:30 a.m. and at 10:30 a.m. (livestreamed). You can find our livestream on our website or on Youtube (links can be found on the last page of the bulletin).

**14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**10:30 a.m., September 14, 2025**

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**PRELUDE**

*Amazing Grace*

**Bish**

**WELCOME**

*Please remain seated.*

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity ✝, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**All: Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**All: Amen.**

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.  
*A moment of silence for reflection.*

Most Merciful god,

**All: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and

ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

*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 a kid-friendly format with additional activities to explore their faith. They will return during the Musical Offering.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

**HYMN**

***Lift High the Cross***

**ELW#660  
Newbolt/Nicholson**

**(Next Page)**



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

## 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.**

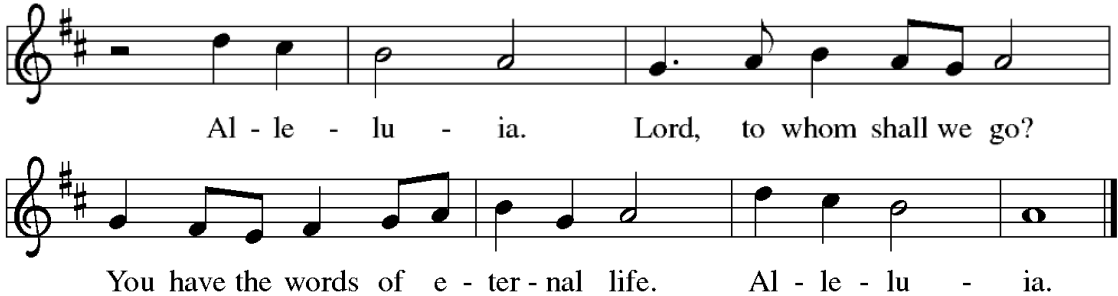
## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## ✠ THE WORD ✠

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Lector: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

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

### HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:29-34

<sup>29</sup> The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." <sup>32</sup> And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>34</sup> And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

Lector: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

### NARRATIVE READING: Genesis 21:1-3, 22:1-14

**21** The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. <sup>2</sup> Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. <sup>3</sup> Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him.

**22** After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>2</sup> He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." <sup>3</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering and set out and went to the place

in the distance that God had shown him. <sup>4</sup> On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. <sup>5</sup> Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." <sup>6</sup> Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. And the two of them walked on together. <sup>7</sup> Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" <sup>8</sup> Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." And the two of them walked on together.

<sup>9</sup> When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup> Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. <sup>11</sup> But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>12</sup> He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." <sup>13</sup> And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup> So Abraham called that place "The LORD will provide," as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**HYMN**

***Praise to the Lord, the Almighty vs. 2***

**ELW#858**

**Neander/Winkworth/Stralsund**

**(Next Page)**

2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing

and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.

Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been

sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?

## 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, *“Receive our prayer.”*

## **PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**All: And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

## **MUSICAL OFFERING**

***This is My Father’s World***  
**Adult Choir**

## **GENEROSITY MOMENT WITH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*In response to God’s generosity we offer our selves, our time and our financial support as signs of God’s gracious love. Offerings may be placed in the baskets near the entrances/exits of the worship space or through online giving on our website. See the QR code on the back of the bulletin. You may also text-to-give at 717-613-6204. **Thank you for offering your gifts that support the ministries of our congregation in this community and throughout the world.***

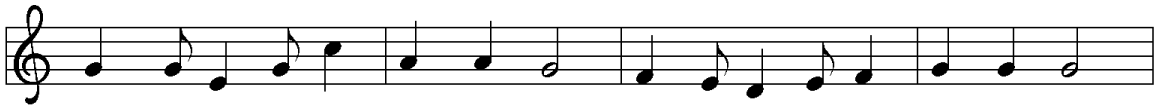
*Please stand as you are able.*

## OFFERTORY

## Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

ELW#674

Kaan/Potter



- 1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
- 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
- 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.  
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

*Refrain*



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

## THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Leader: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

**All:** Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts,  
our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what  
we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love,  
through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our  
savior and Lord. 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:

## HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER WITH WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Please be seated.*

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

***All are welcome to the Lord's Supper. The meal is served in three ways. Choose what is appropriate for you.***

***Individual packets*** are available for those wishing to remain in their pew.

***If you are unable to come forward***, but would like communion served by the pastor, please let one of the ushers know and the Sacrament will be brought to you at your seat.

***Continuous manner*** – Come forward at the direction of the ushers, take the wafer from the pastor, “The body of Christ, given for you”, and eat it. (Gluten-free wafers are available) Then move to the next station and take one of the cups of wine (red) or grape juice (white) “The blood of Christ, shed for you”, and drink it.

***Children who do not yet receive communion*** are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

## IN-PEW COMMUNION (WITH PACKETS)

Pastor: The body of Christ, given for you.

**All: Amen.** (*Eat wafer*)

Pastor: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**All: Amen.** (*Drink wine/grape juice*)

## 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.

## HYMN

### *Amazing Grace*

ELW#779

Newton/Walker

(Next Page)



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

*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: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

✠ **SENDING** ✠

## BLESSING

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**All: Amen.**

## HYMN

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

**ELW#834**

**Welsh Traditional/Smith/Roberts**

**(Next Page)**



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!  
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

## DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

## *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

Smith

\* \* \* \* \*

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 .....Adult Choir, Matthew Wensel  
Altar Flower Delivery ..... Pam Cashman  
Altar Guild ..... Deb Kline, Penny Rutters  
Assisting Minister..... Mike Jones  
Children’s Church Leader..... Missy Smith  
Communion Assistants .....  
Communion Preparers..... Martha Hempfing, Sally Staub  
Couriers .....  
Greeters ..... Bob & Kit Curlin  
Lector ..... Melissa Crabbs  
Live Stream ..... Lexi Smith, Doug West  
Ushers ..... Team 5: Jay Bowersox, Hailey Bucher, Jeremy Bucher,  
.....Randy Kline, Jody Ruhlman, Ellen Shenk  
Welcome Place ..... Lori Unger

***MEET THE ORGANIST, MATTHEW WENSEL:*** Matthew Wensel is the Principal at Fishing Creek Elementary School in the West Shore School District. Prior to that, he taught music in the Conewago Valley School District for 13 years. In addition to his school responsibilities, Matthew is the Director of Music Ministries at Union Lutheran Church in downtown York, PA. While in high school, Matt studied organ with Scott Fredericks here at St. Matthew Lutheran. He graduated *summa cum laude* from Lebanon Valley College in 2005 with a B.S. in Music Education and a B.A. in Music (organ concentration). He also earned the Master of Music Education Degree from LVC in 2013. He's currently enrolled in the EdD program at PennWest University.

***THE ALTAR FLOWERS*** have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Pamela M. Peck on her birthday September 17 by Janice Peck and family; in loving memory of Curtis D. Hoff who passed away Sept. 10, 2025 by his wife Ladora.

**THE BULLETINS** have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Jeanette Utz's 107 birthday which she would have celebrated on September 13 by Diane and Larry Baublitz.

**CUB SCOUT FUNDRAISER:** Cub Scout Pack 105 will be in the Gathering Place today selling our yearly popcorn and nut fundraiser. We have different varieties of each and even offer a military donation. The money raised will go to helping us with our scouting adventures and activities. We appreciate your support of Cub Scout Pack 105!

**Tax Prep Volunteers Needed for Spring 2025 Tax Season:** The AARP Tax-Aide Foundation Tax-Aide Program is looking for capable, motivated, compassionate, friendly volunteers. You don't have to be a tax pro to volunteer with AARP's Tax-Aide program. We also need volunteers to step up for a variety of roles in addition to tax preparers. The additional volunteer roles include schedulers, greeters, administrative support, instructors, technology assistant and translators. Tax-Aide volunteers receive comprehensive training.

For more information on how to get started as a volunteer, leave a message for Roxanne at 717-640-5006, email us at [info@yorkaarptaxaide.com](mailto:info@yorkaarptaxaide.com) or visit our website at [www.yorkaarptaxaide.com](http://www.yorkaarptaxaide.com).

**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.

<b>Anna Dougherty</b>	Randy Shultz	Pearl Wintrobe
<b>Kathy Miller</b>	Ross Kennedy	Barb Strausbaugh
<b>Carolyn Markle</b>	Wayne Beck	Nancy Leister
Doris Blocher	Cameron Stevens	Lucas Cherry
Becky Bingel	Dave Maus	

**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](mailto: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	

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