



St. Matthew

LUTHERAN CHURCH of HANOVER

MESSENGER

Where the Welcome is Wide and the Love is Real

OCT/NOV 2025

SoulFire Praise Team



Friends



Youth Pool Party

Fellowship

Fun

Seniors Hang Out visit to Sheppard Farm



Children's Musical Performance



Family

Messages for You

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From Interim Minister of Music, Deb Smith:



The Art of the Audition

On Sunday, September 28, St. Matthew hosted a masterclass on The Art of the Audition. The class was given by Hanover native, Courtney Ross. Courtney maintains a vocal studio (both online and in person) and is a member of the opera chorus at the Deutsche Staatsoper Berlin (since 2017). She resides in Berlin, Germany with her family.

Choirs

Our choirs, bells and puppets are off to a great start but it's never too late to join!

Check out our rehearsal schedule:

- Youth Choir (6th-12th grade): Sundays 11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Junior Choir (3rd-5th grade): Tuesdays 4:30-5:15 p.m.
- Children's Choir (age 3-2nd grade): Thursdays 4:15-5:00 p.m.
- Adult Bells: Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.
- Adult Choir: Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.
- SoulFire Praise Team: Every other Tuesday 5:45-6:30 p.m.
- Mini Ministers Puppet Ministry: One Saturday each month 10:00-10:45 a.m.
- Recorder Ensemble: Rehearsals scheduled as needed



Seniors Hang Out

We've been having fun at our Seniors Hang Outs! In September, we enjoyed a visit to Sheppard Farm to brush the Highland cows. Check out our schedule:

- Monday, October 20 at 10:00 am we have a presentation on the Salem Witch Trials by Deb Smith.
- Monday, November 17 at 10:00 am, Scott Fredericks will give us an organ tour at St. Matthew.

Each session, participants will enjoy coffee and cookies.

Seniors can play cards, color, do diamond art, talk, etc.



Pajama Story Time

Join Ms. Lindsay and Ms. Deb on Sunday, November 2 at 5:00 p.m. on the Second Floor for supper (chicken nuggets), stories, and songs! This program is free but registration will be required. Use the QR code above to register!



Music JAM (Jesus And Me)

This is for grades K-4th grade and will be held on Saturday, November 8 and Saturday, November 15 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Children will enjoy singing, music games, playing instruments, and making their own instrument. Pick which Saturday you would like your child to attend. This program is free but registration will be required.

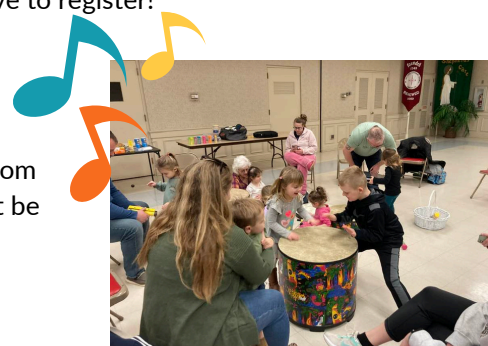
Use the QR code above to register!



Toddler Time

This is for children ages 3-5 on Saturday, November 8 and Saturday, November 15 from 12:00-12:45 p.m. Children will enjoy singing and playing instruments. Each child must be accompanied by an adult. This program is free but registration will be required.

Use the QR code above to register!





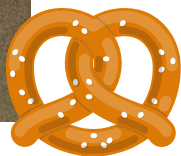
From Children & Family Ministry Leader, Missy Smith:



Faith Connections

As we started this year with Rally Day, we came together to learn that the shape of a pretzel has Christian meaning behind it. The twisted shape is like our praying arms. The three holes are representing the Holy Trinity. Plus, pretzels are a great snack! Each kiddo was able to make their own pretzel style craft and we ended our time with Music with Ms. Deb. If you were not able to make the first class, you can join us any time!

Register using the QR Code above.



Splash Class

Have you been wondering what comes after being "splashed" by the waters of Baptism? This "baby and me" type class is here to allow you to explore what comes next together. Families with kiddos from 3 months old through 3 years old are invited to 6 classes a year. This class is held in the Pray Ground in Fellowship Hall from 9:45-10:15a.m.. The next class this year is Sunday, November 2. Come and join the fun! Don't forget to bring a friend!



Children's Christmas Pageant

Calling all actors! We will be getting ready for the annual Christmas pageant! We are asking for anyone who would like a part, big or small, to join us at 9:30 a.m. on November 2 in the lower level. The rehearsal schedule is currently being worked on. We will have more details coming soon. Save the date for the Sunday, December 14 performance!



Ornament Making

Sunday, November 16, we will gather in Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. to make 250+ ornaments that will go to our homebound friends. Let's show them the Christmas spirit and work together to make their day a little brighter! Worried about not being too crafty? We promise that there will be something that you will be able to make! We will have all the supplies; we'll just need your help to get them all together!



Discovery Place Preschool Sunday

We are excited to welcome our Discovery Place Preschool families to worship on Sunday, October 12 during the 10:30 service! The children will share a special song during the service, and together we will celebrate this vital ministry of our congregation. Join us as we give thanks for the joy and energy our preschool families bring to our community of faith!



From Youth Ministry Leader, Tim Peck:



Youth End of Summer Swimming Party

On September 7, the youth had an end of summer swimming party, hosted by the Smith's. We enjoyed eating, talking, and each others great personalities. It was a fun evening sharing each others time together. Thanks for the wonderful evening!



Mission Trip Recap

We talked about our mission trip to Kentucky with the congregation on August 10 during church services and in Fellowship Hall. Our youth and adult chaperones will remember this event for years to come. We appreciate all of the prayers and support we had during the lengthy van voyage there.

Guppy Gulch Family Time

On August 17, we had a great day at Guppy Gulch near Delta, PA! The water blow-ups and other activities kept everyone occupied throughout the day, and we had a fantastic group of youth and families in attendance! We appreciate the 23 youth and their families that came to fellowship with us.



Trunk or Treat and Community Meal

Have a delicious meal and a safe place to enjoy yourself on October 27 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Start organizing your trunk design and volunteer for the Community Meal as we get closer to the event date. Contact Tim Peck (youth@stmattlutheran.org) with questions for Trunk or Treat and Amy Beck (abeck1976@comcast.net) for volunteering at the Community Meal. Let Tim Peck know if you will be there with a decorated trunk.



Youth Fall Retreat

Get ready for an epic weekend! Join us for a fantastic retreat at Camp Nawakwa from November 21-23! This is your chance to escape the everyday and have an unforgettable weekend with friends. What You Need to Know:

- Who: All youth in 6-12th grade
- Where: Camp Nawakwa
- When: November 21-23
- Cost: \$50 for the entire weekend
- Registration: Look for a registration link in the Announcements in early October

For any questions, reach out to Tim Peck at youth@stmattlutheran.org. Get ready for a weekend full of fun, friends, and new memories. ALL ARE WELCOME!





Veterans Recognition Breakfast

Honoring Our Veterans - Breakfast on Sunday, November 9 at 9:30 a.m. Veterans and their families are welcome to join us in Fellowship Hall for a special breakfast to honor our veterans, hosted by the youth. Enjoy pancakes, sausage, and eggs as we honor those who served our country. If you are a veteran, and you and your family are joining us for breakfast, please call the church office at 717-637-7101 or email them at info@stmattlutheran.org. Veterans, please submit a photo (name, rank, branch, awards) by November 2 to Deb Smith (dsmith@stmattlutheran.org) or drop it off at the church office. Photos will be featured in a slideshow.



Congregation Meeting

This announcement serves as official notice of our Congregation Meeting on Sunday, November 9, immediately following the late worship service (approximately 11:30 a.m.). The purpose of the meeting is to approve a budget for 2026 and elect four new council members and a youth representative. During the Faith Connections hour (9:40-10:20 a.m.), members of the Finance Committee will be in the Gathering Place to answer questions regarding the budget. All voting (active) members of the congregation are asked to attend this important meeting.



An Invitation from the

Lower Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA

Join us in celebrating the installation of the Rev. Stephen R. Herr as Bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA. October 25, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. Prelude begins at 1:30 p.m.

Our church was chosen to host this event in gratitude for all of our members, both present and past, whose vision of God's glory has been manifested in our sanctuary. With this honor comes responsibilities to provide the hospitality for the day.

We need people to assist with parking cars, ushering, greeting, room set ups, child care, overseeing a catered reception, communion set up and more. Would you be able to help? Contact us at info@stmattlutheran.org.

Due to the Installation there will not be a 5:00 p.m. worship service on Saturday, October 25.



Thank You's

- From Barb Strausbaugh: Thank you for the hospital visits and phone calls from all the pastors and get well cards from members. It means so much to me.

Confirmation Sunday

Reformation Sunday is a day to remember the Spirit's renewing work in the church. At St. Matthew, it is also a day of celebration as our 9th graders are confirmed. This year, on Sunday, October 26 at the 10:30 service, we will celebrate with Troy L. as he affirms his baptism and makes this public witness to God's promises. A reception will follow the service—we hope you'll join us in surrounding Troy with prayer and support on this milestone in his journey of faith.



WELCA Bible Study

The Women of the ELCA hold monthly Bible studies on the first Tuesday of each month from 2:00-3:30 p.m. on the second floor (use the stairs or elevator in the lobby by the glass doors). Our next meetings will be October 7, November 4, and December 2. The Bible study follows the lessons found in the, "Gather, for Faith and Action," magazine. Lesson copies will be available. For additional information, call the church office at 717-637-7101. All women are invited to attend and bring a friend, too!



2025 Corn Drive

From September 28-November 1 we will be collecting cans of corn to be donated to New Hope Ministry for their Thanksgiving Meal Kits. Our goal will be 1,000 cans of corn. You can drop off corn in the designated box in the Gathering Place. If you would like to make a financial contribution, please put "Corn Drive," in the Memo Line and drop your check off in the church office.



October Community Meal

Join us on Monday, October 27, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. for a delicious meal of chili, hot dogs, and corn bread! If you would be willing to make a crock pot of chili or corn bread, help with set up, serving, or clean up please let Amy Beck (abeck1976@comcast.net) know. This will be the same evening as the Youth's Trunk or Treat. Come and get to know our community neighbors!



Save the Date for the 2025 Holiday Meal

Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 7! We'll have turkey, gravy, waffles, mashed potatoes, corn, and dessert. More information to come, so keep your eyes on the Announcements....



Christmas Poinsettias

Members and friends who wish to honor or memorialize a loved one by placing a poinsettia in the chancel this Christmas are asked to complete and return the form below with \$15 per listing to the church office. After the cost of the poinsettias is met, the memorials/honorariums will support Lutheran World Relief. The deadline is Wednesday, December 8. Please print clearly when filling in names. Please make checks payable to "St. Matthew Lutheran Church" with "Poinsettias" in the memo line.

I/We wish to (please check one): _____ Honor _____ Memorialize

Name(s): _____
(Person to be memorialized or honored)

Given by: _____

Your offering envelope number: _____



All Saints Weekend

On the weekend of November 1 and 2, we will be remembering the saints who have died this past year. Candles will be lit and prayers will be offered for members of our St. Matthew community. We are inviting St. Matthew members to add the names of immediate family members who have died since November 1, 2024. Names may be given to the office by e-mail at info@stmattlutheran.org, by phone (717-637-7101) or on the tear-off sheet in the Sunday bulletin. Deadline for submitting names is October 24. We will have white roses placed on the altar representing each of the saints who died this past year and following the worship service, a family member may come forward to receive a rose as a remembrance of this day.



Surviving the Holidays

Join us on Saturday, November 22 at 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in room #201 on the Second Floor for a helpful, encouraging seminar for people facing the holidays after losing a loved one. The seminar helps you with... Being prepared for surprising emotions that may hit over the holidays, what to do about traditions and possible changes, how to handle holiday parties and invitations, how to survive awkward moments with other people, and where to find comfort, strength, and hope in a seemingly hopeless time. Those who attend will receive a Survival Guide filled with practical tips, encouraging words, journaling ideas, and exercises for daily help through the holiday season. There is no cost. For more information or to register, call Pastor Faye Snyder at 717-637-7101, ext. 225 or email nicksong@comcast.net. Deadline is November 16



Following the Story: Digging Deeper into the Text

All are welcome to join the pastor on Wednesdays at 6:30-7:30 p.m. as she leads a class on the next story in our Narrative Lectionary. Has it been awhile since you have picked up the Bible? No worries, we are all 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.

You will find the class by entering the glass doors off of Franklin Street and taking the elevator or steps to the second floor classroom.

New Member Class

This is a great way to connect with others, for us to get to know you better, and to learn more about who we are and how we live out our faith together. Whether you're ready to join or just exploring, you're welcome to come! Classes meet at 9:30 a.m., after the 8:30 a.m. service on the Second Floor. If you're interested or have questions, reach out to Pastor Kathy (pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org) or Pastor Alex (pastoralex@stmattlutheran.org).

✚ October 5 – Lutheran Living

📖 October 12– The Bible & Our Faith

We will officially welcome new members in worship on Sunday, October 19 at the 10:30 a.m service, with a breakfast beginning around 9:30 a.m.

Where Faith and Life Intersect

A discussion class based on current events and how they relate to our faith is held on Sunday mornings at 9:30-10:20 a.m. in the Parlor, located next to the Gathering Place. All are welcome for conversation and connection. For more information contact Beth Koontz at bethk9245@gmail.com.

Building improvements made possible by our Capital Improvements fund:

NAVE



BEFORE



AFTER

KITCHEN



BEFORE



AFTER

SECOND FLOOR



BEFORE



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BEFORE



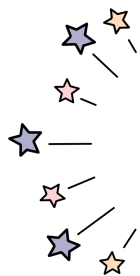
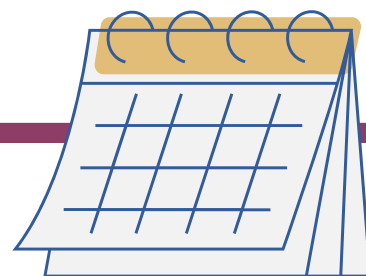
AFTER

Thank you for your support of our facilities!



Save the Dates:

- **November 22** - Surviving the Holidays (9:30 a.m.-Noon on the Second Floor)
- **November 23** - Christmas pageant rehearsal (9:30-10:20 a.m.)
- **November 24** - GriefShare Ends
- **November 30** - 1st Sunday of Advent
- **December 1** - Blue Christmas (6:30 p.m. in the Nave)
- **December 7** - Community Meal
- **December 14** - Christmas Pageant (9:30-10:20 a.m.)
- **December 17** - Christmas Caroling and Pizza (6:00 p.m. meeting in Fellowship Hall)
- **December 19** - Christmas Cheer Bag Packing & Delivering (10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall)
- **December 21** - Coffee and Cookies (9:30-10:20 a.m.)
- **December 24** - Christmas Eve Services:
 - 4:30 p.m. - Family Service
 - 7:00 p.m. - Traditional Service
 - 9:30 p.m. - Carols and Candlelight Service
- **January 3-5** - Winterfest (for youth)
- **January 16** - Joseph Martin Concert (7:00 p.m.)



The next issue of the Messenger will cover December and January.
Articles are due by November 14.



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