



St. Matthew

LUTHERAN CHURCH *of* HANOVER

Where the Welcome is Wide and the Love is Real

October 12, 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).

18th Sunday after Pentecost
10:30 a.m., October 12, 2025

PRELUDE

How Great Thou Art
St. Matthew Ringers

Rogers

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.

HYMN

Jesus Loves Me!

ELW#595

Warner/Bradbury

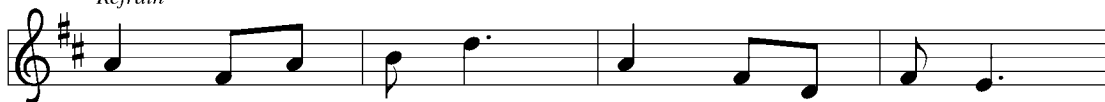


1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

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.

DISCOVERY PLACE PRESCHOOL

After the Discovery Place Preschool song, 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 where they will see a puppet show. They will return during the Musical Offering.

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: God who calls, Open our ears to listen for your voice amid the clamor of our daily lives. Help us to discern your call from among the many distractions that confront us each day, that we might live each day according to your will. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

✠ THE WORD ✠

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.

Lector: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 20th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 20:19-23

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,

“Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

Lector: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

NARRATIVE READING: 1 Samuel 3:1-21

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. ²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the Lord called, “Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!” ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down. ⁶The Lord called again, “Samuel!” Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

¹¹Then the Lord said to Samuel, “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.” ¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” He said, “Here I am.” ¹⁷Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.” ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, “It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.”

¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

²¹The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN

I Will Call Upon the Lord

**TFF#277
O'Shields**

(Next Page)



I will call up - on the Lord who is wor - thy to__ be praised;



so shall I be saved from my en - e - mies_____



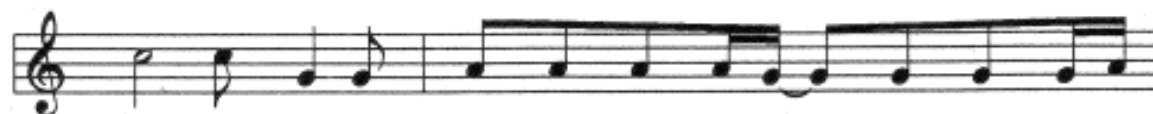
I will call up - on__ the Lord. {Repeat}



The Lord liv - eth and bless - ed be the rock, and let the God.



_____ of my sal - va - tion be ex - alt - ed. The



Lord liv - eth and bless - ed be__ the rock, and let the God



_____ of my sal - va - tion be ex - alt - ed. {Repeat}

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 Promise,"* and the congregation responds, *"Hear our prayer."*

PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Please be seated.

Adult Choir with Bobbi Little, Flute

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain: Trust and obey for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
But our toil, He will richly repay; not a grief nor a loss
Not a frown nor a cross, but is blest if we trust and obey. **Refrain.**

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way; what He says we will do,
Where He sends we will go; never fear only trust and obey. **Refrain.**

GENEROSITY MOMENT WITH ANNOUNCEMENTS – DISCOVERY PLACE

*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.***

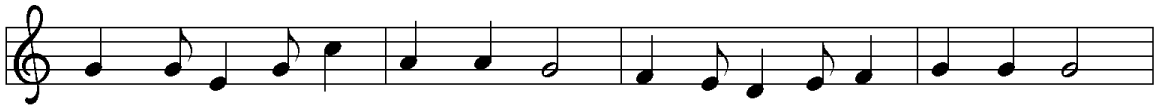
Please stand as you are able.

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.

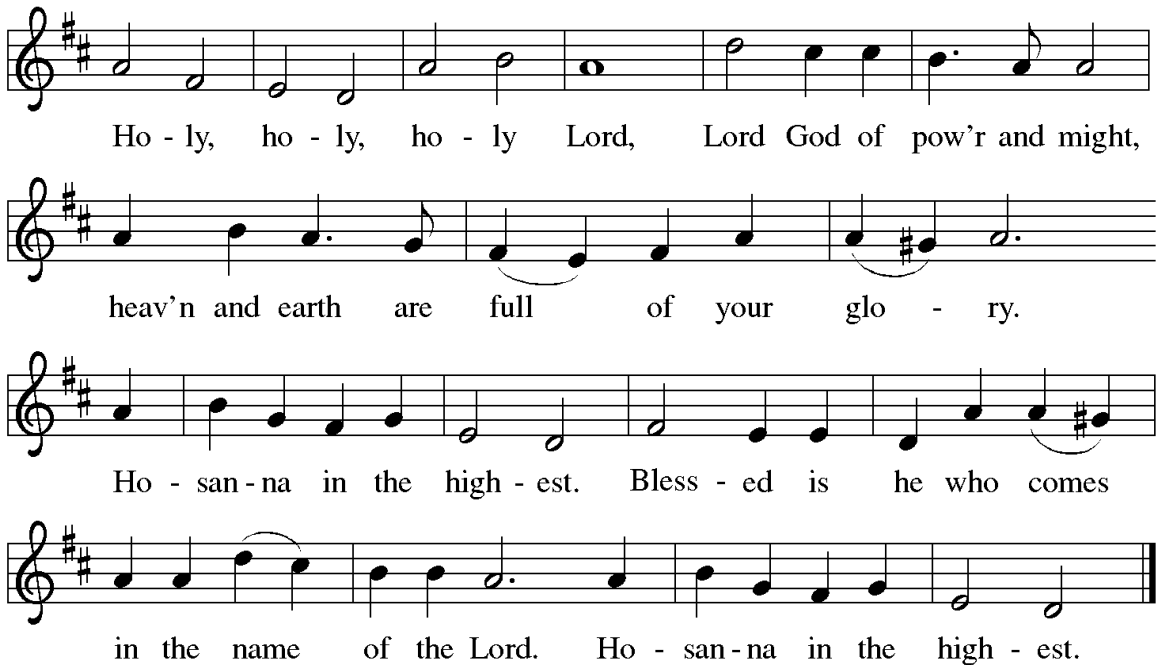
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Here I Am, Lord

ELW#574

Schutte

(Next Page)



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

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** ✠

GUATEMALA SEND OFF

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

Great is Thy Faithfulness

ELW#733
Chisholm/Runyan

(Next Page)



1 Great is thy faith - ful-ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
2 Sum-mer and win - ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com -
stars in their cours-es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit-ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un - to me.

DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Acht kleine Präludien

Bach

* * * * *

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 Chris Zumbrum, St. Matthew Ringers, Adult Choir, Bobbi Little
Altar Flower Delivery Pam Cashman
Altar Guild Doris Deitzel, Bonnie Williams
Assisting Minister..... Linda Wheeler
Children’s Church Leader..... Missy Smith, Deb Smith
Communion Assistants Lee & Nadine Baughman
Communion Preparers..... Martha Hempfing, Sally Staub
Couriers Lee Baughman, Sue Covert
Greeters Doris Sterner, Kim Beard
Lector Penny Rutters
Live Stream Tom Shultz
Ushers Team 4: Steve Rutters, Tom Cramer, Dennis Koontz
..... Chris Raubenstine, Kelli Reed, Penny Rutters
Welcome Place Mary Jones

THE ALTAR FLOWERS have been given to the Glory of God.

THE BULLETINS have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Anna E. Baker by her son Philip Zinn; in loving memory of John Charles Frederick Sr. who would have celebrated his birthday on October 14 by the Frederick family.

DEVOTIONS: A copy of last week’s and this week’s devotions can be found at the Hospitality Desk.

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.

Richard Stewart

Bev Stevens

Nancy Leister

Nina Kessler

Eva Hobbs

Lucas Cherry

Linda Quicksell

Dan Markle

Kim Salois

Lea Eyler

DEATHS: Lena Mae Dulling

A SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND CHRISTIAN BURIAL was held for Lena Mae Dulling on Monday, October 6. Though we celebrate the departure of her life to be with the Lord, we also include in our prayers of support the members of her family and all who are bereaved.

THANK YOU to the Lundquist family for their generous gift in memory of Judy. The handbells were sent to Malmark to be refurbished, and returned in like-new condition. This is the first time that all the handbells have been refurbished in almost 40 years. Thank you!.

NEW DATE: Congregation Meeting is November 16th

Our congregation meeting is changed from November 9th to November 16th. The purpose of the meeting is to approve a budget for 2026 and elect four new members and a youth representative for the congregation council. This new date allows the necessary two weeks needed for the information to be dispersed. 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.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK Hannah Chiacchierini for her time at St. Matthew as our Communications Coordinator. Hannah has handed in her notice and will be finished this Friday, October 17. We wish Hannah the very best in her new endeavors.

All articles for bulletins, Messengers, etc. should be emailed to *info@stmattlutheran.org*. Pastor Alex and Jane Lawrence will be sharing communications duties for the near future.

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

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

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