



St. Matthew

LUTHERAN CHURCH *of* HANOVER

Where the Welcome is Wide and the Love is Real

October 19, 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 of 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).

19th Sunday after Pentecost
10:30 a.m., October 19, 2025

PRELUDE

God is Always with Me
Love the Lord Your God
Children's and Junior Choirs

Mayo and Bailey
Tester

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 Generosity Moment.

HYMN

Will You Come and Follow Me

ELW#798

Bell



1	"Will	you	come	and	fol -	low	me	if	I	but	call
2	"Will	you	leave	your -	self	be -	hind	if	I	but	call
3	"Will	you	let	the	blind -	ed	see	if	I	but	call
4	"Will	you	love	the	you	you	hide	if	I	but	call
5	Lord,	your	sum -	mons	ech -	oes	true	when	you	but	call



your	name?	Will	you	go	where	you	don't
your	name?	Will	you	care	for	cruel	and
your	name?	Will	you	set	the	pris -	'ners
your	name?	Will	you	quell	the	fear	in -
my	name.	Let	me	turn	and	fol -	low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

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: Loving God, You do not see as we see, but look on our hearts and know us deeply. Help us to see others as you do—with

love, compassion, and boundless grace, that we might live in harmony with our siblings here and throughout creation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

✠ THE WORD ✠

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Lector: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 7th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 7:19-24

¹⁹ “Did not Moses give you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why are you looking for an opportunity to kill me?” ²⁰ The crowd answered, “You have a demon! Who is trying to kill you?” ²¹ Jesus answered them, “I performed one work, and all of you are astonished. ²² Because of this Moses gave you circumcision (it is, of course, not from Moses but from the patriarchs), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. ²³ If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath in order that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because I healed a man’s whole body on the Sabbath? ²⁴ Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.”

Lector: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

NARRATIVE READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 51:10-14

The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the

Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” ² Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵ He said, “Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the LORD.” ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.” ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

- ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
- ¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.
- ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
- ¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt

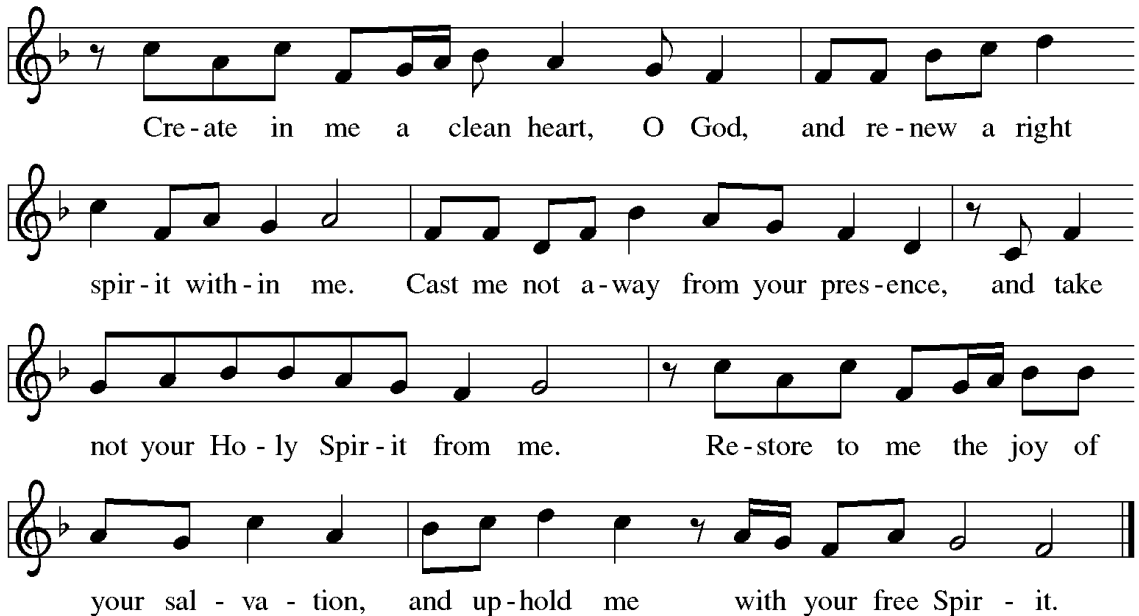
Please stand as you are able.

HYMN

Create in Me a Clean Heart

ELW#186

Hillert



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

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.

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

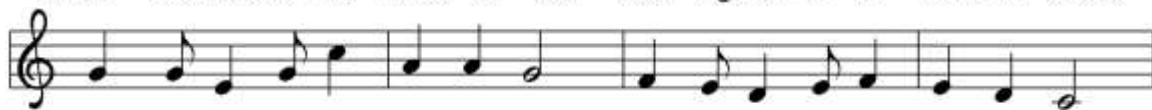
Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

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.

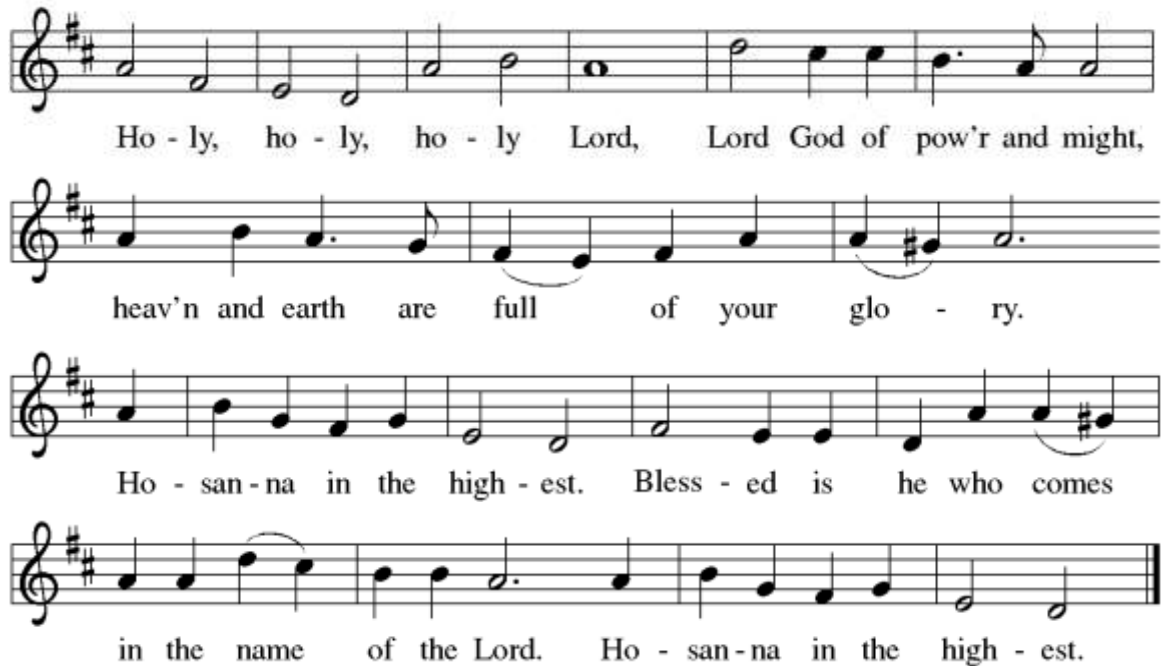
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*)

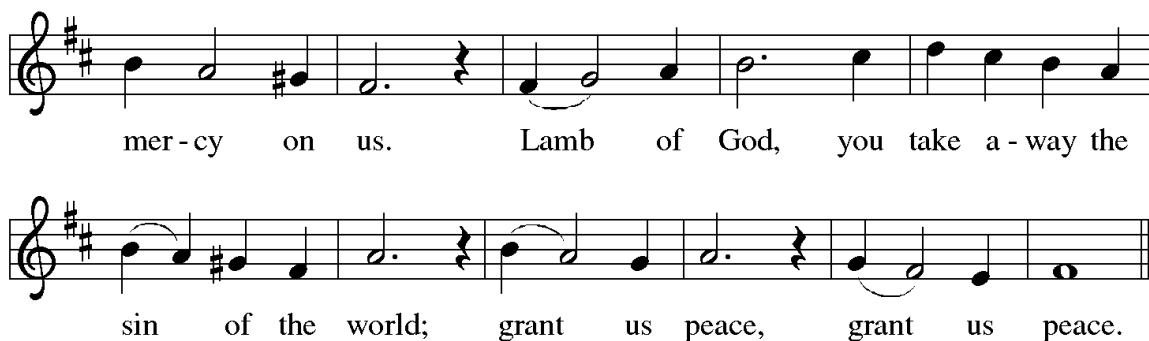
LAMB OF GOD



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

Just As I Am, without One Plea

ELW#592

Elliott/Bradbury



1 Just as I am, with-out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, though tossed a-bout with man-y_a con-flict,
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re-ceive, wilt wel-come, par-don,
4 Just as I am; thy love un-known has bro-ken ev-'ry
shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man-y_a doubt, fight-ings and fears with-in, with-out,
cleanse, re-lieve; be-cause thy prom-ise I be-lieve,
bar-rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a-lone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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

As Saints of Old

ELW#695

Christierson/arr. Williams



1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field
2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;
3 In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day



to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,
to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.
to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.



so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,
The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:
O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.
teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Simple Gifts

Birchwood

* * * * *

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 Children’s Choir and Junior Choir; Dan Deitzel, Organist
Altar Flower Delivery Doris Deitzel
Altar Guild Doris Deitzel, Bonnie Williams
Assisting Minister..... Hailey Bucher
Children’s Church Leader..... Missy Smith
Communion Assistants Jody Ruhlman, Beth Szymanski
Communion Preparers..... Mike & Mary Jones
Couriers Randy Kline, Ellen Shenk
Greeters Pam Cashman, Peggy Westerhold
LectorRaegan Ross
Live Stream Lexi Smith, Tom Shultz
Ushers Team 6: Sally Staub, Kim Beard, Carolyn Markle, Debby Seibert
Welcome Place Linda Sanders

MEET THE ORGANIST, DAN DEITZEL: 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.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Janet Bowman by her family and Mim Staub by her daughter Linda; in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Wetzel by Dorothy Schriver and family; in loving memory of Jean Bollinger by her daughter Kim Beard.

THE BULLETINS have been given to the Glory of God.

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.

Harriet Wensel
Linda Quicksell
Nina Kessler

Kim Salois
Lea Eyler
Bev Stevens

Dan Markle
Nancy Leister
Lucas Cherry

DEATHS: Richard Stewart

THE SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND CHRISTIAN BURIAL will be held for Richard Stewart on Monday, October 20, here at St. Matthew Church at 11 a.m. Though we celebrate the departure of his life to be with the Lord, we also include in our prayers of support the members of his family and all who are bereaved

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



NEW DATE: Congregation Meeting is November 16

Our congregation meeting is changed from November 9 to November 16. 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.

A BUDGET FORUM will be held on November 16 at 9:30 a.m. in the Upper Room. Members of the Finance Committee will be available to answer questions regarding the 2026 budget.

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@stmatthlutheran.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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