



St. Matthew

LUTHERAN CHURCH *of* HANOVER

Where the Welcome is Wide and the Love is Real

Sunday, October 26, 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).

Reformation Sunday
October 26, 2025, 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Meditation on “Ein Feste Burg”

Drahmann

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.

*The congregation is asked to turn and face the cross at the back of the church.
During the processional, continue to follow the cross.*

HYMN

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

ELW #504

Luther



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight.
God's on - ly Son, a - dored.
God's judg - ment must pre - vail!
they can - not win the day.

On earth he has no e - qual.
He holds the field vic - to - rious.
One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

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: Unbounded God, all creation is your temple and your dwelling place. Fill us with wonder and joy at your presence in all that you have made. Help us to treat the natural world and all that is in it with respect and care, that all might dwell here together in peace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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.

Please be seated.

✠ THE WORD ✠

PSALM 46 (Please read responsively)

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,**

- ³ though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
- ⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**
- ⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
- ⁶ **The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice; the earth melts.**
- ⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
- ⁸ **Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.**
- ⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
- ¹⁰ **“Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations;
I am exalted in the earth.”**
- ¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Remain seated for the Gospel Acclamation and reading.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Lector: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 2nd chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 2:19-23

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰ The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

²³ When he was in Jerusalem during the Passover festival, many believed in his name because they saw the signs that he was doing.

Lector: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

NARRATIVE READING: 1 Kings 5:1-5, 8:1-13

5 ^[a] Now King Hiram of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon when he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father, for Hiram had always been a friend to David. ² Solomon sent word to Hiram, saying, ³ "You know that my father David could not build a house for the name of the LORD his God because of the warfare with which his enemies surrounded him, until he ^[b] put them under the soles of his feet. ^[c] ⁴ But now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor misfortune. ⁵ So I intend to build a house for the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD said to my father David, 'Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, shall build the house for my name.'

8 Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion. ² All the people of Israel assembled to King Solomon at the festival in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month. ³ And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests carried the ark. ⁴ So they brought up the ark of the LORD, the tent of meeting, and all the holy vessels that were in the tent; the

priests and the Levites brought them up. ⁵ King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who had assembled before him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted or numbered. ⁶ Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. ⁷ For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim made a covering above the ark and its poles. ⁸ The poles were so long that the ends of the poles were seen from the holy place in front of the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen from outside; they are there to this day. ⁹ There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone that Moses had placed there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites when they came out of the land of Egypt. ¹⁰ And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, ¹¹ so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

¹² Then Solomon said,

“The LORD has said that he would dwell in thick darkness.

¹³ I have built you an exalted house,
a place for you to dwell forever.”

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

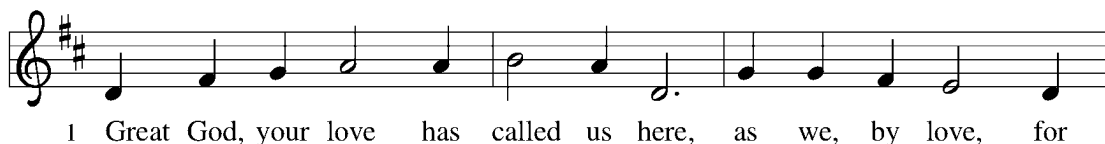
SERMON

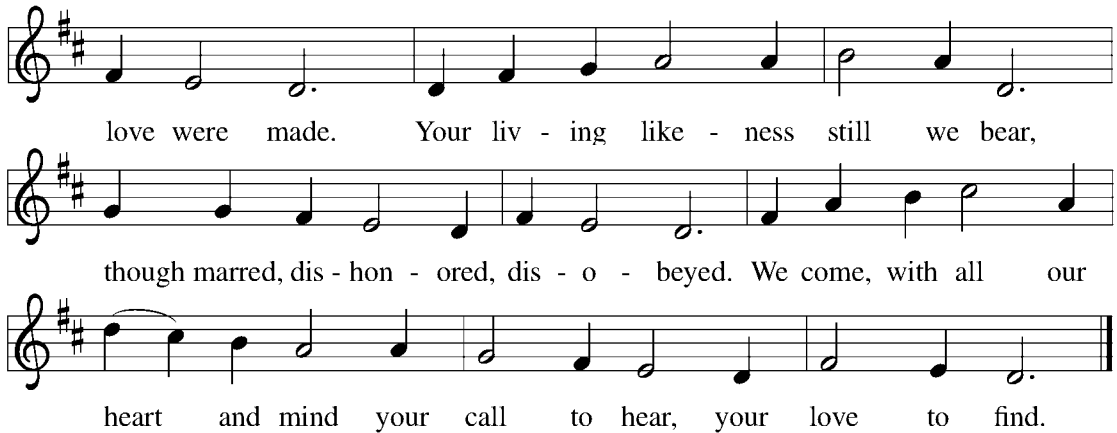
Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman

HYMN

Great God, Your Love Has Called Us
verse 1

ELW#358





AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM for Confirmand Troy Linebaugh

CREED

As professed by our youth:

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.

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYERS

Leader: 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.

MUSICAL OFFERING

How Firm a Foundation

arr. Diemer

Adult Choir

(Text: ELW #796)

GENEROSITY MOMENT- Serving at Hanover Area Council of Churches

*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:
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.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!



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.

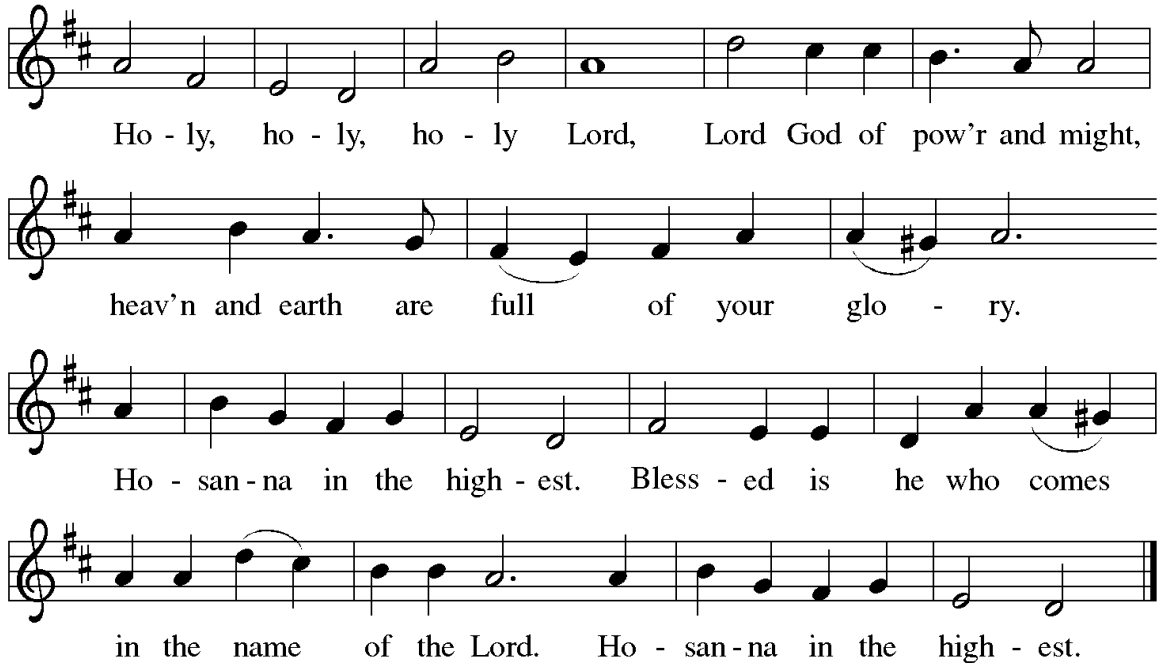
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

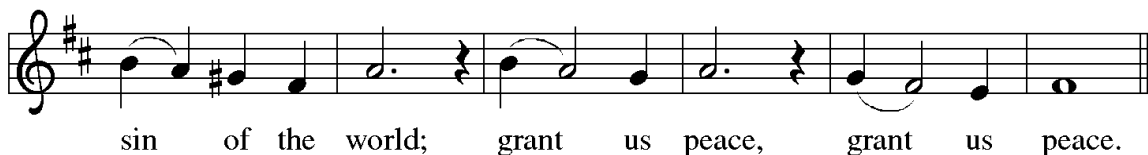


us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

(Continued Next Page)



HYMN

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW #471

African American Spiritual



- 1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
- 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
- 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

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

The Church's One Foundation

**ELW #654
Stone/Wesley**

(Next Page)



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
Oh, bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Toccata on "Kirken"

Young

* * * * *

Our warm thanks to all those assisting in our worship services this morning:

Musicians..... Adult Choir; Doug Mummert, Organist
Altar Flower Delivery Tina Schaffner
Altar Guild..... Doris Deitzel, Bonnie Williams
Assisting Minister Liam Fralic
Children’s Church Leader..... Missy Smith
Communion AssistantsPhil & Sue Covert
Communion Preparers Deb Anker, Nancy Oppedal
CouriersSue Cover, Irvin Sowers
Greeters..... John & Barb Frederick
Lector.....Karen Sowers
Live Stream Lexi Smith, Tom Shultz
Ushers..... Team 8: Irvin Sowers, Gordon Grady, Karen Sower, Barry & Lori Unger
Welcome Place Hallie Doll

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.

Today at the 10:30 service we celebrate the
Rite of Confirmation for Troy Linebaugh.
We congratulate him and pray for God to continue to bless
him on his faith journey.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Franklin B. and Mary Alice Stauffer by their daughter; and in loving memory of Janet Polly Heller by her daughter and son-in-law Pamela and David Miserendino; and in loving memory of Bertram F. Elsner who would have celebrated his birthday on October 23, given by his daughter Leslie and grandson Robbie.

THE BULLETINS have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Franklin B. and Mary Alice Stauffer by their daughter; and in loving memory of Janet Polly Heller by her daughter and son-in-law Pamela and David Miserendino.

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.

Eva Hobbs
Karen Raubenstine
JoAnn Smith
Ron Smith
Baby Hudson
Charles Ehrman

Harriet Wensel
Olivia Stein
Alexandra Stein
Linda Quicksell
Nina Kessler

Kim Salois
Lea Eyler
Dan Markle
Nancy Leister
Lucas Cherry

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

***We welcomed new members to St. Matthew
last Sunday, October 18, at the 10:30 service:***

Travis & Holly Kuhn & Harper
Gloria Stauffer
Nelson & Karen Tennis

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.

_____ 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

Hello St. Matt's!

I wanted to take a moment and share my experience volunteering with the Changing Lives Shelter at Hanover Area Council of Churches, and the urgent need for more volunteers and supplies.

Being able to volunteer has been a gift. Not only have I been able to lend a much-needed hand to help the staff with everyday functions of the shelter, but the experience has also allowed me to build connections with the current clients, as well as those in need who are not clients but regular visitors. I truly believe it is important to connect with our community in this way as a reminder that we are all human and sometimes "life happens." It is crucial in those times to ensure our neighbors do not feel isolated and alone when the world already makes them feel as such. As a community, it is our duty to lift them up – to not view them by their circumstances but by who they are, to not hear them when they speak but to listen (there's a difference!), and to simply be a light for them in the dark.

The need for volunteers is dire – the shelter is incredibly short-staffed, typically with one person on each shift doing the work required of three to four people. With the cold weather months right around the corner, this is the time they will need help the most as they will open up a separate side of the building to run a cold weather shelter for our friends outside while the shelter itself is still in operation. That will be two shelters needing staff/volunteers that they currently do not have.

Aside from volunteers, the shelter is also in need of supplies. Here is a list of what they are currently seeking: pillows/pillow cases, twin-sized comforters and sheet sets, hot hands, soup cups, snacks, hot chocolate packs, bottled water, travel-size shampoo and/or conditioner, wash cloths, and bars of soap/body wash.

If you feel inspired to spend some time with our neighbors/friends or donate supplies, you can contact the shelter at **717-633-6353** or email them at adminhacc@hanoverareacouncilofchurches.org. You can also contact me at bszymanski3@hotmail.com for more information.

Thank you!

Beth Szymanski

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Rev. Alex Sheppard-Witt, Associate Pastor, ext 229
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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
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Melissa Smith, Children & Family Ministry, ext 232
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