



St. Matthew

LUTHERAN CHURCH *of* HANOVER

Where the Welcome is Wide and the Love is Real

Sunday, August 30, 2026
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.

Our regular weekend schedule includes Saturday worship at 5:00 p.m., Sunday outdoor worship at 8:30 a.m. and indoors 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).

Introduction to the Day: The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

14th Sunday after Pentecost
August 30, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

✠ GATHERING ✠

WELCOME and THANK YOU TO PASTOR MICHAEL

PRELUDE

Prayer

Adams

Jonathan Walker-VanKuren, Soloist

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Pastor: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: 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 neighbors 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

Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen

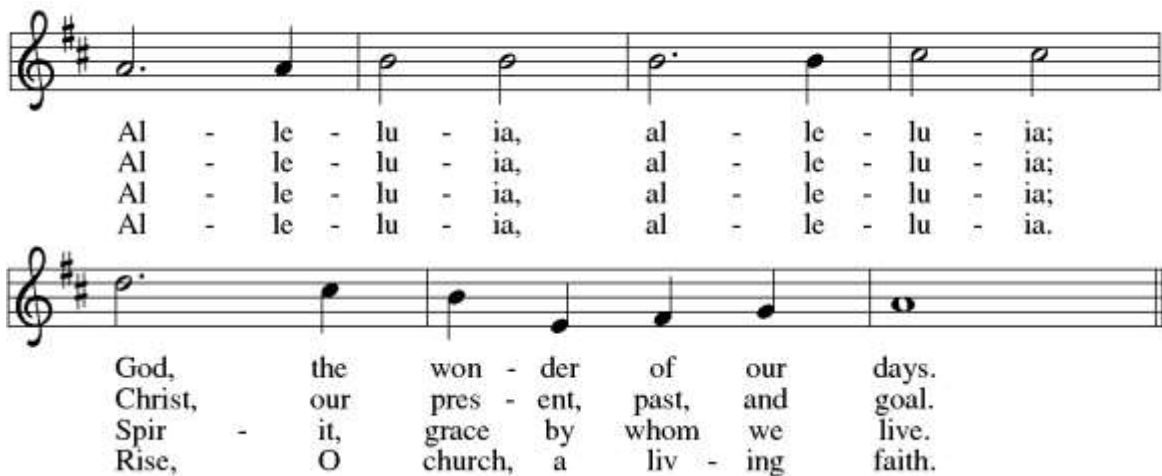
ELW #548

1 Rise, O church, like Christ a - ris - en,
 2 Rise, trans - formed, and choose to fol - low
 3 Rise, re - mem - ber our well the fu - ture;
 4 Ser - vice be our sure vo - ca - tion;

from this meal of love and grace;
 af - ter Christ, though wound - ed, whole;
 God has called us to re - ceive;
 cour - age be our dai - ly breath;

may we through such love en - vi - sion
 bro - ken, shared, our lives are hal - lowed
 pres - ent by God's lov - ing nur - ture,
 mer - cy be our des - ti - na - tion

whose we are, and whose, our praise.
 to Spir - it - lease and then to let our con - sole.
 from this day and un - to live. death.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

God, the won - der of our days.
 Christ, the our pres - ent, past, and goal.
 Spir - it, it, grace by whom we live.
 Rise, O church, a liv - ing faith.

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: Let us pray.

There is silence to prepare for the readings.

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

Please be seated.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Mothering God

Trenney

Jonathan Walker-VanKuren, Soloist

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 an age-appropriate format and spend some time exploring their faith and creativity together. They will return during the passing of the peace.

✠ THE WORD ✠

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

¹⁵ O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,

for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹ Therefore thus says the LORD:

If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

²⁰ And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;

they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,

for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,

says the LORD.

²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 26:1-8 (*Please read responsively.*)

¹ Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;
I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

² **Test me, O LORD, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.**

³ For your steadfast love is before my eyes;
I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴ **I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

⁵ I have hated the company of evildoers;
I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶ **I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

⁸ **LORD, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.**

Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord."

²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads."

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Lector: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 16th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For

what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Richard Michael

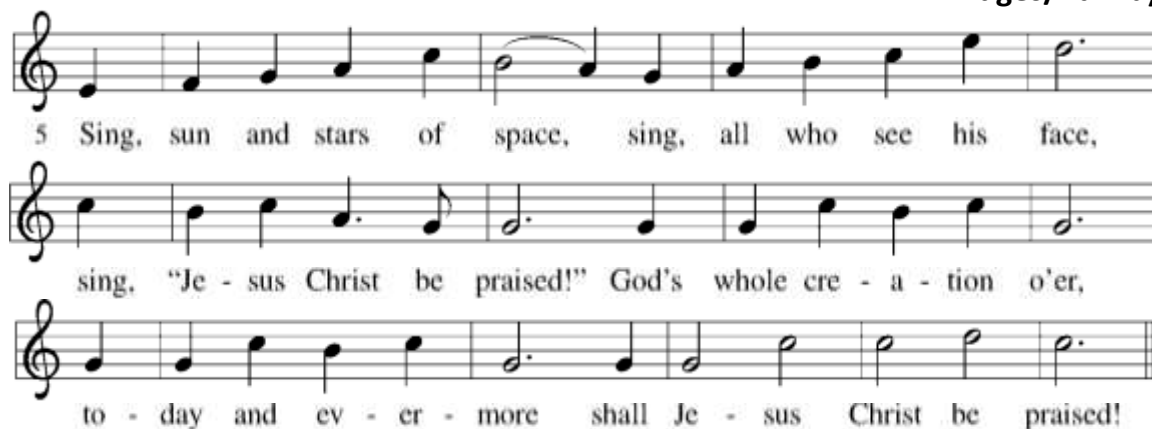
Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

When Morning Gilds the Skies

ELW #853

Bridges/Barnby



5 Sing, sun and stars of space, sing, all who see his face,
sing, "Je - sus Christ be praised!" God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,
to - day and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

CREED

Pastor: 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

Assisting Minister: Each petition concludes, "*Merciful God,*" and the congregation responds, "*receive our prayer.*"

Final Petition:

The pastor concludes the prayers.

Pastor: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised.
All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

(The congregation is invited to greet one another with the words, "Peace be with you," and gestures respecting personal space and comfort levels.)

Children return from Children's Church.

Please be seated.

MUSICAL OFFERING *My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord*
Jonathan Walker-VanKuren, Soloist

Price

Please stand as you are able.

+ MEAL +

OFFERTORY *Take My Life, That I May Be*

ELW #685

Havergal

1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;

take my mo-ments and my days; let them flow in cease-less praise.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Loving God,

All: we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding
with us now and forever. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

This musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using eighth and quarter notes with various phrasing slurs. The lyrics are printed below each staff.

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho-san-na in the high-est.

This musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is more complex than the first hymn, featuring eighth and sixteenth notes with many phrasing slurs. The lyrics are printed below each staff.

EUCHARISTIC 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



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.

you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.

e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN

This Is My Father's World

ELW #824

Babcock/Sheppard

(Next Page)



1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car - ols raise; the
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for - get that,



na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.
Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.

We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

All: Amen.

✠ **SENDING** ✠

BLESSING

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

HYMN

Lift High the Cross

#ELW 660



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!

DISMISSAL:

Assisting Minister: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Toccata and Fugue in D Minor

Bach

* * * * *

Please note: Music for this service is covered under CCLI # 1000682 –

Also #A-708989 One License.net

*We celebrate God’s generosity embodied in this community’s time, talents, and treasures shared with one another. **Thank you for your presence** in worship today. **Thank you for offering** the “first fruits” of your finances. Offering 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 sharing** your spiritual gifts with our church, local, and global communities.*

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

MusiciansJonathan Walker-VanKuren, Soloist; Ethan Draper
Altar Flower DeliveryTina Schaffner
Altar Guild Diane Hoffman-Neail, Nancy Oppedal
Assisting Minister..... Darlene Klenk
Communion Assistants Darlene Klenk, Raegan Ross
Communion Preparers..... Abby Fett, Nancy Oppedal
Courier
Greeters Lance Frederick, Lynda Sheffer
LectorTom Shultz
Live Stream Lexi Smith
UshersTeam 6: Sally Staub, Kim Beard, Erik Klansek, Stephanie Klansek,
Carolyn Markle, Debby Seibert

MUSIC NOTES

We welcome Jonathan Walker-VanKuren as this morning’s soloist. He currently serves as Associate Professor of Voice at Lebanon Valley College, and has had a successful career on the operatic stage. Thank you, Jonathan, for sharing your gifts with us this morning!

Today’s postlude, Bach’s famed *Toccata and Fugue in D minor*, is a favorite of our departing Interim Pastor, Pastor Michael, and is played in appreciation of him for his work with St. Matthew this summer.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Louise Kauffman by Shirley Moncrief and Gloria Stauffer.

THE BULLETINS have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Dennis and Peryl Wetzel by daughters Elaine and Judy.

A NOTE OF THANKS:

Bonnie and Pastor Michael would like to thank St. Matthew for the hospitality and care you offered in our summer together. Please know that you will be in our prayers as you greet Pastor Goede and search for your new pastor. We have enjoyed sharing this time with you!

With thanks and prayers,
Pastor Michael and Bonnie

THE SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND CHRISTIAN BURIAL will be held for Jim Menges this Thursday, September 3, here at St. Matthew Lutheran Church. 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.

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.

Deb Smith	Kay Fontaine	Pearl Wintrode
Barb Berwager	Scott Pohlman	Loretta Cover
Roland Kunde	Jeanie Mehring	Patricia Mosely
Marie Siciliano	Caralyn Mummert	Nate Bankert
Shirley Bream	Jay Cromer	Brad Maloney
	Nancy Leister	Lucas Cherry

DEATHS: Roy (Buddy) Bream
Jim Menges

HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT



August 30 - September 6, 2026

Sun.	Final Outdoor Worship with Holy Communion (Parking Lot)	8:30 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave)	10:30 a.m.
Mon.	Grief Share (Upper Room)	3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Tue.	Women of the ELCA Bible Study	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Wed.	Boy Scouts	7:00-8:30 p.m.
Fri.	Church Office Closes at Noon	
Sat.	<i>Beginning Spanish</i> Class (Upper Room)	9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Fellowship Hall)	5:00 p.m.
Sun.	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave)	8:30 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave)	10:30 a.m.

Farewell to Pastor Michael

Our time with Pastor Michael has come to an end. This Sunday is his last service with us. Please take the opportunity to thank him for his time and service to St. Matthew during this period of transition. We're so glad we were able to have him come back home to renew old friendships.

The church office will **close at noon on Friday, September 4, and will **be closed on Monday, September 7** for Labor Day weekend. We will reopen on Tuesday morning, September 8 at 8:30 a.m.**



☀️ **RALLY DAY — Kick Off the New Church Year!** ☀️

Join us on **Sunday, September 20 at 9:30 a.m.** as we kick off our new church year and celebrate our theme:

💡 *God Lights Our Way* 💡

Bring the whole family for a morning of **fellowship, fun, and inspiration** as we look ahead to all that's in store at **St. Matthew!**

🎭 **Puppet Show** — fun for all ages

🔍 **Church Scavenger Hunt** — a family adventure

🎲 **Confirmation Bingo** — for confirmands and their families

★ **Splash Class** with Lindsay Amspacher for ages 3 mo. - 3 years.

🏆 **Prizes** throughout the morning!

Come discover the many opportunities **St. Matthew** has to offer, connect with one another, and get excited for the year ahead.

☕ Enjoy coffee, juice, bagels, and pastries as we celebrate together!

See you at Rally Day! We can't wait to kick off the new church year with you! 💖



There will be a 13-session GriefShare support group beginning Monday, August 31, 2026, 3 – 4:30 p.m. in the St. Matthew Upper Room. There will be NO meeting on Labor Day, September 7.

Our member Neil Rasmussen says GriefShare Group works for him because...

We can all participate.

We all face similar circumstances, including the facilitators.

We support each other.

It helped me...

- To know I'm not alone
- To guide me on my alternate way of life.
- To hold my hand when needed.

Call the Church Office to register or fill out this form and drop into the offering plate. You may email Pastor Faye at nicksong@comcast.net or call 717-637-7101, Ext 225.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

Email Address _____

JOIN US IN WELCOMING OUR NEW INTERIM PASTOR

On **September 1**, Pastor Nancy Goede will begin service as our Interim Pastor until a new Lead Pastor is called. We know that St. Matthew will greet her warmly as she begins her time with us.

Note from Call Committee

The Call Committee would like to sincerely thank everyone who took the time to complete our surveys and participate in our recent focus groups. We received 65 total surveys from the congregation.

Your thoughtful feedback, honest reflections, and willingness to share your hopes and concerns have been incredibly valuable as we begin the search for a new Pastor.

It is noteworthy that some of the top themes in the surveys / focus groups were:

- Recommitment to traditional Lutheran Worship & Biblical Teaching.
- Develop stronger relationships with congregants and community.
- Focus on the growth of the congregation.

We are grateful for the time, prayer, and care you have invested in this important process as we prayerfully discern the qualities and gifts that will best serve our congregation.

— *The Call Committee*



WOMEN/ELCA BIBLE STUDY will be held **Tuesday, September 1, 6 - 7:30 p.m. (please note time change)** in the Upper Room, enter elevator lobby

and go to the 2nd floor. All women are welcome to attend. Pastor Faye will be leading the Bible Study lesson found in the *gather* magazine. Lesson copies will be available. All women are invited to attend and bring a friend along too. For additional information call the church office. 717-637-7107.

Back-To-School Clothing Collection/De-Clutter Your Closet

With a new school year upon us and lots of back to school shopping, I am sure there is a lot of “clearing out” going on. If you have women’s/children’s clothing that you would like to donate somewhere, St. Matthew may have an opportunity for you. The Social Ministry Committee will be collecting women’s/children’s clothing to donate to our friends at HACC. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Amy Beck, abeck1976@comcast.net or Beth Szymanski, bszymanski3@hotmail.com. **Please bring clothing to the Gathering Place and place it in the bin** through September 27.



Puppet Ministry



St. Matthew Mini Ministers puppet ministry needs YOU! The puppet ministry is open to anyone in 6th grade-12th grade. Our next rehearsals are on **Sunday, September 13 from 9:30-10:15 am** and **Saturday, September 19 from 10:45 am-11:30 am**. The puppet ministry spreads the love of God at church and community groups.

For more information, please contact Deb Smith at dsmith@stmattlutheran.org. To register please visit: bit.ly/stmattpuppet.

Acting All Ages * NOTE CHANGE OF DATE*



Are you interested in acting? How can theatre enhance worship in Church and in the community? There will be a meeting on **Sunday, September 27 from 11:45-12:15 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall for anyone interested. This is for ALL ages. To register, please visit: bit.ly/StMattTheater.

STARTING THIS WEEK! Spanish Classes

Looking to learn a little Spanish? Register for Beginning Spanish taught by Martha Hernandez from CASA. Classes are September 5, September 19, September 26, and October 3 from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. in the Upper Room. Classes are FREE but registration is required. To register please visit: bit.ly/stmattspanish.



Seniors Hang Out

Our next Seniors Hang Out is on Monday, September 21 at 10:00 am. Pastor Michael will lead us in reflections of 9-11.

Save the Date: Our fall blood drive here at St. Matthew will be held Wednesday, September 23. Please pass the word to friends and family. This time, we will be celebrating Leo's birthday with special treats!

Blood Drive



Camp Hebron – Fall Retreat

Sponsored By: The Lower Susquehanna Synodical Women's Organization

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, October 23, 24, 25

Retreat theme is: "Rooted in love-Sustained in hope: Finding our call in



challenging times to nurture God's "kin-dom." Our leader this year is Elaine Dent, a retired Lutheran pastor who currently works as a spiritual director, a supply preacher and a once-a-month coach for a congregation in transition in Akron, Ohio. At Camp Hebron there will be faith renewal in worship, laughter & tears, getting reacquainted with old friends and

making new friends, refreshing walks in the outdoors or sitting quietly in meditation. Camp Hebron offers motel-type accommodations including linens, private bath and 5 delicious meals (no cooking for a whole weekend, ladies). There is also an opportunity for Saturday only registration. See registration form for more info.

Registration forms can be picked up in the church office or on the Hospitality Desk. Registrations must be postmarked by Tuesday, September 8. For additional information call the Church Office, 717-637-7101.

Lutheran World Relief



When a disaster hits — whether it's a drought, tsunami or civil war — Lutheran World Relief works over months and years to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to help people recover and adjust to new realities.

Natural disasters and conflict-driven emergencies ravage the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people each year. While emergencies affect people at all societal and economic levels, the world's poorest suffer the most because they have the fewest resources to prepare for a crisis and the fewest resources to rebuild afterward.

We work hand in hand with vulnerable communities to help rebuild after disaster strikes as well as avoid or prepare for future disasters.

In the days and weeks after a disaster, we are on the ground helping to meet people's immediate needs. And in the months and years following, we are dedicated to working with them to ensure that they can rebuild better and stronger than before.

To donate to a specific disaster such as Venezuela/Columbia earthquakes or wildfires or the Ukraine, go to give.lwr.org. To donate through St. Matthew, make checks payable to St. Matthew with the memo line LWR-disasters or donate through our online giving.

Join Us in Making a Joyful Noise!

CHOIRS TO RETURN IN SEPTEMBER



After a well-deserved summer recess, our choirs will return in September for an exciting year ahead of music making and spreading the word of the Gospel. Our choirs make a real difference in the life of our congregation and in our worship services. If you are interested in sharing your gifts in this way, please prayerfully consider joining one of our musical groups below:

Adult Choir | Returns September 10 at 7:00 p.m.
Rehearses Thursdays, 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.

St. Matthew Ringers (Adult Handbells) | Returns September 10 at 6:00 p.m.
Rehearses Thursdays, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

SoulFire (Praise Group) | Continues throughout the summer, new members welcome
Rehearses alternating Tuesdays, 5:45 – 6:30 p.m.

Youth Choir (6th – 12th grade) | Returns September 20 at 11:45 a.m.
Rehearses Sundays, 11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Junior Choir (3rd – 5th grade) | Returns September 15 at 4:30 p.m.
Rehearses Tuesdays, 4:30 – 5:15 p.m.

Children's Choir (Age 3 – 2nd grade) | Returns September 17 at 4:15 p.m.
Rehearses Thursdays, 4:15 – 5:00 p.m.

Contact Ethan Draper or Deb Smith if you are interested in participating.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Contact Tim Peck for more information, youth@stmattlutheran.org

Youth Ministry Team Meeting will be Tuesday September 1st at 7 p.m. on third floor in Youth Suite. If you would want to be a part of the team we would love to see you on September 1st.

Youth Group

Our next two Youth Groups will be September 6 & 20th, Youth suite on third floor room 304 from 6 – 8 p.m. We would love to see you there, so if you are in 6th through 12th grade, come and bring a friend! All Are Welcome!

FAMILY NIGHT FOR CONFIRMATION:

Join us on **September 13** in the Youth Suite from 6:00-8:00 p.m. to meet everyone and hear about what to expect for the year. All 6-8th graders and families are encouraged to come and have some pizza and fun!



ALIVE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS:



ALIVE is our annual synod middle-school (6-8th grade) retreat scheduled for **September 25-27** at Camp Nawakwa. Congregations from across our synod gather with their adult advisors and youth for this weekend. It'll include large gatherings with singing, games, and theme centered videos and stories, interspersed with small groups to converse about the theme and its impact in their lives of faith.

The weekend will also include games, campfires, free time, and community building that allows youth to deepen their existing friendships and cultivate new ones. Registration is \$50. **The deadline to register is September 6.** Contact Tim Peck at youth@stmattlutheran.org or the church office at 717-637-7101 ext. 230 with questions.



SCAN ME

CONFIRMATION

Sunday Faith Formation
for Grades 6-8
3rd Floor Youth Suite

Begins September 20 at 9:30 a.m.



Confirmation is not just a class. It is a journey of faith, where we ask honest questions and explore what it means to follow Jesus. Sign up with the QR code above.

Join us for Family Night , Sept. 13 from 6-8 p.m.!

This is an opportunity to get to know one another, eat pizza and learn what to expect this year! RSVP though the QR code above or by contacting Tim.

Contact Tim Peck
Youth@stmattlutheran.org
717-637-7101, ext. 230
with any questions!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Contact Missy Smith for more information, msmith@stmattlutheran.org.

INTRODUCING: GLOW



On Sunday, September 20, we are introducing **GLOW** to be held during the 10:30 worship service for our children! **God Lights Our Way!** Children 3 years old through 5th grade will be invited to join us for a lesson and craft after the first prayer and we will return before communion. This will take the place of our Faith Connections which were held at 9:30 a.m. prior years. Our 3-5 year olds will be in the Pray Ground in

Fellowship Hall. Kindergarten-2nd grade will be in the Faith Connections room in the Lower Level and 3rd-5th graders will be in the Children's choir room in the Lower Level. **We will begin GLOW on Sunday, September 20, at the 10:30 service.** Please contact Missy Smith with any questions, msmith@stmattlutheran.org or 717-637-7101, ext. 232.

The Adult Faith Connection classes will continue at 9:30-10:20 on Sundays, along with Confirmation class for 6-8th graders.

INFORMATION UPDATE 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.

_____ 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

Phone Number

E-mail

Mailing Address

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

30 W. Chestnut St. Hanover, PA 17331 | stmattlutheran.org

717-637-7101 | General Mailbox: ext. 221

info@stmattlutheran.org

Rev. Richard Michael, Interim Pastor

richardmichael1@mac.com

Rev. Faye C. Snyder, Visitation Pastor, ext. 225

nicksong@comcast.net

Ethan J. Draper, Minister of Music & Organist, ext. 235

edraper@stmattlutheran.org

Deb Smith, Associate 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



Scan Here



For E-Giving