



St. Matthew

LUTHERAN CHURCH *of* HANOVER

Where the Welcome is Wide and the Love is Real

Sunday, October 25, 2026
8:30 & 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 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 indoors with 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: *Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.*

Reformation Sunday
October 25, 2026
8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

✝ GATHERING ✝

PRELUDE

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

arr. Raney

The Sure Foundation
St. Matthew Ringers

arr. Helman

Please stand as you are able.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Thanksgiving for Baptism is led from the font because baptism is the way in which we enter into relationship with the God we know in Jesus Christ. Christians enter the endless cycle of repentance, confession and forgiveness through these waters.

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

All: Amen.

Pastor: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Show us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

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.*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

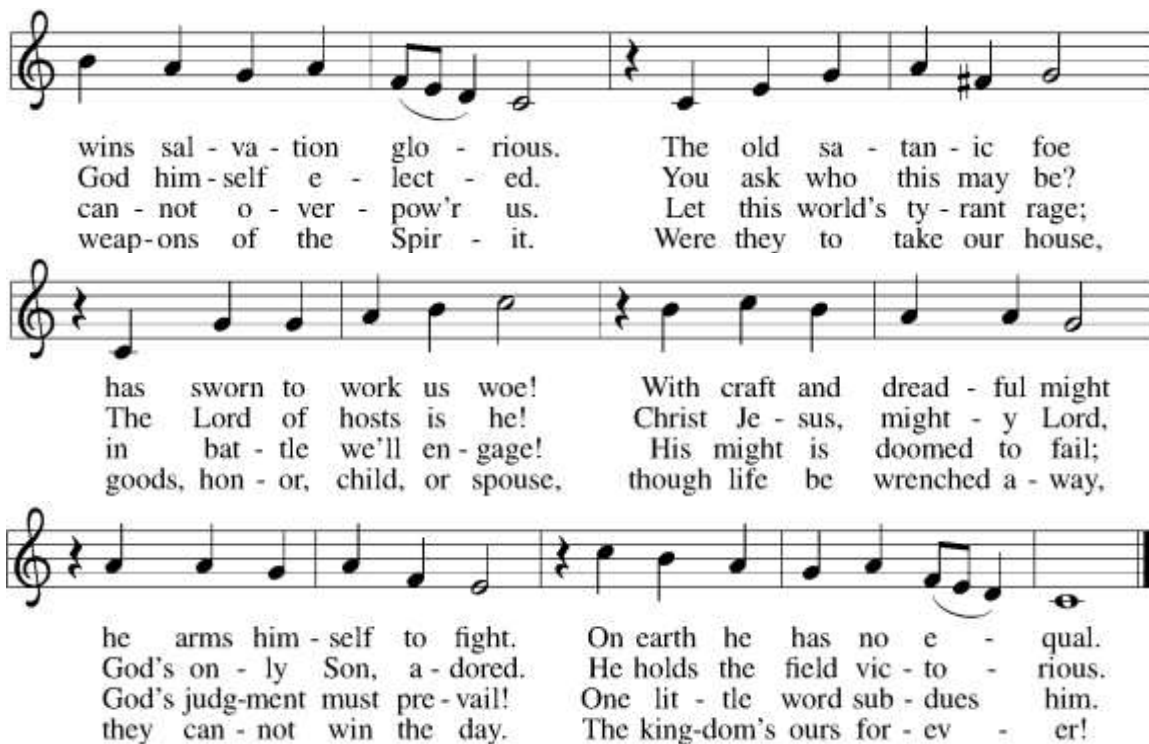
**ELW #504
Luther**



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
your 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. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. 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.

(10:30) God Lights Our Way- Children 3-years old to 5th grade are invited to join us at the rear of the Nave. Ages 3-5 will go to the Pray Ground in Fellowship Hall and children kindergarten - 5th grade will go to the Lower Level. At this time, we will explore our faith by learning Bible stories, and the lessons God teaches us. We will encourage our children to put those lessons into everyday life and let God's light shine through them.

We will return in time for communion with their families.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

There is silence to prepare for the readings.

Pastor: Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

✠ THE WORD ✠

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 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 be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³ though its waters rage and foam,
and 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 shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶ **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Lector: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 8th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Nancy Goede

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Built on a Rock

ELW #652

Grumdtvig/Lindeman

1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are
3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -
fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are
ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us
chim - ing and call - ing—call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the
life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their
souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.

PRAYERS

Assisting Minister: Each petition concludes, “Hear us, O God.” and the congregation responds, “***Your mercy is great.***”

PEACE

Assisting Minister: 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.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Christ Is Our Cornerstone
Adult Choir

Stopford

(10:30) Children return from Children's Church.

GENEROSITY MOMENT with ANNOUNCEMENTS



MAKING OUR OFFERING

Please stand as you are able.

+ MEAL +

OFFERTORY

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

ELW #678

Edwards/Parry

1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and end - less store:
na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door,
gift - ed by you, we turn to you, of - f'ring up our - selves in praise;
thank - ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. God of creation,

All: you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.

All blessings are from you;

make us generous with what we have.

Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts

in service to you and in love to our neighbors,

today and always. Amen.

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:



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



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER WITH WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Assisting Minister: 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

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 through the center aisle, proceed to an open spot at the chancel rail, and kneel or stand at the rail as you are able. You will receive a portion of bread and an individual cup of wine (red) or grape juice (white). If you need the available gluten free bread, please let the bread server know.

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.

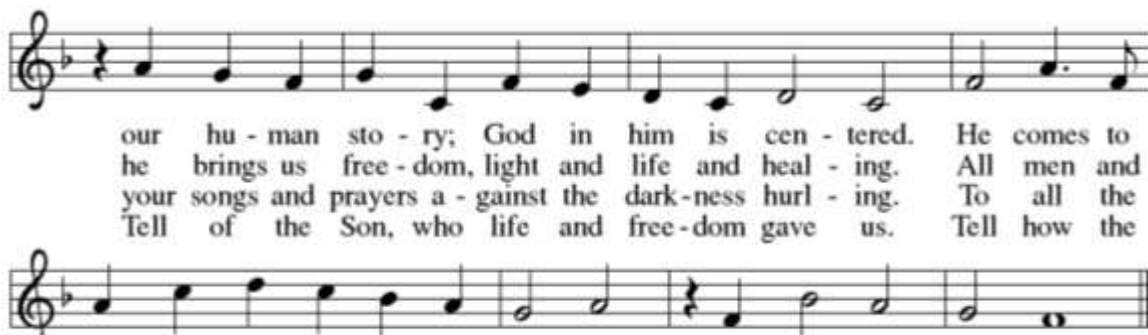
COMMUNION HYMN

Rise, Shine, You People!

ELW #665

Klug/Wood

1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
 he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
 your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the
 Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the

us, by death and sin sur-round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
 wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
 world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
 Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

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. Sustaining God,
 with this bread and cup,
 you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
 By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
 Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
 following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

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.

Please turn and face the cross as it recesses.

HYMN

The Church's One Foundation

ELW #654

Stone/Wesley



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:

Assisting Minister: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals

Karg-Elert

* * * * *

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 St. Matthew Ringers; Adult Choir; Deb Smith and Ethan Draper
Altar Flower Delivery Tina Schaffner
Altar Guild Deb Kline, Penny Rutters
Assisting Minister..... 8:30 – Karen Sowers; 10:30 – Phil Covert
Communion Assistants 8:30 – Darlene Klenk, Mike Jones
..... 10:30 – Deb Anker, Randy Kline
Communion Preparers..... 8:30 – Kelli Reed, Bonnie Williams
..... 10:30 – Abby Fett, Sally Staub
Courier 8:30 – Mike Jones, Irvin Sowers
..... 10:30 – Sue Covert, Randy Kline
Greeters 8:30 – Kathy Miller, Maria Martin
..... 10:30 – Doris Deitzel, Martha Hempfing
Lector 8:30 – Steve Rutters ; 10:30 – Randy Kline
Live Stream (10:30)..... Doug West
Ushers 8:30 - Team 7: John Frederick, Tom Bell, Barb Frederick,
Grant Frederick, Lance Frederick, Deb Hansford
10:30 – Team 5: Jeremy Bucher, Jay Bowersox, Hailey Bucher,
Randy Kline, Jody Ruhlman, Ellen Shenk

THE ALTAR FLOWERS have been given to the Glory of God and in honor of Nancy Oppedal's birthday by the Pierceson family; and in loving memory of Joan Marchio on the anniversary of her death by Ronald Rohrbaugh.

THE BULLETINS have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Joan Marchio on the anniversary of her death by Ronald Rohrbaugh.

THE SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND CHRISTIAN BURIAL for Gladys Despines was held on Saturday, October 24, at Wetzel's Funeral Home. Though we celebrate the departure of her life to be with the Lord, we also include in our prayers the members of her 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.

Lance Baker

William Brown

Nate Bankert

Darla Rawles

GriefShare Group

Brad Maloney

Mark Bitzel

Patricia Mosely

Lucas Cherry

Shirley Bream

Deaths: Elaine Lillich Mummert (Gordy Lillich's sister)

Next weekend, October 31/November 1, we will begin using bulletin covers with thematic preprinted pictures on the front and the scripture readings printed on the back. We will also begin using the hymnals for the hymns, rather than having them printed in the bulletin. These two changes will greatly help reduce our high printing costs. The service part of the bulletin can be printed in black and white, while the announcements will still be printed in color, but separate from the service. You can then take the announcements home for future reference, and the service bulletin can be placed in the recycle bins.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT



October 25 - Nov 1, 2026

Sun.	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave)	8:30 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion	10:30 a.m.
	Youth Choir & Bells Rehearsal (Adult Rehearsal Room)	11:45-12:45 p.m.
Mon.	Grief Share (Upper Room)	3:00-4:30 p.m.
	Community Meal	5:30-7:00 p.m.
	Trunk or Treat (Parking Lot)	5:30-7:00 p.m.
	Girl Scouts (Girl Scout Room)	6:00-7:30 p.m.
Tue.	Council Meeting (Upper Room)	7:00-9:00 p.m.
Wed.	St. Matthew Ringers Rehearsal (Adult Rehearsal Room)	6:00-7:00 p.m.
	Adult Choir Rehearsal (Adult Rehearsal Room)	7:00-8:15 p.m.
	Boy Scouts	7:00-8:30 p.m.
Sat.	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave)	5:00 p.m.
Sun.	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave)	8:30 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion	10:30 a.m.
	Youth Choir & Bells Rehearsal (Adult Rehearsal Room)	11:45-12:30 p.m.
	<i>Phantom of the Opera</i> feat. Organist Tedde Gibson (Nave)	4:00 p.m.
	Youth Group (Youth Suite)	6:00-8:00 p.m.

The Saturday services for Reformation and All Saints will be in the Nave, rather than in the Fellowship Hall.

- Worship on Saturday, October 31, 5pm, in the Nave for All Saints Day

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we approach the end of our fiscal year and prepare for the November Congregational Meeting and next year's budget, I would like to update you on the financial condition of St. Matthew Lutheran Church.

This past year has brought challenges, both within our congregation and financially. At the same time, we have been blessed with wonderful gifts and talents. We are grateful for the spiritual leadership of Pastor Nancy Goede, our Interim Pastor, and Ethan Draper, our Minister of Music. Both have become an important part of our congregation, and we thank God for their guidance and ministry.

Last year, the congregation approved a significant investment in new flooring throughout much of the church. Recognizing the impact this would have on our Future Capital Improvements Fund, we launched an appeal to replenish it. I am pleased to report that gifts and pledges have reached **\$157,875 as of August 26, 2026**. Thank you to everyone who has contributed.

We have also recently replaced our more-than-20-year-old air-conditioning system, which could no longer be repaired because replacement parts were unavailable. The project is nearly complete, and the new units are operating more efficiently while also providing backup heat should our aging steam boiler fail.

As of the end of August, our **Parish Ministry Giving is \$339,234, Miscellaneous Income is \$104,462**, and our **investment draw is \$320,557**. We are approaching our promised maximum investment draw of **\$385,000**.

These numbers highlight an important concern: we continue to rely heavily on the financial resources left to us by previous generations. While many members give generously of their time and financial resources, we ask each of us to prayerfully consider what we are able to contribute as we face the financial challenges ahead.

St. Matthew has been blessed by generations of members who provided gifts that have enriched our congregation—from our magnificent organ and stained-glass windows to Fellowship Hall and many other ministries. In 2004, we established an investment account with Haverford Trust. Through careful investment, sound financial guidance, and continued giving, that portfolio has allowed us to use more than **\$3.7 million** over the years to support our ministries without reducing the principal.

These resources have helped fund our staff, programs, community and world outreach, and efforts to serve those in need. However, an increasing portion of our investments is restricted by donor-designated purposes. Currently, only **41% of the funds in our care are available for general use**. The remainder must be used for purposes specified by the donors, such as scholarships or support of the organ. While these restricted funds are valuable, they cannot be used for essential operating expenses such as staff, utilities... *Continued next page*

...heating, or air conditioning. Consequently, our unrestricted resources are being depleted more quickly than in previous decades.

I share this information not to discourage us, but to help us understand the financial challenges before us as we prepare our next budget. These are unusual times for household and congregational finances alike, and our future will depend on the continued generosity and stewardship of our members.

Please keep St. Matthew in your prayers, as we continue to pray for our members, our community, and our country.

**In Christ,
Bob Curlen
Treasurer**

Next weekend, October 31/November 1, we will begin using bulletin covers with thematic preprinted pictures on the front and the scripture readings printed on the back. We will also begin using the hymnals for the hymns, rather than having them printed in the bulletin. These two changes will greatly help reduce our high printing costs. The service part of the bulletin can be printed in black and white, while the announcements will still be printed in color, but separate from the service. You can then take the announcements home for future reference, and the service bulletin can be placed in the recycle bins.

Congregation Meeting

This announcement serves as official notice of our Congregation Meeting on Sunday, November 8, immediately following the late worship service (approximately 11:30 a.m.). The purpose of the meeting is to approve a budget for 2027 and elect four new council members and a youth representative. During the Faith Connections hour (9:30- 10:15 a.m.), members of the Finance Committee will be in the Upper Room to answer questions regarding the budget. All voting (active) members of the congregation are asked to attend this important meeting.

NEW: Welcome Pew



As a sign of good hospitality, we will be implementing a Welcome Pew on Sunday, November 15th. This pew, staffed with volunteers, would be for visitors who would like to get to know people in the congregation as well as those who may be feeling lonely and would welcome company. The pew will be marked with a "Welcome Pew" sign, as well as a box of tissues at either end. It would be offered as a choice not a requirement for new people. If you see some unfamiliar faces in the Welcome Pew, make sure to welcome them to St. Matthew!

ADULT MINISTRY

Contact Beth Koontz for more information, bethk9245@gmail.com

Generations Class

Join us from 9:30 a.m. to 10:20 a.m. as we gather in the Parlor (right off the Gathering Place). This class uses a digital resource called *Wired Word*. The leader uses this for discussion on current everyday events and how they connect with scripture and our daily walk in Christian life.



Fall Community Meal

Monday, October 26, 5:30-7:00pm

Meal: Hot Dogs, Chili, Corn Bread, Chicken Corn Soup

Volunteers Needed: To make chili, corn bread, chicken corn soup, set up, serve, and clean up on the 26th. We will meet at 4:15pm for set up.

*If you are willing to help, please email Amy Beck, abeck1976@comcast.net or the church office, info@stmattlutheran.org.

Reformation Weekend October 24 & 25

Lutherans remember the Reformation at the end of October, when Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, in 1517, inviting colleagues at the university to debate with him the sale of indulgences by the pope. That was the official beginning of the Reformation, the movement that led many rulers and lands to split from the Roman Catholic Church and form churches like the Lutheran Church.

Commitment Weekend October 24 & 25

At our Reformation observance on October 24 & 25, instead of buying indulgences to support St. Matthew, we'll bring forward our estimate of giving cards and recommit ourselves to supporting the life of our church. Stewardship materials have been mailed. If you did not receive one, they can be found on the Hospitality Desk in the Gathering Place, and the rear of Fellowship Hall and the Nave.

All Saints' Weekend October 31 and November 1



As we do every year during worship on All Saints', we will read the names of those from this community who have died in the past year. For all of the other saints in your life whom you would like to remember on that day, please write their names in the book by the baptismal font, and we will read their names also. This could be anyone you know who has died in the past year or much longer ago. **This week is the last chance to add names to the All Saints list.** On All Saints', there will be a chance for you to light a candle for these saints as well.



WOMEN/ELCA BIBLE STUDY will be held **Tuesday, November 3, 6 - 7:30 p.m.** in the Upper Room, enter elevator lobby and go to the 2nd floor. All women are welcome to attend. Pastor Geode will be leading the Bible

study lesson found in the fall *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.

Find out more about the Women of the ELCA by going to this website: www.LSS-ELCA.org. Go to *Mission Partners* at the top of the home page and then scroll down to *Women of the ELCA LS SWO*.

Veterans Breakfast

Sunday, November 8 at 9:40 a.m.

The Youth invite all Veterans and their families to join us for a special breakfast as we honor and celebrate those who have served our country.

We would like to include our Veterans' service photos in a special PowerPoint presentation during the breakfast. If you are a Veteran and would like your photo included, please email your service photo to Deb Smith at dsmith@stmattlutheran.org.



Please submit your Veteran photo by October 31.

If you have submitted a photo in the past, there is no need to send it again. Deb still has your photo on file.

We look forward to gathering together as we give thanks for the service and sacrifice of our Veterans.

Church Library



It's Reformation Sunday! A day to celebrate our Lutheran faith! Do you want to learn more? Check out a book from OUR library (Yes, St. Matthew has a library!). An assortment of books, along with a sign-out sheet, are on a table in the hallway next to the Gathering Place. Check it out!



CODE BLUE

HACC - COLD WEATHER SHELTER

LET'S HELP ENSURE OUR FRIENDS
AND NEIGHBORS STAY SAFE, WARM, AND SUPPORTED!

Humbly asking for the following donations:

- BOTTLED WATER/BOTTLED JUICE
- SMALL BAGS OF CHIPS
- SOUP CANS OR CUPS/RAMEN NOODLES
- SHAMPOO/CONDITIONER
- BODY WASH/BARS OF SOAP
- BLANKETS
- HATS/GLOVES/SCARVES
- HOT CHOCOLATE

*COLLECTION BOX LOCATIONS:
GATHERING SPACE
&
THE ENTRANCE BY THE ELEVATOR*

2026 Green Bean Collection!

Help Us Meet Our Goal: 1,000 Cans of Green Beans

October 11-November 1

If you prefer to make a financial contribution, please note Green Bean Drive in the Memo Line

Any questions, please contact Amy Beck, abeck1976@comcast.net.



GRIEF SHARE®

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

Saturday, November 14, 2026 at 10 AM – 12 PM

St. Matthew Upper Room #201

**A helpful, encouraging seminar for people facing the holidays
after losing a loved one.**

The seminar will help you with...

- Being prepared for surprising emotions that may hit over the holidays
- What to do about traditions and possible changes
- How to handle holiday parties and invitations
- How to survive awkward moments with other people
- Where to find comfort, strength, and hope in a seemingly hopeless time



Attendees will receive a Survival Guide with practical tips, encouraging words, journaling ideas, and daily help throughout the holiday season. There is no cost.

For more information or to register, call Pastor Faye Snyder at 717-637-7101, Ext 225 or email nicksong@comcast.net. Registration deadline is November 10.

Scan the QR Code below to register.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Contact Ethan Draper for more information, edraper@stmattlutheran.org

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Hanover presents:

Silent Film with Organ Accompaniment
feat. organist Tedde Gibson

Sunday, Nov. 1
at 4:00 p.m.
Reception to follow



Maryland-based Tedde Gibson performs live accompaniment to silent films across the country. Mr. Gibson will accompany the 1925 classic *Phantom of the Opera* starring Lon Chaney, which will be a unique and unforgettable experience.



St. Matthew
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF HANOVER

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

Youth Group

Our next Youth Group meeting will be Sunday, November 1st in the Youth suite on the third floor, room 304, from 6 – 8 p.m. We would love to see you there! If you are in 6th through 12th grade, come and bring a friend! All Are Welcome!

There will be **no Youth Group on Nov. 15th**, get some rest after the Lock-In weekend!

Youth Needed

We will need youth to be Cross Bearers and Torch Bearers for next weekend!

- All-Saints Sunday, November 1st at both services (1 at 8:30 service; 3 at 10:30 service)

Please let Tim Peck know which service you would like to serve at:

youth@stmattlutheran.org 717-476-9920.


St. Matthew

CONFIRMATION

Sunday Faith Formation for Grades 6 thru 8
Sundays from 9:30 - 10:20 a.m.
3rd Floor Youth Suite

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 provided QR code.



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



Youth Lock-In 6-12th grade

Put it on the calendar for November! A lock-in for all 6-12th graders. We will have a cook off, games, lessons, midnight worship, and lots of fun, right here in our church!

Please mark November 13 and 14th for this event! More details will be coming soon. Contact Tim Peck youth@stmattlutheran.org, 717-476-9920 for questions.

A poster for a community meal and trunk-or-treat event. The background is black with orange diamond patterns. The text is in yellow and white. At the bottom left is a large orange pumpkin. At the bottom right is a QR code.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Hanover

**Community Meal &
Trunk-or-Treat**

Monday, October 26
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
St. Matthew Parking Lot


St. Matthew

Got a Faboo-lous
Idea for a Trunk?



Scan the QR Code to
Register for a Spot!

**This event
is free
and open
to all!**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

GLOW



During the 10:30 service, all children ages 3 years old to 5th grade are invited to GLOW (God Lights Our Way.) They will gather at the back of the Nave to participate in a lesson and activity after the first prayer and return before communion.

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. Please contact Missy Smith with any questions,

msmith@stmattlutheran.org or 717-637-7101, ext. 232.

Fall Programs for Children

Tiny Tunes | Sat., Nov. 7; 14; 21 - 12:00-12:45 p.m.

Join us in the Children's Choir Room for music, games, songs, and instruments for children ages 2 1/2-4 years old.



Pajama Storytime | Sunday, November 8 - 5:00 pm

Join Ms. Lindsay, Mr. Ethan, and Ms. Deb in the Upper Room for a meal (chicken nuggets, cookies, etc.) followed by songs and stories.

Music JAM (Jesus and Me) | Saturday, November 14 - 9 to 11 am

Kids in K-4 grade are welcome to join us in the in the Children's Choir Room for a morning of singing, music games, playing instruments, making their own instrument, and snack.



These programs are FREE but registration is required. Scan the QR Code to register! For more information, please contact Deb Smith at dsmith@stmattlutheran.org.

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

Pastor Nancy Goede, Interim Pastor, ext. 231
njgoede@gmail.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

Connect With Us!

	StMattHanover
	@StMattHanover
	@StMattLutheran
	StMattLutheran.org

Scan Here



For E-Giving