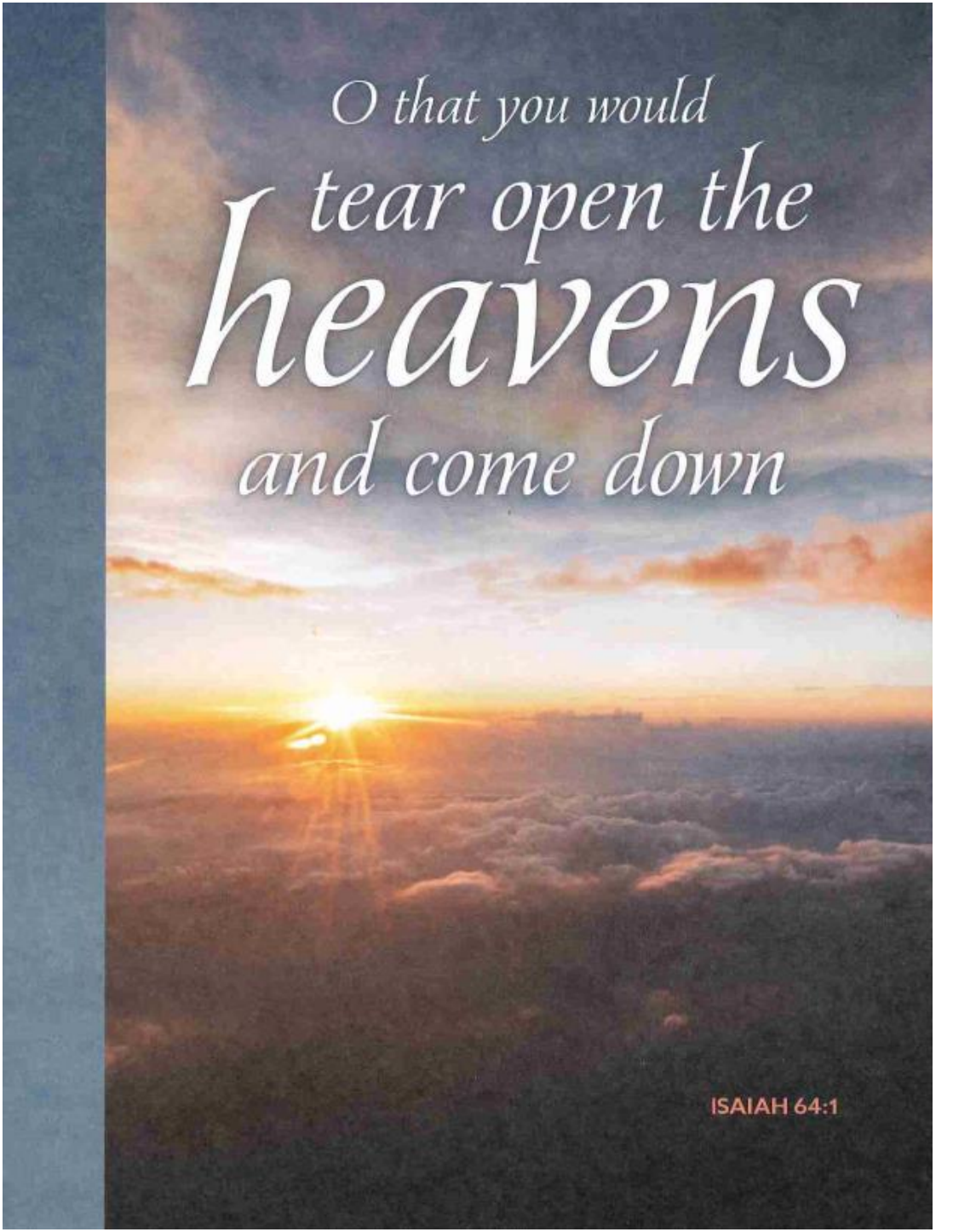

O that you would
tear open the
heavens
and come down
ISAIAH 64:1

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: *Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.*

First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026
8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

✢ GATHERING ✢

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE ***Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*, BWV 645** **Bach**
"Sleepers wake, a voice is Calling"

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✢ one God,
who calls out to the weary,
whose word endures forever.

All: Amen.

Pastor: A voice cries out in the wilderness,
"Make straight the way of the Lord!"
We are called to confess our sin
and turn back toward God's love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Comforting God,

All: we are your people,
but we have neglected to call on your name.
We are your people,
but we have not remembered your ways.
We are your people,
but we have forgotten your hold on us.
We are your people,
but now we fade like a leaf,
and our sins, like the wind, take us away.

Restore us as your people.
Cleanse us from our sin,
and clothe us in your righteousness. Amen.

Pastor: "Comfort, comfort my people!" says your God,
who has clothed you with the garments of salvation
and wrapped you in the robe of righteousness.
God has given you a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
In the name of ✝ Christ, your sins are forgiven:
Rejoice in the Lord!

All: Amen. Thanks be to God!

HYMN ***Borning Cry*** **ELW #732**

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.

Pastor: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Please be seated.

MUSICAL OFFERING (10:30) ***An Irish Blessing*** **arr. Raney**
Bobbi Little, Flute

✢ THE WORD ✢

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH – Candle of Hope

Leader: Gracious and faithful God, you have promised that the days are surely coming when you will make all things new. As this first candle burns in the stillness of winter, awaken us from sleepiness and distraction so that we may watch eagerly for signs of your grace. When the world feels heavy, uncertain, or fractured, anchor our hearts in a living hope that does not disappoint. Teach us to wait with patience and active trust, looking forward to the day when Christ comes in glory to set all creation free.

All: Amen.

Light the first candle.

Leader: The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill my promise.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, be our hope.

Leader: In the shadows of winter and the worries of our days, we watch and we wait.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, be our light.

Leader: We light this first candle as a sign of our trust in God's faithful promises.

All: Wake us up, O God, and lead us in your way. Amen.

(10:30) *The Prayground is available at this time for those 2nd grade and under who would like a place to wiggle and giggle*.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 *Please read responsively.*

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2 **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and come to help us.
3 Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
4 **O LORD God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6 **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
17 **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong for yourself.
18 And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
19 **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

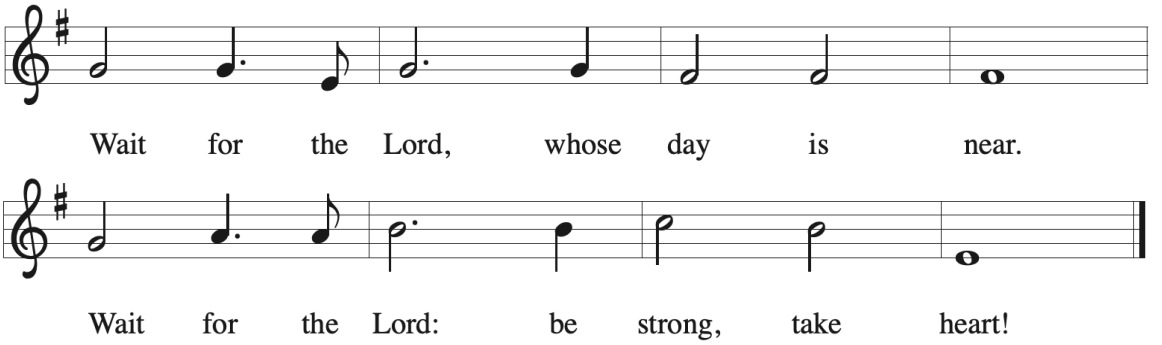
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ***Wait for the Lord*** **ELW #262**



Lector: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 13th chapter.
All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.
All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON **Pastor Nancy Goede**

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY ***The King Shall Come*** **ELW #260**
(verse 1)

Please be seated.

Children are welcome to come close to the baptismal font for the baptism.

HOLY BAPTISM **ELW Page 227**

PRAYERS

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."

MAKING OUR OFFERINGS
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 or using this QR code. You may also text-to-give at 717-613-6204.* ***Thank you for sharing*** *your spiritual gifts with our church, local, and global communities.*

Scan Here
For E-Giving

MUSICAL OFFERING

(8:30) ***An Irish Blessing*** **arr. Raney**
Bobbi Little, Flute

(10:30) ***English Advent Carol*** **arr. Liebergen**
Adult Choir with Bobbi Little, Flute

Please stand as you are able.

+ MEAL +

OFFERTORY ***Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*** **ELW #240**

Text: Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Holy Creator,

All: we are the clay and you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Receive these gifts shape them and our lives for your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMUNION **ELW Page 152**

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

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.*

Individual packets *are available for those wishing to remain in their pew.*

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.*

COMMUNION HYMN ***Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding*** **ELW #246**

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Providing God,
you feed your flock like a shepherd
and gather your people in your arms.
We praise you for the care and sustenance
you give at this meal and always.
As we leave your table, carry us near your heart,
and send us with confidence in the way
of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

All: Amen.

☩ SENDING ☩

BLESSING

Pastor: May God who comes among us as one of us,
Father + Son and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.

All: Amen.

HYMN ***Soon and Very Soon*** **ELW #439**

DISMISSAL:

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Bring good news to the brokenhearted.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE **Finale from *Wachet auf*** **Wold**

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

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 ..... (8:30) Bobbi Little, Flute; Deb Smith and Ethan Draper
(10:30) Bobbi Little, Flute; Adult Choir; Deb Smith and Ethan Draper

Altar Flower Delivery .....

Altar Guild ..... Martha Hempfing, Sally Staub

Assisting Minister..... 8:30 – Stephanie Klansek; 10:30 – Jeremy Bucher

Candle Lighters ..... 8:30 – Sara & Meredith Staub; 10:30-the Peck/Fisher families

Communion Assistants ..... 8:30 – Nadine Baughman, Barb Rupp
..... 10:30 – Mike Jones, Jody Ruhlman

Communion Preparers..... 8:30 – Kathy Miller, Debby Seibert, Bonnie Williams
.....10:30 – Hallie Doll, Carolyn Markle

Courier ..... 8:30 – Stephanie Klansek
..... 10:30 – Irvin Sowers, Sue Covert

Greeters .....8:30 – Erik Klansek, Sally Staub
..... 10:30 – Ken & Gloria Koontz

Lector ..... 8:30 – Eric Klansek; 10:30 – Deb Barretto

Live Stream (10:30).....Tom Shultz

Ushers ..... 8:30 - Team 7: John Frederick, Tom Bell, Barb Frederick,
Grant Frederick, Lance Frederick, Deb Hansford
10:30 – Team 8: Irvin Sowers, Gordon Grady, Karen Sowers,
Barry & Lori Unger

THE ALTAR FLOWERS have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Robert and Myrtle Satterfield by Ellen and Kevin Shenk and family.

THE BULLETINS have been given to the Glory of God.

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT of Holy Baptism at the 10:30 service is Ethan McCormick Gray and Everett Michael Gray, twin sons of Kevin Matthew Gray and Katelyn Ann (Klenk) Gray, with sponsors Tyler and Madison Klenk and Tyler Feeser. We welcome Ethan and Everett into the earthly body of Christ with membership here at St. Matthew Lutheran Church. They are the grandsons of Darlene and Jeff Klenk.

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.

Raegan Ross
Judy Funke
Ella Hostetter
Dan Deitzel
Ian Noble
Jim Wallace
Lucera Lua
Joan Ehrman
Lance Baker
Darla Rawles
Mark Bitzel
GriefShare Group
Patricia Mosely
Dan Weigle
Nate Bankert
Brad Maloney
Lucas Cherry

HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT

St. Matthew
LUTHERAN CHURCH of HANOVER

November 29- December 6, 2026

Sun.	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave)	8:30 a.m.
	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	9:30-10:15 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion	10:30 a.m.
	Hanging of the Greens with Pizza	11:45 a.m.
	Youth Choir & Bells Rehearsal (Adult Rehearsal Room)	11:45-12:30 p.m.
	Youth Cookie Making Evening (Fellowship Hall)	6:00-8:00 p.m.
Mon.	Grief Share (Upper Room)	2:00-4:30 p.m.
Tue.	Junior Choir Rehearsal (Children's Rehearsal Room)	4:30-5:15 p.m.
	Women of the ELCA Bible Study (Second Floor, Upper Room)	6:00-7:30 p.m.
	Cub Scout Den Meeting (gym)	6:30-7:30 p.m.
Wed.	Boy Scouts	7:00-8:30 p.m.
Thur.	Children's Choir Rehearsal (Children's Rehearsal Room)	4:15-5:00 p.m.
	St. Matthew Ringer's Rehearsal ((Adult Rehearsal Room)	6:00-7:00 p.m.
	Adult Choir Rehearsal (Adult Rehearsal Room)	7:00-8:00 p.m.
	Christmas Concert Rehearsal (Adult Rehearsal Room)	8:00-8:30 p.m.
Fri.	Cookie Walk Set-Up (Fellowship Hall)	6:00-8:00 p.m.
Sat.	Cookie Walk (Fellowship Hall)	9:00-11:00 a.m.
	LutheranHANDS Day of Service	9:00-12:00 p.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Fellowship Hall)	5:00 p.m.
Sun.	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave)	8:30 a.m.
	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	9:30-10:15 a.m.
	Splash Class	9:45-10:15 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion	10:30 a.m.
	Youth Choir & Bells Rehearsal (Adult Rehearsal Room)	11:45-12:30 p.m.
	Community Meal (Fellowship Hall)	3:00-5:00 p.m.

A Message from Our Council President

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday it is appropriate that we give thanks to all the members who have graciously given of their time and shared their talents for the betterment of St Matthew. We are also grateful for those who have financially supported the staff, facilities, and mission of this congregation.



Without your support of time, talent, and treasure there would be no St Matthew. 2026 has presented many obstacles for our congregation, but with your continued support we will get through this challenging period.

Take the time, especially this week, to focus on the blessings that you have in your life and give thanks.

Temporary Part-Time Custodial Position Available

Our part-time custodian will be having knee surgery on November 25. He will be unavailable to work for up to 3 months. We are looking for a responsible, part-time person to fill his position until he is able to return. The hours will be Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 3 hours a day, after the schools are out in the afternoon. The person filling in will need to get security clearances. Those interested in the position are asked to contact the church office: 717-637-7101.

NEW: Welcome Pew



Holy Hospitality! The Welcome Pew is here! Look for it every week at 10:30 service. Welcome to visitors and anyone who would just rather not sit alone.

This week, Deb Anker is hosting. She will make sure anyone who sits there with her, feels included and will provide worship tips and information, if needed. If you would like to host (male/female/couples), it's easy to sign up using the QR code provided, or call the church office: 717-637-7101.



A Note from the Church Library

Treat your spirit. An assortment of books from our library are now available at The Book Table found in the Gathering Place. Curl-up with a good book!

Hanging of the Greens

Hanging of the Greens will take place this Sunday, November 29 immediately following the 10:30 worship service –if you are available to help transform our beautiful Nave for the Advent and Christmas seasons, please plan on staying to help decorate! Pizza will be provided.

Holiday Community Meal

You are invited to join us for a Holiday Community Meal on Sunday, December 6th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to share in a warm meal, music and Storytime with Santa! We are looking for volunteers to help make things run smoothly, if you are interested please contact Beth Szymanski at: 717-634-7484; bszymanski3@hotmail.com, or Kit Curlen at: 717-891-4849; kcurlen@comcast.net. You can also find sign-up sheets for volunteers at the Hospitality Desk in the Gathering Space.



Our First Live Nativity – Volunteers Needed!



St. Matthew invites everyone to participate in our **first Live Nativity** on Monday, December 21! We will have two performances, one at **6:00 p.m. and one at 7:00 p.m.**, on the lawn outside the Fellowship Hall doors.

We are looking for volunteers to help make this special event a success! There are opportunities for everyone to participate, including:

- **Actors and Actresses:** No speaking lines required! Rehearsal will begin 30 minutes before the performance.
- **Setup Crew:** Help prepare the area for the Nativity.
- **Stage Crew:** Cue the actors and actresses.
- **Cleanup Crew:** Help with teardown after the event.
- **Hospitality Team:** Prepare and serve coffee and hot chocolate.
- **Cookie Donations:** Help us share some holiday sweetness!

Whether you would like to be part of the Nativity or help behind the scenes, we welcome your time and talents. Let's come together as a church family to share the joy and wonder of the Christmas story with our community!

Please consider volunteering and being part of this special new St. Matthew tradition! Scan the QR code to register TODAY!

ADULT MINISTRY

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

Seniors Hang Out



- Monday, December 7, 10:00 a.m. to Noon in Fellowship Hall.
  Join us for Holiday fun as we play Christmas Bingo, create Christmas Crafts, and watch *A Charlie Brown Christmas*.
- Monday, December 14, 10:00 a.m. to Noon in Fellowship Hall.
  Help us create holiday magic for others as we help with our Christmas Cheer Bags.

Women of the ELCA

WOMEN/ELCA BIBLE STUDY will be held **Tuesday, December 1, 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 Goede will be leading the Bible study lesson found in the winter *gather* magazine, *Prophets of Grief and Amazement: Session One: Amos of Tekoa*: *God's call for justice is not optional*. 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.

Angel Tree



Help us make the holiday special for others by participating in our Angel Tree, located in the Gathering Place. There are opportunities of all price ranges to help brighten someone's Christmas. This tree benefits local families through New Hope Ministries and gift cards benefit the members of Oakview Manner, a HUD facility. Gifts on the Angel Tree should be returned by December 6.

Christmas Cheer Bags
Know someone who has had a tough year and could use some extra cheer? A friend? A relative? A co-worker? You can help cheer them up by submitting their name and contact information. We will deliver gift bags to folks who are grieving, who have lost their job, are sick, injured, lonely, or sad for any reason.

Note: Bags are not limited to St. Matthew members, but they must be located within 15 miles of Hanover.

We will assemble and deliver cheer bags on Friday, December 18 at 10 am in Fellowship Hall. Many hands make light work.

You can submit names and sign up to volunteer by scanning the QR code or by completing a form available below, or on the Hospitality Desk and placing it in the offering plate. Deadline to submit names is December 14.

For questions or more information, contact Deb Smith through the church office (717-637-7101) or by email (dsmith@stmattlutheran.org).

Recipient Name _____

Recipient Address _____

Recipient Phone number _____

Your name _____

Your phone number _____

Help pack on December 18? _____ Help Deliver on December 18? _____

ST. MATTHEW COOKIE WALK RETURNS

Saturday December 5, 9:00-11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall



HELP NEEDED:

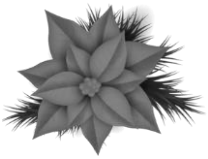
¨ Cookie Bakers (we are asking you to make 6 dozen cookies)
¨ Set Up-Friday December 5-6:00pm
¨ At the Cookie Walk-we will need volunteers to help oversee the Cookie tables and to put the cookies in the shoppers boxes, to refill
¨ Trays as needed, and anywhere else help is needed.

If you are willing to bake cookies, or help at the cookie walk, please let either the office, info@stmattlutheran.org or Amy Beck, abeck1976@comcast.net know.

St. Matthew sponsors the education of Scarleth Zuleyma and Nahomy Natasha at the Hope Academy in Guatemala. For 2026, the sponsorship is $150 a month for each girl. We have already paid the first half of the year for both and our goal with the Cookie Walk is to raise the remaining $1800. This will cover the tuition for the remainder of the school year for both of these girls.

Christmas Poinsettias

Members and friends who wish to honor or memorialize a loved one by placing a poinsettia in the chancel this Christmas are asked to complete and return the form below with $18 per listing to the church office. After the cost of the poinsettias is met, the memorials/honorariums will support Lutheran World Relief. The deadline is Monday, December 7. Please print clearly when filling in names. Please make checks payable to "St. Matthew Lutheran Church" with "Poinsettias" in the memo line.



I/We wish to (please check one): _____ Honor _____ Memorialize

Person(s) to be memorialized or honored:_____

_____

_____

Given by: _____

Your offering envelope number: _____

After the costs of the poinsettias are met, the remaining monies will be sent to Lutheran World Relief.

Blue Christmas

Candles flicker, comforting words are spoken, sweet music fills our souls, messages of Christ's love, hope and comfort enfold us. You're invited to Blue Christmas, a worship service for those who are stressed, hurting, grieving or lonely in this holiday season, on Monday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. For more information, call Pastor Faye Snyder at 717-637-7101, Ext 225 or email: nicksong@comcast.net.

MUSIC MINISTRY

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

Christmas at St. Matthew Concert



Mark your calendars for our beloved Christmas at St. Matthew Concert on Sunday, December 20th at 4:00 PM. Celebrate the season in our beautiful decorated Nave with Christmas Favorites and Classics. This concert will feature the many musicians of St. Matthew, brass, organ, and audience carol singing. Free Admission...Our Gift to the Community. Free Will Offering will be accepted to support our Concert Series.

Caroling and Pizza



We will meet for Caroling on Wednesday, December 16 at 5:30 p.m. at St. Matthew and then we will go caroling to many of our homebound members. Caroling packets will be provided for all. Following the caroling, we will return to St. Matthew for pizza and fellowship. Join us to share the joy of the season!

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

Cookie Making Evening



Join us on **November 29th from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** as we come together to make cookies for the church's Cookie Walk! Bring your favorite cookie dough and recipe, and enjoy a fun evening of baking, fellowship, and delicious treats.
Parents and guardians are welcome and encouraged to attend to help supervise and spend time with the youth.

St. Matthew Confirmation Class

Confirmation is not just a class. It is a journey of faith, where we ask honest questions and explore what it means to honor Jesus. Join us for Faith Formation for grades 6 through 8 on Sundays from 9:30 to 10:20 a.m. in the third floor Youth suite. Sign up today using the QR code!

LutheranHANDS Day of Service

Looking for a way to make a difference? Join us on **December 5th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** as we partner with Lutheran Hands for a Day of Service!



This is a wonderful opportunity to give back, help those in need, and show God's love through service. Best of all, there's **no cost**. This year we will be volunteering at the Midwest Food Bank in Middletown. We'll meet at church and travel together in the church van. This opportunity is for those in 6-12th grades. Don't miss this chance to make an impact while serving alongside your friends!

Winterfest 2027: Rhythm

Our synod's annual weekend event for high school youth, and college-aged young adults is scheduled for January 8-10, 2027, at the Wyndham Resort in Lancaster. Winterfest is celebrating 36 years and continues to provide a community of authentic Christian love and welcome for

congregational youth, young adults, and their advisors. Our event theme is 'Rhythm.' We will explore the ways God invites us into a closer rhythm with Christ and ways we can share that rhythm with those whom we encounter in our everyday lives. Live music, fun, inspired worship, and plenty of time to meet and see friends new and old, all help make the weekend truly memorable.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

GLOW

Due to the holiday break, we will not have GLOW during the 10:30 service. We will have the Prayground open and available for our families 2nd grade and under that would like to join us.

Splash Class

Sunday, December 6th from 9:45-10:15, parents of infants and toddlers 3 months to 3 years old are invited to attend Splash Class- a "baby and me" style group class. Together, parents/caregivers and children will explore what's next after you've been "splashed" in the waters of Baptism.

Christmas Pageant

We are excited to begin a new tradition at St. Matthew! This year, our Christmas Pageant will be part of the 4:30 p.m. Family Service on Christmas Eve.

We invite you to register your child to be part of the wonderful story of our Savior's birth. It's a special opportunity for children to share the joy and wonder of Christmas with our church family. All rehearsals will be held at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall on the following Sundays:

- December 6
- December 13
- December 20

We look forward to sharing this new tradition with our children and families as we celebrate the birth of Jesus! Scan QR code to register today! 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

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FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
5You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
8Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—6just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—7so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

[Jesus said:] "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26"Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. 33Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 34It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8.

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