



St. Matthew

LUTHERAN CHURCH *of* HANOVER

Where the Welcome is Wide and the Love is Real

Sunday, August 2, 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: In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the Eucharistic Table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the Bread of Life, we are sent forth to give ourselves as bread for a hungry world.

10th Sunday after Pentecost
August 2, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

✠ GATHERING ✠

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

My Lord, What a Morning

Kim

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

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

ELW #461

Dunstan/Moore



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na is our bread.
2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang - ers; seek - er, be a wel - come guest.
3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil - der - ness and wan - d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat - tered in com - mu - nion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat - i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

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.

Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

Please be seated.

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: Isaiah 55:1-5

God invites Israel to a great feast at which both food and drink are free. God also promises to make an everlasting covenant with all peoples, with promises that previously had been limited to Israel. As David was a witness to the nations, these nations shall now acknowledge the ways in which God has glorified Israel.

- ¹ Hear, everyone who thirsts;
 come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
 come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.
- ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread
 and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.
- ³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
 listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.
- ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander for the peoples.
- ⁵ Now you shall call nations that you do not know,
 and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
 for he has glorified you.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 *(Please read responsively.)*

- ⁸ The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
 slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- ⁹ **LORD, you are good to all,
 and your compassion is over all your works.**
- ¹⁴ The Lord upholds all those who fall
 and lifts up those who are bowed down.
- ¹⁵ **The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD,
 and you give them their food in due season.**

- ¹⁶ You open wide your hand
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.
- ¹⁷ **You are righteous in all your ways
and loving in all your works.**
- ¹⁸ You are near to all who call upon you,
to all who call upon you faithfully.
- ¹⁹ **You fulfill the desire of those who fear you;
you hear their cry and save them.**
- ²⁰ You watch over all those who love you,
but all the wicked you shall destroy.
- ²¹ **My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD;
let all flesh bless God's holy name forever and ever.**

Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5

This begins a new section in Paul's letter in which he will deal with the place of Israel in God's saving plan. He opens by highlighting how Israel's heritage and legacy include being God's children, having God's covenants, being given God's law, participating in worship of God, and receiving God's promises. To be a chosen people comes with great responsibility to be God's "light to the nations."

¹ I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—² I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own brothers and sisters, my own flesh and blood. ⁴ They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵ to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

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 14th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 14:13-21

After John the Baptist is murdered, Jesus desires a time of solitude. Still, his compassion for others will not allow him to dismiss those who need him, and he is moved to perform one of his greatest miracles.

¹³ Now when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist,] he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷ They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸ And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled,

and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.
²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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



1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries:
may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning shad - ows fall,
this rings my cur - few call: may 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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness
Bryan Doll, Soloist

Schrader

Please stand as you are able.

+ MEAL +

OFFERTORY

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW #685
Havergal

I 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,

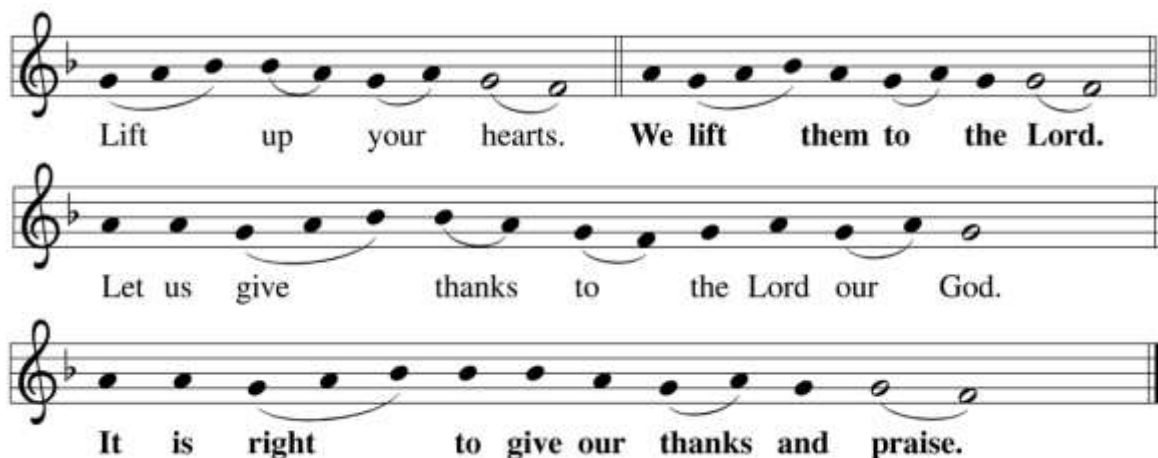
All: we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

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

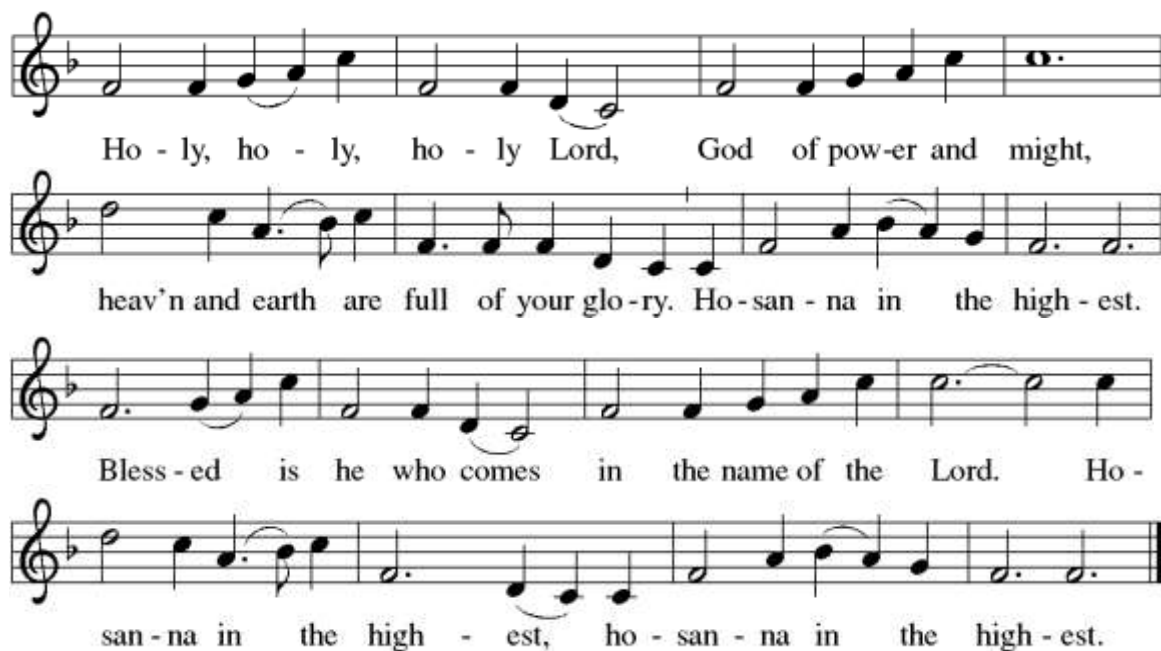
We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding
with us now and forever. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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



Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
 ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER WITH WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All are welcome to the Lord's Supper. The meal is served in three ways. Choose what is appropriate for you.

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

If you are unable to come forward, but would like communion served by the pastor, please let one of the ushers know and the Sacrament will be brought to you at your seat.

Continuous manner – Come forward at the direction of the ushers, take the wafer from the pastor, “The body of Christ, given for you”, and eat it. (Gluten-free wafers are available) Then move to the next station and take one of the cups of wine (red) or grape juice (white) “The blood of Christ, shed for you”, and drink it.

Children who do not yet receive communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

IN-PEW COMMUNION (WITH PACKETS)

Pastor: The body of Christ, given for you.

All: Amen. (Eat wafer)

Pastor: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

All: Amen. (Drink wine/grape juice)

LAMB OF GOD



- 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

As We Gather at Your Table

ELW #522

Daw



- 1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

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

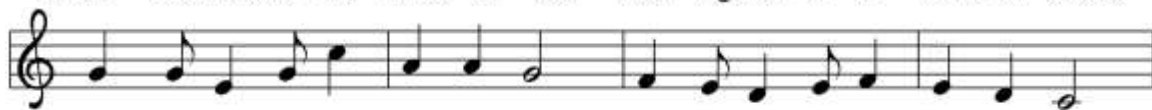
Pastor: Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now
and forever.

All: Amen.

HYMN

*Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*ELW #674
Kaan/Potter

1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

Refrain

Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

DISMISSAL:

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

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Toccata jubilante from Petite symphonie

Penfield

* * * * *

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 Bryan Doll, Soloist; Deb Smith, Ethan Draper
Altar Flower Delivery Pam Cashman
Altar Guild Diane Hoffman-Neail, Nancy Oppedal
Assisting Minister..... Hailey Bucher
Communion Assistants Hailey Bucher, Randy Kline
Communion Preparers..... Deb Anker, Nancy Oppedal
Courier Mike Jones
Greeters Ardis Kunde
Lector Kathi Thompson
Live Stream Doug West
Ushers Team 1: Tom Shultz, Bob & Kit Curlen, Sean Huston, John Mancini,
Linda Sanders, Linda Wheeler

*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.*

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.

Kay Fontaine	Jay Cromer	Patricia Mosely
Scott Pohlman	Nancy Leister	Nate Bankert
Jeanie Mehring	Pearl Wintrode	Brad Maloney
Lisa Blake	Loretta Cover	JoAnn Smith
Caralyn Mummert	Mike Mummert	Lucas Cherry

THE ALTAR FLOWERS have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Anna E. Baker who passed away on August 6, 2013, by her son Philip Zinn.

THE BULLETINS have been given to the Glory of God.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT



August 2 - 9, 2026

Sun.	Outdoor Worship with Holy Communion (Parking Lot)	8:30 a.m.
	Call Committee Focus Group (Fellowship Hall)	9:30-10:15 a.m.
	Singing Hymns Confidently (Lower Level – Adult Rehearsal Room)	9:30-10:20 a.m.
	SoulFire Rehearsal	9:45-10:20 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave)	10:30 a.m.
Mon.	Music Camp	9:00-11:00 a.m.
Tue.	Music Camp	9:00-11:00 a.m.
	Call Committee Focus Group (Library)	6:00– 8:00 p.m.
Wed.	Music Camp	9:00-11:00 a.m.
	Boy Scouts	7:00-8:30 p.m.
Thur.	Music Camp	9:00-11:00 a.m.
Fri.	Music Camp	9:00-11:00 a.m.
Sat.	Back to School Event (Fellowship Hall)	12:00-2:00 p.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Fellowship Hall)	5:00 p.m.
Sun.	Outdoor Worship with Holy Communion (Parking Lot)	8:30 a.m.
	Call Committee Focus Group (Fellowship Hall)	9:30-10:15 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave)	10:30 a.m.
	Young Adult Blessing (Fellowship Hall)	12:00-1:30 p.m.

Kids Acting Troupe Performance

The St. Matthew Kids Acting Troupe will be performing on **Monday, August 3** at 6:30 pm at the Guthrie Library.

Call Committee Focus Group

The Call Committee is seeking feedback as we begin the journey of calling a new lead pastor. A brief, three question survey has been created, and feedback can be provided in a variety of ways:

1. There is an insert in the bulletin that contains the Pastoral Call Survey.
2. The survey has been placed on the home page of the church's website.
3. There will be a variety of focus groups that will provide the opportunity for any member of our congregation to ask questions related to the Pastoral Call Survey. All focus groups will be held in the Fellowship Hall on the following dates/times:
 - a. 8/2/26 at 9:30 a.m.
 - b. 8/4/26 at 6:00 p.m.

All surveys are **due by Monday, August 10, 2026**. We value your feedback and look forward to collaborating together in the coming weeks.

Call Committee Members: Brian Blake, Richard Carson, John Mancini, Stacy Parsons, Kelli Reed, Barbara Strangfeld, and Ellen Shenk, Council Representative.

Back to School Event: Donations Needed

St. Matthew, Community Progress Council, and Three Retired Teachers Making a Difference are partnering in hosting a back to school event. The event is on Saturday, August 8 from 12-2 in Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in volunteering, please see Deb Smith. Donations can be dropped off in designated boxes found in the Church Office and Gathering Place. We are collecting the following school supplies: **See Next Page**

Glue sticks
Packs of #2 pencils
Boxes of tissues
Boxes of 24 count crayons/16 count crayons
Headphones (NO wireless/NO ear buds)

Pocket folders
Pencil pouches or cases
Black expo dry erase markers
Yellow highlighters

Seniors Hangout

Our next Seniors Hangout is on **Monday, August 17** from 10:00-12:30. Gracie Troup will do a presentation on her trip with Campus Ministry to the Dominican Republic.

***The Sailor's Bible*, a Kids Musical**

Join us on **Sunday, September 13 at 9:30 am** for *The Sailor's Bible*, a new children's musical that includes three Bible stories: Noah and the Great Flood, Jonah and the Great Fish, and Paul's Shipwreck. Each story features the ocean as a symbol for the chaos of life and shows how only the power of God is greater than the natural forces of wind and wave.

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.



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!

Music Opportunities for the Summer!

New Education Opportunity: Singing Hymns (old *and* new)

Confidently! This summer there will be a two-week adult education series between the two services (9:30 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.) on **August 2 and 9** about hymn singing. This class will discuss a brief history of hymnody, how congregational singing impacts our faith, and will work on ways to sing hymns confidently...both hymns you know *and* new hymns we may introduce! Being able to attend both classes is not a requirement, so feel free to just attend one if you are able. If you have any questions, contact Ethan Draper.



THE ANNUAL HYMN SING will return on **Sunday, August 16 at 4:00 p.m.** - mark your calendar for this event which has become a tradition in our community!

JOIN THE HYMN SING FESTIVAL CHOIR! Sign up now for the festival choir for our Hymn Sing on August 16 at 4:00 p.m. **Rehearsals for the festival choir will be on August 9 at 12:30 p.m. and August 16 at 2:30 p.m. (the day of the hymn sing).** With questions, email Ethan Draper at edraper@stmattlutheran.org.



To register, use the QR code or fill out this form:

<https://stmatthewlutheranchurch.breezechms.com/form/HymnSingChoir2026>



Sunday, August 23rd is the second Summer Choir opportunity! This is for anyone (no experience required!) to come and sing in this low-commitment choir. We will gather at 9:30 a.m. in the Adult Rehearsal Room, learn a simple anthem, and share it with the congregation during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. No need to sign-up...just join us on those Sunday mornings! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ethan Draper.

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

In between services on **August 16 from 9:30-10:20 in Fellowship Hall**, we will have a special presentation about our July mission trip to Philadelphia. I'm hoping to see everyone so we can share our experiences and insights with you!



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!

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.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

Blessing of the Backpacks | August 16 at 8:30 and 10:30 services.

As a new school year begins, we want to send students, teachers, staff, and school volunteers back with our love and prayers. During both services we'll offer a moment of encouragement and support for learners of all ages. Bring your backpack, briefcase, or laptop bag as we ask God's blessing on this year of learning, growth, and connection!



INTRODUCING: GLOW



As we look forward to new things this year, we will be changing how we have our children's faith connections. Instead of having it during the fellowship hour between services, we will be changing Children's Church during the 10:30 service. Please join us as we introduce GLOW! God Lights Our Way! The children 3 years old through 5th grade will be asked to join us after the first prayer and we will 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. **This will start on Sunday, Sept 20th.** We will have a Rally Day at 9:30 prior to the service.

We will be needing some volunteers who would be able to help with lessons (which will be provided) and a craft. If you would be willing to give some time to help us share how God Lights Our Way, please contact Missy.

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

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