



St. Matthew

LUTHERAN CHURCH *of* HANOVER

Where the Welcome is Wide and the Love is Real

Sunday, August 9, 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: *Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.*

11th Sunday after Pentecost
August 9, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

✠ GATHERING ✠

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Hymn of Promise
Judy Porowski and Helen Smith, Soloists

arr. Larson

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.

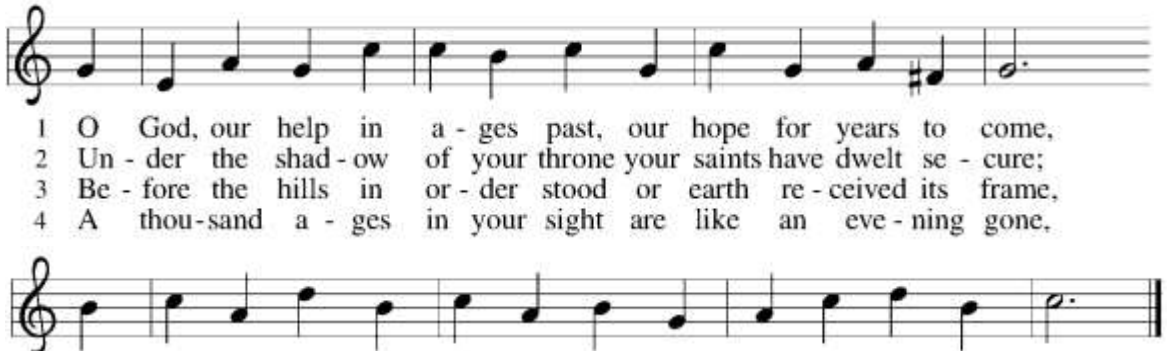
Pastor: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

HYMN

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

ELW #632
Watts/Croft



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,
our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

There is silence to prepare for the readings.

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of 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.

YOUNG ADULT BLESSING

✠ THE WORD ✠

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:9-18

On Mount Horeb, where God had appeared to Moses with typical signs of God's presence—earthquake, wind, and fire—Elijah now experienced God in "sheer silence." God assured Elijah that he is not the only faithful believer. Seven thousand Israelites are still loyal. God instructed Elijah to anoint two men as kings and to anoint Elisha as his own successor.

⁹ At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave and spent the night there.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹¹ He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁴ He answered, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” ¹⁵ Then the Lord said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalms: Psalm 85:8-13 (*Please read responsively.*)

⁸ I will listen to what the Lord God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn
their hearts to you.

⁹ **Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹ **Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹² The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,

and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ **Righteousness shall go before the Lord
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

Second Reading: Romans 10:5-15

A right relationship with God is not something we achieve by heroic efforts. It is a gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ. This proclaimed word creates our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence Christian proclamation is an indispensable component of God's saving actions.

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say?

"The word is near you,

in your mouth and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), ⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

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 Matthew, the 14th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33

Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of "little faith," who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.

²² [Jesus] made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee,] while he dismissed the crowds.²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸ Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the

water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Richard Michael

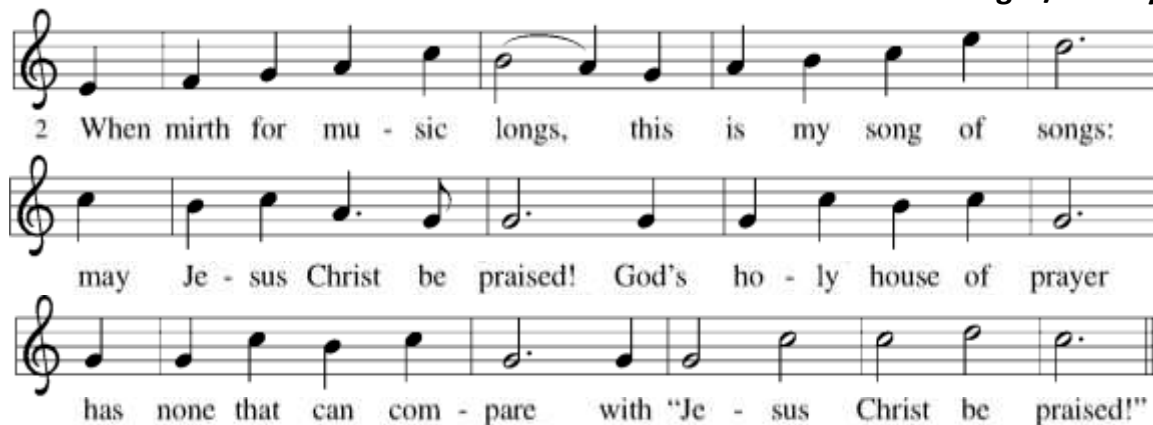
Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

When Morning Gilds the Skies

ELW #853

Bridges/Barnby



2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:
may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer
has none that can com - pare with "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

Immortal, Invisible

Martin

Judy Porowski and Helen Smith, Soloists

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.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

This musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and eighth notes with some ties. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

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

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

This musical score continues the hymn on three staves. It maintains the same key and time signature. The melody is more active in this section, featuring more eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics continue below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables across notes.



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.

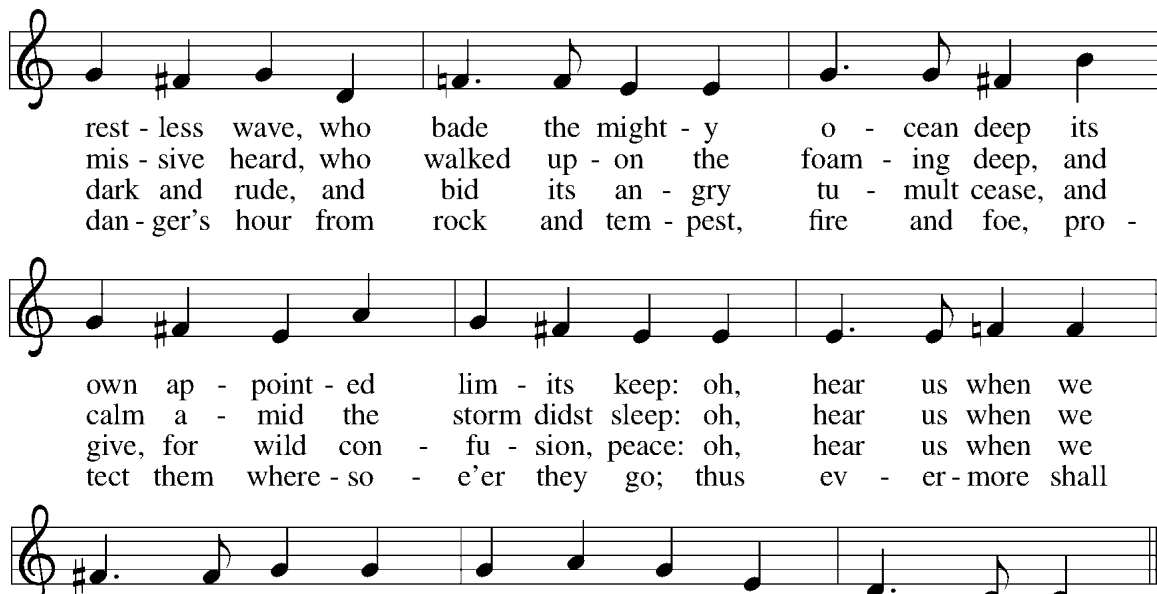
COMMUNION HYMN

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

**ELW #756
Whiting/Dykes**



- 1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
- 2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
- 3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os
- 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in



rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
 mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
 dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
 dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -

own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we
 calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we
 give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall

cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

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

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

ELW #774

Hoffman/Showalter



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -



last - ing arms; what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,
last - ing arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,



lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

DISMISSAL:

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

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Perks

* * * * *

Please note: Music for this service is covered under CCLI # 1000682 –
Also #A-708989 One License.net

*We celebrate God's generosity embodied in this community's time, talents, and treasures shared with one another. **Thank you for your presence** in worship today. **Thank you for offering** the "first fruits" of your finances. Offering may be placed in the baskets near the entrances/ exits of the worship space or through online giving on our website. See the QR code on the back of the bulletin. You may also text-to-give at 717-613-6204. **Thank you for sharing** your spiritual gifts with our church, local, and global communities.*

THE ALTAR FLOWERS have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Doris E. Gouker who would have celebrated her birthday on August 8 by Ed, Linda and Kathy; and in honor of Barbara Rebling on her 101st birthday on August 7 by Ed, Linda and Kathy; and in loving memory of Henrietta Houck Cline by Martha Hempfing; and in loving memory of Lillian Bell who would have celebrated her birthday on August 12 by the Bell families.

THE BULLETINS have been given to the Glory of God.

A MEMORIAL SERVICE for Penny (Shaton) Ritter will be held next Saturday, August 15, here at St. Matthew Church. The visitation will be held at 10 a.m. and the service will be at 11 a.m. Though we celebrate the departure of her life to be with the Lord, we also include in our prayers of support the members of her family and all who are bereaved.

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

Musicians Judy Porowski and Helen Smith, Soloists; Deb Smith, Ethan Draper
Altar Flower Delivery Tina Schaffner
Altar Guild Diane Hoffman-Neail, Nancy Oppedal
Assisting Minister..... Hailey Bucher
Communion Assistants Deb Anker, Jody Ruhlman
Communion Preparers..... Diane Hoffman-Neail, Debby Seibert
Courier Sue Covert, Beth Szymanski
Greeters Leo & Jo Hilbert
Lector Steve Rutters
Live Stream Beth Szymanski
Ushers Team 3: Darlene Klenk, Tyler Klenk, Henry Miller, Barb Rupp,
Beth Szymanski, Dirk Wildasin

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.

Buddy & Shirley Bream
Ronald Rohrbaugh
Kay Fontaine
Scott Pohlman
Jeanie Mehring
Lisa Blake

Caralyn Mummert
Jay Cromer
Nancy Leister
Pearl Wintrobe
Loretta Cover

Mike Mummert
Patricia Mosely
Nate Bankert
Brad Maloney
Lucas Cherry

HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT



August 9-16, 2026

Sun.	Outdoor Worship with Holy Communion (Parking Lot)	8:30 a.m.
	<i>Singing Hymns Confidently!</i> (Adult Rehearsal Room)	9:30-10:00 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave)	10:30 a.m.
	Young Adult Blessing (Fellowship Hall)	12:00-1:30 p.m.
	Hymn Sing Choir Rehearsal	12:30-1:30 p.m.
Mon.	Card Making Group (Upper Room)	1:00-4:00 p.m.
Tue.	All Committee Night (Fellowship Hall)	7:00– 9:00 p.m.
Wed.	Boy Scouts	7:00-8:30 p.m.
Sat.	Worship with Holy Communion (Fellowship Hall)	5:00 p.m.
Sun.	Outdoor Worship with Holy Communion (Parking Lot)	8:30 a.m.
	Youth Mission Trip Presentation (Fellowship Hall)	9:30-10:20 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave)	10:30 a.m.
	Backpack Blessings	Both Services
	Kindergarten Milestones	Both Services
	Hymn Sing Choir Rehearsal	2:30-3:30 p.m.
	Hymn Sing & Ice Cream Social (Nave)	4:00 p.m.
	Youth Group End of Summer Party	6:00-8:00 p.m.



Heart-Felt Card Creating Group

Please join us on Monday, Aug. 10 at 1:30 p.m. in the Upper Room to make cards for Christmas Cheer Bags.

Last Christmas we delivered 265 Cheer bags. Each contained a heart-warming card! All materials will be supplied. Training available is as needed. Please respond so we have supplies for you. To RSVP or for any questions please call Pastor Faye (717) 637-7101, ext. 225; or email nicksong@comcast.net.

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.



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.

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.

Acting All Ages



Are you interested in acting? How can theatre enhance worship in Church and in the community? There will be a meeting on **Sunday, August 30 from 11:45-12:15p.m.** in Fellowship Hall for anyone interested. This is for ALL ages.

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!

Last Opportunity!

Singing Hymns (old *and* new) Confidently! This morning is the final session between the two services (9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.) 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! 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://stmattthewlutheranchurch.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!



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



YOU ARE WELCOME IN OUR GRIEF GROUP

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

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

We can all participate.

We all face similar circumstances, including the facilitators.

We support each other.

It helped me...

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

Email Address _____

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

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

info@stmattlutheran.org

Rev. Richard Michael, Interim Pastor

richardmichael1@mac.com

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

nicksong@comcast.net

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

edraper@stmattlutheran.org

Deb Smith, Associate Minister of Music, ext. 236

dsmith@stmattlutheran.org

Tim Peck, Youth Ministry, ext. 230

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Melissa Smith, Children & Family Ministry, ext. 232

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