



St. Matthew

LUTHERAN CHURCH *of* HANOVER

Where the Welcome is Wide and the Love is Real

Sunday, August 16, 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 Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.*

12th Sunday after Pentecost
August 16, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

✠ GATHERING ✠

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

When Morning Gilds the Skies

arr. Payne

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

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

ELW #886

Wesley/Gläser/Mason



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!

- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

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.

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

Please be seated.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS/BRIEF CASES and KINDERGARTNERS

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 56:1, 6-8

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

¹ Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,

and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 67 (*Please read responsively.*)

¹ May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.

² Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.

³ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁴ Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.

⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁶ The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.

⁷ May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

Second Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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 15th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus' teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Richard Michael

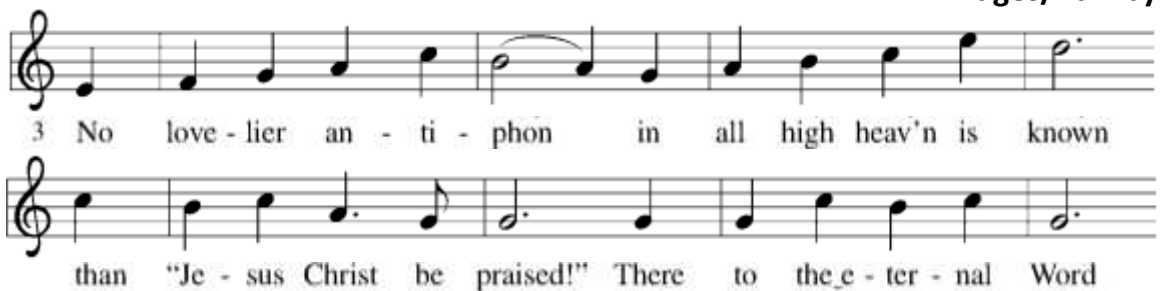
Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

When Morning Gilds the Skies

ELW #853

Bridges/Barnby





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

Wade in the Water

arr. Davison

Lucas and Owen Dozier, 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.

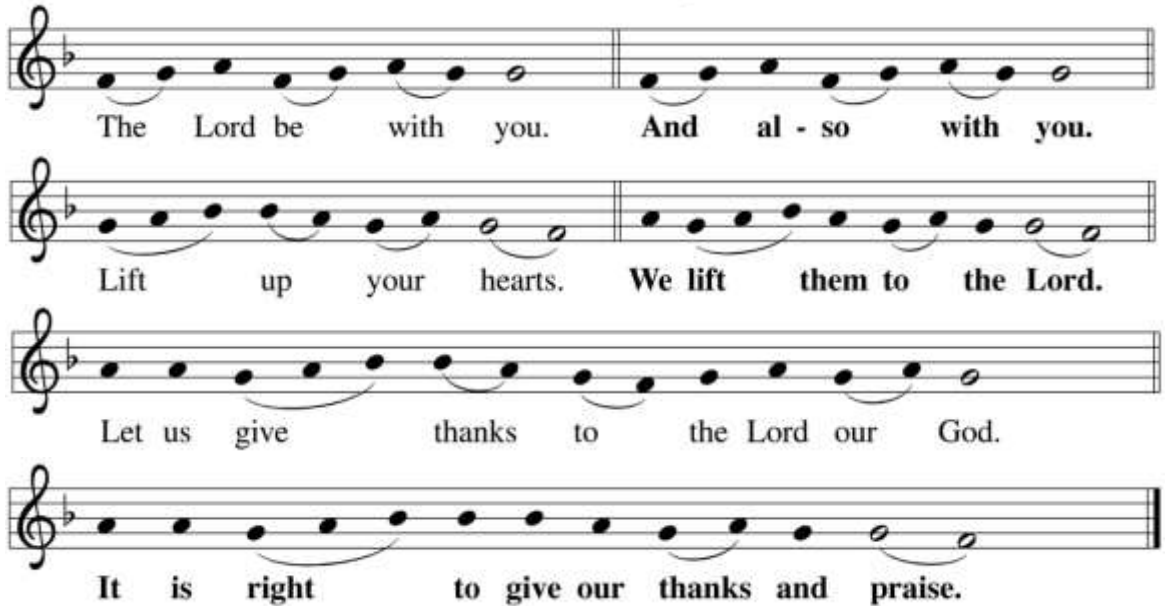
5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

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



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

Healer of Our Every Ill

ELW #612

Haugen

(Next Page)

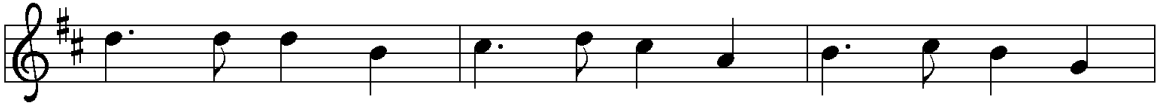
Refrain



Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.



- 1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
- 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
- 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
- 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your

Refrain



peace and glad-ness; Spir-it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir-it of all kind-ness, be our guide.
way of heal - ing; Spir-it of com-pas - sion, fill each heart.

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

Jesus Shall Reign

ELW 434

Watts/Hatton



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

DISMISSAL:

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

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Prelude in F

Fanny Hensel Mendelssohn

* * * * *

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

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

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

- Musicians Lucas and Owen Dozier, Soloists; Deb Smith, Ethan Draper
- Altar Flower DeliveryTina Schaffner
- Altar Guild Diane Hoffman-Neail, Nancy Oppedal
- Assisting Minister..... Karen Sowers
- Communion Assistants Ardis Kunde, Beth Szymanski
- Communion Preparers.....Mike & Mary Jones
- Courier Mike Jones, Irvin Sowers Jr.
- Greeters Meredith Staub, Sara Staub
- Lector Deb Barretto
- Live Stream Tom Shultz
- Ushers Team 3: Steve & Penny Rutters, Tom Cramer, Dennis Koontz, Kelli Reed

THE ALTAR FLOWERS have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Blettner by their niece and family; and in loving memory of George Kasic who passed away August 20, 2015 by his wife Linda.

THE BULLETINS have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Blettner by their niece and family.

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.

Marie Siciliano

Buddy & Shirley Bream

Ronald Rohrbaugh

Kay Fontaine

Scott Pohlman

Jeanie Mehring

Lisa Blake

Caralyn Mummert

Jay Cromer

Nancy Leister

Pearl Wintrode

Loretta Cover

Patricia Mosely

Nate Bankert

Brad Maloney

Lucas Cherry

HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT



August 16 - 23, 2026

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.
Mon.	Seniors Hangout (Fellowship Hall)	10:00 a.m. -12:30 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.
	Summer Choir (Adult Rehearsal Room)	9:30 – 10:15 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave)	10:30 a.m.

THE ANNUAL HYMN SING is **THIS SUNDAY at 4:00 p.m.** – Please join us for this event which has become a tradition in our community!

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.



Acting All Ages * NOTE CHANGE OF DATE*



Are you interested in acting? How can theatre enhance worship in Church and in the community? There will be a meeting on **Sunday, September 13 from 11:45-12:15p.m.** in Fellowship Hall for anyone interested. This is for ALL ages.

Back to School Event was a Success!

We had a great Back to School event on Saturday, August 8. 120 people attended the event which offered free haircuts, free school supplies, vision screenings, blood pressure checks, and much more. Thank you to our volunteers and everyone who donated school supplies!

The Sailor's Bible, a Kids Musical



Due to unforeseen circumstances, we will be moving the musical to a later date. Watch for the bulletins for more information!

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.



★ RALLY DAY — Kick Off the New Church Year! ★

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

💡 *God Lights Our Way* 💡

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

🎭 **Puppet Show** — fun for all ages

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

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

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

🏆 **Prizes** throughout the morning!

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

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

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

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!



Camp Hebron – Fall Retreat

Sponsored By: The Lower Susquehanna Synodical Women's Organization

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

Retreat theme is: "Rooted in love-Sustained in hope: Finding our call in challenging times to nurture God's "kin-dom".

Our leader this year is Elaine Dent, a retired Lutheran pastor who currently works as a spiritual director, a supply preacher and a once-a-month coach for a congregation in transition in Akron, Ohio.

At Camp Hebron there will be faith renewal in worship, laughter & tears, getting reacquainted with old friends and making new friends, refreshing walks in the outdoors or sitting quietly in meditation. Camp Hebron offers motel-type accommodations including linens, private bath and 5 delicious meals (no cooking for a whole weekend, ladies). There is also an opportunity for Saturday only registration. See registration form for more info.

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

Music Opportunities for the Summer!



*I will sing to
the LORD
as long as I live.*

Psalms 104:33, 150:1

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!

Music Camp

Thank you to all the volunteers, and those who donated snacks for Music Camp. We had a great week of singing, games, fellowship, and faith.

CHOIRS TO RETURN IN SEPTEMBER: JOIN US IN MAKING A JOYFUL NOISE!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

Join us this morning between services 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 | This Sunday morning 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



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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