



From the Desk of Pastor Kathy:

Dear Friends in Christ,

This week I received a letter from *Lutheran World Relief* that describes the greatest needs around the world. With staff and ministry partners reporting back on what is happening, they are seeing children in crisis. Due to the deadly violence in the Middle East, people in Lebanon are wondering if they will survive another day as they are fleeing from a conflict zone. Many families who sought asylum in the U.S. are now being relocated back to Ecuador without resources or support networks.

Here's the reality. **The heaviest burdens fall on the smallest shoulders.** The crisis is huge and it is growing. The greatest needs are safe places to live, nutritious meals and clean water; health and psychosocial care; and access to educational resources.

As I reflect on these needs I have two responses: First, I am grateful and inspired by the generosity of St. Matthew who supports LWR through their regular offerings. This compassion extends beyond ourselves through the **Personal Care Kits** that we send. Last year we collected items and provided for over 1,000 Personal Care Kits. Be sure to see the article about this year's project. These very kits are essential for those who must flee their homes. Thank you.

Second, as a result of this letter and the new awareness of the emerging needs, especially of children, I am inviting our congregation to join me in giving an *above and beyond financial gift* to help alleviate the heavy burdens placed on children in crisis. Could we raise \$10,000 to specifically help the children in Lebanon and Ecuador? The Finance Committee has made a motion to designate up to \$5,000 from the Outreach account as matching funds for any gifts that would be given. Because I am so sure that our congregation council will approve this motion at their meeting, I am already inviting others to give. In fact, in gratitude for my 6 plus years of ministry here at St. Matthew, Mark and I are giving \$600 to LWR for these children in crisis. We are grateful that our gift will be matched.

As we are faced with the devastation of war, the tragedies of disasters and the persistent poverty in the world, we often feel helpless. In this case, we have the trusted avenue to help through Lutheran World Relief. All of these gifts go directly to the places in need.

To give and to have your gift matched, please designate the gift to St. Matthew with *LWR-children* in the memo line. Watch for more details on how to give online. We also continue to receive financial gifts for the Personal Care Kits. These also can be given to St. Matthew with *Care Kits* in the memo line.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman

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The entire church staff would like to thank everyone who helped/participated in any way in our services and meals from Palm Sunday weekend through Easter! We also thank everyone who sent us cards, prayed for us, and brought goodies to the church office. We cannot do the work we do without many volunteers and we are very grateful for each and every one of you! God Bless!



AS WE BEGIN the HVAC and roofing project which was approved in January, it is time to see where we are in meeting our goal of raising \$100,000 a year over the next three years: As of the end of March, we have received \$43,000 towards our goal. Many thanks to those who have contributed and to those who will contribute in the future.

THANK YOU TO ALL who participated and those who spread the word about our recent successful blood drive. With your help, CPBB screened 39 donors, collected 33 pints of blood, and in turn helped save 99 local lives. Thank you for supporting our tradition of successful blood drives here at St. Matthew. We look forward to seeing you at our fall blood drive.



A BIG THANK YOU to Pastor Faye, Pastor Kathy, Deb, Ethan, and the entire staff for their compassion and support after our mother passed. St. Matthew is truly blessed by how graciously the Pastors care for "their flock." Many thanks to the Bereavement team for handling all the luncheon details, and thanks to the congregation for your words of sympathy and encouragement. With gratitude,
the Myrtle Satterfield Family



THE 8:30 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE will move outdoors beginning Memorial Day Sunday, May 24. Join us for worship in the parking lot and on the area behind the church. Tune your car radio to FM 101.5 to hear the service or bring your lawn chair and sit on the grassy area to hear in-person. This is an informal worship service. Join us for outdoor worship this summer!

PREPARING DINNER for Hanover Council of Churches— HACC is looking for individuals or groups who would be willing to prepare meals for their guests. Dinner is served 5:30-6:15 p.m. daily. Get a group together, plan and prepare your favorite meal and share it with our friends at the shelter. If you would be willing to help, please reach out to Beth Szymanski, bszymanski3@hotmail.com or Amy Beck, abeck1976@comcast.net.



The church office will be closing at noon on July 2, and will be closed Friday, July 3.



Communion Milestone- On April 2, we had nine children celebrate their Communion Milestone during our Maundy Thursday service. After taking part in two classes to



learn about the meaning of Holy Communion, they created a personalized chalice and even baked the bread for this sacred celebration. It was a wonderful moment for our church family as we shared in their excitement and marked this meaningful step in their faith journey.



Faith Connections had a great year! As we wrap up the year on May 3, we will take the time to talk about the lessons we learned over the year and how we are putting these lessons into our daily lives. These kids have been wonderful and we hope that each of you have a wonderful summer!



The Faith Formation Committee would like to thank the teachers who helped us with all of our Faith Connection classes. The dedication of these volunteers has been amazing. We can't have these classes without you. We will enjoy a dinner at the Green Horizon Grill to show our appreciation for all of their time given.



May 15 is our last day of preschool and the farewell program for our 4s classes. Our teachers are excited for another summer full of Discovery with seven weeks of camps!

We are finishing a fantastic preschool year and we are actively planning for another great year for 2026-2027. Please share our registration information with any family interested in preschool for three and four year-old children.

You can find Discovery Place at www.stmattlutheran.org under the Connect tab. We have some spots available in both 3s classes and our 4s Tues/Thurs class.

A big thank you to our wonderful church members! We are forever grateful for your support, kindness and love during the preschool year!

Amy Wolfe, Director



Introducing our Summer Interns

We are pleased to introduce our summer interns for 2026, Mya Maloney and Gracie Troup. It is great to get both of them back for a second year. Keep an eye out for a detailed biography of each of them.

Alumni Lock-In

We had a great night of conversation and catching up with our youth alumni. It was a night of no sleep and some old games to make everyone feel young again!



Palm Sunday Lunch and Easter Egg Hunt



We had an amazing Palm Sunday celebration! About 190 people joined us for lunch and enjoyed hamburgers, hotdogs, mac & cheese, cakes, and cookies. There was plenty of good food and even better fellowship!

After lunch, approximately 60 kids took part in our Easter egg hunt, filling the day with excitement and laughter. And of course, a special appearance by the Easter Bunny and his sidekick, the Egg, who brought a lot of laughter and smiles to the kids. Everyone truly enjoyed the moment.

Thanks to all the youth and parents, cake makers and everyone who just jumped in to help. Thanks to all for making this a success!



High School and College Graduates

On May 17, we will be recognizing our High School and College Graduates at the 10:30 service. If you have a youth or young adult graduating, please let Tim Peck, youth@stmattlutheran.org, know so they can be recognized for their achievement. Please send a photo, brief write up about their achievements, and where they may be going in their next adventure. Please send information in no later than May 10.



Going into 6-8th grade? Mark your calendars for Alive on September 25-27, 2026!

Middle schoolers get ready for an unforgettable weekend at Alive, a retreat at Camp Nawakwa, with other youth just like you! It is a weekend of faith, friends-new and old, and fun! We will register as a group. We're asking families to cover \$50 of the registration cost and St. Matt will cover the rest. Scholarships are available, so don't let cost be a barrier. Save the date and stay tuned for more information! For questions, contact Tim Peck at youth@stmattlutheran.org.

Dinner Theater Youth Fundraiser for the Mission Trip

Mark your calendars for June 7, 2026 at 4 p.m. Join us in Fellowship Hall where you will be served a spaghetti dinner with salad and dessert, while being entertained in between courses by skits performed by our very own youth, Church Council and staff! Many thanks to Deb Smith for writing and producing the show!

Keep your eyes open for more information in the near future!

Youth Group

All youth entering 6th-12th grade are invited to join us for youth group on the first and third Sunday of each month! We meet on the third floor of the youth building in room 304. Use the door by the elevator to join us! Come ready for fun activities, faith-filled lessons, games, and food- there's something for everyone. All are Welcome-we'd love to see you!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

May 17 Youth will lead our worship service and recognizing our graduates
June 8-12 Church Day Camp 1st -5th graders
June 14-19 Confirmation Camp at Camp Nawakwa
June 22-25 VBS
July 5 NO YOUTH GROUP
August 16 End of summer pool party

St. Matt's Summer Camps!

Church Day Camp "Pool Party"



Summer Day Camp is back! Join us for a fun-filled week at Day Camp right here on the church property! Campers will enjoy Bible stories, games, outdoor play, singing, and crafts, while making new friends, **June 8-12, 2026**, 9a.m. - 3p.m., Cost \$50 per camper with a limit of 32 campers. For rising first grades through fifth graders.

Payments can be made on the first day or dropped off at church office or online on our website. Questions? Contact: Tim Peck youth@stmattlutheran.org or call 717-637-7101 ext. 230. Register online at www.stmattlutheran.org and look for Day Camp with the theme of Pool Party!

Illumination Station is coming in June! Join us as we see how Jesus is the Light of the World. We will be enjoying crafts, Bible stories, music, puppets and games as we find the Light that keeps us Shinning. Register now to be sure we have your child's t-shirt size! Lunch is provided daily. VBS will run from **June 22-25**, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Volunteers will be needed! I will have forms out to you soon. Contact Missy Smith, msmith@stmattlutheran.org, with any questions.



Music Camp



Our Music Camp will return this summer from **August 3-7** from 9-11 a.m. each day. This camp is for rising Kindergarteners through Fifth Graders and is **free** for all attendees!

Registration and more information is available online at stmattlutheran.org/2026-summer-camps/.





Ethan Draper, Minister of Music
edraper@stmattlutheran.org
Deb Smith, Associate Minister of Music
dsmith@stmattlutheran.org

Dear Friends,

It continues to be a blessing and an honor to serve as your Minister of Music at St. Matthew! Our Lenten season was both meaningful and reflective, leading us to a powerful journey through Holy Week and culminating in a glorious Easter celebration. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to making these services so special. I am especially grateful to all of our choirs for their dedication and inspiring participation over these past few months.

While our program year will conclude at the end of May, many exciting musical opportunities lie ahead this summer. Our choirs and ensembles have enjoyed a full and rewarding season, and their commitment has been truly remarkable. They will now take a well-deserved summer recess before returning in the Fall for another vibrant year of music-making.

Please keep an eye on your mailboxes for information about the program's return in September, as well as details about our 2026–2027 concert series, which will be shared over the summer.

Be sure to explore the many musical opportunities highlighted in this issue—there is so much to look forward to at St. Matthew!

Blessings,
Ethan Draper
Minister of Music



Choir

Summer Music and Summer Choir

We will have plenty of opportunities for vocal and instrumental solos, duets, and small ensembles to participate in worship throughout the summer. If you are interested in sharing your gifts with our congregation, please contact Ethan Draper or Deb Smith - we will be happy to help you prepare in any way you need!

We will also have a **Summer Choir**, two Sundays this summer on July 19 and August 23. This is an opportunity 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.

Hymn Sing

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! If you are interested in being a part of the hymn sing choir, please email Ethan Draper, or keep a lookout for sign up forms in 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.

LIFE EVENTS

February, March & April, 2026

Baptism

April 19 - Elijah Conner Jones, with sponsors Michael and Mary Jones

Communion Milestone

Harper Renee Kuhn, Connor Scott Poling, Kyah Braelyn Rhoten, Layla Anne Rhoten, Calla Michelle Stehr, Tenley Ryan Stehr, Juliana Elinor Steiner, Oliver William Thomassy and Jayce Rylan Unger

Deaths

February 7 – Margaret “Sadie” Frew

February 21 – James Patterson

March 10 - Doris Blocher

March 19 - Georgene Hull

March 24 – Joanne Harner

April 11 - Sid Ehrhart

April 16 - Jacquie Grenier

PERSONAL CARE KITS PROJECT

The Women of the ELCA and Intergenerational Faith Connections are collecting items to assemble Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. People who must flee their homes quickly due to disasters or safety often do not have time to pack essential items. Personal Care Kits can help those in need to maintain personal hygiene, while living away from their homes. The Kits also contribute to a new start for those who can return home.



Each Personal Care Kit includes:

- *One new bath-size towel(approx.52”X27”), dark color recommended
- *Two bath-size bars(4-5oz) of soap (must equal 8-9 oz.) in its original wrapping
- *One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- *One sturdy, wide-toothed comb *One metal nail-clipper

You may drop off items in the designated boxes located in the elevator lobby or the church office. Monetary donations may be made to be used to purchase bulk items (checks should be made payable to *St. Matthew Lutheran Church with Care Kits* in the memo line). **Packing will take place May 17 at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall and all are invited to help pack the care kits.**



Ministering to Members

Does the world seem cold and hard? YOU can make it better! Become a St. Matthew Visiting Minister. After a brief training session, you will visit your assigned care receiver once a month. VM's have necessary peer and leader support. Pray and see if God is leading you to share in this caring ministry. For more info, or to sign up, call the church office, 717-637-7101, or email Pastor Faye at nicksong@comcast.net.

Many Thanks to St. Matthew!

A note of thanks from Hanover Against Hunger for the meal packing event.

A note of thanks from Tender Care for last year's poinsettia money.

A note of thanks from Lutheran World Relief for the donation from St. Matthew.

Many thanks from the ELCA for the December gift for world hunger.

Thank you from the YWCA for items for the nook.



Saturday July 11
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

We're hitting the streets (and our own parking lot!) for the Snack Town Street Fair. We are proud to once again host a **FREE Kid Zone** as a gift to the community made possible by generous sponsors Atomic Bounce House and Talk of the Town Entertainment and our church's commitment to hospitality. You'll also find our **Evangelism Team** at the table on the street in front of the church, ready to greet neighbors with a smile, and **Hanover Against Hunger** nearby serving up ice cream and sharing their mission.

Come out, pitch in, and be part of this day of fun and connection! Whether you can serve, share, or simply stop by—we'd love to have you with us!

MAY COMMUNITY MEAL

Sunday May 31, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Meal: Hot Dogs, Sloppy Joes, Mac-n-Cheese, Dairy Dan's Ice Cream



WE NEED YOU!!!

Donations Needed: Hot Dogs, Sloppy Joes, Hamburger Rolls, Hot Dog Rolls, Mac-N-Cheese, Juice Boxes

Volunteers Needed: Set Up from 2-3 p.m., Serve Meal and Help Keep Tables/Lawn Clean 3-5 p.m., Help with Games/Crafts 3-5, and Clean Up 5-6 p.m.

If you are willing to donate items or volunteer, please email either the church office info@stmattlutheran.org, or Amy Beck abeck1976@comcast.net.

