

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 the bulletins for more info!

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!



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@stmatthlutheran.org or the church office at 717-637-7101 ext. 230 with questions.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Contact Missy Smith for more information, msmith@stmatthlutheran.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

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