

HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT



August 30 - September 6, 2026

Sun.	Final Outdoor Worship with Holy Communion (Parking Lot)	8:30 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave)	10:30 a.m.
Mon.	Grief Share (Upper Room)	3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Tue.	Women of the ELCA Bible Study	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Wed.	Boy Scouts	7:00-8:30 p.m.
Fri.	Church Office Closes at Noon	
Sat.	<i>Beginning Spanish</i> Class (Upper Room)	9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Fellowship Hall)	5:00 p.m.
Sun.	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave)	8:30 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave)	10:30 a.m.

Farewell to Pastor Michael

Our time with Pastor Michael has come to an end. This Sunday is his last service with us. Please take the opportunity to thank him for his time and service to St. Matthew during this period of transition. We're so glad we were able to have him come back home to renew old friendships.

A Note of Thanks:

Bonnie and Pastor Michael would like to thank St. Matthew for the hospitality and care you offered in our summer together. Please know that you will be in our prayers as you greet Pastor Goede and search for your new pastor. We have enjoyed sharing this time with you!

With thanks and prayers,
Pastor Michael and Bonnie

****The church office will close at noon on Friday, September 4, and will be closed on Monday, September 7 for Labor Day weekend. We will reopen on Tuesday morning, September 8 at 8:30 a.m.****



☀️ **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! 💖



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 this form 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 _____

JOIN US IN WELCOMING OUR NEW INTERIM PASTOR

On **September 1**, Pastor Nancy Goede will begin service as our Interim Pastor until a new Lead Pastor is called. We know that St. Matthew will greet her warmly as she begins her time with us.

Note from Call Committee

The Call Committee would like to sincerely thank everyone who took the time to complete our surveys and participate in our recent focus groups. We received 65 total surveys from the congregation.

Your thoughtful feedback, honest reflections, and willingness to share your hopes and concerns have been incredibly valuable as we begin the search for a new Pastor.

It is noteworthy that some of the top themes in the surveys / focus groups were:

- Recommitment to traditional Lutheran Worship & Biblical Teaching.
- Develop stronger relationships with congregants and community.
- Focus on the growth of the congregation.

We are grateful for the time, prayer, and care you have invested in this important process as we prayerfully discern the qualities and gifts that will best serve our congregation.

— *The Call Committee*



WOMEN/ELCA BIBLE STUDY will be held **Tuesday, September 1, 6 - 7:30 p.m. (please note time change)** in the Upper Room, enter elevator lobby

and go to the 2nd floor. All women are welcome to attend. Pastor Faye will be leading the Bible Study lesson found in the *gather* magazine. Lesson copies will be available. All women are invited to attend and bring a friend along too. For additional information call the church office. 717-637-7107.

Back-To-School Clothing Collection/De-Clutter Your Closet

With a new school year upon us and lots of back to school shopping, I am sure there is a lot of “clearing out” going on. If you have women’s/children’s clothing that you would like to donate somewhere, St. Matthew may have an opportunity for you. The Social Ministry Committee will be collecting women’s/children’s clothing to donate to our friends at HACC. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Amy Beck, abeck1976@comcast.net or Beth Szymanski, bszymanski3@hotmail.com. **Please bring clothing to the Gathering Place and place it in the bin** through September 27.



Puppet Ministry



St. Matthew Mini Ministers puppet ministry needs YOU! The puppet ministry is open to anyone in 6th grade-12th grade. Our next rehearsals are on **Sunday, September 13 from 9:30-10:15 am** and **Saturday, September 19 from 10:45 am-11:30 am**. The puppet ministry spreads the love of God at church and community groups.

For more information, please contact Deb Smith at dsmith@stmattlutheran.org. To register please visit: bit.ly/stmattpuppet.

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 27 from 11:45-12:15 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall for anyone interested. This is for ALL ages. To register, please visit: bit.ly/StMattTheater.

STARTING THIS WEEK! 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.



Seniors Hang Out

Our next Seniors Hang Out is on Monday, September 21 at 10:00 am. Pastor Michael will lead us in reflections of 9-11.

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!

Blood Drive



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.

Lutheran World Relief



When a disaster hits — whether it's a drought, tsunami or civil war — Lutheran World Relief works over months and years to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to help people recover and adjust to new realities.

Natural disasters and conflict-driven emergencies ravage the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people each year. While emergencies affect people at all societal and economic levels, the world's poorest suffer the most because they have the fewest resources to prepare for a crisis and the fewest resources to rebuild afterward.

We work hand in hand with vulnerable communities to help rebuild after disaster strikes as well as avoid or prepare for future disasters.

In the days and weeks after a disaster, we are on the ground helping to meet people's immediate needs. And in the months and years following, we are dedicated to working with them to ensure that they can rebuild better and stronger than before.

To donate to a specific disaster such as Venezuela/Columbia earthquakes or wildfires or the Ukraine, go to give.lwr.org. To donate through St. Matthew, make checks payable to St. Matthew with the memo line LWR-disasters or donate through our online giving.

Join Us in Making a Joyful Noise!

CHOIRS TO RETURN IN SEPTEMBER



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

Youth Ministry Team Meeting will be Tuesday September 1st at 7 p.m. on third floor in Youth Suite. If you would want to be a part of the team we would love to see you on September 1st.

Youth Group

Our next two Youth Groups will be September 6 & 20th, Youth suite on third floor room 304 from 6 – 8 p.m. We would love to see you there, so if you are in 6th through 12th grade, come and bring a friend! All Are Welcome!

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.



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!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

INTRODUCING: GLOW



On Sunday, September 20, we are introducing **GLOW** to be held during the 10:30 worship service for our children! **God Lights Our Way!** Children 3 years old through 5th grade will be invited to join us for a lesson and craft after the first prayer and we will return before communion. This will take the place of our Faith Connections which were held at 9:30 a.m. prior years. 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. **We will begin GLOW on Sunday, September 20, at the 10:30**

service. Please contact Missy Smith with any questions,
msmith@stmattlutheran.org or 717-637-7101, ext. 232.

The Adult Faith Connection classes will continue at 9:30-10:20 on Sundays, along with Confirmation class for 6-8th graders.

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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