

HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT

St. Matthew

LUTHERAN CHURCH of HANOVER

October 25 - Nov 1, 2026

Sun.	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave)	8:30 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion	10:30 a.m.
	Youth Choir & Bells Rehearsal (Adult Rehearsal Room)	11:45-12:30 p.m.
Mon.	Grief Share (Upper Room)	3:00-4:30 p.m.
	Community Meal	5:30-7:00 p.m.
	Trunk or Treat (Parking Lot)	5:30-7:00 p.m.
	Girl Scouts (Girl Scout Room)	6:00-7:30 p.m.
Tue.	Council Meeting (Upper Room)	7:00-9:00 p.m.
Wed.	St. Matthew Ringers Rehearsal (Adult Rehearsal Room)	6:00-7:00 p.m.
	Adult Choir Rehearsal (Adult Rehearsal Room)	7:00-8:15 p.m.
	Boy Scouts	7:00-8:30 p.m.
Sat.	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave)	5:00 p.m.
Sun.	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave)	8:30 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion	10:30 a.m.
	Youth Choir & Bells Rehearsal (Adult Rehearsal Room)	11:45-12:30 p.m.
	<i>Phantom of the Opera</i> feat. Organist Tedde Gibson (Nave)	4:00 p.m.
	Youth Group (Youth Suite)	6:00-8:00 p.m.

The Saturday services for Reformation and All Saints will be in the Nave, rather than in the Fellowship Hall.

- Worship on Saturday, October 24, 5pm, in the Nave for Reformation Day
- Worship on Saturday, October 31, 5pm, in the Nave for All Saints Day

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we approach the end of our fiscal year and prepare for the November Congregational Meeting and next year's budget, I would like to update you on the financial condition of St. Matthew Lutheran Church.

This past year has brought challenges, both within our congregation and financially. At the same time, we have been blessed with wonderful gifts and talents. We are grateful for the spiritual leadership of Pastor Nancy Goede, our Interim Pastor, and Ethan Draper, our Minister of Music. Both have become an important part of our congregation, and we thank God for their guidance and ministry.

Last year, the congregation approved a significant investment in new flooring throughout much of the church. Recognizing the impact this would have on our Future Capital Improvements Fund, we launched an appeal to replenish it. I am pleased to report that gifts and pledges have reached **\$157,875 as of August 26, 2026**. Thank you to everyone who has contributed. We have also recently replaced our more-than-20-year-old air-conditioning system, which could no longer be repaired because replacement parts were unavailable. The project is nearly complete, and the new units are operating more efficiently while also providing backup heat should our aging steam boiler fail.

As of the end of August, our **Parish Ministry Giving is \$339,234, Miscellaneous Income is \$104,462**, and our **investment draw is \$320,557**. We are approaching our promised maximum investment draw of **\$385,000**.

These numbers highlight an important concern: we continue to rely heavily on the financial resources left to us by previous generations. While many members give generously of their time and financial resources, we ask each of us to prayerfully consider what we are able to contribute as we face the financial challenges ahead.

St. Matthew has been blessed by generations of members who provided gifts that have enriched our congregation—from our magnificent organ and stained-glass windows to Fellowship Hall and many other ministries. In 2004, we established an investment account with Haverford Trust. Through careful investment, sound financial guidance, and continued giving, that portfolio has allowed us to use more than **\$3.7 million** over the years to support our ministries without reducing the principal.

These resources have helped fund our staff, programs, community and world outreach, and efforts to serve those in need. However, an increasing portion of our investments is restricted by donor-designated purposes. Currently, only **41% of the funds in our care are available for general use**. The remainder must be used for purposes specified by the donors, such as scholarships or support of the organ. While these restricted funds are valuable, they cannot be used for essential operating expenses such as staff, utilities, heating, or air conditioning. Consequently, our unrestricted resources are being depleted more quickly than in previous decades.

I share this information not to discourage us, but to help us understand the financial challenges before us as we prepare our next budget. These are unusual times for household and

congregational finances alike, and our future will depend on the continued generosity and stewardship of our members.

Please keep St. Matthew in your prayers, as we continue to pray for our members, our community, and our country.

**In Christ,
Bob Curlen
Treasurer**

Congregation Meeting

This announcement serves as official notice of our Congregation Meeting on Sunday, November 8, immediately following the late worship service (approximately 11:30 a.m.). The purpose of the meeting is to approve a budget for 2027 and elect four new council members and a youth representative. During the Faith Connections hour (9:30- 10:15 a.m.), members of the Finance Committee will be in the Upper Room to answer questions regarding the budget. All voting (active) members of the congregation are asked to attend this important meeting.

NEW: Welcome Pew



As a sign of good hospitality, we will be implementing a Welcome Pew on Sunday, November 15th. This pew, staffed with volunteers, would be for visitors who would like to get to know people in the congregation as well as those who may be feeling lonely and would welcome company. The pew will be marked with a “Welcome Pew” sign, as well as a box of tissues at either end. It would be offered as a choice not a requirement for new people. If you see some unfamiliar faces in the Welcome Pew, make sure to welcome them to St. Matthew!

ADULT MINISTRY

Contact Beth Koontz for more information, bethk9245@gmail.com

Generations Class

Join us from 9:30 a.m. to 10:20 a.m. as we gather in the Parlor (right off the Gathering Place). This class uses a digital resource called *Wired Word*. The leader uses this for discussion on current everyday events and how they connect with scripture and our daily walk in Christian life.



Fall Community Meal

Monday, October 26, 5:30-7:00pm

Meal: Hot Dogs, Chili, Corn Bread, Chicken Corn Soup

Volunteers Needed: To make chili, corn bread, chicken corn soup, set up, serve, and clean up on the 26th. We will meet at 4:15pm for set up.

*If you are willing to help, please email Amy Beck, abeck1976@comcast.net or the church office, info@stmattlutheran.org.

Reformation Weekend October 24 & 25

Lutherans remember the Reformation at the end of October, when Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, in 1517, inviting colleagues at the university to debate with him the sale of indulgences by the pope. That was the official beginning of the Reformation, the movement that led many rulers and lands to split from the Roman Catholic Church and form churches like the Lutheran Church.

Commitment Weekend October 24 & 25

At our Reformation observance on October 24 & 25, instead of buying indulgences to support St. Matthew, we'll bring forward our estimate of giving cards and recommit ourselves to supporting the life of our church. Stewardship materials have been mailed. If you did not receive one, they can be found on the Hospitality Desk in the Gathering Place, and the rear of Fellowship Hall and the Nave.

All Saints' Weekend October 31 and November 1



As we do every year during worship on All Saints', we will read the names of those from this community who have died in the past year. For all of the other saints in your life whom you would like to remember on that day, please write their names in the book by the baptismal font, and we will read their names also. This could be anyone you know who has died in the past year or much longer ago. On All Saints', there will be a chance for you to light a candle for these saints as well.



WOMEN/ELCA BIBLE STUDY will be held **Tuesday, November 3, 6 - 7:30 p.m.** in the Upper Room, enter elevator lobby and go to the 2nd floor. All women are welcome to attend. Pastor Geode will be leading the Bible study lesson found in the fall *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.

Find out more about the Women of the ELCA by going to this website: www.LSS-ELCA.org. Go to *Mission Partners* at the top of the home page and then scroll down to *Women of the ELCA LS SWO*.

Veterans Breakfast

Sunday, November 8 at 9:40 a.m.

The Youth invite all Veterans and their families to join us for a special breakfast as we honor and celebrate those who have served our country.

We would like to include our Veterans' service photos in a special PowerPoint presentation during the breakfast. If you are a Veteran and would like your photo included, please email your service photo to Deb Smith at dsmith@stmattlutheran.org.



Please submit your Veteran photo by October 31.

If you have submitted a photo in the past, there is no need to send it again. Deb still has your photo on file.

We look forward to gathering together as we give thanks for the service and sacrifice of our Veterans.

Church Library

COME VISIT THE
CHURCH LIBRARY



It's Reformation Sunday! A day to celebrate our Lutheran faith! Do you want to learn more? Check out a book from OUR library (Yes, St. Matthew has a library!). An assortment of books, along with a sign-out sheet, are on a table in the hallway next to the Gathering Place. Check it out!





2026 Green Bean Collection!

Help Us Meet Our Goal: 1,000 Cans of Green Beans

October 11-November 1

If you prefer to make a financial contribution, please note Green Bean Drive in the Memo Line

Any questions, please contact Amy Beck, abeck1976@comcast.net.



GRIEF SHARE®

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

Saturday, November 14, 2026 at 10 AM – 12 PM

St. Matthew Upper Room #201

**A helpful, encouraging seminar for people facing the holidays
after losing a loved one.**

The seminar will help you with...

- Being prepared for surprising emotions that may hit over the holidays
- What to do about traditions and possible changes
- How to handle holiday parties and invitations
- How to survive awkward moments with other people
- Where to find comfort, strength, and hope in a seemingly hopeless time

Attendees will receive a Survival Guide with practical tips, encouraging words, journaling ideas, and daily help throughout the holiday season. There is no cost.

For more information or to register, call Pastor Faye Snyder at 717-637-7101, Ext 225 or email nicksong@comcast.net. Registration deadline is November 10. Scan the QR Code below to register.



MUSIC MINISTRY

Contact Ethan Draper for more information, edraپر@stmattlutheran.org

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Hanover presents:

Silent Film with Organ Accompaniment
feat. organist Tedde Gibson

Sunday, Nov. 1
at 4:00 p.m.
Reception to follow



Maryland-based Tedde Gibson performs live accompaniment to silent films across the country. Mr. Gibson will accompany the 1925 classic *Phantom of the Opera* starring Lon Chaney, which will be a unique and unforgettable experience.



St. Matthew
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF HANOVER

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

Youth Group

Our next Youth Group meeting will be Sunday, November 1st in the Youth suite on the third floor, room 304, from 6 – 8 p.m. We would love to see you there! If you are in 6th through 12th grade, come and bring a friend! All Are Welcome!

There will be **no Youth Group on Nov. 15th**, get some rest after the Lock-In weekend!

Youth Needed

We will need youth to be Cross Bearers and Torch Bearers for next weekend!

- All-Saints Sunday, November 1st at both services (1 at 8:30 service; 3 at 10:30 service)

Please let Tim Peck know which service you would like to serve at:

youth@stmattlutheran.org 717-476-9920.

**St. Matthew**

CONFIRMATION

Sunday Faith Formation for Grades 6 thru 8
Sundays from 9:30 - 10:20 a.m.
3rd Floor Youth Suite

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 provided QR code.



Contact Tim Peck: youth@stmattlutheran.org;
717-637-7101, ext. 230 with any questions!



Youth Lock-In 6-12th grade

Put it on the calendar for November! A lock-in for all 6-12th graders. We will have a cook off, games, lessons, midnight worship, and lots of fun, right here in our church!

Please mark November 13 and 14th for this event! More details will be coming soon. Contact Tim Peck youth@stmattlutheran.org, 717-476-9920 for questions.





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

GLOW



During the 10:30 service, all children ages 3 years old to 5th grade are invited to GLOW (God Lights Our Way.) They will gather at the back of the Nave to participate in a lesson and activity after the first prayer and 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. Please contact Missy Smith with any questions,

msmith@stmattlutheran.org or 717-637-7101, ext. 232.

Fall Programs for Children

Tiny Tunes | Sat., Nov. 7; 14; 21 - 12:00-12:45 p.m.

Join us in the Children's Choir Room for music, games, songs, and instruments for children ages 2 1/2-4 years old.



Pajama Storytime | Sunday, November 8 - 5:00 pm

Join Ms. Lindsay, Mr. Ethan, and Ms. Deb in the Upper Room for a meal (chicken nuggets, cookies, etc.) followed by songs and stories.

Music JAM (Jesus and Me) | Saturday, November 14 - 9 to 11 am

Kids in K-4 grade are welcome to join us in the in the Children's Choir Room for a morning of singing, music games, playing instruments, making their own instrument, and snack.



These programs are FREE but registration is required. Scan the QR Code to register! For more information, please contact Deb Smith at dsmith@stmattlutheran.org.

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

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

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

info@stmattlutheran.org

Pastor Nancy Goede, Interim Pastor, ext. 231
njgoede@gmail.com

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