HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT

St. Matthew
LUTHERAN CHURCH of HANOVER

November 29- December 6, 2026

Sun.	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave)	8:30 a.m.
	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	9:30-10:15 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion	10:30 a.m.
	Hanging of the Greens with Pizza	11:45 a.m.
	Youth Choir & Bells Rehearsal (Adult Rehearsal Room)	11:45-12:30 p.m.
	Youth Cookie Making Evening (Fellowship Hall)	6:00-8:00 p.m.
Mon.	Grief Share (Upper Room)	2:00-4:30 p.m.
Tue.	Junior Choir Rehearsal (Children's Rehearsal Room)	4:30-5:15 p.m.
	Women of the ELCA Bible Study (Second Floor, Upper Room)	6:00-7:30 p.m.
	Cub Scout Den Meeting (gym)	6:30-7:30 p.m.
Wed.	Boy Scouts	7:00-8:30 p.m.
Thur.	Children's Choir Rehearsal (Children's Rehearsal Room)	4:15-5:00 p.m.
	St. Matthew Ringer's Rehearsal ((Adult Rehearsal Room)	6:00-7:00 p.m.
	Adult Choir Rehearsal (Adult Rehearsal Room)	7:00-8:00 p.m.
	Christmas Concert Rehearsal (Adult Rehearsal Room)	8:00-8:30 p.m.
Fri.	Cookie Walk Set-Up (Fellowship Hall)	6:00-8:00 p.m.
Sat.	Cookie Walk (Fellowship Hall)	9:00-11:00 a.m.
	LutheranHANDS Day of Service	9:00-12:00 p.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Fellowship Hall)	5:00 p.m.
Sun.	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave)	8:30 a.m.
	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	9:30-10:15 a.m.
	Splash Class	9:45-10:15 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion	10:30 a.m.
	Youth Choir & Bells Rehearsal (Adult Rehearsal Room)	11:45-12:30 p.m.
	Community Meal (Fellowship Hall)	3:00-5:00 p.m.

A Message from Our Council President



As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday it is appropriate that we give thanks to all the members who have graciously given of their time and shared their talents for the betterment of St Matthew. We are also grateful for those who have financially supported the staff, facilities, and mission of this congregation.

Without your support of time, talent, and treasure there would be no St Matthew. 2026 has presented many obstacles for our congregation, but with your continued support we will get through this challenging period.

Take the time, especially this week, to focus on the blessings that you have in your life and give thanks.

Temporary Part-Time Custodial Position Available

Our part-time custodian will be having knee surgery on November 25. He will be unavailable to work for up to 3 months. We are looking for a responsible, part-time person to fill his position until he is able to return. The hours will be Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 3 hours a day, after the schools are out in the afternoon. The person filling in will need to get security clearances. Those interested in the position are asked to contact the church office: 717-637-7101.

NEW: Welcome Pew



Holy Hospitality! The Welcome Pew is here! Look for it every week at 10:30 service. Welcome to visitors and anyone who would just rather not sit alone.

This week, Deb Anker is hosting. She will make sure anyone who sits there with her, feels included and will provide worship tips and information, if needed. If you would like to host (male/female/couples), it's easy to sign up using the QR code provided, or call the church office: 717-637-7101.



A Note from the Church Library

Treat your spirit. An assortment of books from our library are now available at The Book Table found in the Gathering Place. Curl-up with a good book!

Hanging of the Greens

Hanging of the Greens will take place this Sunday, November 29 immediately following the 10:30 worship service –if you are available to help transform our beautiful Nave for the Advent and Christmas seasons, please plan on staying to help decorate! Pizza will be provided.

WOMEN/ELCA BIBLE STUDY will be held **Tuesday, December 1, 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 Goede will be leading the Bible Study lesson found in the winter *gather* magazine, *Prophets of Grief and Amazement: Session One: Amos of Tekoa*: *God's call for justice is not optional*. 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.

Holiday Community Meal

You are invited to join us for a Holiday Community Meal on Sunday, December 6th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to share in a warm meal, music and Storytime with Santa! We are looking for volunteers to help make things run smoothly, if you are interested please contact Beth Szymanski at: 717-634-7484; bszymanski3@hotmail.com, or Kit Curlen at: 717-891-4849; kcurlen@comcast.net. You can also find sign-up sheets for volunteers at the Hospitality Desk in the Gathering Space.



Our First Live Nativity – Volunteers Needed!



St. Matthew invites everyone to participate in our **first Live Nativity** on Monday, December 21! We will have two performances, one at **6:00 p.m. and one at 7:00 p.m.**, on the lawn outside the Fellowship Hall doors.

We are looking for volunteers to help make this special event a success! There are opportunities for everyone to participate, including:

- **Actors and Actresses:** No speaking lines required! Rehearsal will begin 30 minutes before the performance.
- **Setup Crew:** Help prepare the area for the Nativity.
- **Stage Crew:** Cue the actors and actresses.
- **Cleanup Crew:** Help with teardown after the event.
- **Hospitality Team:** Prepare and serve coffee and hot chocolate.
- **Cookie Donations:** Help us share some holiday sweetness!

Whether you would like to be part of the Nativity or help behind the scenes, we welcome your time and talents. Let's come together as a church family to share the joy and wonder of the Christmas story with our community!

Please consider volunteering and being part of this special new St. Matthew tradition! Scan the QR code to register TODAY!

ADULT MINISTRY

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

Seniors Hang Out



- Monday, December 7, 10:00 a.m. to Noon in Fellowship Hall.
  Join us for Holiday fun as we play Christmas Bingo, create Christmas Crafts, and watch *A Charlie Brown Christmas*.
- Monday, December 14, 10:00 a.m. to Noon in Fellowship Hall.
  Help us create holiday magic for others as we help with our Christmas Cheer Bags.

Angel Tree



Help us make the holiday special for others by participating in our Angel Tree, located in the Gathering Place. There are opportunities of all price ranges to help brighten someone's Christmas. This tree benefits local families through New Hope Ministries and gift cards benefit the members of Oakview Manner, a HUD facility. Gifts on the Angel Tree should be returned by December 6.

Christmas Cheer Bags

Know someone who has had a tough year and could use some extra cheer? A friend? A relative? A co-worker? You can help cheer them up by submitting their name and contact information. We will deliver gift bags to folks who are grieving, who have lost their job, are sick, injured, lonely, or sad for any reason.

Note: Bags are not limited to St. Matthew members, but they must be located within 15 miles of Hanover.

We will assemble and deliver cheer bags on Friday, December 18 at 10 am in Fellowship Hall. Many hands make light work.

You can submit names and sign up to volunteer by scanning the QR code or by completing a form available below, or on the Hospitality Desk and placing it in the offering plate. Deadline to submit names is December 14.

For questions or more information, contact Deb Smith through the church office (717-637-7101) or by email (dsmith@stmattlutheran.org).

Recipient Name _____

Recipient Address _____

Recipient Phone number _____

Your name _____

Your phone number _____

Help pack on December 18? _____ Help Deliver on December 18? _____

ST. MATTHEW COOKIE WALK RETURNS

Saturday December 5, 9:00-11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall



HELP NEEDED:

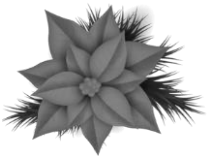
¨ Cookie Bakers (we are asking you to make 6 dozen cookies)
¨ Set Up-Friday December 5-6:00pm
¨ At the Cookie Walk-we will need volunteers to help oversee the Cookie tables and to put the cookies in the shoppers boxes, to refill
¨ Trays as needed, and anywhere else help is needed.

If you are willing to bake cookies, or help at the cookie walk, please let either the office, info@stmattlutheran.org or Amy Beck, abeck1976@comcast.net know.

St. Matthew sponsors the education of Scarleth Zuleyma and Nahomy Natasha at the Hope Academy in Guatemala. For 2026, the sponsorship is $150 a month for each girl. We have already paid the first half of the year for both and our goal with the Cookie Walk is to raise the remaining $1800. This will cover the tuition for the remainder of the school year for both of these girls.

Christmas Poinsettias

Members and friends who wish to honor or memorialize a loved one by placing a poinsettia in the chancel this Christmas are asked to complete and return the form below with $18 per listing to the church office. After the cost of the poinsettias is met, the memorials/honorariums will support Lutheran World Relief. The deadline is Monday, December 7. Please print clearly when filling in names. Please make checks payable to "St. Matthew Lutheran Church" with "Poinsettias" in the memo line.



I/We wish to (please check one): _____ Honor _____ Memorialize

Person(s) to be memorialized or honored:_____

_____

_____

Given by: _____

Your offering envelope number: _____

After the costs of the poinsettias are met, the remaining monies will be sent to Lutheran World Relief.

Blue Christmas

Candles flicker, comforting words are spoken, sweet music fills our souls, messages of Christ's love, hope and comfort enfold us. You're invited to Blue Christmas, a worship service for those who are stressed, hurting, grieving or lonely in this holiday season, on Monday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. For more information, call Pastor Faye Snyder at 717-637-7101, Ext 225 or email: nicksong@comcast.net.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Contact Ethan Draper for more information, *edraper@stmattlutheran.org*.

Christmas at St. Matthew Concert



Mark your calendars for our beloved Christmas at St. Matthew Concert on Sunday, December 20th at 4:00 PM. Celebrate the season in our beautiful decorated Nave with Christmas Favorites and Classics. This concert will feature the many musicians of St. Matthew, brass, organ, and audience carol singing. Free Admission...Our Gift to the Community. Free Will Offering will be accepted to support our Concert Series.

Caroling and Pizza



We will meet for Caroling on Wednesday, December 16 at 5:30 p.m. at St. Matthew and then we will go caroling to many of our homebound members. Caroling packets will be provided for all. Following the caroling, we will return to St. Matthew for pizza and fellowship. Join us to share the joy of the season!

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

Cookie Making Evening



Join us on **November 29th from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** as we come together to make cookies for the church's Cookie Walk! Bring your favorite cookie dough and recipe, and enjoy a fun evening of baking, fellowship, and delicious treats.
Parents and guardians are welcome and encouraged to attend to help supervise and spend time with the youth.

St. Matthew Confirmation Class

Confirmation is not just a class. It is a journey of faith, where we ask honest questions and explore what it means to honor Jesus. Join us for Faith Formation for grades 6 through 8 on Sundays from 9:30 to 10:20 a.m. in the third floor Youth suite. Sign up today using the QR code!

LutheranHANDS Day of Service

Looking for a way to make a difference? Join us on **December 5th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** as we partner with Lutheran Hands for a Day of Service!



This is a wonderful opportunity to give back, help those in need, and show God's love through service. Best of all, there's **no cost**. This year we will be volunteering at the Midwest Food Bank in Middletown. We'll meet at church and travel together in the church van. This opportunity is for those in 6-12th grades. Don't miss this chance to make an impact while serving alongside your friends!

Winterfest 2027: Rhythm

Our synod's annual weekend event for high school youth, and college-aged young adults is scheduled for January 8-10, 2027, at the Wyndham Resort in Lancaster. Winterfest is celebrating 36 years and continues to provide a community of authentic Christian love and welcome for

congregational youth, young adults, and their advisors. Our event theme is 'Rhythm.' We will explore the ways God invites us into a closer rhythm with Christ and ways we can share that rhythm with those whom we encounter in our everyday lives. Live music, fun, inspired worship, and plenty of time to meet and see friends new and old, all help make the weekend truly memorable.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

GLOW

Due to the holiday break, we will not have GLOW during the 10:30 service. We will have the Prayground open and available for our families 2nd grade and under that would like to join us.

Splash Class

Sunday, December 6th from 9:45-10:15, parents of infants and toddlers 3 months to 3 years old are invited to attend Splash Class- a "baby and me" style group class. Together, parents/caregivers and children will explore what's next after you've been "splashed" in the waters of Baptism.

Christmas Pageant

We are excited to begin a new tradition at St. Matthew! This year, our Christmas Pageant will be part of the 4:30 p.m. Family Service on Christmas Eve.

We invite you to register your child to be part of the wonderful story of our Savior's birth. It's a special opportunity for children to share the joy and wonder of Christmas with our church family. All rehearsals will be held at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall on the following Sundays:

- December 6
- December 13
- December 20

We look forward to sharing this new tradition with our children and families as we celebrate the birth of Jesus! Scan QR code to register today! 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

30 W. Chestnut St. Hanover, PA 17331 | stmattlutheran.org
717-637-7101 | General Mailbox: ext. 221
info@stmattlutheran.org

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

Rev. Faye C. Snyder, Visitation Pastor, ext. 225
nicksong@comcast.net

Ethan J. Draper, Minister of Music & Organist, ext. 235
edraper@stmattlutheran.org

Deb Smith, Associate Minister of Music, ext. 236
dsmith@stmattlutheran.org

Tim Peck, Youth Ministry, ext. 230
youth@stmattlutheran.org

Melissa Smith, Children & Family Ministry, ext. 232
msmith@stmattlutheran.org

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