

HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT



August 2 - 9, 2026

Sun.	Outdoor Worship with Holy Communion (Parking Lot)	8:30 a.m.
	Call Committee Focus Group (Fellowship Hall)	9:30-10:15 a.m.
	Singing Hymns Confidently (Lower Level – Adult Rehearsal Room)	9:30-10:20 a.m.
	SoulFire Rehearsal	9:45-10:20 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave)	10:30 a.m.
Mon.	Music Camp	9:00-11:00 a.m.
Tue.	Music Camp	9:00-11:00 a.m.
	Call Committee Focus Group (Library)	6:00– 8:00 p.m.
Wed.	Music Camp	9:00-11:00 a.m.
	Boy Scouts	7:00-8:30 p.m.
Thur.	Music Camp	9:00-11:00 a.m.
Fri.	Music Camp	9:00-11:00 a.m.
Sat.	Back to School Event (Fellowship Hall)	12:00-2:00 p.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Fellowship Hall)	5:00 p.m.
Sun.	Outdoor Worship with Holy Communion (Parking Lot)	8:30 a.m.
	Call Committee Focus Group (Fellowship Hall)	9:30-10:15 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave)	10:30 a.m.
	Young Adult Blessing (Fellowship Hall)	12:00-1:30 p.m.

Kids Acting Troupe Performance

The St. Matthew Kids Acting Troupe will be performing on **Monday, August 3** at 6:30 pm at the Guthrie Library.

Call Committee Focus Group

The Call Committee is seeking feedback as we begin the journey of calling a new lead pastor. A brief, three question survey has been created, and feedback can be provided in a variety of ways:

1. There is an insert in the bulletin that contains the Pastoral Call Survey.
2. The survey has been placed on the home page of the church's website.
3. There will be a variety of focus groups that will provide the opportunity for any member of our congregation to ask questions related to the Pastoral Call Survey. All focus groups will be held in the Fellowship Hall on the following dates/times:
 - a. 8/2/26 at 9:30 a.m.
 - b. 8/4/26 at 6:00 p.m.

All surveys are **due by Monday, August 10, 2026**. We value your feedback and look forward to collaborating together in the coming weeks.

Call Committee Members: Brian Blake, Richard Carson, John Mancini, Stacy Parsons, Kelli Reed, Barbara Strangfeld, and Ellen Shenk, Council Representative.

Back to School Event: Donations Needed

St. Matthew, Community Progress Council, and Three Retired Teachers Making a Difference are partnering in hosting a back to school event. The event is on Saturday, August 8 from 12-2 in Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in volunteering, please see Deb Smith. Donations can be dropped off in designated boxes found in the Church Office and Gathering Place. We are collecting the following school supplies:

Glue sticks
Packs of #2 pencils
Boxes of tissues
Boxes of 24 count crayons/16 count crayons
Headphones (NO wireless/NO ear buds)

Pocket folders
Pencil pouches or cases
Black expo dry erase markers
Yellow highlighters

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.

The Sailor's Bible, a Kids Musical

Join us on **Sunday, September 13 at 9:30 am** for *The Sailor's Bible*, a new children's musical that includes three Bible stories: Noah and the Great Flood, Jonah and the Great Fish, and Paul's Shipwreck. Each story features the ocean as a symbol for the chaos of life and shows how only the power of God is greater than the natural forces of wind and wave.

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.



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!

Music Opportunities for 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.



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!

JOIN THE HYMN SING FESTIVAL CHOIR! Sign up now for the festival choir for our Hymn Sing on August 16 at 4:00 p.m. **Rehearsals for the festival choir will be on August 9 at 12:30 p.m. and August 16 at 2:30 p.m. (the day of the hymn sing).** With questions, email Ethan Draper at edraper@stmattlutheran.org.



To register, use the QR code or fill out this form:

<https://stmatthewlutheranchurch.breezechms.com/form/HymnSingChoir2026>



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! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ethan Draper.

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

In between services on **August 16 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@stmattlutheran.org or the church office at 717-637-7101 ext. 230 with questions.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

Blessing of the Backpacks | August 16 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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