

The St. Matthew Messenger



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

July 2011

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FROM PASTOR YEISER'S DESK:

At this year's *Conference for Senior Pastor's of Larger Congregations*, we learned from Dr. David Lose of Luther Seminary in Minnesota that there is confusion today among Christians as to what is the purpose of the church. We dejectedly wonder where all the people have gone. Indeed, why is church attendance declining if we have such a life giving message to give? What is the church's purpose today? Part of the problem is that there are multiple and competing realities out there demanding our attention. We are busy and distracted and may even desire to just get our nourishment and guidance through various technological means. So, we ask how we can matter as a church to people who are pulled in so many different directions. What can we offer that people can discern as a top priority in their lives?

Perhaps the late great philosopher and theologian C.S. Lewis has something to offer us here. In a writing entitled *The Purpose of the Church* he wrote of God:

He works on us in all sorts of ways. But above all, He works on us through each other. People are mirrors, or "carriers" of Christ to other people. Usually it is those who know Him that bring Him to others. That is why the Church, the whole body of Christians showing Him to one another, is so important. It is

so easy to think that the Church has a lot of different objects – education, building, missions, holding services...

The Church exists for no other purpose but to draw people into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became man for no other purpose....

Keep in mind that in an era where our heads are oftentimes bowed as we are staring at our computer screens, as we are twitting, googling, and facebooking, as we are texting and chatting on cell phones, and as we are focusing on the latest gadget that we hope will make our lives more comfortable and stimulating that what God wants from us is that we mirror Christ to others. This means living in community and relationship with others whereby they can experience Christ in us. Perhaps that can even happen through technological means; and the church is heavily exploring this concept and trying to determine how best to use technology as a medium to convey Christ to others. However, we cannot divorce ourselves from the message. Pray daily. Read the scriptures. Tell the biblical story to others and share what that story means to you and how it relates to your life today. (Continued page 2)

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From Pastor Yeiser's Desk: (Continued from page 1)

Tell others who Christ is to you. Live as graced people believing and trusting in God's promises and eagerly sharing the good news with others through the various means that God has given you.

In July there will be two more building renovation forums. The first will take place after the Saturday evening worship service on July 9 and the second will occur during the "A" part of SAW on July 13. Come and learn more about what our building renovation needs are and how you might help.

Hola! ¿Habla Español?

As we consider options for reaching out to the Latino community in Hanover, the Social Ministry Committee is trying to establish who in our congregation speaks, reads or understands Spanish. If you have any of these skills, or know someone else who does, please contact Nan Sterner, 630-9331, or Doug West, 630-2131. We look forward to hearing from you.

Gracias y vaya con Dios!



playing cars and trucks on the living room floor. As he and I played, Hazel and I talked about the walk. All of a sudden, as if he had been a part of the conversation from the start, Eric said "Hun (that is what he calls his grand mom) I want to walk for sick people" At first I said, "Sure, at four years old he is going to walk 4 miles! He will never make it!" and thought nothing more of it. A week or so later we were at church and I saw a brochure about the walk and was talking to another member about it and again Eric said "Granddad, I want to walk for sick people!" I mentioned it to Hazel and we both agreed. He will not make it but it will be some good family time and maybe we can donate a few dollars for the cause. Well, that began Eric's first experience in raising money. He would ask anyone, anywhere. "I am walking for sick people and need money!" He collected a total of \$293.00.

We started the walk in the park across from Indian Rock Elementary School in York

on Saturday, May 21 at 10am. The walking path was next to railroad tracks (trains are his favorite passion!) and he explored the area as we walked. He collected a railroad spike, some "squirrel" food, and watched the snake as he crossed the road. Everybody else had not only passed us but was on their way back when we reached "about" a mile and a half. We decided to join the return crowd. By the time we returned to school we figured Eric had walked 3 miles. (He asked to be carried once. When he was told he was too big to be carried he continued his walk on his own). He made it back to school and wanted to run and play.

Pizza was for lunch following the walk. During lunch it was announced by the leaders of the walk that the grand total for the day by all teams was \$62,000 and the St. Matthew Team was the Third largest contributor of the day. Our team leader, Thad Yeiser, was presented with a certificate. The Yeiser Family REALLY MADE ERIC'S DAY when they presented him with a prize for collecting the most money within the St. Matthew.



Eric Wants to say THANK YOU

Eric was our first grandson so when we moved to Utz Terrace, even at four month old, he was a regular visitor to our home. Most, if not all of the community has seen him as we walked the community, first in his stroller and as he was able walking around with us. His favorite walk is around the pond so he can see the frogs, the turtles and sometimes the ducks. Some know him because he is a natural born dog lover and is always seen petting, or playing with every dog he sees. Cindy, Nicki, Toby, and Beasley, are a few of his doggy playmates. He may be seen riding his fire engine, his bike, and lately his battery powered motorcycle, around the neighborhood. He is an intelligent little guy at four years old and he never ceases to amaze us. His latest endeavor points out his determination, his willingness to help and his spunk.

On May 21, 2011 a team of walkers from St. Matthew Lutheran Church joined other teams from the Hanover, York area in a 4 mile fund raiser walk for the GREAT STRIDES WALK FOR CYSTIC FIBROSIS, in York. The walk was two miles out and, of course, two miles back.

It was a few weeks before the walk and Eric and I were

AS YOU MAY KNOW, St. Matthew was officially approved and enrolled in the **THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS** program in December of 2010. Thrivent Choice is a new charitable grant program that allows eligible members to help direct where Thrivent Financial distributes part of its charitable funds each year. As of June 8 St. Matthew members who invest with Thrivent Financial (formerly known as Lutheran Brotherhood) have collectively arranged for \$3,769 to be transferred into our Parish Ministry Miscellaneous Income account. These funds are greatly appreciated and we thank all who participated for remembering St. Matthew among their choices of recipients. If you are a member of Thrivent Financial and would like more information, please contact your agent or e-mail inquiries to mail@thrivent.com.

2011 ENVELOPES that have not been picked up will be discarded on September 1. If you have not been able to pick yours up and you do want them, please come to the church office between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. any weekday before that date. Please call Richard Trostle in the church office with any questions or concerns.



**DUTCH DAYS
FLEA MARKET**

The Evangelism Committee of St. Matthew will hold a flea market behind the church on Dutch Days, Saturday, July 30. All proceeds will go to support Viking Dietrich, missionary in East Africa, and Peter Johnson, missionary in Cairo, Egypt. We will begin collecting flea market items on July 5. We will gladly accept household items, glassware, dishes, toys, puzzles, books, etc. or anything that can be carried in a box. No clothing please. Best times for bringing items to the church are Wednesday (SAW), Saturday (5:00 p.m.) and Sunday mornings. Call Rick Martz at 633-6900 if you need help getting items to the church. Please leave items in Room 301 on the 3rd floor or in the back of Fellowship Hall marked "Flea Market." We will also need many volunteers to help on Saturday, July 30. If you can help, please contact Rollie Kunde at 630-9411, or e-mail: roland-kunde@comcast.net. This event will be a lot of work but also a lot of fun and a great way to support our missionaries.

**THANKS FOR YOUR HELP
AND PARTICIPATION!**



THANK YOU to all who have opted to receive our Messenger through email! We have over 126 members receiving their newsletter electronically and saving postage and paper!

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, send an email to info@stmattlutheran.org.

Thank you!

STEWARDSHIP

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Did you know amphibians live in two worlds at once? Some, like hibernating frogs, can live in one world for an extended time before emerging to the other, then casually slip in and out of each environment when active.

The life of a steward is amphibious. You slip in and out of the world of the secular and the spiritual. The worlds are completely different, but you easily cross from one to the other.

The balance for the Christian steward is to live totally in the spiritual world while being in the secular world.

"Standing around in a garage does not make you a car," someone said.

The environment in which you find yourself is real, but that environment does not describe you. What a frog is does not depend on being in or out of water. A frog is a frog, and conducts its life in two environments without changing its nature.

As a child of God, your spiritual nature lives itself out in the physical world. God created and preserves the physical world as a place for you to exist. He expects you to manage it. Being part of society and contributing to its betterment are noble goals of Christian service. Every contribution you make within the church or outside the church witnesses to God's gifts within you.

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Email: info@stmattlutheran.org
www.stmattlutheran.org

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**DON'T TAKE A
VACATION
FROM CHURCH**

Join Us For Worship!

Wednesday Supper at 5:45 p.m.

Activity at 6:30

Worship at 7:15

Saturday at 5 p.m.

Sunday 8:00 and 10:45 a.m.

The Rev. Daniel M. Yeiser, Ph.D., Senior Pastor 634-4025 (cell phone), 793-8059 (Home)
The Rev. Arthur L. Ruths, D.D., Pastor Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. E. Edward Keyser, and The Rev. Jack R. Hoffman, Cong. Visitation Pastors
Miss Jan M. Davis, A.i.M., Minister of Christian Education
Mr. Scott G. Fredericks, Minister of Music
Mrs. Karen L. Buckwalter, A.i.M., Associate Minister of Music



**RING THOSE SUMMER BELLS!
THURSDAYS BEGINNING
JULY 28 at 11 a.m.**

*Coming together is a beginning.
Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success. ~Henry Ford*

Beginning on **Thursday, July 28** and continuing **through Thursday, August 18**, we will be come together, progress together and be successful together, as we make a “joyful noise” with handbells in the bell choir room from **Noon – 1 p.m.**

Every summer for the last several years, we have offered an opportunity for people to learn and advance in the art of handbell ringing. From ages eight to eighty, new ringers have found this to be a fun, learning experience even if they’ve not had any prior musical training!

Whether you played an instrument in school or whether you have no idea what a music staff looks like, fear not! All your notes will be circled with the counting provided underneath. We’ve got bells of all sizes so there is definitely a bell for you! Bring a friend or family member too – the more the merrier!

Please email Karen Buckwalter, buckwalter@stmatthlutheran.org, or call the music office, 637-7101, by Monday, July 25 to sign up so your music may be prepared prior to our first session.



Habitat for Humanity is back in Hanover and St. Matthew is getting involved. One project is already underway on Pleasant Street and more are to come. The first step in volunteering to assist with on-site work is to register for a mandatory Volunteer Orientation. If we can identify enough interested volunteers in the congregation, arrangements can be made to conduct a special orientation session at the church. **NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY.** Normally, orientations occur twice a month at the York Habitat for Humanity Office in York. The orientation runs about an hour and one-half and includes an introduction to Habitat’s unique homeownership program and safety instructions. Construction volunteers must complete the orientation prior to being placed on the construction schedule.

The Social Ministry Committee has been hearing how members want to become more involved in community service projects. Now is the time to get involved. Habitat’s program is based on the conviction that Christian discipleship must be lived out in practical ways, through loving and serving one another. Wouldn’t it be a great experience to work with a crew from St. Matthew in partnership with God and other compassionate volunteers to build and renovate houses, so that families in need can have homes in our community where they can experience God’s love and grow into all that God intends.

Please see or call Doug West at 630-2131 to find out more or to express interest in orientation.

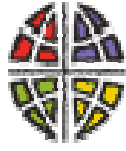
***Come Celebrate God’s Love and
Serve in Jesus’ Name.***

ON PENTECOST SUNDAY, June 12, we celebrated the Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) for 12 of our youth. Thank you to them and their families for participating in our confirmation program for the past two years. We pray for continued blessings on their faith journey as they take this next step.



Our Confirmands

- Emily Joy Albright
- Taylor Nicole Arnold
- Kameron Ames Curlen
- Tiffany Marie Dusman
- Benjamin Britton Harrison
- Joseph Thomas Harrison
- Emily Elizabeth Helm
- MacKenzie Lyn Keeney
- Tyler Michael Klenk
- Logan Robert Luckenbaugh
- Brady Roy Mann
- Logan Thomas Nelson



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Annual Assembly Wrap Up

The 24th annual assembly of the Lower Susquehanna Synod was held June 2 - 4 at Messiah College, Grantham, PA with Bishop B. Penrose Hoover presiding. Just over 700 people attended the assembly as voting members or visitors.

The representative of the ELCA churchwide organization was the Rev. Dr. Ruth Hamilton, who serves as Assistant Secretary of the ELCA. Pastor Hamilton led the churchwide presentation, responded to questions submitted by voting members and preached at worship on Saturday morning.

Global Ministry Theme

The assembly theme was "God's Work. Our Hands – Throughout the World." Helping to reflect the theme was the keynote speaker, Lisa Baumgartner Bonds, Vice President for External Relations of Lutheran World Relief (LWR). The Bible study leader was the Rev. Daniel Ruth, Social Marketing Manager for LWR. During the assembly voting members assembled 844 personal hygiene kits which were donated to LWR.

Also present was The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Truscott, professor at Trinity Theological College, Singapore. Representatives our companion synod, the Konde Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, were Mr. Otinel Mlimba, General Secretary, Mr. Flaston Anytike, Director of Planning and Economic Development, and Ms. Lusajo Kanyamale, who will serve as a counselor this summer at Camp Kirchenwald, Colebrook, PA.

Members of the Harrisburg Sudanese Worshipping Community were recognized. Their worship leader is Del Akech Del, who is currently a student at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.

Worship and Consecration

On Thursday evening, a service of Evening Prayer with Remembrance of the Faithfully Departed was held to recognize those rostered leaders who have died since the last assembly. Word and Sacrament worship was held Friday evening. At this service, Sister Deborah McClellan was consecrated as a deaconess. Sister Anne Keffer, Directing Deaconess of the Deaconess Community of the ELCA participated in the consecration.

Assembly Actions

- Elected: Mrs. Lucinda Bringman, a member of St. James, Gettysburg, was elected to a four year term as synod vice-president. The Rev. Thomas McKee was reelected to a four-year term as secretary of synod. Other elections included members to the Synod Council, Gettysburg Seminary board and members of the synod's Consultation and Discipline Committees.
- Adopted and referred to the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly was a memorial which calls for peacemaking in Israel and Palestine. The memorial "encourages the church's members, congregations, synods and agencies to consider making positive economic investment in those Palestinian projects and businesses that peacefully strengthen the economic and social fabric of Palestinian society and avoiding any movement towards boycott, divestment and/or economic sanctions."
- Adopted was a task force report on a process for the election of the bishop. While the election process at the assembly will remain the same, added was a pre-assembly period for each of the synod's 14 conferences to raise up potential nominees for the office. The next election of a bishop will be held at the 2013 synod assembly.
- Adopted: a fiscal year 2012 synod budget of \$3,500,000 with 46.5% of that total going to the churchwide ministries of the ELCA.

Recognition of Good and Faithful Servants

Honored for fifty years of ordained ministry were the Rev. Douglas Boden, the Rev. Richard Dowhower, the Rev. William Jacobs, the Rev. George Knarr, the Rev. David Kovach, the Rev. William Krenz, the Rev. Guy Mehl, and the Rev. Richard Weaver.

Ministry Moments

A series of "Ministry Highlights" videos were shown to the assembly. These videos described the local and international mission and witness of congregations, conferences and agencies in the synod.

Assembly Offering

Offerings totaling \$5,419.27 were received. They will be equally divided between student scholarships for the Manow Junior Lutheran School in the Konde Diocese, Lutheran World Relief and the Bishop's Congregational Mission Fund.

Mutual Ministry Coffee and Conversation Dates

All members and friends of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, we have now scheduled our Coffee and Conversation gatherings for the following dates and times: **July 17** at 1:00 p.m. after the 10:45 church service, **Thursday the 21st** at 6:30 p.m., and **Tuesday, July 26** at 6:30 p.m. All the sessions will meet in the Fellowship Hall with break out groups in various rooms in the Church.

The “Conversations” will all center on the following list of questions that the Mutual Ministry Committee would ask you to think about between now and then. They are as follows:

- How do you see our ministry at St. Matthew?
- What are our strengths and weaknesses?
- What recommendations would you suggest to improve our ministry to better meet your needs or the needs of others and more effectively fulfill our mission of “Celebrating God’s Love, Serving in Jesus’ name”?
- How can the pastors, staff and congregation join together in mutual ministry?

- St. Matthew offers four opportunities to worship each week. Do these services meet your needs?
- How would you evaluate the overall spiritual health of our congregation? Are your spiritual needs being met? How do you believe the body of Christ can be best built up here at St. Matthew?
- What are your hopes and prayers for St. Matthew for the future? How do we get there? What obstacles are there to achieving those hopes and prayers?

On behalf of the Mutual Ministry Committee, thank you for your participation in this very important opportunity to help shape the vision and future of “Our Church”. Together, and with God’s help, all things are possible. See you in July.

WE NOW HAVE A Community Aid Clothing Collection Bin at the edge of our main parking lot. Please help our neighbors by donating clothes and shoes there. The church receives 4¢ for every pounds of clothing donated.

PASTORAL ACTS

Baptisms



May 21 – Hallie Elizabeth Doll, daughter of Bryan & Jessica (Fortino) Doll, with sponsor Rebekah Doll

May 22 – Lillian Nicole Laurence, daughter of Travis & Rebecca (Marchio) Laurence, with sponsors David & Linda Pareja

May 22 – Lucas Laurence Pareja, son of David & Lindsay (Laurence) Pareja, with sponsors Scott & Jessica Timcheck

May 22 – Benjamin Scott Timcheck, son of John & Jessica (Laurence) Timcheck, with sponsors Michael & Susie Timcheck

May 29 – Addison Grace Sullivan, daughter of David and Cara (Phillips) Sullivan, with sponsor grandmother Claudia Clemens

May 29 – Cara Easton Sullivan, daughter of Mark and Claudia (Matthews) Clemens, with sponsor Claudia Clemens

May 29 – Chloe McKenna Sullivan, daughter of David and Cara (Phillips) Sullivan, with sponsor grandmother Claudia Clemens

June 5 – Gavin William Sheely, son of Jason and Jessica (Saltzgeber) Sheely

June 5 – Greyson Browning Toohey, son of Marjorie (Browning) Toohey

June 8 – Ann Elizabeth Diviney, daughter of Ellis and Ann (Spangler) Diviney

Weddings



Marriage

June 3 - Todd & Melanie (Riddle) Fritz

June 11 – Andrzej & Hanna (Barra) Janiak

June 18 - Drew & Kayla (Koontz) Steffens

PASTOR YEISER WILL BE on vacation from June 27-July 9. While he is gone Pastor Hoffman (630-9318) will officiate at the worship services and be available to cover pastoral emergencies. Also available, should a pastor’s assistance be needed, are Pastor Keyser from June 26-29 (870-1946), and Pastor Kirk Griffin from St. Marks (637-8904).

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



Prayer Shawl Ministry

On Sunday, June 26, we lifted up our prayer shawl ministry, a ministry of caring and outreach for our members, friends, the Hanover community and beyond.

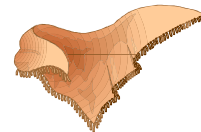
To date we have created, blessed and shared approximately 137 shawls since April of 2008. Some of our shawls and afghans have been given to residents of the Stillwaters Facility which is dedicated to helping victims of domestic violence. Some of our baby blankets have been sent to Tender Care Pregnancy Services and doll blankets have been shared with the Christmas toy workshop team at Trinity United Church of Christ in Hanover.

The founders of the shawl ministry have explained this unique ministry in their book, "Knitting into the Mystery."

"Again and again we heard about the comfort the shawls provided. Gradually, the stories strengthened our faith; they became witnesses to God's compassion for God's people. We realized our knitting enabled people to encounter God's love in a tangible way. What our hands and hearts created allowed others to know God. Our knitting was linked to God's great creative energy that blankets us with compassion. Our work and care linked us to God's grace."

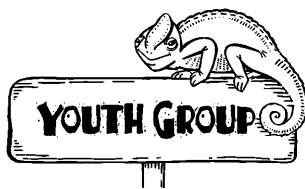
This is why we do what we do here at St. Matthew. We invite you to join us today in lifting up this important ministry.

The Shawl Ministry



HAVE YOU READ "THE HELP?" It's the summer book for our Reading Group! By Kathryn Stockett, this book follows the lives of several white women in the South and the black maids who care for their households. There is still time to pick up a copy and read this fascinating book for our discussion on Monday, July 18, 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will have ended by the time this Messenger is printed. We hope we had a great week of HOPE! We'll have a full report in the August Messenger. In the meantime, thanks to all our youth and adult volunteers, all who donated items for our mini-health kits, camels (that's what the toilet paper rolls were for) and snacks, and of course, all the children who attended.



YOUTH GROUP has some amazing summer events planned. All those entering the 7th grade in the fall through those who graduated this spring are invited. Just look at the fun you can have!

SATURDAY, JULY 9 - Pool Party at the Crawford's
The pool party starts at noon and goes until you just can't swim, eat or play anymore! Bring a snack to share, your bathing suit, towels and sun screen. The Crawford's are at 90 Glenville Road in Hanover.

SATURDAY, JULY 16—SUNDAY, JULY 17
Matt Mann is still planning on the best campsite, but it will be one great trip to get closer with God and with each other. Enjoy the great outdoors with your YG friends. You must RSVP to Matt by July 9 so he can

tell you where to meet and so he can get enough food to feed you ravenous kids! No RSVP=no attending.

More to come in August!

YOUTH GROUP could use some adults (usually parents, but not a requirement!) for transportation to some of our events. If you could drive two or more youth, please contact Matt Mann at 410-303-5613 or by e-mail at mattthemann900@hotmail.com. You're always welcome to stay and participate in our great summer events, too!