

The St. Matthew Messenger



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

September 2018

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FROM PASTOR YEISER'S DESK:

I have enjoyed communicating with you through the medium of the newsletter over the past fourteen years. Thus it is with some sadness that I now write my last article before leaving St. Matthew, effective September 30. My last day at church will be September 9.

First of all, I want to put something to rest. A number of you have asked me, or others, if I am being pushed out. The answer is "no." An attempt to do that failed eleven years ago. Again, I simply feel that my ministry has run its course here. I am ready for a new challenge and I believe you might benefit from a change at the helm. My biggest hope for you is that the declining attendance at worship, Sunday school, and activities (and whatever lies behind it) can be reversed. Other than that, I think things are quite solid here and I feel very good about our fourteen years together.

As I think back over the years, I give thanks and praise that so many people have been ministered to in and through this church – most notably in worship and pastoral care. As I reflect, I mention that when I came on the scene in 2004 the church was over \$661,000 in debt. While some of you knew that, you may not have known that in the next ten years St. Matthew would be facing a 1.5 million dollar organ renovation project and a 1.3 million dollar church stone renovation project. And, yet, after all that

we are debt free and have been so for several years now. The Spirit is moving in this congregation and people responded in a most gracious and giving manner. Keep it up!

Other highlights for me are increased Parish Ministry Envelope Giving, and the very strong participation of the congregation with the seminary where we have hosted and helped educate numerous students and made significant financial contributions to the seminary for the training of church leaders. Over the years many programs such as SAW and the Ruth's Harvest ministry were implemented, impacting peoples' Christian formation in various ways. Some old activities, such as the annual church picnic and advent social were resurrected. Administratively, our constitution is completely up-to-date, as are many of our policies and procedures; the committees have been strengthened through the use of ministry profiles; an adequate number (but not an overage) of support staff are in place; annual staff evaluations occur; and we are in good shape with our insurance coverages.

From a building perspective, big ticket items are the renovation of the exterior of the church and organ as referenced above in this letter. Some of the other highlights for me are the renovation of the church lounge and library, the building of a playground and new fencing in the back of the education building... (Continued page 2)

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

...converting the administration/education building to gas heat, the replacement of the boiler in the church basement, and the landscaping project around the church building.

As I reflect here, I do give thanks to God for our time together. There were some painful times, and even years, but I am grateful that the Spirit led us through them to a better and stronger place. It will not be easy leaving you. In fact, you will remain in my thoughts and prayers. After an interim period, you will receive a new lead pastor. I encourage all to give that person a fair chance to get up and running. Appreciate his or her gifts for ministry and the call of that pastor to St. Matthew, as affirmed by the call committee, council, and congregation. Know that your new pastor will not be perfect (the only perfect pastor in history was hung on a cross) but encourage him/her in his/her work here. Together, through the power of the Spirit, you can and will make a positive impact in peoples' lives, this community, and world.

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As I prepare to depart, I remind you that you are in good hands here with Pastor Kate, two visitation pastors, an interim pastor (yet to be named), and a committed staff ready and able to serve you. Finally, I encourage the congregation to remember that this is not Seth's church, or Edith's church, the council's church, or your new pastor's church, but rather, Christ's church. He is the head and we are the body. As we stay focused on Christ and pray, worship, socialize and study together, issues of control and personal agendas are diffused and a cooperative spirit of working together as the body of Christ, and to the glory of God, is enhanced. Also, keep in mind that, even though pastors may come and go, you are not alone. In the words of our Lord, in the last verse of Matthew's gospel (28:20): "... remember, I am with you always to the end of the age." We cannot receive any better assurance than that. Praise be to God. May you always celebrate that while serving in Jesus' name!



Choir Concert

THE 50-VOICE GETTYSBURG COLLEGE CHOIR will be singing on Sunday, September 16, at the 10:45 service. Music will begin at 10:30 a.m. A smaller ensemble will sing at the 8:00 a.m. service. The Choir is on retreat this weekend here at St. Matthew. The College Choir is the premier choral ensemble of the Sunderman Conservatory of Music at Gettysburg College. Directed by Dr. Robert Natter, the Choir is acclaimed for superlative performances of choral literature from the Renaissance era to contemporary music. The Choir tours annually. Singers are selected by competitive audition, and the ensemble is committed to the highest levels of musicianship and professionalism.

COMING IN SEPTEMBER FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE:

The St. Matthew Stewardship Committee is offering another **Financial Peace University course**. This 9-week course by noted financial author Dave Ramsey has helped countless people get out of debt, learn to live within their means, plan for their futures and become generous givers. The class, taught by Hayley Steiner and Bryan Smith of St. Matthew, will begin Monday, September 24, and run through November 12, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at St. Matthew. The cost of the class is \$119 and contains all of the DVD's and other classroom materials. Babysitting will be provided. To register please go to:

www.daveramsey.com/fpu/classes/1024899/atid/. If you need help with the price of the class please contact Rev. Cindy Chambers, co-chair of the Stewardship Committee at 717-624-5504.



SEPTEMBER 15/16 IS TRY-A-TITHE WEEKEND. It works very simply. You figure out how much you make each week. Then you figure out what 10% of that weekly income is. That 10% is what you put into your offering envelope on September 15/16. That is your tithe. You mark your envelope where you want it to go just like every other Sunday. If you already tithe then prayerfully consider whether you could increase that amount. No special envelopes. No special programs, just you and your family and God deciding whether you will try to tithe this one week in September.

PLEASE JOIN US for a reception in the Gathering Place after the late service on September 9 as we say farewell to Pastor Yeiser. We will enjoy cake and coffee together. A treasure chest will be available that day if you would like to offer cards or notes of gratitude as he transitions to a new church.

OUR CONCERT SERIES will present a special duo organ concert featuring Ken Cowen and Bradley Welch on Sunday, October 21, at 4 p.m. Free tickets will be required and will be available beginning September 20. Free-will offering. More information will follow.



PASTORAL ACTS
July 16 - August 15, 2018

Deaths
August 7 - Iris Bollinger

Weddings
August 18 - Robert & Abby (Shenk) Schreffler Jr.



HAVE YOU BEEN BLESSED BY ST. MATTHEW CHURCH?

We are offering you the opportunity to write your particular blessings on our Blessing Tree in the Gathering Place, beginning September 16. Post-it-Notes will be provided, just fill one out. This is a time for you to share with others how St. Matthew has blessed you.

The Stewardship Committee

Join the St. Matthew Facebook community! If you are on Facebook, "Like" St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Hanover, to connect with other members, receive announcements and read other interesting posts.



CHURCH COUNCIL MOTIONS

June 26, 2018

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the May 22, 2018 meeting; passed.

MOTION from Finance: To amend the previous month's motion regarding the organizational credit card by adding credit card recipients Stacy Brodbeck, Jane Lawrence, and Dirk Wildasin to the list of credit card holders; passed.

MOTION from Finance: To approve the May Special Needs request of \$2,000 for World Hunger and \$1,000 for SpiriTrust, along with an additional request of \$2,000 for Guatemala Volcano Disaster Relief to be paid directly to Tree4Hope for a grand total request of \$5,000; passed.

MOTION from Finance: To include Pastoral Acts costs regarding the library renovation on Christian Education budget line 430; passed.

MOTION from Finance: To include the proposed expenses to Gregory Mummert regarding church window protection on Building Upgrades budget line 650; passed.

MOTION from Property: To accept proposal from Greg Mummert for \$4,500 to replace eight basement windows on the Franklin Street side of the church; passed.

MOTION from Property: To re-key external doors of the church building at a reasonable cost for safety purposes, by David Kurtz; seconded by Jeremy Bucher; passed.

MOTION: For Boy Scout Troop 105 at St. Matthew to remain boys only, by Doug Stambaugh; seconded by Linda Sanders; passed.

MOTION: To adjourn, by Debbie Riddle; seconded by Lori Unger; passed.

St. Matthew Church Picnic

Sunday, September 2, 2018

at Penn Grove Retreat
(Same location as last year.)

*Outdoor Service
at 11:00 a.m.*

*Lunch Served at
Approximately 12:15 p.m.*

(We will also hold our regular services at church.)

Our theme this year is and Old-Fashioned Picnic
with carnival games!

Please bring a Covered Dish or Dessert to share;
and/or a donation of a cake for the cake walk.



**Please sign up in the Gathering Place or
Call or Email the Church Office**
Cost: Single - \$5; Family \$10



RUTH'S HARVEST

It is hard to believe schools are back in session. Our coordinators and volunteers have been working throughout the summer to get the Ruth's Harvest program ready and up-to-date for the new school year and the first scheduled backpacks are scheduled to be delivered to registered children on September 14. This is our fifth year of serving the four elementary schools in the Hanover district.



We will begin our regular Tuesday morning collection from participating churches and civic groups on September 11. The food items, of course, are the same. Individual servings of cereal, fruit, vegetables, mini meals, complete meals, drinks, and snacks. Because allergy to peanuts continues to be of concern, we have a particular need for peanut-free snacks. You may also make monetary donations with checks made out to **Hanover Area Council of Churches** with **RUTH'S HARVEST** on the memo line.

As always, we ask for your continued prayers and your continued support to make this yet another successful year serving God's children in the Hanover area because this program is only possible through your donations and the many volunteers who accept, sort, pack and deliver your donations to the children.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

God's blessings,
Ruth's Harvest Team Members



GOD'S WORK OUR CANS ~ October Canned Corn Collection for New Hope Ministries Thanksgiving Food Drive

Each year New Hope Ministries supplies all of the ingredients for area families in need to prepare and enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal at home with their loved ones. Area churches and community groups pitch in by collecting large quantities of a specific Thanksgiving food item. In 2017, the Social Ministry committee challenged our congregation to collect 1,000 cans of corn, and we knocked it out of the park, collecting almost 1,200 cans!

Since corn was such a success last year, we are sticking with it again this year and hope you'll help us reach a goal of 1,200 cans in 2018! As you grocery shop, keep your eyes peeled for good deals on canned corn (regular canned corn please, not creamed corn).

During the entire month of October there will be a large collection bin in the Gathering Place for you to drop off your cans. We will keep you posted on our progress. If you prefer to make a financial donation to this cause, please make your check payable to "St. Matthew Lutheran Church" and be sure to write "canned corn" in the memo line. Cash donations should be placed in an envelope marked "canned corn."

Thank you in advance for your support!

~ The Social Ministry Committee

OUR SIGHT AND SOUND THEATER second trip to see the *Jesus* performance will be Saturday, October 13, 2018, for the 7 p.m. performance. We will leave the church parking lot at 1:00 sharp! We will stop at Shady Maple for dinner before the show. Total cost for Show, Dinner and Bus which includes driver tip is \$125/Adult. Sign up in the Gathering Place.



YORK REVOLUTION: We now have vouchers for any 2018 home game. \$14 includes the \$5 food voucher and ticket. Call Steve Bell or the church office for details. If you bring cash to the office to pay, please have the correct amount. Thank you!



ALL ABOARD! Join us for a scenic Western Maryland Railroad fall foliage ride on Saturday, October 27. The train leaves the Cumberland, Maryland, station at 11:30 a.m. and will go to Frostburg, Maryland, and will return to Cumberland at 3 p.m. We will leave the church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. sharp! There are 2 options for the train ride:

Option 1 - Standard coach with a bag lunch from Myers' Meat Markets. Each bag lunch will contain a sandwich, fruit cup and bag of chips. Sandwich choices are roast beef, chipped ham or turkey. The cost includes bus, driver tip, train ride and bag lunch - \$78/adult and \$64/child

Option 2 - Dining car with lunch options of a turkey wrap; a Chef's salad; bacon cheeseburger; or Texas toast grilled cheese with tomato bisque soup. Each lunch includes chips and fruit cup. The cost includes bus, driver tip, train ride with lunch - \$93/adult.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Place.



Our Music Ministry

is gearing up for a great year.
You will want to be a part of it!



Scott G. Fredericks, Minister of Music
Ruth Erb, Children's Choir Assistant
Deb Smith, Puppet Ministry Director

Children's Choirs - All children age 3 to grade 6 – Letters have been sent to all children. If you did not receive one, they can be found on the Hospitality Desk or call the church office and we will send it. Forms are due in the church office by September 11.

Choirs begin rehearsals on:

Pre-School Music Makers (ages 3, 4 & 5, kindergarten)
Thursday, September 20, 6:15-7:00 p.m.

Primary Choir (Grades 1 & 2 and K5 could be in this group)
Wednesday, September 19, 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Junior Choir (Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6)
Wednesday, September 19, 4:45-5:30 p.m.



Family Choir - (families of children's choirs and others) Meets several times a year on Sunday morning as scheduled

Youth Spirit Singers - (Grades 6-12 young women's ensemble) Meets as scheduled

The Adult Choir welcomes Additional Members – See Scott today if you feel called to offer your talents in this ministry. The adult choir is an important element of our worship and evangelism. You make a real difference here. Please take this to prayer. Rehearsals are normally held on Thursdays from 8-9:00 p.m. in the Adult Rehearsal Room and will begin on September 13.

Men's Chorus – This ensemble sings in worship several times a year. The chorus is open to all St. Matthew men. The chorus rehearses as needed on Thursday evenings prior to singing in worship or concert. Speak to Scott for additional information.



Mini-Minister Puppets have already worked hard during their puppet camp and are ready to begin a new year. The Mini-Minister puppets (grades 6-12) usually rehearse on Saturdays in Fellowship Hall from 10-11:00 a.m. Please consider joining this important and fun ministry of our church! If you have any questions, contact Deb Smith, 717-633-9787.

Our Praise Singers and Instrumentalists offer “contemporary” music for our Sunday worship about once a month. The membership, which changes based on the participants' availability and schedules, is open to youth and adults. Speak to Scott if you can assist with this ministry.

Handbells – Our handbell choir rehearses each week on Thursday night from 7:00-8:00 p.m. and presents music in worship throughout the year. See Scott if you are interested in ringing. Rehearsals begin on September 13.



Instrumentalists – (Youth and adult) Brass, woodwinds and strings as needed on Saturday and Sundays

Drama Ministry – (Youth and Adult) Meets as needed



Margaret G. Payne

[1] Years ago I worked with a young pastor who had been a fervent tither ever since the first day of her wage-earning life. Her practice continued for a couple of years until one day her mother gently confronted her with this request: "Sweetheart, I need you to stop tithing because I'm retiring soon and I won't be able to pay for your food and clothes any more." Slavish adherence to any legalistic requirement can fool us into thinking that we are earning holiness and blind us to the reality that our law-keeping might actually stand in the way of spiritual growth. And yet the tithe as a spiritual discipline is vastly underappreciated by modern Lutherans. I believe that if we boldly reintroduce the challenge to tithe, personally embrace the conviction of its worth, and then do it, we will provide abundant resources for God's work in the world as well as invigorate our experience of life in Christ.

[2] If I had a dollar for every time a parishioner asked me, "Do I have to tithe on gross or net income?" I would have been able to give a much higher monthly gift to ELCA World Hunger. My guess is that if the question had been put to Jesus, he would have found a loving way to say, "Don't even worry about it because you've already missed the point." All the money that we have is from God. See Deuteronomy 8:17, 18: "Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today". Very few people actually believe that their money is not self-generated, and so a decision about parting with a proportion of their net (or gross) earnings looms as a frightening sacrifice instead of a covenantal response.

[3] In fact, proportionate giving that is aimed toward and beyond tithing is valuable as a spiritual discipline even if we think that it's our money. The vast majority of people in the world cannot even imagine the standard of living that most Americans take for granted. If we cannot understand our membership in the Body of Christ as a reason to partner with God for the sake of the suffering world, then perhaps we need a spiritual jolt to get us back onto the path. The truth is that we are called to worship God with our wallet as well as our body, mind, spirit and heart. Following are five ways to re-imagine the tithe so that we can see it as an essential expression of the life of faith.



[4] **As a tool for transformation**

It is easy to find Old Testament passages that demand the tithe, but there are no verses in the New Testament that offer it as the basis for Christian giving. Yet Jesus talked about money regularly throughout his ministry: two thirds of his sayings and stories were related to the dangers of money, material possessions and greed. What happened to the tithe? The understanding of giving that Jesus taught is so radical that it spills beyond the confines of the law. In Matthew 23:23, one of the series of woes against the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus accuses them of punctiliousness in their tithe of 'things' and neglectful in their concern for the "weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith." The good news is that tithing is not necessary for our salvation; the bad news is that Jesus expects us to do both — tithe and work for justice. And yet even the bad news is good news because tithing gives us a transformed spirit and enhanced resources for the work of justice. The discipline of tithing shapes us into people who understand and live the abundant life of self-giving that Jesus teaches. That's why former tithers are so rare — once you have gotten a closer view of the kingdom, and a bigger piece of it, the old life of accumulation loses its appeal.



[5] **As an exercise in relinquishment**

Have you ever tried to pry a baby's fingers from the side of the eye glasses that he has grabbed from your face? It is extraordinarily difficult. Partly that's because a baby has remarkable strength in those little digits, but it is also because the baby has not yet learned how to let go. The first skill learned is grasping, and only then can a child be taught to release what he has grasped.

(Continued next page)

Tithing: Continued



[6] And so it goes in other aspects of our lives. It is important to learn how to grasp — to acquire food, education, jobs, a place to live, and a vocation. But an equally important skill is relinquishing — to separate out the necessities of life from the things that have become a source of longing and our idols. American culture is a lens that distorts the things we want into the things we need. But the tithe is a corrective lens; it shows us that we do not need all that we are tempted to grasp, and it blesses us with a lessening of the desire for more.

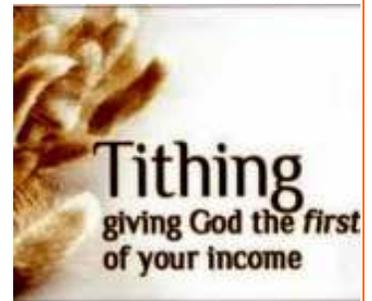
[7] As witness to an alternative vision in a consumer culture

Quite a few people I know who give away 10% or more of their income are targets for frequent auditing because it is unusual for auditors to see sacrificial giving. And perhaps quiet financial witnessing is preferred by Lutherans and others who find public displays of faith to be unimaginable. It is consistent with Jesus' teaching to be humble — to pray in closets and give without expectation of thanks or reciprocal services. Yet Jesus also said that we should not hide our lights under a basket, and the very conviction that motivates us to give away so much money is the thing that many people are missing in their lives. To be able to talk about habits of giving in a joyful way is a powerful witness in a culture that deifies wealth; it is a way to de-throne money and raise awareness of a different kind of abundance that outshines paltry material wealth.

[8] As a belief that giving is a form of liberation

A few years ago I attended a lecture given by Douglas John Hall on stewardship, and was startled when a seminarian raised her hand to ask what the word "Mammon" means. Recent biblical translations prefer "wealth" (NRSV) and "Money" (NEB) in verses such as Matthew 6:24 — "You cannot serve God and Mammon". But there is a loss in meaning that results from discarding the capitalized 'Mammon.' Mammon is a powerful being that needs to be named. Mammon is not simply a sum of material resources; it is a seductive spiritual power that it is the main competitor to God in peoples' hearts.

[9] Martin Luther agreed. In his explanation of the first commandment, Luther wrote: "Many a person thinks he has god and everything he needs when he has money and property; in them he trusts and of them he boasts.... Surely such a person also has a god — Mammon by name ... on which he fixes his whole heart. It is the most common idol on earth." We are in bondage to Mammon and cannot free ourselves without the power of God. As we access that power to help us to grow in giving, we are growing in faith; we are being freed from guilt and liberated into generosity, simplicity and joy.



[10] As an opportunity for delight

There was a young lady of God
Who thought tithing excessively odd
But she let out sigh
And she gave it a try
Now she thrives on nine-tenths of her wad

The joy of having resources that are already set aside for giving, the delight of selecting which part of God's work to support, the freedom from the endlessness of always wanting more — these are some of the pleasures of tithing. When we see this kind of giving as more gospel than law, then we can tithe, and go beyond a tithe, with gratitude and grace and thrive.

Margaret G. Payne is Bishop of the New England Synod of the ELCA.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

PRAYER SHAWL creators will meet on Tuesday, September 25 at 1:00 p.m. in the Lounge. After a devotion and stories about our shawls (two went to Guatemala this summer!), there will be time to work on our projects. A time to bless our shawls during worship will be scheduled soon after this meeting. Anyone who would like to know more about knitting or crocheting prayer shawls is especially welcome!

OUR CHURCH LIBRARY is now the Pastor Emeritus Arthur L. Ruths Library! In honor of Pastor Ruth's, the library has been redecorated with new flooring, wall covering, furniture and more. The books have been arranged by topics, including Bibles and Bible commentaries, past Cover to Cover selections, devotionals, children's and more. Anyone may borrow a book by writing your name, title of the book and date borrowed in the blue notebook on the shelf under the hallway window. Many new books have been added. Please visit and find something wonderful to read!



BIBLE PRESENTATION for our third graders occurs during the 10:45 a.m. service on Sunday, September 16. This is a very special time for the children and their families as they receive their own copy of God's Word. The presentation will take place immediately following the children's sermon.



CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION for families with 7th or 8th graders will be held in the Upper Room (201/202) on Sunday, September 16, 9:15 to 10:15. At least one parent is required to attend. The year's schedule, retreat information and class requirements will be discussed.

We are looking forward to another great year learning about Luther's Small Catechism!

A SHADES OF IRELAND TOUR is being planned for October 16-25, 2019. That may seem like a long time away, but now is a good time to consider joining this tour. Brochures are available at the Hospitality Desk and in the church office. There will be a travel presentation by a Collette representative on Thursday, February 14, at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendars now.



HOLY BOWLERS resumes on Thursday, September 6, at South Hanover Lanes. On the first and third Thursday of each month, we invite everyone to our Bible study from 1:00 to 1:45 p.m. These studies are always "stand alone" sessions, so if you miss one, you don't have to worry about catching up for the next one. Then you may choose stay for bowling fun! It is \$5 for three games, including shoe rental. We bowl for recreation and fellowship, not high scores, so all skill levels are welcome—even if you have not bowled in years! The snack bar is available for lunch or snacks. No reservations are necessary.



THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING! Come and see what the high school youth that traveled to Houston, Texas, this summer for the ELCA National Youth Gathering experienced. They invite all of those who supported them in making this trip possible to join them in "Gathering around the Tables" on Sunday, September 23 from 9:15 to 10:15a.m in Fellowship Hall. Breakfast will be served. Sunday School classes will come with their teachers. God has called us to bring you God's love, grace and hope. Please come and share with us!

SPARK is our new curriculum for children 2's through 6th grade. We are particularly excited about this new material because it is lectionary based. That means each Sunday's lesson in Sunday School will match up with one of the lessons read in worship. This is a wonderful way for families to link their children's experiences in Sunday School with what is happening in worship. Throughout the year, you'll find suggestions for making those connections in our bulletins, Messengers, letters home and more. It is our hope that you and your child will grow in faith and love of God and others as we share this new curriculum with you!

OUR SENIOR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS is looking forward to seeing lots of 9th through 12th graders in the Youth Suite each Sunday from 9:15 to 10:15 this fall! September 9, we'll participate in the Rally Day events and on September 16, we'll visit the confirmation orientation to talk about Youth Group and we'll make more plans for the September 23 NYG presentation. On September 30, we'll begin to view the videos of the Gathering speakers, one each week, and talk about them. The speakers had lots of great things to say, so this will be a time when we can "stop the tape" and have time to share our thoughts and opinions.



COVER TO COVER'S next book will be "Braving the Wilderness" by Brene Brown. We will meet on Monday, October 1, 7:00 p.m. in the church library for our discussion. A copy is in the church library. From Amazon--Brown redefines what it means to truly belong in an age of increased polarization. With her trademark mix of research, storytelling, and honesty, Brown will again change the cultural conversation while mapping a clear path to true belonging.

A CHILDREN'S SERMON will be offered during both services on Sunday, September 16. One is offered on the third Sunday of each month. All children in the sixth grade and younger are encouraged to come forward to hear God's word spoken especially for them. Parents or older siblings are welcome to come along.



CYBER WOMEN usually meet the 3rd Monday of each month at Panera, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Our next meeting will be September 17. We use the on-line magazine, Café, to start our conversation. You may find it at www.boldcafe.org. Women of all ages are welcome!

St. Matt's Lunch Out **ST. MATT'S LUNCH-OUT** goes to Hoss' on Carlisle Street on Thursday, September 13, 11:45 a.m. Enjoy a large salad, soup and dessert bar or an entrée from the menu. Our Lunch Out days are held on the second Thursday of each month. There is no program or agenda other than to enjoy a meal together with friends. No reservations are required. We'll save a spot for you!



MANY THANKS TO Steve and Sandy Little and Lynda Sheffer for their work trimming the shrubs around the church building. We are grateful for their time and hard work!



YOUTH GROUP kicks off the fall schedule with lots of fun and exciting events for all 7th through 12th graders! First will be the annual Church Picnic on Sunday, September 2.



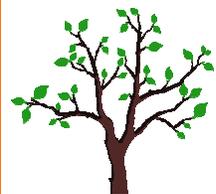
We'll serve as ushers for the worship service in the pavilion at the Penn Retreat Center, Please be there by 10:45. After lunch, we'll help with the carnival games and maybe make some cotton candy.

September 11 is the MercyMe concert at the York Fair. See Chris Peck for your tickets, which are \$28.50 each. These will be given on a first-come, first served basis, so don't hesitate! As most of you who said you were interested will be going with a parent, you will have to let us know if you are going yourself and will need transportation.

September 16 is our first regular meeting of the new school year. Miss Jan will be showing us a very cool new way to make bracelets that we'll then share with the younger kids in Sunday School in October. There will be lots of time for catching up about our summer's, too.



THE NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING comes to St. Matthew with an All-School Gathering! September 23 will see our National Youth Gathering participants bring the event alive in Fellowship Hall! During the Sunday School hour (9:15 to 10:15), our NYG youth will be at tables representing their different experiences. They will also show a video about their trip. Breakfast will be served.



BRANCHING OUT TO COLLEGE STUDENTS: If you are a college student or have one in your family, we are asking that you give us your name and school address and email so that we can support you in your

studies with cards and a care package. Even if you submitted an address last year, please resubmit the most current information to st.mattlutherancollege@gmail.com or call the office at 717-637-7101.

A new year, a new look for Sunday School!

RALLY DAY, Sunday, September 9,

sends us back to 1743!

All children from 6th grade and younger and their families are invited to experience life in 1743, the year St. Matthew began.

Our Sunday School classrooms in the education building will be filled with fun activities,

including having your picture taken in front of the St. Matthew log cabin church, making butter and worshipping in German.

Youth and adults are welcome to take this tour as well, but there will also be a film shown in Fellowship Hall about life (as close as we could get to 1743!)



The Rev. Daniel M. Yeiser, Ph.D., Senior Pastor
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