

The St. Matthew Messenger



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

March/April 2021

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From the Desk of Pastor Kathy:

The Final Scapegoat

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are entering Holy Week with our attention focused on the cross and what Jesus has done for our salvation. I have found a helpful explanation of Christ's death in a book called *Transforming Leadership*. The authors, Norma Cook Everist and Craig L. Nesson identified the human tendency to resolve conflict by finding someone to blame. "Whenever fear and anxiety levels are raised," they claim, "human groups inevitably gravitate toward the identification of a specified individual or group as the cause of that fear or anxiety." I find this to be true in all kinds of ways. Sociologists see it manifested in rituals and stories of people and call it the "scapegoat mechanism." Psychologists recognize the "blame cycle" at work in marriages and other family systems. Scapegoating is at the core of sin and how it is lived out in our relationship with God and one another. From the beginning of time, the fingers were pointing. Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent for this first act of defiance against God's will.

I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on your own life. Begin to name the various people or institutions or situations that you have blamed in the last several months. We have seen how this vicious cycle has spun as the world is dealing with the pandemic. It has become political, with fingers pointing in all directions. The divisions are deep and injustice prevails. When our sentences begin with an "if only," then we have targeted our scapegoat. When we do not like the change that takes place, we often try to find someone to blame. Just pay attention to an argument and you will most likely see this behavior.

It doesn't have to be like this. There is another way; it is the way of Christ.

In the story of Jesus' death, we see the scapegoat pattern at work. Jesus was the scapegoat as Religious leaders, the Roman government and the crowds, called for his crucifixion. As you know, Jesus did not deserve to be executed. Jesus died as the final scapegoat. As a result, the events of Holy Week remind us that we need not turn other people into scapegoats. The blame cycle stops at the foot of the cross. This is where the power of the Resurrection changes our lives. Jesus did not rise from the dead to get even. The living Christ is present and at work in our lives to break the cycle and reverse the course of sin and death. Love wins....always!

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From Pastor Kathy's Desk: *(Continued from first page)*

My prayer for us as a congregation is that we grow in our understanding of God's love so that we bear witness to the living Christ in the ways we love and care for each other and especially the others we may not yet know and who are possibly most different from us. These are our neighbors to love. As Jesus said, *Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*

This is how we celebrate God's love and serve in Jesus' name!

With you in Christ,

Pastor Kathy

FAITH
HOPE
& LOVE

NEW MEMBER CLASS AT ST. MATTHEW



If you are interested in finding out more about the ministry and fellowship of St. Matthew or are interested in becoming a member of this community of faith, a New Member Orientation will be offered in April. The first class will be held on Monday, April 12, via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. The topic of Lutheran history, the Sacraments and the interpretation of scripture will be discussed. On Sunday, April 25, a second class will be offered in the church Fellowship Hall from 11:45 a.m.-1:30p.m. Lunch will be served. The topic of St. Matthew and the many ministries of the congregation will be highlighted, along with an opportunity to meet current leaders of the congregation and a tour of the building. If you are interested, please call the church office so we can send you the Zoom link. If you are interested but these times do not work for you, please contact the church office, 717-637-7101.



Attention Parents: Is your child showing interest in **Holy Communion**?

This year we are celebrating First Communion at our Easter Worship services. If your child has asked about communion or shown an interest in participating, maybe it is time to explore this opportunity. If you would like to learn more or to have your child be a part of this celebration, please contact Pastor Kathy at pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org or Pastor David mdavidkiel@gmail.com. We would like you, together with your child, to meet with one of us for an orientation meeting of less than one hour.

LOOKING AHEAD FROM OUR YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM: **YOUTH** in the 7th through 12th grades are meeting on the first and third Sunday of each month from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Watch your REMIND texts for details about upcoming events. Please e-mail youth@stmattlutheran.org to be added to the text/e-mail lists. Upcoming events:

- * Sun. March 28
 - 8:30-9:00 a.m. - Youth needed to hide eggs for the Egg Hunt
 - 9:45-11:00 a.m.- Youth needed to help with the Egg Hunt and our fundraiser
- * Sun. April 4 - No Youth - Enjoy Easter with your family
- * Sat. April 10 - Movie Night doors open at 7:00 p.m.; movie rolls at 7:30 p.m.
- * Sun. April 18
 - 8:30-9:00 a.m.- Youth needed to collect donations for the Caring Cupboard
 - 6:00-8:00 p.m. - Youth Group in Fellowship Hall
- * Sat. April 24 - Camp Nawakwa Spring Work Day (Depart church at 7:45 a.m. Return about 5:00 p.m.) We will do general cleaning, housekeeping, gardening, painting, carpentry and more. Lunch will be provided. We need to give an initial head count, so ask that you RSVP by March 21.

CARING CUPBOARD MINISTRY

The Caring Cupboard Coordination Team (Andrea & Brad Hersh, Jill and Mitch Keeney, Bob & Barbara Strangfeld) held its first meeting on Tuesday, March 5. Thanks to the efforts of Doug West, the Social Ministry Team, the Youth Group and church members, the Caring Cupboard has been able to help many, many adults and children in our community with emergency food supplies in their time of need. The Coordination Team was formed to assure that this much needed ministry will continue to serve these needs.

At its first meeting the Coordination Team adopted the following Mission Statement:

In response to the biblical question, "Lord, when did we see you hungry?", the mission of the St. Matthew Caring Cupboard is to provide emergency food supplies available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to all those in our community who may suffer from hunger and food insecurity regardless of cause."



The Coordination Team and members of the Social Ministry Team will be monitoring the Caring Cupboard daily to insure it is adequately stocked. In addition, we have organized a stockpile food closet in the Church Administration Building. Food donations for the Caring Cupboard may be placed directly in the Cupboard itself at any time. The Cupboard is located in front of the Church Building. Donations can also be left in the box provided at the church entrance nearest to the elevator or brought to the Administration Building during regular hours. If you would like to volunteer for the Caring Cupboard Ministry, please contact one of the Coordination Team Members. You can also email, call or text Barbara Strangfeld at bstrangfeld133@comcast.net, (570) 702-7202.

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.

DAY CAMP AT ST. MATTHEW

The week of July 19-23, St. Matthew will host Day Camp. This is a program led by the staff of Camp Nawakwa in Biglerville, PA. Every day, young people will come to the church from 9:00 a.m. til 3:00 p.m. to sing songs, play games, learn Bible stories, etc. This is for members of St. Matthew and people within the community of Hanover. If you have an elementary age child or know of someone who would benefit from this program, please mark down the dates. More details will follow in the coming weeks.



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO DELIVER

Easter flowers to our homebound members on Monday, April 5, at 9:30 a.m. It usually takes only a short time and our shut-ins really appreciate not only the flowers but talking with folks from the church. It is a very rewarding experience. We will meet in the flower room behind the choir loft. If you can help, please contact Doris in the church office, 717-637-7101, ext. 225.



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS for St. Matthew scholarships are available in the church office and on the church website at www.stmattlutheran.org. General college scholarships, a music scholarship and scholarships for anyone pursuing a Christian vocation are all there for you to apply for. Applications must be completed by **Friday, June 4, 2021**. You are eligible to receive the undergraduate scholarship twice and once at the graduate level.

THE COVID TASK FORCE recommended to Church Council and it was approved for indoor worship to begin the weekend of March 20/21. Saturday evening service will be held in Fellowship Hall at 5 p.m.; Sunday we will continue the drive-in service at 9 a.m. and indoor worship in the Nave will be held at 10:45. **Everyone must wear a mask when in the building and social distancing will be maintained.** We ask that you cooperate with the ushers and service assistants as they seat you safely for worship.

Guidelines for Returning to Indoor Worship

Doors will open 15 minutes before service begins.

Masks will be required.

We ask that everyone practice social distancing (at least 6 feet, excluding households) when in the church building. Please do not gather in the hallways. Conversations can be held outside the building.

For those who are feeling ill, have compromised immune systems, or are at high risk, please continue to utilize our drive-in service or on-line worship opportunities for your safety and the safety of others.

All hymnals, pens, papers, etc. have been removed from the pew racks.

Everyone will enter through the elevator lobby doors and porte-co-chere doors. No one should park in the porte-co-chere. The area needs to be accessible for emergency vehicles to enter and exit.

Bulletins, communion cups with wafers and Ziploc baggies (for empty communion cups) will be handed out as people enter. A waste basket for the communion cup baggies will be placed at the exits.

Seating will be as directed by the Ushers with social distancing being practiced (one household unit per pew or 2 individuals.) Pews will be marked for seating, with two empty pews between the seated rows. Please be kind and cooperate with the ushers.

The men's and women's bathrooms outside of Fellowship Hall will be available for use. Linda will be available to clean between uses.

Everyone will exit through the door they entered and as directed by the ushers. The ushers will release everyone a row at a time.

There will be no nursery care available.



American Red Cross

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.™

Donors needed for whole blood and “Power Red”

Thursday April 29, 2021

12:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

This will be our largest Red Cross blood drive yet! Our goal is to schedule 53 donors, including 10 “Power Red” donors. The whole blood donation process takes about 1 hour, while a “Power Red” donation takes about 1 ½ hours. If you have one of these blood types, O positive, O negative, A negative, and B negative, please consider making a Power Red Donation.

If you have questions about your eligibility to be a whole blood or “Power Red” donor, please visit www.redcrossblood.org for more information. You may also call the Red Cross at 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) with specific questions about your individual medications, health conditions, travel history and how these factors may impact your eligibility.

Please visit www.redcrossblood.org today to schedule your donation appointment.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Social Ministry Committee, Barb Thomas, Blood Drive Coordinator 717-586-7047

THE HANOVER AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES CLOTHING BANK is open to the public. Come and shop Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. We have many items including:

- Gently used clothing (all styles and sizes. Newborns, Children, Women, and Men)
- Dishes
- Small appliances
- Home accessories and much more!

Clothing is free, although monetary donations are appreciated. Other items are priced accordingly. Due to COVID and to keep everyone safe an appointment must be made. Appointments are made on the hour and are limited to 6 individuals (adult and children) at a time. You must wear a mask and obey social distancing rules while you shop.

Stop by or call, 717-633-6353, to make an appointment.

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE



PALM SUNDAY: Our Holy Week worship will begin at St. Matthew this year with Palm Saturday and Sunday services. Saturday at 5 p.m. we will be handing out palm crosses to everyone attending. Sunday morning will begin with worship in the parking lot at 9:00 a.m. A procession of palm branches will be presented in the parking lot for anyone who desires to participate. Immediately following the parking lot service, St. Matthew will host an Easter Egg Hunt for our children at 10:00 a.m. Dunkin' Donut coffee and donut holes will be provided for parents, grandparents and all who want to watch the egg hunt! Indoor worship will take place in the Nave at 10:45 a.m. with masks, social distancing and humming of the hymns. All services will offer Holy Communion and everyone will receive a palm cross and children will receive a Holy week sticker booklet.



MAUNDY THURSDAY: A service inside the Nave will be offered at noon. Holy Communion will be offered and social distancing, wearing masks and humming of the hymns will be observed. A parking lot service will be offered in the parking lot at 7:00 p.m. with Holy Communion.

GOOD FRIDAY: The Hanover Area Council of Churches will offer an on-line service at noon. This service is based on the seven last words of Christ. Pastor Kathy will offer a reflection on His 4th word from the cross. This service can be found by going to the website: www.stmatlutheran.org.

A SERVICE OF SHADOWS (Tenebrae), focusing on the Stations of the Cross will be offered in the Nave on Good Friday at 7:00 p.m. Social distancing and wearing of masks will be observed.



HOLY SATURDAY will offer an Easter Service in the Nave at 5:00 p.m. with Holy Communion. Cookies-to-go will be provided following the service. Social distancing, wearing masks and humming of the hymns will be observed.

EASTER SUNDAY will begin with a **7:00 a.m.** service in the Nave and cinnamon rolls and other to-go treats will be provided following the service. **9:00 a.m.** will offer the parking lot service along with cinnamon rolls and other treats. **10:45 a.m.** will offer an additional service in the Nave. Holy

Communion, social distancing, wearing masks and humming of the hymns will be observed at indoor Easter services. **To insure adequate social distancing at the 10:45 a.m. Easter Service, call the church office ahead of time to make a reservation.**

All Holy Week and Easter services will also be posted online at www.stmatlutheran.org, our YouTube channel and our Facebook page on the day of each service.

Summer Discovery Camps 2021

Discovery Place is once again offering several weeks of Summer Discovery, led by a variety of our staff. There are four weeks this summer, available for any child aged 4, 5 or 6 by the first day of the camp session. Camps are held Monday through Friday mornings, 9:00am - 12:00 noon.



June 7-11
Ocean Explorers



June 14-18
Going BUGGY

Click the links on the church website for the [flyer describing each of our summer camps](#) and a [registration form for Summer Discovery](#). Or you can pick up a copy of the information and the registration form at the church office. You can return forms and payment by mail or by dropping off at the church office. Please note that there is a 10% discount if you register by Friday, May 21.



June 28-July 2
Fairytale Fun



July 5-9
I Need a Vacation!

We hope you will plan some of your summer with your friends at Discovery Place! You can reach out with any questions to Director Martha Lobaugh: 717-637-1864 (preschool office) or discoveryplacehanover@gmail.com.

Think SUMMER!



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 27 - **Palm Saturday** - 5:00 p.m. in the Nave

Palm Sunday 9:00 a.m. Drive-In Service and 10:45 a.m. in the Nave

Easter Egg Hunt - 10:00 a.m. between services
(Dunkin' Donut coffee and donut holes for spectators)

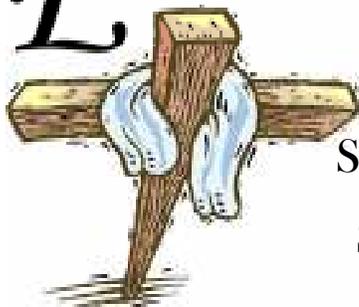
Holy Wednesday, March 31 - 6:00 p.m. Bible study online

Thursday, April 1 - **Maundy Thursday Services** - 12:00 p.m. in the Nave
and 7:00 p.m. Drive-In Service

Friday, April 2 - **Community Good Friday Service** -
12:00 p.m. online only

Friday, April 2 - **St. Matthew Good Friday Service** -
7:00 p.m. indoors and online

Easter



EASTER SERVICES

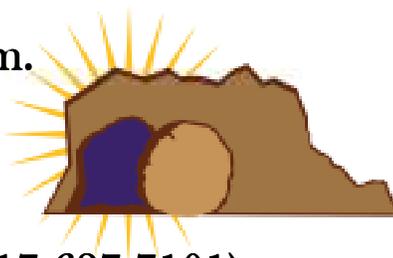
Saturday, April 3 - in the Nave at 5 p.m.

Sunday, April 4 - in the Nave at 7 a.m.

Drive-In Worship Service - 9 a.m.

Indoor Service - 10:45 a.m.

(Reservations required - please call the office, 717-637-7101)



Each service will be posted online the day of the service.

(www.stmattlutheran.org; St. Matthew Hanover PA YouTube channel
and Facebook)



MANY THANKS TO ST. MATTHEW MEMBERS: Below are a few excerpts from letters sent to St. Matthew on behalf of several organizations that we have sent aid to recently:

From Lutheran World Relief:

“We recently received your gift to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you! I’d like to share a story of the great work your gift will support.

Kapinga Eudoxi, 43, lives in a village in the Democratic Republic of Congo that is plagued with water-borne diseases like typhoid. Children and adults were getting sick — some dying — and the community needed help.

With your support, villages like Nsange-Nyembwe are receiving access to safe water. ‘It is the delight of our hearts to change our village,’ exclaims Kapinga. Your gift made a world of difference in reaching over 271 villages in the region — that’s 244,964 people impacted.”

From Hanover Area Council of Churches:

“Thank you for your generous donation which will be applied to the greatest needs of the Hanover Area Council of Churches.

Your commitment to helping such ministries as Provide-A-Lunch (PAL), Meals-On-Wheels, Clothing Bank, Faith-At-Work, Changing Lives Homeless Shelter, Public Worship, Ruth’s Harvest, Community Health, Hispanic American Center, Hanover Cares: House the Homeless and other ministries is sincerely appreciated. With the help of contributions from you and other supporters, we have seen many lives changed for the better. We know that there is so much more work to be done and with your help, we will continue making a difference in the lives of those with needs in the Hanover community.”

From SpiriTrust Lutheran:

“It is a pleasure to thank you for your gift to support SpiriTrust Lutheran. We are grateful for your belief in our mission and the meaningful action you have taken to support the people we serve.”

From ELCA World Hunger:

“Thank you for your gifts received by ELCA World Hunger in January 2021.

Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries including the United States. It is providing access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock, education, and peace and justice.”

LIFE EVENTS

February 4 - March 16, 2021

Baptism

March 16 - Collin Andrew Unger, son of Neil Unger and Jennifer Bechtel, with sponsor Lori Unger, Collin's grandmother

Deaths

February 3 – Nan (Emsminger) Sterner

February 22 – Sally (Amspacher) Staub

February 4 – Kathleen (Kay) Thomas

February 22 – Carroll G. Granger

February 9 – Micaela G. Kastner

February 28 – Shirley Mae Neiderer

February 15 – June McIlwee

March 2 – The Rev. Arthur Ruths

The Rev. Kathryn Vitalis Hoffman, Lead Pastor
The Rev. M. David Kiel, Interim Associate Pastor
The Rev. Faye C. Snyder, Visitation Pastor
Scott G. Fredericks, Minister of Music

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