

The St. Matthew Messenger



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

December 2020

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From the Desk of Pastor Kathy :

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write this pastor's letter to you, we are in mid-November and wondering what our Thanksgiving will be like with the limitations placed on our gatherings. We look ahead and know that we will have a different kind of Christmas; we just don't know exactly what that will look like for us.

It does seem certain that we won't be up before dawn on black Friday to crowd into the big box store to get a hold of the megadeal. We are cancelling or limiting Christmas parties, concerts and community wide events. Plans for travel have been postponed for many of us. As you read in this messenger, our Advent and Christmas worship gatherings are different with a combination of online, drive-in, outside and or inside. I am aware that some or all of this could change depending on what happens with the pandemic.

We are in a holding pattern as we **wait** to see what will happen. We **watch** our surroundings to check how safe it is for us. We **wonder** what this all means for our future. We wait. We watch. We wonder. These are themes we often explore in Advent. This year we will experience a different kind of Advent with the realities of our daily lives helping us stay tuned in to Advent.

In this season we are called to prayerfully wait in preparation for the coming of Jesus. We are invited to watch for Christ's coming again into the world. This is a time to embrace wonder as a way to see how God's love and hope is an ever present reality for us. **In this time of waiting, watching and wondering we also actively love our neighbor as we lean into the future with hope.**

A year ago at this time I was meeting with the call committee of St. Matthew and paying close attention to the Holy Spirit as we talked together about the possibility of me becoming your next Lead Pastor. These past 9 months have been quite an experience for us! I am glad to be your pastor and grateful for the ways you have been supportive through all the changes and uncertainty. One thing of which I am certain, the Lord who calls us is faithful. We have much to celebrate and many to serve! Thanks be to God.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Kathy

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A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KATHY about a Way to Help Discovery Place Preschool

Our preschool has been going strong despite the challenges of the pandemic. The teachers have done a great job of making sure the children are

able to learn while also staying safe. Discovery Place Preschool Director, Martha Lobaugh has been doing a great job to meet the demands as a result of COVID-19. Because enrollment is down, she has reconfigured classes and reduced the operational costs. Despite these changes, our preschool has faced financial difficulties. Prior to the virus, the preschool's enrollment fees have sustained the day to day operations. I know that Discovery Place has especially been an important ministry for some in our congregation and community. If you would like to offer a special gift for the preschool's expenses at this time, simply earmark your gift to Discovery Place. I am confident that the preschool will gain financial stability when we have this pandemic behind us. Thank you for your ongoing support.

CALL COMMITTEE The Congregational Council formed a Call Committee to assist the congregation in calling the next associate pastor. Members of the committee are: Jeremy Bucher, Cristy Eline, Brad Hersh, Christine Peck, Deb Smith, Shelley Zumbum and Hunter Crabbs as the youth representative. This committee will meet in December to begin the call process. They will update the congregational profile with the specific expectations for the new pastor as they relate to the priorities and expectations shared by the congregation through surveys and listening sessions. Please keep the Call Committee in your prayers. Watch for more details in the January Messenger.



2020 HAS BEEN A VERY UNUSUAL YEAR for all of us. The pandemic has turned our world upside down and has caused many problems. St. Matthew has a Human Needs Fund to help if you are having financial hardships. It may be very stressful for some to admit that they need financial assistance, but we are here to help and will keep it very confidential. Please call, 717-637-7101, ext. 225. Doris Deitzel, Lay Pastoral Assistant



NEW HOPE MINISTRY picked up the corn bin on November 4 and the financial donations have been tallied. I am happy to report that we raised \$595 in financial donations and collected over 738 pounds of canned corn! (At approximately one can per pound which equals over 738 cans!)

A check has been mailed to New Hope Ministries for the financial donation. They will use the funds to purchase whatever additional cans of corn they need and the balance will be used for other items for their Thanksgiving food drive. **Our goal this year was 900 cans so we have well exceeded that when you include the monetary donations.** Thank you for your contributions!

MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES Beginning December 2, and each Wednesday evening during Advent, an Advent Service will be posted on line. This service will be similar to our Lenten Wednesday Evening Services this past year. It will involve a brief service with a member of the congregation sharing their thoughts on Advent and their faith story. We hope you will find these services meaningful and inspirational. They will be posted each Wednesday evening during Advent and remain on the church's website.



SIMPLY GIVING offerings will continue through 2021 if you already are participating in this program. If you would like to change or discontinue your Simply Giving, please notify the church office by December 9 in order for it to be effective for January, 2021. You can also email Colleen at cdubs@stmatthlutheran.org.

IN ORDER FOR YOUR END OF YEAR OFFERINGS to be posted in 2020, they must be **RECEIVED** in the church office by Tuesday, December 29. Any offerings arriving in the office after December 29 will be posted in January of 2021.



CYBER WOMEN really do meet in a “cyber” way with Zoom! Women of all ages are invited to our monthly meeting, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. We will meet December 14. We discuss the articles in *Café*, the on-line magazine for Lutheran women, found at www.boldcafe.org. Jan Davis facilitates these meetings and has the article right on the screen as we discuss faith and daily living. The Zoom link may be obtained by e-mailing info@stmattlutheran.org or calling the church office. Be sure to include your name, e-mail address and the Zoom meeting you are requesting to join.



“CHOOSE KINDNESS” Yard Signs are still available! Inspired by our Youth, these attractive and meaningful signs may be placed in your yard to spread the message of kindness. The signs include our church name and website and a remembrance of Bryan Doll, Jr. Purple was his favorite color. Each sign is a suggested donation of \$10. Proceeds will go to Olivia’s House, our local grief center for

children and their families, and the Bryan Doll, Jr. Foundation. Signs are available in the church office or following weekend worship services. Please make checks payable to “St. Matthew Lutheran Church” with “Yard Sign” on the memo line. Thank you as you “Choose Kindness!”

OUR SENIOR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS is meeting for faith discussion from 10:00 to 10:30-ish on Sunday mornings. If it is not too cold or raining, youth meet in the large grassy area between the education building and post office. Otherwise, they meet in the gym or Youth Suite (rooms 303/304.) Bring a beverage to enjoy with the donuts provided.

YOUTH welcomes all 7th through 12th graders to experience faithful friendships with in-person activities (wear your mask and social distance). Meetings usually are Sunday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. REMIND messages are sent out about each event. If you have not received the link or are not on REMIND, please call or text Tim at 717-476-9920.

DISCIPLE TRAINING CAMP KITS are now available for all children 2 years old through 6th grade. With Bible stories from the beginning of Advent on November 29 through the Transfiguration on February 14, Kits contain Camper Leaflet, coloring sheets and other activity sheets, crafts and ideas for families to experience faith adventures together. Each week, a new Bible story from our SPARK Story Bible is posted on our YouTube channel. This may be found by typing “St Matthew Lutheran Church Hanover PA” in the YouTube search box.

Then look for the Disciple Training Camp playlist. The link is also on our St. Matthew Facebook page. Sometimes there are songs or cartoons about the story, too. Kits may be picked up at the church office during the week or at any of our weekend services.



Any plans listed in this Messenger are subject to change if the state guidelines and/or the Bishop make changes as to how we are able to worship.

Thank you for your continued patience. Services will be recorded and posted online in the event of cancellations.

Keep in touch through the website, www.stmattlutheran.org

our Facebook page or by calling the church office.

We will do our best to keep the phone up-to-date with any changes that are made.

DISCOVERY PLACE PRESCHOOL is enjoying the FALL season! A big THANK YOU to the church member who donated towards our 3's "Pumpkin Painting Party with a Parent" event. The 3's preschoolers had a ton of fun putting paint on a pumpkin, and we enjoyed a socially-distanced "family" event together!



During the month of November, our preschool classes have been talking about being THANKFUL. We asked our families to join us in sharing all the ways we are THANKFUL - please look for our "Thankfulness Tree" display in the church building during Thanksgiving week. While this year has been challenging, we can still be **THANKFUL** for many things!

Thank you again for your prayers and support. Please check out our Facebook page periodically to catch a glimpse of what our preschoolers are doing!

Cheerfully in Christ,
Martha Lobaugh

discoveryplacehanover@gmail.com

717-637-1864 (preschool office)



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 \$11** per listing to the church office. The memorials/honorariums will support the ELCA Disaster Relief fund

The deadline is Monday, December 7. Please print clearly when filling in names.

2020 Christmas Poinsettias

I/We wish to (please check one)

Honor Memorialize

Name(s) _____
(Person to be memorialized or honored)

Given by _____

Your offering envelope number _____

Please include \$11 per listing and make check payable to "St. Matthew Lutheran Church" with "Poinsettia" in the memo line. **Deadline is Monday, December 7.**



Dear members of St. Matthew,

I am still feeling overwhelmed by the wonderful celebration you gave me the weekend of November 1, for my 40th Anniversary as your Minister of Music. The kind words from our pastors and the Anniversary Committee meant so much to me, as did the plaque and the hard- bound photo album which was created by

Karen Axline. I will treasure this book which captures many highlights of my 40 years. The book has photos of the staff (Pastor Faye reports I have worked with 20 pastors), choir members, choir events, concerts, church fellowship events, and personal moments from my many years with you. The book is a snapshot of our ministry, our laughter, our times of joy and sorrow and it serves as a powerful reminder of the many mountaintop experiences of worship and music we have shared together.

The gift presented to me by Council President Vicki Wildasin from the church was generous and appreciated. The over- the -top check collected from the congregation was just amazing. You were so very generous and I thank you. I received many cards from members which I have read several times. They represent our friendships and the ministry between us. I have been so very blessed in my years at St. Matthew and I look forward to a few more before I turn in my keys. I pray you will be part of our Music Ministry, either by active music making or by praying our music touches souls and brings the listener closer to God.



Be safe my friends and thank you.

Scott G. Fredericks

A Holiday Worship Service for those who are
Stressed, Hurting, Grieving or Lonely
in this Holiday Season.



Sunday, December 20, 3:00 p.m.

St. Matthew Sanctuary

Through candle-lighting, lovely readings, reflections, and sweet music, the message of Christ's hope and comfort will enfold us. Emmanuel...God is with us. You are not alone.

All are welcome. Please wear your masks. Social distancing will be kept.



Christmas Worship SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve worship this year will not be diminished due to COVID but it will look a little different. We will have multiple services and all will be socially distanced. You will be asked to wear your mask and depending on the service you attend, you may need to call the church office for a reservation (so we can keep the Nave socially distanced). Several services will take place in the Nave and then move outside to sing carols (weather permitting). Holy Communion will not be offered on Christmas Eve.

In addition, we will have a “Blue Christmas Service” on Sunday, December 20, for folks who have lost a loved one. Please see the schedule below and plan ahead on which service you and your family can attend. Please know too, that not everyone will necessarily be able to worship at their most preferred time so reserve your spot with a “second choice” time for worship in mind. To make a reservation, call the church office beginning November 30, 717-637-7101, or email Stacy in the office at sbrodbeck@stmatlutheran.org.

Sunday, December 20 **Blue Christmas Service**  **3:00 p.m.**
In the Nave

Wednesday, December 23 **Christmas Eve Service**  **7:00 p.m.**
Worship in the Nave and then going outside for carols and a live nativity.
Call church office for reservations.

Thursday, December 24 **Christmas Eve Service** **1:30 p.m.**
Worship in the Nave. No reservations needed.

Christmas Eve Service **4:30 p.m.**
Worship in the Nave and then going outside for carols and a live nativity.
Call church office for reservations.

Christmas Eve Service  **7:00 p.m.**
Worship in the Nave and then going outside for carols and a live nativity.
Call church office for reservations.

Christmas Eve Drive-In Service **9:00 p.m.**
Worship in the church parking lot (weather permitting).
No reservations needed.

Saturday, December 26 **No Worship**

Sunday, December 27 **Drive-In Service**  **9:00 a.m.**
Worship in the church parking lot with Holy Communion (weather permitting).

Worship in the Nave  **10:45 a.m.**
Worship with Holy Communion.





BOOK STUDY

“LOVING JESUS” BOOK STUDY Pastor David will be leading a discussion group on a book entitled, *“Loving Jesus,”* by Mark Allan Powell. The book invites us to fall in love with Jesus all over again. Powell reminds us how lovely Jesus is and how love worthy we are by God’s grace. His book rejuvenates our faith and outreach by teaching us how desperate for true love our world is and how thoroughly our spirituality can be imbued with love as it becomes more deeply formed by the Scriptures, prayer and worship.

The discussion group will meet in Fellowship Hall each Wednesday beginning **January 6, at 10:30 a.m.**, through February 10, and again on Wednesday evenings via Zoom beginning at 7:00 p.m. Books are available to purchase in the church office for \$10. They are also available on Amazon.

THE 2021 CHURCH ENVELOPES will be available in the Fellowship Hall hallway beginning December 7.



AS A REMINDER TO THE CONGREGATION, any monies put in the special holiday envelopes which are in your envelope box becomes part of our commitment to our world mission outreach. This is a practice that has been in force at St. Matthew for many years and has been approved by Congregation Council.

CONGREGATION MEETING: At the Congregation meeting held Sunday, November 8, the proposed budget for 2021 was passed and Andrea Hersh, Randy Kline, Tom Shultz, Bob Strangfeld and Youth Representative Adam Farmer were elected to Congregation Council. We heartily thank those Council members who have finished their 3-year term - Nancy Leister, Lynelle Livelsberger, Debbie Riddle, Doug Stambaugh and Youth Representative Regin Smith. Your service to the Council of St. Matthew is very much appreciated.

The Hanging of the Greens - Come join us as we decorate our church for Christmas on Sunday, **December 13**, from 3-5:30 p.m.

THE CARING CUPBOARD

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
30 West Chestnut St., Hanover**

Short on cash and need a meal?
On your way to school and forgot your snack?
Finishing up supper and need a side?
Open the cabinet to find out that was your last roll of toilet paper?

**No matter what situation you find yourself in,
let us help!**

Our Caring Cupboard is stocked with food and basic toiletries to help you in a bind.



Celebrating God's Love Serving in Jesus' Name

The Staff of
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
wish all of you a most joyful and
peaceful holiday season.

May the light of Christ shine upon you always!



The Rev. Kathryn Vitalis Hoffman, Lead Pastor
The Rev. M. David Kiel, Interim Associate Pastor
The Rev. Arthur L. Ruths, Pastor Emeritus
The Rev. Faye C. Snyder, Cong. Visitation Pastor
Deacon Jan M. Davis, Minister of Christian Education
Scott G. Fredericks, Minister of Music
Stacy Brodbeck, Administrative Assistant
Jane Lawrence, Administrative Assistant
Doris Deitzel, Lay Pastoral Assistant
Dirk Wildasin, Building Administrator
Linda Kasic, Sexton
Steven Bell, Sexton



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