

The St. Matthew Messenger



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

February 2021

Volume Number XXXX
Issue Number 1

From the Desk of Pastor David:

Dear People of God,

As I write this newsletter article, it is mid-January. It is a new year, and it has brought about much change in our lives. Of course, so did 2020.

I know change is part of life. Nothing ever stays the same. These past many months, however, have brought about tremendous change and it has been challenging, to say the least.

Most recently, we have had a change in Presidents. We have had some change with church staff. We've had a change in how we worship, celebrate the holidays, attend school, go to work, dine at restaurants, shop at the grocery store and even how we spend time with our families. COVID has changed everything about the way we live our lives and how we function daily. I am saddened and deeply moved by the loss of life this terrible virus has caused.

I am tired and frustrated by all this change. While most days I try to keep a positive outlook, I must admit that there are times when it gets the better of me. I so miss hugging and touching and being present with you—the people of God, the way it used to be. And though I see a glimmer of hope as to when change will take place in a more positive manner with regards to all of this, I know it is not in the immediate future. So, I wait, and I pray for patience.

On those days when I seem to pay better attention to what God is doing and saying in my life, I am reminded of how blessed I am—still! Amid all the change that has happened these past many months, God has remained faithful and ever present. I see God's presence and God's faithfulness in many ways. I see it through my family who has learned how to communicate with each other differently. We have been reminded how precious life is and how we cannot take each other for granted. All this change has forced us to reflect on our relationships and express our love and need for one another. It has brought us closer together.

I have also seen God's presence in the faithfulness of this community of faith! Not only have you been more than generous with regards to your giving to the ministry of the church and its mission, but you demonstrate your love and compassion by being generous towards others in need either financially or through the "Caring Cupboard." You continue to show your presence to the community of Hanover by your faithful witness in worship at the Parking Lot Service. You have demonstrated that worship is more important than where we worship. Every Sunday, no matter what the weather, you are present proclaiming the goodness of God amid so much change!

Inside this Issue:

From Pastor David	2
Covid Task Force	2
Annual Congregation Mtg.	2
WELCA Thank you	2
Bold Women's Day	2
New Members Class	2
Marked for Life	3
Ash Wednesday	3
HACC Scholarship	3
Christian Education	4
Thank you from Miss Jan	5
Congregation Council	5
Installation	
Blood Drive	5
Free Tax Prep	5
Lent Devotional	6
Life Events	6

(Continued next page)

From Pastor David: (Continued from first page)

I see God's presence in the dedication of the staff at St. Matthew. I am honored to work with such committed People of God and to share in ministry with the gifted and heartfelt leadership of Pastor Kathy. This "change" has been a blessing for St. Matthew.

So yes, there has been much change these past many months. Much of it has not been good but it has caused me to change how I look at life and people and relationships and church. In all of it, I see a God who doesn't necessarily answer all my questions, but who has remained faithful, loving and forgiving. God remains constantly present in our lives—the only thing in life that doesn't change. Thanks be to God.

See you at worship.

FROM THE COVID-19 TASK FORCE Due to the continuing pandemic, the COVID-19 Task Force has determined that the safest and best decision would be to not have indoor worship through at least the end of February. We know this is difficult for many of our St. Matthew community. As vaccines are continuing to be given, together with the current decrease in cases in the Hanover area, things are looking positive for the warmer months ahead.



THE ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

will be held on Sunday, February 21, in our vehicles, after the drive-in worship service. We will be accepting the Annual Report at that meeting and

affirming 2 or 3 members to participate in the online Synod Assembly in June. The service begins at 9:00 a.m. and will be followed by the meeting at 10:00. We will park those who do not wish to stay for the meeting in a way that they would be able to leave before the meeting begins. If anyone needs a bathroom break between the service and the meeting, the bathrooms near Fellowship Hall will be available for use. Please wear a mask and practice social distancing going into the building. If you come only to the meeting, we will have space available for you. We tune our radios to FM 101.5 and that can be tuned in for a 1/2 mile radius around the church. We hope to see everyone for our Congregation meeting and it's a great opportunity to try out the drive-in service if you haven't already!



The Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (WELCA) would like to thank everyone who gave to our annual Thankoffering event which was held the third weekend in November. Thankoffering is one way that Christian women have encouraged the link between gratitude and giving. Thanks to your generous donations we collected \$356.55. Thankofferings support all the ministries of Women of the ELCA – from advocacy and education to discipleship and outreach.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA CELEBRATE "BOLD WOMEN'S DAY"

Bold Women's Day is observed annually the last weekend of February. "Be bold, take risks on account of the gospel, but believe more boldly still in Christ Jesus," is what Martin Luther tells us. And that's what we celebrate through Bold Women's Day. The Women of the ELCA consider Katy Luther the first Bold Woman. So whether you live out your bold story of faith in your workplace, family or community, our faith compels us to make a difference in the lives of others. Its all about living out our baptismal call, about being a disciple of Christ.



INTERESTED IN ST. MATTHEW? Are you new to the area? Have you been worshipping with us for a while? Would you like to know more about this congregational community? We are considering offering a New Member class after Easter. Please contact the church office if you are interested, 717-637-7101.

MARKED FOR LIFE
A Mid-Week Worship and Learning Opportunity

In Baptism, the pastor signs the cross on the baptized and says, "Child of God, you been sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever." Our theme for Lent this year is "Marked for Life," a study of the Gospel of Mark. The message of this gospel focuses on the cross and how in this symbol of humiliating death that we discover the amazing love and power of God. Pastor Mark Vitalis Hoffman, Professor of Biblical Studies at United Lutheran Seminary, will be leading this study. This study will be offered online and posted on Wednesdays.



- * Feb. 17 **This Changes Everything: An Introduction to the Gospel of Mark**
(An additional prerecorded video will be posted with a more thorough introduction.)
- * Feb. 24 **The Plot Thickens: Conflict and Controversy in Jesus' Ministry**
- * March 3 **With Friends Like These...: The Disciples in the Gospel of Mark**
- * March 10 **Will the Real Jesus Please Rise Up: The Mystery of Jesus' Identity**
- * March 17 **Another Fine Mess: The Passion of Jesus**
- * March 24 **You Never Can Tell: The Resurrection of Jesus**

We hope that you will take the opportunity this Lent to be reminded of how we were marked with the cross of Christ in our Baptism and that it is a sign for us that we have been **Marked for Life** in Christ.

Opportunities for follow-up discussion will be offered by zoom. Watch for details!

Ash Wednesday Worship Opportunities: Drive-In and Online



On Ash Wednesday, February 17, we will gather for this meaningful worship experience providing two different options. At 7:00 p.m. we will meet in the parking lot for music, prayer, scripture reading, a sermon and the imposition of ashes. Individual containers of ashes will be distributed to each car with the intention of participants marking each other or themselves with the ashes. Parking attendants and worship assistants will be available to assist you in any way.

An Ash Wednesday worship will also be offered online and posted by 6:00 p.m. Please contact the church office at 717-637-7101 if you would like to receive ashes ahead of time for this service. A packet will be prepared for pick-up. (An additional prerecorded video will be posted with a more thorough introduction.)

We remember that we are dust and with this remembrance, we face our own mortality. This is a word of hope, however, because of Jesus' death on the cross. As most of the world sees death as final, we are able to glimpse the promise of the resurrection and we also remember that we are **Marked for Life**.

Hanover Area Council of Churches would like to make St. Matthew members aware of the **Stolte Scholarship**. Interested applicants must be a resident of the greater Hanover area and pursuing a career in the fields of ministry, mission or humanitarian service. You may email Kathy at kabortner@comcast.net for further information. Applications are available in the church office and deadline for accepting applications is April 30, 2021.





MARKED FOR LIFE Bible Study Discussions on the Gospel of Mark will be held by zoom beginning Wednesday, February 24. The Mid-Week worship with presentation will be posted by 6:00 p.m., with Discussion to begin at 7:15. To receive Discussion guides and a zoom link, contact the church at 717-637-7101 or info@stmattlutheran.org.

CYBER WOMEN will be meeting by zoom on Monday, February 15 at 7:00 p.m. This month we will explore the ways women enrich our lives. In her *Café* article, *Long Live Galentine's Day*, Mary Button describes the way friends follow us through the seasons of our lives. If you are interested, please e-mail Pastor Kathy at pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org for the zoom link and a copy of the article. We will share the screen with the article and read it together. For more information, check out www.boldcafe.org.



DISCIPLE TRAINING CAMP KITS are soon available for **all children 2 years old through 6th grade**. The Bible stories follow the weekly scripture readings beginning the first Sunday of Lent, February 21. **Parents**, here's a way to engage your child with important conversations and activities related to faith and life. Each Friday the week's Bible story is posted on our website, our Facebook page or our YouTube channel. Thanks to Beth Koontz and Harper and Aurora for sharing the stories this month. The kits are available at the Drive-In Worship on Sundays and at the church office during the week.

ATTENTION 7TH AND 8TH GRADERS! Confirmation with the pastors will be held the third Sunday of each month at 11:45 a.m. This month's meeting, February 21, will be held by zoom with Pastor Kathy. Watch your e-mail for more details and the zoom link. Do you have questions regarding Confirmation? Contact Pastor Kathy at pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org or Pastor David at mdavidkiel@gmail.com for more information.



ST. MATT YOUTH welcomes all 7th through 12th graders to experience faithful friendship with socially distanced, in-person activities (Wear your mask!) With the exception of February 7, meetings are held on the first and third Sundays at 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. To receive REMIND messages or for more information text Tim at 717-476-9920. We will see you Sunday, February 21, in the Fellowship Hall!



THANK YOU CANNOT EXPRESS the gratitude I feel for all the outpouring of love during my last days at St. Matthew. Your cards, e-mails, Facebook posts and thoughtful and generous gifts are more appreciated than you can know. The Drive-In Farewell was heart-warming and my last service with you was indeed memorable with the snow! Thank you again for 17 years of ministry with you. Grace and peace to you! *Deacon Jan Davis*

ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, WE INSTALLED our new Congregation Council members and officers for 2021: Vicki Wildasin as president; Ardis Kunde, vice president; Karen Axline, secretary; and Karyn George, re-elected as treasurer. Welcome to Andrea Hersh, Randy Kline, Tom Shultz and Robert Strangfeld as our new Council members. May God bless and guide our congregation/council officers. Also, thank you to our outgoing Council officers and members for their service to the church these past three years.



A BLOOD DRIVE will be held on Monday, February 15, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. A form of ID is required to donate. Everyone receives a Bruster's certificate for a Free Pint of Ice Cream, a Blood Donor T-Shirt. Everyone at this drive may choose to receive a FREE Covid-19 Antibody Test with each successful blood donation.

Changes to donations due to Covid:

We strongly suggest you schedule an appointment to donate blood.

*appointments help us improve your donation experience.

- Walk-Ins are welcome, however, donors with appointments will be processed first and this may result in a significant wait time.
- **The State of Pennsylvania requires all people going out in public to wear a mask.** We will supply you with a mask if you don't have one.

You may find that the blood drive stations will be spaced further apart than normal - again to allow for social distancing.

- Your temperature will be taken at the beginning of the process.
- No children will be allowed at the blood drive...again for the reason of social distancing.

The staff will be spending more time than usual on extra sanitizing steps.

To schedule an appointment please click on the link below or type it in your browser:

<https://donate.717giveblood.org/donor/auth/signin> or call us at:

1-800-771-0059. Thank you for supporting our blood drive. We look forward to seeing you there!

To contact us with questions, email us at CentralPennBloodBank@cpbb.org or call 1-800-771-0059.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Sites Are Now Open in York County - From February 4 - April 15, AARP Foundation is providing in-person tax assistance and preparation through its Tax-Aide program and it's completely free. AARP membership not required. Locally held at Hanover Church of the Brethren, however appointments are made through HACC, 717-633-6353. Volunteers are trained and IRS-certified every year. If you have tax-related questions other than appointments, please email us at yorkaarptaxaide@gmail.com or call our voicemail line at 717-640-5006. To access documents that you need to complete before your appointment, please visit **AARP 2020 Tax Year Assistance - York County, Pennsylvania** (yorkcountypa.gov) to download, print, and complete.



A Story to Tell Daily Devotions for Lent - In addition to our midweek focus on the Gospel of Mark, the St. Matthew community members are encouraged to enrich their Lenten experience with daily devotions. *A Story to Tell* focuses on texts from the Gospel of Mark that show Jesus' journey from baptism to the cross day by day, throughout Lent.

This pocket-sized devotion will be available on Ash Wednesday for a \$2.25 donation. (A limited supply of large print will be available for a \$6 donation.) It is also available as an e-book through Amazon.

A Story to Tell will also be used for the call-In daily devotions beginning on February 17.



LIFE EVENTS

November 15, 2020 -January 28, 2021

Baptism

November 21 – Knox Hudson Klunk, son of Adam and Elizabeth (Brokenshire) Klunk, with sponsors Olivia Donnelly and Jake Massicot

December 6 – Joseph Saul Steiner, son of Ariel and Hayley Steiner

December 12 – Charles Donald Sieg, son of Tyler and Kaitlin Sieg

December 20 – Kamden Lee Waldren, son of Sarah Waldren

December 27 – Benjamin Rand Collins, son of Michael and Rebecca (Lloyd) Collins, with sponsors Marlania and Nicholas Panzer

Deaths

November 22 – William C. Creek

December 29 – Faye A. Swayze

November 27 – Jack LeFevre

January 11 – Donald E. Heusner

December 16 – Nevin Stambaugh

January 22 - Philip G. Bell

December 17 – Emory Yohe

February 3 – Nicholas S. Vendetti

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, Visitation Pastor
Scott G. Fredericks, Minister of Music

30 West Chestnut Street
Hanover, PA 17331

Phone: 717-637-7101

Fax: 717-637-4961

Email: info@stmattlutheran.org

www.stmattlutheran.org