

The St. Matthew Messenger



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

June/July 2020

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From the Desk of Pastor Kathy:

The Presence of God in Simultaneous Ways

Dear Friends in Christ,

We find ourselves amid difficult times as we navigate the realities of the Coronavirus. What I have noticed more recently is the diverse ways people are impacted by the pandemic. There are the precautions that remain, even as businesses and other aspects of our community are opening. I agree with many of you who say, "I'm ready to be done with this." On the other hand, the threat of this virus lingers; healthcare providers see patients who have recently become sick with Covid-19. I think of how our older members and others who are more vulnerable to its impact. Some extended families are getting together and others cannot.

On June 28, we will begin to have worship in the sanctuary at 10:45. (We will continue to have our 9:00 Drive-In worship through July and August.) Our staff and congregational leaders have been hard at work planning for this change to provide an environment that is as safe as possible for all who enter our building. More details are provided in this newsletter. Here again, people are approaching these changes in a variety of ways. It is heartwarming for me to see the members of St. Matthew be sensitive to these differences.

In the past few months the uncertainties of our life together continue. We are not all of one mind. How we spend our time in the next weeks and months depend on the circumstances and thoughts of individuals and families. What vacations we take, or not take, what events we attend or not attend and even what errands we will do, or not do, are decisions that are up in the air for many. The way we are approaching such things reflects a basic understanding of faith. Martin Luther referred to the fact that we live simultaneously as saint and sinner; both at the same time. For example, we orient our lives to Jesus, the one who is both human and divine. We are guided by the Holy Scriptures which reveal both the law and the promise of our covenant with God.

The tradition of our faith shows how we come to understand who Christ is and how we live in relationship with God. It is a both/and way of being. I think this is important for us to recognize during the racial unrest in our country. The video that showed the death of George Floyd in the custody of the Minneapolis police sparked protests throughout the world. Most every one of us, I believe, would agree that George Floyd's death was unjust, heartless and unacceptable under any terms. Why it happened and what to do about it raises a multitude of responses that tend to rise up in conflict with one another. (Con't. next page)

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From Pastor Kathy: *(Continued from first page)*

There is much that I could say about systemic racism and its hold on us who live as white people. This conversation is as important as it is complicated. I hope you will consider joining the discussion of Joseph R. Barndt's book, *Understanding and Dismantling Racism*. There is more information on the Christian Education page of this newsletter.

My personal reflection on this has me looking for more opportunities to learn about the underlying realities of what is happening now and about what has happened in the past. I am also reflecting on the reality that the great majority of our police officers seek to act with integrity and justice. I have paid attention to the dangers our police face in their work. Here is when I am reminded of our both/and faith. We can be angry and protest against the violence of the police officers who target and kill black people. We can also be angry at the senseless deaths of police officers. We can support peaceful protests and at the same time speak against the riots and looting that happen.

I appreciate how Bishop Eaton concluded her sermon for Holy Trinity Sunday. It is posted on our website and Facebook page. This is what she said:

Let us stand with those peacefully protesting and acting responsibly. Looting and destruction of property does not further the cause of justice. Government has a role to uphold civil order while also a role to respect peaceful protest. There are those in law enforcement who are acting wisely, even while others have acted irresponsibly. I ask you to support the many people, including those in our church, who are working to de-escalate tensions between law enforcement, protesters and the community.

We are simultaneously saints and sinners and so we confess our sins, repent of our ways and live in the reality of God's forgiveness who embraces us all.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Dennis and Karen Axline for the beautiful planters at the front entrances of the church. We appreciate their time and attention to details.

Pastor Edward Keyser's Resignation

On March 18, Pastor Ed Keyser submitted his resignation after serving St. Matthew faithfully for seventeen years as Visitation Pastor. His letter is within the inserts of this Messenger. What a perfect fit he has been for us! He has the ability to relate to everyone he meets. He has many interests and enjoyed sharing them, as well as hearing about other's interests. Pastor Keyser has worked extensively with alcoholics and drug addicts, often attending meetings with them and talking to them.

In upcoming years, he will hopefully have more time to enjoy his grandchildren and being with his family. He enjoys being the chief cook and bottle washer on their ski trips. Pastor Keyser is an avid golfer, fisherman and bicyclist.

Pastor Keyser has always been willing to travel wherever he needed to go to visit members and at any time of the day or night. It was no secret to those he visited that he genuinely loved people and loved what he was doing. He had many stories to share and some of those stories may have been about his love of fishing or maybe his latest golf game. While he loves telling stories, he is also great at listening.

His warm smile, interest in all around him and genuine caring attitude will be missed. All of us at St. Matthew wish him all the best as he continues into the next chapter of his life. We extend many thanks for the loving and caring way he carried out his ministry. You will indeed be missed, Pastor Keyser. God's richest blessings to you from a grateful congregation.

We would like to have a card shower for Pastor Keyser as a thank you. Please send cards to the church office, 30 W. Chestnut Street, Hanover, PA, 17331, and we will get all correspondence to him.





Our national Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have cancelled all group activities for the remainder of 2020. The Lower Susquehanna Synodical Women’s Organization has cancelled the Day of Renewal, the annual Convention and the Fall Retreat at Camp Hebron. Our local unit is following their lead, in other words, we do not plan any get together until it is safe to meet.

A quote from Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director of Women of the ELCA and Elizabeth Hunter, Editor of *Gather* magazine: “When the COVID-19 pandemic threatened to derail the ways we gather and serve as women of faith in our congregations, communities, and synodical and churchwide expressions, we found new ways to connect! *Gather’s* Bible study continued in print, on video and even online via Facebook, Zoom and other social media channels. *Café* offered sustenance to women – including Younger generations – through podcast and website, *Daily Grace* devotionals and Women of the ELCA website helps us to stay connected and energized to serve in a variety of ways, including sewing face masks to help first responders and vulnerable individuals.”

“When you support Women of the ELCA, you are supporting a community of women who **know the importance** of connecting women and girls of faith – and who act boldly on that knowledge. (Learn more about Women of the ELCA at www.womenoftheelca.org.)”

**WOMEN OF THE ELCA
FAIR TRADE COFFEE PROJECT SALE**

Back in 2011, the St. Matthew Women of the ELCA began selling fair trade coffee, tea, candy, almonds and cashews. We have been successful in supporting the fair trade movement through our St. Matthew family! In March of this year when churches closed due to the pandemic, our sales stopped. I had just received a new order of items. We do not know when we will be able to sell at church and we do not normally sell in the summer months, I am offering you a chance at reduced prices.

Coffee will be \$4 or less; tea will be \$3; small candy bars will be \$1 (choice of milk & dark chocolate and some contain caramel); large white chocolate bars/strawberries are \$2; almonds and cashews, \$3.

Call the church office, 717-637-7101, and leave your name and phone number and Joan Scott will call you back to take your order. Joan will then arrange for you to pick up your order at the church office, and leave your money at the office. Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry!



**Join the
St. Matthew
online
community!**

If you are on Facebook, “Like” St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Hanover, to connect with other members, receive announcements and read other interesting posts.

Check out our website at www.stmattlutheran.org and search YouTube for “St. Matthew Lutheran Church Hanover PA” and find all of our worship services and faith journey stories!

And be sure to get added to our email list by emailing us at info@stmattlutheran.org for regular email updates from Pastor Kathy.



WE CONTINUE TO HAVE CD’s of the church services available. Also, we have **daily devotionals** available, *Christ in Our Home*, and *The Upper Room*. Both are available in regular and large print editions. Please contact the church office, 717-637-7101.

CYBER WOMEN is living up to the name! While we usually met at Panera and talked about the articles in the on-line resource, Café, we are now meeting on-line! All women are welcome to join us by Zoom on the third Monday of the month from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. A link to zoom is on our website and will be on Facebook the day of the meeting. A link to Cafe is available on our Facebook page and website as well. You may read the article ahead of time by going to www.boldcafe.org. Grab your coffee or snack and discuss our faith on June 15 and July 20.

YOUTH GROUP meets via Zoom every Wednesday evening at 8:30 p.m. Please note the time change for the summer. All 7th through 12th graders are invited to share this time together. The link is sent out each weekend from Tim and Chris Peck. If you have not received the link or are not on REMIND, please call or text Tim or Chris at 717-476-9977 or 717-476-9920.



YOUTH ALUMNI (Post high school to 24-ish) Please contact Tim or Chris Peck at 717-476-9977 or 717-476-9920, or email youth@stmatlutheran.org for information about meeting.

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY continues with the book of Philippians through June 17. Deacon Jan Davis leads the study on Zoom each Wednesday evening from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. The Zoom link may be found on our website or our Facebook page. The same link is used each week, so if you have it from Pastor Kathy's previous study, you may continue to use it.

A BOOK STUDY on "Understanding and Dismantling Racism: The Twenty-First Century Challenge to White America" by Joseph Barndt will begin on Wednesday, July 8. We will meet by Zoom from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. The Zoom link may be found on our website or our Facebook page. This book is available on Amazon, both in paperback and on Kindle. Please note that there is an older version of the book with the different title of "Dismantling Racism." We will be using the updated version, published in 2007. We will cover a chapter each week. We have one copy in the church library for you to borrow. Copies are also available for purchase in the church office for \$20.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will **CLICK** in August! Our theme of **CLICK**—Children Live in Christ's Kingdom. Our theme has taken on another meaning as we have all be "clicking" our phones, Ipads and computers more during the pandemic. We invite you to **CLICK** as you are able this summer!



Our VBS will be a **FAMILY VBS**, each evening from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Sunday, August 2 through Thursday, August 6. Each family will have your own **CLICK** table in Fellowship Hall where you will work together on crafts and games and other activities. The nightly Bible story and Puppet Show will be presented from the stage. There will be a snack time, too!

We will require at least one parent or relative to attend with the family. Older siblings may also attend and siblings in at least high school may serve as the "parent" for VBS.

In light of safety regulations, masks will be required to attend. Also, early registration is highly encouraged as we will have to limit the number of families who will be able to fit into Fellowship Hall. We will continue to accept registrations as long as tables are available.

Please complete the **VBS** registration form and return it to the church office as soon as you can so you can enjoy a week of **CLICK** faithful fun and adventure in August!

VBS may be a bit different this year, but we will still need adult and youth leaders to make it all happen. We will be filming the Bible story and the puppet show a week or two ahead of VBS so we may use it in a video for those unable to attend. We'll be putting the craft packets together ahead of time as well. Storytellers, puppeteers, snack servers and more will be needed the week of VBS. If you are able to be a VBS leader any or all of the evenings of August 2 through 6 or available ahead of time, please contact Jan Davis at jdavisaim@stmatlutheran.org, 717-637-7101 or by completing a registration form indicating your availability. Let's **CLICK!**

March 1, 2020

St Matthews Church Council Members,

It is with deep regret that I need to inform you of my resignation from St Matthews effective immediately. I have been honored to be able to serve this congregation for the past 17 years.

The people of this congregation are an amazing and diverse group of people with a faith that is inspirational and that I have had the honor of working with all these years. Unfortunately I feel I am unable to serve in a capacity that the people of this congregation deserve and need. This has been a difficult decision for me and I have prayed and contemplated for many hours. I love the people of this church, the mission, the purpose, and the caring of the individuals who support each other each and every day here. My years at St Matthews have been fulfilling, inspirational, and a truly spiritual experience for me. I have been supported in times of need, been able to support others in times of need and have felt the presence of Christ in our midst.

I wish everyone the best and believe there are many positive changes happening at St Matthews that will continue to make it a very vibrant and exciting congregation.

In Christ Love,



Rev. E. Edward Keyser



GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

OUR TRUCK. YOUR FOOD.

COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE
in the St. Matthew **PARKING LOT.**

Saturday, July 25 and Sunday, July 26
9 a.m. – 12 Noon.



Sponsored by the St. Matthew Social Ministry Committee. Come support those who are even more disadvantaged now because of the Coronavirus.

Your check is also welcome – Made out to *St. Matthew Lutheran Church*, with *HACC Food Drive* in the memo line. Look for our truck...let's fill it up for the needy!

The list of needs (for Hanover area Council of Churches) is below:

Scalloped /Au Gratin
potatoes

Italian, Ranch or French
Salad Dressing

Cream of chicken soup

Cream of celery soup

Tea bags

Ground coffee

Mayonnaise

Catsup

Mustard

Salt & Pepper

Granulated Sugar

Brown Sugar

Canned Carrots

Canned fruit salad

Canned Chili

Regular Pam spray

To-go beverage solo cup

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

Vacation Bible School 2020

Sunday, August 2 to Thursday, August 6

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.



Name(s) and ages/grade of children attending: _____

Name of adult(s) attending: _____

(Adults may be a parent, grandparent or other relative or sibling in at least high school. Families will sit together as a table group throughout VBS. Safety measures such as masks and social distancing will be observed. Registrations will continue to be accepted until the capacity of the room is reached.)

Address: _____

Phone: (home) _____ (cell) _____

E-mail: _____

Allergies or other medical issues we should be aware of: _____

Home Congregation: _____

(Signature of Parent/guardian)

Please check here [] if you do NOT want your child's photo used on Facebook, the St. Matthew website or other media outlets. No children's names are ever attached.

Please mark T-shirt size for each child and adult attending: ___child small ___child med
___child large ___ adult med ___ adult large ___ adult XL ___ adult XXL

For youth in grades 7-12 and adults, please indicate how you can help us at VBS! (Anyone 18 or over must be a member of St. Matthew for a minimum of 6 months.) You will be contacted with more information about dates and times for assisting.

Story Teller [] Puppeteer [] Crafts [] Snack Server [] Daily Cleaning []

Registrations will continue to be accepted until the capacity of the room is reached.

PRAYER TIME WITH THE PASTORS -

Thursdays, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

All are welcome to join Pastor Kathy, Pastor David or Pastor Faye for a zoom conversation and prayers. Information and the link can be found on our website and Facebook page.

Thank You for the Prayer Shawls:

As a St. Matthew visitation pastor, I have the blessed opportunity to distribute prayer shawls to our members in challenging circumstances. What a delight it is to be able to pass along these beautiful crocheted and knitted creations. And I am the one to receive their gratitude!



I would like to pass along to our congregation and to those who work so diligently crafting these works of art, what a blessing this ministry is by repeating some of their words of thanks:

“Bless these girls who make these. I just love this color. Oh, look at the pretty design!” “Oh my! This is for me? I am so lucky!” “I wish I knew who made this. I would like to give her a hug!” “This is my favorite color. Thank you so much.” “I think I’m going to cry. There’s even a little angel there in the corner.”
God Bless You, Prayer Shawl Makers. You are such a blessing to others!

Pastor Faye

We would like to thank all volunteers who are making it possible for us to hold our drive-in services on Sunday mornings. The 9 a.m. service will continue throughout the summer. **If you would be available to help** with parking any Sunday, please contact the church office at 717-637-7101, or info@stmattlutheran.org. As always, we are grateful for our volunteers!

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



ANYONE INTERESTED in assisting with the “filming” of St. Matthew worship services? If so, please contact Doug West, 717-451-0394 or email dwest51@comcast.net. We are looking to involve others in the process, at least while we are in this period of transition. Currently, the services are recorded with a mobile phone and tablet and ultimately uploaded to the St. Matthew YouTube channel. Our digital microphones interface only with Apple devices, so that may be a limiting factor for volunteers. Please contact Doug if you are comfortable “shooting” video using an iPhone or iPad and are not threatened by YouTube. We look forward to hearing of your interest. Thanks for considering.

Our Drive-In Worship is planned to continue through the summer at 9:00 a.m. **Beginning June 28**, we will also have worship in the Nave at 10:45 a.m. There will be no 11:00 Drive-In Worship after June 21. This will, of course, depend on any changes in state safety regulations. If it is raining, we will cancel the Drive-In Worship service(s). A determination will be made by 7:00 a.m. and cancellation will be posted on our website, on WHTM Channel 27 and on our office telephone system, 717-637-7101. Below are our tentative guidelines for returning. These are subject to change and we will continue to keep every informed.

Guidelines for Returning to Indoor Worship

Masks will be required.

We ask that everyone practice social distancing (at least 6 feet, excluding households) when in the church building.

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

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

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 and Ziploc baggies (for empty communion cups) will be handed out as people enter.

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.

Communion will be with the wafer and disposable communion cups in the pew. A Ziploc baggie will be supplied for disposal of the empty cups. A waste basket for the communion cup baggies will be placed at the exits.

There will be a basket at each entrance and exit for the offering.

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.

Because experts have determined that singing can hasten the spread of the virus, the congregation will be invited to follow along with the hymns in silence or humming.

Guidelines for Ushers for Returning to Indoor Worship

Masks will be required.

We ask that everyone practice social distancing (at least 6 feet, excluding households) when in the church building.

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.

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.

For those entering through the elevator lobby doors: they will receive bulletins, communion cups and Ziploc baggies near the entrance. They will proceed into the Nave through the Sacristy door. An Usher will be located at the Sacristy door to direct the people towards an Usher who will stand at the pew to be filled. There will be two empty pews between each pew that is being used. We will have the pews that are being used, marked with a yellow tag hanging on the end. Couples and families will be allowed to sit together. Others will be seated 6 feet apart, which means only 2 people per pew (except for the families and couples.) If we fill the available pews in the Nave, then the ushers will move to the balcony and seat people in the marked pews with social distancing in the balcony. We will need an usher at the porte-co-chere and one located at the rear of the church for anyone who comes in from the porte-co-chere doors. Those people will enter the rear of the Nave and be directed to the Usher who is filling in the pews.

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

Be aware of the seating position of Emergency Response Persons in order to be able to summon them for telephone calls or for any emergency.

Communion will be with the wafer and disposable communion cups in the pew. A Ziploc baggie will be supplied for disposal of the empty cups and a trash can will be located at each exit for the communion cup trash.

Ushers will count the number of attendees, including the ministerial staff. Please fill out the usual form in the Ushers' room.

There will be a basket at each entrance and exit for the offering. Someone will be stationed at the baskets as everyone is leaving.

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

We would like to have 4 ushers for each service. We ask that one or two ushers check the halls during the service to assist any visitors who come in during the service.

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nicksong@comcast.net

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