

The St. Matthew Messenger



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

May 2020

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From the Desk of Pastor Kathy:

Four Things to Remember During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we find ourselves in the second half of the Easter season, we continue to live with the daily realities of COVID-19. We are still in the Red Phase in the Hanover area of Pennsylvania. We are social distancing, there is a stay at home order upon us, our children are not at school but learning at home, many businesses are put on hold, many individuals and families are existing with fewer resources each week and we are yet to gather for worship at 30 West Chestnut Street. We are, however, still in the Easter season and with that there are four important things to remember and even celebrate:

Christ is present. The empty tomb with the resurrection of Jesus has changed everything. Our God is present to us and at work in the world in ways that defy the power of death. This gives us hope as we see God at work in the details of our daily lives. Resurrection is a present reality.

Love persists. In the gospel of John, we hear about Jesus who returns to the disciples with the promise of love and the command to feed his sheep. The fear and hate that were the means for Jesus' death did not have the last word. *Father, forgive them, Jesus said, for they do not know what they are doing.* It was love that persisted in Jesus' ministry on earth. It was love that persisted with the earliest Christians who followed him. Even in all the years since, with the dreadful ways evil destroyed lives, love persisted in all kinds of ways. It persists now.

What happens now matters. Many times, Christians hear the message of the resurrection to be simply about the promise of life after death. Unfortunately, this misunderstanding has the tendency to placate people into thinking that what happens now is secondary to what happens after we die. The Bible does not say that. In fact, the eternal life that we hear about in John 3:16 is referring to the abundant life that Jesus promises in John 10. This is important for us to remember when COVID-19 tempts us into a holding pattern. I also believe that in time to come we will discover how it was that this experience is shaping us for years to come.

We are all going to be OK. Now, this last one may seem like a stretch for you. What do you mean, we are going to be OK. This virus is deadly. The economy is tanking. We are not OK. True enough. This is when it is most important to remember how it is that the risen Lord hovers at the edge of life on earth and death.

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this Issue:

From Pastor Kathy (Con't.)	2
Deaths	
New Members Class	
Thank you!	
Daily Devotions	
Discovery Place Preschool	
Christian Education	3
Online Community	
Hanover Area Council of Churches	4
Blood Drive Results	5
Scholarship Applications	
VBS	
Camp Nawakwa	
CDs of the Services	6
Zoom Bible Study	
Zoom Prayer Time with Pastors	



(Continued from first page)

From Pastor Kathy:

There is not a moment that we are abandoned by God nor is there ever a death that does not make way to life. Ultimately, we are all going to be more than OK. As we are reminded by the Psalm, *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

May God's goodness and mercy bless you,

Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman

Deaths:

April 30 - Nadine Sterner

April 30 - Michael Foreman

May 10 - Joyce A. (Sell) Hoffman

May 11 - Witmer (Jack) Trone

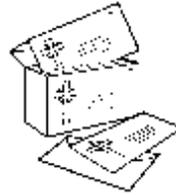
Though we celebrate the departure of their lives to be with the Lord, we also include in our prayers of support the members of their families and all who are bereaved.

OUR NEW MEMBERS

CLASS will be Zoom meetings and will be held Mondays, 7:00 p.m. June 1, 8, 15 and 22. Pastor Kathy and Pastor David will be taking turns leading the classes. Please let us know if you are interested. We will be sending out the Zoom meeting information to those who have signed up.



YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT is truly appreciated and needed through this time. Thank you to all who have continued to send in your offerings! The offerings may be mailed to the church or dropped in the mailbox slot of the education building. There are online opportunities to give with information on our website. If you are sending in your offering once a month, you will only need to send one envelope, no need to send the entire month's envelopes. Thank you again to all who have continued your giving.



DAILY DEVOTIONS OFFERED: The ministerial staff of St. Matthew is offering a daily devotion everyday via the phone line. All you have to do is call the church office at 717-637-7101. If it is after hours (between 3:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.) simply follow the prompts to listen (Press 3 for the daily devotion.) If you call during office hours, tell the secretary you want to hear the daily devotion and they will connect you. It's as simple as that!

DISCOVERY PLACE PRESCHOOL Summer Discovery Camps are cancelled for this summer, due to continuing concerns regarding COVID-19 over the coming months. We will miss our 4-6 year olds this summer, and look forward to being together for Summer Discovery 2021.

We are continuing to accept registrations for the 2020-2021 Preschool Year. As of May 1, **ALL** class sessions are still available. You can access all the required forms online through the "Preschool" tab on the St. Matthew website, www.stmattlutheran.org. There is also a link to these forms on the Discovery Place Facebook page. If you have any questions, please reach out to Martha Lobaugh, Director, by email: discoveryplace@stmattlutheran.org.





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



DISCIPLE TRAINING CYBER Camp is “Zooming” for children 2 years old through 6th graders each Friday at 10:30 a.m. Miss Jan leads the sessions with a Bible story, a craft or activity and prayer. Coloring sheets and other activity sheets are also e-mailed to participants and are posted on our Facebook page. If your family would like to participate in our Camp, please be sure Miss Jan has your e-mail. She is also e-mailing the video of the Zoom session to any families with Camp children who would like it.

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 and to *Café* is available on our Facebook page the day of the meeting. You may read the article ahead of time by going to www.boldcafe.org. Grab your coffee or snack and tune in on May 18.



CONFIRMATION videos are now on our church’s YouTube channel. They are also posted on our Facebook page. Originally these were meant for our 7th and 8th graders, but we’ve found that older youth and adults are enjoying them, too. At four to five minutes long, these are another way to connect with St. Matthew and to share a time of reflection and inspiration.



WEAR YOUR RED! May 31 is Pentecost Sunday and the color of the day is red for the Holy Spirit. The Spirit will still be with us as we gather in our individual homes and we’d love to see you and your family’s red. Please send a picture of you wearing red to info@stmatthlutheran.org by May 17 to be included in a special video for Pentecost. You may also send in an actual photo if you do not have a way to e-mail it to us.

YOUTH GROUP meets via Zoom every Sunday evening from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. 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.



ZOOM BIBLE STUDY will continue with a study of Philippians with Deacon Jan Davis. Each Wednesday from May 24 through June 15 at 6:00 p.m., everyone is invited to discover this letter of Paul to the church in Philippi. It is full of rejoicing and hope and examples of self-giving for the sake of the gospel. To join the conversation, use the link below and also found on our website or Facebook page.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86599209655?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86599209655?pwd=cXJ5SjZVdnQzMmk4ZnRoak12eWI0dz09)
 pwd=cXJ5SjZVdnQzMmk4ZnRoak12eWI0dz09

Meeting ID: 865 9920 9655
 Password: 923241

**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.stmatthlutheran.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@stmatthlutheran.org for weekly emails from Pastor Kathy.

AT THIS POINT we do not have any date projected to return to worship and activities. We are praying life stabilizes and we find a new normal. The staff has been working regular weeks for the most part and we have been searching nationwide for helpful information on how to re-open and serve our congregation. Until then please take advantage of our online services which continue to be available on the website, Facebook and YouTube. The Sunday services have been very meaningful with the Confession, prayers, gospel reading and sermon, special music and a hymn each week for singing along.



Our Wednesday services have been meaningful and interesting. Each week different members of our church offer their faith journey. So far we have heard from Jaime Patterson, Rollie and Ardis Kunde, and Carroll Granger, Jane West and Mike Jones. We heard from Myrtle Satterfield and Beth Koontz before we closed the church. On May 6, we heard from several generations of women for Mother's Day. They include grandmothers, daughters and their daughters - Sally, Sara and Meredith Staub and Doris Deitzel, Anne and Claire Fralic. Wednesday, May 13 we will have a special all music service with a number of hymns for everyone at home to sing along. The words will be on the screen. Several soloists have come in (staying a safe distance) to help lead these hymns. This will air at 7:15 and will remain on the website. Nancy Leister will offer her journey on May 21.

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THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE DONORS who braved the torrential rain to come out on Thursday, April 30, to donate at the Red Cross Blood Drive. The schedule was FULL and we collected 38 units of whole blood. Special thanks to our volunteers, church council and pastors for supporting this life-saving event.

Barb Thomas, Social Ministry Committee

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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. Applications must be completed and turned in by **Friday, June 5, 2020**. You are eligible to receive the undergraduate scholarship twice and once at the graduate level.



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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will not be held in June, but we are looking at creative ways to **CLICK** later in the summer. **CLICK** stands for Children Live In Christ's Kingdom. Although how we do VBS may change, that never changes! Stay tuned to **CLICK** with us!

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THE LUTHERAN CAMPING CORPORATION has announced that all camps, including Camp Nawakwa, will be closed for the summer. If you have registered for camp, they will be in touch with you about receiving your refund.

As a reminder !



IF YOU WOULD LIKE a CD of the services which are put on the website, please let us know. We can have them sent to you during this time when we cannot meet in church. Call the church office at 717-637-7101.

BIBLE STUDY - SET FREE FROM THE INSIDE OUT: Paul's Letter to the Galatians

Paul wrote a letter to the people of Galatia who may have known the message of the Gospel in their heads, but they kept living according to laws that do not apply to this new life in Christ. The freedom we have is expansive and profound! Let's discover together what this would mean for us as individuals, families, citizens, friends and Christians. **Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. by Zoom**

May 13 Gal. 5:1-26 **Accomplished by the Spirit** Opening up the restricted spaces
May 20 Gal. 6:1-18 **Experienced in Community** Me Too!--We're all in this together

Questions? Contact Pastor Kathy at pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86599209655?pwd=cXJ5SjZVdnQzMmk4ZnRoak12eWI0dz09>

Meeting ID: 865 9920 9655

Password: 923241

Dial in by phone: 1 301 715 8592 or 1 253 215 8782

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PRAYER TIME WITH THE PASTORS - Thursday, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

All are welcome to join Pastor Kathy and Pastor David for a zoom conversation and prayers.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84730567646?pwd=Z2RYb2FUVm9lQ0piQVF3dEVkNWo4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 847 3056 7646

Password: 703407

Dial in by phone: 1 301 715 8592 or 1 253 215 8782

Hanover Area Council of Churches

Special Needs:

PAL - Mayonnaise, Egg Noodles, Cream of Celery Soup or Cream of Chicken Soup

CLOTHING BANK - Adult toiletries

CHANGING LIVES SHELTER - Volunteer Help at dinner hour, Trial or Small size Body Wash

RUTH'S HARVEST - Single serve entrees, cereal, juice boxes, snack or veggies

HACC Weekly Prayer Requests

Week of May 3 - Provide-A-Lunch (PAL)

Week of May 10 - Changing Lives Residents

Week of May 17 - Public Relations Committee

Week of May 24 - Stolte Scholarship Fund

Week of May 31 - Finance Committee

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The Rev. Faye C. Snyder, Cong. Visitation Pastor
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Deacon Jan M. Davis, Minister of Christian Education,
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