

The St. Matthew Messenger



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

October/November 2020

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Issue Number 7

From the Desk of Pastor Kiel:

Over the 33 plus years I have been a pastor of the Church, I have always found one aspect of ministry more of a challenge than all the others. It is a ministry that rarely do I find someone willing or interested in serving. It is a topic most of us would like to avoid. When talked about in church, it often gets mixed reviews at best.

You know what I am talking about. It is a four-letter word. Are you ready for it? STEWARDSHIP. Obviously, it is not a four-letter word, but sometimes it feels like it and we often treat it as such. The word and the thought of it somehow seems to make us feel uncomfortable. It is so personal. We rationalize ourselves into believing there is no place for such a topic in church, in our relationship with God. Church, after all, should be spiritual. It should focus on the Bible and the words of Jesus. Church should help us live a more “Christ centered life.”

That is what we tell ourselves. But money, possessions, earthly belongings are on the mind of Jesus in the Bible and those themes appear in the Bible more than we care to admit. In fact, Jesus talks about money in the Bible more than any other topic except, “The Kingdom of God.” Imagine that! Jesus talks about money so much in the Bible because he knows the power it can have over us and how it can affect our spirituality and our walk with God. It oftentimes is our focus in life. We place our trust, our security and our hope in it.

Jesus wants us to place our trust, our hope, and our security in God. Jesus wants our priorities clear. Jesus wants us, as God’s children, to be generous to others as God is generous to us. Living a generous lifestyle is a reflection on how we feel about God, God’s Church, and all of God’s creation.

Generous people are happy people! Happy people are generous people. I might add, spiritually healthy people are generous people and generous people are spiritually healthy!

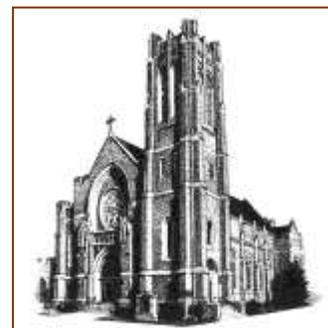
You as a congregation are a happy and generous people! As you seek to continue to move forward in your relationship with God and grow in your faith, ask yourself the question, “Is there still more I could do?” Is there any area in my giving that could grow? Do I trust God as I give?

As People of God, we give not for the sake of a budget or because we might feel pressured or obligated. We don’t even really do it so we can do our fair share. As people of God, we give, and we give generously because God is generous to us. We give generously because we love God. We love God’s people. We love God’s Church and we love God’s creation.

I would encourage you to pray about it! Pray for God to show you how to be a better giver—not just financially, but in all things. Ask God to give you a generous heart.
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From Pastor David: *(Continued from front page)*

Ask God to show you how to give to others as God has given to you.

I promise if you do that and do it regularly in your prayer life, God will make you a more generous and joy-filled person. Your attitude toward people and all things will improve for the better and you will grow in your spiritual walk.

This whole thing about Stewardship is really not about money. It is about God and trusting God and loving God. It's about putting God first in ALL things. When you do that, Stewardship is no longer a "dirty" word and generosity springs forth in one's life as a reflection of the generous God you worship every day.

May we be bold in our prayers and may God show us the faith we need to be generous in all things as we continue our pilgrimage as Disciples of Jesus Christ.

See you at worship,

Pastor David

DISCOVERY PLACE PRESCHOOL

may be smaller in number this year, but we are off to a **GREAT** start! We are so thankful that our preschoolers have been fantastic about our extra safety measures to help prevent germ-sharing. A big **THANK YOU** to whomever donated hand sanitizer, wipes and paper towels. We appreciate donations very much! We are always looking for sanitizing wipes, which have been scarce in our community lately.



One item we need in late October is approximately 10-12 small-to-medium pumpkins, so our 3s preschoolers can have a "Pumpkin Painting Party" with a parent. If anyone knows where we can get pumpkins at a discounted rate, please let us know.

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)



WE WERE NOTIFIED OF CHANGES from the Community Aid Thrift Store & Donation Center. Their collection bin service has not proved cost effective for their business. Many of their collection bins will be removed, including the one in our St. Matthew parking lot. We will maintain a partnership with them and encourage you to take clothing and small household items to the Community Aid Store drive-up donation center on Baltimore Street. Specify that you want your donation credited to St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Hanover. The church will receive \$.06 per pound of the donations quarterly.

GOD'S WORK, OUR CANS

October 10 - November 1, 2020

GOAL: 1,000 Cans of Corn for New Hope Ministries Thanksgiving Food Drive

Each year New Hope Ministries provides groceries for area families in need so they can enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal at home with their loved ones. Area churches and community groups pitch in by collecting large quantities of a specific Thanksgiving food item. Here at St. Matthew we will continue our tradition of collecting canned corn. Our goal this year is 1,000 cans!

Beginning October 10, there will be a large collection bin in the Gathering Place, and one outside for the outdoor service, for you to drop off your cans. If you prefer to make a financial donation to this ministry, please make your check payable to "St. Matthew Lutheran Church" and write "Canned Corn" in the memo line. Cash donations should be placed in an envelope marked "Canned Corn." Thank you in advance for your support! ~ *The Social Ministry Committee*



A BOOK STUDY/BIBLE STUDY ON

“The God Who Sees: Immigrants, the Bible and the Journey to Belong” by Karen Gonzalez will take place on Wednesdays, November 4, 11 and 18. Deacon Jan will lead these sessions both from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall and via Zoom from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Gonzalez blends the story of her family’s immigration from Guatemala with the Biblical stories of Ruth, Hagar and others. Copies of the book are now available in the church office for \$10. A copy is also available in the church library. All interested in the Zoom sessions may contact the church office at 717-637-7101 or info@stmatlutheran.org to be placed on the e-mail list for the link.



YOUTH welcomes all 7th through 12th graders to experience faithful friendships with in-person activities (wear your mask and social distance!) Youth meet the first and third Sunday of each month from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. High School Youth will attend their fall retreat at Camp Nawakwa from Friday, November 13 - Sunday, November 15. This event has a strict limit on the number allowed to attend, so get those registrations in! 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.

OUR SENIOR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS is meeting for faith discussion from 10:00 to 10:30-ish on Sunday mornings. Until the weather gets too cold or it’s raining, youth may bring a chair and mask to the grassy area on the left side of the playground area. If the weather is bad, we will meet in the Youth Suite (Rms. 303/304.) Bring a beverage to enjoy with the donuts provided.



CYBER WOMEN really do meet in a “cyber” way with Zoom! Women of all ages are invited to our monthly meeting, usually the 3rd Monday, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. In November, we’ll meet November 16. 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@stmatlutheran.org or calling the church office. Be sure to include your name, e-mail address and the Zoom meeting you are requesting to join.

THE ADVENT SOCIAL is planned for Sunday, November 29, the first Sunday of Advent. We will change it up a bit to make it safer with social distancing and masks and also more family-friendly. To do this, your registration will be more important, although we hope to have space for last-minute participants.

As you enter Fellowship Hall, your family or table-mates will go to your assigned table. There will be a craft there to begin to work on as you wait for your table to be called to the lunch table. After we finish eating, an Advent wreath craft will be handed out for you to complete. Then we will have an Advent devotion and will “light” our first candle.

Those without children or youth may choose to sit with a friend or other relative. Please mark your table-mate on your registration form. We can put up to four at a table. If you have more in your family, we will combine tables to seat you together. We will not combine tables for those who are unrelated. Please complete your Advent Social Reply Form and return it to the church office as soon as possible. Space may become limited.



ADVENT SOCIAL REPLY FORM

Name: _____

Number attending: Children (under 12) _____ Adults _____

Names of table mates who are not family members: _____
 (limit of 4 non-related persons per table)

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who gave money for our Easter Garden/Garden of Thanks! We have raised over \$1800. After the cost of the garden, the monies will be sent to Hanover Area Council of Churches to be used in any of their many programs designed to help those from the Hanover area in need. The honorarium and memorial booklet is available in the church office.



PASTORAL ACTS

August 20 – October 14, 2020

Baptisms

August 30 – Sullivan Timothy Bobb, son of Derek and Tasha (Koontz) Bobb, with sponsors Drew and Kayla Steffens and Carley Bobb

September 26 - Dawson Jack Mai, son of Brady and Brooke (Deamer) Mai, with sponsors Brandon and Kelsey Deamer.

Weddings

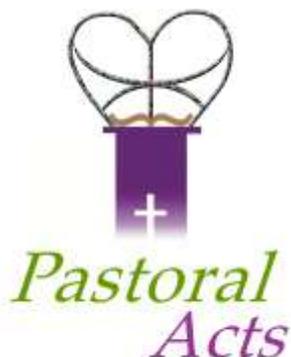
May 2 - Adam and Lindsay (Zumbrum) Amspacher

September 19 - Kyle and Samantha (Koontz) Cox

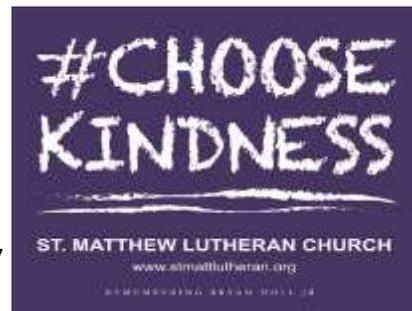
Deaths

October 9 – Molly Mancini

October 9 - Joan Hiner



“CHOOSE KINDNESS” Yard Signs are now 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!”

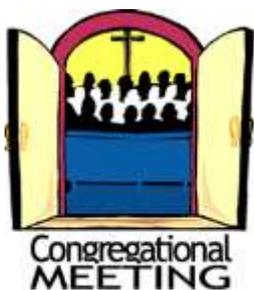


OUR MINISTER OF MUSIC Scott Fredericks’ 40th anniversary is fast approaching (November 1). If you would like to make a contribution towards Scott's service at St. Matthew these past 40 years, please make a check payable to “*St. Matthew Lutheran Church*” and in the memo line put “*Scott's 40th*.” They can be mailed to the church office or put in a separate envelope and placed in the offering plates on or before **October 26, 2020**. Due to Covid restrictions, we cannot have a luncheon to honor Scott,

but there will be baskets for cards available the weekend of November 1 or you can send them to the church office, 32 W. Chestnut Street, Hanover, PA 17331.

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT SERVES AS OFFICIAL NOTICE that we will hold our Congregation Meeting on Sunday, November 8, immediately following the late worship service (approximately 11:30 a.m.) The purpose of the meeting is to approve a budget for 2021 and elect four new council members and a youth representative. If you would like to participate in this meeting but are not comfortable or able to attend in person, please contact the church office, 717-637-7101, to make accommodations. Ushers will seat anyone who comes after the service is over, maintaining social distancing. Masks will be required.

Once a 2021 budget is approved by Council, copies will be available at all services the weekend of October 31/November 1 and November 7/8 ahead of the Congregation meeting. If there are questions regarding the budget, members of the Finance Committee will be available in the Gathering Place before the Congregation meeting to answer any questions.



New Council members to be voted on include Andrea Hersh, Randy Kline, Tom Shultz, Bob Strangfeld and youth representative Adam Farmer.

All voting (active) members of the congregation are asked to attend this important meeting.



REFORMATION SUNDAY WITH THE CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION On Sunday, October 25 at the 10:45 worship service, nine of our young people will be affirming their faith through the *Affirmation of Baptism*. What a wonderful way to celebrate our Lutheran heritage in this way. Because of the restrictions we follow due to COVID-19, we will seat the Confirmands and their families first and then seat the rest of the congregation.

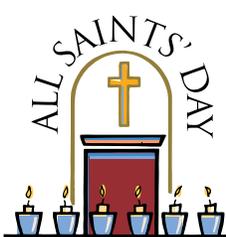


DISCIPLE TRAINING CAMP and **SUNDAY SCHOOL** Our next quarter of Disciple Training Camp for 2 year olds through 6th graders begins November 29. Watch for more information about our Camp Bible stories, crafts and videos coming soon!

OUR SUNDAY 9 A.M. worship service will remain outdoors as long as weather permits. We will evaluate on a week-to-week basis. Once we can no longer be outside, the service will be moved indoors with the indoor guidelines of social distancing and masks being required. The change to indoors will be communicated through our website, our Facebook page and the office phone. Pews will be cleaned between the 9:00 and 10:45 service.

WE ASK THAT EVERYONE please enter the building no more than 15 minutes before any indoor services to minimize the amount of time spent in the building.

We will celebrate **ALL SAINTS DAY** on the weekend of October 31 and November 1. Those St. Matthew members who have passed from this earthly life to eternal life since last November 1 will be remembered by name in our prayers and a candle will be lit for each person at the Saturday and Sunday 10:45 services. The Saturday Service will be held in the Nave. Join us for worship as we give thanks for these lives, their ministry among us and as we celebrate their new creation through our loving God.



A NEW MEMBERS CLASS is scheduled in November for three weeks. If you are interested in becoming a member of St. Matthew, please contact Stacy in the church office, 717-637-7101, or email her at sbrodbeck@stmattlutheran.org.





**St. Matthew's Annual Christmas
Cookie Walk - COVID STYLE!**

We are excited to announce the Annual Christmas Cookie Walk will be held this year! This will be our 7^h year! As in previous years, all proceeds will benefit our Global Mission Outreach.

Saturday, December 5, 2020
9:00 – 11:00 a.m. (or until sold out)

Here's how it will work this year: We will be selling the boxes of cookies baked by church members, already packed by us! They will all be assorted – still \$10 a box. Instead of the close quarters of the Fellowship Hall – they will be sold from a table in the elevator lobby (socially distanced!).

Please plan to support this fun event and invite your family and friends.
Come start your holiday season Covid-style with us!

If you would like to **bake cookies** for the cookie walk, please contact Andrea Hersh, 717-968-7094, or email the church office at info@stmattlutheran.org.

St. Matthew Social Ministry Committee



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.**



A Special Message from the Stewardship Committee

Through the whole pandemic we have depended on the giving of our congregation and

your faithfulness has made the ministry possible. Your generosity during these challenging and uncertain times is appreciated by us and all those impacted by the ministry of St. Matthew. In the spirit of this generosity, we have decided to call ourselves the **Generosity Ministry Team**. It is indeed a team effort for our mission and ministry.

Through the month of November, we will be celebrating God's Love as we highlight **Gratitude and Generosity**. How important for us to pay attention to God at work especially in these times as we are faced with many challenges. This will be our focus in worship. **Watch for a letter to come next week that gives more details.**

We are planning our **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES** in our pandemic world and while our services may be different, we think they can be safe and meaningful. The services will be briefer than usual in the Nave. We will offer the Christmas scriptures, the message, some music and prayers. We will then process out to the sidewalks which will be lit with luminaries to the grassy area behind the church. You will be given a battery operated, flickering candle and we will join around a live nativity presented by our children, youth, families and adults. Here we will sing several carols as we join as one to welcome our Savior. We will not have Nativity recitals this year.



The times of our services are yet to be determined. Tentatively, we will offer a Christmas Eve service on Wednesday, December 23 at 7:00 p.m. and two or three services on December 24. We believe it will be important to keep everyone safe and in order to not exceed our Covid safety capacity, we will be asking everyone to make a reservation for whichever service you will attend. A letter will be mailed out in early December with a reservation form and further details. We look forward to our Christmas Eve services being meaningful, beautiful and filled with joy and wonder.

Caring Cupboard Coming Soon



You can't see it yet, but St. Matthew is undergoing another building expansion project. Soon, we will be home to a Caring Cupboard, graciously built by Dirk Wildasin, painted by Linda Kasic and funded by anonymous contributors, to be located along Franklin Street. Our Caring Cupboard is a small cabinet which will serve as a pantry containing canned and other non-perishable food items and paper products available to anyone in the congregation and/or community who may need what will be stored there.

Caring Cupboard Under Construction

The idea is simple. Everyone is encouraged to take one or leave one. If you want to donate food and/or paper goods, you may put it in the cupboard! If someone in the community (or in the church) has a need for food and/or paper goods, they are encouraged to visit the cupboard and help themselves!

So, keep your eyes open for this new addition. If you have any questions about the Caring Cupboard, please contact Andrea Hersh (717-968-7094). *Social Ministry would like to thank members of St. Matthew, Linda and Dirk for their continuing support of our community outreach efforts.*



The Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America THANKOFFERING SERVICES will be held the weekend of November 14 & 15. Women of the ELCA are a community of women whose mission and ministry impacts the whole church, men and children included. For Christian disciples, giving thanks involves acknowledging our responsibility to give. Thankoffering is one way that Christian women have encouraged the link between gratitude and giving. Begun in the late 19th century, the Thankoffering tradition encourages women to take a daily account of God's blessings. Thankofferings support all the ministries of Women of the ELCA – from advocacy and education to discipleship and outreach. The Women of the ELCA combine their individual collections to support mission and ministry in the church. The service will be presented by Deacon Jan Davis. This is an opportunity for people of all ages to give thanks for their blessings. Please make checks payable to "Women of the ELCA." Thank you!

The Rev. Kathryn Vitalis Hoffman, Lead Pastor, ext. 231
pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org

The Rev. M. David Kiel, Interim Associate Pastor, ext. 229
mdavidkiel@gmail.com

The Rev. Faye C. Snyder, Cong. Visitation Pastor
nicksong@comcast.net

Deacon Jan M. Davis, Minister of Christian Education,
ext. 232 jdavisaim@stmattlutheran.org

Scott G. Fredericks, Minister of Music, ext. 235
scottfred@stmattlutheran.org

Phone: 717-637-7101

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