

The St. Matthew Messenger



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

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From the Desk of Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman:

Dear Friends in Christ,

The current mission for our congregation has this tag line: *Celebrating God's Love, Serving in Jesus' Name*. As I am growing in my understanding of St. Matthew, I believe it is a good description. We do celebrate God's love as we gather to worship, grow in our understanding of God's Word and share the message of Christ's love for all people. We also serve in Jesus' name in the many outreach ministries we support and the activities of service that we do.

It is one thing to know our mission; it's a bigger challenge for us to live into the mission as we set priorities for our congregation. How do we, as St. Matthew Lutheran Church, live into the mission we share in our particular location, at this particular time? This question is especially important for us as we continue to adapt, adjust, pivot and rethink our activities in light of the coronavirus. How do we remain faithful to the mission of Jesus Christ facing the current realities of our community, nation and world?

These are the questions that are asked all through the scriptures. The Bible is a book of books that relate to specific places and times in history. For example, in the book of Romans, Paul is writing this letter (which is long enough to be called a book!) to a specific church, at a specific time. He describes for this congregation how they actively live the faith. Martin Luther has helped the church understand that in the Bible, we discover a living Word that not only guides us but also changes us to be renewed in Christ. (Romans 12:1-2.)

A couple of years ago, I read the book called, *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory*. The author, Tod Bolsinger, describes the present challenges of the church to be like the challenges Lewis and Clark faced when they discovered that there was no water route that would connect to the Pacific Ocean. They found themselves in uncharted territory that forced them to ditch the canoes in order to navigate the mountains. I find this comparison to be helpful as I think about the ways the churches need to navigate differently in the uncharted territory of our present realities. What worked before in our congregations is not working in the same ways.

I believe that we are at an exciting time in the life of our congregation as we intentionally listen to God through the scriptures, one another and our neighbors to whom we are called to love and serve. Please note the Listening Sessions scheduled this month. I am excited to put down my oars and get my hiking boots on. We have a great adventure ahead. *For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord.....to give you a future with hope.* From Jeremiah 29:11.

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With deep gratitude, we give thanks to all of you who are continuing to support the ongoing ministries of St. Matthew.

Because of your offerings, our church is able to continue to generously serve the needs of others and share the message of God's love. The financial support has remained steady through the pandemic and it is not only appreciated but especially needed for those whose resources are diminished due to COVID-19.

Results of AUGUST 24 Blood Drive

The Red Cross drive was a great success! 41 people presented, 38 successfully donated. 32 of those were whole blood and 6 were Power Reds (power reds count as two units). So we collected a total of 44 units impacting up to 136 lives! Thank you to everyone who signed up.



A Report from the COVID-19 Task Force

Did you know that we have a task force who meets about every 6 weeks to determine the best ways to move forward as we experience the impact of the coronavirus? Their deliberations provide wise guidance as we seek to be faithful to our mission and mindful of the safety of all who enter our buildings and participate in our ministries.

With the recommendation of the Task Force and approval of the council, St. Matthew will again have indoor worship. Beginning on the weekend of September 12/13, we will have worship on Saturdays at 5:00 in the Fellowship Hall and on Sundays at 10:45 in the Sanctuary. Please note the safety protocols for these worship services. Our Outdoor/ Drive-In Worship will continue at 9:00 a.m. through September and into October.

Thank you to our COVID-19 Task Force members: Steve Bell, Jan Davis, Doris Deitzel, Scott Fredericks, Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman, Pastor David Kiel, Jane Lawrence, Jack LeFevre, Judy Risk, Penny Rutters, Tom Schultz, Dirk Wildasin and Vicki Wildasin.



THE FAMILY OF Joyce Raubenstine would like to have a card shower in honor of her 90th birthday, on September 7. Please send cards to the church office and we will forward to Joyce, 30 W. Chestnut Street, Hanover, PA, 17331. *Happy birthday, Joyce!*

PLEASE KNOW that the family of Robert Luckenbaugh truly appreciates your kind and thoughtful expressions of sympathy. The loving support of the Church staff and congregation has touched our hearts deeply.

HELLO FROM DISCOVERY PLACE PRESCHOOL! YES, we are actively planning for preschool, along with some extra health and safety measures in place. Our enrollment is low this year due to concerns about COVID-19, and we need your help and support so the preschool program can continue beyond the current health crisis.

Please spread the word to local friends and families with young children that we are planning a **FUN** and **SAFE** preschool year! We have condensed our class offerings to 3s and 4s classes in the morning only this year. While we pray our preschool remains open all year, we are also planning "distance learning" lessons and activities in case our preschool is mandated to close.

Discovery Place needs your support more than ever! Keep watch for a special Temple Talk from Director Martha Lobaugh, shared via online means in the coming weeks. **Please say some prayers for God's guidance and protection for ALL of our students and school personnel as our community school systems open up to in-person education in the coming weeks.**

As always, please reach out to Martha with any ideas on how to help your church preschool program grow! You can reach her at discoveryplacehanover@gmail.com or 717-637-1864.



PASTORAL ACTS

June 16 – August 21, 2019

Baptism

July 26 – Jackie Jean McMaster

August 2 – Hadley Quinn Burkentine, daughter of Bryan and Cooper (McGarvey) Burkentine,

August 23 – Owen Michael Stick, son of Michael and Katie (Axline) Stick, with sponsors Janelle Cole and James Klunk

Deaths

June 13 – David J. Heese

July 2 – Paul L. Fry

July 9 – Robert (Bob) Luckenbaugh

July 13 – Richard Hershey



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. You can also subscribe to our YouTube channel to see our various videos. Search for St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Hanover, PA on YouTube. And our website also has so many ways to connect to St. Matthew, www.stmattlutheran.org.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RECIPIENTS of the 2020-2021 Scholarships. The Scholarship Committee wishes each of the applicants success in this school year.

Fairy E. Strailey Scholarship: Haley Arnold, Hannah Arnold, Kasi Conjack, Emily Crouse, Madison Maloney and BriAnna Thomassy

Dr. George and Lelia Stauffer Scholarship: Daniel Mack and Rylee Smith

God's Blessings be with you!



Tree 4 Hope News

Tree 4 Hope has just partnered with a Guatemalan coffee company! Tree 4 Hope is so excited to announce our partnership with Chica Bean coffee! Chica Bean is a completely female driven coffee production company in Guatemala and their main location is right near Hope Academy in the small town of Santa Lucia Milpas Altas. For every bag of Chica Bean you buy, not only will they mail it directly to you in the United States, but they will also donate \$4 from each purchase to Tree 4 Hope! Check out this short video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1FLVYLwZDE&t=19s>

Shop now at <https://chicabean.com> and use coupon code "tree4hope" at checkout – to make sure they get the donation! Thank you for your support!

THE LWR MISSION QUILT PROJECT is growing and thriving at St. Matthew through the dedication of the committee members generously donating their time and talent to produce the much needed quilts being distributed around the world. We are blessed with not only the support of committee members and the St. Matthew congregation but also support from friends and other community sources. The donation of fabric, thread and funds is what allows us to be able to continue with this worthwhile project.



Thank you to everyone involved for your past and continued support which allows St. Matthew to be a participant in the success of the LWR Mission Quilt Program!

Our quilts will be used to help replace the LWR quilts that were destroyed in the explosion in Beirut, Lebanon. As winter approaches, these quilts will truly make a difference for those in need.

If you have any questions regarding the program, contact Carol Smeltzer – email smeltzer.carol@comcast.net or phone 717-451-7337.



WE WILL HAVE A GARDEN OF THANKS on Sunday, September 20 and 27, in the Nave. This garden of mums, pumpkins, gourds and fall flowers will utilize gifts given for our Easter garden which did not happen due to Covid-19. We already have some donations and others are welcome. We will print a listing of all honorariums and memorials.

After the cost of the plants, the balance of the memorials/honorariums will be given to Hanover Area Council of Churches for their many community programs such as Meals-on-Wheels, Provide-A-Lunch which serves free lunches Monday through Friday, the clothing bank, the overnight shelter for those who need a place to sleep, and many more programs.

I would like to sponsor a flower in the church.

In honor of _____ In memory of _____

Name(s) being honored or memorialized (Please print clearly):

Given by: _____

Envelope Number _____ **Amount Given \$** _____

Please include \$10 per listing. Make checks payable to **St. Matthew Lutheran Church**.

Deadline is **Friday, September 11, 2020**.

Guidelines for Returning to Indoor Worship

Masks will be required. Temperatures will be taken upon entering. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will be asked to return home.

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 drive-in worship or on-line worship opportunities for your safety and the safety of others.

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

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. Please be considerate of the ushers as you are seated. We can only be indoors if everyone abides by the guidelines.

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.

CARING CUPBOARD!

Social Ministry Committee is creating a Caring Cupboard in conjunction with the annual ELCA "God's Work, Our Hands Day" on September 13, 2020. A Caring Cupboard is a small cabinet which will be placed somewhere on the St. Matthew grounds. It is basically a take one or leave one arrangement. If you want to donate food and/or paper goods to it, you may put it in the cupboard! If someone in the community (or in the church) needs some food and/or paper goods, they may take some from the cupboard! We are wondering if anyone has a cupboard they would be willing to donate - or if someone would be willing to build one (funded by Social Ministry Committee.) It would have to be sturdy, weatherproof and should have a clear window in the front.

Here are some examples of Caring Cupboards. Please contact Andrea Hersh, 717-968-7094, if you have questions or have a cupboard that might work for this purpose. Thank you!



Listening Sessions

Together with members of the St. Matthew Church Council, Pastor Kathy is hosting *Listening Sessions*. We want to listen to each other as we discern God's plan for us. In the month of September, we will meet together in groups of no more than twenty people for this important conversation. This is the time to come with your questions, thoughts and listening ears as we gather for these important conversations regarding our purpose and future. *For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord.....to give you a future with hope.* From Jeremiah 29:11.

To sign up for a gathering, call the church office at 717-637-7101 or e-mail info@stmattlutheran.org to sign up for one the following times. Sessions will be held (socially distanced) in the Fellowship Hall or on Zoom. (The zoom link will be sent to you after you sign up.)

Sunday, September 6, 10:00-11:15 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, September 9, 6:00-7:15 p.m. by ZOOM

Thursday, September 10, 10:00-11:15 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Monday, September 14, 7:00-8:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Thursday, September 17, 1:00-2:15 by ZOOM



Emmanuel Matthew's Story of Jesus

Weekly Bible Study Beginning Wednesday, September 16, at 7:00-8:00 by Zoom

All are welcome to join this down to earth, back to the basics Bible study. The approach that we will take as we read the Gospel of Matthew is the following:

The Gospel of Matthew is a training manual for disciples of Jesus who want to understand and be prepared for Christian life within the believing community and Christian mission outside the community.

With this approach, we can appreciate both how this Gospel functioned in Matthew's own community and also, in a similar fashion, how it can serve as a discipleship manual for us today as well. (Thank you to Dr. Mark Vitalis Hoffman, Professor of Biblical Studies at United Lutheran Seminary, for the Bible Study resources.)

September 16 *Take Us to Your Leader—What is our **Identity** in relationship to our leader?*

The Birth and Baptism in Matthew 1:1-4:25

September 23 *Rock Solid Perfect—What is our **Message**?*

The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:1-7:29

September 30 *From Miracles to Mission—What is our **Mission**?*

Matthew 8-10

October 7 *Whose Side Are You On?—What is our **Calling**?*

Matthew 11-17

October 14 *New Community, Same Old World—What is our **Vision**?*

Matthew 18-23

October 21 *Sent with a Promise—What is our **Commission**?*

Matthew 24-28

Sign up by contacting Pastor Kathy at pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org or by calling 717-637-7101 ext. 231.

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION AND COMMISSIONING is planned



for Sunday, September 20. Youth in the 7th through 9th grades are invited to the 9:00 Drive In Worship for a brief commissioning during the service. At 10:00, youth and families will meet to hear the details of our confirmation program. Ninth graders and their family will meet in the Upper Room with Pastor Kathy to talk about their Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) being planned for the fall. Seventh and eighth graders planning to participate in confirmation classes will meet in Fellowship Hall with Deacon Jan.

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