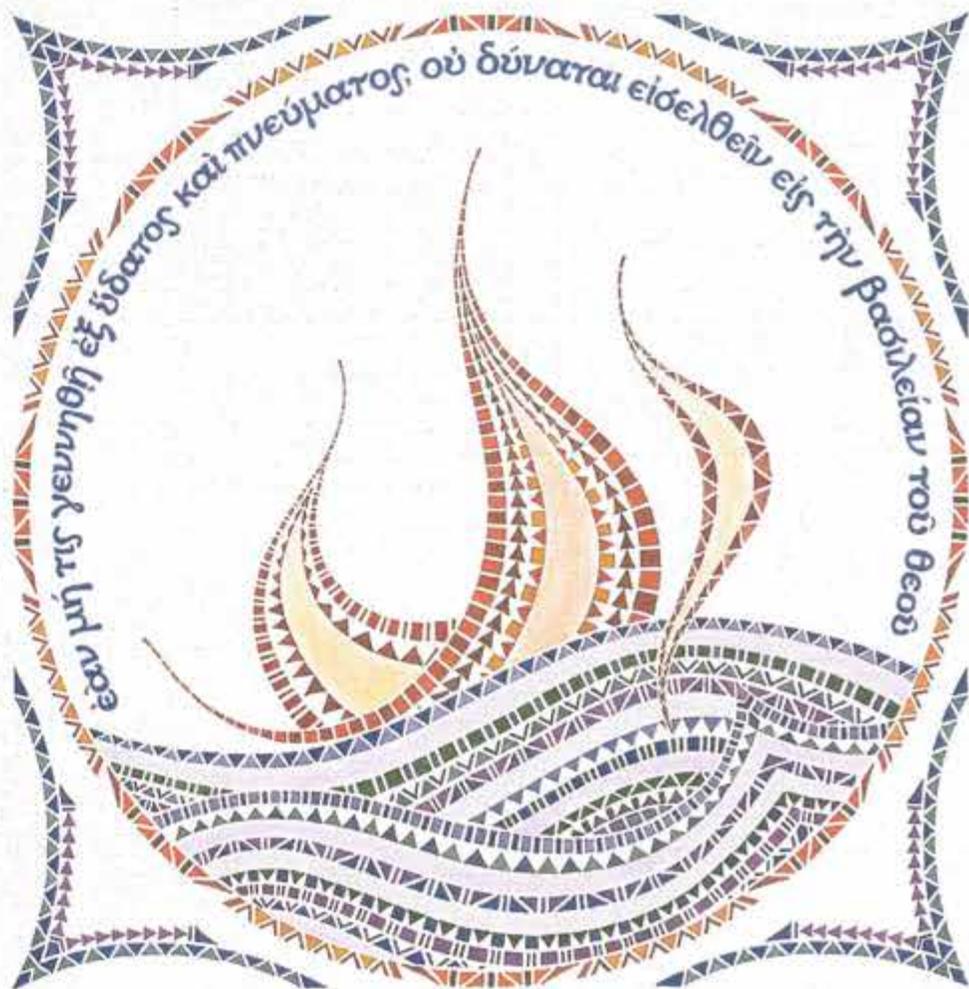


Born of water and Spirit

JOHN 3:5





ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH
Church Office: 717-637-7101
THE HOLY TRINITY
Sunday, May 30, 2021 @ 10:45 a.m.

WELCOME! ARE YOU NEW? We are a group of people gathered together to make a difference. We seek to make a difference in ourselves, in our neighborhoods, and in our world. We are thankful that you are here today. Check out our website at www.stmattlutheran.org, where you can find out more about us and get connected into our community.

Please tear off and put in the offering basket as you leave:

Names of everyone attending Sunday, **May 30, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.:**

Would you like to be added to our email list? **Please list your name and email address:**

Would you like to be contacted by a pastor? Please list phone number:

Tune your radio to FM 101.5 to listen to our service!

We hope you find this worship service meaningful. If you have concerns about your car battery, we have people on the premises with battery cables should the need arise.

Those who are vaccinated no longer need to wear a mask outdoors. Please be considerate of our youth who may not have had the opportunity to be vaccinated. Thank you!

If there is an emergency in your car, please dial 9-1-1 and then let parking attendants know.

+ Celebrating God's Love - Serving in Jesus' Name +

THE HOLY TRINITY

PRELUDE	<i>Toccata on Holy, Holy, Holy</i> (Roland Kunde, Organist)	Long
----------------	--	-------------

ANNOUNCEMENTS and TEMPLE TALK by Deacon David Hope-Tringali

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
full of compassion and mercy,
abounding in steadfast love.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Trusting God's promise of forgiveness,
let us confess our sins against God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Eternal God our creator,

**All: in you we live and move and have our being.
Look upon us, your children,
the work of your hands.
Forgive us all our offenses,
and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires.
By your grace draw us near to you,
our refuge and our strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit given to us.
In the mercy of almighty God,
Christ died for us while we still were sinners;
and for his sake, God forgives you all your sins.

All: Amen.

OPENING HYMN.....*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!* – Heber/Dykes



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

APOSTOLIC GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *Holy God, We Praise Your Name*

Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we
 bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim,
 all in heav'n a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

FIRST READING: Romans 8:12-17 *In describing the new life of faith, Paul refers to all three persons of the Trinity: the Spirit leads us to recognize that we are children of God the Father and joint heirs with Christ the Son.*

Pastor: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Repeat alleluia



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 3rd chapter.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL: John 3:1-17 *Jesus' miracles prompt Nicodemus to visit him in secrecy. Jesus tells him about being born of the Spirit and about the Son who has been sent by God to save.*

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE MESSAGE

Beyond Infinity

Jennifer Hope-Tringali

MUSICAL OFFERING

***America the Beautiful*
(Roland Kunde, Pianist)**

Ward/Carter

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

Pastor: Let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCE AND PRAYERS

Each petition concludes, *“Lord, in your mercy,”* and the congregation responds, *“hear our prayer.”*

PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

*(The congregation is invited to greet one another **in your own cars**
with the words “Peace be with you.”)*

You may also honk your horn to greet others!

THE MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.

All: Amen.

RECEIVING OF THE ELEMENTS OF BREAD AND WINE

Pastor: The body of Christ, given for you.

All: Amen. (*Eat wafer*)

(Pause)

Pastor: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

All: Amen. (*Drink juice*)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. Jesus Christ, host of this meal,

you have given us not only this bread and cup,
but your very self, that we may feast on your great love.
Filled again by these signs of your grace,
may we hunger for your reign of justice,
may we thirst for your way of peace,
for you are Lord forevermore.

All: Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor: May God, whose power working in us
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine,
grant you the gifts of faith and hope.
Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

All: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory – Howe*



Mine eyes have seen the glo - ry of the com - ing of the Lord;
In the beau - ty of the lil - ies Christ was born a - cross the sea,



he is tram - pling out the vin - tage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
with a glo - ry in his bos - om that trans - fig - ures you and me.



he has loosed the fate - ful light - ning of his ter - ri - ble swift sword:
As he died to make men ho - ly, let us live to make men free,



his truth is march - ing on.
while God is march - ing on.

Refrain



Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah!



Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! His truth is march - ing on.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Festival March

Burkhardt

* * * * *

Please note: Music for this service is covered under CCLI # 1000682 –
Also #A-708989 *One License.net*

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Phone: 717-637-7101

General mailbox ext. 221

Email: info@stmattlutheran.org www.stmattlutheran.org

The Rev. Kathryn Vitalis Hoffman, Lead Pastor, ext. 231

The Rev. M. David Kiel, Interim Associate Pastor, ext. 229

The Rev. Faye C. Snyder, Visitation Pastor

Scott G. Fredericks, Minister of Music, ext. 235

Our warm thanks to all those assisting in our worship services this morning:

Musician..... Roland Kunde

Emergency Person Deb Anker

Parking Attendants Jeremy Bucher, Roland Kunde, Barb Rupp, Tom Shultz

Worship Assistants Joan Belt, Karyn George, Andrea Hersh,
Ardis Kunde, Gail Mummert

THE ALTAR FLOWERS have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Robert Serff (1924-1944) who died in France serving his country by his niece Bobbi Little. May we all give thanks today for the young man’s sacrifice; and in loving memory of Bill Strausbaugh’s birthday which he would have celebrated on May 29 by his daughter Jane; and in loving memory of Curvin L. Bair by his wife Emma and sons Clifford and Jeffrey; and in loving memory of Ralph Doner’s birthday which he would have celebrated on June 3 by his wife and family; and in loving memory of Steve Hagarman by his family.

THE BULLETINS have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Ralph Doner’s birthday which he would have celebrated on June 3 by his wife and family; and in loving memory of Bill Strausbaugh’s birthday which he would have celebrated on May 29 by his daughter Jane; and in loving memory of Robert Serff (1924-1944) who died in France serving his country by his niece Bobbi Little. May we all give thanks today for the young man’s sacrifice: and in loving memory of Steve Hagarman by his family.



THIS WEEKEND we are excited to welcome Pastor Jennifer Hope-Tringali and Deacon David Hope-Tringali to all three of our services. They serve as global missionaries for the Lower Susquehanna Synod in Guatemala. Through their work with Tree 4 Hope, they provide educational opportunities, youth empowerment, and agricultural and health services to some of the most vulnerable populations throughout the

country. Their primary focus is Hope Academy, which is the first and only bilingual STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) school for girls. It provides high quality education to girls from impoverished communities, aiming to help them break free of the cycle of poverty that has kept their families down for generations. Pastor Jennifer serves as the dean of Hope Academy while Deacon David manages advancement and development of the project. More information about their work can be found at www.tree4hope.org.

St. Matthew is a strong supporter of this ministry that builds international relationships that are rooted in service. *Thank you to Andrea Hersh for an account of our congregation's involvement with Tree 4 Hope:*

The first mission trip St. Matthew members made to Guatemala with Tree 4 Hope was in July of 2017. At that time, they were finalizing the financing of the land on which to build Hope Academy, the girl's school. Our group was able to walk around the land (which was an avocado farm!) and with Pastor Kate leading us, we prayed to bless the land. That is really where our relationship with them began!

The Global Mission Team has used Cookie Walk profits to help with the feeding program at Hogar Miguel Mahone Orphanage. St. Matthew has been sponsoring a number of children from the orphanage and Hope Academy. In response to their needs related to the pandemic, we gave \$1500 to help with emergency food relief in the orphanage and its village of Aguacate. Tree 4 Hope fed over 80 village families and the 80 - 100 children in the orphanage!

(Continued next page)

Because of the pandemic, no groups were able to visit the orphanage last year. Consequently, they did not get the supplies and help they have relied on from all of the groups that normally visit. It has been a rough year for them!

Since the 2017 trip, some St. Matthew members have returned each summer to the orphanage and the school. We have been blessed each time with prayers, supplies and suitcases from the congregation. And incredibly, Brad and I have seen the school in all the stages from start to finish! The relationships that Brad and I have been able to build with the families and children have been life-changing. Having our 2020 trip cancelled due to the pandemic (after 3 summers of visits) was heart-breaking for us... (Happily we have been able to keep in touch with our sponsored godson Jamie and his family with Facebook, Messaging and even video calls!) We are returning again this August for a 10 day trip - and are ecstatic to see how the children have grown and to see our friends in the orphanage. We are planning to lend a hand wherever it is needed!



Attendance:	(05/22)	Saturday 5 p.m. service	49
	(05/23)	9:00 a.m. Drive-in service.....	131
		10:45 Worship service.....	121
	(05/17-05/23)	Online views	140
		Total	441

RECOMMENDED SCRIPTURE READINGS for the week beginning May 29:

Sunday: John 3:1-7	Thursday: Romans 3:1-8
Monday: Revelation 4:1-8	Friday: 2 Peter 1:1-11
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 2:1-10	Saturday: John 7:53—8:11
Wednesday: Mark 4:21-25	

St. Matthew Calendar May 30-June 6, 2021

Sun.	Drive-In Worship with Holy Communion.....	9:00 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave).....	10:45 a.m.
Mon.	Church Office Closed for Memorial Day	
Tues.		
Wed.	Bible Study (Upper Room)	10:30-11:30 a.m.
	Bible Study (Zoom).....	7:00-8:00 p.m.
Thurs.	St. Matthew Ringers	7:0-8:15 p.m.
Fri.		
Sat.	Worship with Holy Communion (Fellowship Hall)	5:00 p.m.
Sun.	Drive-In Worship with Holy Communion.....	9:00 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave).....	10:45 a.m.
	Youth Group (Rm. 304).....	6:00-8:00 p.m.

-- A waste basket for the communion cups and napkins is placed at the exits.

-- Offering plates will not be passed. There is a basket at each door.



FROM THE
CHURCH
OFFICE

AS A REMINDER: When you take items to Community Aid on Baltimore Street, please give them the St. Matthew **partner number 20014** when you make a drop off. Thank You!

MEMORIAL DAY



IN THE 1930'S AND EARLY 1940'S there were two large Sunday School classes at St. Matthew taught by Claude Meckley and Rush Little. During World War II, 426 young men and women, many from these classes, served in the military. In remembrance of those 426, a banner is hung in our Nave each Memorial Day which recognizes those members. It contains 426 stars representing those sons and daughters of St. Matthew. The eleven gold stars represent the eleven who were killed in action.

ON THIS MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND there will be a display of names in the Gathering Place of those people from St. Matthew who have served in the wars, dating back to the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. Please look over the list and if your name has been inadvertently missed, please place your name or the name of your loved one who served, on the list which is on the table by the display. God bless all who have served.

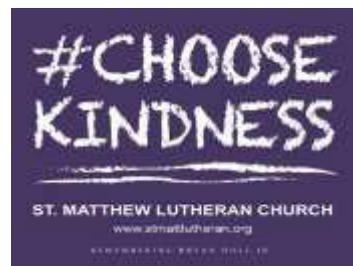
FOR THE MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY, Pastor David will be leading the Bible Study on next week's Gospel reading, **Mark 3:20-35**. We meet in the Upper Room at 10:30 a.m. and by Zoom at 7:00 p.m. Please e-mail the office at info@stmattlutheran.org or call 717-637-7101 to sign-up.



THE GENEROSITY MINISTRY TEAM is inviting all of us to be generous with one another and others. Beginning June 20, you will be invited to recognize and share examples of your experiences with encouragement, appreciation, kindness and generosity. Watch for more details in weeks to come. *Therefore encourage one another and build each other up.*

1 Thessalonians 5:11

"CHOOSE KINDNESS" Yard signs are still 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 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!"





DOESN'T IT FEEL GOOD to cheer someone up? If you agree, you probably would enjoy serving as a **Visiting Minister** here at St. Matthew. After a brief training session, Visiting Ministers provide a monthly visit to their assigned shut-ins. For more information, or to sign up, call or text Pastor Faye at 717-451-0851.

A PRAYER CHAIN COMMITTEE would like any changes or updates for the prayer chain by **THIS** Sunday, May 30, by notifying Gloria Koontz, 717-637-7434. Persons or situations added to the prayer chain are kept on the list for three months. At that time they are removed if there have been no calls asking to extend their stay on the list. Our pray-ers like to hear about prayers answered, please keep them updated as to the person/ situation. Thank you to all who assist in this ministry.



A SINCERE THANK YOU to those who helped with the mulching last Friday and Saturday. It was a small but mighty group who spread the mulch around both buildings.

And also a big **thank you** to those who helped plant the geraniums around the two buildings. We are very grateful for our many volunteers!

If you would be willing to help water the plants around the buildings throughout the summer, please contact the church office, 717-637-7101.



AS WE BEGIN TO OPEN UP ST. MATTHEW and more people begin attending the indoor services and we begin holding our fellowship events again, we are looking for volunteers to help in various areas. We will be utilizing **greeters** at each door to hand out bulletins for Saturday and Sunday at 10:45; **ushers, lectors, emergency persons, Information Desk volunteers, bereavement luncheon helpers and bakers**. If you are interested in helping in any capacity, or have questions, please call the church office, 717-637-7101 or fill out the form below and put in the offering basket and you will be contacted. Thank you for considering using your time and talents to help St. Matthew come back from this pandemic even stronger than we were before!

Name

Phone number

I am interested in helping with: _____

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 for.

Applications must be completed by **Friday, June 4, 2021**. You are eligible to receive the undergraduate scholarship twice and once at the graduate level.





St. Matthew Youth Group
Chicken Barbecue Dinner Fundraiser
Food Prepared by Miller's Barbecue
Saturday, June 19, 2021

10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (or until Sold Out)

If you do not pick up your pre-ordered meal by 1pm, it will be donated

Pickup Location: St. Matthew Lutheran Church
30 West Chestnut St. Hanover

Weather permitting, tables and chairs will be available for outdoor dining.
Come for the food, stay for the fellowship.

Meal includes: ½ BBQ Chicken, Baked Potato, Apple Sauce &
Roll w/butter

Orders and Money Due by Sunday, June 6; \$10 per dinner

Pre-orders are Recommended – make checks payable to “*St. Matthew Lutheran Church*”
with “*chicken barbecue*” in the memo line.

Bring orders in an envelope to the church office,
put into collection plate or give to youth group

Baked Goods and Beverages will be available for additional donations

Number of dinners purchased: _____

Keep top ticket for redemption

Return bottom ticket with payment to church

Sold to: _____

Phone number: _____

Number of dinners purchased: _____



DAY CAMP IS COMING TO ST.

MATTHEW! St. Matthew will be hosting Day Camp this summer on our church property. Day Camp is a program for children who will be entering 1st through 6th grade in the fall of 2021. Staff from Camp Nawakwa will be at St. Matthew

the week of July 19-23 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. While at camp, children will learn about God’s love through playing games, singing songs, doing crafts, and worshipping “camp style.” In addition, St. Matthew will host children who need to come earlier than 9:00 and stay later than 3:00 upon request. This is a wonderful opportunity for young children that will not only be offered to St. Matthew children, but children within the community around St. Matthew. Cost for Day Camp is \$50 per child. A deposit of \$15 is required upon registration that will be applied to the total cost. Scholarships will also be available upon request. If you are interested in registering your child, fill out the form on the next page and drop off or send to the church office to hold a spot. All registration forms can be found on the website, www.stmattlutheran.org. Space is limited to 32 children so don’t hesitate in registering your child.

SPONSORING A CHILD FOR DAY CAMP St. Matthew is hosting Day Camp along with Camp Nawakwa the week of July 19-23. Total cost for Day Camp is \$125 per child. We want this wonderful experience to be affordable for young families and we also see this as an opportunity for outreach in the community. We are seeking folks in the congregation to sponsor a child at Day Camp. Any donation will be accepted, however we are specifically looking for a partial sponsorship of \$75 and/or a full sponsorship at \$125. If you would like to sponsor a Day Camper at any of these amounts (or whatever you can afford), please contact Kit Curlen (our congregational coordinator), or the church office, 717-637-7101 or info@stmattlutheran.org as soon as possible. If you would like to contribute, please make your check out to “*St. Matthew Lutheran Church*” with “*Day Camp*” in the memo line.

SUMMER FUN FOR ELEMENTARY AGE YOUTH!

What: Day Camp, a 5-day program at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, along with Camp Nawakwa Lutheran Bible Camp for fun, worship, Bible study, games, nature study, singing, recreation, meeting new friends and sharing.

Where: St. Matthew Lutheran Church located at
30 W. Chestnut Street, Hanover, PA



When: July 19-23, 2021

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day, Monday through Friday

St. Matthew will host children needing to be brought before starting time and kept after ending time upon request.

Ages: Children entering grades 1 through 6 in the Fall of 2021

Cost: \$50 per child (Scholarships available)

An opportunity to meet the staff will be offered at Sunday worship on July 18, at the 9:00 drive-in service in the parking lot. (Space available for lawn seating.)

Preregistration: A \$15 registration deposit per child is due June 1, 2021. Deposit fees are non-refundable (until spaces are filled) but will be applied toward registration. All pertinent forms will be mailed to those who have paid the deposit and sent in registration fee. Fill out the form below and mail, along with a check payable to "St. Matthew Lutheran Church," with "Day camp" in the memo line.

Camper Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Will be entering grade _____ in the Fall of 2021



SAVE THE DATE - Scott Fredericks is planning to have two **St. Matthew music days** this summer. The younger children, age 3 to grade 2, will meet on Tuesday, June 22, and the older children, grades 3 - 7, will meet on Wednesday, June 23. The time will be 9:30 a.m.– 12:30 p.m.. We will meet in the children’s rehearsal room in the basement of the church. This is open to all St. Matthew children, not just those currently in our choirs. We may be able to welcome friends and neighbors of our children if space allows.

We will sing a variety of songs from Bible School favorites to action songs, contemporary Christian songs, even a few Disney favorites. We will play musical games, have a little outside fun time or gym time if the weather doesn’t cooperate, ring our bells/chimes, have a puppet show and we will have lunch together. This will be a fun and educational event for our children. A registration letter has been mailed to our families.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

Psalm 29**SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-17**

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Next Sunday's Readings: Genesis 3:8-15; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35.

Cover: *Water and Spirit* by Kirsten Malcolm Berry. Copyright © Kirsten Malcolm Berry. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the artist.

Readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States. Revised Common Lectionary copyright © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT), admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Please visit our Web site at www.augsburgfortress.org.

Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Printed in U.S.A.

Tracks 1 and 2
ELCA-R