



The St. Matthew MESSENGER

CENTERED IN CHRIST
Celebrating Love • Serving All

August 2021
Vol. XL Issue 5

Dear Friends in Christ,

St. Matthew has experienced many transitions in the past year and a half. With the changes, I can understand why you may have questions about what will be happening. Although the plans for the fall worship and education opportunities are not completely set, here is some information that I think is important to communicate.

- As you will see on page 2, we have a candidate for Associate Pastor!
- Our new Youth Ministry Team leader, Tim Peck, is working together with the rest of the ministerial staff as he leads our youth in learning, service and building relationships.
- Our Congregational Picnic on Sunday, September 26 will serve as our “Rally Sunday” for the new (school) year. More details to come.
- Beginning Sunday, October 3, there will be two indoor Sunday morning worship services with a designated time for classes and other learning opportunities.
- All choirs and musical groups will start up in the fall.
- Pastor Faye and I are working together to make face to face visits with our homebound and others in need. In recent months, Pastor Faye has added extra hours to her work schedule to make sure everyone is getting visited as soon as possible.
- Mid-week Bible studies, book studies, Cyber Women, WELCA and other worship and fellowship opportunities will be happening to meet the needs of our congregation and community.
- In the next month, the Generosity Ministry Team will facilitate ways to get connected with the ongoing and new ministries of our congregation.
- By the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, the people of St. Matthew are making a difference in the lives of our neighbors both near and far.

I believe that this is an especially important time in the life of our congregation as we are preparing for our future ministries. I ask that each of us take time to pray for St. Matthew and our life together in the months to come. *Therefore, since it is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.*

2 Corinthians 4:1

Together in Christ,

Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman

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Ministerial Staff:

Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman
Lead Pastor
pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org

Pastor Faye Snyder
Visitation Pastor
nicksong@comcast.net

Scott G. Fredericks
Minister of Music
scottfred@stmattlutheran.org

Tim Peck
Youth Ministry
youth@stmattlutheran.org

SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING AUGUST 15, 2021

The Congregation Council is calling a Special Congregation Meeting immediately following our 10:45 service on August 15, 2021. The Call Committee has finished its work and has recommended a candidate to Congregation Council for the position of Associate Pastor at St. Matthew. The Council has interviewed and is recommending the candidate to the congregation. A special "Meet and Greet" session with the candidate will be held on Saturday, August 14 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The candidate will preside and preach at one combined service at 10:45 a.m. on August 15. The Saturday evening (5:00 p.m.) and Drive-In Sunday (9:00 a.m.) services will be cancelled for that weekend so that we may all gather at the 10:45 service. After this service, a Special Congregation Meeting will be held to vote on extending a call to the candidate. We encourage all members to be here on this special day. Both the Call Committee and Council are excited about the future of our congregation as we prayerfully move forward.



If, because of the pandemic, you do not feel comfortable attending an indoor gathering, arrangements via radio transmission to your car can be made. Please contact the church office at 717-637-7101 or info@stmattlutheran.org for more information.



A big THANK YOU to all who have been giving our preschool a HELPING HAND in donating back-to-preschool supplies! Our display board was first shared for the weekend services July 17-18, and a collection bin has been added for anyone bringing back donations. If you would still like to help, you can either pull a hand "tag" listing the requested supply from the board, or you can use the suggested ideas below to lend a HELPING HAND to our preschool program. We are looking forward to another great year of learning and growing with our preschoolers, and continue to accept registrations.

*Please spread the word about your church preschool program,
DISCOVERY PLACE!*

Items we always need: paper towels, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, baby wipes, glue sticks, plain white paper plates (any size), white cardstock, colored copier paper. If you have another idea, please contact Martha Lobaugh, Director at discoveryplacehanover@gmail.com or office phone, 717-637-1864. **THANK YOU!**



upRiseFest: *The Best in Christian Music*

It's more than just an outdoor music festival. It's an experience with bands, artists, activities, food, merchandise, and more. Lineup includes: for King & Country, Skillet, Zach Williams, Matthew West, Danny Gokey, We The Kingdom, Ledger, & more: <https://www.uprisefest.com/lineup>

There is a skate park, Kidz Zone, inflatables, Artesian Well's art gallery, a petting zoo, and much more!

When: Friday, September 17 (after 3 p.m.) and/or Saturday, September 18 (ends 11:30 p.m.)

Group departure times will be determined closer to the event.

Where: Shippensburg Community Fairgrounds

Cost: \$40 to the church office with the following on an envelope:

upRiseFest, Your Name & which day(s) you will attend: Friday and/or Saturday

DUE by Thursday, August 5, 2021

On Saturday we will be packing a cooler with sandwiches and water. However, there are many food vendors with everything from hamburgers, rib eye sandwiches, jerk chicken, pizza, funnel cakes, to pretzel braids, ice cream, and so much more! Food vendors receive food tokens as payment. Your payment to the church includes \$10 of pre-purchased food tokens. We recommend you bring extra money for any larger appetites or if you want concert shirts or other merchandise.

Also, bring a chair or blanket.

Financial support is available for anyone ~ contact Tim Peck, youth@stmattlutheran.org

ALiVE

September 24-26, 2021, at Camp Nawakwa

Middle-school youth from congregations across our Lower Susquehanna Synod gather for an early fall weekend that includes large group gatherings with singing led by our ALiVE Alumni Band, theme-centered videos and stories, and games, interspersed with small group gatherings, where youth gather with peers and a small group leader to converse about the theme and its impact in their lives of faith. The weekend also includes crafts, campfires, free time and community-building that allows youth time to deepen existing friendships and create new ones. The weekend concludes with inspiring outdoor worship on Sunday morning at Nawakwa's famous Upper Temple!

\$60 Registration is **due by Sunday, August 29**, along with a completed youth participation form (attached) to the church office in an envelope marked, ALiVE. Other required forms and packing details will be sent to those participating. The cost includes meals and lodging in cabins at camp.

Financial support is available for anyone ~ contact Tim Peck, youth@stmattlutheran.org

LOOKING AHEAD

Winterfest – January 7-9, 2022 for senior high youth and recent graduates



2022 ELCA Youth Gathering – July 24-28, 2022 (exact travel dates TBD) in Minneapolis. Information and interest meetings to be sent soon.



ATTENTION ALL COMMITTEES AND MINISTRY TEAMS

All Committee Night will be held on Tuesday, August 10. We ask all committees and teams to meet in the Fellowship Hall at 7 p.m. for announcements and prayer! Please contact the office to confirm the time and place for your meeting.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The **church picnic** will be held on Sunday, September 26. Watch for more details in the bulletins and the next Messenger.



IN ORDER TO KEEP YOU IN THE LOOP, let us know of any changes -- address, phone numbers, email addresses -- children moving out -- you don't want to miss out on anything happening at St. Matthew! You can email the office at info@stmattlutheran.org or call us, 717-637-7101. Thank you!



American Red Cross

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.™

Donors needed for whole blood and "Power Red"

- ⇒ Monday, August 23, 2021
- ⇒ 12:00 – 5:30 p.m.
- ⇒ Fellowship Hall

Blood donations typically drop off during the summer months, but the need for blood does not. So, your donation is even more important right now. The Whole Blood donation process takes about 1 hour, while a Power Red donation takes about 1 ½ hours. If you have one of these blood types, O positive, O negative, A negative, or B negative, please consider making a Power Red Donation.

If you have questions about your eligibility to be a whole blood or Power Red donor, please visit www.redcrossblood.org for more information. You may also call the Red Cross at 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) with specific questions about your individual medications, health conditions, travel history and how these factors may impact your eligibility.

Please visit www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-733-2767 today to schedule your donation appointment.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Social Ministry Committee, Barb Thomas, Blood Drive Coordinator, 717-586-7047



ON BEHALF OF MY ENTIRE FAMILY, I extend thanks and gratitude to all those who helped make the Celebration of Life Service for our father, Rev. Dr. Arthur L. Ruths, so special on July 10, 2021, with special thanks to Pastor Kathy Vitalis-Hoffman, Pastor Eric Wogen, Scott Fredericks, Nancy Leister, Stephen Dickensheets, the St. Matthew Ringers, Ardis Kunde and her luncheon crew, Stacy Brodbeck, Linda Kasic and Steve Bell. The day was highly emotional for so many in attendance which included every living descendant of our father and mother.

I also appreciate the video recording produced by Tom Shultz and posted by Doug West which is making it possible for so many people who could not be present to watch the service. The link to that video is at <https://www.stmattlutheran.org/ruths/>.

With deep appreciation,
Joel Ruths

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Life Events in the | June 22 - July 21, 2021 |
|  | <i>Deaths</i> |
| CHURCH FAMILY | July 2 – Florine (Renie) Wagner |
| | July 3 – Sarah K. Alles |

MANY THANKS FROM ELCA WORLD HUNGER:

“Dear Friend, I’m thrilled to share with you that your incredible generosity has made you one of the 156 most generous congregations to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response. That’s right - your congregation was among the most generous in giving to these ministries in the entire ELCA! I’m so glad to have this opportunity to thank you for your faithful support.

Your gifts always make a difference, but they have become especially important over the last year as the coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated the challenges that vulnerable people around the world face. Because of your generosity, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response have been able to respond, supporting our siblings in Christ during this especially difficult time. **Thank you.**”

With you in Christ’s service,
The Rev. Robin K. Brown
Director, Congregational Mission Funding

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A RUTH’S HARVEST

MEETING on Tuesday, August 3, at 7 p.m. in the Gathering Place.



We would like to celebrate all the hard work of this year and lay the groundwork for next year. All are welcome even if you are only seeking information. We are looking for volunteer packers and also two coordinators for next year.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 717-451-7001

God bless and we hope to see you on the 3rd.

Debby Seibert

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS

who were recipients of the St. Matthew Scholarships this year:



- Emily Crouse a second year student at Drexel University
- Regin Smith a first year student at Penn State
- Kasi Conjack a second year student at Messiah University
- Nicholas Shaw a first year student at Susquehanna University
- Tyler Klenk a graduate student at Lehigh University

The Scholarship Committee wishes them well in the 2021-2022 school year.



CHILDREN'S CHOIR REGISTRATION FORMS will be mailed to all children of the church. The forms are due back to the church office by **September 11**. If you do not receive one, please

contact the church office. If your child has never been in the choir, please consider having them join us. It is a wonderful way for children to be involved in our worship services and become a part of our church family. Please contact Scott Fredericks if you have any questions, 717-637-7101, ext. 235.

MINI-MINISTER PUPPET

invitations were mailed out to all 6th through 12th graders. The invitation contained the dates of the puppet camp, which kicks off the year. For anyone who is interested in becoming a part of this fun, meaningful ministry, please contact the church office. We can email or send you the invitation and registration, 717-637-7101 or info@stmattlutheran.org.



AN INVITATION FOR ALL WOMEN



Cyber Women will meet on Monday, August 16, at 7:00 p.m. at a place to be determined.

Check out

www.boldcafe.org to see what we will discuss. For more information contact Pastor Kathy at pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org. Watch for more details!

WOMEN OF THE ELCA!

We are meeting on Tuesday, August 17, at 6:30 p.m. in the Upper Room. Come for Bible Study and fellowship. Watch for more details in the weeks to come.

All women are welcome!



St. Matthew Lutheran Church
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717-637-7101
info@stmattlutheran.org
www.stmattlutheran.org
www.facebook.com/groups/stmattlutheran



Thank
you!

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK all of our pastors for their visits to Joyce Strausbaugh. Thank you so much to the many members who prayed and sent cards and visited with Joyce over these past few years. Joyce loved St. Matthew and appreciated everyone so very much.

Jane Dull and family

CAMP HEBRON – FALL RETREAT

Sponsored By:

The Lower Susquehanna Synodical Women's Organization

Friday, Saturday & Sunday,

October 29, 30, 31, 2021

Retreat Theme: "Our Lutheran Sisters in Jerusalem: The Life of a Woman in the Land of Jesus."

Our leader for the Camp Hebron Retreat this year is

Pastor Angela Zimmann, former Interim President of United Lutheran Seminary.

At Camp Hebron there will be faith renewal in worship, laughter and tears, getting acquainted with old friends and making new friends, refreshing walks in the outdoors or sitting quietly in meditation. Camp Hebron offers motel-type accommodations including linens, private bath and 5 delicious meals (no cooking for a whole weekend ladies!). There will be carpooling from the church lot for those interested.

Registration forms can be picked up at the Hospitality Desk or in the church office. Registrations must be postmarked by Monday, September 13. For additional information call Johnnetta Miller, 717-637-4259.



It is TIME — AGAIN !!!!

FIFTH BIENNIAL HANOVER AREA COMMUNITY MEAL PACKING EVENT

- WHO:** Hanover Against Hunger
- WHEN:** Saturday, November 6; 9-11AM, 12-2PM
- WHERE:** St. Matthew Lutheran Church
30 West Chestnut St., Hanover
- WHY:** Malnutrition is the single largest contributor to disease in the world. Hanover Against Hunger held our first event in 2012 in order to feed school-age children to combat world hunger and help to end the cycle of poverty through education. We have engaged over 1,100 community volunteers and provided 230,000 meals over the years.

For more information or to donate, visit:

<https://events.riseagainsthunger.org/SMLC21>

**SILENT AUCTION at the
HANOVER AREA ARTS GUILD
OPEN HOUSE**

10 am-2 pm, Saturday, August 21
32 Carlisle Street, Hanover

Show your support early by joining us at a Hanover Area Arts Guild Open House. Browse the entire Guild Gallery and enjoy the special display of 14 pieces of art donated by Guild members for the auction. Proceeds from successful bids will be donated to the Packing Event. Every 32¢ raised will enable us to pack one more meal for the hungry. Come enjoy the Guild, the Gallery, Refreshments and Fine Art. Learn more about our Meal Packing Event and, at the same time, you may become the owner of a beautiful piece of original artwork. <https://hanoverareaarts.com/support/>



Look for us at the Snack Town Street Fair
on Saturday, September 18, 8AM-4PM

We will have a table at the St. Matthew Lutheran Church Flea Market