



# The St. Matthew MESSENGER

CENTERED IN CHRIST  
Celebrating Love • Serving All

March 2022  
Vol. XLI Issue 1

From the Desk of Pastor Taylor:

Happy March to you and yours! With March this year, comes the beginning of Lent for us and many other Christians around the world. Our guiding theme for Lent will be *Full to the Brim*, put together by pastors and artists at A Sanctified Art and adapted by our St. Matthew ministerial staff. I am excited to experience this special season with this special community for the first time.

The scriptures for this Lenten season from the Revised Common Lectionary are filled with parables and promises of God's abundant and expansive grace. Jesus as a mother hen, a prodigal son welcomed home, a fig tree nurtured with care and hope, precious oil poured out lovingly and freely, stones shouting out with praise-- these sacred texts are brimming with a gospel of grace. We've done nothing to deserve or earn this grace, and yet, like water, it spills over. *Full to the Brim* is an invitation into Lent and into a full life. It's an invitation to be your authentic self, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed. It disrupts the scarcity mentality that consumerism, oppression, or hierarchy can plant inside of us. When we allow ourselves to be filled to the brim with God's lavish love, that love spills over. It reaches beyond ourselves; like water, it rushes and flows, touching everything in its path.

Traditional iterations of Lent have often emphasized restraint, confession, and piety. The origins of Lent were that one was to leave their old life behind to fast and prepare to be baptized into a new way of living. This was a practice of stepping away from the rat race, corrupt power, scarcity mentality, and empty rituals in order to live a more expansive and full life of faith. *Full to the Brim* centers around trusting the promise of our baptisms-- God has already claimed us and nothing we can do will ever change or erase that. *Full to the Brim* won't deny or ignore sin and suffering. This theme isn't meant to absolve accountability for wrongdoing. Instead, it contextualizes our faith. If love is our beginning, how can we live our lives led by love's promises? It reminds us to live fully-- as we pursue justice and hope, or express grief and gratitude.

(Continued next page)

## Messages for You

Pastor Taylor Continued	2
Lenten Resources	
Ash Wednesday Worship	
Mid-Week Lent Services	
Mid-Week Lent Bible Study	3
Faith Connections Pastor's Class	
Many Thanks	
Day Camp	4
Vacation Bible School	
Camp Nawakwa	
Life Events	5
Full to the Brim Assessment	6-7
Church Council	8
Visiting Ministers	
Discovery Place Preschool	
Blood Drives	
Heart-Felt Cards	9
Easter Garden	

## Ministerial Staff:

Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman  
*Lead Pastor*  
[pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org)

Pastor Taylor Berdahl  
*Associate Pastor*  
[pastortaylor@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:pastortaylor@stmattlutheran.org)

Pastor Faye Snyder  
*Visitation Pastor*

Scott G. Fredericks,  
*Minister of Music*  
[scottfred@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:scottfred@stmattlutheran.org)

Tim Peck, *Youth Ministry*  
[youth@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:youth@stmattlutheran.org)

Stacy Parsons, *Children's Ministry*  
[sparsons@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:sparsons@stmattlutheran.org)

From Pastor Taylor (con't.)

Lent is a season that invites us deeper into intentional living. Often that has moved Christians to "give something up" for the 40 days of Lent, but there are many unique Lenten practices that can bring us closer to God as we follow Christ on the way to the cross. We've included a worksheet attached to the newsletter this month that serves as a tool for reflecting on where you are in your life and how you hope to grow throughout this Lenten season. We can each set our particular focuses for Lent and then journey together as an expansive community centered in Christ, celebrating God's love, and serving in Jesus's name.

### Lenten Devotion Resources

Lent is a great time to renew or recommit to personal devotional habits, and we want to do all we can to help you with that. This Lent we have available beginning February 26:

- Daily devotional cards- perfect for someone with only one or two extra minutes a day available. Pick up the physical cards in the office or at the Gathering Place, or receive them digitally through instagram (@StMattHanover) or by signing up for a daily email by contacting [info@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:info@stmattlutheran.org).
- Full to the Brim Lenten devotional book- perfect for someone who loves art and poetry as a way to open up scripture. Pick up a booklet in the office or at the Gathering Place.
- Corresponding with our Lenten theme, *Full to the Brim*, we invite you to enrich your faith with daily devotions from *Grace Unbounded*, a pocket-sized devotional which offers an image, a brief passage from the Gospel of Luke, reflection and prayer. Pick up a copy in the Gathering Place for a \$3 donation. (A limited supply of large print will be available for a \$6 donation. *Grace Unbounded* will also be used for the call-in daily devotions beginning Ash Wednesday, March 2.

### Ash Wednesday Worship

#### Full to the Brim—*With All That You Are*



On Ash Wednesday, March 2, we will gather for worship that includes music, prayer, scripture reading, a sermon and the imposition of ashes.

Worship participants may choose how they would like to receive the mark of ashes. Worshippers may mark each other or themselves with ashes placed in individual containers. Individuals may also come forward to have one of the pastors impose the ashes on them.

In our Lenten journey, we are invited to come fully as we are. That means we come to God with all that we are; as we face our brokenness and mortality, we also begin the journey to wholeness and life.

This Ash Wednesday worship will also be live streamed. Individual containers with ashes will be prepared for pick-up by Monday, February 28.

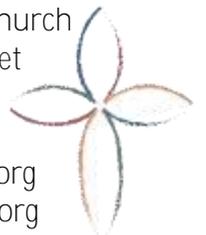
### Mid-Week Lenten Services with Faith Stories

Mark your calendars for five Wednesdays beginning March 9. The evening begins with a meal in the Fellowship Hall at 6 p.m. with soup and sandwiches. (A suggested donation of \$5 will help cover the costs.) At 7:00 all are welcome to worship that includes prayer, scripture, music, faith stories told by St. Matthew members and Holy Communion. Children's church will be offered in our Pray-ground.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
32 W. Chestnut Street  
Hanover PA 17331  
717-637-7101

[info@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:info@stmattlutheran.org)  
[www.stmattlutheran.org](http://www.stmattlutheran.org)

[www.facebook.com/groups/stmattlutheran](http://www.facebook.com/groups/stmattlutheran)



## Midweek Lenten Bible Study

Beginning March 9, we will offer a midweek Bible study on Wednesdays throughout the season of Lent. This Bible study will explore the texts for the season in a group setting with discussion, prayer, silence and artwork helping us along. Join us **in person** at 1:30 p.m. every Wednesday in the Upper Room or **online** via Zoom at 8:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Sign up through the office so we can get you the information you need.



Faith Connections  
Update  
**The Pastor's Class**

Pastor Mark Vitalis Hoffman, Biblical Studies Professor at United Lutheran Seminary leads a new series beginning March 6. Classes meet on Sundays at 9:30 to 10:20 a.m. in the Upper Room.

*To Speak in Parables:*

*Proclamation of the Gospel in the Parables of Jesus*

The parables of Jesus are among the best known memories of his teaching. The parables of Jesus are also among the most controversial aspects of our understanding of his message. After a brief survey of the interpretation of parables, the main focus will be on the study of specific parables of Jesus.

- 6 March: Introduction, "This Is for the Birds!" (Mustard Seed)
- 13 March: "Over My Dead Body" (Good Samaritan) and "The Secret Seed"
- 20 March: "Wanted: Dead and Alive" (lost and found parables of Luke 15)
- 27 March: "If You Can't Beat'em, Join'em" (Unjust Judge) and "The Line Forms at the Rear" (Laborers in the Vineyard)
- 3 April: "Just Don't Call Me Late for Supper" (Great Supper) and "Misery Loves Company" (Ten Lepers)

As Jesus said, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen" to these fascinating and provocative parables!

## Many Thanks!

### **From Lutheran World Relief:**

*"Thank you for your organization's recent gift to Lutheran World Relief! When you love your neighbors with your generous gifts to LWR, you change lives in amazing ways.*

For Walaa Ali al Ali, a Syrian refugee living in Lebanon, your love arrived in the form of a beehive. As the primary breadwinner for her family — including her mother, her developmentally disabled brother, a niece and a nephew — she struggled to find work amid Lebanon's economic crisis. Her family was safe from the war in Syria, but they didn't have access to adequate food or basic medical care.

Through LWR, Walaa enrolled in a livelihoods program for refugees and received all the training and supplies she needed to start a business as a beekeeper. With the money she earned, she also planted a vegetable garden to help feed her family. Now she's earning enough to keep her family afloat, and she's even training other women how to produce and sell honey. Thank you for saving and transforming lives by loving your neighbors like Walaa!"

*"Thank you for your recent gift to Lutheran World Relief in response to the tornados that recently devastated the central United States. Over 30 tornados wreaked havoc in Kentucky, Arkansas, Illinois and throughout the Mid-West. News reports show massive and unprecedented destruction."*

### **From the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:**

*"Thank you for your generous gift to ELCA Global Mission... Your support enables ELCA Global Mission to send missionaries to over 40 countries. It provides scholarships to women leaders from around the world as they respond to God's call to ministry. And it funds investments in evangelism, education and church expansion."*

**Poinsettia Money to the ELCA:** "Your Good Gift is a very good gift indeed. With seedlings and seminary courses, vaccinations and vegetable gardens, Bibles and blankets, you're equipping God's people—around the world and around the corner—with what they need to live abundant lives."

## SAVE THE DATE!

**Summer fun for elementary age youth!****Day Camp is coming to St. Matthew!**

We will be hosting Day Camp this summer on our church property. This is a 5-day program, organized by Camp Nawakwa Lutheran Bible Camp for fun, worship, Bible study, games, nature study, singing, recreation, meeting new friends and sharing!

- Dates are June 20-24, 2022, 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day, Monday through Friday.
- St. Matthew will host children needing to be brought before the starting time and kept after the ending time upon request.
- Ages: children entering grades 1 through grade 6 in the fall of 2022
- Space is limited to 32 children.

More information coming!



**Save the dates also for Vacation Bible School!**  
**June 27-29, for grades 1 - 6, 9-11:30 a.m.**  
**with lunch available from 11:30-12:00.**  
**Watch bulletins and Messenger for more information.**



**CAMP NAWAKWA** and Camp Kirchenwald are the Lutheran camps located outside of Arendtsville and near Lebanon, PA, respectively. Many of our members have fond memories of their summer camps at Camp Nawakwa! There are many events and activities scheduled for this year including summer camps, a women's quilting weekend, a men's retreat (at Camp Kirchenwald) and many family events. For a complete list of events and camps, go to [LutheranCamping.org](http://LutheranCamping.org) for the most updated calendar. If you have questions, contact Tim Peck, our Camp Contact at [youth@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:youth@stmattlutheran.org).

March 20 and April 10 is Summer Camp Open House—you can meet some of the summer staff, take a tour of camp and receive a \$10 gift certificate for the camp store for every brand new camper.

April 30, beginning at 9 a.m. is a Work Day at Camp. Some of our Youth Group will be going to help this day, along with some families. A noon meal is provided and they ask for an RSVP by April 20 in order to ensure there is enough food. Volunteers are needed to do general housekeeping, gardening, painting, carpentry and other tasks. Contact Tim if you are interested.



## LIFE EVENTS

November 9, 2021 to February , 18, 2022

### Baptisms

Life Events in the



**CHURCH  
FAMILY**

December 12 – Reese Lewis Trimboli, son of Craig and Brianne (Sanders) Trimboli, with sponsors Rafe Sanders, Ryan Sanders and Suzette Finnerty

January 16 – Colton Josef Tucholski, son of Josef and Laura (Hilbert) Tucholski, with sponsors Kylee Tucholski, Ray Tucholski and Nathan Hilbert

January 30 – Brylee Carroll Berwager, daughter of Bryan and Amanda (Carroll) Berwager, with sponsors Ben and Damarys Shearer

### Weddings

2/22/22 - Travis and Kelly (Riser) Grim

### Deaths

November 9 – Joyce Elsner

December 15 – Debbie L. Laughman

November 21 – Carol A. Warner

January 17 – Myrlene (Myrt) Small

November 25 – Virginia Coleman

January 30 – Carl H. Nace

December 3 - Fred Stine

February 3 – Helen L. Renner

December 12 - Daniel Pittinger

February 3 – Robert J. Marten



- |    |  |    |   |
|----|--|----|---|
| 6  | 1:30 p.m. Lent Bible Study (Upper Room)                                    |    | Good Friday Evening Service 7:00 p.m.                           |
|    | 6:00-6:50 p.m. Lenten Dinner   | 16 | 5:00 p.m. Easter Service (Nave)                                 |
|    | 7:00 p.m. Lenten Service   | 17 | Easter Sunday!  |
|    | 8:30 p.m. Lent Bible Study (Zoom)  |    | <b>8:30</b> a.m. Easter Service                                 |
| 9  | 9:30 a.m. Make Palm crosses (Upper Room)<br>(Come and go as you have time) |    | 9:30 Easter Breakfast (Sign up in bulletin or<br>church office) |
| 10 | 10:30 service—Palm Sunday children’s<br>procession with palms              |    | No Faith Connections  |
|    | Lunch at noon for all with Egg Hunt  | 18 | <b>10:30</b> Easter Service                                     |
|    | afterwards. Sign up in the Gathering Place                                 | 18 | Church office closed  |
| 14 | Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 p.m.  |    | 18 Deliver Easter garden flowers to shut-ins                    |
| 15 | Good Friday - Church Office Closed<br>(No community service)               |    |   |

## About this Resource

*Lent is a season that invites us deeper into intentional living. This tool is designed to help you do just that. Use this worksheet to help you reflect on where you are in your life and how you hope to grow throughout this Lenten season.*

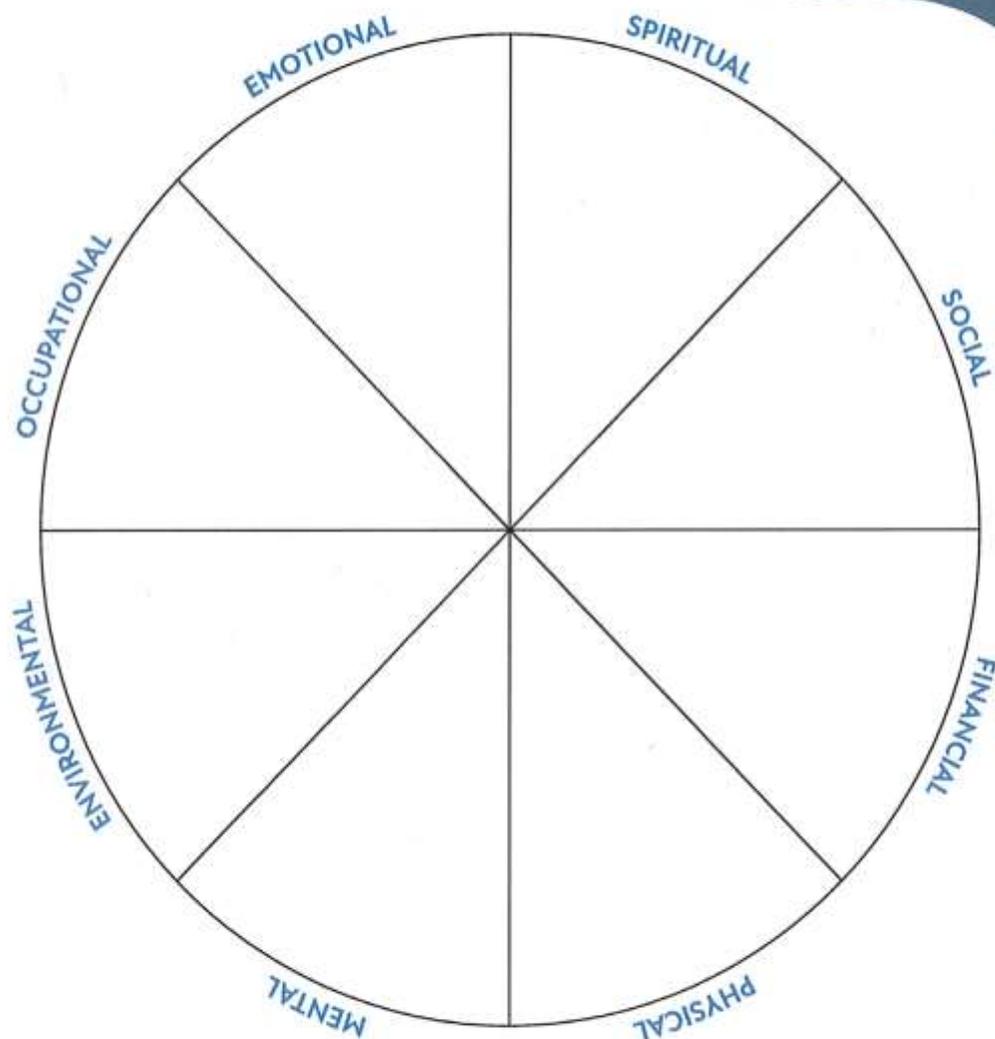
## What is an Expansive Life?

*ex-pan-sive*

*The formal definition of expansive is extensive or wide-ranging, spacious and all-embracing. From a spiritual standpoint, we add to that definition. Expansive living is a life that reflects the fullness that comes from right relationships with God, yourself, and others. This will look different for everyone, but might be marked by awe and gratitude, a sense of self-worth rooted in God's love, meaning and purpose in one's life, loving relationships, and joy that comes from using your God-given gifts.*

## Wellness Wheel

Wellness wheels have been used as a meaningful reflective tool for years. By inviting ourselves to reflect on individual components of our life, we see a more holistic image of ourselves, which allows us to live more intentionally.



**Within each section of the wheel, respond to the following prompts:**

- **EMOTIONAL:** What emotions do you feel day to day? Which are prominent?
- **SPIRITUAL:** Where are you in your faith journey? Do you have practices nurturing your faith? How are you living from your values?
- **SOCIAL:** What are the positive and healthy relationships in your life? Where would you like to grow? Where do you need to draw boundaries?
- **FINANCIAL:** What is your current financial state, and what emotions or desires does that bring up?
- **PHYSICAL:** How are you taking care of your body? What does your body need?
- **MENTAL:** Are you mentally stimulated? Learning new things? Honing new skills? Curating the information you take in from social media or the news?
- **ENVIRONMENTAL:** Does your home and/or work environment allow you to thrive? Does where you live feel like home?
- **OCCUPATIONAL:** How does your current work use your gifts? How satisfied are you with your vocation? What is your calling?

## Takeaway Reflections

1. What did you learn about yourself in this process?
2. What are you bringing with you into this Lenten season?
3. What areas of your wellness wheel feel expansive and beautiful, and what areas do you want to focus on in the future?

## Expansive Life

You've filled out the wellness wheel. You have a picture of what your life looks like currently. Now, imagine how your life might become more expansive. What does a "full to the brim" life filled with meaning, purpose, faith, awe, beauty, and relationships look like for you? How would you describe a life that full of goodness? In order to live an expansive life, what needs to change? What do you need to take on? What do you need to let go of? Draw or write your reflections below.



## Next Steps

Name three small things you want to focus on this Lent to help you draw closer to God and the wildly beautiful life God invites you to lead:



## Closing Prayer

God of new life,

We know that you want more for us than the rat race of work-sleep-eat-repeat.

In our fiercely independent and competitive world, living a life any other way feels almost impossible.

Remind us that you ate meals around tables.

Remind us that you demonstrated radical generosity.

Remind us that you took quiet time on the mountainside by yourself.

Remind us that you opened doors and said, "Come on in!"

Remind us that you created friendships that transformed.

This is the life you modeled, and it's the life we long to lead.

Holy God, help us tap into this deeper and more expansive way of living.

Help us use this season of Lent as an intentional one.

Starting today, help us build a life not measured by to-do lists, but measured by love.

With hope we pray, amen.



**ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 23,**

we installed our new Congregation Council members and officers for 2022: Randy Kline as

president; John Mancini, vice president; Shelley Zumburum, secretary; and Bob Curlen as treasurer. Welcome to John Mancini, Kelli Reed, Sara Staub, Drew Steffens and Youth Representative Mya Maloney as our new Council members. May God bless and guide our Congregation Council officers. Also, thank you to our outgoing Council officers and members for their service to the church these past three years.

## Ministering to Members

**WE RECENTLY COMMISSIONED** four new Visiting Ministers: Harold Kepler, Susan Shultz, Vicki Wildasin, Nancy Zartman. They join a core group of fifteen Visiting Ministers who provide one-on-one caring ministry to people experiencing grief, divorce, hospitalization, loneliness, job loss and many other life changes and difficulties.

After a brief training period, Visiting Ministers are prayerfully matched with a "Care Receiver" with whom they meet once a month for about an hour to listen, care, encourage, pray and share Holy Communion. They may meet more often by mutual agreement. The Visiting Minister brings Christ's presence into the person's life and also experiences Christ in the other person. It's a life-changing ministry for both the Care Receiver and the Visiting Minister.

If you would like to receive the care of a Visiting Minister, or know someone who would benefit from this ministry, please contact the church office, 717-637-7101, or [info@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:info@stmattlutheran.org).

**DISCOVERY PLACE PRESCHOOL**

says **THANK YOU** for your donations through the December loose offering collections. Your gifts are generous and a blessing to our preschool program and children.



As the Preschool Board makes decisions, more will be shared with the church family about how your loose change is being used to make a difference in our preschool. Again, **THANK YOU!**

We are currently enrolling for our 2022-23 preschool year, and information has been posted on the church website. You can also pick up paper forms at the church main office, or find links to information through the Discovery Place Preschool Facebook page.

Keep watch for information on the website and Facebook page about **Summer Discovery 2022**. We are planning camps during the month of June, each camp a different theme and packed with fun crafts and activities, led by various preschool staff. This is open to any child age 4-6, not only families who are a part of our program. We hope to begin registering for camp in March, so stay tuned for updates!



### *Blood Drive*

**CPBB BLOOD DRIVE  
RESULTS**

Thirty blood donors participated in the Central Penn Blood Bank drive held on February 7, in Fellowship Hall. Twenty-five units of blood were collected, saving potentially 75 lives in the Hanover area! Thank you to all the donors in our congregation and community.

Our next blood drive will be on Thursday, April 28, in Fellowship Hall and will be run by the American Red Cross. Appointments are encouraged and can now be scheduled by visiting [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or calling 1-800 RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Please invite your family and friends to sign up too. First time donors are always welcome.

### Heart-Felt Card (Creating) Group



Social ministry is announcing a new fun group whose purpose is to create compassionate greeting cards to be used in ministry at St. Matthew. We are looking for volunteers who are willing to join us in constructing them. All materials will be supplied. We'll meet as needed. Probably once a month. Interested? More information? Call Linda Wheeler at 717-451-8678 or fill out the form below and drop in offering plate or email/send to church office.

=====

Heart-Felt Card Group

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



**EASTER GARDEN:** Members and friends who wish to honor or memorialize a loved one by donating to the Easter Garden are asked to complete and return the form below with **\$10** per listing to the church office by **Monday, March 28**. The Easter flowers will be delivered to our shut-ins by volunteers on Monday, April 18.

After the cost of the plants is met, the balance of the memorials/honorariums will be sent to New Hope Ministries.

I would like to sponsor an Easter 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** with "Easter Garden" in the memo line. Deadline is **Monday, March 28**.