



THE WORD

October 2023

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church
700 Pleasure Road, Lancaster PA 17601
(717) 394-9607 www.stmatthewelc.com



Pastor Robin Fero

Pastor's Page



Food, Fellowship, and Wednesday Bible Study Fun

After taking a hiatus for the summer and heading out to enjoy food and fellowship at local diners, the St. Matthew Wednesday Bible study group will begin meeting once again on October 4th at 12 Noon.

The study group will meet from noon to 1pm at the tables in the fellowship hall and the focus this fall will be on the lectionary scriptures for each week.

All are welcome at the learning table, whether you have studied the Bible all your life or never opened a Bible before. We are there to walk together and to learn from one another.

Purpose

The purpose of the study is to bring the Bible alive to us and to ask additional questions that are not often answered within a one-hour worship service. The average sermon that I give is between 15 and 20 minutes...and that is all a one-way speech. This gives participants the opportunity to ask questions and give comments about what is taught and preached within a worship service. This gives us all the opportunity to learn in grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Learning tools

Scriptures- Each week, participants will receive a packet that includes the printed scriptures that will be featured in the upcoming worship service. We will read the scriptures together. Often there will be additional passages that help tell more of the story.

Church Year B Calendar- Each participant will receive their own Augsburg Fortress yearly calendar that shows the lectionary for the entire next year. This helps in seeing the bigger picture of what is happening with a given season.

Videos- We have the gift of a TV at the learning table where short videos that are related to the theological themes in the biblical narrative can be played. Some videos take a broader look at a book of the Bible, such as the Gospel of Matthew, and tell the background of what is being taught. Historical context is important, as well, and some videos studying biblical culture can tell that story. (What was a Roman centurion? Where did the 12 tribes settle? Where were the ancient trade routes in relationship to the holy land?)

Crossword Puzzles! Where would we all be without Pastor Fero's homemade biblical crossword puzzles to play with??

The newspaper- How can the Bible come to life for us if we don't understand our neighbors' current needs? Our current state of affairs is always brought into the biblical picture, much like Jesus did in his ministry.

Prayer- We will take a moment in the beginning of each session to pray for one another.

Food and Fellowship- The Wednesday Bible study group was originally named Brown Bag and Bible. Some people bring food...most people do not. There is always coffee, tea and water available at the church, and you are welcome to bring anything you wish to share with the group or to eat by yourself.

Discussion- All discussion is done with the larger group that is sitting at the table. There are no small group breakouts. Historically, we have had anywhere from 5 to 15 people at the table.

October 4 scriptures to be studied:

Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

I'm looking forward to a fruitful Bible study year! Hope to see you there!

-Pastor Fero

Growing in God's Love...Living our Welcome Statement

October is Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History Month in the United States. October was selected because National Coming Out Day is celebrated in October and it is the anniversary month of the first March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights in 1979. LGBT History Month celebrates the history and the accomplishments of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Its first observation was in 1994.

National Coming Out Day is a designated day of celebration. It also is a reminder that it is important for everyone to be free and encouraged to be who God created us to be. The Human Rights Campaign reports that people who know someone who is from the LGBTQIA+ community are more likely to support equal rights under the law. According to data from a 2021 Gallup Poll, 7.1% of U.S. adults (our friends and neighbors) self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or something other than heterosexual.

<https://news.gallup.com/poll/389792/lgbt-identification-ticks-up.aspx>

St. Matthew participated in learning and voted as a congregation to publicly post *and commit to living* our Statement of Affirmation and Welcome on November 21, 2021. We will acknowledge this commitment to be an Open and Affirming Reconciling in Christ congregation in our services of Worship on October 14-15.

Our next Pizza and Lunch N Learn sessions will be on November 4-5. Our guest speaker will be Stephanie Renninger-Reiser, Special Education Coordinator for the School District of Lancaster. Stephanie is a friend and colleague of Erin Conahan. She will talk about special education and share ways to support and advocate for people with autism and special learning needs.

I look forward to learning and celebrating with you at these congregational events!

- Susan Feldmann



Social Ministry

Thank you again for your generosity during our collection for the Lancaster County Food Hub. Your support was overwhelming and heartwarming. We donated 350 pounds of food and \$490 to support our community.

~~~ Brecht Elementary School ~~~ Thanks~GIVING Service Project

St. Matthew is again reaching out to help neighboring families have a more plentiful Thanksgiving.

You are invited to donate any of the items listed below.

Last collection day will be Sunday, November 12th. Items can be placed on the table in Fellowship Hall.

Thanks~GIVING Shopping List: Rice (bags or boxes), Stuffing (bags or boxes), Mashed Potatoes, Canned Vegetables, Bottled Juice, Cranberry Sauce, Canned Fruit & Fruit Cocktail, Macaroni & Cheese, Beans (black, kidney, baked), Mixes (cookies, brownie, muffin), Spaghetti & Tomato Sauce, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Cereals, Oatmeal, Pancake Mix & Syrup, Jello, Pudding, Boxes of Granola Bars, Paper Towels

Monetary contributions (for grocery cards) will also be accepted. Labeled envelopes for cash and check (made out to St. Matthew) will be in the foyer. These envelopes, "Brecht School Project," can be placed in the collection plate.

Any questions, contact Sheila Charles.

- Sheila Charles

Evangelism Committee Corner

The Evangelism Committee convened at 11:15am on September 17, 2023 with eight members in attendance.

Leading us in devotions, Barb Eshbach, chair, encouraged all of us to wear our name tags when attending church services to emphasize the importance of hospitality to our visitors and to each other. She also encouraged us to be more intentionally inviting outside of the church, sharing with people in the greater community what our congregation means to us.

A sign-up sheet requesting transportation for any need was placed on the bulletin board in the lobby area for easy access.

Our next Conversation Around the Corner will occur on Tuesday, September 26th from 6 to 7pm in Fellowship Hall when Pastor Cliff Eshbach will share stories from his journeys of faith to Tanzania.

Saturday, October 7, 2023 will be our Pet Blessing from 1 to 3pm on our church lawn. Volunteers are encouraged to make themselves available to hand out dog/cat toys as an opportunity to be inviting to our community. On October 31st, we will hold our annual Halloween No Tricks from 6 to 8pm, asking our church members to contribute candy for this special evening.

November 4 and 5, 2023 are the dates for our next RIC Lunch & Learn events, with autism as the focus.

-Kay Gontner

Welcome Phil High to St. Matthew!



On September 3, 2023, Phil High officially began his position as organist/pianist at St. Matthew. A fun "View from the Pew" followed the 10:00am worship services in Fellowship Hall, where Phil was interviewed by our own Barb Eshbach. The audience actively participated in predicting the correct responses to the questions Barb asked of Phil.

It was revealed that ketchup, mayonnaise and the vox human organ stop are NOT a few of Phil's favorite things. Also on that list are Taylor Swift, pineapple and coconut. Phil does wear special shoes when playing the organ, however they did not keep him upright on one occasion as he wiped out on the linoleum floor on his way to the organ loft.

Phil's personality can best be described as low-key, working his primary job at Fulton Bank as an accountant. He is also keenly interested in technology which serves his accounting skills well. Although, at one time, pursuing library science as a field of study, he eventually realized that teaching for him would be, as he calls it, "a nightmare". He says he's sticking to accounting. One of his career goals is to obtain his MBA, preferably from Elizabethtown College.

Phil grew up in Fivepointville, graduating from Garden Spot High School and Millersville University with a degree in music. He also attended the University of Pittsburgh for additional course work.

As he was growing up, a church at the time was willing to pay for Phil's organ lessons if he consented to play their services. Thus, his music career, in addition to finance, became a reality.

Phil's parents and younger brother still live in the area. Phil lives in Lancaster with his two-year-old Vizla, a Hungarian pointer named Fitz who keeps him quite active. Cooking and reading are also interests that occupy his time.

We are delighted to welcome Phil to St. Matthew, wishing him many happy years with us on the bench.

-Kay Gontner

New Members

On August 26th 2023 James Frazier, Mabel Frazier, and Kimberly Murray (Mabel's daughter) joined St. Matthew. I had the delightful opportunity to interview this family for our church newsletter.



James Frazier was born in Rockford, Illinois, and attended many schools as his father was in insurance sales. James studied electronics in the Navy and became a computer engineer. Of note, James is a good cook! Also of note, along the way he had the opportunity to teach survival English to Spanish speaking people of all ages.

James's wife, Mabel Frazier, was from New Hampshire, where she and James raised her children: Kimberly, Steven, and Travis. They raised the children in the Catholic faith and Mabel served as a Eucharist Minister. Mabel's employment included serving as a Justice of the Peace, and an Emergency Medical Technician.

Kimberly Murray was born in New Hampshire where she was raised with her brothers who are also now adults. While growing up, she was chosen out of five girls to participate in the Special Olympics where she achieved first place in the 50 meter race. In addition, she proudly placed in the 200 meter relay race. Kimberly also attended the Trail Academy.

The Frazier's faith journey led them to the Lutheran Church about twenty years ago. Around that same time they retired to Lancaster, having visited multiple times over the years and made friends here. Recently they heard that St. Matthew is a Reconciling in Christ (Open and Affirming) Lutheran Church and they decided to visit. They read our Welcome statement and watched Pastor Fero's video at stmatthewelc.com. Their beliefs, especially

in regard to people who are LGBTQIA, align well with our beliefs at St. Matthew. In conclusion, James and Mabel live in Bridgeport and Kimberly lives in Willow Street. Welcome to St. Matthew!

-Phyllis Wimer

Birthdays

Steve Feldmann 10/1 Jacqueline Roderick 10/1
Samuel Jordan 10/8 Pam Frye 10/11
Barbara Elsen 10/13 Jean Schweers 10/16
Nora Hudack 10/18 Pastor Fero 10/29
Suzanne Mink 10/30 David Ostrander 10/30
Anna Neal 10/31

Anniversaries

Dan & Suzanne Mink 10/6
Jeff Auer & Pastor Fero 10/17
James & Kay Nolt 10/21

Worship Assistants

Altar Care for October - Carol Rothweiler & Barb Elsen

September 30 – Saturday 5pm

- Assisting Minister: Sheila Charles
- Reader: Sheila Charles

October 1 – Sunday 10am

- Assisting Minister: Linda McIntyre
- Reader: Steve Feldmann
- Greeter: Barb Eshbach
- Usher: OPEN
- Counters: Brad Charles & Barb Elsen

October 7 – Saturday 5pm

- Assisting Minister: Barb Emmerich
- Reader: Norm Drescher

October 8 – Sunday 10am

- Assisting Minister: Steve Feldmann
- Reader: Peg Sampson
- Greeter: Linda Tice
- Usher: Brenda Stauffer
- Counters: Carol Rothweiler & Linda Tice

October 14 – Saturday 5pm

- Assisting Minister: Brad Charles
- Reader: Brad Charles

October 15 – Sunday 10am

- Assisting Minister: Linda McIntyre
- Reader: Norm Drescher
- Greeter: Kay Gontner
- Usher: Barb Elsen
- Counters: Brenda Stauffer & Brad Charles

October 21 – Saturday 5pm

- Assisting Minister: Nancy Pokopec
- Reader: Norm Drescher

October 22 – Sunday 10am

- Assisting Minister: Barb Elsen
- Reader: Barb Elsen
- Greeter: Anna Neal
- Usher: OPEN
- Counters: Barb Elsen & Carol Rothweiler

October 28 – Saturday 5pm

- Assisting Minister: Sheila Charles
- Reader: Norm Drescher

October 29 – Sunday 10am

- Assisting Minister: Steve Feldmann
- Reader: Peg Sampson
- Greeter: Nancy Pokopec
- Usher: Barb Elsen
- Counters: Linda Tice & Brenda Stauffer





Officers (2023)

Barb Elsen, President

Sheila Charles, Vice President

Phyllis Wimer, Secretary

Brad Charles, Financial Secretary

Steve Feldmann, Treasurer

Staff

The Rev. Robin Fero, Pastor

Susan Feldmann, Director of Music

Phil High, Musician

Church Council

Barb Elsen

Phyllis Wimer

Steve Feldmann

Nancy Smith

Sheila Charles

Brad Charles

David Ostrander

Pastor Fero

St. Matthew Lutheran Church Statement of Welcome, Affirmation and Full Participation



Welcome to St Matthew, the little church with a big heart.
We are a Reconciling in Christ (Open and Affirming) congregation, so when we say
“all are welcome”, we really mean it.

We strive to live that out in our actions as well as our words. We publicly and humbly
commit to do what it takes to truly be a sanctuary filled with warmth, love,
understanding, safety, respect and care for all who enter here.

*(Please see our Full Statement of Welcome, Affirmation and Full Participation
on our website: www.stmatthewelc.com. Copies of the Full Statement are also
available in the Education and Resources Stand in the Fellowship Hall.)*

St. Matthew

October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10am - Worship	2	3	4 12pm - Bible Study 6:30pm - M.T. Democratic Committee	5 6:30pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal	6	7 1pm-Pet Blessing 5pm - Worship
8 10am - Worship	9	10 7pm - Church Council Mtg	11 12pm - Bible Study 6:30pm - RIC Committee Mtg	12 5:30pm - SUNNY Scouts 6:30pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal	13	14 5pm - RIC Weekend 5pm - Worship
15 10am - RIC Weekend 10am - Worship 11:15am - Evangelism Mtg	16 12pm - Community Meal	17	18 12pm - Bible Study	19 6:30pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal	20	21 5pm - Worship
22 10am - Worship	23	24	25 12pm - Bible Study	26 5:30pm - SUNNY Scouts 6:30pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal	27	28 5pm - Worship
29 10am - Worship	30	31 6pm - Halloween No Tricks				

ST. MATTHEW

700 Pleasure Road
Lancaster, PA 17601

(Return Service Requested)

The Little Church with the Big Heart

