



THE WORD

September 2023

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



Pastor Robin Fero

Pastor's Page



God bless you, St. Matthew family!

What a fruitful year we have had together, celebrating the community that God created for us to participate in fully. Thank you for your faithfulness in this work.

We have an exciting Fall schedule at the church, including long-standing traditions and some brand-new ministry moments. I'm looking forward to walking the road with you, as Christ leads us.

Fall 2023 at a Glance

SEPTEMBER

- Community Meal Prep- third Monday of each month
- Book Club- third Monday at 1:30pm in Fellowship Hall
- Bell and Chancel Choir Rehearsals begin Thursday, Sept. 7
- Ingathering (the displaying and dedication of 70+ quilts for Lutheran World Relief, Sept. 23&24 services
- Conversation Around the Corner. Journeys to Tanzania with Rev. Cliff Eshbach- Tuesday, Sept. 26, 6pm

OCTOBER

- Bible Study- Wednesdays at noon in Fellowship Hall
- Pet Blessing- Saturday, Oct. 7, 1-3pm, on the church lawn
- Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Weekend- Oct. 14&15 services
- Reformation Weekend- Oct. 28&29 services

- Halloween No Tricks candy distribution- Oct. 31, 6-8pm

NOVEMBER

- RIC Lunch N Learn- "Autism" – after worship services on Nov. 4&5
- All Saints Day- Nov. 4&5 worship services

DECEMBER

- Christmas Market- partnering with Frontier Scouts. Saturday, Dec. 2, 1-3pm
- Caroling Around the Corner- our second annual event will take place during our normal 5pm worship time. Saturday, Dec. 9 at 5pm.
- Christmas Eve- 10am Advent Four worship, then 5pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

-Pastor Fero

News From Your Church Council

Council took a break from meeting in July, but met as usual on August 8, 2023 at 7:00 PM. Devotions were by Pastor Fero and the minutes from June and July were reviewed and accepted. Since Steve Feldmann was on vacation, the Treasurer's report was reviewed by council, with the help of Brad Charles, our financial Secretary. For the month of July, the congregational income exceeded monthly budget, and other income well behind the monthly budget. Total income was slightly ahead of budget for the month by \$570.00. Please see the bulletin board for further information about the budget or talk to Steve about any questions you might have.

Pastor is working on the Fall schedule, starting the noon Bible Study, preparing for Advent, Choir schedule and special worship services. He is also going to be working with Barb Eshbach to create a new web site for St. Matthew.

Social ministry continues to collect food for the Food

Hub through the month of August. Ingathering is scheduled for September 23-24, when we will be packing up the quilts made throughout the year to send to Lutheran World Relief.

To our members: November is soon upon us. November is the month for elections, not only local general elections, but Church Council elections. Thus, now is the time to begin looking for those candidates to be placed on the Council.

This is the final year for Sheila Charles, Brad Charles and David Ostrander. So, in January 2024 the Council needs to have at least two, preferably three or more, new members. It involves meeting once per month, the second Tuesday, from 7:00 to 8:30-9:00 PM in Fellowship Hall of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, where ministry decisions for the church are made.

You may nominate someone from the membership roll or place yourself on the nomination list, to be voted on at the Congregational meeting in November. The term is for three years, beginning in January 2024.

This is something that we need you to think about seriously as this is something very important for the life of St. Matthew. If you have any questions, please talk to Pastor Fero or Barb Elsen. I wish to thank David Ostrander who thought ahead and composed the information for this plea.

- Barb Elsen

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

Summer has come to a close as we "fall" into September. But so much has happened in August as God guides our living into our Welcome Statement. Thank you to all of the Reconciling in Christ Team, the Evangelism Committee, Pastor Brenda Ritterpusch and all the St. Matthew folks who planned and participated in the August Pizza and Lunch N Learn sessions as well as the Conversation Around the Corner: Exploring our Hidden Ideas about Gender.

In September, our RIC Team will begin planning for Reconciling in Christ Weekend Worship Service coming up in October. We will celebrate our congregation's commitment to being Open and Affirming. We hope to have another guest speaker on this weekend, as well as other celebratory additions to our Worship services.

Our last RIC Pizza and Lunch N Learn weekend for 2023 will be on the weekend of November 4-5. We will have a guest speaker helping us to understand and support people with autism as well as people with other special learning needs.

We will share more information on these upcoming events in future newsletters!

- Susan Feldmann



Choir News

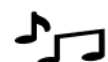
Choir rehearsals begin for the fall on Thursday, September 7th! You don't have to read music to ring or sing. You just need to have a desire to praise God with music in Worship!

- The Bell Choir will rehearse from 6-7 pm in the lower-level Bell Choir room.
- The Chancel Choir will rehearse from 7-8 pm in the Music Room off of the Fellowship Hall.

Top Ten Reasons to be a part of the St. Matthew Choirs:

1. You can be part of a team without ever having to run a single lap!
2. You get to hang out with cool people who are just as weird as you are!
3. Studies show you'll develop enhanced brain function and less stress! Who doesn't need that?!?
4. You'll inevitably develop a repertoire of bad jokes as well as music!
5. You'll learn that being called a ding-a-ling is a compliment!
6. You'll learn new things about singing high like sopranos or low like altos and observe the shenanigans of the tenor and bass sections first-hand!
7. You can see and welcome our new organist/pianist, Phil High, without having to sneak up and peer over the organ! Plus...you'll see how he plays 4 parts at one time!
8. Your ears will grow...ask about how that happens!
9. You'll experience the warmth of harmony...in music and in people!
10. You'll learn that ***anyone can learn*** to sing or ring! Truly!

Please see Sue Feldmann to be a part of the St. Matthew choirs starting this fall!



-Susan Feldmann

Social Ministry

A **HUGE** thank you to everyone who helped support Lancaster County Food Hub by buying items or making monetary donations. We are delighted to have participated with the Food Hub in order to help community families in this neighboring project, and thank you again for your support.



Keep collecting pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House. Ask family and friends to save them as well.

SAVE THE DATE!!! St. Matthew will be holding its Lutheran World Relief In-Gathering Weekend on Saturday, September 23rd and Sunday, September 24th. Quilts will be on display and dedicated during both services.

Through the simple combination of fabric and thread, we reach out to people in their time of greatest need with a strong message of hope ~ you are not alone. "Those who sleep under a quilt, sleep under a blanket of love."

- Sheila Charles

Evangelism Committee Corner

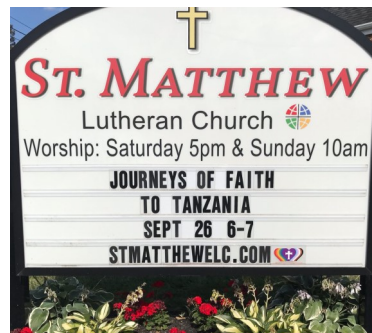
The Evangelism Committee met on August 20, 2023, at 11:35am with nine members in attendance. Our devotional led by Barb Eshbach, chair, focused on Jesus traveling to regions outside of his comfort zone. Are we willing to step outside of our comfort zone in order to do his work?

A prayer was also offered, thanking our Lord for a successful Conversation Around the Corner which addressed gender identity.

On Sunday, September 3rd, we will have a reception for Phil High, our new organist, following his first official service at the organ and piano.

Our next Conversation Around the Corner will highlight Pastor Cliff Eshbach, sharing with us his journey of faith to Tanzania to be held Tuesday, September 26th.

Barb Eshbach shared a proposed brochure listing our future events for Conversations Around the Corner for the remainder of 2023 and all of 2024, as dates and presenters are solidified.



Pet blessing is scheduled for Saturday, October 7th from 1 to 3pm on the church lawn.

November 4 and 5 are the dates for our next RIC Lunch N Learn with autism as the main focus.

-Kay Gontner

Welcome Phil High to St. Matthew!



Welcome Phil High, our new organist, to St. Matthew!

Phil will officially be on the bench on Sunday, September 3.

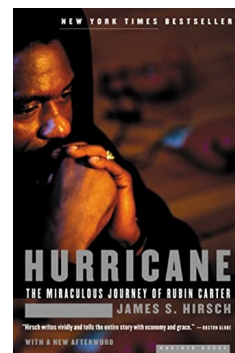
There will be a reception immediately following the service.

-Pastor Fero

Book Club

Here are book suggestions for summer reading:

- The Orphan Collector by Ellen Wiseman
- Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride by Joe Siple
- Tapestry by Beth Duke
- Twice Melvin by James Pumpelly
- The Time Keeper by Mitch Albom.



On September 5, Book Club will meet at Olde Hickory at 9:30 for breakfast. Since we did not meet this summer, we will each be discussing books we have read over the summer. This would be a great time for anyone who has not joined us before to come and hear what is happening at Book Club.

Also, our regular meeting in

September will be held at St. Matthew on September 18 at 1:00. Our book choice is Hurricane.

In 1967, the black boxer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter and a young acquaintance, John Artis, were wrongly convicted of triple murder by an all-white jury in Paterson, New Jersey. This book is based on a true story - hope you will join us to discuss HOW or IF truth/justice wins.

Any questions, suggestions or comments, please contact Janet Baker.

-Janet Baker

Devotions Booklet



Christ in our Home booklets (for October, November, December) are available in the church lobby.

These are free and for anyone to take.

Please take multiple copies and share Jesus in your community.

Take them with you on vacation!

- Pastor Fero

Birthdays

Scarlett Jordan 9/6 Hannah Bentz 9/7
Marilyn Huehnergarth 9/12
Barb Eshbach 9/22 Brenda Stauffer 9/29

Anniversaries

Pat & Shep Smith 9/10
Carol & Buzz Rothweiler 9/11
Jacki & Clint Roderick 9/14
Sam & Sarah Jordan 9/24
Ray & Lunda Shaub 9/25
Cliff & Barb Eshbach 9/27

Worship Assistants

Altar Care for September - Carol Rothweiler & Linda Tice

September 2 – Saturday 5pm

- Assisting Minister: Barb Emmerich
- Reader: Phyllis Wimer

September 3 – Sunday 10am

- Assisting Minister: Barb Elsen
- Reader: Linda Tice
- Greeter: Linda Tice
- Usher: Brenda Stauffer
- Counters: Barb Elsen & Carol Rothweiler

September 9 – Saturday 5pm

- Assisting Minister: Nancy Pokopec
- Reader: Norm Drescher

September 10 – Sunday 10am

- Assisting Minister: Linda McIntyre
- Reader: Steve Feldmann
- Greeter: Kay Gontner
- Usher: OPEN
- Counters: Linda Tice & Brad Chalres

September 16 – Saturday 5pm

- Assisting Minister: Brad Chalres
- Reader: Mimi Ruth

September 17 – Sunday 10am

- Assisting Minister: Steve Feldmann
- Reader: Linda McIntyre
- Greeter: Carol Rothweiler
- Usher: Barb Elsen
- Counters: Brenda Stauffer & Barb Elsen

September 23 – Saturday 5pm

- Assisting Minister: Sheila Charles
- Reader: Norm Drescher

September 24 – Sunday 10am

- Assisting Minister: Brenda Stauffer
- Reader: Barb Elsen
- Greeter: Nancy Smith
- Usher: Barb Elsen
- Counters: Carol Rothweiler & Linda Tice

September 30 – Saturday 5pm

- Assisting Minister: Nancy Pokopec
- Reader: Nancy Pokopec

August at St. Matthew





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

September 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|--|--------|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 5pm - Worship |
| 3 10am - Worship | 4 | 5 9:30am - Book Club @ Olde Hickory | 6 6:30pm - M.T. Democratic Committee | 7 6pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal | 8 | 9 5pm - Worship |
| 10 10am - Worship | 11 | 12 9am - Lancaster Conf Worship & Mtg 7pm - Church Council Mtg | 13 6:30pm - RIC Committee Mtg | 14 5:30pm - Frontier Scouts 6pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal | 15 | 16 5pm - Worship |
| 17 10am - Worship 11:15am - Evangelism Mtg | 18 12pm - Community Meal 1:00pm - Book Club | 19 12pm - Ministerium Mtg | 20 | 21 6pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal | 22 | 23 5pm - Ingathering 5pm - Worship |
| 24 10am - Ingathering 10am - Worship | 25 6pm - Conversation Around the Corner | 26 | 27 | 28 5:30pm - Frontier Scouts 6pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal | 29 | 30 5pm - Worship |

ST. MATTHEW

700 Pleasure Road
Lancaster, PA 17601

(Return Service Requested)

The Little Church with the Big Heart

