



# THE WORD

October 2024

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



Pastor Robin Fero

## Pastor's Page



God bless you, St. Matthew family, for your faithfulness in sharing the Good News with one another and with our neighbors.

The annual Blessing of the Pets on the church lawn is just the tip of the iceberg of ways in which St. Matthew connects with our local neighborhood. This event serves as a hands-on introduction to the work of God in creation. Neighbors and St. Matthew ministries are introduced and reacquainted. In this era, in which most of the country's population will soon be unchurched, meeting our neighbor on the sidewalk/lawn and offering them and their beloved furry family members a touch of God's blessing is vital ministry. It's a part of "bringing Good News".

For years, St. Matthew has served as an oasis of God's Peace in the neighborhood. What local young family doesn't know about our playground or our open yard? That same yard is used as a rest stop during the July yard sale, where St. Matthew family greets weary bargain hunters and offers a shady place to sit in the front yard and an open door to our restroom facilities.

This summer our lawn served as a venue for a bring-your-own-chair concert by Grandview pastor Liz Fulmer. The concert was well attended and well received, and Embrace would like to do similar concerts in the future. St. Matthew has hosted concerts in the sanctuary in the past and will do more in the near future.

One of the gems of our "open" ministry is the recognition of God's gifts in the lives of our neighbors. In our Loving & Learning events, we have invited community members to share their wisdom and experience in areas of mental health,

immigration, and diversity.

Our Conversation Around the Corner series features topics of local interest, again connecting the community. In all of these open-door events, not only are we as a church family showing the love of Christ, we are also introducing St. Matthew church to people for possibly the first time. People who drive by or walk by our building may wonder "what goes on in there" and this gives them a Holy Spirit-led excuse to walk through our doors as a possible dry-run for attending a worship service one day.

Our reinvigorated website serves as a window into the ministries of St. Matthew. The welcome video alone takes the viewer virtually into our building and into the life of the church.

Better Bones Better Balance, SUNNY Scouts, CPR trainings, MT Democrats. These are all examples of groups that meet in St. Matthew's building. They are examples of groups that work to build community and bring peace.

There are ways in which the Good News is shared beyond our property, too.

Our Community Meal team provides Grab N Go lunches monthly to meet hunger needs in East Petersburg. We collect food to supplement Brecht Elementary's annual Thanksgiving drive to help school families that struggle with food insecurity.

Our quilting team pieces together fabric to be used by individuals around the globe whom we will probably never meet. The team sowed together 52 quilts this year to be distributed by Lutheran World Relief.

St. Matthew has had a presence at the Pride Festivals over the last few years, meeting people where they are and once again providing that oasis of Grace for

those who hunger for God's love.

That's a lot of Good News spreading for a little church. God has been gracious in handing us unique gifts to be God's Presence.

God bless you, St. Matthew family, for your faithfulness in sharing the Good News with one another and with our neighbors.

-Pastor Fero

## Social Ministry

### ~~~ 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

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

We are excited to announce our next Learning & Loving series, focusing on the important issue of homelessness in our community. Join us as we delve into the complex factors that contribute to housing insecurity, including affordability, addiction, mental health challenges, and job loss.

Our guest speaker, Jen Koppel, brings over 25 years of experience addressing homelessness at local, state, and national levels. She will share valuable insights on how we, as a church community, can better support our neighbors in need and get involved in meaningful ways. Jen will also address common stereotypes and myths surrounding poverty and panhandling, shedding light on the realities of homelessness.

Mark your calendars for November 9th and 10th and join us to learn more about this critical topic. Together, we can make a difference!

- Erin Conahan

## Evangelism Committee Corner

The Evangelism Committee convened on September 29, led by Barb Eshbach, chair. The success of the recent Conversation Around the Corner with speaker, Greg Scott was felt by all forty-one people attending, owing to the high level in which Mr. Scott engaged his listeners. We are looking forward to inviting Richard Ressel, artist, as our next speaker in January of 2025.

Our annual pet blessing is scheduled for Saturday, October 5, from 1 to 2pm on our church lawn, indoors if the weather does not permit.

Halloween trick-or-treat has been set for Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6 to 8pm with our church members being asked to contribute candy for the event. Look for the red wagon.

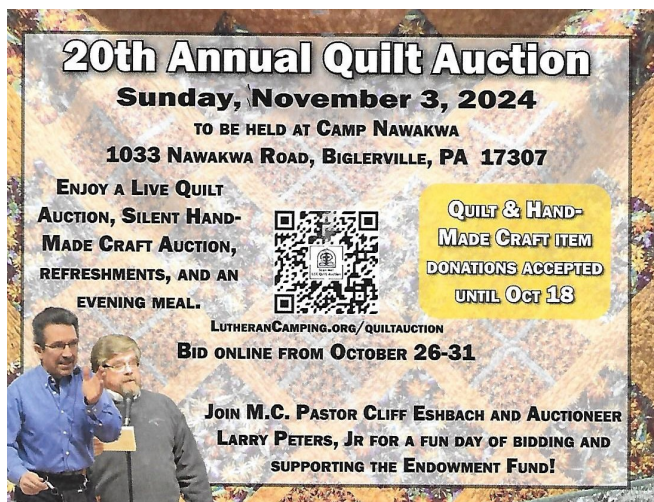
Two volunteers from our church membership are being recruited for the Synod General Assembly to be held June 5-7, 2025. If you are interested, please let Pastor know.

We are looking forward to announcing Game Day in November with Phil High and Barb Eshbach readying for their Act 2.

The S.U.N.N.Y. Scouts Christmas Market will not be occurring this year. Hopefully it will return in December of 2025.

Caroling to be held on December 14 needs to be finalized. Details will be forthcoming.

-Kay Gontner



**20th Annual Quilt Auction**  
**Sunday, November 3, 2024**  
TO BE HELD AT **CAMP NAWAKWA**  
**1033 NAWAKWA ROAD, BIGLERVILLE, PA 17307**

ENJOY A LIVE QUILT AUCTION, SILENT HAND-MADE CRAFT AUCTION, REFRESHMENTS, AND AN EVENING MEAL.

QUILT & HAND-MADE CRAFT ITEM DONATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL OCT 13

LUTHERAN CAMPING.ORG/QUILTAUCTION  
BID ONLINE FROM **OCTOBER 26-31**

JOIN **M.C. PASTOR CLIFF ESHBACH** AND AUCTIONEER **LARRY PETERS, JR** FOR A FUN DAY OF BIDDING AND SUPPORTING THE ENDOWMENT FUND!

## Building Fund



## Meet El-Lim (Ellen) Kim



Dr. El-Lim (Ellen) Kim and Nick Boehm have been participating in the life of the St. Matthew congregation since March. Ellen officially became Dr. Kim earlier in the year, and this is her first semester teaching Psychology at F&M.

It has been almost a month since I started working at Franklin & Marshall college as a professor of psychology. Aside from the fact that this is my first time being a professor, it is also my very first time

working a full-time job. I am grateful to God for giving me such a wonderful opportunity and friendly students to work with. I would like to share some stories from my past month.

#1. I walked into the classroom to teach my very first class. The IT staff was fixing a problem with the computer, so I temporarily sat in the back of the classroom. Moments later, a student entered the classroom and sat next to me, saying hi. The student must have thought I was another student taking the class. The student asked: "Do you know anything about this professor? I heard she is new." Trying my best to hide my laughter, I replied: "Well, I heard she's terrible." It was then the IT staff finished fixing the computer and waved at me: "It's all set, professor!" I still remember that student's face.

#2. Although I often get mistaken as a college student, I realized there is a large age gap between me and my students. I was teaching the class about how memorable events could influence our collective identity. To illustrate this point, I said: "For example, you probably remember what you were doing when 9/11 happened. Anyone would like to share what you remember from that day?" The class was silent. One of the students slowly raised their hand: "Professor Kim, I don't think any of us were born yet in 2001."

#3. I keep a bible in my office. I was hoping that when students come talk to me in my office, they will notice my bible and ask if I'm Christian. And I'm ready to tell them my faith journey! But so far, no student has noticed my bible. I'm still waiting for the moment.

- El-Lim (Ellen) Kim

## Hawk Mountain Sanctuary

As Autumn begins, many birds (and other animals) are migrating. One of the premier places to view the migration of raptors (such as eagles, hawks, and falcons) in North America is at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, about an hour from Lancaster. This year is the 90th anniversary of the Sanctuary's founding. I have been a volunteer at the Sanctuary for twenty-two of those years.



The mission of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary centers arounds three “-tions.” These are Migration, Conservation, and Education.



The first of these, migration, is something that has been happening for thousands of years. As they migrate, the raptors try to get lift in ways that require them to flap their wings as little as possible, in order to conserve energy. One of the ways they do this is to look for places where the wind is hitting a ridge and being deflected upward. Hawk Mountain sits along the Kittatinny Ridge, and when conditions are right the raptors can get carried aloft without flapping their wings at all. The Kittatinny Ridge runs for about 185 miles, from the Delaware Water Gap to the Mason Dixon Line, and is part of the Appalachian Mountains. Raptors will follow the Kittatinny Ridge and the Appalachian Mountains as they migrate to the south.



The second of Hawk Mountain’s missions is conservation. In the early 1900s, people knew the raptors were passing near the area that is now Hawk Mountain, and some were shooting them, killing thousands of them each year. A group of people decided that wasn’t right, so they bought the land for the conservation of the raptors, as well as the conservation of all the other animals and the plants on the Sanctuary. Pennsylvania, the whole United States, and the whole world is currently losing natural lands at a truly devastating rate, so places like Hawk Mountain are incredibly important to preserve our natural heritage.



The third mission of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary is education. Through onsite programs, offsite programs (such as at schools), information on the Internet, participation in raptor (and other bird and animal) counts and bird conservation studies, and the training of science and education trainees from all over the world, the Sanctuary helps educate the world about raptors and related conservation issues.

You are invited to visit Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. Information about Hawk Mountain Sanctuary can be found at the Sanctuary’s website at [www.hawkmountain.org](http://www.hawkmountain.org). Activities at the Sanctuary include raptor and other wildlife viewing, hiking, educational programs, visiting the Visitor Center, and many special events throughout the year. Autumn is the peak time to see the raptor migration and to enjoy the changing colors of the forest, so anytime in the next month is a great time to visit.

*-Daniel Mink*



## *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** – Barb Elsen &  
Carol Rothweiler

### **October 5 – Saturday 5pm**

- Assisting Minister: Nancy Pokopec
- Reader: Norm Drescher

### **October 6 – Sunday 10am**

- Assisting Minister: Linda McIntyre
- Reader: Linda Tice
- Greeter: Carol Rothweiler
- Usher: OPEN
- Counters: Barb Elsen & Carol Rothweiler

### **October 12 – Saturday 5pm**

- Assisting Minister: Barb Elsen
- Reader: Barb Elsen

### **October 13– Sunday 10am**

- Assisting Minister: Steve Feldmann
- Reader: Linda McIntyre
- Greeter: Kay Gontner
- Usher: OPEN
- Counters: Brenda Stuffer & Carol Rothweiler

### **October 19 – Saturday 5pm**

- Assisting Minister: Brad Charles
- Reader: Norm Drescher

### **October 20 – Sunday 10am**

- Assisting Minister: Barb Emmerich
- Reader: Steve Feldmann
- Greeters: Sammy Sweitzer
- Usher: OPEN
- Counters: Brad Charles & Linda Tice

### **October 26 – Saturday 5pm**

- Assisting Minister: Sheila Charles
- Reader: Sheila Charles

### **October 27 – Sunday 10am**

- Assisting Minister: Barb Elsen
- Reader: Norm Drescher
- Greeter: Anna Neal
- Usher: OPEN
- Counters: Brad Charles & Barb Elsen



***A Special Thank You to our quilters who  
helped create our quilts for Ingathering 2024***

***Al Frantz, Sheila Charles, Cindy Longenecker,  
Barb Elsen, Anna Neal, Peg Sampson and Suzanne Mink***

# Pet Blessing



October 5 from 1 to 2pm on the church lawn.  
This is a walk-up event instead of a  
traditional service.  
Come and go as you please. Rain or shine.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

November 19, 2024 11:00am, immediately following  
the worship service

### Officers (2024)

Barb Elsen, President

Barb Eshbach, 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

Barb Eshbach

Phyllis Wimer

Kay Gontner

Steve Feldmann

Nancy Pokopec

Nancy Smith

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](http://www.stmatthewelc.com). Copies of the Full Statement are also  
available in the Education and Resources Stand in the Fellowship Hall.)

St. Matthew

October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	1pm – Pet Blessing 5pm – Worship
6 10am – Worship	7 7pm – Church Council	8 12pm – Bible Study 6:30pm – M.T. Democratic Committee	9 6:30pm – Vocal Choir Rehearsal	10 1:00pm – CPR Class	11 5pm – Worship	12 5pm – Worship
13 10am – Worship	14 12pm – Bible Study 6:30pm – RIC Committee Mtg	15 6:30pm – Vocal Choir Rehearsal	16 1:00pm – CPR Class	17 5pm – Worship 5pm – RIC Weekend	18 5pm – Worship 5pm – RIC Weekend	19 5pm – Worship 5pm – RIC Weekend
20 10am – RIC Weekend 10am – Worship 11:15am – Evangelism Mtg	21 9am – Community Meal	22 6:30pm – Vocal Choir Rehearsal	23 1:00pm – CPR Class	24 5pm – Worship	25 5pm – Worship	26 5pm – Worship
27 10am – Worship	28	29	30 12pm – Bible Study	31		

# ***ST. MATTHEW***

700 Pleasure Road  
Lancaster, PA 17601

(Return Service Requested)

*The Little Church with the Big Heart*

