



The Messenger

Mission Statement:

Saint Matthew Lutheran Church is a community of disciples reaching out through Christ in loving worship, witness and service.

August 2022

Vol. 11 Issue 7

A publication for your information.

Pastor's Message

Pastor Eric J. Trozzo

At the July 18 Council meeting, the *Live the Love* mission plan was adopted, including most of the concrete proposals included. Thank you to all who gave feedback and participated in the process of imagining where God may be calling this congregation. The feedback was heard and discussed.

Now comes the exciting part of living out this mission plan. The goal of the plan is to inspire all of us to consider how our energies may be focused by the call to live out God's love. Where do you see God's love in the world? Are there ways that you particularly recognize receiving God's love? God's love starts our actions; we do not do it on our own. To feel God's love in our hearts is to be moved by the Holy Spirit. Yet that kind of movement does not stay inside of us. The Holy Spirit urges us forward in deep love and care for others. Once we recognize how we receive God's love, we begin to find ways to share God's love. We do this in many ways, but our mission plan calls us to particularly pay attention to four ways that we express God's love and live it out for the sake of others:

- Love within our congregation
- Love our local and global community
- Love all of God's Creation
- Love through diverse inclusion

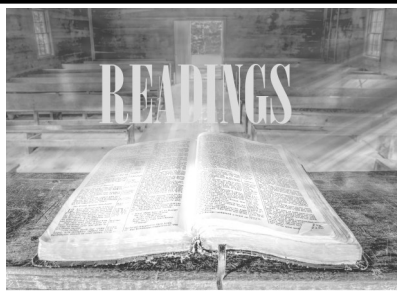
Let these four areas inspire you. How can we live out the gracious gift of God's love in these different areas? What ways do we already do that, and where might God be moving us to do a new thing within these areas? We will begin implementing some concrete new ways to take part in God's loving work over the next few months, such as through participating in "God's Work Our Hands" Sunday in September. That is just the beginning, though. The excitement comes from the ideas that have not yet been formed that are inspired by the desire to live the love. All of us can imagine what might be possible and contribute our ideas. I can't wait to see where God's love takes us!



Live the Love

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August 7

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Gen 15:1-6

Psalm: 33:12-22

Second Reading:

Heb 11:1-3, 8-16

Gospel: Luke 12:32-40

August 14

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Jer 23:23-29

Psalm: 82

Second Reading:

Heb 11:29-12:2

Gospel: Luke 12:49-56

August 21

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Isaiah 58:9b-14

Psalm: 103:1-8

Second Reading:

Heb 12:18-29

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

August 28

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Prov 25:6-7,

Sir 10:12-18

Psalm: 112

Second Reading:

Heb 13:1-8, 15-16

Gospel: Luke 14:1,7-14

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Confirmation Class

If you are interested in taking part in confirmation classes this year, Pastor Eric is organizing a planning meeting in the second half of August. Please let him know to include you in finding a date for the meeting. Confirmation classes are for youth in grade 7 or higher who have not yet been part of the confirmation program.

Help Wanted with Ministries

There are several serving roles that we are currently looking for people to fill. Please prayerfully consider if you might be able to serve in new ways. Among the top priorities are:

- ◆ A co-coordinator to work with Pastor Eric in scheduling Adult Forum sessions.
- ◆ A liaison with Bridge of Peace to keep us mutually engaged with the ministry there.
- ◆ Members for the Congregational Resources team (also known as Stewardship). The focus of these members would be on communication rather than finances.

Pastor Kristin Preaching in NJ

Pastor Kristin Engstrom, the ELCA missionary we support, will be preaching on Sunday, Aug 7th at St. Paul in Beachwood, NJ. If you are at the shore you are invited to hear Pastor Kristin talk about her new role through ELCA Global Mission. She is now Facilitator of Leadership Development and Capacity Building, working with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia.

College Student Blessing

Blessing of College Students: On Aug. 14, we will include a special blessing of college students as part of our worship. College students are particularly invited to attend worship in-person to come forward and receive the blessing. Those attending virtually will also be recognized.

While Pastor's Away

Pastor Eric will be on vacation from Aug. 13-20. In case of pastoral emergency, please contact the church office to be put in touch with a pastor.

CHURCH EVENTS

On Sunday, September 4 the Pastors Trozzo will be switching places. Pastor Eric will lead worship and preach at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Tabernacle that Sunday, while Pastor Wendolyn will join us here at St. Matthew to lead worship. Be sure to come and give Pastor Wendolyn a warm welcome.

Our Sunday School program will be resuming on Sept. 18. Mark your calendars! This year's Sunday School will feature a new, more interactive format and will be held in the Fellowship Hall. It will run from 9:15-10:00 on Sunday mornings. Look for more details to come soon!

We will welcome new members on Sunday, Aug. 28. If you are interested in joining St. Matthew, please contact Pastor Eric.

ALTAR GUILD

Altar Guild Welcomes New Members



We are very happy to have some new members who have recently joined Altar Guild.

Paula and Mike Jacobs are helping with the Saturday and Sunday duties and Caitlin MacFarland and her daughter, Anne, are helping on Sundays when Anne's soccer schedule allows.

We would like to have more people (women and men) join since we lost several people during the COVID-19 Pandemic. If you are interested in learning more about the Altar Guild, Please call Joyce Schulz -609-702-5867 or JoAnn Lawrence at 856-316-5004 for more information.

VOCAL CHOIR NEWS

As we continue to examine what St. Matthew will look like in a post-pandemic world, we have been wrestling with how we can continue to grow our vocal choir program. After much discussion we have decided to move to a Sunday morning rehearsal time. This means that the choir will no longer rehearse on Wednesday evenings. Instead, we will gather in the choir room at 9:00 on Sunday mornings.

Adult Vocal Choir is open to all who have a desire to sing, whether you're a high school student or a senior citizen, a brand new singer or one with years of experience, all God's children have a place in the choir and we need you! If Wednesday evening rehearsals have prevented you from joining in the past, please consider giving us another try. Rehearsals begin on September 11 at 9:00 a.m. Please reach out to David Harp daveharp@comcast.net if you have any questions.



Sept. 2021—June 2022 Council Officers

President:

Tom Campbell, Jr.

Vice President

Denise Cole

Secretary:

John O'Meara

Treasurer:

Tom Cassel

Council Members

Christian Learning & Formation:

Melissa Fickes-Feeney

Evangelism:

Marian Duda, Heather Learch

Fellowship &

Congregation Care:

Rev. Peggy Marks

Karen Widin

Property:

Charlie Lange

Social Ministry:

Beth Eilers

Stewardship: OPEN

Worship:

Chris Cassel

Youth Reps.:

Aaron Blanford

Ministry Committees

Accessibility Steering:

Rene Cherson

Constitution: OPEN

Evangelism

Kimmie Smith

Facilities Planning:

Dave Barger

Financial:

Tom Cassel

Memorial Fund:

Brian Slaugh

Mutual Ministry:

Denise Cole

Reopening Committee:

John O'Meara



- 1 Rachael Cooper
- 1 Rev Peggy Marks
- 1 Drew Milstead
- 2 Ursula Evans
- 3 Jana Frable
- 5 Karla Peterson
- 5 Kate Rauscher
- 5 Jayden Randolph
- 6 David Barone
- 6 Luke Emery
- 7 Avis Peterson
- 7 Adriana Uhlig
- 8 Marian Duda
- 10 Randy Zellner
- 10 Connor Oakley
- 11 John Parkin
- 11 Kylee Miller
- 11 Bill Byrne
- 11 Diane Schoell
- 14 Jackie Sweet IV
- 15 Linda Kastner

COUNCIL UPDATE

Recently, there have been some questions regarding the proposed construction project involving the area near the north end of the building's narthex. This project has a long history involving multiple moving parts.

In 2019, a four year loan of \$120,000, from the Memorial Fund, was approved at a special congregational meeting. This loan was to cover the cost of replacing the sanctuary roof, upgrade the lighting in the sanctuary, upgrade the fire alarm panel and upgrade accessibility at the rear entrance of the education wing. The work was completed in 2019 and 2020 at a final cost of \$109,000. The cost of the work and the repayment of the loan was to be covered by a future capital appeal.

As everyone knows, the Hassinger property sold in February of 2022, with SMLC receiving \$203,503 in proceeds from the sale. In March of 2022, the existing \$75,000 loan from the Memorial Fund was re-paid using proceeds from the sale of the property.

Most recently, architectural plans have been submitted for a construction plan along the north side of the building's narthex to include adding a sacristy, accessible restrooms, a newer vestibule and an adjustment to the existing driveway. At the congregational meeting in February of 2022, a vote approved an expenditure of \$50,000 for architectural and engineering services to prepare a bid/permit application package.

Although no visible signs of movement on this project can be seen, please know that there is a lot of work going on behind the scenes. It is anticipated that a bid/permit package should be completed by August 30th of 2022. Once this has been finalized, construction bids will be solicited.



COUNCIL UPDATE

It is further expected that bids should be received by the end of September. At that point we should be on solid ground with proposed construction costs. It is estimated that the finance package will include a proposed 3 to 5 year Capital Appeal to assist in funding the package. Once this has all taken place, a finance package will be assembled by the Finance Committee. This will be followed by a Special Congregational meeting, at which time a vote will be taken to approve the project and the finance package.

There has been discussion regarding the use of the proceeds from the sale of the Hassinger property. No decision has been made regarding how these proceeds will be used or distributed. It is understood by Council that moving forward with the proposed construction project is not the only issue in which finances are relevant. Several congregants have expressed interest in using some of the proceeds from the sale of the property in other areas. ALL of St. Matthew's congregants have a voice. To allow for those voices to be heard, the Adult Forum session for Sunday, September 25th, has been scheduled to hear from those who wish to present their ideas. This will be an opportunity for those who are looking to provide feedback and ideas regarding other mission related expenditures. Hopefully this feedback will contain specific outlines along with approximated budgetary values.

SMLC is embarking on a new era. Some of the new changes may observed to be to the physical building, others may be seen in how we approach our ministries. But the common goal will always to be meeting our mission through Christ.

Tom Campbell
Council President



16 Edward Hammond
16 Mike Milstead
16 Carol Cathcart
20 Jean Schoenberger
21 Joyce Hagen
21 Hal Cooper
22 Jennifer Buyser
22 Lauren Every-Clayton
22 Robert DePersia
22 Oliver English
22 Beth Eilers
24 Kim Villani
24 JoAnn Lawrence
24 Pam Bowen
25 Lucas Tassone
26 Dave Rulon
26 Diane Gadowski
28 Frank Schwarz
29 Matthew Grahn
30 Wesley Covington
31 Ruth Fausak



CHRISTIAN LEARNING & FORMATION



Summer Greetings from CLF

As you have read on previous pages in the edition of the Messenger, there is so much being planned for Saint Matthew come this Fall. Christian Learning and Formation has been busy getting ready to welcome back our children to Christian Formation Hour.

Over the course of two Zoom meetings made up of council members, teachers, and parents, we discussed and decided that we would try a new model for our Christian education, one that allows for a range of activities and interest. As a result, this year, we will adopt a one-room Sunday school for all children grades Pre-K through 6th. Using the Food Truck Party One Room VBS from Cokesbury Press, we will explore the Lord's Prayer..... through Food!

We will kick-off our year on September 18th- Saint Matthew Day! In addition to it being the first Sunday for Sunday School, Council Member and Sunday School Leaders will be installed at both services and there is also a picnic being planned for after the second worship service. The Fellowship and Congregational Care Committee is looking for volunteers and side dishes for the picnic, so please reach out to Peggy Marks or Karen Widin if you are willing to bring a side dish or volunteer.

Each Sunday at 9:15 a.m., children will meet Pastor Eric in Fellowship Hall for an introduction to the hour; then there will be a different engaging activity each Sunday that kids of all ages can enjoy- whether it be food preparation, science, music, skits, crafts, etc. We will close at 9:55 a.m., giving families time to gather before the second service.

We have a handful of committed leaders, but are seeking volunteers to help guide a session that might interest them. There will always be at least one other adult present; so you will not be alone. Do you like to make snacks? If so, would you like to steer food preparation one Sunday? Are you willing to co-lead a craft, science, dancing, or music activity? You would have all the materials you need and there would be little to no prep work; so what do you say? Will you donate a half hour on one Sunday to have fun with the youth at Saint Matthew? Please reach out to Melissa Feeney or Pastor Eric if so!

CLF is also looking for someone to help coordinate Adult Forum. This mainly consists of helping with scheduling and introducing speakers and topics to the audience each week.

Enjoy the rest of the summer; can't wait to see all the children in September!

Submitted by Melissa Feeney, CLF Chairperson

HEALING PRAYERS

Beginning August 7, Healing Prayers will once again be offered on Sundays. Initially, prayers will be given by one of the Healing Prayers Team at the prayer bench in the back of the sanctuary at the end of our Worship service.

Come take part in this caring ministry.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry Offers A Safe Place



How are you?
Being able to answer honestly, “I am hurting,” is freeing for a care receiver.

The weight of living lessens a little as the care receiver is able to talk honestly, without policing oneself, about his or her deepest thoughts and feelings. These conversations are not awkward because of the Stephen Minister’s faith-based acceptance and the mutual trust developed through confidential discussions, sharing scriptures, and praying together.

A Stephen Minister is a safe person to talk to because a trained Stephen Minister realizes **listening** is most important in their time together. Listening as a Caregiver means:

- Being focused on what the care receiver is sharing.
- Being attentive to how ideas are shared.
- Being responsive by expressing in the Stephen Minister’s own words what the care receiver has just shared, to assure better understanding.
- Being non-judgemental and encouraging.
- Being trustworthy that what is said will stay between the S.M. and the C.R.

Trained Stephen Ministers bring God’s Love to their care receivers. Stephen Ministers believe:

“We are the caregivers, God is the Cure Giver”.

If you would like a Stephen Minister to walk alongside you while processing a troublesome time in your life, contact Pastor Trozzo or Sue Kuhn, Referrals Coordinator.

Submitted by Sue Kuhn, Stephen Leader

SEPTEMBER



- 2 Tom Miller
- 3 Mae Alford
- 4 Brian Slaugh
- 4 David Nanko
- 5 Ruth Pfliegler
- 5 Jake Every-Clayton
- 5 Noah Stapleton
- 6 John Terpak
- 7 Mike Reiker
- 9 Victoria Thomas
- 10 Lynne Ganskopp
- 10 Susan McLaughlin
- 11 Mary Zimmerman
- 11 Christine Kuehl
- 11 Denise Cole
- 13 Rev Ray Elbersen
- 14 Donna Schoenhofer
- 15 Desiree Miller
- 15 Marge Dorward
- 15 Janice Miller
- 18 Rob Kastner
- 18 Barry Grahn
- 18 Bailee Miller
- 20 Justin Villani
- 22 Clara Kerr
- 23 David Schoenhofer
- 23 Jimmy Sweet
- 25 Rebecca Vaiarelli
- 26 Rozella Bower
- 26 Pat Durinzi
- 27 Jerry Steiger
- 27 Don Vankoughnett
- 28 Lisa Merrill
- 29 Chad Schultz

FELLOWSHIP AND CONGREGATIONAL CARE

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



Sept. 11
2022

Live the Love

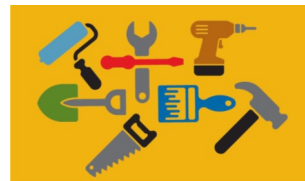
A brand-new programmatic year is coming, and FCC has some new activities planned to provide opportunities for us to gather.

Join us on September 11, 2022 for *God’s Work, Our Hands*, an activity of the ELCA (ELCA.org). The 9:30 service will be shorter than usual and special service activities will follow. We have planned the following events for our first *God’s Work, Our Hands Day!*

- Beth Gebhart from Lutheran Social Services will be with us to create a project for those in our Lutheran Nursing Homes and for our own home bound.
- Flowers for our home bound. We are asking you to bring in some of those vases sitting in your closet and we will have fun learning a little about designing flower arrangements while filling them with flowers. We will then deliver them to our homebound members along with some homemade cookies.
- The next project is one that takes us out into the community where we will work in our Moorestown Parks cleaning up and perhaps doing some planting.
- Collecting of Peanut Butter and zip lock bags for our own Lunch Bunch.

We will provide sign-up sheets for the activity you wish to participate in that day.

Bright gold *God’s Work, Our Hands* t-shirts will be ordered for us to wear!!! A wonderful day for service and fellowship for our entire congregation.



FELLOWSHIP AND CONGREGATIONAL CARE

September 18, 2022: St. Matthew Day

This will be the first day of Sunday School and first Sunday with our new schedule of two service and it will culminate with an all-church picnic. A cookout with lots of homemade side dishes and hopefully an ice cream truck since the theme of SS is “Food Truck.” There will be yard games, both old fashioned and new. Let us know if you have any favorites games you would like have us run. Lots of fun for all! We will need volunteers so please chat with Peggy if you can help us. The wonderful Eagle Scout projects will also be dedicated during the picnic time.



See page 6



Saturday October 22, 2022: Oktoberfest

Yes, Oktoberfest is coming back. Mark your calendars for a fun evening of food, music, and fellowship. Food from Riekers, live music and a BYOB evening is planned at Saint Matthew. Additional details to come.

Food and Fellowship Time

Our Sunday morning fellowship has been a bit hit---but we could use at least 5 more folks willing to buy or bake goodies and to be willing to serve and clean up. The more the merrier and spreads the fun of being a part of this ministry to more people. Want to help? Reach out to Karen Widin for details and to sign up.

With Peace and Joy,
Peggy Marks and Karen Widin



Committee & Event Planning

Tuesdays – Property Team 9 a.m. in Library

Thursdays – Tea & Talk 10:30 a.m. (Zoom)

Aug 1, 15 – Food Pantry open 12-2 & 5-7 p.m.

Aug 1 – Ministry Night 7 p.m. (Zoom)

Aug 2 – DEI, 7 p.m. (Zoom)

Aug 9 – Stephen Ministry (Zoom)

Aug 10 – Hybrid Church group (Zoom)

Aug 11 – Lunch Bunch 7 p.m. (FH)

Aug 11 – Evangelism 9 a.m.

Aug 23 – Stephen Ministry

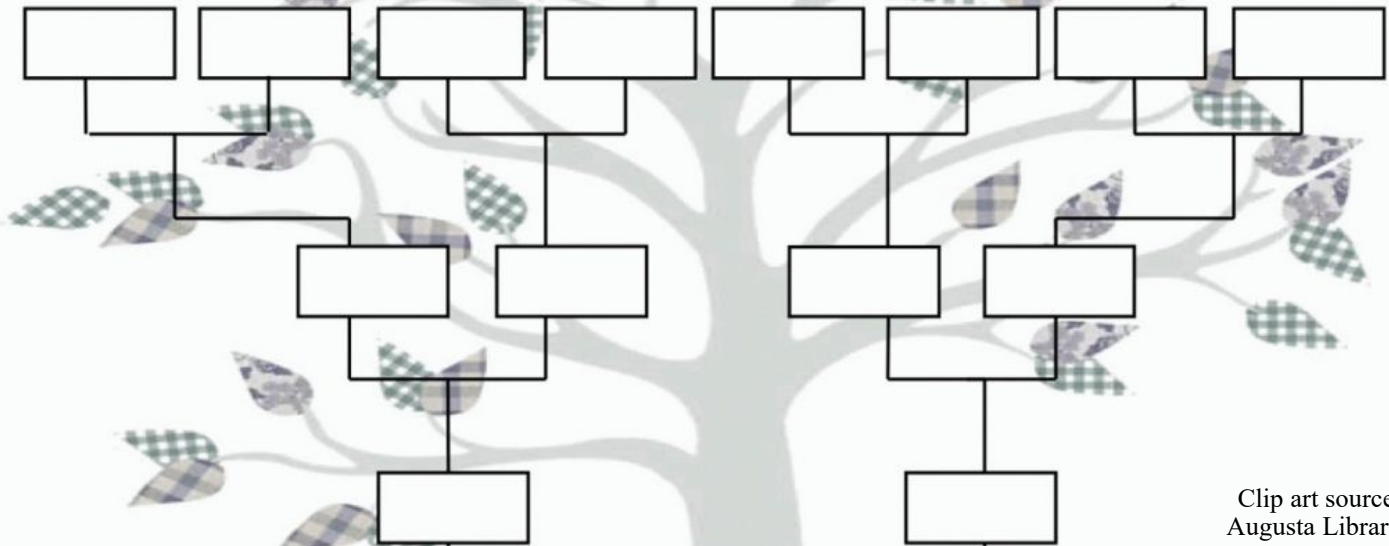
Updates will be posted on the website:
<https://stmatthew-lutheran.org/calendar/>

Sept 4—Pulpit Exchange 9:30 Worship led by
Pastor Wendolyn Trozzo

Sept 11—God’s Work, Our Hands
Worship 9:30 a.m.
followed by service opportunities

Sept 18—St. Matthew Day
New Worship Schedule begins
8:30 a.m. Worship with COVID protocols
9:15 a.m. CLF begins
10:15 a.m. Worship with full liturgy
11:30 a.m. Church picnic

GENEALOGY GROUP FORMING



Clip art source:
Augusta Library

JoAnn Lawrence Genealogist

Is Francis Hopkinson in your family? He was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Francis was a patriot, jurist, essayist, churchman, and member of the Continental Congress of 1776.

Do you know, however, he designed the American Flag, was the first native American composer of songs, or administrator of the "School for Negroes?" Francis married Nancy Ann Borden from Bordentown. Yes, that family the city is named after. And they are my distant cousins.

Many of us have family stories of Indians, pirates, and family members from distant places. But are they true! Did you know New Jersey has its own Indian and pirate stores? I love the story about the "beautiful and young widow who helps save Trenton?" A true story.

We will have a newbie/beginners introduction to family history/genealogy this fall. Our first meeting will be a Sunday after church in person and Zoom. The classes are now in the planning stage, and more information will follow. If interested in joining the group, please see JoAnn Lawrence or email her at jalawgen@gmail.com

FAMILY CIRCLE PLAYGROUP

Registration is now open for Fall classes for this parent-led playgroup. Classes are offered in the morning and afternoon. Orientation will be held on Sept 7 from 7-9 p.m. in the auditorium and classrooms. Classes begin Sept 12.

For more information, visit www.familycircleplaygroup.com



MAINTENANCE NEWS



Our annual pew and carpet cleaning will be conducted throughout the church and Education Wing on August 22 and Aug 23. Beware when entering the building

Throughout August, fogging to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus will continue to be done on Fridays.

Recycle Your Reusable Shopping Bags

The Food Pantry is collecting reusable shopping bags to help distribute food packages to our neighbors. Since New Jersey implemented its new law banning single use plastic carry-out bags on May 4, there will be a limited window of time the food pantry can use its remaining bags.

If you shop from home for groceries or curbside pick up and have extra reusable bags you'd like to rehome, we'd love to have them for the food pantry. Any types of reusable bags are welcome. Please just ensure they're clean. Bags can be dropped off anytime at the church or the food pantry.



We Can Reuse Those CD-R discs

If you're spring cleaning and have a stack of unused CD-R discs you'll no longer use, we'd love to have them. They're used to record worship services for our homebound members with diminished vision abilities.

Sept 18, 2022

St. Matthew Day

New Worship Schedule begins

8:30 a.m. Worship with COVID protocols

9:15 a.m. Christian Learning & Formation begins

10:15 a.m. Worship with full liturgy

11:30 a.m. Church picnic





Sundays in September

Sept 4

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Deut 30:15-20

Psalm: 1

Second Reading: Philemon 1-21

Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

Sept 11

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Exod 32:7-14

Psalm: 51:1-10

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

Sept 18

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Amos 8:4-7

Psalm: 113

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:17

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

Sept 25

Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost

First Reading: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Psalm: 146

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31



Summer Vacations

The following dates staff members will be away:

August 2-4 Dave Rulon

August 13-20 Pastor Eric

August 29—Sept 2
Mary VanOsten



Stay connected to events and activities, sign up for our weekly e-blasts. www.stmatthew-lutheran.org/subscribe

CHURCH STAFF

- ✉ **Pastor:**
Rev. Dr. Eric Trozzo 856.235.2055 Ext. 2
pastor@stmatthew-lutheran.org
- ✉ **Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper:**
Mary VanOsten 856.235.2055 Ext. 1
stmatthew@stmatthew-lutheran.org
- ✉ **Cantor:**
David D. Harp
daveharp@comcast.net 856.397.6680
- ✉ **Sexton:**
Dave Rulon 856.235.2055 Ext. 1
- Nursery Attendant:**
Shirley Schmidt



HOW TO GIVE

Did you know there are a number of ways to give to Saint Matthew Lutheran Church electronically? Visit our website to learn more and explore other options. stmatthew-lutheran.org/donate



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:
The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with nearly 3.5 million members in more than 9,100 worshipping communities across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of "God's work. Our Hands," the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA's roots are in the writings of the German church reformer, Martin Luther.