

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America



## A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY

Dear friends in Christ,

As Lutherans, we are set free to love our neighbors and seek justice. In Colossians 2, we read: "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving" (6-7).

I am abounding in thankfulness for you, church. You are an integral part of this mission as we envision a world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation. The ministries of congregations including yours, our synods and the ELCA churchwide organization are all working together today and every day so more people may know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love. From providing food to people experiencing hunger, to helping train the next generation of leaders that will lead this church, your support is at work here at home and around the world.

Your generosity to each of the three expressions of the church — your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization — has made it possible for us to do this work

together. Your financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices are so valued.

As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to continue to walk in Christ, remembering you are rooted and established in faith, and free to love and serve your neighbors. Thank you, church, for the ways you connect with and support our siblings across the ELCA and in our communities.

In Christ,



The Rev. Yehiel Curry  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

**“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”**

—Colossians 2:6-7

# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

**And also with you.**

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

**Amen.**

## Founded on Faith

1 Found - ed on faith, the church— a - live by grace—  
 2 Your cross, O Christ, re - news our life each day.  
 3 E - quipped by prayer, we live the Spir - it's call.  
 4 Grow - ing in grace for God's cre - at - ed earth,  
 5 Found - ed on faith, called forth, em - pow'red to serve,

pro - claims the gos - pel here and ev - 'ry place.  
 Bap - tized in you, we learn and teach and pray,  
 Em - pow'red to serve with gifts, both great and small,  
 we yearn for jus - tice, peace, and hu - man worth;  
 we share God's end - less love with - out re - serve.

The word of God re - sounds through time and space:  
 Fed by your love, with thank - ful hearts, we say:  
 we bring the liv - ing hope of God to all.  
 a world re - stored; a faith - ful, car - ing church.  
 Then let us shout a - loud the liv - ing Word!

Al - le - lu ia!

*All Creation Sings, 1048*

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# **Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church**

**2440 Conestoga Road, Chester Springs, Pennsylvania**

**Organized - January 1, 1833**  
***A Community Church for 192 Years***

**ANNUAL MEETING of the CONGREGATION**  
**Sunday, January 25, 2026**  
**SNOW DATE: Sunday, February 1, 2026**

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Rev. J. Christian McMullan, Pastor  
Daniel S. Bower, Director of Music  
Craig Miller, Director of Youth and Family Ministries  
Sara Richardson, Church Administrator  
Sandy Elkins, Director of St. Matthew's School  
Sandy Dewees, Cemetery Operations Coordinator

Phone: 610-458-5675  
[www.stmatthews-church.org](http://www.stmatthews-church.org)

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## **2025 Church Council**

President – Doug Ditillo  
Vice President – Jennifer Burgess  
Treasurer – Ben Guyer  
Secretary – Kathy Meltzer  
Katie Felmlee  
Erich Hild  
Mary Kwiatkowski  
Mark Shanely  
Eva Tietjen

## **Ministry Team Leaders**

Mission In: Louise Rutledge  
Faith Formation: Ben Guyer  
Outreach: Diana Sisum  
Worship & Music: Sue Hummerston

# St. Matthew's Mission and Vision 2025 Statements

## **Mission Statement**

God calls St. Matthew's congregation and community to:

*Be engaged in joyful service to God's world through faith in Jesus Christ.*

## **Vision Statement**

We will commit ourselves through our time, talents and financial support to:

*\*Put God's Word into action*

*\*Foster communication, in order to inform and connect people to ministry*

*\*Express God's love and fulfill God's mission by generously  
serving one another locally & globally*

## **ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA**

- 1) Opening Prayer
- 2) Setting a Quorum
- 3) Approval of 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes
- 4) Questions on Committee Reports
- 5) 2025 Highlights
- 6) 2025 Financial Report and 2026 Budget
- 7) Nominations and Election of 2026 Council Members
- 8) Adjournment & The Lord's Prayer

## REPORT OF THE PASTOR

“Y’all are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own.

**So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience...**

**<sup>14</sup>And to all these qualities add love, which binds all things together in perfect unity.**

**<sup>15</sup> The peace that Christ gives is to guide you in the decisions you make; for it is to this peace that God has called you together in the one body. And be thankful.**

**<sup>16</sup> Christ's message in all its richness must live in your hearts.**

**Teach and instruct one another with all wisdom...**

**<sup>17</sup> Everything you do or say, then, should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks through him to God.”**

*from Colossians 3 (Good News Translation)*

As I look back over 2025, several things come to mind. One, “Boy, that went quick!” Two, “I’m glad 2025 is over.” Three, “There was a LOT of change...some good, some bad.” Four, “It was good! No complaints.” But I’ll also admit that depending on my mood and context any one of those will be ‘more right’ than another.

As far as St. Matthew’s is concerned, 2025 was a good year. Looking back, I feel like a lot of what we did was to build on and continue what worked in 2024—and that worked. Average attendance was up, giving was up, participation in a lot of things was up! That said, not everything “grew.” There is a lot more to the health of a congregation than things *measurable* like “butts in the pews and bucks in the plate.” *Measurable* metrics are important, but when I think about *spiritual* matters, things get a lot more *nuanced*. I’m very grateful for the positives in the last year, but also mindful of those more nuanced and deeper realities of what it is to be a *faith* community. We’re not a business, even though “annual reports” are very business-like. The “business” might be doing great, but we’re a *faith community* first, centered around God’s Word, doing “Joyful Service in God’s World.” (Amen to that!)

A shoulder surgeon once asked me in the context of physical therapy or surgery, “What do you hear the loudest?” What I hear the loudest thinking about the last year at St. Matthew’s is the *faith community* part, both of which felt very challenging and very rewarding in 2025.

**Faith:** Way back in seminary we learned about the interaction between “Christ” and “culture.” In less theological language: “faith” in “society,” which in our country the last decade or so, gets reduced to (and overly simplified) “faith and politics” or “church and state.” So much has been written and commented about divisiveness in our society, I take it as a given. That said, “faith” is a lot deeper and broader than our faith-responses to the social pressures we live in the midst of. Discerning that is a challenge. I think about the conversations over the last year with people experiencing grief, relationship friction, anxieties about work, home, money, etc. And people experiencing joy and wonderment, gratitude for God’s blessings, and peace. Those conversations go to the heart of my call.

My seminary professors would ask: “Where’s a Word of the Lord?” ...in those situations, The Word—which the Holy Spirit uses to kindle *faith*—is “grace!” “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (*John 1:30*). Grace—God’s love freely given in Christ Jesus, acceptance, mercy, the forgiveness of sins. What do *you* hear the loudest? What do *I* hear the loudest? What *should* we be hearing “the loudest?” I think it’s “grace,” and I *hope* that the measurables in the last year reflect the need for that Word, and hopefully, that people are hearing it at St. Matthew’s.

**Community:** This is where I look back and see “all y’all” involved in all kinds of things. Egg hunts in the graveyard, the Appalachia Service Project in West Virginia, the Second Annual Golf Outing, the formation of Social Justice groups, our annual Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event, the Second Annual Trunk or

Treat, Thanksgiving at The Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion in Philadelphia, fundraising for Outreach projects, ongoing volunteer support at Grace Crossing Food Pantry, and more.

Another one of those things that I take as a given in our society is the need for and challenge to create *community*. ALL of those things I just mentioned off the top of my head are signs of *community*. My *hope* is that we don't let ourselves become a homogenous community. We need some diversity of viewpoint and experience to help us *see and hear* God at work in the world, to receive from someone else the Word and support that comes *from God*. That's the "faith" part in *faith community*. Is this something we can build on in 2026? Yes! There's more to "faith" than "me and Jesus," and there's more to church than a "social club." My *hope* is that the measurables in the last year reflect the need for community, and that hopefully, St. Matthew's is a place where people can experience it.

To close, I am grateful for all y'all. And I look forward to what God will do in 2026. It's a truism in ministry that there is "always more to do." I'm mindful of those things. But I also don't want to forget "what GOD has done" that I *could never do*. I see that at St. Matthew's, and I'm privileged to be your pastor.

**Peace,  
Pastor Christian McMullan**

## **REPORT OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

We have a lot to be thankful for as we begin 2026.

Every Sunday we start our week with a moving worship service in a beautiful setting, ending with fellowship in the CLC.

Take a moment on Sunday, and look around at all of the people who contribute to the life of the congregation: greeters, ushers, bell ringers, Audio/Visual team on the soundboard and projector, singers, musicians, acolytes (set up for service), Communion bread bakers, Communion assistants, prayer room attendants, the fellowship crew. Not to mention everyone working behind the scenes to maintain the church and campus. Or the kitchen crew when we have a congregational breakfast.

On Christmas we had total attendance of 600 people across three services. Think about all the Christmas decorations, the tree, nativities, and candles that needed to be set up (and packed away), above and beyond a typical Sunday service.

We have adult faith education and discussion groups that meet weekly or monthly. We have groups working to improve lives for those in our local community and beyond. We have groups that organize community outreach events. Consider the time and preparation that goes into organizing and leading these groups.

We have Faith Formation, Confirmation, and Youth group. Think of the courage required! We are truly blessed to have such an active, engaged community of faith that puts that faith into action.

But I've not even mentioned what I feel most thankful for personally: my St. Matthew's family! I have had the opportunity over the years I've been here to build life-changing relationships. I've met people who I never would have met otherwise who have impacted me deeply, spiritually and otherwise. I'm not the only one. Many people have told me how much they value the family and community they have found here.

And that family continues to grow as we see new faces show up on Sunday.

For those who are newer to St. Matthew's to be able experience that same sense of family, we need to reach out and build those relationships. Involve them in the life of the congregation.

So in 2026, let's resolve to meet someone we don't know, invite someone to a group that you are involved in, or ask someone new to help out. Make them feel as much a part of the family as you do. And as our family grows, continue to support each other in our faith journeys and together do God's work in the world.

**Sincerely,**  
**Doug Ditillo**  
**Council President**

## **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

2026 it is! As I write this, I just got back from our annual Staff Epiphany Breakfast with Pastor Christian, Craig, Sara, and Sandy. We have a group text thread titled: *Best Staff Ever*. It really is a great group to be a part of... easy, productive, without drama. I feel lucky to have such agreeable colleagues. Here's to them! For the most part, I can say the same about the praise team and choir (very little overlap, but still...) 2025 was solid. A good, needed year of group galvanizing.

I'm going to work backwards starting with Christmas Eve. Our 3:00pm and 5:00pm services had a full backing of singers. The Choir sang at 5:00pm. Humble, but strong, we delivered a solid SATB (Soprano-Alto-Tenor-Bass) arrangement of *Infant Holy* and *Oh Holy Night*.

The 5:00pm service was disturbed by another obnoxious organ malfunction. That's the bad news. The good news: Chris from Allen Organ just provided us with a solid diagnosis. The organ needs a new (or refurbished) amplifier. He's going to let me know what he can find in terms of parts. Say a prayer for friendly financials!

The 7:00pm service was carried by the band, which was a highly enjoyable, eclectic (and effective!) This group, including the Dittilos (drums and keyboard, respectively), Mikey B (piano), Tyler Williams (violin), Eileen Keller (flute and vocals) and myself ring-leading with a guitar and mandolin.

On the Sunday prior to Christmas Eve, I organized the Second Annual Candlelight Concert and Solstice Celebration hosted by my folk trio Hinton, Bower, Jones (& Friends). It was a beautiful evening of quiet, dim lit, contemplative energy and harmony. The concert was very well attended with nearly 100 people. I can't express enough my delight and gratitude for this opportunity to blend my "Saturday Night Friends" with my "Sunday/St. Matt's Family." It's one of my greatest joys.

From September through Advent we maintained a steady schedule, with practices on Wednesday evenings and Sundays before worship.

We hosted three Band-B-Ques this past year. Unfortunately, they were not as well attended as in the past, and yielded no new recruits, but they did serve as good team building and fellowship.

Summer was slow and steady, and we averaged one to two rehearsals a month. We held our annual Gospel Bluegrass concert on July 20, hosted by the Manatawny Creek Ramblers. It is always a high energy hoot in the doggy-dog days.

Outdoor worship got interesting this year when Pastor Christian asked me to lay preach. *Looking over each shoulder...* "I'm sorry, Boss. *Were you talking to ME!?!?*" However, I accepted the challenge, and was able to mine some themes from my winter writing project.

After much pontificating, coupled with an overwhelming itch to jumpstart my writing practice/habit/hobby, I opened a Substack account. I decided to offer a two-to-three-page weekly grapple with my thoughts on music: Spiritual Secular songs, to be specific. It was part explanation and part rumination on my favorite songs, especially the ones in the mystic realm. I found it to be a very rewarding way to engage with people, many of them from St. Matthew's. I managed to keep a consistent once-a-week delivery for about four months until the 'cinder-block-title-wave' (a.k.a. Summer) hit. Then it was off to the pool, and wherever else the kids, family, or crazy gig schedule dictated. I intend to fire it back up in January 2026.

The band keeps getting better. While we didn't have expanding numbers in 2025, we do have, as mentioned, a galvanizing group. I'm happy and grateful to every volunteer.

Sue Hummerston is a gem, and continues to keep us on track throughout the seasons from behind the scenes. No fanfare or Diva energy. Just a calm consistency, which is much needed and appreciated.

**Gratefully Yours,**  
**Daniel S. Bower**  
**Music Director**

## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Guiding Principles of Worship and Music at St. Matthew's:** The main objective of our worship experience at St. Matthew's is to convey and exude pervasive *HOPE* and unconditional *JOY*. When a service has ended, the worship experience should have felt accessible, friendly, casual, relaxed, upbeat and inspirational. Our Liturgy and Music is somewhat informal, contemporary (or relatable traditional), energetic, understandable and engaging. **We continue to plan worship with these principles in mind, and welcome any thoughts you may have regarding your specific worship needs. Please contact me at [hummerstonsue@gmail.com](mailto:hummerstonsue@gmail.com).**

In 2025, we continued to be blessed with inspiring musical talent. Music Director Daniel S. Bower continues to lead us with enthusiasm and faith. Daniel continues to share the exceptional talents of his professional colleagues during outside events such as the Church picnic, and the Winter Solstice Candlelight Concert. Mike Borowski makes everything we do sound better.

Thank you to all of our musicians who dedicate their available time to practice and worship: Kristin and Doug Ditillo, Eileen Keller, Peggy and John Smith, Jeanne Maugle, Donna Robinson, Debra Tyler, Jen Williams, Tyler Williams, Mark Shanelly, Criag Miller, John Orr, John Kerrigan, Rob Unger, and Stephanie McMullan. In addition, we have dedicated readers and Communion assistants, ushers, youth ushers, youth acolytes, Audio/Visual assistants, and more. Finally, there is so much that goes into worship behind the scenes, and we manage it with the help of our Church Administrator, Sara Richardson, who keeps it all in order.

Moving forward in 2026, we hope that everyone feels welcome to participate in leading worship, consistently or for singular events. We welcome creative new ideas. We are hopeful that you have made note of talents you would like to share in the "**OUR GIFTS TOGETHER**" survey. Thank you in advance.

Our Children's music is a work in progress, along with Faith Formation. If anyone has a special calling for Children's music, please let us know.

Please note that the other opportunities that fall under Worship and Music are the following. Pints and Parables, Faith Discussions, Bible Study Groups, and Coffee and Christ. These are informal opportunities for you to deepen your faith, and build stronger bonds with each other in Christ.

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
**Sue Hummerston**

## **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES**

God is good all the time, and the happenings in the Youth and Family Ministry in 2025 have once again only reinforced that statement.

Before I dive into my report about the ministry itself, I want to first thank people who have been involved in various aspects of leadership and planning. Without them, this ministry would not be at nearly the level that it is now. Our Youth Support Team has once again proven invaluable in providing guidance, insight, planning ideas, and time helping with all the events that have happened this past year. Team members are currently Callie Comegys (youth), Brian Delin, John Lueders (youth), and Sue Hummerston from St. Matthew's; and Zack Heath (youth) and Nicole McGovern from St. Paul's. Thanks also go to Anna Delin (youth), Kerry Lueders, and Mackenzie Lueders (youth), who rotated off the team in July.

There were also a significant number of adults who stepped up and became more involved this past year. In particular, I am grateful for the support provided by James Davis, Sandy Elkins, John Kerrigan, Lydia Lieb, Bob McDevitt, Kelly McDevitt, Pastor Christian McMullan, Stephanie McMullan, Carol Moore, and Christie Orr from St. Matthew's, who were involved in youth activities in one way or another during 2025. I want to offer gratitude for those who stepped up to lead activities and events during my leave in January; it allowed me to take some time to recharge and recuperate from some challenges I faced in the latter half of 2024. Now on to the year in review.

There were multiple highlights from 2025 in the youth and family ministry. In January, we held a special college information session for high school students which involved a panel of seven of our current college students talking about their experiences at school, what they wish they had known going in, and how their faith life has been impacted by the transition to greater independence. The event was very well attended and received.

In March, a group of five 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders attended the annual Tuscarora Lutheran Youth Retreat. The youth had a great time meeting other Lutheran youth from around the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod and spending the weekend learning about prayer. A high point was the traditional blessing of the seniors, when we were able to celebrate Andrew Dybicz and Tyler Williams (among the other seniors there) with the entire retreat group. We're looking forward to returning to Tuscarora in March 2026.

Our fourth annual Appalachia Service Project work week saw our largest group yet attending. We traveled with 16 youth, 11 adults, and two young adults (high school graduates under the age of 21), a total of 29 people making up four work crews and two "floating" volunteer teams. We had a good mix of ASP veterans and first-timers in our group, as well as a wide range of ages participating. This year's ASP experience was rather different from the others in that our work center was in an urban area (Charleston, WV) and most of our worksites were within the city, rather than out in very rural areas as in the past. One of our sites also had no family living there yet, as it was a renovation project in an abandoned rowhome that had been deeded over to ASP. Overall, our group still had a good experience and made many new friends and connections with the youth that were there from other congregations. Planning is already underway for our 2026 work week (July 11-18) and registration has been open since November 2025.

Daniel Ledinh, one of our ASP regulars, was chosen to attend ASP's Youth Leadership Summit in February 2025, and was selected from that group to be a youth representative for ASP at an upcoming meeting with congressional leaders in Washington, D.C.

Another highlight was the emergence of a group of youth that have been regularly participating in the monthly Good Works workdays in Coatesville. This developed when the teens who attended the September workday expressed a strong desire to participate on a more regular basis, so arrangements were made to allow that to

happen! I'm especially grateful for the two adults who agreed to provide leadership for this effort, Tim Skriletz from St. Paul's and a person from St. Matthew's whom I don't want to name yet, but only because she hasn't officially said 'yes'!

The final highlight of the year was a return trip to Elmwood Park Zoo's "Wild Lights" display in December, when our high school youth hosted a group of elementary students from Gemma Services. This year's trip was probably our best outing yet as the seven kids that they brought really connected with our group of four youth, and repeatedly expressed their excitement and the fun that they were having! This has become a much-anticipated trip for our teens, and we have expanded our relationship with this organization by traveling to their school a few times for Sunday afternoon game and activity sessions.

In terms of ongoing ministries, some adjustments have been made from the beginning of the year to the end. A dramatic shift in demographics occurred when more than half of our active high school students graduated in June, leaving us with a smaller group of youth that trends much younger and is predominantly male.

In response, we have reduced the frequency of High School OASIS gatherings to once a month and have scheduled additional social events open to all youth (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) on Sundays when OASIS meetings would have normally occurred. We have also found that the High School OASIS ministry, as currently structured, is no longer meeting a significant need of our youth. Instead, they have expressed a desire for more focused Bible studies, so beginning in January 2026, OASIS will become more of a discussion around Bible topics and their relation to life today.

In addition, we were unfortunately unable to offer another Peer Ministry Leadership training this year as we had hoped; the plan is to continue pursuing that opportunity in early 2026. On the plus side, I have been working with a few others to introduce Peer Ministry Leadership to a wider audience within Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, and these efforts are finally beginning to take root! It is fair to say that St. Matthew's and St. Paul's serve as examples and teaching congregations for this vital ministry, and we will be developing that further in 2026.

Things continue to develop in ministering to younger families, too. After a well-attended end-of-school-year party in June, we began a parents' book study around Jonathan Haidt's *The Anxious Generation*, discussing his findings around the connection between smartphones, social media, and teen anxiety and depression. One of the purposes of this group is to provide a supportive team of parents that can help each other push back against the increasing pressure for elementary-aged students to have smartphones and be on social media platforms. We also provided home-based devotional materials for Lent and Advent this year. Our Family Ministry Team continues to ponder ways that we can support younger families in our congregations.

Finally, I must acknowledge all the ways that our youth have been involved in serving over the past year, many of which are beyond the formal purview of the Youth and Family Ministry. Our youth have been involved in servant ministries such as Good Works, Rise Against Hunger, the Chester County Food Bank, and the delivery of St. Paul's Easter Food Baskets to the Care Center Foundation. They have helped with events like St. Paul's March Family Fun Night, St. Matthew's Easter Egg Hunt, and Vacation Bible School. They have actively served in worship as acolytes, greeters, and musicians. I am confident that there are other ways our youth are serving, both inside the church and beyond, of which I am not even aware.

There are a lot of possibilities and opportunities beckoning for 2026. I can't wait to see where God leads us next in Youth and Family Ministry!

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
**Craig Miller**  
**Director of Youth and Family Ministries**

## **PROPERTY REPORT**

Goodbye 2025, hello 2026! Our St. Matthew's campus continues to improve—this year we completed major repairs in the Christian Life Center (CLC), including new plumbing shutoff valves, and HVAC work. Like any home, ongoing maintenance is essential.

This year, our church received a generous donation of new exterior lights from a Congregational family, allowing us to shine more brightly than ever.

We also established a security team and installed more exterior cameras, with plans for enhanced classroom locks and additional cameras for the school areas.

Our campus landscaping saw upgrades with new trees, plants, and garden bed plans—all thanks to our committed volunteers. Thank you for making these improvements possible!

We kindly request your assistance in ensuring that St. Matthew's Lutheran Church continues to serve as a welcoming place of worship and remains vibrant and well-maintained for years to come.

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
**Mark Shanely**

## **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN REPORT**

As planned, we drew down the capital campaign reserve for several exciting (communal areas) and important (maintenance and security) projects.

- The CLC was repainted and re-carpeted
- Acoustic ceiling panels were added to the fellowship area in the CLC
- Crash bars were added to sanctuary exit doors
- Significant plumbing repairs were made for aging valves in the CLC

As a result of these projects, our capital campaign reserve was drawn down from \$58,000 to \$29,000. There are plans in 2026 to use funds for additional maintenance and security projects. Thanks again to everyone whose gifts have made these projects possible.

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
**Doug Ditillo**

## **MISSION IN TEAM REPORT**

The Mission In Ministry Team has continued serving St. Matthew's members in 2025. Our goal is to express God's love and fulfill God's mission by fostering a caring and supportive community within the congregation. We provide a network of support for individuals and families facing illness, long-term disability, emergencies, or other times of need.

When members and their loved ones are in need, we offer meals, phone calls, visits, cards, rides to medical appointments, and prayer. Our prayer team continues to provide comfort and strength to our members. After Sunday services, donated flowers are delivered to those who need encouragement or to celebrate a member's milestone.

Throughout 2025, we undertook several projects to encourage and support different groups within our congregation. In April, we sent packages of homemade cookies and candy, along with cards decorated by

children in our Faith Formation classes to 20 college students. On Mother's Day, we honored the women of our congregation with flowers, and on Father's Day, we shared snacks with our Dads. In September, we held our first yard sale to help members declutter their homes, with the proceeds donated to the Chester County Food Bank. In December, 25 of our college students received encouraging cards signed by church members and Faith Formation children, along with Wawa gift cards as they prepared for final exams.

The Mission In Team meets on the second Sunday of each month at 10:45am in the CLC. The Prayer Team corresponds via email. Please contact Jeanne Maugle at [dmaugle@msn.com](mailto:dmaugle@msn.com) or (610) 996-9639 if you have a prayer request, or would like to be included on the Prayer Team.

Thank you to Pastor Christian McMullan for his support and participation in the activities of the Mission In Team as well as the many St. Matthew's members who are actively involved. If you know of someone in the congregation who needs support or you are interested in joining our ministry, please contact Louise Rutledge at [larutledge51@gmail.com](mailto:larutledge51@gmail.com) or (484) 459-3389.

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
**Louise Rutledge**

## **OUTREACH MINISTRY REPORT**

2025 was a year full of service and generous giving from the heart by the people of St. Matthew's! Here's a look back at how our Outreach Ministry served, supported, and made an impact on our community this past year.

- **The "Souper Bowl" soup collection was held for the Chester County Food Bank.**
- **Our Lenten Project collection saw generous donations of nonperishable items needed by Grace Crossing Food Pantry.** Several members continue to volunteer at their food pantry on the second, fourth and fifth Thursdays of the month. (All are welcome!) Grace Crossing was also one of the recipients of the funds raised through the amazing golf outing event in September, led by Patrick Miller and his team.
- **We collected gently used flannel sheets to support St. Paul's ministry, making quilts for adults and diaper kits for kids for Lutheran World Relief.**
- **In May, we undertook a snack collection and held a packaging event for children facing food insecurity, and donated to the Chester County Food Bank** (another recipient of the funds raised by the golf outing).
- **In the Summer, we had a school supplies collection for children at Gemma Services.** The congregation donated 41 backpacks and school supplies to fill most of them!
- **Meals continue to be delivered on the fourth Sunday of every month to the residents staying at St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter in Phoenixville.** St. Mary's provides temporary housing for families for up to 12 weeks, and supports them to find stability, independence and a place to call home. Volunteers provide parts of a meal that feed about 15 residents, including an entree, side dish, vegetable, salad, or dessert. Our volunteers also deliver the meal to the shelter. St. Mary's kitchen is now fully licensed, offering more flexible options in the meals we prepare for them. Please check our church website to view the meal guidelines. A Sign-Up Genius is posted weekly on the online Around the Church Newsletter, and on the church website. Food is brought to the CLC by 10:30am on the morning of delivery, and marked for St. Mary's. **For more information, contact Mindy Elmer at [mlong1011@comcast.net](mailto:mlong1011@comcast.net) or 484-319-8998.**

- **The second annual Drive Out Hunger golf outing was held September 18, 2025, and raised \$9,000 benefitting Coatesville Women's and Youth Alliance, Chester County Food Bank and Grace Crossing Food Pantry.** Patrick Miller and his team really outdid themselves, and raised more than last year!
- In September, the Lantern Hill ministry team held an interest and informational meeting regarding a planned mission trip to Mexico, taking place in the Summer of 2026.
- **Our meal packaging event for Rise Against Hunger was held on October 19, 2025, with 385 volunteers who helped over three shifts. We fundraised enough to pack 62,500 meals!** Great job to Troy Sisum for his leadership in fundraising, and Kathy Meltzer for her leadership in recruiting interfaith volunteers.
- **St. Matthew's collaboration with the Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion in Philadelphia helped to provide meals on Thanksgiving Day for the hungry and unhoused.** We fundraised and supplied turkeys, pies, warm clothing, and volunteers. **Approximately 425 meals were prepared, packaged, and distributed.**
- **We held an Advent collection for Grace Crossing Food Pantry to help provide the sides for their Christmas meal distribution.** Thanks to St. Matthew's support, we collected enough sides for 60 families to enjoy a full holiday meal they otherwise might have gone without.
- **We held a Christmas gift collection for kids at the Martin Luther School at Gemma Services and a "Shower for Baby Jesus" diaper and babies supplies collection for Chester County Hospital OB/GYN clinic.**
- **St. Matthew's Community Garden donated over 1,500 lbs. of fresh vegetables to the Chester County Food Bank this year, a record amount!** Thank you to all the gardeners and dedicated volunteers who tend the garden during the growing season.
- We brought speakers in from Grace Crossing Food Pantry and Rise Against Hunger, to help educate us all about the issues facing the community such as food insecurity locally and around the world.

In 2026, we will be looking for more ways to collaborate with St. Matthew's School, Youth Ministry, and the greater community to serve those facing food insecurity and other pressing issues. If you are interested in getting involved, would like more information, or have any ideas or causes you would like to support, please reach out to Diana Sisum [tdsisum1@yahoo.com](mailto:tdsisum1@yahoo.com).

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
**Diana Sisum**

### **THE PIECEMAKERS OF ST. MATTHEW'S REPORT**

Our quilting group was re-established in 2025, and is now known as The Piecemakers. The founders of the Chatty Country Quilters, Alice Friedrich and Beverly Pierce, retired this past Spring, and we are grateful to them for their many years of service. The Piecemakers have continued to make quilts that are given to St. Matthew's baptized babies and children under the age of three. Over the past year, there were two baptisms. This past year, the Piecemakers also worked on a tapestry for the Friends of Lantern Hill. All are welcome to join us. Please contact Pat Easterday for more information, 610-324-2657, [takabrade@comcast.net](mailto:takabrade@comcast.net).

## **REPORT FROM ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL**

**St. Matthew's School has continued to flourish as an outreach of our church for the past 25 years. Our enrollment has remained steady this year. In 2025, we served 153 children and 135 families.**

We employed 32 staff members as teachers, assistants, substitutes, and an administrative assistant. We have continued to offer preschool classes to two, three, four and five-year-olds with a full day Kindergarten program. Our Enrichment programs continue to be a success. In 2025, we offered two classes with an additional two hours of educational time. This change was a way to meet the community's needs for more time in school, as parents continue to work from home. Both the classes were at capacity. We look forward to continuing to meet the needs of parents and children.

**The school continues to reach out to the community in many ways. Here is a summary of our projects:**

- In January, our Kindergarten class donated \$200.00 to the Brandywine Valley SPCA, along with three very full bags of towels and blankets for the animals. This money was raised during our annual sale of home-made dog treats.
- February brought on our winter food drive to coincide with the Souper Bowl collection.
- In March, we sold "321 Cakes" (cakes in a jar) and raised \$340.00 for Bring Hope Home. The school matched the amount raised, for a total donation of \$680.00.
- In April, we helped with the Lenten food collection for Grace Crossing Food Pantry.
- During May, we collaborated with the church's Outreach Team and collected Summer snack kit items for children.
- In September, we held a food drive for the Chester County Food Bank.
- In November, the children each brought one can of food to our monthly Chapel Chat. The total collected that day was 398 pounds, again for the Chester County Food Bank.

We are thankful for the blessing of St. Matthew's School, and look forward to reaching many more families in our community.

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
**Sandy Elkins**  
**Director of St. Matthew's School**

## **FAITH FORMATION REPORT**

Thank you to everyone who has supported and helped grow Faith Formation through various leadership, planning, and teaching roles. This includes Melissa Cummings, Lauren D'Aloia, Lydia Lieb, Diana Sisum, and Louise Rutledge, as well as everyone who stepped up to volunteer during absences over the past year.

Also, a big thank you to Daniel Bower and Sue Hummerston for leading the Children's Christmas concert, as well as our Church Administrator, Sara Richardson, who makes sure that materials are always available for our lessons.

The Faith Formation team kicked off the Winter 2025 season by wrapping up miracles, ending with John 6:1-21, where Jesus feeds 5,000 people with but five loaves of bread and two fish. From there, we transitioned into the lead up to Holy Week in the book of Mark, culminating with the resurrection of Jesus and the Ascension. The children enjoyed working with Daniel and Sue to prepare for the Christmas concert on the weekend before Christmas.

In the Fall, we started all the way back at the beginning with Genesis 1: Creation, and continued working through Genesis with stories of Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Rebekah and Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and his brothers, Deborah, Elijah and Elisha, Esther, Daniel, and Jonah.

The children continue to enjoy the “Whirl Kids” Otto, Ada, Mimi, Gabe, Leo, Ruby, and others as they explore faith, values, and everyday life through Christian themes like generosity, forgiveness, and doubt. Through videos, readings, crafts, and activities, the children learn and grow in their faith.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are encouraged by the continued growth of children participating in faith formation. With this growth, we will need continued support from the congregation with week-to-week teachers as well as planning and administrative assistance.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ben Guyer

### REPORT FROM ST. MATTHEW'S CEMETERY

<b>1/1/2025 Checking</b>	<b>\$3,865.49</b>
Donation	\$1,500.00
Lot Sale	\$1,200.00
S&T Trust	\$7,085.65
Expenses (grounds maintenance)	\$9,396.00
<b>12/31/2025 Balance</b>	<b>\$4,255.14</b>
<b><u>Other Assets</u></b>	
Wells Fargo	\$44,839.48
Thrivent	\$32,257.30
S&T	\$67,505.98
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$148,857.90</b>

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sandra E. Dewees  
Secretary/Treasurer

### 2025 CHURCH STATISTICS

Members (Adults and Children) Received:	23
Members Transferred, Left, or Moved:	4
Youth Confirmed:	1
Member Deaths:	2
Funerals & Memorial Services: <i>(Includes Services Celebrated by our Pastor, Not in Church)</i>	5
Baptisms:	2
Weddings:	0

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sara E. Richardson  
Church Administrator

## 2025 FINANCE REPORT

### Overview

2025 ended as a strong year Financially for St. Matthew's. Overall performance aligned with the break-even 2025 budget through November. By the grace of God and generous offerings in December, we exceeded our 2025 Net Operating Income Budget by \$65,985. We also ended the year with a strong Balance Sheet including a healthy cash balance, and although restricted for use, our two Trust Funds increased significantly due to an uptick in the stock market. The strong results in 2025 will hopefully continue into the new year, which is reflected in a realistic and achievable 2026 budget.

### 2025 Results

St. Matthew's remains financially sound going into 2026 due to continued generous offerings, donations, and trust income. Throughout the year, the Council communicated to the congregation that we were cautiously optimistic and tracking the 2025 budget. **The final results for the year came in at a gain of \$65,423 which was favorable to the break-even budget by \$64,973.**

**Total Income exceeded the budget by \$70,305.** The primary drivers of our favorable income variance were \$38,457 from offering and donations and \$32,887 from the preschool (\$50,000 budgeted). December offerings exceeded the 2025 budget by \$55,545 at \$100,545.

**Total Expenses of \$398,332 were unfavorable to the Budget by \$5,432,** with the primary drivers being Payroll Expense, Property Maintenance, and Utilities.

**The Balance Sheet remains healthy on 12/31/25 with Total Assets increasing by \$113,528 during the year.** Total Cash was up by \$32,575, while our two trust accounts market value increased by \$80,953 due to a strong 2025 stock market. The three S&T bank account balances were as follows: Operating account \$105,755, Money Market account \$141,757, and the Congregation Cares account \$9,585. The increase in Cash was driven by the strong 2025 performance, less \$30K reduction for Capital Campaign expenditures and \$9K reduction for mortgage principal.

For the Capital Campaign income and expenditures to be neutral to the 2025 Net Operating Income, the net expenses of \$29,668 were removed from the Reserve account at year-end. This amount reduced the 2024 carry-over balance, leaving a total reserve balance for future Capital Campaign projects of \$28,661.

### 2026 Budget

**Our 2026 budget proposed by the Council, and subject to Congregation approval is a Net Operating Income of \$15,759.** As we hope that our 2026 performance continues to build on the growth in 2025, the budget needs to be based on reality with income and expense numbers that are achievable, recognizing the challenges that still exist. With the help of growing offerings & donations, increased preschool enrollment, continued trust income, and cost controls, it appears that St Matthew's has "turned the corner."

**Budgeted income** includes growth of 15% in Offerings versus the 2025 budget. The school is estimating a return of \$64K, which is a \$14K increase from the 2025 budget. CLC rental income is projected to maintain at the 2024 budget levels due to fewer short-term rentals observed in 2H 2025. **As a result, the Total Budgeted Income is forecast to be \$431K, a 10% increase from the 2025 budget.**

The Total Budgeted expenses for 2026 are \$415K, a 4.2% increase from the 2025 budget. This is primarily driven by increases in Payroll and Benefits (\$9K), Benevolence (\$5.5K), Worship & Music (\$3K), and Property Maintenance (\$2K). **All ministries were funded at the ministry requested levels for 2026.**

**The overall result is a 2026 budgeted Net Operating Income of \$15,759, an improvement from the 2025 budget.** As the year progresses, the Council will continue to be vigilant in monitoring 2026 financial results, adjusting our levels of generosity and austerity accordingly.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ben Guyer, Treasurer

**Income Statement**

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Proposed Budget
<b>Income</b>				
Offerings	277,500	280,000	333,613	322,800
Bertolet Trust	13,250	13,750	13,750	14,250
Woodland Trust	16,206	18,000	17,814	18,000
School Rent/Income	40,162	50,000	82,887	64,000
Donations	16,040	20,000	4,844	3,000
CLC Rent	5,688	7,500	6,182	4,800
Bank Interest	4,710	4,200	4,665	4,200
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>373,556</b>	<b>393,450</b>	<b>463,755</b>	<b>431,050</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Payroll Expense	185,475	185,100	189,163	192,041
Benefits	40,274	54,000	53,545	56,430
Property Maintenance	41,556	45,000	48,663	47,000
Utilities	35,587	35,000	37,019	37,000
Mortgage Expense	3,778	3,300	3,330	2,820
Benevolence	20,000	20,000	20,000	25,500
Community Life	4,081	4,000	3,343	4,000
Education	1,686	2,000	1,016	2,000
Office Expense	21,674	21,000	21,311	21,000
Worship & Music	8,868	10,000	9,541	13,000
Outreach Ministry	3,997	4,000	3,024	5,000
Youth Ministry	8,429	8,500	6,313	8,500
Mission In Ministry	629	1,000	325	1,000
Congregation Cares	(1,807)	0	667	0
Misc	0	0	1,072	0
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>374,227</b>	<b>392,900</b>	<b>398,332</b>	<b>415,291</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>(671)</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>65,423</b>	<b>15,759</b>

### Balance Sheet

	12/31/2025 Balance	12/31/24 Balance	Change
<b>Assets:</b>			
<b>S&amp;T Operating Account</b>	105,755	62,228	43,526
<b>S&amp;T Money Market Account (3.75% Interest)</b>	141,757	152,092	(10,335)
<b>S&amp;T Congregation Cares Account</b>	9,585	10,202	(617)
<b>S&amp;T Total Bank Accounts (Incl. Capital Campaign \$\$)</b>	<b>257,047</b>	<b>224,522</b>	<b>32,575</b>
<b>Cash In Transit</b>	0	0	0
<b>Woodland Trust (Restricted until 2056)</b>	544,375	511,191	33,184
<b>Bertolet Trust (Restricted until 2044)</b>	437,631	389,862	47,769
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1,239,102</b>	<b>1,125,574</b>	<b>113,528</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>			
<b>S&amp;T Mortgage Remaining Balance (4.7%, 10/2031 Payoff)</b>	64,890	74,320	(9,430)
<b>Credit Cards</b>	1,250	0	1,250
<b>Youth Reserve</b>	5,000	0	5,000
<b>Capital Campaign Reserve (Carryover from 2025)</b>	28,661	58,329	(29,668)
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>99,801</b>	<b>132,649</b>	<b>(32,848)</b>
<b>Equity/Net Worth</b>	1,139,301	992,925	146,376
<b>Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>1,239,102</b>	<b>1,125,574</b>	<b>113,528</b>

***St. Matthew's Lutheran Church: Annual Meeting of the Congregation***  
***Annual Meeting Minutes***  
***January 26, 2025 – 10:46am***

***God calls St. Matthew's congregation and community to: Worship, Learn, Serve.***

## **Welcome and Opening Prayer**

Council President, Troy Sisum welcomed the congregation present in the church to the annual meeting. He then asked Pastor Christian McMullan to lead the opening prayer.

## **Setting a Quorum**

Jennifer Burgess reported that there were forty-three (43) congregation members present in church. Troy Sisum confirmed that a quorum had been reached. (At least twenty members are required for a quorum). He proceeded to call the meeting to order.

## **Approval of 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes**

The congregation was asked to review the meeting minutes from the 2024 annual meeting. No questions were asked. No comments were made. Troy asked the congregation for the approval of the 2024 Annual Meeting minutes. Daniel Bower made the motion to approve. Birgit Hof-Werth seconded the motion. All congregation members were in favor. No one opposed it. The 2024 minutes were approved.

## **2024 Highlights**

Troy provided a recap of progress towards 2024 strategic goals:

- **Property Strategy:** Created a prioritized list of short-term/long-term projects; completed some through volunteer DIYers, and identified some for tackling by contractors through Capital Campaign monies (in process) Continue to pursue a Department of Homeland Security Grant to secure government funding to support several security enhancements across campus.
- **Community Engagement:** Planned and hosted a highly successful first-ever community event. A “trunk or treat” event which was attended by over 200 children, and approximately 500-600 visitors; The Community Engagement team is planning 2025 events.
- **Food Insecurity:** Prioritized Projects for 2024 which included Chester County Food Bank, Grace Crossing Food Pantry, St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter, and Rise Against Hunger; Held an inaugural golf outing which raised several thousand dollars to benefit CCFB, Grace Crossing, and St. Mary's; Invited guest speakers to address the congregation on our efforts, and their impact from Grace Crossing (March), CCFB (June), and Rise Against Hunger (September); Developed press releases and pitch stories around the RAH meal packaging event; Developed collateral pamphlet for community engagement to generate interest in our efforts to address food insecurity to get support from community for future events; Will continue to strengthen partnerships with school, youth, other churches, and greater community about food insecurity, our mission and how to get involved.

- **Communication:** Created increased transparency between council and the congregation through quarterly updates meetings to share progress on priorities, church's finances, and opportunities to solicit feedback; Continued to enhance the St. Matthew's website, social media, and other channels to advertise "what's going on"; Piloted new strategies to promote initiatives, growth opportunities, and collaboration on projects that benefit church and greater community, etc. (e.g., food insecurity, community engagement).

## 2024 Recap / 2025 Outlook : Ministry Updates

Ministry leaders provided several brief highlights on 2024 achievements and a preview of priorities for 2025.

- Outreach - Diana Sisum
- School - Sandy Elkins
- Mission In - Louise Rutledge
- Worship & Music - Daniel Bower
- Youth - Pastor Christian McMullan

## 2024 Financial Report

Council Treasurer John Smith reviewed the 2024 Financial Report. John indicated that 2024 ended in a much more favorable position than anticipated. 2024 notable financial highlights

- Achieved 2024 Net Operating Income Budget, exceeding by \$32,028 resulting in breakeven results. This represented an overall slight loss of \$(673) due to another December that included very generous offerings & donations. We budgeted a loss of \$(32,701).
- Total Year Income exceeded the planned budget by \$13,555 primarily driven by additional income of \$16,162 from the Preschool due to higher enrollment. This was above the \$24K rent that the preschool provides to St. Matthews.
- Total Year Expenses were favorable to the planned budget by \$18,472, largely driven by lower than anticipated property maintenance, and significantly decreased utility costs due to lower electric generation rates.
- Balance Sheet was healthy at year-end with Total Assets increasing \$73K. Total Cash in the bank of \$225K increased \$22K driven by additional Capital Campaign donations of \$30K, less a \$9K reduction in the mortgage balance, and Net Operating Income close to breakeven. The two trust accounts market value increased \$51K due to a strong 2024 stock market.
- Capital Campaign Reserve increased to \$58K, with funds readily available to support prioritized future projects.

Following a recap of 2024 and review of 2024 Financial, Pastor Christian thanked staff, ministry leaders, council members and the entire congregation for all the support, generosity, and commitment to St. Matthew's in 2024.

## 2025 Budget

John Smith offered the following highlights of the 2025 Budget:

- The Council's Budget proposal is a breakeven Net Operating Income of \$550, based on generous offerings & donations, strong Preschool enrollment, continued trust income, and monitoring of costs.
- Total Budgeted Income of \$393K is up \$20K from 2024. This is driven by increased Preschool income of \$10K, additional CLC rental income and a modest 2% increase in Offerings & Donations.
- The Total Budgeted Expenses of \$393K are up by \$19K from 2024, largely driven by Staff Benefits and Property Maintenance.
- Overall result is a breakeven 2025 Budget.

As the year progresses, we will adjust our generosity and austerity levels as appropriate.

Troy Sisum asked for a motion to approve the 2025 budget. Peggy Smith made a motion to approve the budget. Daniel Bower seconded the motion.

All were in favor. None opposed. 2025 Budget is passed.

## Bylaw Changes

Troy Sisum shared that the church has not updated its bylaws since 2014, and three (3) changes were being proposed to the congregation:

- Page 17, Section 1 - The Congregation: Council recommends the addition of a provision to the St. Matthew's bylaws to allow for virtual participation in Congregational meetings.

The proposed addition:

Add Item 3: As referenced in the ELCA Constitutional Provisions, this congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

- Page 19 – The Secretary: Council recommends STRIKE #3 IN ITS ENTIRETY as this is covered by #2.
- Page 19 – The Treasurer: Council recommends the addition of a provision to the St. Matthew's bylaws.

The proposed addition:

Add #8: "Shall delegate tasks and activities, as needed, to the Financial Committee to assist in overseeing the business of the congregation."

Troy Sisum asked for a motion to accept the proposed changes to the St. Matthew's bylaws. Paul Townsend made the motion and Patrick Miller seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. The three (3) proposed changes to the St. Matthew's bylaws were approved.

## **Nominations and Election of 2025 Council Members**

Troy announced that three council members will be leaving council: Troy Sisum, John Smith, and Jennifer Williams.

Troy introduced two proposed new candidates for Council (3-Year Term):

- Katie Felmlee
- Mark Shanley

All candidates accepted their nomination.

Troy Sisum asked for a motion to approve the two new council members. Paul Townsend made the motion and Daniel Bower seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. All council members were unanimously elected.

Pastor McMullan thanked Bob McDevitt for his incredible efforts serving as St. Matthew's Sexton.

Jennifer Burgess thanked Troy, John and Jen for their leadership on council, as well as the staff (Christian McMullan, Sandy Elkins, Craig Miller, Daniel Bower, Sara Richardson, and Mike Borowski), as well as all the people who serve in committees and all the chairpeople for all their work.

## **Adjournment and Lord's Prayer**

Troy Sisum asked for a motion to adjourn. Daniel Bower made the motion and Birgit Hof-Werth seconded.

The 2025 congregational meeting was adjourned at 11:41 AM with the Lord's Prayer.

## **NOTES:**

## THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY, GOD IS AT WORK ACROSS THE ELCA.

### MISSION SUPPORT

A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice.

### ELCA WORLD HUNGER

Part of our church's long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA World Hunger testifies to our hope for and commitment to God's promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more. ELCA World Hunger walks alongside communities in more than 60 countries — including the United States — to create unique solutions to hunger and poverty.

### LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

### WHERE NEEDED MOST

Where Needed Most supports the powerful ways we work together around the world — supporting leaders, inspiring young people, fueling ministries and championing global mission. Gifts to Where Needed Most support and sustain the people, congregations, synods and ministries working around the world to realize the hope-filled future God promises.



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

Sign up to hear more stories of impact from the ELCA churchwide organization at [ELCA.org/subscribe](http://ELCA.org/subscribe).

Read about Mission Support and learn more at  
[LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA](http://LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA).