

ST. MATTHEW'S EC CHURCH

WHITE DOVE FLYER

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ"



WORSHIP SERVICE
9:00 AM SUNDAY
CIA CLASS IN CLASSROOM
10:30 AM SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 2025

Secretary Office Hours are:

Mon., Wed., Thurs. 10am—2pm

Phone: 610-381-2442

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RJ Cramer
Council President
Wil Hoffman
Pastor
Starlene Barr
Treasurer
Renée Keiper
Church Secretary
Dan Smale
Music Director
Tiffany Lakatos
Children's Ministry

LEHIGHTON, PA 18235

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St. Matthew's Church
102 Church Road
Kunkletown, Pa 18058



I am both humbled and overjoyed to be writing to you as your new pastor. This marks not only the beginning of my ministry with you but also the first chapter of my journey as a pastor. I want to begin by thanking you for welcoming me and my family with such warmth, kindness, and prayer. Your love has already shown me that this church is a place where the presence of Christ is alive and active.

As I step into this calling, I do so with a heart full of gratitude to God. I know that my role is not to lead by my own strength or wisdom, but to faithfully walk alongside you, seeking God's guidance together. My prayer is that our church will be a place where people encounter the transforming love of Jesus, grow as disciples, and serve our community with compassion and hope.

The Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 1:3–5, *"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."* I already feel that sense of partnership with you. Together, we will discover new ways to worship, serve, and grow as the body of Christ.

Our church has been in transformation for what seems like a very long time. I recognize that change is not easy, fear and doubt seem to hide behind every corner. We must, both you and I, put our trust in our God. The same God that has seen us, and the world through an infinite number of changes. Let us look at Deuteronomy 31:6 for encouragement "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

The world around is constantly changing, and we must change with it. Neither of us is the same person we were yesterday. We grow each day through the Holy Spirit. As we grow closer to God, as we become more like Christ, we put off who we were yesterday and become what he wants and needs us to become. We are called to continually grow. In 2 Corinthians 5:17 the Apostle Paul tells us "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come; old has gone, the new is here."

As your new pastor, I may not have all the answers, but I promise to listen, to learn, and to love this congregation as Christ has loved us. I am eager to hear your stories, share in your lives, and dream with you about what God has in store for our church.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude, personally and on behalf of St. Matthews EC church of Kunkletown, to Pastor Rick Rufenacht and his wife Eileen for leading us through much over these past ten months. They have sacrificed a great deal for us. Their love, leadership, mentorship and friendship has been invaluable through this time of uncertainty. They have pointed us in the right direction, in the direction I believe God wants us to go.

As we transition pastorship from interim to permanent pastorship this month I want to thank each of you again for trusting me with this sacred responsibility. I look forward to walking with you in faith, and I believe that the best is yet to come.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Wil

Worship in Focus: The Doxology

Part 5 in our Series on the Elements of Worship

If you've spent much time in a worship service, chances are you've sung these familiar words:

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

This short hymn, known simply as **The Doxology**, was written by Anglican priest Thomas Ken in 1674 as a closing stanza for three of his daily hymns. Over time, it has become one of the most universally recognized and enduring elements of Christian worship. Though it is often sung after the offering, The Doxology's depth and versatility make it fitting in many parts of a service—following Scripture readings, preceding a benediction, or even opening the service with an immediate call to praise.

The word *doxology* comes from the Greek *doxa* (glory) and *logos* (word). At its core, a doxology is a **word of glory**—a verbal outpouring of praise to God. Throughout church history, short hymns of praise have marked moments of worship and devotion, summing up theological truths in lyrical form. Doxologies like the **Gloria Patri** ("Glory be to the Father...") and the **Gloria in Excelsis Deo** ("Glory to God in the highest...") have echoed through cathedrals and country churches alike, lifting hearts and voices in unified, joyful declaration.

Why has The Doxology held such a central place in our worship? Because it reminds us, succinctly and powerfully, of several foundational truths:

- **God is the source of every blessing** (James 1:17).
- **All creation is called to worship Him** (Psalm 150:6).
- **He is eternally worthy of glory** (Romans 11:36).
- **He exists in triune majesty—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit** (Matthew 28:19).

Far from being a mere ritual or placeholder, The Doxology expresses our deepest theological convictions. When we sing it, we join with centuries of believers who have lifted these same words to the Lord. At the same time, we give fresh voice to timeless praise, allowing the Spirit to awaken gratitude, awe, and wonder in our hearts.

As with all elements of our worship, The Doxology helps us proclaim the gospel. It teaches us to lift our eyes from ourselves to the God who blesses, redeems, and reigns. Its placement in the service—whether after the offering, before a benediction, or in response to the Word—serves as a moment of doxological clarity: ***God deserves all praise, now and forever.***

Next month, we'll conclude this series by exploring **The Benediction**, the sending blessing that assures us of God's grace as we go into the world. Until then, may the doxology on our lips reflect the doxology in our hearts: ***"To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen"*** (Ephesians 3:21).

ST. MATTHEW'S ECC

Family Movie Afternoon



September 20th 3-5pm

We'll show the heartwarming and delightful film WALL-E— a story full of fun, adventure, and meaningful lessons about caring for God's creation and one another. It's the perfect opportunity to relax together, share some laughs, and enjoy fellowship with our church family.

Popcorn and drinks will be provided, and you're welcome to bring your favorite movie snack to share! Feel free to bring blankets and pillows to create a comfy spot to watch the movie. Invite friends, neighbors, and extended family — everyone is welcome.

We look forward to seeing you there for an afternoon of fun and connection.

24th Eldred Township Historical Society
 Cash & Gift Card Bingo
 Sunday, October 12, 2025
 St. Matthew's EC Church
 25 games for \$30 including coverall
 50/50 Drawing
 Tricky Tray
 Doors open at 12:00 noon
 Bingo begins at 1:00 pm
 Food & drink available for sale by
 St. Matthew's Christians in Action



JULY REVENUE

JULY 2025

7/6/25 78 attending \$1,945
 7/13/25 66 attending \$2,469
 7/20/25 133 attending \$1,770
 7/27/25 79 attending \$1,920
 Total \$8,104

JULY 2024

7/07/2024 Grove \$4,065
 7/14/2024 Grove \$2,135
 7/21/2024 80 attending \$1,430
 7/28/2024 59 attending \$1,225
 Total \$8,855



Prayer Concerns for Shut ins:

Shirley Kuntz—Getz Personal Care Home, 1026 Scenic Dr, Kunkletown PA 18058

James Borger—526 Wood Street, Apt 439, Bethlehem PA 18018-4463

Larry Hahn—Gracedale, 2 Gracedale Ave, Nazareth PA 18064

Leah Jane Sterner—300 Covered Bridge Rd, Kunkletown PA 18058

Kay Frable – Liza’s House, 1357 Blue Mountain, Danielsville PA 18038

Kyle Frable—104 5K Lane, Kunkletown PA 18058

Gladys Meixsell—Pleasant Valley Manor, 4227 Manor Dr, Stroudsburg PA 18360

Velma Silfies—Mrs. Bush’s Personal Care, 302 Kunkletown Rd,
Kunkletown PA 18058

Joann Hunsicker—Mrs. Bush’s Personal Care—2W, P.O. Box 327,
Kunkletown PA 18058

Jacqueline Mock—Mrs. Bush’s Personal Care—P.O. Box 327,
Kunkletown, PA 18058

Tom Barr Sr. – Brookmont Healthcare Ctr, 510 Brookmont Dr, Effort PA 18330

Jesse Ziegenfus—Brookmont Healthcare Ctr, 510 Brookmont Dr, Effort PA 18330

St. Matthew’s Prayer List – August 17, 2025

KINGDOM WORK:

Sister Helena – Zambia - Save the chicks

Randy & Deb Sheagley – Touch the World website

MILITARY:

Logan Mackes (Grandson of Rose Fritz): Serving in the U.S. Army in Fort Hood, TX for next 2½ years from Jan. 30, 2025

Joe Osinski (RJ’s friend): Serving as an International Guard in Guam until October.

Conner Wise (Hal’s cousin’s son): U.S. Marine deployed to Iwakuni, Japan (via Hawaii & Guam) for 6-9 months.

LONG-TERM NEEDS:

Conner Bittenbender: (Bittenbender Family Member): Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy; lab test results & healing

Gene Borger: Strength and healing

Roberta Heffley (Eleanor Long’s Sister): Cancer

Shannon Osinski (wife of James Osinski) Ehlers Danlos Syndrome

Marlette Palermo: is home and meeting with cardiologist to regulate medication

Sheila Sherer (Eleanor Long’s Niece): Fluid on her brain

Hudson Stewart (Bittenbender Family Member): Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy; no symptoms yet

BEREAVEMENT:

Family of Rodney Smith

NEW NEEDS:

Lindsey Blundetto: (Connie and George Morte’s daughter) at home recovering from foot surgery

Marjorie Borger: injury from fall; recovering at home

Darrin Dotter: (brother to Lynn Borger) treatments for blood cancer

Butch Drew: (friend of the Hubers) diagnosed with cancer

Bruce Eckhart: recovering from surgery

Margie Hinkel (friend of Joyce Fusner) kidney failure due to diabetes

Wade Koehler (friend of Vivian Smith) having reactions to chemo treatments

Greg Mackes: doing well after rotator cuff surgery (Rose Fritz’s son-in-law)

Faye Nicholas: treatments for mouth cancer (friend of St. Matthew’s)

Danny Serfass (Brenda Hawk’s Brother) in the hospital

Rick Sherer: is home and doing well

Louie Smith (son-in-law of Barbara and Richard Getz) has kidney cancer

JOYS

Mark and Brandy Bittenbender: new grandson

Corey and Tiffany Smith: Wayne Corey Smith
born August 7th

CIA COOKING CORNER

DORA TARTAR

RHUBARB PIE

1 UNBAKED PIE CRUST

2 EGGS

3 TBSP. FLOUR

1-1/2 CUPS SUGAR

4 CUPS RHUBARB, CUT INTO 1 INCH PIECES

DASH OF CINNAMON

1/2 CUP WHITE RAISINS (OPTIONAL)

TOSS THE RHUBARB, EGGS, FLOUR AND SUGAR TOGETHER UNTIL IT GETS NICE AND JUICY. POUR INTO THE PIE SHELL AND SPRINKLE WITH CINNAMON. BAKE AT 425 DEGREES FOR 10 MINUTES, THEN TURN THE OVEN TO 375 DEGREES AND BAKE UNTIL NICE AND FIRM. APPROXIMATELY 30 TO 35 MINUTES MORE. ALLOW TO COOL BEFORE SERVING.



This recipe is a blast from my past for a couple of reasons. First, it was one of my favorite desserts that my Mom made. Second, because this came from The Western Pocono Community Library Cookbook published in 1992 when I was still working at Pleasant Valley School District. Concetta Sabia was an elementary art teacher. Fond memories all around!

September 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	<i>1</i> LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> COUNCIL 7PM	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> MEN'S GROUP KICK BALL PICNIC
<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> LAYMEN'S 10AM	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> FAMILY CAMPFIRE GROVE 6PM- 9PM	<i>20</i> KIDS MOVIE NIGHT 5PM-7PM
<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>				

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Gloria Anewalt, Daniel Wunder

2 David Beers

3 Joann Hunsicker

4 Hajnalka Barankovich, Emily Smith Storm

5 James Pipitone

6 Madison Borger, Keri Wunder

8 Shayla Borger

9 Karrie Gutierrez, Kaila Palermo

10 Rachel Kresge

11 Kaleb Slawter

15 Calvin Smith

16 Lois Bachman, Bruce Eckhart

17 Joanne Fisher, Brittney Heath

19 Stephen Hall, Richard Scimeca

20 Leeann Koch

21 Sheila Beers

22 Brianna Frable, Jane Frantz

23 Kristy Bower, Jennifer Smith

24 Brad Kibler

26 Donna Smith

28 Michael Meitzler

29 Dora Tartar

30 Richard Courtright

