

*Welcome to St. Matthews*  
*“A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ.”*  
*We are honored to have you worship with us today*  
*and we hope that you will receive a warm welcome*  
*and experience the presence of our Lord in a significant way.*

## PRELUDE

## GATHERING HYMNS

## WELCOME EVERYONE!

## FAMILY JOYS AND CONCERNS – Please share!

## PRAYER FOR JOYS AND CONCERNS

**\*\*\*FRIENDSHIP PAD – Please sign and include any contact info updates.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

(L) Rejoice with me, people of God.

**(ALL) God has gathered us in from the wilderness.**

(L) Rejoice with me, people of God.

**(ALL) God has swept away the darkness of the night.**

(L) Rejoice with me, people of God.

**(ALL) Today, there is joy in the presence of the angels.**

**\*OPENING HYMN   *His Mercy Is More* (123)**

***CHORUS:*** *Praise the Lord, His mercy is more.*

*Stronger than darkness, new every morn;*

*Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more.*

*What love could remember no wrongs we have done?*

*Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum.*

*Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore.*

*Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more. (CHORUS)*

*What patience would wait as we constantly roam?*

*What Father, so tender, is calling us home?*

*He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor?*

*Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more. (CHORUS)*

*What riches of kindness He lavished on us.*

*His blood was the payment, His life was the cost.*

*We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford.*

*Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more. (CHORUS 2x)*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Even though we continually turn away from God, the Lord is eager to forgive. Trusting in the promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Forgive our sins, O Lord, for your name's sake. Make us faithful stewards of the grace you have given and generous in forgiving others, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Our loving God desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Hear the good news! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**Gabby Bentley**

## “THE PASSING OF THE PEACE”

## PRAYER FOR OFFERING

## Offertory Scripture

John 3:16 (ESV) Page 864

16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

**OFFERTORY           *There Is a Redeemer* (256)**

*There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son;*

*precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.*

***CHORUS:*** *Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son,*  
*and leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.*

*Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;*

*precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain. (CHORUS)*

*When I stand in glory, I will see his face;*

*there I'll serve my King forever in that holy place. (CHORUS)*

## CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

## SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:36-41 (ESV) Page 886

**36** Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

**37** Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

**38** Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**39** For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him."

**40** And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."

**41** So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

## SERMON

"What are you preaching this week?"

(The message of the early church)

## CLOSING PRAYER

### \*THE LORD'S PRAYER – ALL

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen**

### \*CLOSING HYMN *In Christ Alone (181)*

*In Christ alone my hope is found; he is my light, my strength, my song;  
this cornerstone, this solid ground, firm thro' the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My comforter, my all in all— here in the love of Christ I stand.*

*In Christ alone who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe,  
this gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save.  
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied.  
For ev'ry sin on him was laid— here in the death of Christ I live.*

*There in the ground his body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain.  
Then bursting forth in glorious day— up from the grave he rose again!  
And as he stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me.  
For I am his and he is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.*

*No guilt in life, no fear in death: this is the pow'r of Christ in me.  
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from his hand.  
Till he returns or calls me home: here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.*

### \*CLOSING PRAYER

### \*CONGREGATIONAL SUNG RESPONSE – ALL *Go Now In Peace*

***Go now in peace; never be afraid, God will go with you each hour of every day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true. Know He will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe, reach out to others, so all the world can see. God will be there, watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith and in love. Amen. Amen. Amen.***

*(CCLI #2810357 Don Besig)*

❖ **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



“GOD has made this  
JESUS,  
whom you crucified,  
both LORD  
and CHRIST.”

ACTS 2:36, NIV

**St. Matthew’s EC Church Kunkletown**  
**14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 14, 2025**

102 Church Rd, Kunkletown, PA 18058  
610-381-2442, [stmatts@ptd.net](mailto:stmatts@ptd.net)  
[www.stmattsecckunkletown.com](http://www.stmattsecckunkletown.com)

## THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, Sept. 14	14th Sunday after Pentecost	-Sanctuary, 9am
Monday, Sept. 15	Exercise Group	-Office Open 10am -2pm
	Council Meeting	-Common Room 10:30am
Wednesday, Sept. 17		-CIA Classroom 7pm
	Laymen's Fellowship	-Office Open 10am – 2pm
Thursday, Sept. 18		-Social Hall 10am
	Visitation Team	-Office Open 10am – 2pm
	Exercise Group	-CIA Classroom 9am
Friday, Sept. 19	Family Campfire	-Common Room 10:30am
Saturday, Sept 20	Kid's Movie Night	-Grove 6pm – 8pm
Sunday, Sept. 21	15th Sunday after Pentecost	-Social Hall 3pm – 5pm
		-Sanctuary, 9am

### Altar Flowers

**Vase #1 – in celebration of Penny and Mitch Hawk's 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary**

**Vase #2 – in celebration of Diane and George Huber's wedding anniversary**

Pastor: Wil Hoffman	Council President: RJ Cramer
Children's Ministry Director: Tiffany Lakatosh	Church Secretary: Renée Keiper
September Lead Usher: RJ Cramer	

❖ **The Prayer Team is looking for volunteers to join the team. See Pastor Wil.**

❖ **Greeters are needed – see Brenda Sheckler if you are interested.**

❖ **September benevolence – Habitat for Humanity**

Help build strength and stability.

Your donation will help families in need of a decent place to build long-term financial security. With an affordable, stable home, families have more to spend on food, medicine, childcare, education and other essentials. Your support can help us do more in all the many ways that Habitat builds.

**Thanks to you, Habitat is transforming lives around the world.**

❖ **Shoebox deadline is only 2 1/2 months away!!**

Please start thinking about filling the shoe boxes you took last year.

Fill them to the brim with lots of toys, crafts, needed items.

Check the board in the Gathering Room for ideas.

You do not need a red and green box to fill with items.

Any shoe box will do. We provide the labels.

Please be age and gender specific, as it helps with the processing.

❖ **September 15<sup>th</sup> – Council Meeting, 7pm \*\* Note: this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday.**

❖ **September 17<sup>th</sup> – Laymen's Fellowship Meeting, 10am**

❖ **September 18<sup>th</sup> – Visitation Team meeting, 9am**

❖ **September 19<sup>th</sup> – Family Campfire and S'mores in the Grove, 6pm to 8pm**

❖ **September 20<sup>th</sup> – Kid's Movie Night, 3pm to 5pm**

❖ **October 12<sup>th</sup> – Eldred Twp. Historical Society Bingo in the Social Hall. Doors open at 12pm, bingo starts at 1pm.**

❖ **October 12<sup>th</sup> – Hymn Sing, Tamaqua Bethany EC Church at 3pm.**

❖ **November 1<sup>st</sup> – Laymen's Fellowship is asking for donations for the Annual Bazaar. Items valued at \$50 are needed for the ticket raffle and items valued at \$25 or more for the Pa Dutch Raffle. Items for the ticket raffle should be given to Diane Huber by September 19<sup>th</sup>.**