



Are you envious
because I am
generous?

MATTHEW 20:15

17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 24, 2023

INTRODUCTION

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

arr. Ron Nelson

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**



St. Matthew's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

12351 All Saints Place
Woodbridge, VA 22192
703-494-3090
www.stmatthewsva.org

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

-Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

GATHERING HYMN *-Please stand*

Lord of All Hopefulness

ELW 765

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four lines of music, each with four-part harmony (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and corresponding lyrics. The first line has a repeat sign at the end. The second line has a repeat sign at the end. The third line has a repeat sign at the end. The fourth line ends with a double bar line.

1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,

whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:

be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,

your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE Pastor **A** leads and the assembly responds **C**

[A] In - peace, let us pray to the Lord.

[C] Lord, — have mer - cy.

[A] For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the

Lord.

[A] For the peace of the whole world, for the

[C] Lord, — have mer - cy.

well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray — to the

Lord. A For this holy house, and for

C Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the

Lord. Help, save, com - fort and de -

C Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

fend us, gra - cious Lord.

Slower

A - men

HYMN OF PRAISE (High Voices, I; Low Voices, II)

6

C This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our
God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. _____

I Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

II Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

C This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. _____

I Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing,

hon - or, glo - ry and might be to God and the
Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
[C] This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. [III] For the Lamb
who was slain has be - gun his reign.
Al - le - lu - ia.
[C] This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
rit.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

-Please share a sign of peace with those around you.

-Please be seated.

A reading from the Prophet Jonah, the third and fourth chapters...

When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

The Word of the Lord; Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145

We pray the psalm responsively...

I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.

Every day will I bless you

and praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!

There is no end to your greatness.

One generation shall praise your works to another

and shall declare your power.

I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty

and all your marvelous works.

They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,

and I will recount your greatness.

They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;

they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Amen.

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:21-30

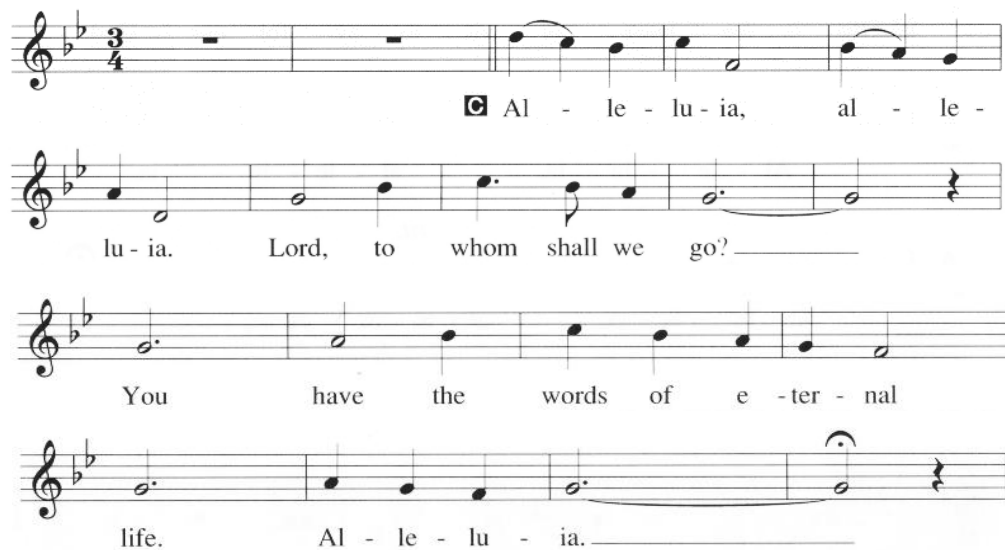
A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians, the first chapter...

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord; Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *-Please stand.*



GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 20th chapter... C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Holy Words, Holy Wisdom. Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY -Please stand.

O Jesus, I Have Promised

ELW 810



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
 2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
 3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
 4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
 I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt-ing sounds I hear.
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
 now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard-ian of my soul.
 oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816–1874, alt.

Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION -Please stand, sit, or kneel for the prayers.

P: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

(A brief silence is kept; each petition ends with the response.)

A: Merciful God.

C: Receive our prayer.

P: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

OFFERING We give thanks to God by offering the gifts we have been given for the sake of the world. We invite you to place your donations in the plate as it is passed. Donations can also be made online at stmatthewsva.org/give. Your offerings go toward the mission of the church and allow us to respond to the needs of our congregation and community locally, nationally, and internationally.

OFFERTORY

**For the Least
Choir**

arr. Wold

OFFERING SONG

3

Let the vine-yards be fruit - ful, Lord, —

— and fill to the brim our cup of bless - ing. —

Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that

we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the

hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the

prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your

pres - ence, — and give us a fore - taste

of the feast to come. —

OFFERTORY PRAYER

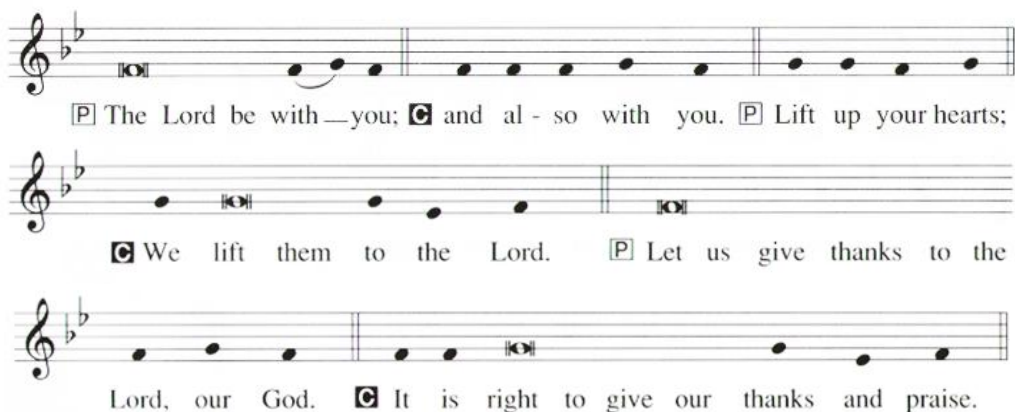
P: God of power, God of plenty,

C: all things belong to you.

We bring your gifts to the table,
that all might be fed.

Form us into the body of your Beloved,
Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



[P] The Lord be with—you; [C] and al - so with you. [P] Lift up your hearts;
[C] We lift them to the Lord. [P] Let us give thanks to the
Lord, our God. [C] It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



4
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord,
God of pow - er, God of might, Hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. — Ho - san - na
in the high - est! — Bles - sed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord; — Ho - san - na in the high - est! —
— Ho - san - na in the high - est!

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

The body of Christ given for you; the blood of Christ shed for you.

COMMUNION

-Please be seated.

All who believe Jesus is present in this sacrament are invited to receive the bread and wine. Communion will be distributed at the altar rail; when invited by an usher, please come forward and kneel at the altar to receive the bread and wine. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. Know that if you only take the bread that you have fully communed. Whether you are receiving communion at in-person worship or if you are receiving communion at home, we extend to you: The body of Christ given for you; the blood of Christ shed for you.

LAMB OF GOD

Je - sus, Lamb of God; ——— you take a - way the

sin of the world, ——— have mer - cy on — us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God; ——— you

take a - way the sin of the world:

grant us your — peace.

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in G major (one flat). It consists of five staves. The first staff begins with a 3/4 time signature, followed by a repeat sign. The second staff changes to 4/4 time. The third staff returns to 3/4 time. The fourth staff changes to 2/4 time. The fifth staff returns to 3/4 time. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with long horizontal lines indicating where the voice should hold for a certain duration.

Great God, Your Love Has Called Us

1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for
 2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and
 3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us
 4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and
 5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your



love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,
 cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,
 as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,
 call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,
 joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty



though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our
 by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems
 but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your
 and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -
 to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that



heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.
 close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.
 mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.
 a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.
 faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker, 1889–1953

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1 In the sing-ing, in the si-lence, in the hands ex-pect-ant, o-pen,
2 In the ques-tion, in the an-swer, in the mo-ment of ac-cept-ance,

in the bless-ing, in the break-ing, in your pres-ence at this ta-ble,
in the heart's cry, in the heal-ing, in the cir-cle of your peo-ple,

Refrain

Je-sus Christ, Je-sus Christ, be the wine of grace;
Je-sus Christ, Je-sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931

Music: BREAD OF PEACE, Carlton R. Young, b. 1926

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POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Blessed be your name, O God,
for we have feasted on your Word,
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.
Strengthened by this food,
send us to gather the world to your banquet,
where none are left out and
all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
Amen.

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

ELW 659



1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
 5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as



Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
 on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
 of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
 laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
 Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to



let you be my ser - vant, too.
 walk the mile and bear the load.
 speak the peace you long to hear.
 till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 let you be my ser - vant, too.

Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953
 Music: THE SERVANT SONG, Richard Gillard
 Text and music © 1977 Scripture In Song (c/o Integrity's Hosanna Music)/ASCAP.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE***Prelude and Fughetta in G Major**

J. K. F. Fischer

**During the postlude, you are invited to exit the sanctuary or sit and enjoy the musical offering.*

*We welcome children of all ages to engage in worship with us.
 If you find you need to step out, we have an unstaffed nursery located in the office hallway,
 past the restrooms. We ask parents to please remain with your children.*

*St. Matthew's services are live streamed and recorded to document the vibrant life of our church.
 If you do not wish to be included, please notify an usher and they can show you to seats
 where inclusion in the video is greatly reduced.*

Ministers: ALL the People of St. Matthew's

Senior Pastor: Rev. Stephen Bohannon	sbohannon@stmatthewsva.org
Director of Music: Kathy Lundgren	klundgren@stmatthewsva.org
Organist: Melvin Goodwyn	organist@stmatthewsva.org
Administrative Assistant: Patti Hinson	stmatthews@stmatthewsva.org
Tech Volunteers: Mike Mazzucchi, Chris Moessner, Joyce Forbes, Tom Meier	
Lector: Peggy Heffernan	
Ushers: Dave Carr, Mike Fink, Linda Debban	

Church Council Members:

Gaye DeCesare – President	Keith Kuhn – Finance & Stewardship Chair
Gretchen Wilcox – Christian Education Chair	Dick Gullickson – Secretary, Fellowship Chair
Angela Allen – Evangelism Chair	Emily Hess – Day School Chair
Bruce Leiby – Vice President, Property Chair	Denise Riley – Worship & Music Chair
Mark Victorson – Social Ministry Chair	Darryl Lundgren – Treasurer
Pat Hartline – Financial Secretary	

The Eternal Candle for the month of September is sponsored by the People of St. Matthew's,
*We thank God for his mercy, and all the blessings he has bestowed;
we are drinking from our saucer because our cup has overflowed...*



For more announcements and upcoming events, please go to our website at www.stmatthewsva.org

TODAY – Sunday School classes meet following our 10:00 worship service:

- Sunday School classes for PreK (3-year-olds) - 6 grades. Meeting upstairs in the Blue and Yellow Classrooms.
- Sunday School Class for 7th and 8th grades. Meeting upstairs in Rooms 9 and 10, the large classroom.
- Sunday School Class for High School Youth. Meeting in the basement.
- Adult Parenting Class. Parents, grandparents, and caregivers of all ages of children are welcome. We will discuss a current article or a reading from a parenting book to begin our discussion each week. Meeting upstairs.
- Sunday morning Adult Bible Study. We will meet in the sanctuary during the Sunday School time.

SEPTEMBER 28 – The September Fellowship Luncheon will be held at First Watch, Smoketown Station, at 11:30AM. Please RSVP on the St. Matthew's SignUp Genius by Tuesday, September 26th!

OCTOBER 7 - Join St Matthew's at the annual iWALK for ACTS festival fundraiser on Saturday, October 7, 2023. See Rob Mouw for more information.

OCTOBER 15 – The St. Matthew's Book Group will travel *West with Giraffes* to discuss Lynda Rutledge's novel at St. Matthew's at 2:30 pm.

OCTOBER 29 – Photo Booth Sunday: Join us Sunday, October 29 from 11am-1pm at the church for the Mirror Photo Booth. Bring the whole family to update our church directory and Hallway Photo Wall. Contact Angela Allen for more information.