



LOOKING AHEAD

Dear People of God:

For our Wednesday Holden Evening Prayer services we have been using the semi-continuous Old Testament lectionary, which has taken us through Genesis to the story of the Exodus. In the last two weeks of readings, we have heard God respond to the Israelites' fear, anxiety, frustration, and legitimate need for sustenance by providing manna, the daily bread from heaven, and water flowing from a rock. They began complaining very early in their wilderness journey; four decades of wandering still stood between the people and the Promised Land, they just didn't know it yet. I have been pondering whether Moses would have been able to get them to leave Egypt—even slavery in Egypt—if they had known the length of the journey ahead of them. If we were to look merely at physical distance on a map, it would not have taken Israel 40 years to cross the desert, but that was how long it took the people to let go of their identity as Egypt's slaves and begin to live into their identity as God's chosen people, co-creators of God's new community under a new Law in a new land.

I have compared our current circumstances to the exile, but perhaps it would be more helpful for us to contemplate this time as a time of exodus. What if we did not merely focus on returning to "normal" as Israel awaited return from Babylon? What if we thought about this time as an exodus, taking us out of an old way of living and forming us for a new way of life?

Since the opportunity is being made available, some of you may choose to worship in person again, albeit in different circumstances than you will have remembered from before the pandemic. Some will need to continue a more conservative approach to health and safety in this time. Yet for all of us, this time of altered circumstances is predicted to stretch on for the foreseeable future; we don't know how long this journey will last or where we will find ourselves when the acute phase of this crisis is over. When we are able to live less restricted lives, what will we choose to do with them? What will reappear on our schedules? What habits will we have formed in this time that we will want to keep?

Our good and gracious God who is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love desires life and not death; God did not send the hardships of these last months and in fact suffers in solidarity with the suffering. Yet, God calls us to respond faithfully even in difficult circumstances. What might God be calling us to reform in ourselves as we re-form our lives to persevere through the pandemic and thrive beyond it? When we are able to say we have come through this wilderness, may we also be able to say that we are closer to living our lives in ways that more fully reveal God's kingdom.

Pastor Traci

In Person Worship Schedule

Sundays – 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary

Sundays – 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall

Wednesdays – 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary

Martinsburg Food Pantry

The Food Pantry will be open for distribution of food on Thursdays, October 1st and October 15th from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Curryville Church of the Brethren will supply 3 or 4 volunteers in addition to our regular volunteers. We continue to adhere to having masks and safe distance.

Items most needed for October: Fruit, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Tuna, Instant Potatoes
Thank You!



Canceled for 2020



Blanket Sunday

October 4, 2020

Blanket Sunday is a ministry that is traditionally held on the first Sunday of October.

Persons in every congregation of the Allegheny Synod are invited to give a special offering for the purchase of blankets for Lutheran World Relief. You will find this special offering envelope in your offering booklets. If you have an offering number instead of an offering booklet, please write your **“offering number or name”** and **“blankets”** on a pew envelope or on a plain white envelope. Your contribution of \$5.00 buys a sturdy blanket which provides shelter, warmth, and security to someone in the world facing disaster.

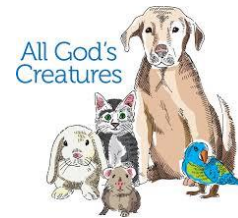
Blanket Sunday is the largest single donation of blankets that takes place throughout the year.

Attendance for August 2020

No regular attendance was observed since Covid-19 started March 15, 2020 for St. Matthew. We worshiped online through Facebook and Zoom with an average attendance of 100 viewers.

Chapel Service Attendance None
because of Covid-19

Average Sunday Worship attendance 2019
– 81 (4 wks.)



Calling ALL Pets!

Pastor Traci will be blessing ALL Pets on
Saturday, October 3, 2020
10:00 a.m.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
Maple St. Entrance Door
115 E Penn St., Martinsburg, PA 16662



Honoring our Veterans

We will be honoring our veterans next month. We want to make sure all veterans are recognized. If you know someone who should be on the list please contact the church office by phone or email with the veteran's name, branch and years served



Thank you for your ongoing partnership with Lutheran disaster Response and for your gifts given through your synod this summer!

Thank you especially for your faithful support when so many neighbors are in need, when so many neighbors will benefit from your generosity.

Rev. Dr. Robin Brown

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ST MATTHEW STAY AT HOME WORSHIP

Monday & Friday: Hymn Devotions posted at 9AM

Tuesday & Thursday: Morning & Night Prayer, 9AM & 9PM

Tuesday-Friday: Midday Kids' Devotions

Ways to Make Donations to St. Matthew

Giving Online: Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

- 1) Visit the church website at “www.stmatthewlc.com”
- 2) Click on the “Give” button, (on the top white banner)
- 3) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.

Barcode Offerings:

- 1) Visit “Play Store on your mobile device”
- 2) Find QR Code (this app is free)
- 3) Click on the “Install” the app
- 4) Open the app on your device
- 5) Scan the Barcode: (follow the prompts)

A Hymn to God the Father

by John Donne

WILT Thou forgive that sin where
I begun,
Which was my sin, though it were
done before?



Wilt Thou forgive that sin, through which I run,
And do run still, though still I do deplore?
When Thou hast done, Thou hast not done,
For I have more.

Wilt Thou forgive that sin which I have won
Others to sin, and made my sin their door?
Wilt Thou forgive that sin which I did shun
A year or two, but wallowed in a score?
When Thou hast done, Thou hast not done,
For I have more.

I have a sin of fear, that when I have spun
My last thread, I shall perish on the shore ;
But swear by Thyself, that at my death Thy Son
Shall shine as he shines now, and heretofore ;
And having done that, Thou hast done ;
I fear no more.

Healthy Harvest Speakers Series

ALSM is excited to share with you our virtual Health Harvest Speakers Series that will feature a variety of guest presenters sharing information on nutrition, safety, and overall well-being.

Series Schedule:

October 6th – 2:00 p.m. Shortness of Breath and Pursed Lip Breathing. Presented by Dr. George Zlupko from Altoona Lung Specialists & the Lung Disease Center of Central Pennsylvania

October 13th – 2:00 p.m. Presented by Kristine [redacted] Dietician from CURA Ho [redacted]

October 21st – 2:00 p.m. Sp [redacted] COVID -19. Presented by [redacted] Chaplain, The Oaks at Pleasant Gap.



October 27th – 2:00 p.m. What Can I Control or Predict? Managing the Loss of Routine. Presented by Dr. Bob Skelly, Psychologist/Program Director SpiriTrust Lutheran Counseling Services

To register, please contact Andrea Schurr at andrea.schurr@alsm.org or 814.696.4516. Prior to the presentation, you will receive your log-in information for the virtual session.

We look forward to “seeing” you soon!



With Deepest Sympathy

Prayers and Christian Sympathy are asked for....

- Family and Friends upon the death of Janet Miller, Saturday, September 12, 2020.
- Bob Guyer upon the death of his son, Ryan Guyer, on Saturday, September 26, 2020.



October 2020

One day, a wise old grandfather clock, feeling weary, began to consider just how many times it was ticking annually. It figured it ticked two times a second, 120 times a minute, 7200 times an hour, 172,800 times a day, 63,072,000 times a year. Imagine that ... over 63 million ticks a year! Exasperated at how hard the clock had to work, it wanted to quit ticking: "I'll sit down and quit. That's too much ticking for me."

Sometimes life feels that way for many of us. If we over-think the time and energy we spend on every little thing ... it can be overwhelming. We need to learn to expend our efforts wisely, taking one step at a time. Moving forward with steady determination, we can accomplish a great amount.

In our service to and worship of God we must steadfastly continue, or else Christianity would wither away. An article in this month's *Stewardship* suggests that we exercise our stewardship steadily ... a bit at a time ... week by week, year by year. Faithfully and steadily.

Jesus talked about a woman taking a bit of yeast then mixing it in flour. It took a while, but in time the risen dough was ready to bake. A little expanded into a lot. (Luke 13-20-21) Just so, our daily stewardship in time builds a refuge for orphan children, aid for a missionary in Africa or Asia, medical help for those dying of malaria or Aids, or a wonderful church, such as we have ourselves. Bit by bit, our stewardship, with God's help, will always work miracles.

Prayer: *Do not, O Lord, allow us to grow weary in well-doing. Stir us up to exercise our total stewardship, that our efforts may always please you. Amen*

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church
Free Website Link for *Stewardship Brochure*
You can easily read the full version of *Stewardship* on our website (stmatthewLC.com). Each month the link will bring the current issue every month. Click the link for "**Bulletins & Announcements**" and you will see the link for "**Stewardship**".



Transformational Prayer for October

As we look at October, there are two events that are very important to the Church as a whole. First is World Wide Communion Sunday on October 4th, when most of the Christian churches are encouraged to celebrate the Eucharist. The second event is Reformation Sunday, October 27th

When we celebrate the start of the new Reformed churches led by the posting of Martin Luther's Theses.

Father, we ask that thou will help all of your people to live in peace and harmony and support our churches, and members in them. We further request that you help those who have yet to find your loving grace by touching them with your presence. Amen



SERVING GOD AND US October 2020

Date	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25 Reformation
Audio & Video	Lori Tremmel	Camden Kuster	Shawn Orczeck	Camden Kuster
Worship Attendant	Need Volunteer for each service	Need Volunteer for each service	Need Volunteer for each service	Need Volunteer for each service
Offering Attendant	Beth Garner 9:00 a.m. Anna Klepser 10:30 a.m.	Jim Barley 9:00 a.m. Anna Klepser 10:30 a.m.	Beth Garner 9:00 a.m. Anna Klepser 10:30 a.m.	Jim Barley 9:00 a.m. Anna Klepser 10:30 a.m.
Altar Guild	Tonya Walter Shanda Imler	Tonya Walter Shanda Imler	Tonya Walter Shanda Imler	Tonya Walter Shanda Imler

Wednesday Evening Worship Recorders: VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR ALL SERVICES

Wednesday Evening 6:30 p.m. Worship Offering Counters: VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED



Anniversaries for October

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 01 George & Martie Gilbert | 07 Camden & Veronica Hoover |
| 02 Michael & Jamie Richardson | 09 Tyson & Terri Rodgers |
| 04 R. Troy & Jennifer Metzler | 15 James & Linda Negley |
| James & Tonya Walter | Titus & Beverly Smith |
| Greg & Julie Dick | 21 Alvin & Kim Lee |
| 05 Dr. Ramon & E. Kaye Burket | 22 Andrew & Jenna Lenhart |
| 05 Robert & Patricia Mountain | |

Birthdays for October

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 01 Ruth Marshall | 09 Troy Metzler | 16 P. Jeannie Smith |
| 03 Tyler Rodgers | 12 James Barley | Joey Tremmel |
| 04 P. Robert Dickson | Martin Burket | 17 Chase Buchart |
| William Dickson | Annette Ritchey | 20 Kelsiee Hoover |
| Kyle Guyer | Titus Smith | 23 Carol Replogle |
| 05 Beverly Smith | 13 Shari Gilbert | 28 Nancy Uber |
| 06 Ryan Smith | 14 Dwight Johnson | 29 Zachary Tremmel |
| Trevor Smith | Dennis Smith | 30 Shirley Acker |
| Whitney Smith | Emily Walter | Henry Lamborn |
| 08 George Gilbert Jr. | 15 Debra Guyer | 31 Sandy Loomis |
| Cindy Snyder | | Lori Reimer |

All Saints Sunday, November 1, 2020

Please submit any names you would like recognized on All Saints Sunday to the church office. October 26, 2020 is the deadline. Email address: stmatthewluth@aol.com or use the website: stmatthewLC.com

2020 COUNCIL DIRECTORY AND MINISTRY STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Traci Marriott	935-9267	Christian Ed.	Bonnie Casey	285-1610
Admin. Assist.	Lori Tremmel	696-3802	Fellowship	Greg Dick	224-2408
Asst. Admin. Assist.	Laura Orczeck	224-1208	Evangelism	Les Loomis (570)	885-0572
President	Melissa Fetzer	793-2735	Stewardship	Greg Haffling	793-9827
Vice President	Sheena Tremmel	515-2962	Finance	Shawn Orczeck	224-1208
Secretary	Elaine Smith (434)	981-0560	Social Ministry	Peggy Freyer	614-4352
Treasurer	Beth Garner	793-3966	Worship & Music	Jane Fagans	793-4401
Financial Secretary	Anna Klepser	793-2094	Staff Support	Kay McGraw	793-2603
Property	Ed Kreider	793-4302			

HIGHLIGHTS BY COUNCIL IN SEPTEMBER

1. Council accepted the resignation of Warren Daniel from the Property Committee in anticipation of Dottie and him moving. Ed Kreider accepted the appointment of that position until the annual congregational meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2020.
2. 2020 Nominating Committee is looking for candidates for the 2021-2022 Slate for the following positions:
 - a. Vice President
 - b. Evangelism Chairperson
3. Finance Committee is asking for ALL Committees to submit a proposed 2021 budget by October 12, 2020.

Giving

2020 August		Year to Date as of 8/31/2020	
Current	\$16,149.14	Current	\$122,487.30
Benevolence (Synod)	\$1,667.50	Benevolence (Synod)	\$14,068.50
On Eagles Wings/Missions	\$1,450.50	3rd Qrt. OEW/Missions	\$2,424.50

2019 August		Year to Date as of 8/31/19	
Current	\$14,133.33	Current	\$126,212.44
Benevolence (Synod)	\$1,499.00	Benevolence (Synod)	\$12,501.55
On Eagles Wings/Missions	\$850.50	3rd Qrt. OEW/Missions	\$2,110.50

2020 Income vs Expenses		
Current	August	Year to Date as of 8/31/2020
Actual	\$1,824.07	(\$5,994.31)
Per Budget	(\$2,481.94)	(\$26,561.37)
<u>Benevolence</u>		
Per Commitment to Synod	(\$499.17)	(\$3,264.83)