



Saint Matthew
LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Matthew's Messenger

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church
115 E. Penn Street, Martinsburg, PA 16662-1127

Phone 814.793.2413 • Fax 814.614-4003 • e-mail: stmatthewmartinsburg@gmail.com
• web: www.stmatthewlc.com • Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmatthewlc

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Number 3

Greetings People of God!

We've all seen signs and bumper stickers that say "Jesus saves!" and especially at this time of year leading up to Easter, we focus our attention on the cross. But what exactly do we mean when we say "Jesus died on the cross for our sins"? If someone who wasn't familiar with the Christian story asked you to explain how that works, what would you say?

You might be surprised to know there isn't just one answer to that question. Over the history of Christianity, theologians have explored different explanations for how Jesus' life, death, and resurrection impacted humanity and the creation in general. Especially if we were raised in the church and have heard Jesus' story since we were young, we might have never thought to ask how the cross accomplished our salvation; it just seems like a given, like $2+2=4$. But if the central claim of the Christian faith is that Jesus saves, it makes us better disciples and better evangelists to wrestle with what that means.

Our Lenten Wednesday learning and worship this year will delve into soteriology—the study of salvation. We'll look at scripture and hymns that help us talk about the saving work of Jesus in different ways. Join us for supper at 6PM and worship at 7PM, March 1-29, as we consider together what happened on that cross long ago.

Pastor Traci



YOGA Sessions

Yoga sessions will be on Thursdays, March 9 and March 23 at 5:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall during the season of Lent.

Summer Camp at Sequanota

Reminder: The Early Bird Deadline for Camp Sequanota is April 1st. Campers' families are asked to pay the \$100 online deposit and St. Matthew will cover the rest of the cost of regular cabin camp; campers can bring a friend and St. Matthew will also cover their cost, less the deposit. Registering early is the most economical option and helps us help you get to camp.





A Stewardship Moment March 2023

There is a story in this month's issue of *Stewardship* about a large downtown church in the midst of a prayer meeting with several hundred people present. It was during the Lenten season and the pastor asked a rather simple, but searching question: "Suppose you had the chance to be one person associated with those last days of Jesus in Jerusalem, whom would you choose to be?"

A timid little woman arose to speak. "There are many people in the passion story whose place I could never fill," she said. "I could not carry my Master's cross as Simon of Cyrene did. Nor could I have followed him out to the garden as some of the others did. But, I could make ready for him the best room in my house, where he might eat the last supper with his disciples. I could promise him that it would be made ready to his satisfaction." There is no record of any such thing in Scripture, but it is easy to imagine some homemaker telling her Christian friends how the Lord had come to their home that night and had eaten that last solemn meal under her roof. She never wrote a gospel nor became a martyr, nor did she hold an office in the church, but she could provide a furnished room!

A great deal of the service of the kingdom of God must be rendered by those who are never publicly commended, and are never elected as a delegate. "Well done, thou good and faithful steward."

Prayer: *Our loving Creator, you have given generously to us. Keep us from ignoring opportunities to serve you as good stewards of all that we are. Amen*

A *Steward of the Month* is available to subscribers of *Stewardship* at www.parishpublishing.org. Simply click or go to our website: stmatthewlc.com and go to middle of the page and click on helpful links then go to bottom of the page and click on "Steward of the Month".



Christian Sympathy is asked for:

- The family of Bob Guyer and Linda Smith upon his death on Monday, February 6, 2023.

Martinsburg Food Pantry

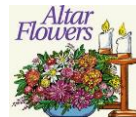


Volunteers from Martinsburg Grace Brethren Church will be helping at the Food Pantry on the first and third Thursdays, March 2 and March 16. The Food Pantry will be open to distribute food items from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. on these days and other times by appointment.

The March items most needed are: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Pasta or Rice Sides, Canned Fruit, and Scalloped Potatoes. These or any items can be placed in the basket at church. Thank You! **Linda Smith**

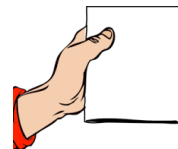


A special thank you to my St. Matthew family who sent cards, notes of concern, prayers, and donations for Gideon placed Bibles in memory of Bob Guyer. Your kindness and support is greatly appreciated. **Linda Smith**



The 2023 Altar Flower chart is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Altar Flowers are a perfect way to remember loved ones or to honor loved ones. There are plenty of dates available. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar. Price - \$40.00.

Dates available: 4/9, 4/16, 4/30, 5/21, 6/4, 7/2, 10/8, 10/15, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 12/3, 12/17, 12/24. If you would like a Sunday(s) you can also call the church office at 814-793-2413.



St. Matthew Messenger

The monthly St. Matthew Messenger is available on the St. Matthew Website under Newsletters, on your email message from St. Matthew with the link for the Messenger, or as a paper copy in the news rack in the church Narthex. By calling the church office 814-793-2413, you can request a paper copy to be mailed monthly to your address. Your readership and articles are always appreciated.



Prayer Vigil

Scheduled at St. Matthew Lutheran Church on Friday, April 7th, from 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Members are asked to commit one half hour to pray for any concerns of a personal, church, or worldwide nature. We hope to have enough participation to fill a twelve-hour time period with continuous prayer. The sign-up sheet is located on the **bulletin board in the Narthex**. This is an excellent way for you to enrich your spiritual and prayer life. You may pray at home. If you would like to participate and can't come to the church to sign up please call the church office at 793-2413.



Saturday, March 11th before you go to bed.

Lent

Sundays & Seasons

Connections with Creation

Lent is often called the great fast of the church year—the season we abstain from something that separates us from the love of God and neighbor. We might welcome Lent as an opportunity to fast from carbon—to reduce our carbon footprint by moving toward a plant-based diet, driving less, wasting less, recycling more, and so on. Living more lightly on Earth means we live with greater moral integrity and encourage those around us to make similar changes in their own lives. But let's not fall for the climate guilt trap foisted on us by fossil fuel corporations, which have a long pattern of blaming consumers for climate change, keeping us focused on personal behavior while they sabotage efforts for a collective transition to renewable energy. Even as we “green” our personal and congregational lives, our primary focus needs to stay on climate justice. Let us move from climate guilt to climate action.



Birthdays for March

- 1 Rebecca Moore
- 2 Sal I. Lamborn
- 3 Linda L. Lehman
- 4 Carla Brumbaugh
- 5 M. Jane Staily
- 6 Patricia Russell
- 9 Brock Frederick
Lyndsay Tremmel
- 10 Sadie Freyer
Jessica Orczeck
Sondra Ursiak
- 11 Ann Irvin
Audrey L. Kensinger
Daniel S. Kensinger
- 12 Alan A. Brubaker
Pat Mountain
- 13 Misty J. Smith
Rhyvan Tremmel
Katie Zimmerman
- 16 Roy W. Creps
- 17 Sharon E. Frederick
- 19 Dr. Adam Smith
- 20 Thomas D. Brown
- 22 Matthew K. Buchart
- 23 Lucas Jon Gilbert
- 25 Betty Selby
- 26 Kay L. McGraw
- 28 Erik B. Snyder
- 29 Erin N. Gates

Anniversaries in March

- 8 Dwight & Yong Mi Johnson
- 9 Thomas D. & Linda J. Brown 50th
- 11 Daniel S. & Audrey L. Kensinger
- 16 Nicholas & Erin Gates
Jeffrey & Sharon Hicks
- 22 Jack & Kay Howsare
- 25 Bill & Betty Selby



Vacant Council Position

Council Secretary is needed for Council meetings. Council meets via Zoom or in the Window Room once a month on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Please consider filling this position that is required in our Constitution and By Laws.

2023 COUNCIL DIRECTORY AND MINISTRY STAFF

All phone numbers start with (814) unless otherwise noted.

Pastor	Rev. Traci Marriott	935-9267	Christian Ed.	Jean Sinal	793-9507
Admin. Assist.	Lori Tremmel	696-3802	Evangelism	Michael Lamborn	793-4212
Assist. Admin. Assist.	Laura Orczeck	224-1208	Stewardship	Rev. Ed Harshbarger	650-5584
President	Martie Gilbert	793-4461	Finance	Jim Barley	793-4623
Vice President	Greg Haffling	793-9827	Social Ministry	Tina Harclerode	317-5312
Secretary	Vacant		Worship & Music	Jane Fagans	793-4401
Treasurer	Beth Garner	793-3966	Staff Support	Kaye Burket	224-5224
Financial Secretary	Vacant		Sexton	Phil Claar	215-0885
Property	Ed Kreider	793-4302			

HIGHLIGHTS BY COUNCIL IN JANUARY 2023

We have no secretary on council to post highlights.

SERVING GOD AND US

March 2023

Date	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26
Acolytes	Gabby Decker	Lily Lightner	Norah Kuster	Lucy Lightner
Lectors	Allen Kuster	Carla Brumbaugh	Youth	Andrea Paul
Altar Guild	Cindy Snyder Jeannie Smith	Cindy Snyder Jeannie Smith	Cindy Snyder Jeannie Smith	Cindy Snyder Jeannie Smith
Audio/Video	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster
Assist. Min.	Jim Barley	Greg Haffling	Youth	Elaine Smith
Ushers	Greg Haffling	Jeff Garner	Youth Mike Lamborn	Melissa Fetzer



Mid-Week Lenten Meager Meals & Services

The Fellowship Committee announced that mid-week Lenten Meals will again be offered on Wednesdays prior to the service. The meal consisting of soup and sandwich will be served at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The service will follow in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

Soup and sandwich or salad will be prepared and served along with hot/cold beverages. If the committee in charge of preparing the meal prefers, a dessert may be offered. Enough soup will be prepared so that containers can be delivered to shut-in members.

Lenten Meager Meals will be delivered to homebound members who desire to have one. Please contact the church office (814-793-2413) if you have not received a call and want a meal delivered. Thank you!

Below is the schedule for menus, and the committee who will prepare and serve the meal:

March 1 – Fellowship Committee - Menu: Potato Soup, Ham salad sandwiches

March 8 -- Smith Cousins - Menu: Beef and Vegetable Soup, Bread, Applesauce

March 15 -- Christian Education - Menu: Tomato Soup and Grilled Cheese Sandwich

March 22 -- Chili and Cornbread – Church Council

March 29 -- Social Ministry Committee - Menu: Broccoli Cheese Soup, Ox Roast Sandwich

Fellowship Committee along with the other committees who will provide meals, look forward to this time of fellowship and community.



*“May the Lord give strength to [the Lord’s] people! May the Lord bless [the] people with peace!”
(Psalm 29:11).*

Dear friend,

A year ago today we watched in horror as Russia invaded Ukraine. Millions of Ukrainians fled their homes to find safety in neighboring countries — and many were welcomed by our partners in the region. **Your extraordinary generosity enabled Lutheran Disaster Response to accompany our neighbors in Eastern Europe immediately.**

In “War in Ukraine: Eastern Europe One Year Later,” you’ll read about people who directly benefited from your gifts. Their resilience, coupled with your support, is a testament to God’s abiding presence, even in extraordinary circumstances.

As the war continues, so does our work. Our partners are constantly adapting to new phases of refugee assistance. Providing food, clothing and a warm place to rest has now evolved into community integration — finding people jobs, enrolling children in school and securing permanent housing for refugees.

Amid grief and hardship, God grants us the strength to see moments of hope. It’s in these moments that I am most thankful for your commitment to stand with our neighbors in Eastern Europe.

With gratitude,



The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

P.S. Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response are important for the readiness of our partners around the globe to take action whenever and wherever disaster strikes. If you would like to make a donation either on your offering envelope or on a pew envelope mark “WAR”. If using a pew envelope make sure your name or offering number is on the pew envelope.



March 2023

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
FH—Fellowship Hall CL-Church Lounge WR— Window Room K—Kitchen In case of emergency, Pastor Traci maybe reached at 814-935-9267 Lori will be in the Office Mon.-Fri. from 9:00 am-12:00 pm	CE-Christian Ed Office QR-Quilt Room In case of emergency, Pastor Traci maybe reached at 814-935-9267	6:00 pm Meager Meal Potato Soup/Ham Salad Sand. 7:00 pm Lenten Service	9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	3 Pastor's Sabbath	4	
5 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	6 6:00 pm Worship & Music Mtg., via Zoom 6:00 pm Cub/Boy Scouts, SR	7 1-4 pm Pastor in Office 6:00 pm Meager Meal Beef-Veg. Soup/Bread/Applesauce 7:00 pm Lenten Service	9 5:00 pm Yoga, FH	10 Pastor's Sabbath	11 9:00 am-1:00 pm Council Daylight Savings time. Set your clocks 1 hour ahead before bed. 	
12 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary 12:00 pm Baked Potato Bar & Game Day	13 6:00 pm Cub/Boy Scouts, SR	14 6:30 pm Council Mtg., WR/Zoom	15 6:00 pm Meager Meal Tomato Soup/Grilled Cheese Sand. 7:00 pm Lenten Service	16 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	17 St. Patrick's Day Pastor's Sabbath	18
19 4th Sunday in Lent Youth Sunday 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary 12:00 pm Fellowship Hall in use by VFW	20 6:00 pm Cub/Boy Scouts, SR	21 10:00 am Employee Mtg., FH 1-4 pm Pastor in Office 6:00 pm Meager Meal Chili/Cornbread 7:00 pm Lenten Service	22 5:00 pm Yoga, FH	23 Pastor's Sabbath	24 Pastor's Sabbath	25
26 5th Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	27 6:00 pm Cub/Boy Scouts, SR 6:30 pm Christian Ed. Mtg., via Zoom	28 12:30-3:00 pm Knotty Ladies, QR	29 6:00 pm Meager Meal Broccoli Cheese Soup/Ox Roast Sand. 7:00 pm Lenten Service	30 Pastor's Sabbath	31 Pastor's Sabbath	Pastor's Sabbath