



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



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Changing Times

Dear Church:

I wanted to begin this month's note to you in this way as a reminder to us all that we continue to be the church, the body of Christ, even when we cannot gather at the church, the building on Penn Street. I have heard our current situation described in different ways, but one that rings true to me is this: the church is not empty or closed—the church has been deployed. We have not stopped doing what the church does; we have merely started doing it differently.

Let me applaud the efforts of all of those who have helped transition us from a community that is able to gather together weekly for worship, study, work, and fellowship to a community in exile. Our Council, committees, and others have learned how to meet remotely, many using technologies that are new to them. Concerned disciples have volunteered to phone those who are not connected to us digitally. Our musicians have been flexible in their willingness to play in an empty sanctuary or to a video camera. Our non-internet users have graciously accepted printed materials to use on their own at home, continuing in solidarity with the congregation even when they cannot participate in the virtual services. Staff and volunteers have staggered their time in the building to safely tend to both the business operations of the organization and building maintenance. Those who are able have continued to make financial contributions to our ongoing ministry by mail or online.

And let me emphasize that every person who has stayed home when given the option between self-isolating and venturing out for nonessential purposes has done their Christian duty by protecting the most vulnerable among us, just as Jesus taught his followers to do.

It's not perfect, but God's church has overcome imperfect situations before; we know that's true because the church survived to pass the faith on to us. As Paul reminds us, "...neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation [even the coronavirus] will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." [Romans 8:38-39 NRSV—I added the coronavirus part]

Thank you for proving Paul right so far. Hang in there until this church can celebrate at church again.

+Pastor Traci

Worship Times during April and Holy Week

Facebook Schedule

Morning & Night Prayer, Monday - Friday, 9:00 A.M. & 9:00 P.M.

Holden Evening Prayer, Wednesday, 7:00 P.M.

Kids' Devotions & Song Time, Monday - Friday, Midday

Holy Week will have an altered worship offering of some kind at 7:00 p.m. Wed. Thurs., Fri. Sat. just not sure at the time of this emailing.



Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our Hands.

April 2020

To the Congregations of St. Matthew & Zion Lutheran Churches:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.

The time has come for us to share with you that after much struggle, thoughtful consideration, prayer, and trusted counsel, we have decided that the healthiest thing we can do for ourselves and each other is to separate and begin the process of divorce. We have not weathered well some of the storms that we have encountered together, and that has caused great hurt and irreconcilable brokenness between us. This is the path we feel gives us the best opportunity for healing and wholeness as individuals.

We both intend to remain in the service of the congregations to which we have been called, and therefore plan to work together as colleagues in the Allegheny Synod, which has always been home to us both. Because we want to remain respectful of each other professionally, and because in this tense and emotional time it is particularly challenging for us to "speak well of each other and interpret everything each other does in the best possible light" as Luther's catechism would have us understand the eighth commandment, we would appreciate you helping us to protect each other's privacy by not asking us to elaborate on the specific circumstances that have brought us to this point.

We have occasionally heard members mention our absence at each other's congregational events. This actually has had very little to do with our personal issues and much more to do with the fact that the two congregations often have activities scheduled simultaneously, and we simply cannot be in two places at the same time. Each of us recognizes both congregations to be faithful communities of worship and service, and we hope that when the occasion arises, those of you who are involved in synodical and inter-congregational events will welcome the opportunity to work with us both.

As for practical matters, Pastor Traci is in the process of buying a new home and will be moving from the parsonage at Zion, likely within the next month. Our beloved dog Otto, who has become a familiar face in both congregations, will be sharing time in each of our homes. We each are being well cared for in professional counseling and by our mutual ministry staff support committees. Bishop Rhyne is aware of our situation and has offered his support.

We are resurrection people, and we believe that even out of death God can bring new life. Thank you in advance for your prayers and support in this time of transition.

Pastor Traci Marriott
St. Matthew, Martinsburg

Pastor David Bowman
Zion, Hollidaysburg

HOW TO DO VIRTUAL WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS

10:30 AM — St. Matthew Facebook Page — Prelude & Opening Hymn (see below)

~10:40 AM — St. Matthew Facebook Page — Service of the Word Live with Pastor Traci

~11:15 AM — Zoom — Postlude & Closing Hymn (see below) & Virtual Coffee Hour

Dr. Smith will be pre-recording the prelude and opening hymn for you to sing at home. The hymn is in this bulletin and you will find the music provided for you in a video on St. Matthew's Facebook Page beginning at 10:30 AM. As soon as that video hymn is over, Pastor Traci will begin the spoken service live on St. Matthew's Facebook page—if you follow St. Matthew or are on our Facebook page listening to the prelude and opening hymn video, you will be alerted when the live broadcast begins. At the end of the live service, you are invited to meet on **Zoom (directions below)** to hear the postlude *and then* the closing hymn. This will allow you to see other members, be seen, and talk to one another. **Please sing the last hymn with your microphone MUTED; the time lag in the video conference is significant enough that unison singing along with Dr. Smith will not be possible and will cause a digital cacophony.** After the closing hymn, you are welcome to stay and turn on your microphone to greet one another through the video conferencing. A note about the bulletin: to conserve paper, the citations for the readings are included but not printed out; if you want to follow along, have your bible handy. It is our hope that this format will better allow us to share Dr. Smith's gift of music, provide a more interactive gathering experience, and still allow those who are not using Zoom to hear the Word. *We are trying many new things these days and hoping some of it works. Let us know how it goes!*

How to Use Zoom

Zoom is a video conferencing tool that allows you to meet with a group, seeing and hearing in real time (less a split second lag). You can use Zoom on your desktop, laptop, tablet/iPad, or smartphone. You may also use a conventional landline or cell phone to dial in and listen (and speak) without the video (this is free on Zoom's end but may be at cost to you depending on your phone plan). Here is how you Zoom:

For a desktop or laptop computer: Go to zoom.us and click on the "Sign up for free" button. Follow the prompts to sign up using your email and download the application to your computer. *Zoom is free to you.*

For a tablet/iPad/smartphone: In your App store, find and download the Zoom app. (When you search, there will be multiple Zoom and Zoom-like apps. You want the one that is titled "ZOOM Cloud Meetings" with a blue and white icon of a video camera.) *Zoom is a free app.*

For calling in on your phone: You will see a list of "Dial In Numbers" from which you can choose. "It does not matter which number you use (New York, Houston, whatever)." If one is busy, try another. If you have unlimited minutes on a cell plan or if you have free long distance calling on a landline, these numbers would be free; otherwise you would pay according to your phone plan. If you are able to mute your phone when you call in, please do so until you are ready to speak so that we do not hear background noise. Those who are participating by video will "see you" represented by a phone number and will probably ask during the meeting who is calling from your number... Let us know!

When you are ready to join a meeting, open your app or application on your computer and join the meeting using the Meeting ID. For St. Matthew's meetings "hosted" by Pastor Traci, the Meeting ID will always be **596 621 1441**. When you join, you will have to give the application permission to use your camera and microphone. You may also choose to join without video or to use a still picture to represent you. When you join, please mute your microphone until you are ready to speak.

You may set your Zoom screen to Gallery View (which allows you to see other participants in little windows—it looks like the intro to The Brady Bunch or Hollywood Squares) or to Speaker View (which makes the person actively speaking very large on your screen with just a few other participants in small squares on the side). If a large number of people sign on to the meeting, you will have multiple "pages" of participants that you can scroll through to see a limited number of people at once. This size of your monitor and device will limit the number of people you can see at any one time.

This may sound overwhelming, but several committees and Council have already met using Zoom. For help getting set up, you can contact:

Pastor Traci or Dr. Smith for Mac, iPad, or iPhone; Jane Fagans for Android platform devices

Elaine Smith for PC; Betsy Snyder for PC or iPhone

Here is your invitation and call in numbers:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5966211441>

Meeting ID: 596 621 1441

Dial by your location

Check your weekly emailed worship bulletin to get the numbers.

Save the dates! 2020 VBS

In cooperation with the Church of God, Memorial Church of the Brethren and hosted by St. Matthew Lutheran, this year's Vacation Bible School will be held during the DAY from **Monday, July 27-31, 2020**. Counselors from Camp Sequanota will be here to participate in the Day Camp this year.

Church of God has graciously switched years with us so we could hold this special event for the children in the community.

Some highlights:

Breakfast every morning
Outdoor activities
Bible Based Stories

This is pending isolation regulations being lifted by the state.



Camp Sequanota Registrations

The Finance Committee is making you an offer they hope you can't refuse. In past years we have paid your way to camp if your family paid the registration fee of \$50. Now the Finance Committee is recommending to Church Council that we offer the same deal to a friend who would like to go to camp with you. The friend does not have to be a member of St. Matthew. If your friend's family can pay the \$50.00 registration fee, like your parents do, the committee is asking Council to pay the remainder of your friend's fee for a regular week of camp just as they do for you. Should the family of any camper aged child of St. Matthew, or a friend's family, be unable to pay the registration fee they should call the Pastor or speak to a member of Church Council. Church Camp is a life altering experience. Now our young people can invite a friend to share that experience with them.

Register online at: www.sequanota.com A list of Camps is on the next page.



Transformational Ministry

Each month and on a daily basis, we ask you to join us in prayer. Our April special prayer request:

We are once again reprogramming our minds to remember this season of Lent that awakes us to thoughts and prayers to centuries ago, when the most painful yet joyful event took place on a hill far from our land, yet close to our heart.

As we search our hearts for answers to today's problems, let us pause and hear the words from the tomb "HE HAS RISEN" AND IS WITH US.

May we pray: Lord continue to guide us through this time with the Covid-19 Virus, here and around the world. God have mercy, open our hearts to hear you through your words for mankind. Amen

Please join us in daily prayer as we lift these concerns to the Lord.



St. Matthew's Website www.stmatthewLC.com

Have you checked out the website lately?

- ❖ You can find a monthly calendar of events
- ❖ Weekly copies of the Sunday Bulletin
- ❖ Monthly copies of "The Messenger"
- ❖ Links to ELCA important sites
- ❖ Online giving options
- ❖ And so much more

We also are on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/stmatthewlc

NEW WEBSITE WILL BE COMING SOON!!

Watch your bulletin or Facebook for the new website.



Prayer Vigil

Scheduled at St. Matthew Lutheran Church on Friday, April 10, 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 following times are still in need of a volunteer. Please email the church at stmatthewluth@aol.com to volunteer. We are asking for you to pray at home.



April 2020

What opportunities are you overlooking or missing? Just at the point when we think all is lost and nothing is going to improve, God surprises us with a new opportunity!

The disciples who thought the crucifixion of Jesus ended his life, his leadership, and his mission judged too early; their hopes for a future with him were dashed. Yet, the Resurrection of Jesus proved that God took the worst of man's failings and turned them into mankind's opportunity for salvation and our hope for eternity.

Furthermore, the Resurrection means that God offers each of us great opportunities to live victorious lives in his service. Each of us can be a useful steward of God. Not occasionally, but daily.

The cover article in this month's issue of **Stewardship** goes on to point out that our attitudes towards new opportunities help in shaping our future: "See the excitement that God has built into your life and say a hearty 'Yes' to the occasions for joy and life and goodness God sets before you in the opportunities of this moment." Consider this: Unless we consent to take the opportunities to do good works on behalf of God, we will miss out on the greatest blessings God has in store for us.

Prayer: *Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for giving us the opportunity to be your stewards here and now and for the hope of spending eternity with you. In Christ's name, Amen.*

Parkinson's Support Group
CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Alzheimers & Related Dementia Support Group
CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

Third Century Fund (Endowment Fund)

The Third Century Fund had a good earnings year in 2019 and as a result has \$5,025 for distribution in 2020. You or your committee may request funding in writing by contacting David Lehman, chairperson or



committee members Allen Kuster, Laura Orceck, Beth Garner or Pastor Traci.

Deadline to submit a request **BY EMAIL OR MAIL** is **Sunday May 24, 2020**. Funds will be distributed in June 2020.

The following is from the by-laws of the Third Century Fund and outline the guidelines for fund requests.

PURPOSE

The St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund is established to encourage responsible Christian stewardship and to promote the mission of the congregation. In response to God's love and mercy, the Endowment Fund seeks to enhance and expand the mission outreach objectives of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Members and friends of St. Matthew congregation are encouraged to practice responsible Christian Stewardship by making contributions to the Endowment Fund. There are a variety of ways such gifts can be made such as, Cash, Securities, Bequests through wills or living trusts, Life insurance policies, charitable gift annuity and Life estates.

The Endowment Fund provides financial support for the church in a manner that is separate from the expenditures normally funded by the annual operating budget of the congregation,

USE OF THE FUND

All contributions to the St. Matthew Lutheran Church Endowment Fund will be undesignated and added to the principal balance of the fund. The Endowment fund principal balance will be retained and only the dividend income will be used for annual disbursements.

Consideration for awarding fund requests will be given by using the following guidelines.

1. Youth of all ages- scholarship support of congregational members and their children; for youth events, for church camps or similar Christian programs and education.
2. Christian outreach ministries and missions of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, its members and the ELCA.
3. Worship and music - support for the worship of St. Matthew.
4. Capital Projects- major renovations or building projects of St. Matthew.

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.

QRCode 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 QRCode: (follow the prompts)



Acolyte Leader Vacancy

The acolyte leader position will be vacant beginning July 1, 2020.

Responsibilities include:

- ❖ Preparing and distributing the acolyte schedule
- ❖ Training acolytes and keeping them informed of their duties.
- ❖ Working with Worship and Music Committee chairperson for special worship services, i.e. Christmas and Easter, etc.
- ❖ The position does not involve a lot of time, and the youngsters serving as acolytes are a very capable and enthusiastic group. They work well together and are very cooperative.

If you are interested in volunteering for this position please contact Jane Fagans 793-4401. Jane will be happy to assist with the transition. Thank you for your consideration in assuming this role.



Thank you so much for your prayers, visits, cards, call, and memorials. Your support over the 1st several months meant so much

to mom and her family.

We are especially thankful to the large hard working Kitchen Crew. With little notice you all came together and made a wonderful meal. Everything looked great and the food was delicious.

Sincerely, The Louise Frederick Family

Thank you so much for the generous donation of \$1,782.00 from the church family of St. Matthew. Thanks to friends such as you whose faithful giving make northern ministry possible.

Pastor Lesley, Exe. Dir. On Eagle's Wings

A very special thank you to all were so kind during my recent “confinement”. It has now been two months since I fell at home and badly fractured my ankle. I am so grateful for all the cards, visits, meals, transportation to appointments and prayers that were provided by both church and outside friends. A special thank you to Pastor Traci for her visits and communion. Faith does see us through our adversities. I look forward to the time we are all back together again.

Elaine Buchart

Attendance for February 2019

Date	Church	SCS
02/03	95	19
02/10	115	25
02/17	92	24
02/24	125	25

Average Sunday Worship – 107 (4 weeks)

Average Sunday Worship for 2018 – 86 (4 weeks)

Average Sunday School – 23 (4 weeks)

Average Sunday School for 2018 – 29 (4 weeks)

Chapel Service – 18

Martinsburg Food Pantry

Volunteers from Clover Creek Church of the Brethren will be assisting along with the regular volunteers to distribute items on Thursdays, April 2 and April 16. The pantry will be open from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m., and on Thursday evening, April 16 by appointment from 5:00–6:00 p.m.

Following is the “Wish List” for April: **cereal, fruit, juice, instant potatoes and cleaning supplies.** Many thanks for all the donations!



Appleton, Wisconsin • Minneapolis, Minnesota

The most important financial guide - YOU!

Finding a balance to achieve your goals is what any financial professional should discuss with you

Many people want to know the secret to financial success. Whether they should be saving more, protecting more, investing more, spending less... everyone wants a magic bullet to set them on the road to financial success. The hard part is - I can't give that to them.

At Thrivent Financial, we believe the key is to have discussions with your family and loved ones about what priorities are most important to you. Our members come to us around a shared goal of being wise with money and living generously, and we aim to help them live this every day in their lives. Whether it's saving for a child's college education, supporting a favorite charity, building retirement strategies or a combination of all of those and more, each financial strategy should be driven by one person: You.

With our members in the driver's seat, we offer guidance based on sound and timeless principles, including:

- **Spend less than you earn.**
This is critical. No one can live beyond their means forever and all bills - credit card, mortgage, home equity loans and others - eventually come due. Being wise with money means having the ability to be prudent with the resources you already earn.
- **Be wise with debt.**
Debt isn't something to be avoided at all costs. Some debt can be healthy and a way to broaden and strengthen your future - both inside and outside your financial picture. Mortgages, student loans and car loans can all be entered into and serve as a part of a healthy financial strategy but need to be managed carefully and effectively.
- **Protect against setbacks.**
Even the best financial strategies can be derailed by a sudden accident or death if not properly protected. Life insurance, disability insurance and long-term care insurance can all work as protection against the worst scenarios and help ensure that you and your family are taken care of.
- **Have a plan.**
Whether it's funding college, retirement, emergency savings or a new car, these are all great goals for families and individuals to set for themselves. The key to reaching these goals is to develop a strategy that maximizes current resources and helps minimize overall risk. For example, when it comes to drawing down money in retirement, it's important to plan for the short-term while keeping your family's long-term financial strategy in mind.
- **Give back.**
At Thrivent Financial, we work with our members to ensure that generosity is a lifelong financial strategy that doesn't just occur once someone accumulates "enough" to give. We want to support our members' efforts to positively impact their families and communities through programs and opportunities that enable them to live generously.

Many people are looking for a silver bullet when it comes to finances. The most important part is to be true to yourself, your family and your goals. These five pillars can guide you but it's ultimately up to you to shape your financial future.

2020 COUNCIL DIRECTORY AND MINISTRY STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Traci Bowman	935-9267	Property	Warren Daniel	935-9249
Admin. Assist.	Lori Tremmel	696-3802	Christian Ed.	Bonnie Casey	285-1610
Assist. 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	Jim Barley	793-4623
Secretary	Elaine Smith	(434) 981-0560	Social Ministry	Peggy Freyer	614-4552
Treasurer	Beth Garner	793-3966	Worship & Music	Jane Fagans	793-4401
Financial Secretary	Anna Klepser	793-2094	Staff Support	Kaye Burket	224-5224

HIGHLIGHTS BY COUNCIL IN MARCH

1. We are changing to digital correspondence until further notice. If we don't have an email address for you or if you know someone that has an email address that we don't have; please email us so we can communicate.
2. Synod Assembly participants will be Beth Garner, Jim Barley, and Pastor Traci

Giving

2020 February		Year to Date as of 2/29/2020	
Current	\$13,576.46	Current	\$28,749.84
Benevolence (Synod)	\$2,340.00	Benevolence (Synod)	\$3,879.50
1st Qrt. Local Needs	\$1,142.50	1st Qrt. Local Needs	\$2,231.50

2019 February		Year to Date as of 2/28/19	
Current	\$16,342.36	Current	\$29,291.54
Benevolence (Synod)	\$1,491.50	Benevolence (Synod)	\$3,046.80
Local Needs	\$491.50	1st Qrt. Local Needs	\$2,464.00

2020 Income vs Expenses		
Current	February	Year to Date as of 2/29/2020
Actual	(\$5,633.99)	(\$6,425.08)
Per Budget	(\$5,054.62)	(\$8,512.33)
<u>Benevolence</u>		
Per Commitment to Synod	\$173.33	(\$453.83)

April Birthdays

1 Amanda Decker	7 Abby Carder	17 Jace King
Paul Helsel	Camden Kuster	Michael Lamborn
James C. Walter	12 Robert P. Dickson	James Russell
2 L. Colin Hoover	Keith A. McGraw	18 Robert E. Ritchey
3 Rachel L. Kensinger	13 Mikayla Ross	20 Ruth E. Johnson
4 Jane S. Carpenter	14 Elaine Hoover	21 Miles I. Lamborn
Makaila Tremmel	15 Mary Jane Allison	23 Randy C. McGraw
5 Jay Hoenstine		26 Jim Calvert
6 Wendy McCauley		27 Gerald Beach

April Anniversaries

17 David B. & Linda L. Lehman	25 Wade T. & Michele M. Smith
Bruce & Brandi Ross	30 Hal & Nan Grove
25 Jim & Pam Russell	

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