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**ADVENT IN THE TIME  
OF COVID**

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Greetings, People of God!

A wise pastor (not me) recently suggested that we have struggled with this pandemic in part because we always struggle with observing Sabbath. God's call to Sabbath rest is a commandment every bit as important as the other nine, but our society has difficulty sitting still and not doing, doing, doing. Evidently that was true of the ancient Israelites as well; you'd think that after generations of slavery in Egypt, they'd have been ready to take a break, yet God still needed to instruct them to rest. Sabbath reminds us that we are made in the image of God who both created and rested from creating. We are not made to work without rest; right now, avoiding some of the usual tasks with which we are normally busy might be not just spiritually life-giving but also physically life-saving—for ourselves and for others.

Just as we are not predisposed to Sabbath rest, we are not naturally inclined toward Advent anticipation. In our culture of fast food, instant messaging, and overnight delivery, we rarely have to practice delayed gratification. Yet Advent is a season of waiting, watching, and hoping. We await God coming to us in the celebration of ancient history, in Word and Sacrament, and in future redemption. God's timing is beyond our guessing or comprehension; some things cannot be rushed.

This holiday season comes with limitations that are disappointing, frustrating, and truthfully just sad. The world we are currently living in is not as we wish it could be. We have hope for the future, but that better future seems a long way off. Still, the call to wait and to rest is not new. From the very beginning, God has shown us a better way than what our nature teaches us, and Emmanuel, God-With-Us, has promised to be here to bless us in that countercultural way of living.

If there are preparations you usually make during the holiday season that are just not feasible or advisable under our current circumstances, try giving yourself permission to view this year as one of Sabbath rest and Advent waiting. Waiting, resting, watching, and hoping—that is holy work in this time. May God give us the peace, patience, endurance, strength, and vision we need to do it.

Wishing you peace in these weeks of Advent, Joy in Christmas that will come no matter what, and Hope for all that may be possible in the New Year,

+Pastor Traci

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

In order to remain vigilant and cautious during the pandemic, this year's Christmas Eve worship will be pre-recorded and posted to Facebook at 7PM on Thursday, December 24th. The service will include readings, carols, prayers, a message, and special music. The traditional service of Lessons & Carols will be pre-recorded and posted on the first Sunday of Christmas, December 27th. Digital and printed bulletins for these services will be made available as usual.

## Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting

This year's annual meeting will be conducted by Zoom video conferencing on Sunday, December 13 at 10:30AM following online worship. You do NOT have to have a computer or internet access to participate. You can call into the meeting on your telephone using one of the provided numbers. Anyone who wants to practice using Zoom before the annual meeting should call in or log onto the weekly Zoom fellowship time following worship any Sunday. For assistance using Zoom, please call Pastor Traci (814-935-9267) before the day of the annual meeting.

### Log In for Zoom:

Topic: Annual Meeting

Time: Dec 13, 2020 10:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5966211441?pwd=VIE2MVdMT3drdkIxTFhLK2RLNkRUQT09>

Meeting ID: 596 621 1441

Passcode: 8675309

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,5966211441#,,,,,0#,,8675309# US (Washington D.C)

+13126266799,,5966211441#,,,,,0#,,8675309# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 596 621 1441

Passcode: 8675309

## MITTEN COLLECTION "BOX"

November 29, 2020

The first Sunday in Advent you will see a "Mitten Box" in the Narthex. Please bring school-age children's mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, earmuffs or socks to be placed in the Mitten Box from November 29<sup>th</sup> until December 20<sup>th</sup>. These will be distributed by the school nurse at the Spring Cove Elementary Schools for needy children. Donations of money can be given by marking a pew envelope "*Mitten Box*", and the money will be used to purchase needed items. *Let's help children have a warmer winter!*



## Stewardship

At the end of November we celebrate two days in one week that give us equally valid, equally useful, yet opposite perspectives on stewardship: Thanksgiving and the first Sunday of Advent. As a harvest festival, Thanksgiving compels us to look backwards and practice gratitude for the blessings God has provided for us. Advent, the beginning of our church year, inspires us to look ahead and trust God to continue blessing us abundantly in the future.



We need both points of view working together in us to deepen our relationship with the Divine as we practice good stewardship—managing and caring for what really belongs to God, not us, what God has entrusted to us for the sake of the kingdom. Our past shows us how God has already given us resources and opportunities: maybe we see that God was much more generous than we expected; we recognize in hindsight how what seemed like a challenge or disappointment turned out better than we anticipated; we realize how God rescued us from harm or redeemed us from our own unwise choices. Because we can see how God has provided for us in the past, we can trust God to continue caring for us in the future.

In Exodus, we read the Lord's command to make gifts of the first fruits of the harvest—to give before being able to calculate the full abundance the crops will yield. This made the Israelites' giving an act of faith as much as an act of gratitude. Yet, they already knew God as the one who saved them from Egypt and led them to the Promised Land—the One who was steadfast in loving kindness and abundantly generous.

Stewardship and giving are faith practices—concrete ways for us to express our trust in God through our actions. We demonstrate our belief in a God of abundance when we live generously in our own lives; we show we believe that God will continue to provide when we give as our first thought, not as an afterthought. When we see ourselves as stewards and not owners—even of what we tend to think of as what we have earned—we see that all we have is what God has entrusted to us for a purpose beyond ourselves.

As you look back at this very trying year, take note of how God has faithfully worked on your behalf. As you plan for next year—be that financial budgeting or your scheduling of time and commitments—think of how our trustworthy God may be calling you to manage what you have been given for the sake of the world God so loves.

### Dear Ministry Leader & Partner,

As the Christmas season gets closer, we begin to set our minds on things like peace, love, and joy. But we know that not everyone in our community experiences these things, especially in these uncertain and trying times. For some, the holidays bring a reminder of grief, depression, loss, and desperate need.



**Among the Martinsburg Churches** a collective vision is to impact the lives of those around us, letting all that we do be done in love (I Corinthians 16:14), we believe direct involvement in the community is extremely important. It is our hope that we can count on your support as we gear up for our annual "Cove Christmas Love" event, which reaches out to families in need during the holiday season. As a part of our mission, we distribute toys, grocery store gift cards and other items to area families with children under the age of 16. By asking your congregation to stand behind this project and provide donations of gift cards, new toys, as well as monetary donations, you can help us in our mission to give every child a Merry Christmas, one gift at a time.

Donations may be mailed in, or pickup arrangements may be made. **The deadline is December 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**On behalf of our team, I want to thank you for any consideration you may give to our cause!**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Chris Garretson, 210 N. Wall Street, Martinsburg PA 16662**

**Pastor, Memorial Church of the Brethren Office (814)793-2422**

**Coordinator, Cove Christmas Love, Mobile (814)254-8328, Martinsburg Association of Area Churches**

**Email: PastorChrisG@outlook.com**

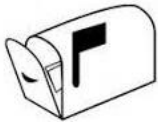


## Announcing our 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting

The meeting is set for Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at the conclusion of the Worship Services (9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.) and Wednesday, December 16 (6:30 p.m.). The agenda includes: adopting the 2021 Proposed Budget, which is enclosed with this Messenger, and election of the 2021 Council Members.

President	Melissa Fetzer (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
Vice President	<b>Need Candidate</b>
Council Secretary	Elaine Smith (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
Christian Ed.	<b>Need Candidate</b>
Evangelism	<b>Need Candidate</b>
Stewardship	Greg Haffling
Property	Ed Kreider (1 <sup>st</sup> term)

**NOTE:** If, after reviewing the budget and the recommendations for Ventures in Faith and Special Envelopes, you have questions or concerns, please contact Jim Barley by phone ( 814-793-4623 ) or by email ([jimbarley@gmail.com](mailto:jimbarley@gmail.com)).



**NOTE!**  
**ADDRESS CHANGE**

### Warren & Dottie Daniel

1114 N Inland St  
Spokane, WA 99224-7050

### Ashley, Ava, Alex, Alivia Zanfino

626 Cory Ln  
Duncansville, PA 16635-6241

### Robert & Annette Ritchey

1646 Curryville Rd  
Martinsburg, PA 16662-8733



## December's Special Envelope

This month you will find an envelope marked "Christmas Offering". The designation for this offering is to help make up the deficit in the annual budget. If you are a monthly or quarterly contributor and would like to donate to this offering, please use a "PEW" envelope and mark "Christmas" along with your name or offering number.

## Attendance for October 2020

Chapel Communion Attendance – None  
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. However, we have limited worship services to follow the Covid-19 Guidelines. No Sunday School is happening.

9:00 a.m. in Sanctuary (Sun.) – 18 (5 wks.)

10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall (Sun.) – 5 (5 wks.)

6:30 p.m. Sanctuary (Wed.) – 3 (5 wks.)

Average Sun. Worship attendance 2019– 85 (4 wks.)

## Advent



"Just as those who see the light are illuminated by the light and share its brilliance, so those who see God are in God and Share God's splendor."

*St. Gregory the Great*

"Enlighten the darkness of my heart. Give me right faith, sure hope and perfect charity. Fill me with understanding and knowledge, that I may fulfill your commands."

*St. John of Damascus*

"What is more precious than to be in the hand of God? God is Life and Light, and those who are in God's hands are life and light."

*St. John of Damascus*



St. Matthew's Website

[www.stmatthewLC.com](http://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



## Prayer Transformational Ministry Prayer



We are still here LORD, but we were facing tough times in our lives. We are trying to cope with our Health (Covid 19), other health matters, family, our jobs and many businesses are in dire straits.

We are now coming to the Christmas Season, when you provided our Savior!

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

*We know we are your people and that you are always with us. We are weak and you are strong. So, we ask that you help us all to help each other with kind acts, food, support and especially prayers!! Help us to grow in FAITH to DO THY WILL!!!*



May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child this Christmas Season.

*Heavenly Father, continue to make our faith grow stronger and stronger in our ministry together*

**From the staff of  
St. Matthew Lutheran Church:  
Pastor Traci, Pastor Ed, Lori, Bill, Laura  
Adam and Mary**



### Martinsburg Food Pantry

On Thursdays, December 3 and December 17, the Martinsburg Food Pantry will be open for distribution of food from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

Volunteers from Diehl's Crossroad Church will be assisting families along with regular helpers. We continue to require masks and practice safe distances in distributing food. The Food Pantry is doing well, and we are grateful for many donations of food and monetary gifts.

#### **Holiday Foods will be the focus in December:**

Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Canned Fruit, Jello and Hygiene Products.

Many thanks to all who gave so generously during this year! It is greatly appreciated!

*Thank You!*

Thank you so much for the many cards and prayers after my recent leg injury. Your thoughtfulness means a lot to me. My leg is healing well and I hope to be back representing the Central Dragons soon. Also, thanks for your support throughout the football season. **Jeff Hoenstine**

Thank for your gifts to your synod, received by Lutheran Disaster Response in October 2020.

**The Rev. Robin Brown**



**Prayers and Christian Sympathy** are asked for the The Tremmel Family upon the death of their dear friend, Jackie Michaels and also the death of Betty Tipton, Joey's aunt.



## "The Church is Here!"

The Allegheny Synod Stewardship Table is starting a series called "The Church is Here!" in which congregations and ministries around the Synod are encouraged to share stories of how stewardship has made ministry possible during the pandemic. We will regularly share these stories on the Synod Facebook



This story is from Camp Sequanota and Pastor Nathan Pile.

The Church is here at Sequanota! This summer the pandemic has affected our lives and kept us apart. We missed all of our summer campers and retreat guests this year. But we were still able to be the Church in this place. The Sequanota team used our gifts in new ways that connected Christ, creation and community. There were three ways the staff and volunteers were the Church as they served as stewards at Sequanota.

The staff lead online worships and campfires March to August. Messages filled with laughter, hope and the good news of God's love inspired Sequanota nation. The young, energetic staff recorded video sing-a-longs and vacation Bible school large group openings with puppet shows to Sequanota's YouTube channel. Check them out - they are free, fun and can be used by anyone!

Besides creating faith formation opportunities, the staff maintained and improved the facilities. Being stewards of God's resources this summer meant caring for this place, so that next year we will be ready to invite thousands of guests back to Sequanota without missing a beat.

Third, as the Church here at Sequanota, we invited families to come and take time away. The Sequanota pool was open for families to play together, kids to learn how to swim, and all guests to refresh and renew themselves. We also hosted many families and small friend groups in our cabins in main camp. Guests were able to hike the trails, rest in hammocks, play games, visit outside with one another around a campfire while remaining physically distanced and just breath in the fresh air of camp and take the opportunity to slow down.

We are promised in scripture that where two or three are gathered, God is present. This year we needed that reassurance more than ever. The pandemic has and will continue to alter our lives. The Church is here to remind us who we are, whose we are and that we are loved. This summer - though it was not normal - the Church was here as Sequanota and we are preparing to continue this 74-year legacy again next year!

Video available at: <https://youtu.be/pFRhliny1g>

## What does "benevolence" and Mission Support mean?

**Q:** What is Mission Support/Benevolence? I've heard this term used, but I'm not sure what it means.

**A:** As members of the ELCA, we do mission together through our financial giving. We do God's work in ways that no individual, congregation or synod can do alone. Mission Support is the portion of your weekly financial offering that your congregation shares with your synod and the churchwide organization, the other two expressions of this church.

"Mission" is a broad term used to describe all the ministries of this church, not just those involving ELCA missionaries who work with our Lutheran partners around the world. "Support" is the portion of members' offerings that makes all ELCA ministries possible, here at home and abroad.

Mission Support is the way that Lutherans experience sharing Jesus' message of love around the world; it is the lifeblood of the work that God does through the ELCA, providing almost 80 percent of budgeted support for our ministries.



**Dear Members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church:**

The 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for services on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. and Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. Here in, and for your review, is a copy of the 2021 Ministry Proposal (Congregational Budget) for St. Matthew Lutheran Church.

The budget process begins with all committees providing their budget requests to the finance committee, who then review the individual proposals and ultimately agree on a budget. Church Council then reviews the budget, and in this case, approved it at their November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The overall budget for 2021 reflects a slight decrease of 0.27% from 2020. The congregation will be asked to approve this proposed 2021 Budget at the annual meeting.

**The congregation will also be asked to approve the following 2021 recommendations for Venture in Faith, which are the same as 2020:**

- First Quarter - Local Needs.
- Second Quarter - Youth and Camping.
- Third Quarter - On Eagle's Wings and Missionaries.
- Fourth Quarter - United Lutheran Seminary (both Gettysburg and Philadelphia).

**The congregation will also be asked to approve the 2021 recommendations for Special Envelopes, which are identical to what was used in 2020:**

- Easter - Breezewood Truck Ministry.
- Children's Sunday - Good Shepherd Children's Home.
- Harvest Home - ALSM.
- Blanket Sunday - Lutheran World Relief.
- Christmas - St. Matthew Current Expense.

If, after reviewing the budget and the recommendations for Ventures in Faith and Special Envelopes, you have questions or concerns, please contact Jim Barley by phone (814-793-4623) or by email (jimbarley@gmail.com).

*In response to God's love, St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
Shares God's word and serves all people.*

*Jim Barley  
Finance Committee Chairperson*

**SERVING GOD AND US  
December 2020**

Date	December 6	December 13 <i>Congregational Meeting</i>	December 20	December 24 <i>Thursday, Christmas Eve</i>	December 27
<b>Offering Counters</b>	Jim Barley Beth Garner	Beth Garner Jim Barley	Jim Barley Beth Garner	Beth Garner Jim Barley	Jim Barley Beth Garner
<b>Audio/Video</b>	<b>Camden Kuster</b>	<b>Jacob Orczeck</b>	<b>Christopher Bush</b>	<b>Jacob Orczeck</b>	<b>Camden Kuster</b>

**ALL Services are online:  
Zoom immediately following the service:  
596-621-1441, passcode 8675309**

St. Matthew Lutheran Church Proposed Budget 2021

	2021 Proposed Budget	2020 Budget	2019 Actual	2018 Actual	2017 Actual
<b>MINISTRY OF THE PASTOR</b>					
Base Salary/Housing Allowance	\$56,081.00	\$54,873.00	\$53,815.12	\$10,724.32	\$0.00
Social Security Allowance	\$4,290.00	\$4,198.00	\$4,039.92	\$652.84	\$0.00
Transitional Pastors Stipend				\$24,000.75	\$26,925.00
Total Compensation	\$60,371.00	\$59,071.00	\$57,855.04	\$35,377.91	\$26,925.00
Pension Contribution	\$7,245.00	\$7,089.00	\$6,822.93	\$0.00	\$0.00
Medical	\$9,478.00	\$8,624.00	\$7,817.92	\$2,622.64	\$0.00
Disability and Death	\$1,329.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,535.03	\$9.00	\$0.00
Disability Insurance Supplement		\$450.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Retirement Support		\$414.00	\$397.44	\$0.00	\$0.00
Health Care Deductible Payment					
Total Benefits	\$18,052.00	\$17,877.00	\$16,573.32	\$2,631.64	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL COMPENSATION &amp; BENEFITS OF THE PASTOR</b>	\$78,423.00	\$76,948.00	\$74,428.36	\$38,009.55	\$26,925.00
<b>PROFESSIONAL REIMBURSEMENT</b>					
Automobile Reimbursement	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,269.68	\$317.95	\$400.38
Continuing Ed, Books & Periodicals	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,002.74	\$77.16	\$588.53
Assembly/Conference Expense	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$461.00	\$143.00	\$426.00
Other Professional Exp	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,397.38	\$18.88	\$12.45
Transition Pastors Mileage and Lodging				\$9,243.52	\$10,785.42
<b>TOTAL PROFESSIONAL REIMBURSEMENT</b>	\$5,700.00	\$5,700.00	\$5,130.80	\$9,800.51	\$12,212.78
<b>VISITATION MINISTRY</b>					
Pastor of Visitation					
Social Security Allowance					
<b>TOTAL VISITATION MINISTRY</b>					
<b>PARISH ADMINISTRATION</b>					
Parish Administrative Assistant	\$31,272.00	\$30,600.00	\$30,599.94	\$29,618.00	\$26,367.26
Employer's SS Taxes Parish Admin Ass't	\$2,392.00	\$2,341.00	\$2,224.38	\$2,126.44	\$1,847.69
Employee Benefits Parish Admin Ass't	\$13,676.00	\$13,655.00	\$13,093.08	\$14,161.66	\$11,429.07
Assistant to Administrative Assistant	\$2,938.00	\$2,875.00	\$2,064.51	\$1,697.25	
Employer's SS Taxes Ass't Admin Ass't	\$255.00	\$220.00	\$161.34	\$112.45	
Office Supplies	\$3,000.00	\$3,300.00	\$2,956.78	\$2,586.16	\$2,718.75
Postage	\$1,200.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,381.71	\$1,370.16	\$1,587.89
Telephone	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,927.98	\$2,841.07	\$1,997.98
Maintenance and Repairs	\$1,800.00	\$2,000.00	\$3,366.35	\$1,523.26	\$916.58
Computer Program & Updates	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00	\$1,627.00	\$1,882.91	\$1,894.09
Copier Lease	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,134.60	\$4,150.70	\$3,960.13
Misc. Expenses	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$141.70	\$161.88
<b>TOTAL PARISH ADMINISTRATION</b>	\$65,983.00	\$66,241.00	\$64,537.67	\$62,211.76	\$52,881.32
<b>WORSHIP AND MUSIC</b>					
Supply Pastors Compensation	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	(\$75.00)	\$1,063.14	\$1,575.00
Organists' Stipends	\$8,200.00	\$8,200.00	\$7,162.40	\$3,950.00	\$4,282.28
Adult Choir Dir. Stipend	\$2,250.00	\$2,250.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Organ, Piano, and Carillon	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$300.00	\$870.00	\$350.00
Choir Music	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$152.60	\$34.67	\$107.24
Worship Supplies	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,552.92	\$1,481.25	\$1,807.78
Devotional Guides	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$259.25	\$413.50	\$396.50
Bulletins		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$70.90
Flower Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$21.95	\$90.00
Journey to Bethlehem	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$501.91	\$0.00	\$591.86
Audio Tech Person	\$1,375.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL WORSHIP AND MUSIC</b>	\$16,175.00	\$14,300.00	\$11,104.08	\$7,834.51	\$9,271.56
<b>EVANGELISM</b>					
Evangelism Projects	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$229.65	\$298.20	\$255.43
<b>TOTAL EVANGELISM</b>	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$229.65	\$298.20	\$255.43
<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>					



St. Matthew Lutheran Church Proposed Budget 2021

	2021 Proposed Budget	2020 Budget	2019 Actual	2018 Actual	2017 Actual
Fellowship Expenses	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,195.21	\$1,179.11	\$1,103.23
<b>TOTAL FELLOWSHIP</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>	<b>\$1,195.21</b>	<b>\$1,179.11</b>	<b>\$1,103.23</b>
<b>CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</b>					
Synod Assembly (3 delegates)	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$292.00	\$286.00	\$378.00
SCS Christmas Gifts		\$100.00	\$0.00	\$38.02	\$80.07
Rally Day Expenses	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
After School Fellowship Activities		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Vacation Church School	\$1,500.00	\$750.00	\$19.93	\$0.00	\$1,019.41
Library Expenses		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
The Lutheran	\$1,000.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,009.14	\$1,044.98	\$1,071.40
Curriculum & Supplies	\$800.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,287.61	\$538.31	\$812.11
St. Matthew Youth Events	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$205.17	\$0.00	\$11.99
National Youth Gathering Advisor		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Advent and Lenten Workshop	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
FBI Background Checks	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$58.85	\$61.20	\$16.00
<b>TOTAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</b>	<b>\$4,600.00</b>	<b>\$4,650.00</b>	<b>\$2,872.70</b>	<b>\$2,968.51</b>	<b>\$3,388.98</b>
<b>YOUTH LEADER</b>					
Conference & Continuing Education	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Youth Leader Salary	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Employer SS Taxes	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL YOUTH LEADER</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>PROPERTY MAINTENANCE</b>					
Insurance	\$5,000.00	\$5,500.00	\$4,286.00	\$7,999.45	\$5,119.00
Electricity	\$14,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$12,599.92	\$13,662.03	\$14,254.45
Janitorial Services	\$15,405.00	\$15,080.00	\$14,867.11	\$14,205.00	\$15,361.10
Employer's SS Taxes	\$1,178.00	\$1,154.00	\$1,179.25	\$1,066.53	\$1,150.17
Repairs and Maintenance	\$3,700.00	\$3,700.00	\$2,529.08	\$4,762.68	\$2,787.11
Utilities (Water/Sewer/Gas/Garbage)	\$3,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,850.06	\$2,572.30	\$2,081.35
Operating Supplies	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	\$760.23	\$596.35	\$1,074.06
Maint Fees (Snow Plowing & Shoveling)	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,384.00	\$1,754.25	\$1,205.50
Security	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$539.88	\$0.00	\$0.00
Grange Parking Lot		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE</b>	<b>\$46,783.00</b>	<b>\$49,434.00</b>	<b>\$40,995.53</b>	<b>\$46,618.59</b>	<b>\$43,032.74</b>
<b>STEWARDSHIP</b>					
Stewardship Education	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$920.91	\$906.47	\$624.37
Offering Envelopes	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$665.41	\$490.03	\$1,964.41
<b>TOTAL STEWARDSHIP &amp; FINANCE</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,586.32</b>	<b>\$1,396.50</b>	<b>\$2,588.78</b>
<b>SOCIAL MINISTRY</b>					
Social Ministry	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$95.54	\$208.08	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL SOCIAL MINISTRY</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>	<b>\$95.54</b>	<b>\$208.08</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>					
Miscellaneous	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$411.31	\$393.60	\$332.15
<b>TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>\$411.31</b>	<b>\$393.60</b>	<b>\$332.15</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$222,964.00</b>	<b>\$223,573.00</b>	<b>\$202,587.17</b>	<b>\$170,918.92</b>	<b>\$151,991.97</b>
	<b>52 Sundays</b>	<b>52 Sundays</b>	<b>52 Sundays</b>	<b>52 Sundays</b>	<b>53 Sundays</b>
Average Weekly Needed per Budget	\$4,287.77	\$4,299.48	\$4,096.94	\$4,413.40	\$4,181.47
<b>Faith Commitment (Allegheny Synod)</b>	<b>\$26,000.00</b>	<b>\$26,000.00</b>	<b>\$26,000.00</b>	<b>\$26,000.00</b>	<b>\$26,000.00</b>
Note: Faith Commitment Increase is %	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Note: Budget Increase (Decrease) is	-0.27%	4.94%	-7.17%	3.56%	2.50%



## 2020 Offering Envelopes

Everyone who is a confirmed member or is a visitor and has requested envelopes receives Offering Envelopes. Included in this "Bulletin" is a NEW Time and Talent Sheet and a Commitment Card for 2021.

**Electronic Offerings:** If you would like to have funds given directly from your savings or checking please call Lori or Laura at 814-793-2413 to get more info. It is only a 5-minute process.

If you already give Electronically and would like to increase your offerings, checking please call Lori or Laura at 814-793-2413 to get more info. It is only a 5-minute process.

**Time and Talent sheets** from previous years are deleted and a NEW TIME & TALENT SHEET needs to be completed EVERY YEAR.

**January 2021 Offering Envelopes will be mailed in December 2020 to your homes.**

The other options for offering or tithing are below:

### Ways to Support St. Matthew

**Offering Envelopes:** These are mailed to our contributors at their homes monthly.

❖ if you would like to use the "**Simply Giving**" on-line program of automatic bank drafts from your checking account. (*Forms are in the church office. Please see Lori.*)

**Giving Online:** Visit the church website at "[www.stmatthewlc.com](http://www.stmatthewlc.com)"

- 1) Click on the "Give" button, (on the top white banner)
- 2) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.

### **Mobile Giving:**

- 1) Visit "**Play Store on your mobile device**"
- 2) Find the "**Vanco Payment**" app (this is free)
- 3) Click on the "**Install**" button
- 4) Open the app on your device

Follow the onscreen instructions to schedule your one-time contribution or recurring contributions.



## Monthly Schedule

### **December Worship Schedule**—All On Facebook

Sunday Worship Livestream 9:30AM

Monday & Friday Christmas Carols with Dr. Smith

Tuesday & Thursday Morning & Evening Prayer at 9AM & 9PM

Wednesday Holden Evening Prayer at 7PM

### **December Study Schedule**

Tuesday-Friday Kids' Devotions Midmorning on Facebook

Thursday Advent Devotional Series at 7PM ON ZOOM

### **Christmas Eve, First Sunday of Christmas**

Christmas Eve Pre-recorded Worship Available 7PM and after on Facebook

No Night Prayer

1st Sunday Service of Lessons & Carols 9:30AM of Facebook

\*\*\*No Midweek Services from December 28 through January 1\*\*\*

### \*\*\*Meetings –

Tuesday, December 1: Worship & Music Committee Meeting via Zoom at 6:00 PM

Tuesday, December 8: Council Meeting via Zoom at 6:30 PM



## Advent in a Box

On December 3, 10, and 17 at 7PM we will share a time of Advent devotion, singing and crafts together on Zoom. All the materials you need to participate will be boxed up and ready for you. You can pick up a box from 10AM to 11AM on Sunday, November 29th or call or email the church and we'll drop one off at your house. The craft projects are reasonable for all ages (young kids may need some assistance) and you will receive double supplies—one to make for yourself and one to give as a gift. Take some time out of your December schedule to celebrate Advent with the community.

### Log in for Zoom:

Topic: Advent Devotions

Time: Dec 3, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5966211441?pwd=VIE2MVdMT3drdkIxTFhLK2RLNkRUQT09>

Meeting ID: 596 621 1441

Passcode: 8675309

### One tap mobile

+13017158592,,5966211441#,,,,,0#,,8675309# US (Washington D.C)

+13126266799,,5966211441#,,,,,0#,,8675309# US (Chicago)

### Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 596 621 1441

Passcode: 8675309

## Birthdays for December

02	Chris Cronrath	11	Mace Baker	21	Tyson Rodgers
	Alexis Hicks		Leah Park	22	Clyde Claycomb
	Kyla Paul	14	Jennifer Metzler	25	Mary Lou Hinish
03	Norah Kuster	15	Emily Gunnett	26	James R. Barley
05	G. Devin Baker		John Russell		Richard K. McGraw
06	Gloria Guyer	16	Janet I. Kreider		Betty Detwiler
	Katherine (Orczeck) Peese	17	Russell G. Dickson	27	Beth N. Snyder
08	Elizabeth Bithell		Ed C. Kreider	28	Noah Metzler
	Beth Garner	18	Larry Irvin	30	Carlos A. Lamborn
	Joshua W. Gilbert	19	Tonya F. Walter	31	Ian Haffling
10	Andrea McGraw				

## Anniversaries for December

1	Gerald & Vivian Beach	24	Dennis R. & Barbara A. Brown
13	Mark & Debra Guyer	26	James A. & Janet F. Stewart
19	Glenn & Elaine L. Diehl	30	Adam & Ashley Zanfino
		31	Robert E. & Annette S. Ritchey

## 2020 COUNCIL DIRECTORY AND MINISTRY STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Traci Marriott	935-9267	Property	Ed Kreider	793-4302
Admin. Assist.	Lori Tremmel	696-3802	Christian Ed.	Vacant	
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	Jim Barley	793-4623
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	Kaye Burket	224-5224

### HIGHLIGHTS BY COUNCIL IN NOVEMBER

1. Council approved recommending the 2021 Proposed Budget to the Congregation on Sunday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, & Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, during the Annual Meeting.
2. Ventures in Faith Designation Quarters were approved, and Special Offering Envelope Designations were also approved by Council.

### Giving

2020 October		Year to Date as of 10/31/2020	
<b>Current</b>	<b>\$14,698.81</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>\$146,243.50</b>
<b>Benevolence (Synod)</b>	<b>\$1,424.00</b>	<b>Benevolence (Synod)</b>	<b>\$17,534.50</b>
<b>United Lutheran Seminary</b>	<b>\$1,101.00</b>	<b>United Lutheran Seminary</b>	<b>\$1,111.00</b>

2019 October		Year to Date as of 10/31/19	
<b>Current</b>	<b>\$14,228.52</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>\$157,327.46</b>
<b>Benevolence (Synod)</b>	<b>\$1,728.00</b>	<b>Benevolence (Synod)</b>	<b>\$16,230.05</b>
<b>United Lutheran Seminary</b>	<b>\$1,285.50</b>	<b>United Lutheran Seminary</b>	<b>\$1,285.50</b>

2020 Income vs Expenses		
<b>Current</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>Year to Date as of 10/31/2020</b>
Actual	\$503.98	(\$11,256.29)
Per Budget	(\$3,932.27)	(\$40,067.33)
<b><u>Benevolence</u></b>		
Per Commitment to Synod	(\$742.67)	(\$4,132.17)



## **TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS 2020**

Twas the year 2020, and all through the house  
every creature was stirring, from Human to Mouse.  
The stockings were tossed on the chimney, who cares,  
it's been months since we entertained, would Saint Nick even dare?

The children were nestled all snug in their beds  
as visions of rubber gloves danced in their heads.  
and Mama in her gaiter and me and my mask,  
had just settled our brains for a long cleaning task.

When out on the roof there arose such a clatter.  
I sprang from my mop to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash.  
I peeked through the shutter, barely touching the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,  
gave me faith that someday we'd have somewhere to go.

When what do my wondering eyes should appear,  
but a miniature sleigh, and eight spotless reindeer.

With a little old driver decked out in full gear,  
I knew in a moment we'd have Christmas this year!  
More safely than Hazmat the reindeer they came,  
and he whistled and shouted and called them by name.

Now Clorox! Now Pine-Sol! Now Lysol and Purex!

On Comet! On Purell! On Top Job and Germ-X!  
Wipe the top of the porch! Then the top of the wall!

Now wipe away! Wipe away! Wipe away all!

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,  
when they finished and then took a jump to the sky.

So up to the housetop the reindeer they flew.  
With a sleigh full of masks, and Saint Nicholas too!

And then in a twinkling I heard on the roof,  
the pawing of each little rubber gloved hoof.

As I pulled up my mask and was turning around,  
Down the chimney a big bucket came with a bound!

It was covered in plastic from bottom to top,  
and the contents were sterile, despite the long drop.

I missed seeing his eyes and his dimples so merry.  
But this virus prevents that, these times are so scary.

I imagined his face and his little round belly,  
That shook when he laughed like hand sanitizer jelly.  
but I saw him outside though, as he stood near his sleigh,  
and I laughed when I saw him, from six feet away..

With a wink of his eye and a wave of his hand,  
I felt warm inside, Santa too understands.

And without a word I went right to my work.

I filled all our stockings, then turned with a jerk

And laying a finger aside of his mask,  
The reindeer rose up, they had finished their task.

He waved to me then, to his team gave a shout,  
and socially distancing, quickly flew out.

But I heard him proclaim as he drove out of sight,  
Merry Christmas to all, we will all be all right!

Carole L. Campbell, 2020