

Happy New Year, People of God!

I admit that I've never been a fan of New Year's resolutions. That's not because there aren't improvements I'd like to make in my life—believe me, there are plenty. But I tend to treat resolutions as all-or-nothing goals, so I end up discouraged if I'm not perfect at keeping them. It's bad logic: certainly I'd be better off keeping a resolution five or six days a week than giving up or not trying at all because I might miss a day or two. In not wanting to set myself up to fail, sometimes I miss setting myself up to succeed, even if that success is modest. Perfect can absolutely be the enemy of good.

Martin Luther learned that lesson in his struggles toward righteous living. It was only after he grew to trust God's promise of justification that he stopped viewing the Christian life as a never-ending endeavor in perfectionism. When we learn to leave perfection up to the One who is perfect love, we are free to take one step at a time in the way of Jesus, which is all we are called to do. This is why Luther taught us to begin each day making the sign of the cross, the sign of our baptism: however well or poorly we lived out God's love yesterday, today we have new opportunities to serve.

Neuroscientists tell us that it takes around 60 days to start or break a habit; after that, we feel uncomfortable skipping the good practice or reverting to the bad habit. A pastor applying this theory to devotional life once joked that if 60 days seems too big a number, try for eight weeks, and if eight weeks seems too much, try for two months. But the promise we just celebrated at Christmas is that life is about more than what we can accomplish for ourselves; Emmanuel means "God is with us" and so our hope and strength come from Someone greater than ourselves alone.

May we greet each new day, not as an obligation, but as an invitation for God to work in, with, and through us for the good of the world.

Peace,
Pastor Traci

January Book Study: Wintering by Katherine May

Curl up with a cup of hot something and a good book this January. Join Pastor Traci for a discussion of Katherine May's *Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times*. We'll discuss the whole book on Thursday, January 26th at either 4 p.m. or 7 p.m. (which-ever is convenient for your schedule) by Zoom.





Mitten Tree Thank You!

Many Thanks to all who contributed so generously to the "Mitten Tree" by bringing colorful home-made, bought items, and financial donations for needy elementary school children! Because of your kindness, these children will have a warmer winter!

These items were distributed to Martinsburg and Spring Cove Elementary Schools. The total items received were (41 pairs of mittens and gloves; 49 hats; 14 sets of hats/mittens, 1 headband; 9 pairs of socks).

Goal Setting

All committees should hold a meeting in January to set their "Goals" for 2020. Please inform the church office of the date and time of your meeting.

Snow Camp 2023

"Come to the Table"

Friday-Sunday, January 27-29
Camp Sequanota, Jennerstown PA
6th - 12th Grade

Games, Crafts, Food, Sledding, Worship, & Learning
Accommodations in Sequanota's Winterized Cabins
Register from December 15 to January 20 at www.sequanota.com

\$80-includes food, lodging, materials
Families are asked to pay \$10; St. Matthew will cover the rest.

Please contact Pastor Traci with any questions.
Adult Helper(s) Wanted!



Many thanks, to family and friends who remembered my family and I during the Christmas Season. Also, thank you to the Congregation and Council for the generous Christmas bonus.

Lori Tremmel

Thank you for your recent donation in the amount of \$50.00 and your continued support to The Morrisons Cove Memorial Park.

*Chuck Gojmerac,
Park & Recreation Director*

Many thanks to my church family and friends for the birthday cards, sharing in my birthday celebration, and Christmas Cards. All make the days a little brighter.

Janet Kreider

The Martinsburg Community Library is immensely grateful to your for the \$250.00 donation. Your generosity enables us to continue serving the community.

Danette Feathers, Library Director

Thank you for your generous contribution and continued support to the Hollidaysburg American Legion Ambulance Service.

HALAS

The Roaring Spring Community Library grateful for the \$50.00 donation. Your donation enables us to continue serving the community.

Cortney Gensimore, RSCL Staff

On behalf of the American Red Cross, thank you for your generous gift of \$100.00 which was applied to the Local Chapter.

Gail McGovern, President & CEO

On behalf of the residents of the Hollidaysburg Veterans Home, we would like to thank you for the generous donation of \$100.00. Your ongoing generosity and support are greatly appreciated by our residents as well as the staff.

*Samuel Dunkle, NHA; Commandant,
Holbg. Veterans' Home*



The family of Verna Blough would like to thank everyone for their expressions of sympathy, cards and memorial contributions in her memory.



Many thanks for all Volunteers, cookies, treats and food donations for the Reception following the Advent Concert, The Longest Night Meal, and for the Don Smith Funeral Meal. All was much appreciated.

The Fellowship Committee

The Lutheran Magazine

The Lutheran is where members find news and views on faith, Scripture, mission, advocacy and more impacting daily life. The magazine is a resource for education, outreach and evangelism while providing a forum for discussion on issues of the day.

If you would like to donate towards your yearly subscription you may do so by marking "Lutheran" in the other position on your offering envelope or on a pew envelope. The yearly subscription is \$8.95.



Prayers and Christian Sympathy are asked for...

- Tom and Bobbie Fishburn upon the death of Bobbie's brother, David Bolger, Thursday, December 1, 2022.
- Family and Friends of Donald Smith upon his death on Sunday, December 18, 2022.



Martinsburg Food Pantry

Volunteers from St. Matthew will be helping and assisting in the distribution of food on Thursdays, January 5 and January 19 from 9-11:00 a.m.

The January items most needed are: Cereal, Fruit, Pasta or Rice Sides, Ravioli, Laundry Detergent.

Our thanks to all who have contributed food, paper supplies or monetary gifts during this past year. We ask for your continued support and prayers in serving needy families during 2023!

Linda K. Smith

Upcoming Events

There are a variety of events scheduled this spring for both youth and adults. Please help us spread the word to your congregation.



- **New Year's Day Hike:** January 1
- **Ignite - Youth Winter Retreat (Grades 2-8):** January 21-22
- **Snow Camp Youth Retreat (Grades 6-12):** January 27-29
- **Sustain - an Adult Retreat:** February 24-26
- **Lenten Bible Study on Zoom:** Tuesdays beginning February 28
- **Young Adult Retreat:** March 24-26

Sequanota Updates

December Giving Days is under way

Help us reach our \$30,000 goal in year-end gifts supporting Sequanota. \$10,000 of the \$30,000 match has been raised so far. Every gift gives youth and families an opportunity to connect to Christ, creation, and community at Sequanota, a place set apart from our busy world.

❖ Sequanota is now hiring for summer 2023 staff positions

Do you know of a young adult that you think could make an impact this summer at Sequanota? Jess shares: "Sequanota has taught me how to be a good leader, how to interact with people of all ages, and have confidence in all that I do. Camp has given me a place that I know I will always be welcomed at." Give Sequanota a chance this summer — we know camp helps our staff develop as a leader!

Staff applications are open for Summer 2023! They can apply at <https://sequanota.com/summer/staff/>

❖ Summer Camp Registration opens January 3, 2023

Choose a week and encourage the youth and families from your congregation to join you at Camp Sequanota.

❖ Attend: A Bible podcast

We believe God plants the seeds of faith in every life. Any good gardener knows that those seeds need tending if the seed is to produce vegetables or fruit. Faith needs to be tended. Our goal is to provide a weekly dose of tending for our faith and others, who might choose to join us as we live into the way of Jesus.

New episodes released on Mondays. Join the discussion on Facebook and Instagram.



A Stewardship Moment JANUARY 2023

Sometimes when we read something, a sentence will leap off the page and we are compelled to stop to ponder what we have just read. A short sentence in the January issue of *Stewardship* stopped me cold! It read: *Stewardship is liberating.* (Pause) I want to repeat that for you: *Stewardship is liberating.* I asked myself: Is it true? After mulling it over for a few minutes, I concluded that true stewardship is indeed liberating.

First, stewardship compels us to love God with our hearts, minds, and strength. Once we have chosen to love and serve God in that manner, we don't have to struggle any longer with how we will handle our decisions. We are either workers for God or we are not. Our choices will either honor God or they won't. When we give our lives unconditionally to the love and service of God, we will find liberation and blessings galore. Secondly, true stewardship will free us from wasting our time, talent, and energy on things that are foolish, or harmful to our bodies, minds, and spiritual life. Christ warned us against shallow, wasteful living. He said "Enter through the narrow gate, for the gate is wide that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it." *Matthew 7:13-14*

Real stewardship is sometimes difficult and often challenging, but if we practice it, you can be certain that it is liberating and always a genuine blessing. That is Christ's promise!

Prayer: *Help us always remember Lord, that we find only true freedom in loving and serving you as dedicated stewards. In Christ's name, Amen*

A **Stewardship Minute** is available to subscribers of **Stewardship** at www.parishpublishing.org.

Ways to Support St. Matthew

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

Person Bank Drafts if you would like to use this method contact your bank and have the donation taken from your bank account and sent to St. Matthew (usually monthly automatic bank drafts from your checking account. **(There is no fee to the church or to you for this convenient donation.)**)

"Simply Giving" by Vanco. If you would like to use the on-line program of automatic bank drafts/debit card from your checking account. **(Forms are in the church office. Please see Lori. The church gets billed a monthly fee for this service.)**

Giving Online: Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions 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.

Mobile Giving: Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions. Electronic giving offers convenience for individuals and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. Simply follow these easy steps:

- 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
- 5) Follow the onscreen instructions to schedule your one time contribution or recurring contributions. **(There is a processing fee at the time of the transaction. You have the choice to pay the fee for the church or have the fee taken from your donation.)**



SERVING GOD AND US January 2023

Date	January 1	January 8 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i>	January 15	January 22	January 29
Acolytes	TBD	Gabby Decker Lily Lightner Lucy Lightner	Mace Baker	Ben Decker	Norah Kuster
Lectors	Janet Stewart	Melissa Fetzer	Youth	A J Hoenstine	Jean Sinal
Ushers	Jeff Garner	Paul Decker	Mike Lamborn	Melissa Fetzer	Tina Harclerode
Audio/Video	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster
Altar Guild	Tonya Walter	Tonya Walter	Tonya Walter	Tonya Walter	Tonya Walter



Birthdays for January

01 Anna Weaver	11 E. Kaye Burket	26 Rev. Carl Alexy
02 Stacy Kuster	13 Janelle R. Dennis	Dottie Daniel
Margie J. Smith	15 Michele M. Smith	28 Ryan Frederick
04 Jenna Metzler	16 Thomas Beyer	Jackie Lightner
05 Peggy Freyer	Gavin Kuster	Kim Oswalt
06 Laurie S. Smith	20 Jean L. Stonerook	Michele L. Smith
07 Dr. Murray S. Smith	21 Ginny A. Sell	29 Dwight Kensinger
09 B. Ann Baker	22 Bill Brown	
10 Catherine Corcoran	24 Doris L. Waddick	

Announcing the 2023 Council

On Sunday, December 11th during our Annual Congregational Meeting new Council members were elected by voice vote:

President	Martie Gilbert
Vice-President	Greg Haffling
Council Secretary	Vacant
Christian Ed.	Jean Sinal
Property	Ed Kreider

2023 Nominating

Greg Haffling
Connie Lamborn
Ruth Marshall

Outgoing member of Council (need to appoint)

**Installation of New Council Members will be
Sunday, January 8, 2023 during the 10:30 a.m.
worship service.**

Anniversaries for January

06 Michael B. & Kathryn A. Panek 50th
28 Paul L. & Rosie Johnson



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.



Christmas Vacations

Church Office will be closed from Saturday, December 24th through Monday, January 2, 2023 due to the office staff being on vacation. Normal office hours will begin on Tuesday, January 3. In case of emergency please call Pastor Traci at 814-935-9267

2022 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 DECEMBER 2022

1. The Christian education committee reported the youth were very engaged in making candy as a fundraiser for the youth gathering and in rehearsals for the December 18, 2022 Christmas program during 10:30 a.m. worship.
2. In January 2023, communion will resume at the front of the sanctuary every Sunday.
3. Installation of Council members will take place on Sunday, January 8 during the worship service.
4. Settlement on the house in Williamsburg that was a bequest of the Fred Smith estate is expected to take place before the end of December.
5. Approved monetary Christmas gifts for St. Matthew employees and contractors.
6. Barry Brumbaugh was appointed to perform the 2022 church financial audit.
7. With 25 pledge cards returned, the stewardship drive was deemed successful in getting more St. Matthew members into a giving mindset. The cards will continue to be accepted.

Giving

2022 November		Year to Date as of 11/30/2022	
Current	\$13,065.21	Current	\$143,680.53
Benevolence (Synod)	\$882.50	Benevolence (Synod)	\$14,359.00
United Lutheran Seminary	\$605.50	4th Qrt. Lutheran Seminary	\$2,072.50
2021 November		Year to Date as of 11/30/2021	
Current	\$11,666.62	Current	\$144,501.96
Benevolence (Synod)	\$1,303.00	Benevolence (Synod)	\$13,473.00
United Lutheran Seminary	\$1,341.50	4th Qrt. Lutheran Seminary	\$2,575.00
2020 November		Year to Date as of 11/30/2020	
Current	\$12,726.08	Current	\$158,969.58
Benevolence (Synod)	\$1,403.00	Benevolence (Synod)	\$18,937.50
United Lutheran Seminary	\$858.64	4th Qrt. Lutheran Seminary	\$1,969.64
2019 November		Year to Date as of 11/30//2019	
Current	\$14,749.65	Current	\$172,077.11
Benevolence (Synod)	\$1,654.50	Benevolence (Synod)	\$17,884.55
United Lutheran Seminary	\$852.50	4th Qrt. Lutheran Seminary	\$2,138.00
2022 Income vs Expenses			
<u>Current</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Year to Date as of 11/30/2022</u>	
Actual	(\$3,045.52)	(\$43,118.59)	
Per Budget	(\$5,254.37)	(\$57,834.89)	
<u>Benevolence</u>			
Per Commitment to Synod	(\$1,284.17)	(\$9,474.33)	

There were 4 Sundays in November 2022, 2021 and 2019

There were 5 Sundays in November 2020.



January 2023

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
 115 E Penn St., Martinsburg, PA 16662-1127
 Email: stmatthewmartinsburg@gmail.com
 814-793-2413



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Epiphany Happy New Year 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	2 Office Closed 6:00 pm Worship & Music Mtg., via Zoom No Cub/Boy Scouts, SR	3	4 1-4 pm Pastor in Office 5:00 pm Yoga, FH	5 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	6 Epiphany of Our Lord Pastor's Sabbath	7
8 Baptism of Our Lord 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary With Installation of 2023 Council Members	9 6:00 pm Cub/Boy Scouts, SR 6:30 pm Social Ministry Mtg., via Zoom	10 6:30 pm Council Mtg., WR/Zoom	11 1-4 pm Pastor in Office 5:00 pm Yoga, FH	12	13 Pastor's Sabbath	14
15 2nd Sun. after Epiphany Youth Sunday 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	16 Martin Luther King Jr.	17	18 No Yoga	19 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St. 2:00 pm Homewood Communion Service	20 Pastor's Sabbath	21
22 3rd Sun. after Epiphany 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary February Messenger Deadline	23 6:00 pm Cub/Boy Scouts, SR	24 12:30-3:00 pm Knotty Ladies, QR	25 12:00 pm Lunch Meeting, FH No Yoga	26 10:00 am Employee Mtg., FH 4:00 pm Book Study, Zoom 7:00 pm Book Study, Zoom	27 Snow Camp meet at Sequanota 6:30 p.m.	28
29 4th Sun. after Epiphany 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	30 6:00 pm Cub/Boy Scouts, SR	31 12:30-3:00 pm Knotty Ladies, QR		FH—Fellowship Hall CE-Christian Ed Office CL-Church Lounge QR-Quilt Room 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		
Snow Camp Sequanota						