



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 stmatthewluth@aol.com • web: www.stmatthewlc.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmatthewlc

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Dear People of God:

With songs, parades, and fireworks, America celebrates freedom each July. Although the Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776, the Revolutionary War continued into the next decade. Of course, any student of American history knows that many other battles—military and political—had to follow so that the unalienable rights which the founders held to be self-evident truths were ensured for *all* people in the nation, not just a fortunate few. Because that freedom is fragile and hard-won, we still guard it vigilantly; it's both a promise and a process that requires ongoing effort.

Freedom means something a little different for Christians. In his 1520 treatise "On Christian Freedom" Martin Luther wrote, "A Christian is the most free lord of all, and subject to none; a Christian is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to every one." Having been justified through the faithfulness of Christ, we are free from sin and death not because of anything we do but because of God's grace. Yet that freedom does not give us license to ignore God's law; instead we are freed so that we can serve others in the spirit of Christ's selfless love instead of in an effort to earn our salvation.

More than any individual pursuit of happiness, Christian freedom calls us into community and holds us responsible for one another, following the example of Jesus' selfless service to all. It's human nature for us to stay focused ourselves; the baptismal life teaches us to care for those around us. Discipleship, too, is both a promise and process, a life-long struggle to answer God's call.

As we celebrate, among other things, the free exercise of our religion, let us remember what our faith requires: doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God—not because we have to, but because Christ freed us to do so.

Peace,
Pastor Traci

Yoga Devotions

Wednesdays, July 7 and 21 at 5PM & Saturday, July 10 at 10AM

Join us in the side yard at St. Matthew (or the fellowship hall in case of rain or extreme heat) for an hour of yoga centered on a focus verse from scripture. Bring your mat; this is appropriate for any ability level and those completely new to yoga.

Emergency Pastoral Care

Pastor Traci will be serving as chaplain at Sequanota the week of July 11-17. Because guests at camp are being asked to remain on the property after COVID screening, she will be unable to travel back and forth during the week. You can reach Pastor Traci at camp on her cell (814-935-9267), but for in-person pastoral care needs that can't wait until the weekend, please call Pastor Drew or Pastor Amanda McCaffery (814-538-9036).

Home Communion Visits

Pastor Traci is available for home communion visits, either inside for those fully vaccinated or outside for those not fully vaccinated. To schedule, please call the office or cell (814-935-9267).

From the Evangelism Committee:


With a new chair, the committee's main focus will be just to think about evangelism, so you may not see any overt action from the committee for a while.

If you think about all the support that St. Matthew provides, you will see that, as a congregation, we actually do well with evangelism. However, my observation is that, while we donate and support willingly, we each have a general tendency towards a lack of a personal connection with evangelism.

For example, I am personally willing and glad to donate to ALSM, On Eagles Wings, Sequanota, and our other support areas, plus I am glad we open our church to the Boy Scouts & other groups, but that is the general extent of my evangelism at St. Matthew.

We all need to get to that personal touch, like the ones in our congregation that do meals on wheels, bringing others to church, visitation, etc. I believe the touch of the Holy Spirit comes more often to those who touch others in their personal evangelism, whatever form that takes.

*Regards,
Mike Lamborn*

 Thank you so much for the blessings, the ladies and gentlemen of the church who cooked and served the meal and ALL the volunteers who helped in any way that made our wedding day so beautiful. We are truly blessed.

Samantha & Michael Tremmel & Family

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On behalf of the residents at The Village, we'd like to thank you for the baked treats and snacks you gave our care givers. They have given us wonderful care and moral support during the past year. Your church/group always give so much of yourselves.

*Linda Ritchey, Volunteer*

~~~~~  
On behalf of the all the prayers and concerns that were asked for the Ormsby, Tremmel and Iwanski families we are most appreciative. They are either recovered in full or still recovering. *Lori Tremmel*



If you harvest more vegetables in your garden than you can use, please share with the Food Pantry, 133 E. Allegheny St. in Martinsburg on Thursdays, July 1 and July

15 between 7:30 and 9:00 a.m. It will be open for food distribution on these dates between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Volunteers from Brethren in Christ Church will be helping besides the regular volunteers.

Items most needed for July: Canned Fruit, Tomato Sauce, Pancake Mix, Syrup/Honey, Tuna/Hamburger Helper.

Again, we will be collecting school supplies, which can be placed in the school box in the Narthex.

Many thanks, Linda Smith

Upcoming Catechism Events

July—Wednesday-Thursday the 28th-29th, Pedal-Paddle Campout in Ohiopyle, PA

leaving around lunch time on the 28th, we'll caravan to the Kentuck Knob Campground in Ohiopyle, camp out overnight, then enjoy an adventure: 9 mile bike ride up the Allegheny Passage Rail Trail, float back down to Ohiopyle on the Middle Youghiogheny River; returning late Thursday. The whole family is invited (all children in the family must be over 8 years old for the pedal-paddle trip). For more information or to reserve your spot, call Pastor Traci.

August—Sunday the 22nd, 5-6PM*, Hike-Bike-Drive Picnic on the Lower Trail

Choose your own adventure: walk, run, hike, bike, or drive to the Williamsburg pavilion on the Lower Rail Trail. Arrive by 5PM for a picnic supper. We'll look at an overview of the topics and schedule for the 2021-2022 learning year. Walk, run, hike, bike, or drive back to where you started. The whole family is invited (RSVP to Pastor Traci).

Blessings and Congratulations go to...

- ❖ Emma Weyant upon making the USA Team for the 400m IM Olympic trial for the Swimming Event.
- ❖ Doug and Dennis Smith were honorees on Tuesday, June 29th for the 2021 Ag Parade for 85 years in Family Farming.

SIGN UP NOW FOR A FALL LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND!

We pray that you are enjoying the blessings of summer, but hope you might take a minute to plan an important fall weekend for your marriage whether you have been married 1 year or 60+ years. Because the pandemic has put a lot of stress on marriages, and we want to give many couples an opportunity to renew and revitalize your marital relationship, the registration fee has been waived for this year. You pay only the amount specified on the website which includes 2 nights in your group-rate hotel room and meals. Also, scholarship funds are available for anyone in need--simply e-mail or call us at the information below before you register.

Which weekend will work for you:

October 1-3, 2021 -- Heritage Hotel Lancaster in Lancaster, PA--Famous for its Robin Hood-inspired restaurant, Loxleys

October 15-17, 2021 -- Hyatt Place, Pittsburgh/Cranberry--spacious modern decor guestrooms with couches--a half hour north of Pittsburgh

Should complications arise, your payment is refundable up to a month before the weekend. Weekends begin at 8 PM on Friday night and end at approximately 3 PM on Sunday. REGISTRATIONS WILL BE LIMITED, so sign up NOW while there are still openings. Simply go to: www.GodLovesMarriage.org and find your chosen weekend, fill out the form, and pay the amount specified with a credit card; or print the form and mail with a check. Don't miss this opportunity to create a more intimate and joyful marital relationship! For questions, please contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, fjschamber@comcast.net or 724-325-3166.



Nathan J. Smith
CMR 467 Box 725
APO AE 09096

Mrs. Shirely Acker
429 Market St
Martinsburg, PA 16662

Important Dates of the Allegheny Synod



Friday July 16, 6pm-8 p.m. Farewell for Pastor Becca Ehrlich

Pastor Becca has received a call to serve as the Associate Dean for Community Life at General Theological Seminary (Episcopal) in New York City. She will be starting at General in August. We are holding a drop in to say farewell on Friday July 16th from 6 – 8pm. We will have some light refreshments and will be indoors due to the heat. Some of those who are attending have continuing health issues. We ask that if you are unvaccinated to please wear a mask, or if you are bringing children under 12 that they would mask as well. Vaccinated persons do not need to mask for this event.

Saturday August 28, 2 p.m. - Farewell Liturgy for Bishop Rhyne

We will have a service of Farewell and Godspeed at Evangelical Lutheran in Duncansville starting at 2 on Aug. 28th. Clergy are invited to vest and process. August 28 is the Commemoration of St. Augustine of Hippo so the color of the day is white. The people of Duncansville have graciously offered to host a reception after the service.

Sunday September 19, 3 p.m. – Installation of Allegheny Synod Bishop Paula Schmitt

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will join us to install our new Bishop on Sunday Sept. 19th. The service is being held at First Lutheran Church in Altoona. The color for the day is red. We will be livestreaming the service and there will be a reception following hosted by our partners at Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries.





If I were to title what I have to say, I would call it “Hoping to Lose.” That doesn’t make sense, does it? Who wants to be a loser? Right? The Greek writer, Nikos Kazantsakis, tells a story about young hiker on a Greek island who came across a Christian monk. In their dialogue, the young hiker asks the monk if he still wrestles with the devil. The monk told him in essence that those days were over, but that now he wrestles with God.

That puzzled the hiker, but he quickly asked the monk if he hoped to win? “Heavens no,” came the answer. “I hope to lose!” Why lose? ... because it is when we quit trying to put our ego in full charge of our minds, hearts and souls and let God use them for his purposes that we find life truly rich and meaningful. Remember what Jesus said: “Those who lose their life for my sake will find it.” (Matthew 10:39) According to Christ, it is those who offer their lives in totality for his sake who ultimately win in everything that truly matters. Every saint who ever lived has testified to that truth. It is in giving our lives without restraint to the Lord that we find true victory. In the 19th century Frances Havergal wrote a hymn that speaks of the commitment each of us should make. Here is the last verse of the hymn to ponder:

*Take my will, and make it thine, It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; It shall be thy royal throne.
Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee. Amen.*

Prayer: *Dear Lord, help us to see and understand that we will find the blessings of true life only as we surrender all to thee. Amen*



Anniversaries for July

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1 Jim & Jane Fagans | 15 Mike & Christine Panek |
| Keith & Andrea McGraw | 16 Paul & Marjorie Helsel 55 th |
| 3 William & Cheryl Gigante | Dr. Murray & Sharon Smith |
| 4 Rachel Kensinger & Tammy White | 26 Shawn & Wendy McCauley |
| 10 Zane & M. Jane Staily | 26 Greg & Julie Russell |
| 14 Casey & Jessica Hoover 10 th | 29 A J & Jane Hoenstine |
| 15 Mark & Lori Johnson | |



Birthdays for July

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 3 Glenn Baker | 11 Scott Paul | 24 Audrey Hite |
| 4 Nan Grove | Barb Wilt | 25 Julie Dick |
| 5 Sharon Hicks | 15 Martie Gilbert | 26 Douglas Bush |
| William Stahl | 18 Jordan Smith | Amy Haffling |
| 8 Marjorie Helsel | Wyatt Sweinhart | Dr. Shawn Orczeck |
| Shaffer Johnson | 19 Melissa Fetzer | Carol Rugh |
| Cora Sweinhart | 21 Dan Tremmel | 27 Arnold Moore |
| 9 Jeffrey Hoenstine | 22 Tripp Crilly | Calleigh Wright |
| Brandi Ross | Brandon Oswalt | 28 Kylee Frederick |
| 9 Jeremy Smith | | Larry Frederick |
| Janet Stewart | | 30 Beth Rager |

Giving

2021 May		Year to Date as of 5/31/2021	
Current	\$12,115.22	Current	\$63,566.14
Benevolence (Synod)	\$819.00	Benevolence (Synod)	\$6,272.50
Youth and Camping	\$867.00	2nd Qrt. Youth & Camping	\$1,624.50
2020 May		Year to Date as of 5/31/2020	
Current	\$21,346.60	Current	\$82,122.60
Benevolence (Synod)	\$2,040.00	Benevolence (Synod)	\$9,228.00
Youth and Camping	\$1,401.00	2nd Qrt. Youth & Camping	\$2,585.50
2019 May		Year to Date as of 5/31/2019	
Current	\$14,499.33	Current	\$81,117.33
Benevolence (Synod)	\$1,372.50	Benevolence (Synod)	\$7,523.05
Youth and Camping	\$1,063.00	2nd Qrt. Youth & Camping	\$2,784.00
2021 Income vs Expenses			
Current	May	<u>Year to Date as of 5/31/2021</u>	
Actual	(\$4,232.55)	(\$17,171.93)	
Per Budget	(\$6,465.11)	(\$29,335.53)	
<u>Benevolence</u>			
Per Commitment to Synod	(\$1,347.67)	(\$4,560.83)	

1. There were 5 Sundays in May, 2021 and 2020
2. There were 4 Sundays in May, 2019



Worship Schedule Change for July & August

In July and August, we will offer two Sunday services each week; after June 30th, there will be no Wednesday evening worship for the remainder of the summer.

9AM Worship Outside—Full Sung Liturgy of Word & Sacrament (Communion) In case of rain, the service will move to the Fellowship Hall and will be a spoken liturgy.

10:30AM Worship in the Sanctuary—Spoken Liturgy of Word & Sacrament (Communion)
This will be the recorded and live-streamed service.

Inside or outside, masks are optional for those who are fully vaccinated and required for those who are not yet fully vaccinated.

Flower Committee Announcements

Worship and Music Committee agreed with a recommendation from the Flower Committee that when worship is scheduled in the sanctuary, flowers will be placed on the altar as usual. If you would like to sponsor flowers as a memorial or honorarium, please contact Margie Smith. The price for (2) Altar Vase flowers is \$40. You can share the expense with a friend so each pay \$20.

Donors are reminded to pay for the flowers in a timely manner, preferably on/or before the date of the memorial. Payment may be made in cash or check made payable to **St. Matthew Flower Fund**. You can place the payment in the appropriate mailbox in the hallway outside the church office.

2021 COUNCIL DIRECTORY AND MINISTRY STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Traci Marriott	935-9267	Property	Ed Kreider	793-4302
Admin. Assist.	Lori Tremmel	696-3802	Christian Ed.	Jean Sinal	793-9507
Assist. Admin. Assist.	Laura Orczeck	224-1208	Evangelism	Mike Lamborn	793-4212
President	Melissa Fetzer	793-2735	Stewardship	Greg Haffling	793-9827
Vice President	Peggy Steinfurth	515-6205	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 MAY 2021

3. Since there will be no local vacation bible school this year, the Christian Ed committee voted to donate \$500 of its vacation bible school budget to On Eagles Wings for their vacation bible school in the Northwest Territories. Members will also be recording bible stories and sending them to On Eagles Wings.
4. The social ministry committee is planning a shredding event.
5. Reviewed the 2020 annual financial report and noted that giving for 2020 was \$20,000 lower than 2019, and giving for 2021 was \$9,000 lower than 2020 after the first 4 months of this year.
6. The search continues for Evangelism chairperson – Mike Lamborn is considering the position.
7. Defeated by 4 to 8 a motion to start on Sunday, June 20, 2021 worshiping in the sanctuary with an additional outdoor worship service.
8. Voted to begin worship in the sanctuary every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. with an additional outdoor service at 9:00 a.m. starting on Sunday, July 4, 2021 through the last Sunday in August. If weather is inclement, outdoor services will be moved to the fellowship hall. Wednesday evening services will be discontinued. On Sunday, August 29, 2021 there will only be one service held at the Kreider Farm.
9. The property committee is working on various projects including replacement of the Maple Street doors, lighting throughout the building, and repairs to Cabin 4 at Camp Sequanota.
10. There were 12 renewing volunteer and 1 new volunteer updating their child protection requirements at the education sessions on June 6. Another opportunity may be offered in August.
11. Jim Barley and Connie Lamborn were thanked for serving as delegates to the virtual Synod Assembly on June 4 and 5.

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.
- 4) If you would like to increase your giving, contact the church office by email: stmatthewluth@aol.com or by phone: 814-793-2413.

BarCode Offerings:

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



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814-793-2413

JULY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
					Pastor's Day Off	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Outside Worship (Fell. Hall) 9:00 am Sanctuary Worship 10:30 am	Observance for 4th of July Office Closed	Worship & Music 6:00 pm Zoom	Yoga Session 5:00 pm		Pastor's Day Off	Yoga Session 10:00 am
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Pastor at Camp Outside Worship (Fell. Hall) 9:00 am Sanctuary Worship 10:30 am	Pastor at Camp	Pastor at Camp Council Mtg 6:30 pm Zoom	Pastor at Camp	Pastor at Camp	Pastor at Camp	Pastor at Camp
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Outside Worship (Fell. Hall) 9:00 am Sanctuary Worship 10:30 am	Christian Ed. Mtg. Zoom 6:30 pm		Yoga Session 5:00 pm		Pastor's Day Off	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Outside Worship (Fell. Hall) 9:00 am Sanctuary Worship 10:30 am	Worship & Music 6:00 pm Zoom		Catechism Trip, Ohiopyle, PA will leave 12:00 pm	Catechism Trip, Ohiopyle, PA return in the evening	Pastor's Day Off	