



Anticipation

Greetings People of God:

A few things happened this week that have made me eager for the future: the warmer weather melted all but deepest piles of snow in the neighborhood, the long-awaited date of my vaccination appointment finally arrived, and Sequanota opened registration for their 5K benefit run. I started thinking about storing my ski equipment and cleaning off the kayak; I made a list of appointments I need to schedule for the doctor, dentist, and hair stylist—all things I've been putting off during the pandemic; and I found my running shoes in the closet where they've been unused during snow boot season. But I'm not doing anything drastic quite yet. After all, March occasionally surprises us with a doozy of a snowstorm. The medical experts have warned that even after I'm vaccinated I have to remain diligent for those who aren't yet. And I don't want to start training for that 5K too soon or my sheer speed will make everyone else jealous (and they laughed and laughed).

Just as we're "not quite there yet" in some of the more practical aspects of life, we're still only about a third of the way through Lent. I'm not a stickler when it comes to signing Christmas carols during Advent, but I try to maintain the focus of the Lenten season in its entirety before jumping ahead to Easter. Our liturgical year gives us the gift of seasons: anticipation before revelation, fasting before feasting, the somber reflection of Lent before the jubilant celebration of Easter. We are meant to experience the wholeness of each in turn.

In Protestant churches, we are more likely to see empty crosses than crucifixes. We like to emphasize the resurrected Jesus who triumphed over the cross and the grave. But of course, before Jesus turned the cross from a tool of death to the means of eternal life, he suffered crucifixion. Rushing past the grief of the passion to the joy of the resurrection means we've missed a crucial part of the story.

In these last weeks of winter and the remainder of the Lenten season, I invite you to join with me in patient expectation. Waiting can be a powerful and practical way to practice trusting that God will fulfill all that God has promised.

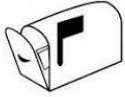
+Pastor Traci

Looking Ahead...Book Discussion for April

We won't take on a new book during March and the remainder of Lent, but in April we'll discuss "Girl Meets God: On the Path to a Spiritual Life" by Lauren Winner. "Girl Meets God" is Winner's coming-of-age memoir that narrates her two religious conversions: first, to Orthodox Judaism, and second, to Episcopalian Christianity.

Retreat Week at Sequanota

Camp Sequanota has re-opened the Bowersox Retreat Center for what they are calling Simple, Small, Serene retreats. Pastor Traci will be available at the retreat center Wednesday, April 14 through Saturday, April 17 and will offer brief gatherings throughout the days, outside when possible, for prayer, study, and yoga. There is space available for up to seven other guests. All rooms are private; meals are provided; masks, distancing, and other safety regulations are required. Call Pastor Traci with questions (814-935-9267) and register through Sequanota (814-629-6627). [Note: Other dates are available in April and May. Pastor Traci arranged this time with Sequanota to coincide with the 5K Benefit Challenge Weekend for those who plan to stay and participate in that event.]



NOTE!
ADDRESS CHANGE

NEW ADDRESS

Vivian Beach

123 Cheyenne Dr
Roaring Spring, PA 16673-8120

Andrew Cronrath

1220 E West Hwy Apt 1018
Silver Springs, MD 20910-3273

Jean & Dan Sinal (Corrected)

413 Toby Aly
PO Box 282
Martinsburg, PA 16662

Martinsburg Food Pantry

Volunteers from Martinsburg Grace Brethren Church, along with regular volunteers, will be assisting with the distribution of food on Thursdays, March 4 and March 18 from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

The March items most needed are: cereal, fruit, pasta sides, peanut butter, & paper towels. Many thanks!

Linda K. Smith



Many thanks for the cards and prayers. Barry surgery was successful and he is doing well!

Barry & Carla Brumbaugh

Thank you for the prayers and cards. After receiving my test results back, we found I don't have skin cancer.

Greg Dick

Thank you for taking action to love your neighbor through your recent gift of \$50.00 and for the LWR Quilts and Kits gift of \$315.00 for the shipping fund.

**Ambassador Daniel Speckhard
President & DEO**



March 2021

The head of a Neighborhood Association heard a knock on his door. When he opened it he saw four children from the neighborhood holding a coffee can. They handed the can to the man and told him that they had been selling lemonade and wanted to donate the money for the recreation area, which needed maintenance.

When the children left, he opened the can and counted out \$48.88. He was dumbfounded! The neighborhood had 99 homes with a common recreational area consisting of a swimming pool, soccer field, playground, etc. Each family living in the planned community had the responsibility of paying a certain fee to keep the common area in good shape, but the cost of the upkeep had gone up and this meant each family needed to pay more or else let the area deteriorate.

This caused controversy in that community. Some approved a fee increase and others fought it. It was not a happy time for any family there. The kids had heard about the need and wanted to do their bit to keep the recreational plot in good shape. So they sold lemonade and gave their profit to the project.

The children had contributed their time, talent, and money to the needed project and thus had been good stewards. Ultimately, their parents followed their example and the park was preserved!

Prayer: *Dear Lord, help us to understand that the world becomes a better place when we each use our God-given gifts in service and love for the good of mankind. Amen*

Parish Publishing, LLC (888) 320-5576

www.parishpublishing.org

You can get a free digital copy of the Stewardship Minute on our website: stmatthewLC.com



With Deepest Sympathy

Prayers and Christian Sympathy to the Gene Henry family and friends upon his death Wednesday, February 17, 2021.



Prayer Vigil

Scheduled at St. Matthew Lutheran Church on Friday, April 2nd, 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. This is an excellent way for you to enrich your spiritual and prayer life. If you would like to participate, please call the church office at 793-2413 or email Lori at stmatthewluth@aol.com.



Saturday, March 6th before you go to bed

Lenten Schedule

Sunday 9:30 AM Livestream
Monday, Friday 9AM Hymn Devotion
Tuesday & Thursday 9AM Morning Prayer
Tuesday 9PM Night Prayer
Wednesday 7PM Holden Evening Prayer w/Bible Study after on Zoom
Thursday 7PM Lenten Devotions on Zoom

Please watch your email, the bulletin, and the website for any schedule changes.

Birthdays for March

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

Anniversaries in March

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



THIRD CENTURY FUND (ENDOWMENT FUND)

The Third Century Fund had good earnings year in 2020 and as a result has \$5,437 for distribution in 2021. You or your committee may request funding in writing by contacting David Lehman, chairperson or committee members Allen Kuster, Laura Orzeck, Beth Garner or Pastor Traci.

Deadline to submit a request is Sunday, May 30, 2021. Funds will be distributed in June 2021. You can email Dave at: dlehman1@atlanticbb.net

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 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.

January 29, 2021



Winds of March

Winds of March, we welcome you
There is work for you to do.
Work and play and blow all day.
Blow the winter cold away!

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	Vacant	
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 FEBRUARY

- Council voted on the motion of purchasing a new program from Park Security to enable us to reprogram the Key Fobs at a cost of \$1,200.00. Where the money will come from will be voted on at the March meeting.

Giving

2021 January		Year to Date as of 1/31/2021	
Current	\$11,577.94	Current	\$11,577.94
Benevolence (Synod)	\$1,584.50	Benevolence (Synod)	\$1,584.50
Local Needs	\$1,177.99	1st Qrt. Local Needs	\$1,177.99

2020 January		Year to Date as of 1/31/2020	
Current	\$15,173.38	Current	\$15,173.38
Benevolence (Synod)	\$1,539.50	Benevolence (Synod)	\$1,539.50
Local Needs	\$1,089.00	1st Qrt. Local Needs	\$1,089.00

2021 Income vs Expenses		
Current	January	Year to Date as of 1/31/2021
Actual	(\$4,759.30)	(\$4,759.30)
Per Budget	(\$7,002.39)	(\$7,002.39)
<u>Benevolence</u>		
Per Commitment to Synod	(\$582.17)	(\$582.17)

H R R A I N B O W L	LEPRECHAUN
Q C A W X G O L D E	SPRING
G O I Y T V Y Y V P	RAINBOW
J J N W C L O V E R	SUN
U V M S P R I N G E	GREEN
M D O T K L U C K C	CLOVER
G F L O W E R S K H	GOLD
F L D F X T K X C A	LUCK
Y Z E G R E E N Z U	RAIN
F S U N Y H R Y X N	FLOWERS



Sequanota e-

FEBRUARY 2021

News from Sequanota Conference Center & Camp
PO Box 245, Jennerstown, PA 15547 / 814-629-
6627 contact@sequanota.com /

STAFF APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN FOR SUMMER 2021!

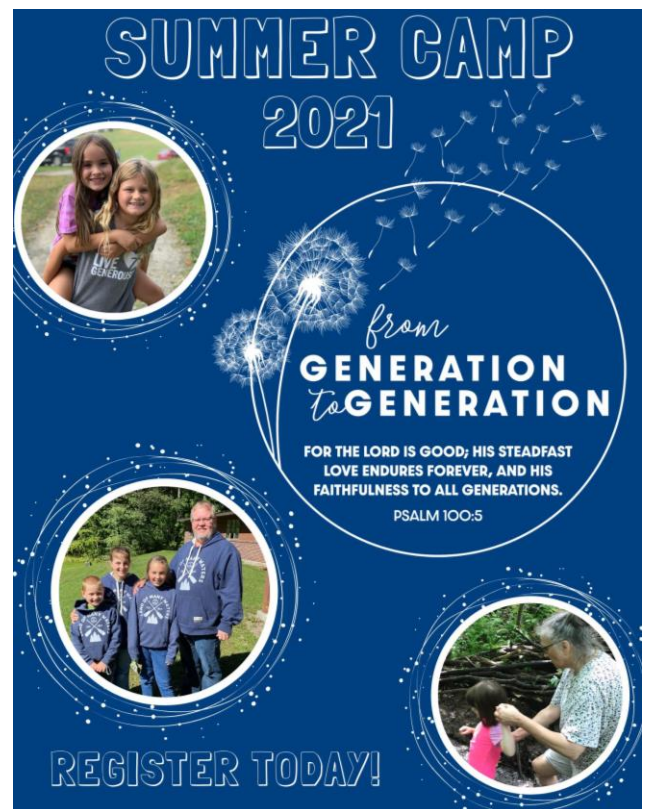
Do you know a high school or college age young adult that loves working with kids, playing games, growing their faith, and making amazing new friends? They should apply to work at Sequanota this summer!

The future of any profession will need a foundation in working with other people. This is at the heart of what we do at camp. Staff work with people everyday! Whether it be communicating the daily schedule to the cabin group, working with other staff members to plan and lead an activity, or creating an experience that campers will remember forever - staff will be getting first hand experience.

Chelle Jelleff, a past staff member for eight summers, shares how working at camp has impacted her life:

"You learn so much about yourself and others. How you interact and work with others. How you can achieve the outcomes you have identified and sometimes exceed those expectations because you end up learning more and doing things that you hadn't even imagined. Sometimes you don't realize that until years down the track when you're in another situation and you realize suddenly you have a skill set or ability to look at something with a different level of insight and I often look back and think, 'Wow, that's where it started: at camp, at that situation, with those people.'"

Interested young adults can apply online at <https://sequanota.com/summer/staff/>.



SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

We think summer camp is more important than ever this summer for both youth and families, so we are raising scholarship money.

If campers sign up for camp by April 1st, they can invite a friend that hasn't been to Sequanota before to join you for FREE! You heard that right; we will have 60 "bring a friend scholarships" available this summer. Space will be limited this summer, so sign up early to reserve a bunk in your first choice week.

If families feel youth, residential camp is too risky yet this summer, we encourage them to consider a week of Family, Friends, or Grandparent Camp. You choose the folks that will stay in your cabin during an all inclusive vacation at Sequanota. There are 18 partial-scholarships available for Family, Friends, or Grandparent camp too! Please call the office for more scholarship information.

this year. Check out the online brochure and camp website for dates, programs, COVID-19 precautions, and more information.

www.sequanota.com

[Online Registration](#)

[Summer Camp Brochure](#)

NEED A QUIET SETTING TO THINK, PLAN, WRITE, OR CREATE?

Sequanota is offering mid-week retreats for leaders, writers, creatives, and readers (really anyone), who needs a quiet place to think and focus.

Guests will have a private room with bathroom and work space while sharing the whole Bowersox Center with a small number of other individuals (limit of 6-8 guests each retreat).

Retreat guests can use the library, game room, lobby, fireplace room, porches, hiking trails, and the coffee nook to spread out and be inspired.

Easy self-preparation food supplies will be provided for breakfast (oatmeal, yogurt, bagels, coffee) and lunch (sandwich meats & cheeses, canned soups) and the Sequanota staff will prepare home cooked dinner each night. You just need to bring your personal work that you want to focus on. We will take care of the rest. Shorter retreat requests can be accommodated. Call the office for more information or register online.

Registration link available on the website: <https://sequanota.com/events/descriptions/>

GO THE (PHYSICAL) DISTANCE 5K BENEFIT WEEKEND

The 5K is replacing Wacky Bowling for 2021 and will take place April 16-18! How many churches can this 5K represent across the synod?

Run, hike, bike, or walk at home virtually or come to Sequanota for the weekend and choose one of two race course options (road and trail). Cabins are available to rent for the weekend.

Proceeds will provide camp scholarships this summer.

You can find more information on the website: www.sequanota.com/events/descriptions/

Participants can register online: <https://forms.gle/At2ND3v4QP9T2pyB6>

SIMPLE, SERENE, & SMALL RETREAT

DO YOU WANT TO GET AWAY?

Sequanota is offering mid-week retreats for leaders, pastors, writers, readers, and anyone who needs time away and a quiet setting.

Individuals will have private rooms with their own work space. The Bowersox Center has excellent WiFi access available.

Cost: \$250
(4 days / 3 nights
lodging with linens and
all meals included)

Dates:
April 12-15
May 10-13



SAVE THESE DATES...

April 16-18: 5k Benefit Weekend

May 7-9: Service & Sabbath (work weekend)

May 8: Spring Work Day

May 9: Mother's Day Buffet (tentative)

May 14-16: Service & Sabbath (trail retreat)

May 28-31: Family Memorial Day Weekend

June 13: Spring Benefit Thank You Dinner

August 9: Golf Benefit Tournament