



Saint Matthew
LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Matthew's Messenger

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

115 E. Penn Street, Martinsburg, PA 16662-1127

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Volume 62

MARCH 2022

Number 3

Greetings People of God:

This year, the beginning of our later-than-average Lenten season misses coinciding with the beginning of March by just one day. March also brings us the official start of Spring, the change to Daylight Savings Time, and, if our clairvoyant rodent friend is to be believed, the warmer weather ending our six additional weeks of winter. Although I appreciate the snow for skiing, I struggle with the shorter, darker days of winter, and I resent the single digit temperatures that have often kept me indoors, deprived of the vitamin D available on those bright but still too frigid sunny days. I am ready for the change of seasons.

Since the focus of Lent is repentance, its timing for us in the Northern Hemisphere is just about perfect. Lent is usually portrayed as a somber season for feeling sorrowful regret for sin; yet repentance is not mainly about how we feel but what we do—turning away from sinful patterns and toward a more godly way of life. We are meant to experience joy in repentance, turning to follow God's call, in the same way we experience the joy of the seasons turning from the cold, dark, deadly weather of winter to the warmer, brighter spring when the life that has been lying dormant begins to bloom again.

As we hear God's call and endeavor to turn toward it, may we experience this Lent as an opportunity for joy, leaving behind what leads to death and pursuing the life that God desires for us.

Pastor Traci

Wednesday Yoga Sessions Time Change

The session on Wednesday, March 2nd is 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Then March 9, 16, 23, and 30 the time will be 4:45 p.m. and Yoga practice will take place upstairs in the Nursery so as not to conflict with preparations for the 6:00 p.m. meals in the Fellowship Hall.

Summer Camp at Sequanota

Reminder: The Early Bird Deadline for Camp Sequanota is April 1st. Campers' families are asked to pay the \$100 online deposit and St. Matthew will cover the rest of the cost of regular cabin camp (or 100% of the fee for Confirmation Camp); campers can bring a friend and St. Matthew will also cover their cost, less the deposit. Registering early is the most economical option and helps us help you get to camp.



A Stewardship Moment

March 2022

“You shall freely open your hand to your brother, to your needy and poor in your land.”

Deuteronomy 15:11

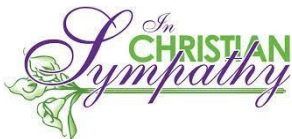
Using what God has given you to help another person in need, or to enable the church to minister to the “least and the lost,” is a fundamental tenet of stewardship. Once a pastor of a church that helped support those people needing help asked another pastor who worked daily with poor people, how his ministry was going. The pastor who served in the poorest section of his city replied: “It is a hand to mouth existence.” He concluded his answer by saying “It is God’s hand giving to our mouths.”

Most of us are able to give to others and the work of the church because God’s hand has been opened generously toward us. And what some of us, perhaps many of us, have learned is that the more we live in grace and gratitude, the more resources we have to engage in whatever ministry the Lord has for us to do. And, amazingly, that is when we learn that good stewardship brings forth great joy and gladness in life!

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over...”

Luke 6:38

Prayer: *Our loving Creator, you have given lovingly and generously to us. Keep us from ignoring our opportunities to serve you as good stewards of all that we are and all that we have. Amen*



Christian Sympathy is asked for:

- the family and friends of Ruth Hoenstine upon her death on February 12, 2022. A J Hoenstine was her grandson and Jeff and Jay Hoenstine were her great grandchildren.
- the family of Carol Weyandt, upon her death on Sunday, February 13, 2022. Carol is the mother of Carla Brumbaugh.

Martinsburg Food Pantry



Volunteers from Martinsburg Grace Brethren Church will be helping at the Food Pantry on the first and third Thursdays, March 3 and March 17. The Food Pantry will be open to distribute food items from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. on these days and other times by appointment.

The March items most needed are: Sunny D Juice, Cereal, Ravioli, Jello, and Dish Detergent. These or any items can be placed in the basket at church. Thank You! **Linda Smith**



On behalf of the residents of the Hollidaysburg Veterans Home, thank you for your generous donation of \$100.00 to our Veterans Holiday Fund Program. **Samuel Dunkle, NHA**
Maureen H. Weigl, Brigadier General PA



Thank you so much for your financial contribution of \$3,615.50 for the Gettysburg and Philadelphia Lutheran Seminaries.

Rev. Dr. Martin Otto Zimmann



Thank you for your gift of \$47.00 to Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network. Your gift is already at work enhancing lives and maximizing function.

Kimberly Stolarik, Interim Admin. Dir.



Thank you very much for the Fall floral arrangement. It made my day! With my back problem I do appreciate your kindness.

Verna Blough



Thank you for the monetary gift of \$1,200. Our family greatly appreciates your gracious gift. We will use it for our new house, that we will hopefully be moving into in about a month. We are looking forward to it.

Jeremy, Heather, Evan, Hayden, Kayla and Liam Smith

Photos for Directory



Anyone who didn't have a picture taken for the New Directory may submit a photo to the church office by email (stmatthewluth@aol.com). If you are unable to come to the church or submit the photo, you can call Pastor Traci at 814-935-9267 and she will come to you and take a photo. Deadline is March 15, 2022.

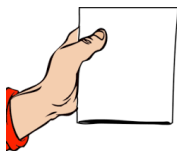
Volunteers Needed

Worship and Music Committee is looking for a volunteer to serve as Head Usher. Responsibilities include scheduling ushers for worship services; maintain a current list of volunteers for ushers; and mentoring ushers on new procedures, etc. Please contact Jane Fagans at 793-4401 or text at 327-0786 if you would like to fill this vacancy.

Since it has been several years since ushers were needed for worship, the committee thought perhaps it might be a good time to generate a new list of usher volunteers. If you would like to continue to volunteer or if you would like to sign up as a new volunteer, please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Thank you for your service as usher in St. Matthew's ministry.

Worship and Music Committee will soon begin to have one usher available in the Narthex for the 10:30 a.m. worship services. Primary responsibilities will include greeter, handing out bulletins, and offering assistance with communion elements and name badges when necessary.

David Lehman has resigned his long-standing position as Head Usher after diligently serving in this capacity for more than 35 years. Thank you Dave for your dedication, your willingness to serve whenever needed, and your generosity in giving your time to St. Matthew's ministry.



St. Matthew Messenger

The monthly St. Matthew Messenger is available on the St. Matthew Website under Newsletters, on your email message from St. Matthew with the link for the Messenger, or as a paper copy in the news rack in the church Narthex. By calling the church office 814-793-2413, you can request a paper copy to be mailed monthly to your address. Your readership and articles are always appreciated.



Saturday, March 12th before you go to bed.

Prayer Vigil

Scheduled at St. Matthew Lutheran Church on Friday, April 15th, 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 sign-up sheet is located on the **bulletin board in the Narthex**. This is an excellent way for you to enrich your spiritual and prayer life. You may pray either at the church or at home. If you would like to participate and can't come to the church to sign up please call the church office at 793-2413.



Doors and Lighting given in Memory of Gerald Hoover by his Children

New glass doors at the Maple Street entrance were installed in December, replacing the original wooden red doors. The new doors are more compatible with the security system and make the entrance hallway much lighter and brighter. The glass doors also feature an "etched look" Luther Rose emblem.

New overhead lighting has also been installed in both church offices. The new lighting replaces the original overhead lighting, also making the offices much lighter and brighter.

Both projects were made possible through the generous gifts of Ken Hoover and Anita Hoover in memory of their father, Gerald Hoover.

Alzheimers & Related Dementia Support Group

Thursday, March 24, 2022

2:00 p.m. in the Club Room at Homewood
(3rd floor of Northview Apartments)

Come and share your stories and advice with others who have a loved one with dementia! Contact Erin Weaver, Social Services, with questions at 814-793-1338 or eweaver@hmwd.org.

Birthdays for March

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

Anniversaries in March

8	Dwight & Yong Mi Johnson 45 th	16	Nicholas & Erin Gates
9	Thomas D. & Linda J. Brown		Jeffrey & Sharon Hicks
11	Daniel S. & Audrey L. Kensinger	22	Jack & Kay Howsare
		25	Bill & Betty Selby



When I was in the third grade, my grandparent's shoe and clothing business burned to the ground—literally. I distinctly remember standing on the parking lot with my family and seeing a big rectangle of thick, black ash. That was all that was left. We eventually found a few small items that survived, but everything else was reduced to this pile of ash. I think about that day almost every Ash Wednesday as the black, sooty cross is traced on my forehead and I hear the words, “Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return.” I saw a tangible reminder of that fact after the fire that I carry with me. I also saw new life emerge from those ashes when the community came together to clean up and start over.

That's what Jesus does for us, too—cleans us up and gives us new life—a chance to start over when we've made a mess of things.

On Ash Wednesday, we face our own mortality—not only our physical death, but the “little deaths” all along the way as a result of our sin.

In The Invitation To Lent we hear, “We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.” Throughout this season we will be called through Scripture to be renewed in Christ and to share His love through praying, fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love. We will be assured of God's great love for us through Jesus' action on the cross.

I pray that in this season you will find rest and renewal; that your passion for sharing Christ's love will be rekindled and that you will know more fully the great love Jesus has for you.

*Peace be yours,
+Bishop Paula Schmitt*

SERVING GOD AND US

March 2022

Date	March 6	March 13	March 20	March 27
Acolytes	Gabby Decker	Calleigh Wright	Lucy Lightner	Jay Hoenstine
Lectors	Jane Fagans	Martie Gilbert	Carla Brumbaugh	Linda Smith
Altar Guild	Jean Sinal	Jean Sinal	Jean Sinal	Jean Sinal
Audio/Video	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster



Lent Wednesday Services

Date	March 2 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30
Lector 7:00 pm	Kaye Burket	NA	NA	NA	NA
Altar Guild	Jean Sinal	Jean Sinal	Jean Sinal	Jean Sinal	Jean Sinal

Mid-Week Lenten Meals & Services

The Fellowship Committee announced that mid-week Lenten Meals will again be offered on Wednesdays prior to the service. The meal consisting of soup and sandwich will be served at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The service will follow in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

Soup and sandwich or salad will be prepared and served along with hot/cold beverages. If the committee in charge of preparing the meal prefers, a dessert may be offered. Enough soup will be prepared so that containers can be delivered to shut-in members.

Below is the schedule for menus, and the committee who will prepare and serve the meal:

- March 9** Vegetable Soup with Baguette
Fellowship Committee
- March 16** Cheesy Broccoli Soup with Ox Roast Sandwich
Social Ministry Committee
- March 23** Chicken Noodle Soup with Chicken Salad Sandwich
Staff Support Committee
- March 30** Chili and Corn Bread
Finance Committee
- April 6** Potato Soup and Ham Salad Sandwich
Worship and Music Committee
- April 13** Prepared Sandwich Platter with Chips
Fellowship Committee

The Social Ministry Committee would like to take soup to the homebound on Thursdays during the season of Lent. A list of homebound members is in place, however, if you would like someone to deliver soup to you, please contact the church office to have your name placed on the list.

Fellowship Committee along with the other committees who will provide meals, look forward to this time of fellowship and community.

2022 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	Michael Lamborn	793-4212
President	Melissa Fetzer	793-2735	Stewardship	Rev. Ed Harshbarger	650-5584
Vice President	Martie Gilbert	793-4461	Finance	Jim Barley	793-4623
Secretary	Elaine Smith	(434) 981-0560	Social Ministry	Tina Harclerode	317-5312
Treasurer	Beth Garner	793-3966	Worship & Music	Jane Fagans	793-4401
Financial Secretary	Vacant		Staff Support	Kaye Burket	224-5224

Sexton – Phil Claar - 814-215-0885

HIGHLIGHTS BY COUNCIL IN FEBRUARY

1. Since the national youth gathering has been cancelled for 2022, council voted to allow use of the funds that have been raised for other youth activities, including local Synod events and service opportunities.
2. Two Sunday worship services will continue in the sanctuary at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
3. Ash Wednesday and mid-week services are planned during Lent on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Committees will volunteer to provide a fellowship meal preceding the services at 6:00 p.m. Extra food will be prepared to distribute to homebound members.
4. Committee goals for 2022 were reviewed.
5. In order to encourage readership, efforts are underway to announce when and where members may access the *Messenger* monthly, both online and a paper copy.

Giving

2022 January		Year to Date as of 1/31/2022	
Current	\$14,421.46	Current	\$14,421.46
Benevolence (Synod)	\$1,680.50	Benevolence (Synod)	\$1,680.50
Local Needs	\$1,247.50	1st Qrt. Local Needs	\$1,247.50
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
2022 Income vs Expenses			
Current	January	Year to Date as of 1/31/2021	
Actual	(\$2,323.80)	(\$2,323.80)	
Per Budget	(\$3,898.12)	(\$3,898.12)	
Benevolence			
Per Commitment to Synod	(\$486.17)	(\$486.17)	

There were 5 Sundays in January 2022 and 2021.

There were 4 Sundays in January 2020.

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT – YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021

CASH & INVESTMENTS:

\$48,549 – Altoona First checking account (after reconciliation)
\$644,962 – Thrivent Investments accounts
\$4,715 – Youth Activities – National Youth Gathering
\$7,835 – Mission Investment – Youth Fund
\$1,803 – Straesser Flower Fund
\$698 – St. Matthew Flower Fund
\$173,981 – ELCA Ministry Growth Fund (was the Endowment Fund)

INCOME & EXPENSES

Regular income \$172,023
Actual expense \$196,129
Budgeted expense \$222,964

Income was less than actual expense by \$24,106.

Actual expense was lower than budgeted expense by \$26,835.

CHURCH PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2021

- 1) \$1,200 for a new program controlling the use of key fobs, which are used to unlock the front doors.
- 2) \$3,600 to upgrade the audiovisual system in the Fellowship Hall. This project is not completely finished.
- 3) \$1,986 to install two air purifiers in the Sanctuary. These purifiers actively kill mold, bacteria and virus in the air and on surfaces.
- 4) \$7,550 to replace the Maple Street doors (which are the main entrance into the church). This project was paid for with a gift received from Ken Hoover and Anita Hoover in memory of their father Gerald Hoover.
- 5) \$3,070 to replace all ceiling lights in Pastor Traci and Lori's offices, as well as replacing the overhead exhaust fans in the upstairs bathrooms. This project was also paid for using the monetary gift received from Ken Hoover and Anita Hoover in memory of their father Gerald Hoover.

BENEVOLENCE

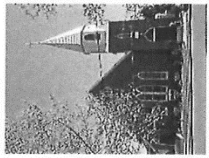
The last few years we have committed to Synod (Benevolence) the amount of \$26,000. This year we received from our congregation \$15,668 towards that commitment. The Church made up the difference of \$10,332.

GIVING FOR CURRENT EXPENSES (LAST THREE YEARS)

In 2021, \$172,023.

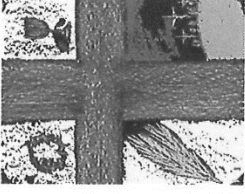
In 2020, \$183,226.

In 2019, \$203,770.



March 2022

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
115 E Penn St., Martinsburg, PA 16662-1127
814-793-2413



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>FH—Fellowship Hall CE-Christian Ed Office K—Kitchen, CL-Church Lounge In case of emergency, Pastor Traci may be reached at 814-935-9267 Lori will be in the Office Mon.-Fri. from 9:00 am-12:00 pm.</p>	<p>1 2-5 pm Pastor in Office 6:30 pm Stewardship Mtg., Zoom</p>	<p>2 12:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary 5:00 pm Yoga FH 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary</p>	<p>3 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.</p>	<p>4 Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>5</p>	
<p>6 <u>1st Sunday in Lent</u> 8:30 am Worship in Sanct. 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanct.</p>	<p>7 6:30 pm Boy Scouts, FH 6:30 pm Staff Support, CL</p>	<p>8 2-5 pm Pastor in Office 6:30 pm Council Mtg., Zoom</p>	<p>9 4:45 pm Yoga, Nursery 6:00 pm Fellowship Meal 7:00 pm Lenten Service, Sanctuary</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>12 Turn your clocks ahead 1 hour before going to bed tonight.</p>
<p>13 <u>2nd Sunday in Lent</u> 8:30 am Worship in Sanct. 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanct.</p>	<p>14 6:30 pm Boy Scouts, FH</p>	<p>15 2-5 pm Pastor in Office</p>	<p>16 4:45 pm Yoga, Nursery 6:00 pm Fellowship Meal 7:00 pm Lenten Service, Sanctuary</p>	<p>17 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.</p>	<p>18 Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 <u>3rd Sunday in Lent</u> 8:30 am Worship in Sanct. 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanct.</p>	<p>21 6:00 pm Worship & Music Mtg., Zoom 6:30 pm Boy Scouts, FH</p>	<p>22 2-5 pm Pastor in Office 7:00 pm Synod Spring Conference Mtg., FH</p>	<p>23 10:00 am Employee Mtg, FH 4:45 pm Yoga, Nursery 6:00 pm Fellowship Meal 7:00 pm Lenten Service, Sanctuary</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 <u>4th Sunday in Lent</u> <i>Camp Sunday with Pastor Nathan Pile</i> 8:30 am Worship in Sanct. 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanct.</p>	<p>28 6:30 pm Boy Scouts, FH</p>	<p>29 2-5 pm Pastor in Office</p>	<p>30 4:45 pm Yoga, Nursery 6:00 pm Fellowship Meal 7:00 pm Lenten Service, Sanctuary</p>	<p>31</p>		