



Saint Matthew
LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Matthew's Messenger

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

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“Lament”

Dear People of God:

It seems like an eternity since we met together in person for worship. By our isolation, we continue to live out Jesus’ command to love one another, as right now the best way we can care for others is to make sure we aren’t spreading infection among them. Yet there is no ignoring the loss we feel of a normal, socially-close existence in our congregation and with our coworkers, friends, and extended family.

That grief we are feeling—even when it’s grief over circumstances and not over a certain person’s death—is part of the universal human experience. In the scriptural tradition, the churchy word “lament” is how we refer to those prayers we pray that God will deliver us from whatever danger, despair, and hardship we are enduring; it’s how we register our complaint with God. Interestingly, the editors of the green Lutheran Book of Worship chose not to print all of the book of Psalms, and many of the excluded psalms were psalms of lament. The red Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal recovered those missing psalms, giving us more ways to express ourselves in times like these.

The world is not working the way we wish it would. We are lonely; we are anxious; we are frustrated; we are not always able to greet the challenges of the day with resolute stoicism. But God never asks us to do that. If God inspired the psalmist to write prayers of lament, God surely welcomes us to use them. We don’t need to pretend like everything is OK—God knows it’s not and invites us to share our grief in honesty.

Do we hope? Yes. Do we trust? Yes. Do we still act faithfully when we admit our frustration and ask for God to bring about healing and wholeness and rejuvenated life? Yes, yes, yes.

Hang in there, and don’t be afraid to use the gift of lament God has given us; those prayers were written for just such a time as this.

+Pastor Traci

Worship Schedule

Monday: Hymn Devotions, 9AM & 9PM (pre-recorded)

Tuesday-Friday: Morning Prayer, 9AM

Tuesday-Friday: Kids’ Devotions & Otto Sings Camp’s Greatest Hits, Midday

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: Night Prayer, 9PM

Wednesday: Holden Evening Prayer, 7PM

Tuesday: Camp Sequanota Holden Evening Prayer, 7PM (Zoom link on Camp’s page)

Study Schedule—NEW!

Wednesday: 10AM Bible Study on Zoom

Thursday: 3PM & 7PM Book Study on Zoom: The Quotidian Mysteries by Kathleen Norris

(Attend either session as convenient; read through page 26)



Martinsburg Food Pantry

The food pantry has continued to be open during this COVID-19 crisis to serve those in need of food. Just several regular volunteers will distribute food on Thursdays, May 7 and May 21. In order to handle the distribution in a careful and safe way, the bags of food are prepared ahead of time and only one person can come in at a time to receive the bags of food and a food voucher for C & S Market or Rhodes Meat Market. We have been serving about 80 families each month. The need has been great! Until our church is allowed to be open again, donations of food can be placed in a collection box at the C & S Market or donations of money can be made out to Martinsburg Food Pantry and mailed to Linda Smith, 118 Spring St., Martinsburg, PA 16662.

Items most needed for May are: **Juice, Hamburger Helper, Baked Beans, Mashed potatoes, Canned Ravioli, and Cleaning supplies.** Your support is appreciated. Thank You!



To all my church family. I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for the prayers, phone calls, cards, and meals delivered as I continue struggle with glaucoma. Please continue to keep me in your prayers.

Ed, Dean, Miss Kitty, and I look forward to worship and fellowship at Ed's in August.

Thank you, Janet Kreider

Attendance for March 2020

Date	Church	SCS
03/01	70	21
03/08	81	25
03/15	None Covid-19	
03/22	None Covid-19	
03/29	None Covid-19	

Average Lenten Service attendance 35

Chapel Service Attendance – None Covid-19

Average Sunday Worship attendance – 76 (2wks)

Average Sunday Worship attendance 2019 – 84

Average Sunday School attendance – 23 (2wks)

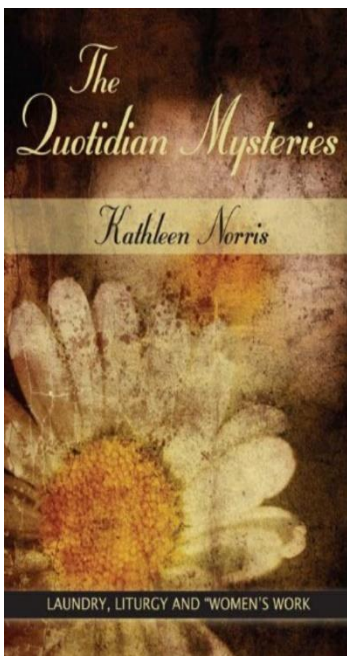
Average Sunday School attendance 2019 – 29

Zoom Book Study

Every Thursday in May at 3:00 p.m.

& 7: p.m.

Message St. Matthew
for login ID's



Transformational Ministry



Heavenly father give us the grace to maintain our hope in you, that you will guide us through all of the life changes that have affected our daily lives because of Covid-19. Our May prayer request is:

Pray for all the high school seniors who had their final year cut short. Who will not get to celebrate their graduation or prom. Pray for all who are out of work and having trouble feeding their families.

Especially pray for all the people who put their lives on the line everyday to take care of others.

We ask all things in your Holy Name. Amen

Please join us in daily prayer as we lift these concerns to the Lord.



A Stewardship Minute
May 2020
May 2020

In the early days of our country, grist mills ground grain for various foods. Many mills were powered by water wheels until gasoline engines replaced them. The water-powered mill could not work during the dry season when the flowing water was not powerful enough to turn the wheel. The gasoline-powered mill, however, worked steadily, supplying ground grain consistently.

As followers of Christ, we can only fulfill the mission of the church if we are consistent and faithful in doing the work of the Lord. The work of the Lord is dependent upon us being reliable in the use of our talents, time, energy, and financial resources. The church can only be as fruitful as we Christians enable it to be, therefore our dependability is as important as it is with the grist mill.

An article in the May issue *Stewardship* describes these two grist mills. The author makes the point that the mill powered by gasoline was more dependable than the one which relied on water-power because of the varying levels of the water in the river; therefore, the gasoline-powered mill consistently met its goals!

St. Paul wrote the following words to the Christians at Corinth: "Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." (I Corinthians 15:58) "Excelling in the work of the Lord" should be our goal and mission!

Prayer: *Lord of all, make us restless until we are steadfast in serving you rightly. In Christ's name. Amen*

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

You can now find the Monthly Stewardship Pamphlet on the website under "Link" at stmatthewlc.com.

WELCA & SWO

"Following the recommendations from the Executive Director of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America, The executive committee has strongly encouraged that all SWO-sponsored events through the end of 2020 to be canceled or postponed. If you registered for any upcoming events, the fee will be returned to you.



CONGRATULATIONS graduate! You have reached a major milestone in your academic career. Please fill out this form so St. Matthew can help you celebrate your accomplishments. Please enclose a photo with your information.

Deadline to return this completed form:
May 25, 2020

Graduate Celebration

Name: _____

Parents Name: _____

Graduating from: **High School** **College**
(please circle one)

Name of Institution: _____

Degree In: _____

Future Plans: _____

Highlights from your school years, (ex. clubs, music, group, academic awards, etc...) _____

Return the form to St. Matthew Lutheran
115 E Penn St., Martinsburg, PA 16662

In the mail by May 25, 2020.

Third Century Fund (Endowment Fund)

The Third Century Fund had a good earnings year in 2019 and as a result has \$5,025 for distribution in 2020. You or your committee may request funding in writing by contacting David Lehman, chairperson at DLEHMAN1@ATLANTICBB.NET

Deadline to submit a request **BY EMAIL OR MAIL** is **Sunday May 24, 2020**. Funds will be distributed in June 2020.

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 by 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.

Stewardship in the time of Covid-19

"For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another." – Romans 12:4-5

In these uncertain times when your congregation is not meeting in-person, it is easy to say to yourself that because you are not meeting, the church doesn't need my offering. So often we see the church as the building and we forget the church is the people of God. Your congregation is not closed. Your congregation's ministry has moved outside the building. The body of Christ is still alive and well.

You can continue to participate in the body of Christ and your congregation's ministry even while we are apart:

Stay well. Wash your hands, stay home, eat well, exercise. Keeping yourself well in these days will allow you to help others.

Help others. Even though we are apart, you can help others. Offer to make a few phone calls to check on members. If you are able, pick up medication for someone who cannot get out. If someone needs groceries and is not able to order online, offer to make the order and schedule the delivery.

Pray. The news is often daunting and confusing. One thing remains true: you are a beloved child of God, called and claimed in the waters of baptism. Pray for your pastor, congregation members, community agencies, health-care workers, first responders, grocery store workers, small business owners, truck drivers, farmers, and all those who continue to work to help us sustain ourselves.

Give. Continuing to give your offering is another way you can participate in your congregation's ministry. If your congregation is set-up for online giving, you can give in that way. You also can mail a check to the church which includes your name and envelope number.

Your congregation's ministries continue to be a blessing to the community in these unusual days. Feeding ministries, prayer ministries, visitation by phone, and a host of other ministries are still happening through your congregation. I am proud of our pastors and deacons and lay worship leaders as they continue to find creative ways to be the church together even though we are apart. Please continue to financially support your congregation while we are apart, your gift ensures that your congregation will be able to continue its ministry long after this crisis is over.

May God's peace and blessing be with you now and always. +Bishop Michael Rhyne

Birthdays for May

1	Travis P. Smith	7	Kathryn A. Panek	20	John L. Snyder
2	Shanda Imler	8	Joshua A. Smith	21	Michael T. Panek
	Mary N. Nelson	9	Greg Haffling		Joel M. Smith
3	Melinda F. Miller		Bonnie Ross	22	Connor Johnson
4	Linda J. Brown	13	Dan Sinal	26	Colin Guyer
	Travis S. Hoover	15	Kevin Smeltzer		Dottie Stahl
	Marjorie A. Replogle	17	Alyssa Clark	27	Jenna L. Lenhart
5	Marjorie Detwiler		Robert M. Kensinger	28	Mark Johnson
	Michael B. Panek	18	Bob Guyer	31	Donna E. Gearhart
		19	Elaine L. Buchart		

May Anniversaries

7	John & Nell Snyder	18	Stephen & Kimberly Oswalt
11	Larry & Catherine Irvin	22	Joshua & Mandy Smith
	Ronald & Robin Robison	24	Whitney & Emily Smith
15	Michael & Joanna Sutton	26	Patrick & Betsy Snyder
17	Robert F. & Patricia J. Winston	27	Shawn & Laura Orzeck

Time for a financial checkup!

A changing life leads to changing finances - make sure you're up-to-date

For most of us, checkups are a regular part of life. Dental visits, auto maintenance appointments and even glances in the bathroom mirror all help us monitor performance, catch potential problems and assure us that all is – or will be – well. What's true of teeth, engines and grooming is also true of finances: regular checkups are recommended. Why? Changes both great and small affect the strategies people have developed to help achieve their financial goals. Unfortunately, too many people act as though once their financial strategy is in place their work is done. But this isn't the case.

As a general rule, Thrivent Financial recommends you review your financial strategy at least once each year. Certain life changes – the birth or adoption of a child, a change in marital status (married, divorced or widowed), the death of a family member or changes to your health – should serve as reminders that a financial tune-up is in order.

Other changes in personal economics can also have a huge impact on finances. These may include shifts in employment status or salary (e.g. loss of job or a pay cut/freeze), home ownership changes, significant changes in total assets or debt, the receipt of an inheritance and tax law changes that can all make previous strategies obsolete.

If you have a do-it-yourself mentality, a number of print and electronic resources exist to help you monitor your finances on a regular basis. However, most can benefit from the knowledge, experience and insight that financial professionals can offer.

Qualified financial professionals can help people evaluate their present financial strategies and stay current on new laws, regulations, products and economic developments. Even more important, financial professionals can challenge the unrealistic assumptions that people may have and help them overcome money management's greatest threat: procrastination.

To live is to experience change. How and when change will appear is impossible to predict, but a financial checkup is one sure way to help you protect your assets and be prepared for the unexpected.

This article was prepared by Thrivent Financial for use by Andrea K. Paul. She has offices at 412 Allegheny Street, Suite 103 in Hollidaysburg and can also be reached at (814)-695-3496.

About Thrivent

Thrivent is a not-for-profit financial services organization that helps Christians be wise with money. As a mission-driven, membership-owned organization, it offers its more than 2 million members and customers a broad range of financial products, services and guidance to help them obtain a life of contentment, confidence and generosity. Thrivent and its subsidiary and affiliate companies offer insurance, investments, banking and advice over the phone, online as well as through financial professionals and

independent agents nationwide. Thrivent is a FORTUNE 500 company with \$134 billion in assets under management/advisement (as of 12/31/18).

To the Members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church
From the Finance Committee

Annual Financial Report – Year ending December 31, 2019

We are happy to report that as of December 31, 2019, St. Matthew is in a very healthy state. We have been blessed with a wonderful pastor, we have a great church council, we have active committees, we have great members and we are financially secure.

It has been quite a few years (while having a full time pastor) that actual income exceeded actual expense and those actual expenses were \$10,000 lower than the actual budget. In fact, we haven't had a actual deficit since 2014.

It is wonderful that regular giving has increased along with pledge payments for the FHRP (Fellowship Hall Restoration Project) being made promptly.

Our cash position, as of December 31, 2019, has never been higher as our offerings and memorial gifts continue to increase. Our savings investments had a good year earning substantial gains.

The Endowment Fund had an excellent earnings year. We have available over \$5,000 for funding of Christian outreach programs.

The audit committee reviewed the church records as well as four other organizations related to the church and all were in order.

There were four major repair/maintenance jobs completed during the year and all were paid out of current cash and savings.

Youth funds are at an all-time high.

Update on the 2020 financial situation.

From good news to bad news in a short period of time.

First quarter 2020 giving for current expenses is behind 2019 giving for the same period by over \$5,000.00. Comparing first quarter 2020 giving to actual expenses there is more than a \$6,500.00 deficit.

Our first quarter Ventures in Faith giving for Local Needs was slightly behind 2019 giving. Our first quarter Benevolence (Synod) giving was slightly ahead of 2019 for the same period.

The committee feels certain that the offering shortfall is due to the Coronavirus and the imposed "stay at home order" with church services having to be canceled for the short term. We encourage all to continue giving as you are able either by mail ,the mail slot at the church or electronically.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Annual Financial Report 2019

Actual regular income	202,938
Actual regular expense	202,587
Budgeted expense	213,041

Actual income exceeded actual expense by \$351.

Actual regular expense was lower than budgeted expense by \$10,454.

Cash

Cash in AFS checking after reconciliation	\$68,060
Savings- All Thrivent accounts	\$503,361
Savings CD's Youth (Rosemond Smith)	\$45,000
Youth Savings	\$3,041
ELCA Mission Youth Investment Fund	\$7,729
Strasser Flower Fund	\$1,861
St, Matthew Flower Fund	\$1,356
The Endowment Fund (ELCA endowment fund)	\$149,025

Building value and contents is \$3,500,000 plus and fully insured.

Building debt and mortgage = \$0.00

Other church debt of obligations= \$0.00

The following are church projects that were completed and paid for on a **cash basis** except where noted.

New doors- 2 sets— \$5,357

Paving the parking lot--- \$43,391

Replace the heating and cooling system-- \$21,862 (Roseamond Smith Undesignated Bequest)

Camp Sequanota Cabin Repairs--- \$3,515

2020 COUNCIL DIRECTORY AND MINISTRY STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Traci Bowman	935-9267	Property	Warren Daniel	935-9249
Admin. Assist.	Lori Tremmel	696-3802	Christian Ed.	Bonnie Casey	285-1610
Assist. 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	614-4552
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 APRIL

1. Finalized the purchase of a new website design. The new website will be in operation by the middle of April.
2. Council approved applying for the Payroll Protection Plan for the staff employees so they will continue to be paid. Altoona First Savings approved the loan/grant for \$20,000.00
3. The Financial Audit was completed, and everything was in order.
4. Allegheny Synod Assembly will be in the Fall of 2020.

Giving

2020 March		Year to Date as of 3/31/2020	
Current	\$16,812.88	Current	\$45,559.40
Benevolence (Synod)	\$1,503.00	Benevolence (Synod)	\$5,382.50
1st Qrt. Local Needs	\$1,162.00	1st Qrt. Local Needs	\$3,393.50

2019 March		Year to Date as of 3/31/19	
Current	\$21,349.37	Current	\$50,640.91
Benevolence (Synod)	\$1,596.75	Benevolence (Synod)	\$4,643.55
Local Needs	\$1,230.25	1st Qrt. Local Needs	\$3,694.25

2020 Income vs Expenses		
<u>Current</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Year to Date as of 3/31/2020</u>
Actual	(\$106.32)	(\$6,534.72)
Per Budget	(\$1,818.20)	(\$10,333.85)
<u>Benevolence</u>		
Per Commitment to Synod	(\$663.67)	(\$1,117.50)

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.

BarCode Offerings:

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

