



Saint Matthew
LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Matthew's Messenger

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Dearly Beloved:

It only happens a few times each century, but this year Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day. (No, I won't be drawing hearts on your forehead in ashes). Self-imposed prohibitions on chocolate aside, it's interesting to think of these holidays in relation to one another.

Hallmark has certainly capitalized on Valentine's Day for romance, but historically St. Valentine is remembered as simply one of many early Christians who refused to renounce his faith, even when the consequence was execution. It was this act of love for God, not his feelings of love for an individual person, for which he was canonized.

Ash Wednesday kicks off Lent by acknowledging our mortality: *Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.* Although we might not immediately think of love and death as going together, Lent reminds us that we have a limited time in this brief life to love as Jesus first loved us, a love that was undaunted even by death on the cross. The Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and charity are not primarily for our own benefit but are ways to love God and others, not just in feeling but in action.

Our Wednesday Lenten services will follow this theme of love. Join us for dinner at 6:15PM and Evening Prayer at 7PM:

2/14 Ash Wednesday (Noon or 7PM Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes, no dinner)

2/21 Love for God

2/28 Love for Family

3/6 Love for Friends

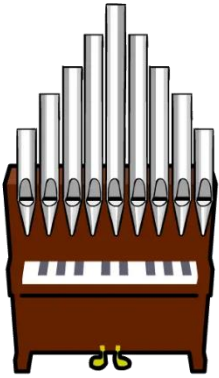
3/13 Love for Those Who Are Hurting

3/20 Love for All God's People

+Pastor Traci

Welcome De

Although she has been with us a couple of months now, please join us in welcoming DeAnna Cree as organist. De shares the following with us:



I was born at Nason and raised in Martinsburg. Two years before I entered the world, my brother, Neal Ritchey Cree, died at age 7. Thus, I was an over-protected child and a “mama’s girl.”

Mother said that I always loved music and would wiggle and dance in my crib. Thus, at age three, I found myself on stage at Siegels dance recital in Altoona. From three to ten I danced. Then my little baby brother, Kevin Karl Cree, arrived unexpectedly. The dancing stopped as mother tended to baby Kevin and local piano lessons began. No more driving to Altoona until age 14 at which time mother drove me to organ lessons.

Also, at that time mother figured I needed a work permit and a job. I found myself at my grandfather’s (Ritcheys) dairy every weekend dipping ice cream and scrubbing bathrooms!

After high school graduation, I relocated to Pittsburgh and got an organ position at a Baptist church. That was followed by years of relocating and playing at several churches in Altoona including Mardorf Methodist, Wehnwood Methodist, and Good Shepherd Church of Christ across from Penn State Campus. I also worked at Penn State Altoona Campus for 16 years and graduated with an Associate Degree in Letters, Arts, and Science.

While working at the Campus, I decided to visit my cousin in Albuquerque, New Mexico. There I met my soul mate and after courting a long-distance relationship for two years, decided to move to New Mexico (The Land of Enchantment).

Dennis Foltz, my husband, is from Oklahoma but we’ve lived in Albuquerque and Orlando. I’ve had myriad positions in those states working for mayors, a House of Representatives candidate, the richest woman in Florida, Valencia College Campuses as well as several churches in Florida and New Mexico as organist.

Now I’m home again, renewing old friendships (and I mean old) and making new younger friends and meeting neighbors. I’m still playing the piano and organ and hope to continue sharing my music with others. I’ve also learned to crochet and create lap blankets for shut-ins and sew aprons for gifts.

I have a good life with many unique friends from different cultures and have been blessed with 3 children, 5 grand-children and 5 great-grand-children. Dennis and I love to travel and see the world and have scheduled more adventures abroad this year.

Ash Wednesday—February 14

Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes is scheduled for 12 Noon (spoken liturgy only) and 7PM (full liturgy with music). Homebound members can make arrangements to receive ashes on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday by calling Pastor Traci (814-935-9267).

Lent of Love

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for dinner and worship on the five Wednesdays between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week. Dinner is at 6:15PM & Evening Prayer is at 7PM. Each worship service will focus on a biblical story about different aspects of love.



February 18, 2024

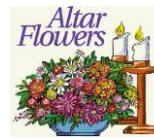
The Boy Scouts of America designates the Sunday that falls before February 8 (Scouting Anniversary Day) as Scout Sunday, which is the primary date to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting. However, each chartered organization can use either of two other options to celebrate this special day.

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### Office Closure During Inclement Weather



On days that the Spring Cove School District cancels or delays instruction due to weather, the church office will be closed as well. In the event of an emergency, Pastor Traci can be reached at 814-935-9237.



The 2024 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 Many dates are still available. Dates available: If you would like a Sunday(s) you can also call the church office at 814-793-2413.

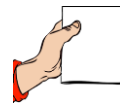
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With Deepest Sympathy

Prayers and Christian Sympathy are asked for...
Lori Tremmel and family upon the death of her sister, Theresa (Terry) Allen on Sunday, January 14, 2024.

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.

Martinsburg Food Pantry



Volunteers from Salem United Church of Christ, along with the regular volunteers, will be assisting with distribution of food on Thursdays, February 1 and February 15, from 9:00a.m. until 11:00a.m.

The Items most needed are: Beverages, Pasta Sides, Ravioli, Kidney Beans, and Paper Towels.

Many thanks to those that helped at the two Thursdays in January: Ron Carnell, Sarah Detwiler, Lottie Ebersole, Gloria Guyer, Connie Lamborn, Peggy Steinfurth and Audrey Stern! Also, appreciated were the monetary gifts from St. Matthew members!

Linda Smith



St. Matthew Lutheran Church,
Thank you all so much for the generous gift of mittens, hats, gloves, and socks! These items will be put to good use in the upcoming winter months. We appreciate all that you do for our students at Martinsburg Elementary.

Jessica Young, MES Nurse



Thank you to everyone who donated food/money and helped prepare, serve, and clean up at Pastor Ed Harshbarger's funeral meal. Pastor Ed's family expressed their appreciation for the support from St. Matthew and for the delicious meal that was offered to the family and their friends.

*On Behalf of the Fellowship Committee
Jane Fagans*

Your dedication to our mission "to serve people through a ministry of love, compassion and mercy in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ" is clearly demonstrated by your financial support of ALSM. Thank you for your congregation's Harvest Home gift.

*Christopher Reighard,
Interim President/CEO ALSM*



Thank you for your recent generous gift to Lutheran World Relief's Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund! Quilts and kits are both practical and comforting. Wherever they are in the world and whatever challenges they face, the families who receive them can truly feel the love and care that quilters and kit makers put into them.

*Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard
President and CEO, Lutheran World Relief*

Our partners in ministry expressed their gratitude for our financial support, which is made possible through giving to our Local Needs fund:

- American Red Cross
- Family Services Inc.
- Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital
- Hollidaysburg American Legion Ambulance Service
- Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home
- Morrison's Cove Memorial Park
- Scarlet Dragon Packs



Rev. Nathan Pile, Executive Director of Sequanota, wrote in grateful acknowledgement of the generous memorial gift St. Matthew made to Camp in honor of Pastor Ed Harshbarger.



A Stewardship Moment FEBRUARY 2024

“My gifts cannot be on a par with God’s gifts to me, but my gifts, large or small, can be my way of showing love and glorifying God.”

That sentence should compel us to stop and ask ourselves “Do my gifts give evidence of my love for God?” And ... “If not, why not?” I wonder sometimes if many, if not most of us have the same mind-set as this rich young man who thought he wanted to follow Jesus. Jesus perceived that the fellow valued worldly riches more than his relationship with God. When the Lord asked him to first get his priorities right regarding worldly goods, the young fellow sadly turned away grieving. (Matthew 19:22) Apparently his love for his possessions had priority over his love for God. Jesus was never prejudiced against people of wealth. He just wanted them to use their money in the right way.

You may remember the story of the Lord going to the home of Zaccheus, the rich tax collector. Zaccheus became a changed man. He got his priorities regarding money straight. He began to help the poor in a very generous way. This story is in the Luke 19: 9. Do you recall what Jesus said after Zacchaeus’ heart and mind were changed from being a greedy selfish person into a loving sharing person? Our Lord said, “Today salvation has come to this house.” When each of us begins to use our resources and talents and time for the glory of God, then we will know that true salvation has come to us.

Prayer: Lord God, you have showered each of us with goodness and grace. Stir us up so that we may use our gifts, large or small, to glorify you. In the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. **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.

Personal 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 February 2024

Date	February 4	February 11	February 14 Ash Wednesday	February 18 Scout Sunday	February 25
Acolytes	Jay Hoenstine	Gavin Kuster	TBD	Lily Lightner	Gabby Decker
Lectors	Shawn Orczeck	Greg Haffling	Peggy Steinfurth	Allen Kuster	Stacy Kuster
Ushers	Jeff Garner	Martie Gilbert	N/A	Mike Lamborn	Stanley Smith
Audio/Video	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster
Altar Guild	Elaine Buchart Tina Harclerode	Elaine Buchart Tina Harclerode	Elaine Buchart Tina Harclerode	Elaine Buchart Tina Harclerode	Elaine Buchart Tina Harclerode
Assist. Min.	Stacy Kuster	Mike Lamborn	Martie Gilbert	Steve Oswalt	Andrea Paul

Birthdays for February

1 Samuel L. Stahl	9 Loy C. Replogle	19 Barbara Moorhead
2 Brian Brumbaugh	10 Gabrielle Decker	20 Greg Dick
4 Ashley Smith	12 Jane L. Fagans	A J Hoenstine
5 Mary K. Baker	Pam Russell	Dani Wright
Barbara J. Beyer	14 Steve Ebersole	21 Jeffrey L. Garner
Olivia Day	Jeffrey K. Hite	24 Walter I. Szymckec
Elaine Smith	John H. Lear	28 Eric R. Frederick
6 Steve Claycomb	15 Richard Snyder	Matthew Freyer
7 Camden A. Hoover	17 James R. Fagans	Allen Kuster
8 Jenna Carder	James A. Stewart	29 Anne E. Stewart
Gavin Ross	18 Brett Buchart	
9 Elizabeth Haffling	Kinsley Frederick	
Casey J. Hoover		

Anniversaries in February

10 Warren & Dottie Daniel	26 Dan & Gloria Guyer
13 Mark & Debra Guyer	27 Jay & Laura M. Webb

2024 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.	Jen Ripka	935-3801	Evangelism	Vacant	
Assist. Admin. Assist.	Laura Orczeck	224-1208	Stewardship	Vacant	
President	Martie Gilbert	793-4461	Finance	Jim Barley	793-4623
Vice President	Greg Haffling	793-9827	Social Ministry	Vacant	
Secretary	Carla Brumbaugh	932-4082	Worship & Music	Tina Harclerode	317-5312
Treasurer	Beth Garner	793-3966	Staff Support	Vacant	
Property	Ed Kreider	793-4302	Sexton	Phil Claar	215-0885

HIGHLIGHTS BY COUNCIL IN JANUARY 2024

1. Council approved a transfer of \$42,390.28 from Thrivent to cover the 2023 budget deficit.
2. Thrivent accounts had a gain of approximately 11% and the ELCA Endowment fund had a gain of approximately 8.8% during 2023.
3. Council approved eliminating the financial secretary position.
4. Worship & Music scheduled Wednesday lenten meals to begin at 6:15 with service to follow. There will be no meal on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14) or Wednesday of Holy Week (Mar 27).
5. Bids were requested from five contractors to complete the work at the front entrance.
6. Council appointed Jim Barley to serve as Finance Committee Chairperson.



February 2024

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 5th Sun. after Epiphany 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	5 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 Jen will be in the Office Mon.-Fri. from 9:00 am-12:00 pm	6 <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Pastor Traci attending writing workshop. May be reached at 814-935-9237. </div>	7 1-4 pm Pastor in Office	1 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	2 Pastor's Sabbath	3
11 Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	12 6:00 pm Worship & Music Mtg., via Zoom	13 2-5 pm Pastor in Office 6:30 pm Council Mtg., WR/Zoom	14 Ash Wednesday 12:00 pm Spoken Liturgy only 7:00 pm Worship in Sanc- tuary (Service available via Live Stream) No Meal	15 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	16 Pastor's Sabbath	17 9am-9pm Fellowship Hall in Use
18 1st Sunday in Lent Scout Sunday 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	19	20 2-5 pm Pastor in Office	21 10:00 am Employee Mtg., FH 6:15 pm Meager Meal 7:00 pm Lenten Service Fellowship Hall	22	23 Pastor's Sabbath	24
25 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	26	27 12:30-3:00 pm Knotty Ladies, OR 2-5 pm Pastor in Office	28 6:15 pm Meager Meal 7:00 pm Lenten Service Fellowship Hall	29		