



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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• web: www.stmatthewlc.com

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Volume 65

FEBRUARY 2025

Number 2

Beloved Children of God:

By happy coincidence, the lectionary lined up with the secular calendar such that we begin February with 1 Corinthians 13, the famous chapter about love. Many of us are familiar with these words from weddings: If I speak in the tongues of mortals and angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal... So if our familiarity comes from hearing it at weddings, it seems appropriate that we encounter this passage just ahead of Valentine's Day. However, Paul was speaking not about romance but about a divided community's call to stop their selfish and self-centered way of living and start acting more charitably toward others, especially those who possessed gifts different from their own (see Chapter 12).

Still, it's worth thinking for a moment about Valentine's Day in conjunction with Paul's letter to the Corinthians. We are usually much better at giving flowers and chocolates to someone for whom we feel deep affection than we are at giving forgiveness, mercy, patience, and respect to people who are different, distant, or with whom we disagree. Guess which scripture calls us to do...

In the centuries since Paul wrote to the Corinthians, we've made very modest progress indeed. We may be good about loving certain people, yet we are quick to dismiss others as unworthy of our attention or undeserving of our care. The change of heart that God wants to bring about in us is not for the sake of our own righteousness but because God loves the poor and oppressed just as much as God loves us, and God needs us to take care of them.

As we spend this month surrounded by symbols of love, let us remember to love in action on behalf of those who need us right now, more than ever.

Peace,
Pastor Traci



You are invited to

Allegheny Synod Lay Eucharistic Minister Training

Who: Volunteers who want to serve their congregation by bringing the sacrament to members at home

*Where: St. Matthew Lutheran Church (Fellowship Hall)
115 E Penn Street, Martinsburg PA*

*When: Saturday, March 1st from 9AM to 11AM
Continental Breakfast is Provided*

*RSVP: Pastor Kevin Shock, Assistant to the Bishop
kevin.shock@alleghenysynod.com by February 25th*

Suggested donation of \$5 to defray the cost of your home communion kit

Office Closure During Inclement Weather



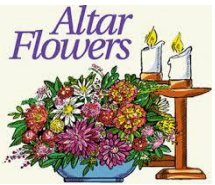
On days that the Spring Cove School District cancels or delays instruction due to weather, the church office will be closed as well. In the event of an emergency, Pastor Traci can be reached at 814-935-9237.

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Prayers and Christian sympathy are asked for Stanley, Michele, Ashley, and Nathan Smith and the family of Marie Stock upon her death on Sunday, January 19.

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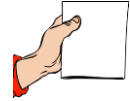


The 2025 Altar Flower chart is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Altar Flowers are a perfect way to remember loved ones or to honor loved ones. There are plenty of dates available. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar. Price - \$40.00 Many dates are still available. If you would like a Sunday(s) you can also call the church office at 814-793-2413.

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## 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.



email message from St. Matthew with the link for the Messenger, or as a paper copy in the news rack in the church

## HAPPY FEBRUARY



The Social Ministry Committee would like to wish all St. Matthew members a Happy February.

Our prayer: May the days in February be filled with God's love and understanding. Open our hearts to hear and receive your word to help reflect your love to others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

St. Matthew family,

Thank you so much for thinking of me during finals week in December. The care package of snacks was appreciated more than you know.

*Jeff Hoenstine*

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Saint Matthew family,

Thank you so much for thinking of me at Christmas with your kind gift. I really appreciate it.

Jay Hoenstine

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To my Saint Matthew's Family –

Thanks so much for the box of goodies to get me through finals! I appreciated it and enjoyed the snacks. Only one semester to go!

Thanks again.

*Jane Carpenter, College of Wooster 2025*

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Social Ministry Committee,

John and I would like to thank you so much for thinking of us over the Christmas season with the goodie package you shared with us. Thank you.

John and Pam Russell

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Dear People of St. Matthew,

Thank you for the gift box in preparation for my finals. I also appreciate all your thoughts and prayers as I continue my studies at Pikeville.

*Christopher Bush*

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The men and women of the Martinsburg Volunteer Fire Company would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" for your very generous donation.

Sincerely,

Tara Hoover, Financial Secretary

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On behalf of the residents of the Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home, we would like to thank you for the generous donation to our Veterans' Holiday Fund program. Thank you for helping to make the holidays, and every day, a little brighter for the veterans and spouses who reside at HVH.

*Christina Dambeck, Commandant  
Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home*

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Thank you for your generous contribution and continued support.

*Hollidaysburg American Legion
Ambulance Service, Inc.*



Stewardship

a way of life

A Stewardship Minute FEBRUARY 2025

You've probably heard the expression "Give until it hurts." The February issue of Stewardship suggests, however, that Christians should give until it "helps." Isn't that a more positive thought? After all, if one thinks about the subject for a while, isn't our giving intended to help the church accomplish Christ's mission on earth? It is important for us all to remember that we not only give so that we may have a church in which to worship, but to share our resources and talents to help those suffering in the world. This hymn conveys what stewardship is all about:

*Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord to Thee.
Take my moments and my days; Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of Thy love,
take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee.
Take my voice, and let me sing, Always, only for my King.
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from Thee.
Take my silver and my gold; Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use every pow'r as Thou shalt choose.
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.*

Frances R. Havergal

Prayer: Lord, let us not rest until we find rest in doing your will.
We pray in Jesus' name. **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 Jen. 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.)*



Martinsburg Food Pantry

Volunteers from Salem Church, along with regular volunteers, will be assisting with the distribution of food on Thursdays, February 6 and February 20, from 9:00 am until 11:00 am.

The items most needed are: Beverages, Fruit, Kidney Beans, Pasta Sauce, Paper Towels.



Many thanks to those that helped at the two Thursdays in January: Carla Brumbaugh, Lottie Ebersole, Sarah Detwiler, Nan Grove, Connie Lamborn, Peggy Steinfurth, and Audrey Stern! Also, we thank and appreciate the monetary gifts of \$130. from St. Matthew members!



Thanks and appreciation for your help!

Linda Smith

SERVING GOD AND US

February 2025

Date	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23
Acolytes	Ben Decker	Gavin Kuster	Gabby Decker	Jay Hoenstine
Lectors	Amanda Decker Ben Decker	Steve Oswalt	Gabby Decker	Mary Baker Mace Baker
Ushers	Jeff Garner	Martie Gilbert	Stanley Smith	Paul Decker
Audio/Video	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster
Altar Guild	Laura Orczeck Elaine Buchart	Laura Orczeck Elaine Buchart	Laura Orczeck Elaine Buchart	Laura Orczeck Elaine Buchart
Assist. Min.	Stacy Kuster	Lottie Ebersole	Steve Oswalt	Jean Sinal

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
13 Mark & Debra Guyer
27 Jay & Laura M. Webb

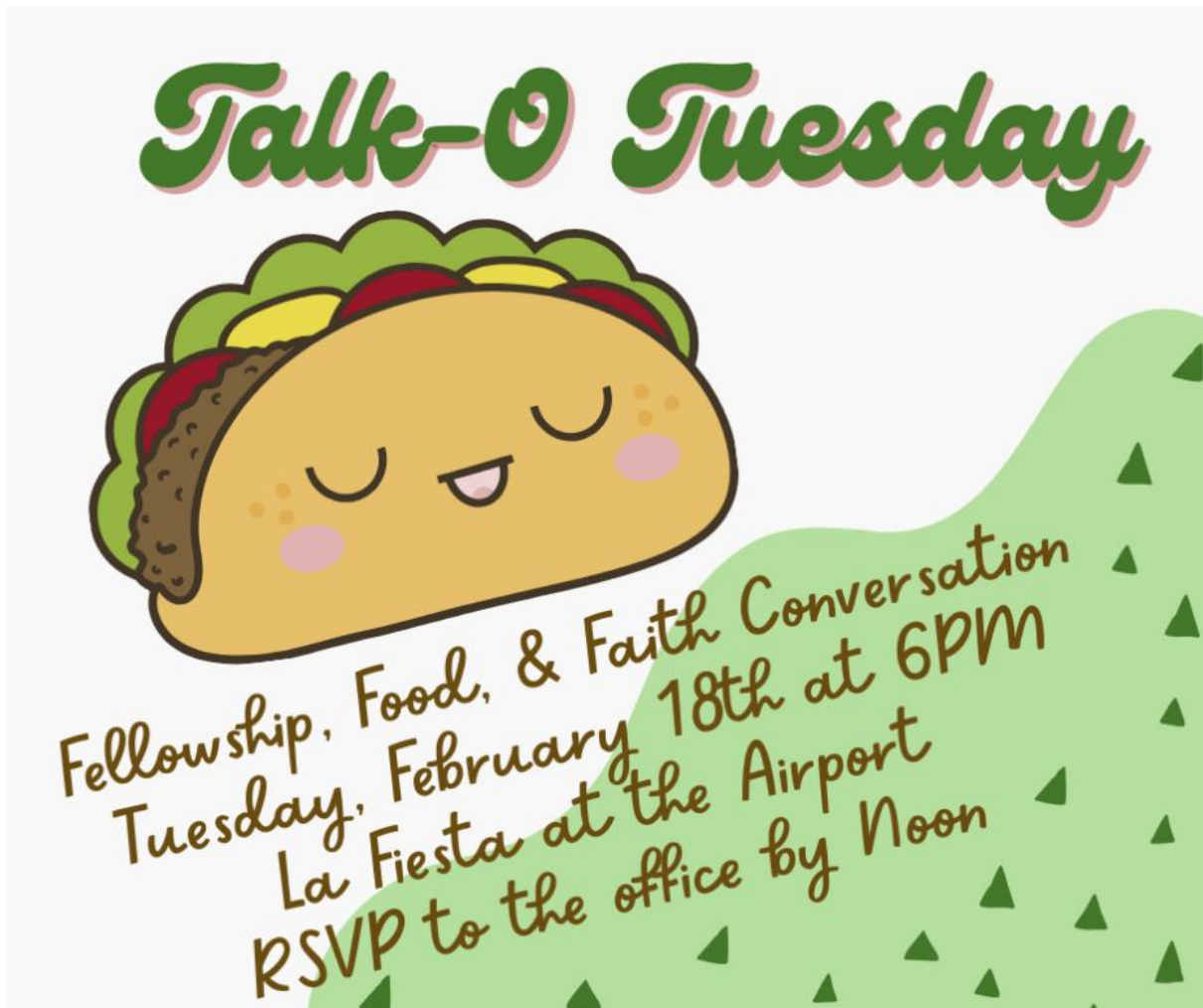
2025 COUNCIL DIRECTORY AND MINISTRY STAFF

All phone numbers start with (814) unless otherwise noted.

Pastor	Rev. Traci Marriott	935-9267	Evangelism	Peggy Steinfurth	515-
Admin. Assistant	Jen Ripka	935-3801	Stewardship	Vacant	
Assistant Admin. Assist	Laura Orzeck	224-1208	Finance	Jim Barley	793-4623
President	Greg Haffling	793-9827	Social Ministry	Lottie Ebersole	232-6665
Vice President	Don Bulger	329-3412	Worship & Music	Tina Harclerode	317-5312
Secretary	Carla Brumbaugh	932-4082	Staff Support	Vacant	
Treasurer	Beth Garner	932-4156	Sexton	Phil Claar	215-0885
Property	Paul				

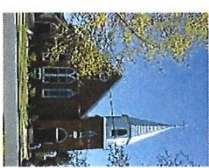
HIGHLIGHTS BY COUNCIL IN JANUARY 2025

1. Peggy Steinfurth was appointed as chairperson of the Evangelism committee for one year.
2. Social Ministry and Christian Education committees will be making Valentine bags/boxes for homebound and nursing home members. The congregation is invited to bring Valentine's to fill the bags/boxes.
3. The Mending room will be open from 3:00 to 5:00 Wednesdays in March along with the Lenten Meager Meals.
4. Peggy Steinfurth will lead the church service on February 9.
5. Ash Wednesday is March 5.





February 2025
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
115 E Penn St., Martinsburg, PA 16662-1127
Email: stmatthewmartinsburg@gmail.com 814-793-2413



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	<i>FH—Fellowship Hall CE—Christian Ed Office CL—Church Lounge QR—Quilt Room WR—Window Room K—Kitchen</i> <i>In case of emergency, Pastor Traci may be reached at 814-935-9267</i> <i>Jen will be in the Office Mon.-Fri. from 9:00 am-12:00 pm</i>							<i>1 Fellowship Hall in Use 8 am-1pm</i>
2 <u>4th Sun. after Epiphany</u> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	3	4	5	6 <i>9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.</i>	7	8		
	Pastor Traci is on vacation 2/3-2/9. In case of emergency call Pastor MJ Irvin-Stellabotte 814-934-9941.							
9 <u>5th Sun. after Epiphany</u> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 15px; margin-top: 5px;"></div>	10 6:30 pm Social Ministry Meeting, Zoom	11 6:30 pm Council Mtg.	12 1-4 pm Pastor in Office	13	14 Pastor's Sabbath	15		
16 <u>6th Sun. after Epiphany</u> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	17	18 6:00 pm Talk-O Tuesday, La Fiesta Mexican Restaurant, Airport	19 1-4 pm Pastor in Office	20 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	21 Pastor's Sabbath	22		
23 <u>7th Sun. after Epiphany</u> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	24	25 12:30-3:00 pm Knotty Ladies, QR	26 10 am Employee Meeting, FH 1-4 pm Pastor in Office	27	28 Pastor's Sabbath	1 9-11 am Lay Eucharistic Minister Training, FH		