



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 64

JULY 2024

Number 7

Greetings, People of God:

As we prepare to celebrate Independence Day, I'd like to share a reminder of our vital but precarious freedom of religion. As I have for a number of years, I offered the invocation and benediction at the community Memorial Day observance at the park. An attendee included my prayers in his long list of criticisms of the program in a letter to the editor in the following week's Herald. Though the rest of his letter leads me to speculate that my true offense was "praying while female", he misquoted the gospel of Luke to claim that the prayers "went nowhere" because I ended them with "amen" (as opposed to, presumably, "in Jesus name" or "in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" or something).

You've probably heard me end countless prayers in Jesus' name; this is not because God requires a magic formula to hear our prayers but because usually we are praying within our own congregation. I very intentionally made the choice not to do that at a community gathering that honored fallen soldiers because that observance is, by its very nature, an interfaith event. A member of the military who is buried in a national cemetery like Arlington, Soldiers', or Indiantown Gap can choose from 78 different emblems of belief for their gravestone. Several are for different denominations of Christians, but they also include symbols for Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Mormons, and a number of other religions. On Memorial Day, Independence Day, or any other day, we remember that our nation's freedom has been won and continues to be defended by patriots of all faiths.

Lately I hear more and more advocacy for Christian Nationalism. We might be tempted to think, "We're Christians; Christian morality is good; what would be wrong with the nation being Christian?" But the only way we are guaranteed the freedom to practice our religion is if everyone is free to practice theirs. Even setting aside the First Amendment, out of the hundreds of denominations, who would get to define what is "Christian" if Christianity were the law of the land? One of our neighbors clearly thinks your pastor—seminary-trained and ordained in a 500+ year old Christian tradition—isn't Christian enough.

Jesus was offered the opportunity to force the nations to worship him—when he was being tempted by the devil in the wilderness (Luke 4); but he chose to invite people to faith through loving selfless service instead. Disciples of Jesus spread the gospel by how we live our lives, not by controlling others. As we celebrate our nation's independence, let us give thanks that we are free to love our neighbors as our religion instructs us to, and let us not think that we could ever love others by taking away such a fundamental right as their freedom of faith.

✝Pastor Traci

Martinsburg Food Pantry



The Food Pantry will be open for distribution of food on the first and third Thursday: July 4 and July 18 from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m.

Volunteers from Brethren in Christ Church will be helping to give out food, along with the regular helpers.

Items most needed for July:

Macaroni, Spaghetti Sauce, Scalloped Potatoes, Canned Fruit, and Paper Towels

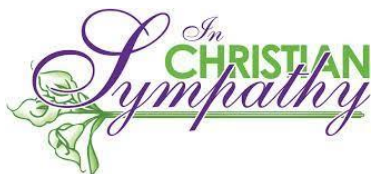
Garden produce on the days that the Food Pantry is open, are very appreciated to be dropped off at the pantry.

Thank you!
Linda Smith

Thank You...

Many thanks to our church family and friends for all the prayers and concerns during the past 2 years. My husband is now off of dialysis permanently and had his PD tube removed. All of the prayers have helped so much!

Norm & Lori Tremmel



Prayers and Christian Sympathy are asked for...

- Family and friends of G. Fred Kensinger upon his death on June 22, 2024.



A Stewardship Minute July 2024

The July issue of Stewardship has an upbeat story about 32 teen-agers going to a small church and working diligently to clean, paint and generally rehabilitate the older building. As they worked, ate, sang and worshiped together, they discovered that they were bonding with joy and friendship. Doing much needed work for the Lord and the members of the little church, they grew closer to one another ... and much closer to God as well. The youth group discovered what most of us discover when we do service work. They found unity, joy, purpose, and the best way of living the Christian life.

In the Old Testament, Ezra tells what the Jews did as they participated in celebrating the rebuilding of their once destroyed temple. Ezra writes "They sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever ... And all the people shouted with a great shout." Ezra 3: 10-11

To put Ezra's words simply: Do the Lord's work, serve the Lord with steadfast love and persistence and you will find that your heart, mind, and spirit will be rewarded bountifully!

Prayer: *Lord, never let us forget the needs of our souls which is to give our all for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Amen*

**PLEASE
NOTE...**

There will be a brief meeting of the Social Ministry and Fellowship committees following worship next Sunday, July 7, at the back of the Narthex concerning preparation for the Young at Heart Luncheon.

SERVING GOD AND US JULY 2024

Date	July 7	July 14	July 21	July 28
Lectors	Shawn Orczeck	A J Hoenstine	Mary & Mace Baker	Greg Haffling
Altar Guild	Jean Sinal	Jean Sinal	Jean Sinal	Jean Sinal
Offering Counters	Beth Garner Jim Barley	Beth Garner Jim Barley	Beth Garner Jim Barley	Beth Garner Jim Barley
Audio/Video	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Jay Hoenstine
Ushers	Mike Lamborn	Martie Gilbert	Stanley Smith	Greg Haffling
Assist. Min.	Andrea Paul	Greg Haffling	Lottie Ebersole	Steve Oswalt



Anniversaries for July

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Jim & Jane Fagans | 15 Mike & Christine Panek |
| Keith & Andrea McGraw | 16 Paul & Marjorie Helsel |
| 3 William & Cheryl Gigante | Dr. Murray & Sharon Smith |
| 4 Rachel Kensinger & Tammy White | 26 Shawn & Wendy McCauley |
| 10 Zane & M. Jane Staily | 26 Greg & Julie Russell |
| 14 Casey & Jessica Hoover | 29 A J & Jane Hoenstine |
| 15 Mark & Lori Johnson | |



Birthdays for July

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 3 Glenn Baker | 11 Scott Paul | 25 Julie Dick |
| 5 Sharon Hicks | Barb Wilt | 26 Douglas Bush |
| William Stahl | 15 Martie Gilbert | Amy Haffling |
| 8 Marjorie Helsel | 18 Jordan Smith | Dr. Shawn Orczeck |
| Shaffer Johnson | Wyatt Sweinhart | Carol Rugh |
| Cora Sweinhart | 19 Melissa Fetzer | 27 Arnold Moore |
| 9 Jerry Allen | 21 Tom Fishburn | Calleigh Wright |
| Jeffrey Hoenstine | Dan Tremmel | 28 Kylee Frederick |
| Brandi Ross | 22 Tripp Crilly | Larry Frederick |
| Jeremy Smith | Brandon Oswalt | 30 Beth Rager |
| Janet Stewart | 24 Audrey Hite | |
- 

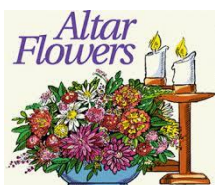
**St. Matthew Seniors Are Invited To
A Young at Heart Luncheon**



Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 12:00 PM

**Held at St. Matthew Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall
115 East Penn Street
Martinsburg, PA**

Please RSVP to the Church Office (814-793-2413) by July 8



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. The following dates are available: 7/21, 9/29, 10/13, 10/27, 11/10, 12/1. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar. Price - \$40.00. If you would like a Sunday(s) you can also call the church office at 814-793-2413.

Devotionals



"Christ in Our Home" devotional booklets are available at the Usher's Station in the Narthex. Please sign your name if you take one because we are trying to get an accurate count of how many we need to be ordering. If you are unable to attend worship in person and want one mailed to you, please call the office.

Share the Harvest



The "Share the Harvest" table is up and running. In the months to come, if you have extra fruit or vegetables to share with members of the congregation, please bring your items and place them on a table in the Narthex. Members will be able to help themselves to items as desired. Any remaining produce after Sunday morning will be given away at the discretion of the donor.

"Let us share God's harvest with others."

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	Lottie Ebersole	232-6665
Secretary	Carla Brumbaugh	932-4082	Worship & Music	Tina Harclerode	317-5312
Treasurer	Beth Garner	793-3966	Staff Support	Kaye Burket	224-5224
Property	Ed Kreider		Sexton	Phil Claar	217-9084502

HIGHLIGHTS BY COUNCIL IN JUNE 2024

1. Many thanks to New Enterprise Stone & Lime who replaced a post on a Handicapped Parking sign at no charge.
2. Barb Wilt was appointed to serve a 3-year term on the Endowment Committee.
3. The next Mending Meal will be held on June 26 and the Young at Heart Luncheon will be on July 16.
4. Gabby Decker will be serving as head acolyte beginning in September 2024.
5. The annual church picnic will be held on August 18 at Ed Kreider's farm.

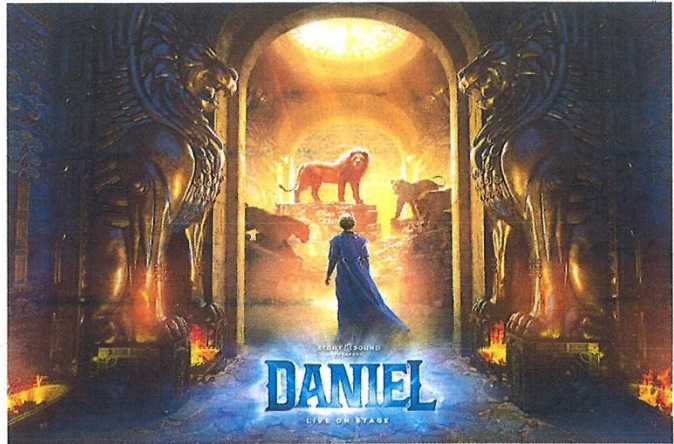
Martinsburg Booster Association presents



IN LANCASTER, PA

WEDNESDAY,

OCTOBER 23, 2024



DANIEL

\$170 per person

Taken from his people, Daniel is exiled far from home in the powerful kingdom of Babylon. Now this faithful servant must navigate his new life inside a palace filled with golden statues and shifting empires. As royal pressures mount, Daniel is faced with a dangerous choice. Will his trust in the one true God remain steadfast through every test of faith?

From the fiery furnace to the infamous den of lions, DANIEL is a spectacular theatrical experience for the whole family.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Roundtrip Motorcoach Transportation
- via Raystown Transit
- Reserved Main Floor Seating at 11:00am show
- Dinner stop made on return—Hoss's in Carlisle (on own)

DEPART: 7:00 AM from Morrison Cove Park

DEADLINE for RESERVATIONS and FINAL PAYMENT: September 13, 2024

PAYMENT: Check payable to Duane Bordell or CASH

For Reservations and Information:

Contact Duane Bordell, Raystown Transit Service at 814-944-2585
1117 Logan Blvd, Altoona, PA 16602

ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESENTS

WHAT IS PERSONAL FINANCE?



**Let's talk about
Budgeting, Saving, Credit
and Debt, Investing and
Retirement, Insurance,
and Consumer Awareness**

**Class led by Mr. Joseph Logan
from Central High School**

Saturday, July 13, 2024

9:00am - 11:00am

Continental Breakfast Provided

**Class is provided at no cost, but donations
will be accepted.**

Registration Requested but not required.

You may register by:

- **Leaving a message on our office phone (814-224-4116)**
- **Sending an Email to stluke401@gmail.com**
- **Fill out the form through the QR Code**



ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 E MAIN ST. ROARING SPRING, PA 16673



On Eagle's Wings

1000 West Main Street, Lansdale, PA, 19446
Telephone 780-440-6594 Toll Free 1-866-441-6594
Email: office@oneagleswings.us
Website: oneagleswings.us

23rd May 2024

Dear Friends, Merry Christmas!

Okay, I know it is a little early, but I wanted to share with you an introduction to our 2024 Bible Camp. **GIFT** (Growing In Faith Together) starts out by transporting children back to the day that changed history forever.

I'm certain there will be a great deal of excitement as children unwrap presents during a game called "pass the parcel". As the final **GIFT** is revealed, they will learn how Jesus was, and is, the greatest **GIFT** ever given.



On **Day 2**, children will learn how Jesus shared the **GIFT** of miracles. They will hear stories like the healing of a leper, and the feeding of the five thousand. Our incredible volunteer teachers will help them memorize the faith-building verse spoken by Jesus in Luke 18:27. "What is impossible with man is possible with God."

Day 3 of Bible Camp will focus on the **GIFT** of peace that Jesus offers. Our attendees will make a craft with blue Jello and a segment of orange they will later eat at snack time. This will be a reminder of our story of the day. Can you guess what it will be?



Day 4 is an exploration of the "lost" parables of Luke 15. I can't wait to watch the kids hunt for "lost" items around the room. It will be a joy to see the cute sheep crafts they will bring home, reminding them of the precious **GIFT** of being found.

Our **final day** will focus on the Easter story. How Jesus gave the **GIFT** of his own life, reconciling us to himself.

Are you ready to make a difference this summer by giving children the opportunity to encounter Jesus, the most incredible GIFT of all? Every contribution matters. A donation of \$37 can provide a child in a remote location with a Bible Camp in a Bag backpack. For those who can give \$100 or more, your generosity will support volunteers traveling to isolated communities who are eagerly awaiting an in-person Bible Camp.

Thank you for your faithful support in our 25th year of northern ministry!

Robin Abrol, Executive Director



Continued overleaf >>

Yes! I want to help children learn about the greatest GIFT ever given.

- I have enclosed a cheque as my tax-receiptable gift or
- I have made an e-transfer donation through online banking (see reverse) or
- Please charge my credit card (see reverse)
\$300 ___ \$150 ___ \$75 ___ \$50 ___ \$25 ___ or \$ ___
- I will pray for *On Eagle's Wings*
- Send information about remembering *On Eagle's Wings* in my will

Please print your name & address below :




On Eagle's Wings
1000 West Main St, Lansdale, PA, 19446

Bible Camp Appeal - 2024

Easy online giving is available through our website at oneagleswings.us



July 2024
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
	1	2	3 1-4 pm Pastor in Office	4  Independence Day Office Closed 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	5	6
7 7th Sun. after Pentecost 9:30 am Worship in Sanctuary Social Ministry and Fellowship Committee Meeting After Worship, Narthex	8 RSVP Deadline Young at Heart Luncheon	9 Agricultural Parade, Martinsburg No July Council Meeting	10 1-4 pm Pastor in Office	11	12	13
14 8th Sun. after Pentecost 9:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	15	16 Young at Heart Luncheon 12 p.m., FH	17 1-4 pm Pastor in Office	18 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	19	20
21 9th Sun. after Pentecost 9:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	22	23 12:30-3:00 pm Knotty Ladies, QR	24	25	26	27
Pastor Traci away at Nawakwa . Pastor Ralph Hamer may be reached at 814-215-7333 for emergencies.						
28 10th Sun. after Pentecost 9:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	29	30 12:30-3:00 pm Knotty Ladies, QR	31 1-4 pm Pastor in Office			