

Greetings People of God:

Around here, March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb...or the other way around. That's mainly a commentary on the weather, which might behave like spring according to the groundhog's predictions or might surprise us with a blizzard; but since Easter falls on March 31st, this month we'll also see the most dramatic liturgical swings between the somber days of Lent, the hosannas of Palm Sunday, the sorrow of Christ's passion, and the celebration of Jesus' resurrection.

If we've spent year after year following the church seasons in the same way we live through the meteorological seasons, it will seem natural and even predictable for us to experience the annual highs and lows of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. We know that as dismal as Good Friday feels, the joy of Easter Sunday is right around the corner. In a world where even the weather behaves erratically, where the only things we're told we can count on are death and taxes, it can be a comfort to await with certainty the Easter feast that ends the Lenten fast.

Yet, Easter does not celebrate a predictable step in a cycle like the return of warm weather or the flowering of trees that spent a dormant winter. The resurrection is God's ultimate interruption in "the way things always are" that defies even the inevitability of death. If we have been lulled into the familiarity of our cycle of seasons, we may miss it; but Easter isn't just one more part of a pattern. The resurrection turns the world upside down. If God is more powerful even than death, what else is God capable of doing?

May this Easter bring you the incredible, unimaginable, life-changing hope that you need to heal what seems hopelessly broken and to rewrite what seems etched in stone.

Peace,
Pastor Traci

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; 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 2024

In the March issue of Stewardship there is a brief article by Mother Teresa. It brings to mind how troublesome holy people can often be to those of us who fall short of holiness. Consider this prayer Mother Teresa offered to God:

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves. Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of the things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the water of life.

After her prayer she addressed her listeners with the following words: "Open your hearts to the love God instills in them. What God gives you is not to be kept under lock and key but to be shared. Let us ask God ...to help us to be generous." Isn't that the basic meaning of stewardship? Isn't it to be generous ... not simply with money, but generous also with our talents, our strength, our mental ability and our time? Stewardship is considering our many blessings from God and using them for the glory of God and the welfare of mankind.

In every congregation on earth there are some dear souls who set an example for those who hide their light under a bushel. These are they who volunteer their heart, hands and resources to glorify and serve God and God's church. Should not each of us consider making the effort to bring light to the dark places of the world?

Jesus said: "You are the light of the world. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16)

Prayer: *Serving you, dear Lord, is an honor and a privilege. Grant us the strength and guidance to serve you well. In Christ's name. Amen*

A Steward of the Month is available to subscribers of Stewardship at www.parishpublishing.org. Simply click or go to our website: stmatthewlwc.com and go to middle of the page and click on helpful links then go to bottom of the page and click on "Steward of the Month".



Prayers and Christian Sympathy are asked for the family of Janet Kreider upon her death on Friday, March 1, 2024.



A sincere thank you to my many church friends as well as others who were so generous to me following my recent hip surgery. I certainly appreciated the cards, phone calls, visits, nourishing food, prayers and pastoral visits. It is so wonderful to be part of a caring community.

Elaine Buchart

Dear St. Matthew Family,

I have been truly blessed during my convalescence by your sharing of God's love through get well messages, phone calls, delicious food, prayers, and a special quilt. Your encouragement and understanding are overwhelming and will not be forgotten. Again, thank you for helping me through my recovery from surgery. May you continue to be a blessing to all God's people.

Kaye Burket



Thank you so much for joining with St. John's UCC and Martinsburg Church of God in ringing church bells on Christmas morning. Your chimes bring joy to our Community.

As a resident of Homewood, I was greatly excited to stand on my porch and hear the bells ring out the good news. It made my day even more special! With Heartfelt thanks.

Blessings,

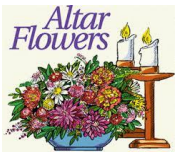
**Audrey Bonebreak and the Consistory of
St. John's UCC Martinsburg**



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



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.

If you would like a Sunday(s) you can also call the church office at 814-793-2413.



Easter Flowers

We are offering a variety of flowers to enhance our sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

If you wish to place flowers in the church for Easter Sunday, please complete the form below and return it to Margie Smith by placing in her mail box OR, place the form in an envelope and then in the offering plate. Your check should be made **payable** to

"St. Matthew Flower Fund."

Deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 10, 2024.

Given by _____

In Memory of _____

OR

In Honor of _____

I would like:

6½" Tulips \$12.00 Assortment	6" Daffodils \$12.00	6" Hyacinth \$12.00 White, Pink or Purple	6½" Lillies \$15 4-6 Blooms
_____	_____	_____	_____

_____ I will pick up my flower after Sunday.

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____



Martinsburg Food Pantry

Volunteers from the Grace Brethren Church will be helping, along with the regulars, to distribute food on the first and third Thursdays, March 7 and March 21 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

March items most needed are: Cereal, Fruit, Scalloped Potatoes, Pancake Mix, Syrup and Toilet Paper. These or any items can be placed in the basket at the church.

Many thanks for the February donations!

Linda Smith



Good Friday Prayer Vigil

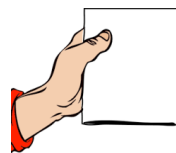
Scheduled at St. Matthew Lutheran Church on Friday, March 29th, from 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Members are asked to commit one half hour to pray for any concerns of a personal, church, or worldwide nature. We

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 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.



Don't forget to set all of your clocks one hour ahead!

Saturday, March 9th before you go to bed.



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.

Birthdays for March

- 1 Rebecca Moore
- 2 Sal I. Lamborn
- 3 Linda L. Lehman
- 4 Carla Brumbaugh
- 5 M. Jane Staily
- 6 Patricia Russell
- 9 Brock Frederick
Lyndsay Tremmel
- 10 Sadie Freyer
Jessica Orczeck
Sondra Ursiak
- 11 Ann Irvin
Audrey L. Kensinger
Daniel S. Kensinger
- 12 Alan A. Brubaker
Pat Mountain
- 13 Misty J. Smith
Rhyvan Tremmel
Katie Zimmerman

- 16 Roy W. Creps
- 17 Sharon E. Frederick
- 20 Thomas D. Brown
- 22 Matthew K. Buchart
- 23 Lucas Jon Gilbert
- 25 Betty Selby
- 26 Kay L. McGraw
- 28 Erik B. Snyder
- 29 Erin N. Gates

Anniversaries in March

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

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	793-4302	Sexton	Phil Claar	215-0885

Highlights by Council February 2024

1. Council appointed Lottie Ebersole as Social Ministry committee chairperson and Kaye Burket as Staff Support committee chairperson.
2. Synod Assembly will be held Saturday, June 15 at the Blair County Convention Center with “opening worship” Friday, June 14 at Zion Lutheran in Hollidaysburg.
3. The Endowment Fund earned 13.8% in 2023.
4. The Christian Education committee will sponsor a family game day and potato bar on Sunday, March 17.
5. The Young at Heart Luncheon will be held at noon on July 16.
6. The Worship and Music committee is looking at new hymns to be used during worship services.
7. Keith McGraw finished work on the short wall in the fellowship hall and replaced some siding on the west side of the church.

SERVING GOD AND US March 2024

Date	March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24 Palm Sunday	March 27 Maundy Thursday	March 31 Easter Sunday
Acolytes	Lucy Lightner	Ben Decker	Norah Kuster	Gavin Kuster	-	Mace Baker Max Baker Jay Hoenstine
Lectors	Jane Hoenstine	Destarta Carberry	Lori Tremmel	Kaye Burket	Melissa Fetzer	Andrea Paul
Altar Guild	Laura Orczeck Jane Fagans	Laura Orczeck Jane Fagans	Laura Orczeck Jane Fagans	Laura Orczeck Jane Fagans	Laura Orczeck Jane Fagans	Laura Orczeck Jane Fagans
Audio/Video	Jay Hoenstine	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Jay Hoenstine	Camden Kuster
Assist. Min.	Greg Haffling	Jim Barley	Jay Hoenstine	Elaine Smith	Melissa Fetzer	Jane Fagans
Ushers	Paul Decker	Tina Harclerode	Steve Oswalt	Melissa Fetzer	-	Randy McGraw



Mid-Week Lenten Meals & Services

Beginning Wednesday, February 21, a mid-week Lenten meal will be prepared and served for anyone wishing to attend. The soup and sandwich meal will be served at 6:15 pm; the Mid-week Lenten service will begin at 7 pm. The meal AND the service will take place in the Fellowship Hall.

Social Ministry Committee will deliver soup and a sandwich to the shut-ins.

Following is a list of menus:

March 6 Tomato soup and toasted cheese sandwich
Christian Education Committee

March 13 Vegetable soup and pulled pork sandwich
Fellowship Committee

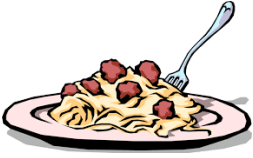
March 20 Potato soup and ham and cheese sliders
Social Ministry Committee

Everyone is invited to attend and join in the fellowship of sharing a meal and worship together.

2024 Young at Heart Luncheon



Social Ministry & Fellowship Committees will host a Young at Heart Luncheon which is being planned for July 16, 2024 at Noon in the Fellowship Hall. Main course will be ham loaf. We will require an RSVP and more details will be announced.



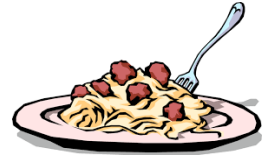
**Boy Scout Troop 358
Spaghetti Dinner
Saturday, March 2, 2024**

Martinsburg Volunteer Firehall

5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

\$12 per person

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE SCOUTS AND THEIR ACTIVITIES
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!**



**Boy Scout Troop 358
Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, March 23, 2024**

Martinsburg Volunteer Firehall

7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

By Donation

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE SCOUTS AND THEIR ACTIVITIES
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!**



BLAIR-HUNTINGDON CONFERENCE
WACKY BOWLING
FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT CAMPUS MINISTRY

Lutheran 
 at PENN STATE

**Fun Spin on Bowling
 No Skill Required!**

**MORRISONS COVE
 MEMORIAL PARK LANES**

April 7 | Suggested Donation **\$20**
 Teams or Individuals
 Walk-ins Welcome but Space is Limited
 4-6PM | RSVP: blairhuntingdonlutherans@gmail.com



March 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
3 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	4 FH—Fellowship Hall CE-Christian Ed Office CL-Church Lounge QR-Quilt Room WR—Window Room K—Kitchen <i>In case of emergency, Pastor Traci may be reached at 814-935-9267</i>	5 2-5 pm Pastor in Office 6:30 pm Council Mtg., WR/Zoom	6 1-4 pm Pastor in Office 6:15 pm Meager Meal 7:00 pm Lenten Service Fellowship Hall	7 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	8 9 Daylight Savings time. Set your clocks 1 hour ahead before bed.	2 5-7:30 pm Scout Spaghetti Dinner, Martinsburg Firehall
10 4th Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	11 6:30 pm Social Ministry Mtg., Zoom	12 2-5 pm Pastor in Office 6:30 pm Council Mtg., WR/Zoom	13 6:15 pm Meager Meal 7:00 pm Lenten Service Fellowship Hall	14 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	15 29 Office Closed 6:00 am-6:00 pm Prayer Vigil 7:00 pm Tenebrae Service	16 Scout Pancake Breakfast, Martinsburg Volunteer Firehall
17 5th Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary 12:00 pm St. Patrick Baked Potato Bar & Game Day, FH	18 6:00 pm Worship & Music Mtg., via Zoom	19 2-5 pm Pastor in Office 6:15 pm Meager Meal 7:00 pm Lenten Service Fellowship Hall	20 9:30 am Employee Mtg., FH 6:15 pm Meager Meal 7:00 pm Lenten Service Fellowship Hall	21 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	22 29 Office Closed 6:00 am-6:00 pm Prayer Vigil 7:00 pm Tenebrae Service	23 7-11:00 am, Scout Pancake Breakfast, Martinsburg Volunteer Firehall
24 Palm Sunday 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	25 6:00 pm Worship & Music Mtg., via Zoom	26 12:30-3:00 pm Knotty Ladies, QR	27 No Lenten Meal or Service 1-4 pm Pastor in Office	28 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service	29 Office Closed 6:00 am-6:00 pm Prayer Vigil 7:00 pm Tenebrae Service	30 31 The Resurrection of Our Lord 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary