



**Greetings, Beloved People of God:**

My trip to the National Parks ended with a night at the Holiday Inn Express at the Las Vegas Airport. My roommate's early flight required her to leave the hotel around four in the morning, and after saying goodbye, I thought I'd drift back to sleep in the glow of the Vegas strip; so I opened the blackout curtains that we had closed when we went to bed. All the lights were still on, but they weren't just glowing: they were flashing. I could still see them flash even when I closed my eyes. I could still see them flash even when I closed my eyes and rolled over to face the other direction. I got up and closed the blinds again so I could sleep a few more hours.

Normally, when I think theologically about light and darkness, John's gospel comes to mind: *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it...* But John was speaking of the light of Christ, not the lights of the MGM Grand. Especially after a week in the deep darkness of the canyon, where light pollution is restricted, that Vegas light was toxic: I couldn't rest until I managed to shut it out.

As people of faith, we carry the responsibility of staying informed about the world around us so we can work for justice and act with kindness toward those who are suffering; and right now that's a staggering number of people. It is easy to be overwhelmed by those stories of suffering, more in our age of constant information than ever before.

I am not a huge advocate of "giving up" something for Lent; it's too easy to mistake acts of voluntary deprivation for good works at the very time we are to be contemplating our reliance on God's grace. Yet it's always good to do—or refrain from doing—whatever we need to in order to keep ourselves physically, mentally, and spiritually healthy.

If, like me, you struggle to find peace in the onslaught of bad news, maybe Lent is a good time to periodically, intentionally close the blinds: not for six straight weeks, and not to ignore the very real and very serious problems that are out there, but to take enough time on a regular basis to rest, to pray, and to recharge in order to do the work of the kingdom to which we are called and on which our neighbors depend.

*Peace,*  
*Pastor Traci*



**Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> before you go to bed.**

## A Stewardship Moment March 2025



In the March issue of *Stewardship* there is a brief article that focuses on the earth and how God gave mankind dominion over it.

Think about it! God gave us the responsibility over this entire world. That is stewardship! We have been appointed caretakers of the entire planet and God expects us to take that task seriously. We normally think of stewardship as using our talents, our bodies, minds, and resources including the way we use money, especially on behalf of the church. Yet we also must not neglect caring for this God-given beautiful and bountiful earth.

Christians and others who want to live in a clean beautiful earth have to do our part to make it so. How disheartening it is to see waste thrown from automobiles, houses with junk strewn across the yards, old buildings allowed to fall apart, homes almost hidden by high weeds, cans and bottles piling up along our roads. How sad it must be to our Lord when we humans spoil this glorious earth.

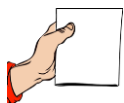
Let us remember what the Bible says about the responsibility of mankind; In Genesis 2:15 we read:

*“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to till it and keep it.”*

**Prayer:** *Loving Creator, stir us up in thought and deed that we may be dedicated stewards of our incomparable earth. In our Lord’s name. Amen*

*A Steward of the Month is available to subscribers of Stewardship at [www.parishpublishing.org](http://www.parishpublishing.org). Simply click or go to our website: [stmatthewlc.com](http://stmatthewlc.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”.*

### St. Matthew Messenger



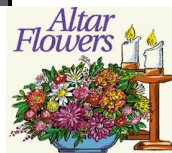
The monthly St. Matthew Messenger is available on the St. Matthew Website under Newsletters, on your email message from St. Matthew with the link for the Messenger, or as a paper copy in the news rack in the church Narthex. By calling the church office 814-793-2413, you can request a paper copy to be mailed monthly to your address. Your readership and articles are always appreciated



The Social Ministry Committee would like to thank the following for making Valentine Blessings Bags a success: Our amazing youth who designed and decorated the Valentine bags, Christian Education Committee,

Members of St Matthew who shared their valentines, Social Ministry Committee, And Sarah Detwiler, Kaye Burket, Pastor Tracy and Lottie Ebersole who delivered the bags to our home bound and nursing home members. Our members who received the Valentine Blessing Bags responded with a big smile and a gracious thank you for thinking of them. Especially during this very wintery February.

*Lottie Ebersole  
Social Ministry Chairman*



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.

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

### Martinsburg Food Pantry



Volunteers from Martinsburg Grace Brethren Church will be helping at the Food Pantry on the first and third

Thursdays, March 6 and March 20. It will be open to distribute food from 9:00a.m. until 11:00a.m., and on Saturdays at 11:00a.m. by appointment.

**The food items most needed for March are:** Peanut Butter, Pasta Sauce, Scalloped Potatoes, Rice Sides and Juice. These or any items may be placed in the food basket at church.

*Thank you!  
Linda Smith*

## 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 Close  
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

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### 2025 COUNCIL DIRECTORY AND MINISTRY STAFF

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

Pastor	Rev. Traci Marriott	935-9267	Christian Ed.	Amanda Decker	934-8798
Admin. Assistant	Jen Ripka	935-3801	Evangelism	Peggy Steinfurth	515-6205
Assistant Admin. Assist	Laura Orczeck	224-1208	Stewardship	Vacant	
President	Greg Haffling	414-6908	Finance	Jim Barley	931-1335
Vice President	Don Bulger	329-3412	Social Ministry	Lottie Ebersole	232-6665
Secretary	Carla Brumbaugh	932-4082	Worship & Music	Tina Harclerode	317-5312
Treasurer	Beth Garner	932-4156	Staff Support	Vacant	
Property	Paul Decker	330-6345	Sexton	Phil Claar	215-0885

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### Highlights by Council February 2025

1. Council voted to upgrade some of the AV equipment in the sanctuary, fellowship hall, and window room. Jacob Orczeck will install and maintain the upgraded equipment.
2. St. Matthew received a \$20,000 bequest from the Rodger S. Hoover estate.
3. The Christian Education committee will host a Baked Potato Bar and board games on Sunday, March 16 after church service.
4. Scout Sunday will be April 6.
5. A service with ashes and communion will be held on Ash Wednesday, March 5.
6. Pastor Traci will lead the Holden Services on Wednesdays during Lent. The services will be held in the fellowship hall at 7:00, following the Lenten Meal at 6:15.
7. The Social Ministry committee will deliver Lenten Meals to homebound members. Food should be available at the church by 5:00 p.m. to be packed for the to-go meals.
8. A work day will be held at Camp Sequanota on May 10. Lunch will be provided.

**SERVING GOD AND US**  
**March 2025**

Date	March 2	March 5 Ash Wednesday	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30
<b>Acolytes</b>	Gabby Decker Lily & Lucy Lightner		Jay Hoenstine	Mace Baker	Lily Lightner	Norah Kuster
<b>Lectors</b>	<b>Alan Kuster</b>	<b>Peggy Steinfurth</b>	<b>Destarta Carberry</b>	<b>Martie Gilbert</b>	<b>Elaine Smith</b>	<b>Lori Tremmel</b>
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Jeanne Smith Cindy Snyder	Jeanne Smith Cindy Snyder	Jeanne Smith Cindy Snyder	Jeanne Smith Cindy Snyder	Jeanne Smith Cindy Snyder	Jeanne Smith Cindy Snyder
<b>Audio/Video</b>	<b>Camden Kuster</b>	<b>Camden Kuster</b>	<b>Camden Kuster</b>	<b>Camden Kuster</b>	<b>Camden Kuster</b>	<b>Camden Kuster</b>
<b>Assist. Min.</b>	<b>Jim Barley</b>	<b>Elaine Smith</b>	<b>Greg Haffling</b>	<b>Jane Hoenstine</b>	<b>Shawn Orczeck</b>	<b>Stacy Kuster</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Tina Harclerode</b>		<b>Steve Oswald</b>	<b>Ed Kreider</b>	<b>Randy McGraw</b>	<b>Dennis Smith</b>

**LENTEN WEDNESDAYS**  
**AT ST MATTHEW**

**6:00 Supper**  
**6:45 Holden Evening Prayer**  
*With a weekly photo  
journey to the locations  
featured in scripture...  
See where the stories of  
the Bible took place*

**Dinner & Worship**  
**in the Fellowship Hall**

*Road to Jericho*

## Social Ministry Committee News

1. Social Ministry committee will coordinate the takeout meals again during Lent. We will have them ready to go by 5 p.m. The menu for each week is listed below.

2. Mending Ministry will begin on Wednesday March 19 from 2:30 to 4:30 pm in the fellowship hall. Snacks will be provided. This Ministry is open to the community. Check your closet and be ready for Spring.

3. Young at Heart Dinner

SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday July 15 at St Matthew.

4. Social Ministry Community Outreach

St Matthew will be providing the September 8th Breaking Bread meal at the Martinsburg Church of God. Social Ministry Committee will need additional help. We would do food prep Sunday afternoon at St. Matthew and finish Monday at the Church of God. Sarah Detwiler helped in their kitchen and has agreed to serve as co-chairman with me. Breaking Bread meal will be a subcommittee under Social Ministry. Don and Chris Bulger have agreed to serve, and other members will be needed. Think about this ministry, and if you would like to help contact Sarah or myself. The menu will include: pizza casserole, Italian bread, salad and apple cake. Will hold a meeting in August with Breaking Bread committee. Updates will be provided as needed.

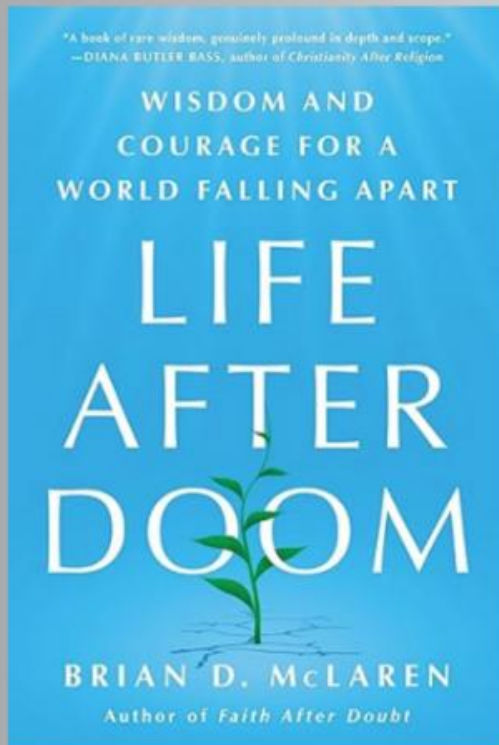
*Lottie Ebersole*

*Social Ministry Chairman*



*Join us for a new*  
**Cross Country Book Study**

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Martinsburg, PA &  
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd of Duluth, MN



*Meet members of our extended church family as Pastor Traci & Pastor Lisa lead this weekly Zoom discussion of Brian McLaren's Life After Doom --an honest and eye-opening portrayal of our current predicament in human history*

Thursdays, March 6, 13, 20, & 27

7PM EST / 6PM CST

*See your Pastor for the Zoom Link*

Although scripture begins with a call to tend God's creation, we know we have fallen far short in our stewardship of the earth. Brian McLaren's latest book explores the situation we're in, what's coming next, and how we are called to live faithfully in our world of turmoil. With members of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Duluth MN, we'll discuss this important topic every Thursday in March by Zoom (7PM). Although this is not a hard text to understand, it is a serious and sobering topic, best studied in community. We will begin March 6th by introducing ourselves and responding to the introduction of the book.

## ATTENTION



If services need to be cancelled for inclement weather, we will attempt to notify you using email (like we do for the Sunday Bulletin and Messenger) and Facebook. On days when the weather is questionable, please check these notifications before you travel. If you need a phone call instead, please let the office know.

### Parish Directory

Please submit changes to your address or telephone number to the office at 814-793-2413 or [stmatthewmartinsburg@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthewmartinsburg@gmail.com) ASAP so it can be included in the 2025 Parish Directory.

### Offering Envelopes

Please contact the church office if you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive offering envelopes (or if you would like to have your name/address changed or removed).

### 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.

YOU'RE INVITED TO

# CELEBRATE SHROVE TUESDAY

AT GEESEYTOWN  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

A hand-drawn illustration of a stack of three pancakes on a plate. The top pancake has a pat of butter melting on it. To the left of the stack is a simple smiley face with two dots for eyes. To the right and below the stack are several swirls and loops, suggesting a playful or celebratory theme. The entire illustration is rendered in black outlines on a yellow background.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025

5:00 TO 7:00PM

GEESEYTOWN LUTHERAN CHURCH  
462 ROUTE 22, HOLLIDAYSBURG

PAY WHAT YOU ARE ABLE - FREEWILL OFFERING  
\*SPECIAL THANKS TO GEARHART'S MEATS FOR SAUSAGE DONATIONS\*

Lutheran Disaster Response is one of the first organizations in and last organizations out of communities affected by natural and human-made disasters. 100% of gifts to LDR earmarked for a specific aid response help affected people in that area until recovery efforts are complete.



## LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE LOS ANGELES WILDFIRES

Scan to  
give online



Give through your congregation or make out your check to Lutheran Disaster Response and send it to:  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009**  
and write "Lutheran Disaster Response" or "U.S. Wildfires" on your check's memo line.



## LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE HURRICANE HELENE

Scan to  
give online



Give through your congregation or make your check out to Lutheran Disaster Response and send to:  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009** and write "*Where needed most*" or "*Hurricane Response*" on your check's memo line.

## 3rd Annual St. Patrick's Good Luck Game Day & Baked Potato Bar



Baked Potatoes,  
Toppings, Drinks  
& Desserts  
Provided

Bring Your  
Favorite  
Board Game Or  
Card Game



Community Mending Ministry at St. Matthew

 *Favorite clothing in need of repair?*   
*Give it another chance!*

Bring laundered clothes that need mending  
to work on yourself or get help from our sewers.  
Materials, machines, & expertise provided.  
*And we'll have snacks!*

Feel free to stay for supper at 6PM  
and/or Lenten Worship at 6:45PM

Wednesday, March 19 from 2:30 to 4:30PM

St. Matthew Lutheran Martinsburg Fellowship Hall  
115 E Penn Street (Maple Street Parking Lot)

# Talk-O Tuesday



Fellowship, Food, & Faith Conversation  
Tuesday, March 25th at 6PM  
La Fiesta at the Airport  
RSVP to the office by Noon



# March 2025

## St. Matthew Lutheran Church

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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 maybe reached at 814-935-9267</i> <i>Jen will be in the Office Mon-Fri from 9:00 am-12:00 pm</i>						
2 <u>Transfiguration of Our Lord</u> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary Evangelism Committee meeting following Worship	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 <u>1st Sunday in Lent</u> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 <u>2nd Sunday in Lent</u> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary 11:30 am—? St. Patrick's Potato Bar and Game Day, FH	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 <u>3rd Sunday in Lent</u> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 <u>4th Sunday in Lent</u> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	31					