



Greetings People of God:

November in our American context is the month of Thanksgiving, traditionally a time of gratitude for the harvest that provides security for the winter ahead. Though not all of us are farmers, and therefore not tied as closely to the daily work of planting, tending, and harvesting, we can all take stock as we approach the end of another year. Perhaps you observe the tradition at your holiday dinner table of naming something for which you have been grateful since your last Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving is a recurring theme throughout scripture, but God also commanded an offering that was to be taken not at the end of the harvest but at the beginning—what scripture calls the first fruits. That was an act of trust, that God who began an abundant work would continue to bring it to fruition. It would be like sitting down to Thanksgiving dinner in January and expressing confident gratitude for whatever the year ahead might bring.

I admit that I'm better at looking backwards; I can see more clearly God's goodness in hindsight than I can when I'm going through something difficult or looking ahead to the unknown—and that's OK! Some situations need a little distance for perspective. But practicing gratitude at any time helps strengthen our trust muscles. When we train ourselves to find where God helped and provided in our past, we learn to trust God with our future.

I know some of you are looking back on a year that you would not describe as overflowing with blessing; maybe all you can say is that God helped you get through each day to get this far. But if God has done that much before, we can trust God to keep on doing that faithfully for us, and that is no small thing.

Folks, I give thanks for you, because God has certainly worked through you to bless me this year. And I look forward to what God will call us to do together moving forward.

*Peace,
Pastor Traci*

Special dates

- Daylight-Saving Time ends, *November 5, 2023*
- All Saint's Sunday, *November 5, 2022*
- Veterans Day, *November 11, 2023*
- Christ the King Sunday, *November 26, 2023*
- Thanksgiving, *November 23, 2023*
- First Sunday of Advent, *December 3, 2023*



Set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 4, 2023



2023 Veteran's Day

Veteran's Day originated as "Armistice Day" on November 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I. Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and November 11 became a national holiday beginning in 1938. Veteran's Day is not to be confused with Memorial Day—a common misunderstanding, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Memorial Day (the fourth Monday in May) honors American service members who died in service to their country or as a result of injuries incurred during battle, while Veteran's Day pays tribute to all American veterans—living or dead—but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.

St. Matthew will honor veterans who have served in the military. Please check the list below of veterans who have served in the military. All veterans will be honored, including inactive and deceased. If you know of someone who is missing from the list, or you have a family member you wish to be honored during the service, please contact Jen in the church office as soon as possible.

Dale Allison*	George Gilbert Jr	Scott Paul
Pete Barley*	Harold Grove	Timothy Perry*
Alan Brubaker	Cpt. Donald Grove	Boyd E. Piper *
Bradley Buchart	Robert V. Gunnett	Walter Piper
Lester Buchart*	Bob Guyer	John Replogle
Bryan Bush	Colin Guyer	Paul E. Rummel*
Jim Calvert*	Kyle Guyer	John Sell*
Cletus Carberry*	Mark Guyer	Dan Sinal
Phillip Claar	Greg Haffling	Elwood Smith*
Patrick Clark	Charles Henzler	Elvie Smith Jr.*
Clyde Claycomb*	Dean Hinish*	Nathan Smith
Robert "Bob" Creps*	Rodger Hoover	Sheldon O. Smith*
Michael Corcoran	Dante Iachini*	John Lee Snyder
Kermit Daniel*	Joseph Iwanski*	Michael L. Snyder
LeMar Daniel*	Charles Kreider*	William Stahl
Edward DeAngelis*	Henry Lamborn	Jim Stewart
P. Robert Dickson	Mike Lamborn	Ralph Stouffer*
Melody Estep	David Lehman*	William Straesser*
Tom Fishburn	Les Loomis	John Szymckec*
Andy Freyer*	Kenneth Long*	Milo "Bud" Uber*
Matt Freyer	Liam McGregor	Laura Webb
Donald Garner*	Richard A. McGraw*	Jay Webb
Jeff Garner	Harold Mountain*	James Weyant*
George Gilbert Sr	Seth Orczeck	

*Deceased



November 2023

“As Thanksgiving Day approaches, take time to think about your reasons for being thankful. How deep are they?”

Thanksgiving is a special day for us all to take time to thank our loving Creator for all that makes life worth living on God’s earth. We can thank God for salvation through Christ. Thank God for loving families, for caring friends, for opportunities to learn, labor, and serve in this free land. Thank God for our churches and this wonderful land we call home. Oh, how blessed we are living in this endowed and hallowed land! We are privileged to not only enjoy the innumerable benefits of our country, but we Christians are also given the opportunity to work on behalf of God’s kingdom. However wonderful our nation is, there are still great needs among us. Consider those millions who do not yet know Christ and the glorious salvation he offers. Think of the poor among us. Consider the slums in our teeming cities. Our work is cut out for us!

Thanksgiving should not only be a time of giving gratitude to God, but also a time of remembrance of those who need to be redeemed. The Danish novelist, Anker Larsen, decided to take God and God’s work seriously. He looked around him and seeing the vast needs of those in spiritual trouble, Larsen vowed to report to God daily with the words: “What orders do you have for me today?” Truly thankful Christians are those who use whatever gifts and talents they have in the service of God.

Prayer: *You but open your hand towards us, O God, and all our needs are met. Give us grateful hearts and show us where and when we are to serve in the name of Christ. Amen*

Ways to Make Donations to St. Matthew Giving Online:

Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history 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 “**Giving**” button, (at the left side of the main screen)
- 3) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.



QRCode Offerings:

- 1) Hold your mobile phone in the camera position over the “QR Code”
- 2) A link will pop up on your phone and tap the link
- 3) Follow the instructions on your phone.

Martinsburg Food Pantry



Volunteers from Mt. Pleasant United Church of Christ will be assisting the regular helpers with food distributions on Thursdays, November 2 and November 16 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

Several churches are providing Thanksgiving dinners for food pantry families who would like to prepare turkey dinners themselves.

Items most needed for November are:
Cereal, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing Mix, Fruit, Tomato Sauce.

Thank you for all your donations!

Linda Smith



Coming Soon! "Mitten Tree"

The first Sunday in Advent, December 3 you will see our annual "Mitten Tree" in the Narthex. Please be thinking as you shop, and bring school-age children's mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, earmuffs, or socks to be hung on the "Mitten Tree" during Advent until December 17th. These will be distributed by the school nurses at the Spring Cove Elementary Schools for needy children. Let's help children have a warmer Winter!



They will receive blessing from the Lord
and vindication from the God
of their salvation. Psalm 24:5

All Saints Sunday

On Sunday, November 5th we will remember those from our congregation and friends who have, by God's grace, joined that "Company of Heaven" since All Saints' Sunday of 2022.

Gary Baker
Verna I. Blough
Jeanne Bolger
Andrew Dickson
Daniel Goldberg
Bob Guyer
Ed Henry
Brad Krehl
David B. Lehman
Jean Neely
Donald R. Smith
Elaine Joy Williams
Ginny Zeek

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, December 3, 2023

This year's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held at the end of the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, December 3rd.



Free Community Dinner



Martinsburg Community Meal

Breaking Bread Food Ministry will be held Monday, November 6 at the Martinsburg Church of God Fellowship Hall, located 123 S. Market St., Martinsburg from 5:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to this free meal. Take-out and delivery are available. Contact Pastor Jim Shaffer 814-793-4375 for free delivery or questions.

This month St. Matthew will be assisting with the monthly community meal. We will provide the dessert; please see Linda Smith with any questions.

Office Closed

The church office will be closed Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th. In case of emergency please call Pastor Traci at 814-935-9267. The office will resume regular hours on Monday, November 26, 2023.

Young
at
Heart

Young at Heart Luncheon

On September 26th, we hosted the Young at Heart Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. Leon Zook and the Aviators graciously provided us with entertainment as they sang for us and encouraged all to sing along with them.

Delicious food, fellowship and entertainment was enjoyed by all, and our guests are looking forward to the next one.

I'd like to thank Jane and the Fellowship committee for providing the delicious meal. Thank you to all who provided jello molds and cakes, and thank you to all who helped serve and clean up. You made this a success. Your time and talents are greatly appreciated.

*Thank you very much,
Tina*



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Thank you for the lovely little flower and the delicious meals, all of which did, indeed, brighten our days. My thanks, too, to Jane Fagans who delivered the food – and to all your kitchen experts.

*Marty & Bill Kreider*

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Thank you for the prayers and sympathy for the passing of my grandmother Jean Neely.

Jen Ripka and Family



**Boy Scout Troop 358
Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, November 18, 2023**

Martinsburg Firehall
7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Baked Goods available for purchase.

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



A CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Dr. Adam Smith, Piano
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
115 East Penn Street, Martinsburg
Friday, December 15th, 7PM
to benefit
Camp Sequanota

To my church family,

Thank you for the cards, flowers, food and visits, especially for the time I spent at Homewood. I am now home and continue with therapy. I appreciate all your concerns, and I hope to see you in the near future.

Kay McGraw

SERVING GOD AND US NOVEMBER 2023

Date	November 5	November 12	November 19	November 26
Acolytes	Jay Hoenstine Max Baker Mace Baker	Calleigh Wright	Gabby Decker	Ben Decker Gavin Kuster Norah Kuster
Lectors	Elaine Smith	Mike Lamborn	Amanda Decker	Martie Gilbert
Altar Guild	Jackie Lightner Tina Harclerode	Jackie Lightner Tina Harclerode	Jackie Lightner Tina Harclerode	Jackie Lightner Tina Harclerode
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	Camden Kuster
Ushers	Dennis Smith	Greg Haffling	Jeff Garner	Mike Lamborn
Assist. Min.	Jim Barley	Jane Hoenstine	Youth	Jean Sinal



Anniversaries for November

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 07 Nicholas C. & Sondra Ursick
Dale & Anna Weaver | 20 Loy C. & Marjorie A. Replogle |
| 11 Trevor & Merileigh Smith | 25 Douglas Bush & Destarta Carberry |
| 18 Steve & Linda Claycomb | 29 Russell & Heather Dickson |
| | 30 Blake Peese & Katherine Orzeck |

Birthdays for November

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| 01 G. Fred Kensinger | 09 Paul Johnson | 20 Dawn Alexy |
| 02 Jacob Orzeck
A. Kay Weyant | 10 Patricia J. Winston | 21 I. Matthew Nelson |
| 03 Ian Bithell | 15 Rev. Ed Harshbarger
Mark Replogle | 22 Savannah Richardson
Waylon Richardson |
| 05 Meghan Russell | 17 Connie S. Lamborn | 25 John A. Replogle |
| 07 Chris Carder
Richard Smith | 18 Andrea Paul | 27 Michael Richardson |



Fellowship Meal

The annual Fellowship Meal will be held on Sunday, November 19, 2023, immediately following worship.

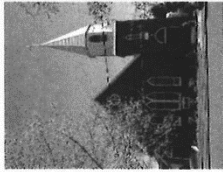
The Fellowship Committee will provide a pulled pork sandwich (regular and slider size) and a beverage. Table service will be provided as well. We ask that you bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share with others.

We look forward to this time of fellowship and thanksgiving. Hope to see you there!

Fellowship Committee

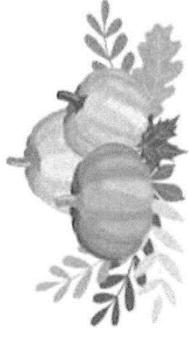
HIGHLIGHTS BY COUNCIL IN OCTOBER



1. Youth will be participating in a Halloween event on October 29 for the residents of the Lutheran Home in Hollidaysburg.
2. There was a good turnout for the Young at Heart luncheon on September 26. Council voted to offer an honorarium to the musical group who provided entertainment.
3. Installation of the wheelchair platform lift into the fellowship hall was completed and awaiting final inspection. The old lift is available to other organizations to install, or it will be salvaged.
4. The concrete work at the Maple Street entrance will probably not be undertaken in 2023. Options for a temporary fix are being reviewed.
5. Voted to hire DeAnna Cree as organist/pianist beginning in November to provide accompaniment for 2-3 services a month.
6. New banners, fair linen, and purificators will be purchased for use in the sanctuary and at the altar.
7. Continued reviewing the gift acceptance and use policy with the goal of having the congregation approve the finalized document at the December congregational meeting.
8. Budget proposals were received and the finance committee will meet to prepare the 2024 budget.
9. The nominating committee has identified candidates for 5 of the 2024 Council openings. Nominees are still needed for evangelism, stewardship, staff support, and social ministry positions.



November 2023

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
FH—Fellowship Hall CL—Church Lounge QR—Quilt Room WR— Window Room K—Kitchen In case of emergency, Pastor Traci may be reached at 814-935-9267 Jen will be in the Office Mon.-Fri. from 9:00 am-12:00 pm	CE—Christian Ed Office QR—Quilt Room WR— Window Room K—Kitchen In case of emergency, Pastor Traci may be reached at 814-935-9267		1 1-4 pm Pastor in Office	2 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	3 Pastor's Sabbath	4
5 All Saints Sunday 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	6 5:00-6:30 pm Martinsburg Church of God Free Meal 6:00 pm Cub/Boy Scouts, SR 6:00 pm Worship and Music Mtg., Zoom Only	 7	8 Pastor Traci on vacation. In case of emergency call Pastor Drew McCaffery at 814-538-9036 11/8-11/15	9	10	11
12 24th Sun. after Pentecost 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	13 6:00 pm Cub/Boy Scouts, SR	14 6:30 pm Council Meeting, Zoom Only	15	16 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	17 Pastor's Sabbath	18
Pastor Traci on vacation. In case of emergency call Pastor Drew McCaffery at 814-538-9036 11/8-11/15						
19 25th Sun. after Pentecost <i>Blessing of the Hunters</i> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary Fellowship Meal After Worship December Messenger Deadline	20 10:00 am Staff Meeting, WR 6:00 pm Cub/Boy Scouts, SR	21	22 1-4 pm Pastor in Office	 23 Happy Thanksgiving! Office Closed	24 Pastor's Sabbath	25
26 Christ the King 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	27 6:00 pm Cub/Boy Scouts, SR Pastor Traci Continuing Ed. at Sequanota. For emergencies, call Pastor Traci at 814-935-9267	28 12:30-3:00 pm Knotty Ladies, QR	29 1-4 pm Pastor in Office	30		