



Greetings People of God:

I have traveled to many beautiful places in the world, and I know I am biased, but I still say no place can compare to Pennsylvania in autumn. When I talk to former locals who now live in other parts of the country, they always want a status report on our leaves. Though still gorgeous, I admit this has not been the most brilliant season I've seen. Every year, it seems we have the same conversation: The weather was too hot (or cold) and dry (or rainy) for really good color. I'm approaching half a century of autumns, and I still don't know the weather recipe for the most stunning fall foliage.

Some years are objectively better than others. Side-by-side photos showed that 2020 was a singularly spectacular fall, while 2021 was lovely but average. Still, I think the effusive appreciation for the leaves of 2020 was partly because of pandemic closures forcing us outside more than in the years when we were free to gather indoors. It was not just a comparison of the colors but being there to notice the colors at all.

Celebrating Thanksgiving near the end of the year predisposes us to look back, and as we're counting our blessings, it's tempting to compare this year to previous years. Perhaps that's why scripture teaches the opposite: God commanded the Israelites to make an offering of thanksgiving from their first fruits—what they gathered at the beginning of the harvest, not the end. As well as a sign of trust in God's future provision, that first-fruits mentality allowed the people to practice gratitude in the present, without their thanksgiving devolving into an inventory or comparison.

I almost missed one truly lovely day this fall: the foliage overall hadn't been impressive, and I feared the leaves up the mountain were likely to be past their prime. But the dog wanted to hike (or so he said), so we went, and though it may not have been one for the record books, there were still hundreds of trees glowing with autumn colors. Scripture teaches us that although we are not perfect, we are still beloved of God. May we remember not to let perfect be the enemy of good, and may we learn to be thankful without envy or comparison.

*Peace,
Pastor Traci*

Special dates

- Daylight-Saving Time ends, *November 3, 2024*
- All Saint's Sunday, *November 3, 2024*
- Veterans Day, *November 11, 2024*
- Christ the King Sunday, *November 24, 2024*
- Thanksgiving, *November 28, 2024*
- First Sunday of Advent, *December 1, 2024*



Set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 2, 2024



2024 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*	Jeff Garner	Harold Mountain*
H. Richard Barley*	George Gilbert Sr.	Seth Orczeck
Pete Barley*	George Gilbert Jr.	Scott Paul
Bill Brown	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	Eldie 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
		James Weyant*

*Deceased



November 2024

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

There is a paragraph in November’s *Stewardship* that sums up what stewardship is all about. It says, “It is not wise to think that giving money to the church satisfies our obligation to God, God wants us first! God wants our hearts to show our love toward him. God knows that when we are truly connected, the fruits of our minds and hands are available to serve the Kingdom.” This goes to the very heart of the matter regarding stewardship. Forget for a moment about giving money to the church. Think about loving God with a sincere and dedicated heart ... with your entire being: body, mind, spirit and talents. If we do that to the best of our ability, we will discover what true stewardship really is.

Do you remember the story of a Pharisee asking Jesus what the greatest commandment was? In Matthew 22, Jesus replied to the Pharisee with these words: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.” Jesus went on to say, “And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” True stewardship is a matter of loving God with one’s whole being and loving one’s neighbor as oneself. Think about what we call those who serve God whole-heartedly. We call them saints, and while it would take total dedication to God on our part, should we not strive to be completely dedicated to God as are the saintly people among us?

Prayer: *Loving Creator, help us to understand your will for our lives for we know that it is in loving and serving you that we shall know the greatest joys of life. 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.



QR Code 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 Church will be assisting the regular volunteers with food distributions on the first and third Thursdays, November 7 and November 21 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Several churches in our community will be providing Thanksgiving dinners for food pantry families, about 50 to 60 families, to prepare for themselves.

Items most needed for November are: Juice, Cereal, Spaghetti Sauce, Scalloped Potatoes, Jelly, Paper Towels.

***Many thanks for all your donations!
Linda Smith***



Coming Soon! "Mitten Tree"

Coming soon will be the first Sunday in Advent, December 1, when you will see our annual "Mitten Tree" in our church narthex. Please be thinking as you shop, or make, children's mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, earmuffs, or socks to be hung on our "Mitten Tree" during Advent until December 22nd. These will be distributed by the school nurses at Spring Cove Elementary Schools for children in need. Let's help children have a warmer Winter!



All Saints Sunday

On Sunday, November 3rd 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 2023.

Brady Albert
Carl Alexy
Theresa Allen
Lolly Blackwell
Charles "Chuck" Corle
Robert Coup
Jack Freeberger
Scott Gilbert
Gloria Guyer
Herman Haas
Rev. Edward Harshbarger
L. Colin Hoover
G. Fred Kensinger
Bill D. Kreider
Brent L. Kreider
Janet I. Kreider
Andy Lynn
Sally Metzger
Robert Mountain
James "Jim" Negley
Charlie Raibold
Dottie Wadhams



Prayers and Christian sympathy are asked for Linda Negley and family upon the death of her husband Jim, on Saturday, October 12th.

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, December 15, 2024

This year's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held at the end of the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, December 15th.



Martinsburg Community Thanksgiving Meal

Breaking Bread Food Ministry will be held Monday, November 11 at the Martinsburg Church of God Fellowship Hall, located 123 S. Market St., Martinsburg from 5:00 p.m. until 6:00 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.

Office Closed

The church office will be closed Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th. In case of emergency please call Pastor MJ Irvin-Stellabotte 814-934-9941. The office will resume regular hours on Monday, December 2, 2024.

Thank you so much for the \$500 donation. It will be so helpful for my Eagle Scout project.

*Thanks again,
Brandon Reynolds*

Thank you to everyone who helped in the kitchen and dining room and to those who donated food for the funeral meal of Jim Negley.

Fellowship Committee

Our sincere Thank You to the members of St. Matthew for all the prayers, cards and expressions of sympathy after the loss of our loved one.

Special Thank You to the women who prepared and served the meal.

The Jim Negley Family

Cove Christmas Love

The Martinsburg Ministerium is, again, helping to provide presents for Spring Cove School Children in need. We will have an additional tree in the church narthex with tags identifying the Christmas wishes of the recipients. Our congregation's goal for this year is to provide gifts for about 50 children through Cove Christmas Love, like we did last year. The tree will be put up at the beginning of November with tags on it. Please take a tag (or tags) telling child and child's gift wishes. Shop for the item(s) listed on tag, but not exceeding \$100. for each child. Please return the unwrapped gift(s), WITH THE TAG, no later than Sunday, NOVEMBER 24. These unwrapped gifts will be distributed on Saturday, DECEMBER 7 at the Church of God. You can direct any questions to Peggy Steinfurth or Linda Smith. Thank you for sharing with the community as we help families in need at this time of Christmas cheer!



Dennis and Margie Smith proudly announce the arrival of their fifth and sixth great-grandchildren. Halle Belle Fischer was born on 10-07-2024 and is the daughter of Kyleigh and Mike Fischer and is the granddaughter of Daniel and Robyn Smith. Allie Jo Smith was born on 10-09-2024 and is the daughter of Brandon and Mia Smith and is the granddaughter of Douglas and Veronica Smith.

SERVING GOD AND US NOVEMBER 2024

Date	November 3	November 10	November 17	November 24
Acolytes	Gabby Decker Lily Lightner Lucy Lightner	Mace Baker	Gabby Decker	Ben Decker Gavin Kuster Norah Kuster
Lectors	Camden Kuster	Dawn Alexy	Gavin Kuster	Martie Gilbert
Altar Guild	Cindy Snyder Jeannie Smith	Cindy Snyder Jeannie Smith	Cindy Snyder Jeannie Smith	Cindy Snyder Jeannie Smith
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	Melissa Fetzer	Dennis Smith	Greg Haffling	Jeff Garner
Assist. Min.	Mike Lamborn	Jane Hoenstine	Jean Sinal	Martie Gilbert



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

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

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 Orzeck	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	414-8541
Property	Ed Kreider	793-4302	Sexton	Phil Claar	215-0885

HIGHLIGHTS BY COUNCIL IN OCTOBER

1. Members of St. Matthew will be asked to help with the Community Meal on November 11 at Martinsburg Church of God by signing up and donating desserts. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board.
2. St. Matthew will present Journey to Bethlehem on Sunday, December 15.
3. Dwayne Smith will again plow snow from the parking lots this winter.
4. Anyone interested in serving as a committee chairperson should contact Greg Haffling.

In honor of Veterans' Day

The D. Merl Tipton VFW Post 43 Auxiliary
is hosting a buffet lunch on

Sunday, November 10, 2024

12 Noon to 1:30 pm

VFW Post 43

115 S. Nicodemus Street, Martinsburg, PA

All Veterans and a guest are invited to attend.

You do not need to be a VFW member to attend.

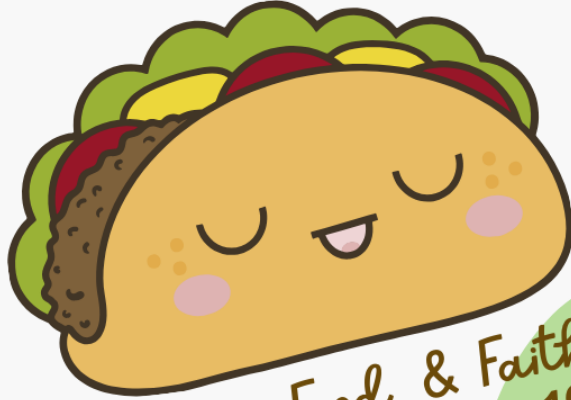


In order to plan for the buffet, you must make a reservation to attend by calling Jane Fagans at 814 793-4401 (leave a message if there is no answer). Deadline to RSVP is Monday, November 4, 2024.

The VFW Post 43 Auxiliary looks forward to seeing you on November 10th. Enjoy good food and conversation with fellow Veterans and friends.



Talk-O Tuesday



Fellowship, Food, & Faith Conversation
Tuesday, November 19th at 6PM
La Fiesta at the Airport
RSVP to the office by Noon



**Join us
After Worship
on November 24th
for
PIE
PRACTICE
2024**

*Trying out a new recipe for Thanksgiving?
Test your practice pie here first.
Not a baker?
Bring your appetite &
sense of adventure.
Coffee, Milk, & Forks Provided*



Hurricanes Helene and Milton Response

Hurricanes Helene and Milton hit the coast of Florida within weeks of each other as powerful and devastating storms impacting states across the Southeast. With your help, Lutheran Disaster Response will continue to be there to support people affected by Milton, Helene and any other storms that may strike this season.

Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to these disasters and others, whenever and wherever they strike.



Scan the QR code to give today.

By giving to Lutheran Disaster Response, you make it possible for the ELCA to act quickly after disasters such as Hurricane Helene and remain for as long as the recovery takes.



If you prefer to make your gift to Lutheran Disaster Response through a donation to St. Matthew, please make your check out to St. Matthew designate which disaster and the amount on the memo line of your check or envelope.



On Eagle's Wings

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

Dear Friends,

The room was filled with a hushed wonder as a young attendee of Bible Camp leaned over to her friend and whispered,

"Did you see Jesus' hands? They still have holes in them!"

The children clung to every word. Bible stories, prayers and memory verses, captivated their attention. They listened intently as we walked them through the week - Jesus' birth, His awe-inspiring miracles, His teachings, and finally, the heart-wrenching story of His death and glorious resurrection.

"Why would they hurt Jesus? He didn't do anything wrong!" one child exclaimed. **"That makes me feel really sad,"** sighed another.

But even in the sorrow, there was hope. The story didn't end in tragedy - it ended in triumph! As we explained God's immense love for each of us, sending His only Son to save the world, the children began to grasp the magnitude of His love.

"So... Jesus died for me? Because He loves me?" one little voice asked.

Such incredible moments were scattered throughout our 25th season of Northern ministry - moments where the truth of **God's love became real** to children across Northern Canada.

2024 was also the first summer we began facilitating **Caring for the Wounded Heart** in the North. One community had so many people register we were unable to include them all. We now have a waiting list of participants eager to experience greater healing, and another course lined up for October. You can read more about this overleaf.

To continue this important work - helping children, families, and adults grow in faith and know God's love - **we rely on the support of generous volunteers and donors.** Every single gift, no matter the size, plays a vital role in making this possible.

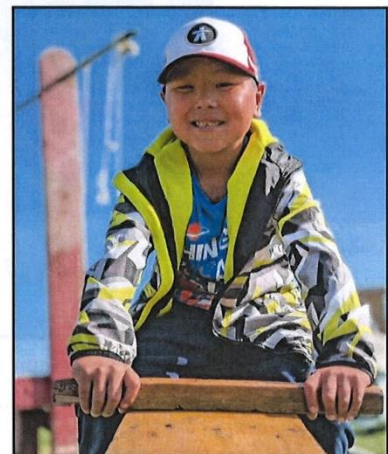
Your generosity has made it possible for us to serve our Northern friends for 25 years, and continues to enable us to be a lasting presence.

Thank you for support in our mission to proclaim Jesus serve the Church and individuals in remote and isolated areas of Northern Canada.

Robin Abrol, Executive Director

Shauna Huber, Ministry Manager

P.S. We are currently working on a special **25th Anniversary Edition** of our **Advent Reflections** booklet. You'll be in for a treat as we reflect on the ministry of *On Eagle's Wings* through the last quarter century!









November 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
<p><i>FH—Fellowship Hall CE-Christian Ed Office</i> <i>CL—Church Lounge QR—Quiet Room</i> <i>WR— Window Room K—Kirchen</i> <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></p>	<p>4 6:00 pm Worship & Music Meeting, Zoom</p>	<p>5 </p>	<p>6 1-4 pm Pastor in Office</p>	<p>7 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.</p>	<p>8 Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>9 Pastor's Sabbath</p>
<p>10 <u>25th Sun. after Pentecost</u> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary</p> 	<p>11 Breaking Bread Community Meal 5:00-6:00 pm, Martinsburg COG</p>	<p>12 6:30 pm Council Mtg., WR, Zoom</p>	<p>13 1-4 pm Pastor in Office</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 <u>26th Sun. after Pentecost</u> Blessing of the Hunters 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19  6:00 pm Talk-O Tuesday Bible Study, La Fiesta Mexican Restaurant, Airport</p>	<p>20 9:00 am Employee Meeting, FH 1-4 pm Pastor in Office</p>	<p>21 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.</p>	<p>22 Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 <u>Christ the King</u> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary Pie "Practice" Following Worship, FH</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 12:30-3:00 pm Knotty Ladies, QR</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28  Fellowship Hall In Use</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Office Closed</div>						
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Pastor Traci is on vacation 11/25 -11/29. In case of emergency call Pastor MJ Irvin-StellaBoitte 814-934-9941</div>						