The 12th Sunday after Pentecost August 20, 2023

11:00 a.m. Worship at the Kreider Farm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

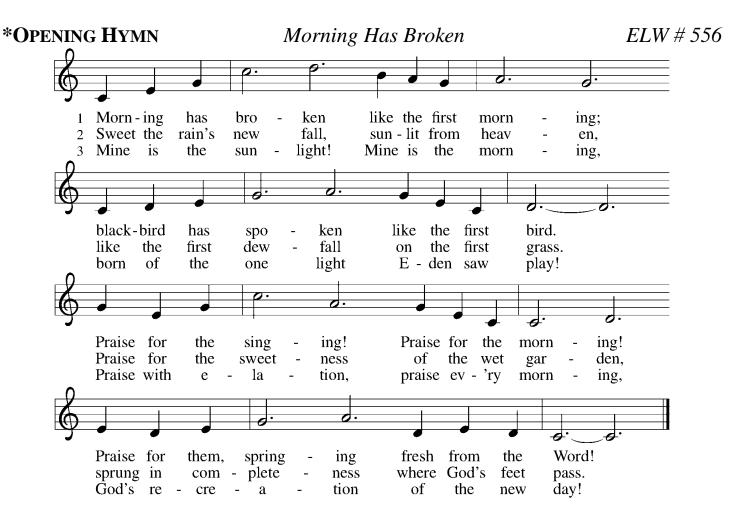
C: Amen.

- P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.
- P: Righteous and merciful God,
- C: we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak and spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy. Amen.
- P: God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of

 Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.





Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965 Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

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*GREETING

P: The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: And also with you.



For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **R**

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **R**

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **R**

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **R**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray ... God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. *C:* Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 45:1-15

[After Judah offered himself in place of his brother Benjamin,] ¹Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ²And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.

⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' ¹²And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you.

¹³You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." ¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 133 (read responsively)

¹How good and how pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity!

²It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion. For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

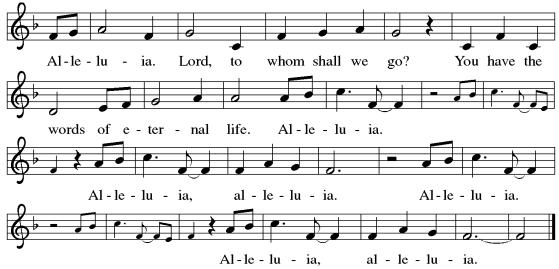
SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

[Paul writes:] ¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a}God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*Gospel: Matthew 15:10-28

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[10[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: 11 it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." 12Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" 13He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. 14Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." 15But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." 16Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? 17Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? 18But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. 19For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. 20These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."]

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY Pastor Traci



in him through-out

the whole wide earth.

Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

one

Christ-ly souls are

all

Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt.

*APOSTLES' CREED

- P: Let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed.
- C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
- I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- A: Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.
- A: O God, your Spirit gathers the church. Shepherd those who are newly baptized and newly ordained in the proclamation of the gospel, breathe life into ecumenical and inter-religious endeavors, and support missionaries throughout the globe. Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.
- A: You created the earth and all its inhabitants and declared it good. Clean polluted skies, seas, and soil, provide nourishment to plants and animals, and make us aware of our impact on the environment. Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.
- A: You call leaders to bridge differences and practice generosity. Inspire all in authority to protect people in harm's way, deliver those in bondage, support fair elections, provide care for military personnel and veterans, and show mercy to those for whom they have responsibility. Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.
- A: You provide for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Embrace people who have been rejected because of difference, heal trauma caused by racism or prejudice, shield any who are persecuted, console the dying, and heal the sick. Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.
- A: O God, you journey with us in all of life's transitions. Guide those preparing for baptism, marriage, and retirement. Guide our church council and committees in their visioning and ministry. Safeguard those who travel. Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.
- A: We give you thanks for those who now rest from their labors. Motivate us by their lives of dedication to the gospel, until that day when we join with them in our eternal home. Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.
- P: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior. C: Amen.

*THE PEACE

P: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please share the peace with those around you using a greeting that is comfortable for both you and them.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

An offering plate is located near the entrance to the nave; we offer thanks for the abundance God has first shown us:

A: Let us pray ... God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. C: Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PROPER PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our LORD Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

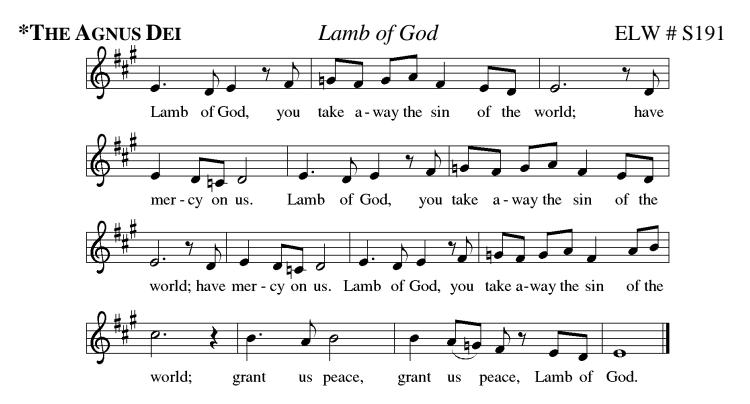
Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. *C*: **Amen.**

*LORD'S PRAYER

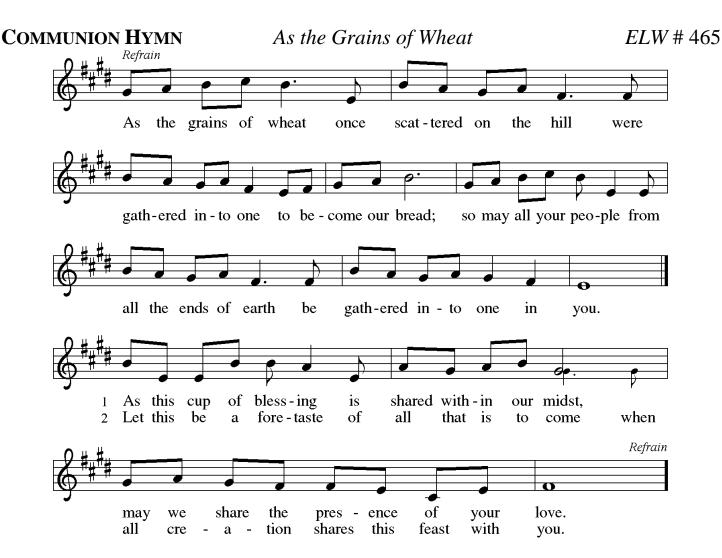
P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.



*INVITATION

P: All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.



Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen
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*BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. C: Amen.

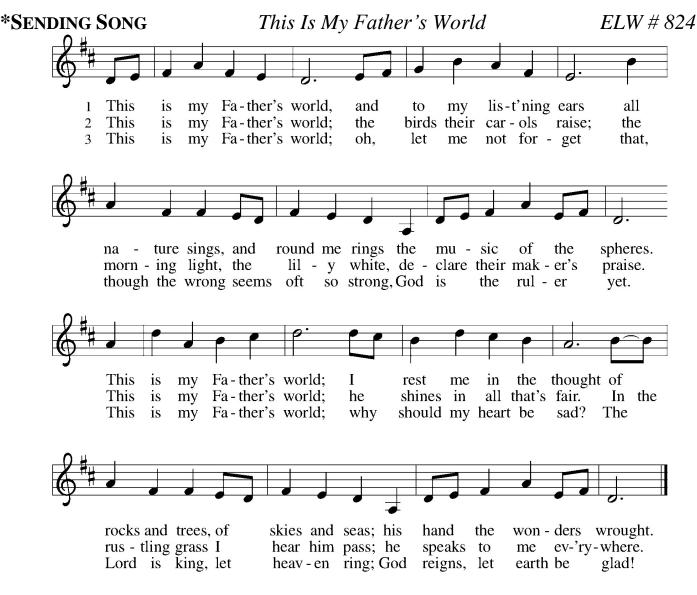
*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray... We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

P: The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed + bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. C: Amen.



Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901

Music: TERRA PATRIS, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852-1930, adapt.

*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share the harvest. C: Thanks be to God.

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Blessing of Backpacks and Those Who Carry Them

Calling all backpacks, briefcases, lunchboxes and those who carry them to join us Sunday, August 27th for a special blessing as we begin the new school year.

Sunday, August 27th during the 9:30 a.m. worship service.

Serving God and Us

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew

Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Pianist – Dr. Adam Smith

Our Organist – Mary Nelson

Our Missionary Family – Leslie Hand, On Eagle's Wings

Our Administrative Assistant – Lori Tremmel

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton – Phil Claar

Our Assisting Minister – Greg Haffling

Our Lector – Steve Oswalt

Our Altar Guild - Tonya Walter

Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

Third Quarter Ventures in Faith to "OEW and Missionaries"

Church Messenger

The August 2023 *Messenger* is now available at the St. Matthew **Website** (stmatthewlc.com), and on your recent **Email** message from St. Matthew by using the link listed in the body of the message. A paper copy of the *Messenger* is available in the news rack in the church Narthex. By calling the church office at (814-793-2413), you can request a paper copy to be sent by mail to your home. Do not hesitate to call the church office if you need help in securing a copy of the *Messenger*. Your readership and articles are always appreciated.

Our Administrative Assistant, Loretta (Lori) Tremmel, has submitted her letter of intention to retire effective September 15, 2023. The Congregational Council has accepted her request. On Sunday, September 24, 2023, Pastor Traci and members of St. Matthew will

recognize Lori's faithful employment since November 1993. May God bless her retirement years with health and enjoyment.



Administrative Assistant Position: St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Martinsburg, is seeking an Administrative Assistant who is proficient in clerical and computer skills and demonstrates professional courtesy in communication and confidentiality. Part-time position:

12-15 morning hours 4-5 days weekly. If interested, please contact Pastor Traci Marriott at (814) 935-9267 or revtracimarriott@gmail.com for additional information and application.

Martinsburg Food Pantry

The Food Pantry distributes food on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m. If anyone harvests more vegetables or fruit than can be used, we will welcome it on the dates it is open!

Items most needed for August: Juice, Peanut Butter, Spaghetti, Tomato Sauce, Fruit. Many thanks for all your donations!

We want to thank members for all the school supplies, food and monetary donations of \$176.00. Many thanks!

Many thanks for your donations! Linda Smith

Supplies for Food Pantry (K-5)

We are collecting school supplies for children going back to school in August and September. Please look for items when you shop and place them in the "school bus" at church in the Narthex.

Crayola Crayons (24 colors)

Crayola washable markers (10 colors)

12 pack of #2 pencils & large erasers

Highlighters (yellow, pink & green)

Crayola washable markers (10 colors)

Crayola colored pencils (24 color set)

Elmer's large glue sticks (.77 oz.)

8½x11 spiral notebooks (3 hole punched) Elmer's washable school glue (4 oz bottle)

This Week at St. Matthew:

814-793-2413: Office Hours

Pastor Traci – Mon. 1:00-4:00 p.m. Lori – Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

This Week Events

Today – Worship Service & Picnic at the Kreider Farm at 11:00 a.m.

Monday Employee Meeting, Fellowship Hall 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday - Knotty Ladies, Quilt Room 12:30 p.m.

Thursday - Civic Life & Faith, St. Matthew, Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m.

Sunday - Worship Service and Backpack Blessing, Sanctuary 9:30 a.m.

September Messenger Article Deadline

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.

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Carl Alexy, Vivian Beach, Fred Brandenberg, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Janet Kreider, Ginny Sell, Bill Stahl, Joy Williams.

Prayer Concerns: Amy & Family, Randy Barrett, Caleb, Diane Cappel, Ted Chipperfield, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Greg Dick, Brian Fleck, Ron Focht, Jim Fritz, Doris Hershberger, Marilyn Horton, Baby James, Darren Kreutzer, Carrie Lively, Kristen Malloy, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Kay McGraw, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Carl Miner, Charles Minnick & Family, Nathan, Deb Peters, Bob & Annette Ritchey, Paul Ruth, Dennis Smith, Cindy Thomas, Tiffany Townsend, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Tim Wilson, Pat Winston, Jody Zelanko, and for our Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings.

Our college students: Olivia Day, Camryn Gates.

Those Serving in our Armed Forces: Bradley Buchart, Melody Estep, Colin Guyer, Nathan Smith (Germany).

"Civic Life and Faith"

You are invited to our six week study of the ELCA's curriculum, giving participants the opportunity to share feedback with churchwide to be considered in the writing of the "Civic Life and Faith" social statement. The first week was mainly an introduction; if you missed it and want to catch up, please see Pastor Traci for materials and/or watch the video at

https://vimeo.com/showcase/10111323/video/788799781. The remaining sessions continue as follows:

8/24 (at St. Matthew) "How do Christians Address Controversial Civic Issues?" 8/31 (at St. Luke Roaring Spring) "What Are Lutheran Views on Civic Life?" 9/7 (at Newry) "What Are the Objectives of Democracy in the United States?" 9/14 (at St. Matthew) "What's Faith-based Living Got to Do with Civic Life?" 9/21 (at St. Luke Roaring Spring) "How Do We Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord in Civic Life?"



Dear friend,

The significant loss of life and damage caused by the wildfires in Hawaii have turned our prayers and attention to mourning those lost, supporting the survivors and how Lutheran Disaster Response can assist with recovery.

Exacerbated by strong winds, wildfires on Maui have claimed dozens of lives and have destroyed homes, businesses and lines of communication. The Big Island of Hawaii has also been impacted by wildfires, and more islands remain vulnerable to additional fires this season.

Lutheran Disaster Response is prepared to accompany our neighbors in Hawaii impacted by these wildfires.

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. We will work with them to provide for immediate needs and long-term recovery amid the widespread destruction. Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to accompanying recovering communities in the years ahead.

By standing with Maui's wildfire survivors, we follow Christ's call to share hope and healing with our neighbors in need.

With gratitude,

Daniel Rift

The Rev. Daniel Rift

Director, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response Fund Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

If you consider a gift to Maui's Disaster Response mark your offering envelope or a pew envelope with "Maui" and place in the offering plate. Place your name or offering envelope number on the envelope.

2023 ALSM ANNUAL AUXILIARY APPEAL

Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries (ALSM) is celebrating 75 years of service to ALSM residents who have limited funds. The Auxiliary supports ALSM'S senior communities through benevolent care and gifts to enhance the daily lives of residents by funding life enrichment programs. Auxiliary members have contributed more than \$2 million annually in benevolent care to those ALSM residents with limited funds. St. Matthew has always been a significant contributor to this benevolent care program. Any amount of gift will be greatly appreciated. A gift of just \$10.00 provides a meal for a resident. St. Matthew's appeal will run for the months of July and August. Please fill out the form in the bulletin insert and return with your gift (cash or check) to the church office, Martie Gilbert or to ALSM. Additional forms are located at the Usher's Station in the Narthex. Please prayerfully consider giving to this very life sustaining appeal.

To support this appeal, you may also place Cash or **CHECK PAYABLE TO** – "ALSM AUXILIARY" in a plain envelope along with indication and names if this is in "Honor" or "Memory" gift. Please make sure your name is included and give to Martie Gilbert, Key Lady. (**Deadline for donations is Sunday, August 27, 2023.**)

Please accept my gift of: (check one, please) \$875 \$100 \$75 \$30 \$10 Other: \$	Thank You for helping us touch lives over the past 75 years!	Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries Attn:Advancement Office 998 Logan Blvd. Altoona, PA 16602
Please make your check payable to Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries		814.696.4500
My gift is in honor of: (living)	CELEBRATING TO CERTIFICE	
My gift is in memory of: (deceased) _		years

2023 Annual Auxiliary Appeal

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CELEBRATING	75 vears	OF SERVICE
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