



First Sunday of Christmas
December 30, 2018

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

115 E. Penn Street, Martinsburg, PA 16662

Pastor Traci Marriott Bowman # 814-935-9267

E-mail: stmatthewluth@aol.com

Website: www.STMATTHEWLC.com

Church Phone 793-2413

FAX: 814-614-4003

www.Facebook.com/stmatthewLC Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

To all, welcome in Jesus' name! May your presence in the Lord's house this day afford you God's peace in the coming week. We ask that all present sign our Friendship Sheet. After you add your name to the sheet, please pass it toward the center aisle. Then return it to the outside aisle so that you become familiar with our family in Christ. These sheets help our pastor and congregation with our ministry. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew to worship and serve Christ together!

Today's Altar Flowers are placed to the Glory of God by Ginny Sell and daughter in memory of John Sell.

—————◆—————
Prayer throughout the week:
The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven.
Psalm 148:13
—————◆—————

This Week at St. Matthew . . .

- Today - *First Sunday of Christmas*
- Monday - All 2018 donations
- Tuesday - ***Have a Blessed New Year!***
 - Office closed
- Thursday - Food Pantry, Allegheny St., 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
 - Cub Scout Planning Meeting, SR 6:30 p.m.
- Next Sunday - ***Epiphany of Our Lord***
 - Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
 - Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.
 - **Installation of Council Members during worship**

A Service of Lessons and Carols

AN * INDICATES TO STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

OPENING DIALOG. . .

P The angel said to (the shepherds), “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11).

As we gather we hear again the good news the angels proclaimed: God has come for all people through the birth of the one named Jesus. Through Bethlehem’s manger God comes into the chaos, messiness, and vulnerability of the world. In all things and at all times, we rejoice that God comes to save us and reigns in love. We come to adore Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome God’s forgiveness, grace, and love.

P Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

C **Forgive our lack of faith and trust.**

P Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

C **Forgive our neglect of the poor.**

P The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

C **Forgive our selfishness and complacency.**

P With great joy the angels proclaimed, “Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

P In † Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven. May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed. God’s forgiveness is good news of great joy! **C** **Amen**

1 st Reading	Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18	Jack Howsare
<i>Hymn</i>	<i>Angels, From the Realms of Glory vs 1&2</i>	<i>elw # 275</i>
2 nd Reading	Micah 5:2-5a	Martie Gilbert
<i>Hymn</i>	<i>Once in Royal David’s City vs 1&2</i>	<i>elw # 269</i>
3 rd Reading	Luke 1:26-35, 38	Steve Oswalt
<i>Hymn</i>	<i>Lo, How a Rose Is Growing vs 1&2</i>	<i>elw # 272</i>
4 th Reading	Matthew 1:18-25	Nell Snyder

Hymn	<i>Away in a Manger</i>	<i>elw # 278</i>
5 th Reading	Luke 2:8-20	Jane Hoenstine
Hymn	<i>Infant Holy, Infant Lowly</i>	<i>elw # 276</i>
6 th Reading	Matthew 2:1-11	Audrey Stern
Hymn	<i>We Three Kings vs 1-3</i>	<i>wov # 646</i>
7 th Reading	John 1:1-14	Jessica Orczeck
Hymn	<i>We Three Kings vs 4&5</i>	<i>wov # 646</i>
8 th Reading	Matthew 2:13-23	Pastor Traci
*Hymn of the Day	<i>Good Christian Friend, Rejoice</i>	<i>elw # 288</i>

***The Prayers. . .**

- A** Dwelling in the presence of God with us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all in any need.
- A** God of wisdom, open our ears to hear your grace through the words and deeds of children. Inspire the youngest and oldest in our midst to learn from one another with humility and patience. Hear us, O God. **C** **Your mercy is great.**
- A** God of creation, praise to you for hills and mountains, fruit trees and forests, animals wild and tame, sea monsters, birds, and reptiles. Spark delight in our hearts for all that you have made. Hear us O God. **C** **Your mercy is great.**
- A** God of hope, call us to peace and bind us together in perfect unity. Make wars to cease. Guide the leaders of the nations in your way of wisdom, compassion, and tolerance. Hear us O God. **C** **Your mercy is great.**
- A** God of healing, mend the broken hearts of those who suffer this day. Treasure everyone who struggles with addiction, loneliness, hunger, unemployment, mental illness, or sickness *especially for those we now name in our hearts or aloud*. Hear us O God. **C** **Your mercy is great.**
- A** For all the churches of the Allegheny Synod. We particularly pray today for the assembly **Shiloh Lutheran Church, State College, PA**, Hear us O God. **C** **Your mercy is great.**
- A** God of delight, fill us with songs of praise and hope even in the midst of despair and death. Comfort the grieving. Strengthen our faith until the day we will be gathered around your throne singing in eternal praise. Hear us O God. **C** **Your mercy is great.**
- P** Trusting in the presence of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, we commend all for whom we pray, dwelling in the light and hope of Christ, our Savior. **C**
Amen

*The Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always. **C** **And also with you.**

Offering

Offertory Music

Offertory

We Give Thee

C **We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

*Offertory Prayer. . .

A *Let us pray.* . .Holy God, your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flow from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus's name we pray. **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.**

P Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, in the beginning your word brought light into the whole world.

In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

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: Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of 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, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

P Come to the table where Christ meets you. Eat, rejoice, and be glad! **C** **Amen**

Organ Music During Distribution

***THE BLESSING**

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

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

A Let us pray...God of wonder, in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. As you have come among us now, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever. **C** **Amen**

***BLESSING . . .**

P God the Creator who delights in you, Jesus the Savior who is born for you, and the lifegiving Spirit who shines on you, ✠ bless you and keep you in hope and peace. **C** **Amen**

Hymn

Go Tell It on the Mountain

elw # 290

QUIET DEVOTION WITH THE CARILLON

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

***POSTLUDE**

Prayers are needed for our sick & homebound: Shirley Acker, Pete Barley, Verna Blough, Fred Brandenburg, Clyde Claycomb, Doris Henderson, Gene Henry, Jere Hess, Gerald Hoover, Betty Kaurudar, Betty Jane Moore, Nancy Myers, Marlene Nofsker, Miriam Royer, Gerry Showalter, Dan Sinal, Don Smith, Mickey Stone, Joy Williams and for our **Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.**

Prayer Concerns: Pastor Denise Arpino, Clyde Claycomb, Terry Creek, Dottie & Warren Daniel, Jacob Ebersole Family, Brian Fleck, Bryan Hammaker, Dan Hershberger, Marilyn Horton, Charles Kanode, Darren Kreutzer, Janet Kreider, Janine Lovell, Bill Marriott, Ryder McDermitt, Betty McDowell, Chuck Nelson, Deb Peters, Paul Ruth, Barbara Smith, Margie Smith, Luther Steele, Diane Stewart, Heather Stewart, Peggy Thatcher, Cindy Thomas, Juli Wert, Carol Weyandt, Pete Williams, Jody Zelanko.

Those serving overseas: Kyle Guyer – South Korea.

The 2018 Altar Flower chart is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Altar Flowers are a perfect way to remember loved ones. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar. Price - \$30.00.

DVD's of The Children's Christmas Play are available from the Usher's. These DVD's are free. "Journey to Bethlehem."



St. Matthew's Website
www.stmatthewLC.com

Have you checked out the website lately?

- ❖ You can find a monthly calendar of events
- ❖ Weekly copies of the Sunday Bulletin
- ❖ Weekly copies of Pastor Ed's sermons
- ❖ Monthly copies of "The Messenger"
- ❖ Links to ELCA important sites
- ❖ Online giving options
- ❖ And so much more

We also are on Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmatthewlc

Serving God and Us

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew
Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott Bowman
Our Organist Today – Janet Roarabaugh
Our Missionary Family – On Eagle’s Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson
Our Administrative Assistant – Lori Tremmel
Our Sexton – Bill Brown
Our Acolyte – Christopher Bush
Our Lay Servers – Mike & Connie Lamborn
Our Assisting Minister – Mike Lamborn
Our Ushers – John Lear, Ed Kreider, Paul Helsel, Steve Oswalt
Our Lectors – Jack Howsare, Martie Gilbert, Steve Oswalt, Nell Snyder, Jane Hoenstine, Audrey Stern, Jessica Orczeck
Our Greeters – Cindy Snyder, Jeannie Smith
Our Audio/Video Tech – Jacob Orczeck
Our Offering Counters – Anna Klepser, John Lear
December’s Altar Guild – Tina Harclerode, Carol Replogle, Jane Fagans

Fourth Quarter Ventures in Faith to “United Lutheran Seminary”

Serving God and Us Next Sunday, January 6, 2019

Our Acolyte – Jace King,
Our Lay Servers – Steve Oswalt, Martie Gilbert
Our Assisting Minister – Steve Oswalt
Our Ushers – Stan Smith, John Lear, John Russell, Shawn Orczeck
Our Lector – Les Loomis
Our Greeters – Stan & Michele Smith
Our Audio/Video Tech – Alex Snyder
Our Offering Counters – Nancy Uber, Linda Negley
January’s Altar Guild – Laura Orczeck, Tina Harclerode

First Quarter Ventures in Faith to “Local Needs”

The Allegheny Synod 40,000 Can Challenge

Advent to Super Bowl Sunday

Now – Feb. 3, 2019

As of December 20 this is the total \$5,701

Your donation of non-perishable food items to the 40,000 “Can” Challenge will benefit local food banks and service agencies who serve the people in your community.

To participate, record how many non-perishable items are collected and call the office at 814-942-1042.

Results will be publicized through the Allegheny Synod Facebook page, the Lutheran Letter, and e-mails to congregations.

Monetary donations also count towards the Challenge, every \$1 equals a can.

Ways to Support 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 “**Give**” button, (on the top white banner)
- 3) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.

BarCode Offerings:

- 1) Visit “**Play Store on your mobile device**”
- 2) Find QR Code (this app is free)
- 3) Click on the “**Install**” the app
- 4) Open the app on your device
- 5) Scan the BarCode: (follow the prompts)
 - a) in the bulletin OR b) in the Messenger OR c) on the church website above



Have Tea, Will Travel

Pastor Traci is looking forward to getting to know the members of St. Matthew. However, she'd like to do that without straining your hospitality or her waistline. To that end, if you'd like to invite her to make a home visit, she'd love for you to provide the mugs and hot water, and she'll bring a variety of tea to share. Please make an appointment to visit with Pastor Traci either at your home or at the church.

Keeping TABS with Pastor Traci: Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

Join Pastor Traci for a discussion of the lectionary texts for each upcoming Sunday. Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study (TABS) will be held at 3:00 p.m. in the Window Room. This month we will meet, weather permitting, on Tuesdays: January 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th.

Sunday Lectionary Readings for the Month

Taken from Sundays and Seasons.

Sunday	Readings
12/30/18	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26, Psalm 148, Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-52
01/06/19	Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12
01/13/19	Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29, Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
01/20/19	Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 36:5-10, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11
01/27/19	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a, Luke 4:14-21

Mitten Tree Thank You!

Many thanks to all who contributed so generously to the “Mitten Tree”. Because of your kindness, these children will have a warmer winter!

The total items received were 165 items (81 pairs of mittens & gloves; 55 hats; 12 hats, mittens, 8 scarves; 1 head bands; 8 pairs of socks) and financial donations were \$90.00 These items are distributed to Martinsburg and Spring Cove Elementary Schools.

Martinsburg Food Pantry



Volunteers from St. Matthew will be assisting in the distribution of food on Thursdays, January 3 and January 17 from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

The pantry will also be open on Thursday evening, January 17 from 5:00 – 6:00 with appointment. If you can help in the mornings, please let Elaine Buchart know.

The January items most needed are: soup, crackers, ravioli, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, fruit and paper towels.

You're Grounded! (In Christ)



It's time to register for Snow Camp! Youth (grades 5-12) and friends from all around the Allegheny Synod are meeting for this fun and faith-filled retreat at Camp Sequanota, February 1-3. Friends are welcome.

Please see Pastor Traci if you haven't received a registration form. Registrations should be returned to her by **Sunday, January 20th**.

Snow Camp includes food, games, small group discussion, food, sledding and other outdoor sports, food, worship, Bible Study, and food. We stay in the (winterized) cabins in the main camp area of Sequanota with other youth and leaders from around the Synod. This year's topic: You're Grounded! (In Christ)...we'll explore what it means to derive our identity from baptism as we look at ways to live whole and healthy lives—spiritually, physically, intellectually, socially, financially, and emotionally. Youth who will be entering into or continuing catechism instruction are particularly encouraged to attend. We also have room for adult members who want to chaperone.

Synod Happenings

Elementary Winter Retreat 2019

- ❖ Camp Sequanota, January 26-27-2019 from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- ❖ \$45.00 per camper grades 2-6

Ignite Upcoming Class

- ❖ Church History: 1/5, 1/12
- ❖ Luther's Catechism: 1/26 and 2/2 If interested in any of these classes,
 - ❖ please contact Pastor Paula Schmitt, 814-942-1042 or paula.schmitt@alleghenysynod.com



Transformational Ministry

We will meet monthly to address the needs in general as well as one specific need for the month. We will ALL lift our needs up in prayer on a daily basis.

Each month and on a daily basis, we ask you to join us in prayer. Our January special prayer request is for:

We Pray the New Year will bring the blessings of tolerance health and prosperity for all. We especially pray for the ministry of our food bank and those who serve so faithfully.

First Day Hike at Canoe Creek State Park

If you are interested in joining the group from St. Matthew for the First Day Hike at Canoe Creek State Park on Tuesday, January 1, meet at the church at 1:00 p.m. Or you can meet us Canoe Creek at 1:30 p.m. The nature hike with naturalist begins at 2:00 p.m. hot chocolate and snacks are available for purchase at the Park.

Last year 14 members from St. Matthew braved the frigid temperatures for this event. Our brave hikers are pictured in the December issue of the “Blair Living Magazine”.

This is a great way to start the new year!