



Saint Matthew
LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Matthew's Messenger

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

115 E. Penn Street, Martinsburg, PA 16662-1127

Phone 814.793.2413 • Fax 814.614-4003 • e-mail stmatthewmartinsburg@gmail.com

• web: www.stmatthewlc.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmatthewlc

Volume 63

FEBRUARY 2023

Number 2

Greetings, Beloved of God!

As I sat down to write this reflection for the shortest month of the year, I couldn't help looking back at the long month of January with a bit of frustration: in the lull after the Christmas rush, after a few weather events that kept me at home, it feels like I haven't done anything so far this year. But reviewing my calendar, that's not really true.

In January I did a lot of planning. Our congregational committees set goals for the year. I met with the synod's Faith Formation team multiple times to plan a year's worth of events. I attended a three day writing workshop to begin collaborating on the curriculum I'm helping to write for the next school year. And not to brag, but I took down my Christmas tree before Lent.

We weren't created to live in a state of perpetual motion; even God thought rest was so important to our rhythm that the very first week included a Sabbath. Nature sets this example as well: the trees will bloom in spring, but we're not there yet. The bears know it's time to hibernate. We need time for rest and time for preparation before we can do all the things that we want to do and are called to do.

If we feel guilty for being in a "slow" season, it's worth taking a moment to re-evaluate. We might be getting the rest we need, the rest that God commands. We might be in a stage of preparation, and much of what we do, if we do it well, is the result of being well-prepared. We might be doing just what we need to do, even if we can't (yet) point to a finished product.

Whether we're beyond busy or taking a much needed breath, may God bless our time, all the time.

Peace,
Pastor Traci



Martinsburg Food Pantry

Volunteers from Salem United Church of Christ, along with the regular volunteers, will be assisting with the food distribution on Thursdays, February 2 and February 16 from 9:00 until 11:00a.m.

The Items most needed are: Sunny D Drink, Cereal, Canned Fruit, Canned Tuna, Ham, or Chicken and Paper Towels.

Many thanks to those from St. Matthew that helped at the Food Pantry in January: Peggy Steinfurth, Sarah Detwiler, Audrey Stern and Carla Brumbaugh! Also, appreciated were the monetary gifts from St. Matthew!

Linda K. Smith



Your dedication to our mission is clearly demonstrated by your financial support of ALSM. Undesignated giving: \$27.50, and Harvest Home \$290.00.

Patricia W. Savage, President/CEO

Many thanks from the Martinsburg Salvation Army for the \$200.00 donation in December 2022. *Betty Miles*

Thank you for the gifts given to Sequanota in December 2022 totaling \$1,314.00 Your dedication to Sequanota means a lot to our Camping Community.

Rev. Nathan Pile

Thank you for your recent gifts to the Lutheran World Relief Shipping Fund and Community in Need Fund both totaling \$490.00. *Ambassador Daniel Speckhard*

President and CEO

Thank you for your gift of \$60.00 to Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network. *Gloria Pugliese, Assoc. V.P.*

Thank you for your donation of \$400 to the Martinsburg Volunteer Fire Company. *Tara Hoover, Fin. Sec.*

Our heartfelt thank you to Pastor Traci and our church family for your calls, prayers, and acts of kindness during the recent illness and death of our father, Donald Smith. Our family was very aware how busy the week of Christmas can be, and appreciate the time given to prepare and serve the delicious funeral meal. Although we have suffered a great loss, our hearts are filled with joy because we know God is always faithful.

The Donald Smith Family

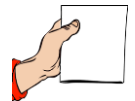
Dear Youth Group Members: Thank you so much for making peppermint bark at Christmas time, it was scrumptious!! I really commend you for devoting your time to raise funds for your activities. Congratulation on a job well done.

Norma Smith,

Member of Blair County Mahjong Group

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.



Dear friend in Christ,

Thank you for sharing your gifts with our church, and for sharing the power of God's love with the world. As we begin this new year, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for your powerful impact in the previous one. We are drawn into community by our shared faith. We are also called to go out and get to work alongside our siblings in Christ, near and far. **Your generosity makes incredible work possible.** You have helped plant crops, build homes and churches, expand access to education, provide quality health care, and so much more.

In Christ's service,

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA



Thank you for your recent gift of \$2,784.50 to United Lutheran Seminary. We are

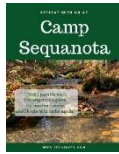
Deeply grateful for your generosity.

Gloria Pugliese, Assoc. V.P.



Upcoming Events

There are a variety of events scheduled this spring for both youth and adults. Please help us spread the word.



- **Sustain** - an Adult Retreat: February 24-26
- **Lenten Bible Study** on Zoom: Tuesdays beginning February 28
- **Young Adult Retreat**: March 24-26

Sequanota Updates

❖ **Sequanota is now hiring for summer 2023 staff positions.**

Do you know of a young adult that you think could make an impact this summer at Sequanota?

Jess shares: "Sequanota has taught me how to be a good leader, how to interact with people of all ages, and have confidence in all that I do. Camp has given me a place that I know I will always be welcomed at." Give Sequanota a chance this summer — we know camp helps our staff develop as a leader!

Staff applications are open for Summer 2023! They can apply at <https://sequanota.com/summer/staff/>

❖ **Summer Camp Registration opened in January 2023**

Choose a week and encourage the youth and families from your congregation to join you at Camp Sequanota.

❖ **Tend: A Bible podcast**

We believe God plants the seeds of faith in every life. Any good gardener knows that those seeds need tending if the seed is to produce vegetables or fruit. Faith needs to be tended. Our goal is to provide a weekly dose of tending for our faith and others, who might choose to join us as we live into the way of Jesus.

New episodes released on Mondays. Join the discussion on Facebook and Instagram.



A Stewardship Moment FEBRUARY 2023

“There are many ways in which we cannot share, but that does not discount the ways we can.” This statement is in this month's issue of *Stewardship*. We can all say Amen to that can't we? The needs of the world are certainly overwhelming: poverty, food shortages, millions with health problems, calamities caused by floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, droughts and so forth. The list of the world's afflictions and desperate needs staggers us and makes us feel helpless. So I repeat the words found in the *Stewardship* article: “There are many ways in which we cannot share, but that does not discount the ways we can.”

The third chapter of the Book of Acts helps us understand the truth of these words. Do you recall the story of Peter and John going to the temple to pray? The apostles saw a lame man begging for alms. Peter, having sympathy for him said, “I have no silver and gold, but I give you what I have; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise and walk.” And the man did just that.

If we are short of money trying to meet any need, we still have a voice to offer Christ's love. We have talents to offer compassion and care, time to help, words to alert others so they may use their brains and brawn to help relieve a portion of the wounds of the world. And if we will use whatever gifts from God that we have to be the church at work on Christ's behalf, we can be certain that our efforts will be rewarded in ways we might never imagine.

Prayer: Blessed Lord, let us never forget that living for you and serving as followers of Christ will honor you and make our lives worthy and a blessing for others. **Amen**

A Stewardship Minute is available to subscribers of Stewardship at www.parishpublishing.org.

Ways to Support St. Matthew

Offering Envelopes: These are mailed to our contributors at their homes monthly.

Person Bank Drafts if you would like to use this method contact your bank and have the donation taken from your bank account and sent to St. Matthew (usually monthly automatic bank drafts from your checking account. **(There is no fee to the church or to you for this convenient donation.)**)

“Simply Giving” by Vanco. If you would like to use the on-line program of automatic bank drafts/debit card from your checking account. *(Forms are in the church office. Please see Lori. The church gets billed a monthly fee for this service.)*

Giving Online: Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions 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.

Mobile Giving: Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions. Electronic giving offers convenience for individuals and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. Simply follow these easy steps:

- 1) Visit “**Play Store on your mobile device**”
- 2) Find the “**Vanco Payment**” app (this is free)
- 3) Click on the “**Install**” button
- 4) Open the app on your device
- 5) Follow the onscreen instructions to schedule your one time contribution or recurring contributions. *(There is a processing fee at the time of the transaction. You have the choice to pay the fee for the church or have the fee taken from your donation.)*



Groundhogs, also called woodchucks and whose scientific name is *Marmota monax*, typically weigh 12 to 15 pounds and live six to eight years. They eat vegetables and fruits, whistle when they’re frightened or looking for a mate (they’re sometimes called whistle pigs) and can climb trees and swim.

They go into hibernation in the late fall; during this time, their body temperatures drop significantly, their heartbeats slow from 80 to five beats per minute and they can lose 30 percent of their body fat. In February, male groundhogs emerge from their burrows to look for a mate (not to predict the weather) before going underground again. They come out of hibernation for good in March.

In 1887, a newspaper editor belonging to a group of groundhog hunters from Punxsutawney called the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club declared that Phil, the Punxsutawney groundhog, was America’s only true weather-forecasting groundhog. The line of groundhogs that have since been known as Phil might be America’s most famous groundhogs, but other towns across North America now have their own weather-predicting rodents, from Birmingham Bill to Staten Island Chuck to Shubenacadie Sam in Canada.

In 1993, the movie *Groundhog Day* starring Bill Murray popularized the usage of “groundhog day” to mean something that is repeated over and over. Today, tens of thousands of people converge on Gobbler’s Knob in Punxsutawney each February 2 to witness Phil’s prediction. The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club hosts a three-day celebration featuring entertainment and activities.

SERVING GOD AND US February 2023

Date	February 5	February 12 <i>Scout Sunday</i>	February 19 <i>Youth Sunday</i>	February 22 Ash Wednesday	February 26
Acolytes	Jay Hoenstine	Calleigh Wright	Jeffrey Hoenstine Max Baker Mace Baker	TBD	Gavin Kuster
Lectors	Lori Tremmel	Scouts	Youth	Peggy Steinfurth	Mike Lamborn
Ushers	Steve Oswalt	Scouts/Martie Gilbert	Mike Lamborn	N/A	Dennis Smith
Audio/Video	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	TBD	Camden Kuster
Altar Guild	Jean Sinal	Jean Sinal	Jean Sinal	Jean Sinal	Jean Sinal
Assist. Min.	Stacy Kuster	Mike Lamborn	Calleigh Wright	Martie Gilbert	Steve Oswalt

Birthdays for February

1 Samuel L. Stahl	9 Loy C. Replogle	19 Barbara Moorhead
2 Brian Brumbaugh	10 Gabrielle Decker	20 Greg Dick
4 Ashley Smith	12 Jane L. Fagans	A J Hoenstine
5 Mary K. Baker	Pam Russell	Dani Wright
Barbara J. Beyer	14 Steve Ebersole	21 Jeffrey L. Garner
Olivia Day	Jeffrey K. Hite	24 Walter I. Szymckec
Elaine Smith	John H. Lear	28 Eric R. Frederick
6 Steve Claycomb	15 Richard Snyder	Matthew Freyer
7 Camden A. Hoover	17 James R. Fagans	Allen Kuster
8 Jenna Carder	James A. Stewart	29 Anne E. Stewart
Gavin Ross	Elaine (Joy) Williams	
9 Elizabeth Haffling	18 Brett Buchart	
Casey J. Hoover	Kinsley Frederick	

Anniversaries in February

10 Warren & Dottie Daniel 55 th	26 Dan & Gloria Guyer
13 Mark & Debra Guyer	27 Jay & Laura M. Webb



The 2023 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.

Dates available: 4/9, 4/16, 4/30, 5/21, 6/4, 7/2, 10/8, 10/15, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 12/3, 12/17, 12/24, 12/31. If you would like a Sunday(s) you can also call the church office at 814-793-2413.



February 12, 2023

The Boy Scouts of America designates the Sunday that falls before February 8 (Scouting Anniversary Day) as Scout Sunday, which is the primary date to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting. However, each chartered organization can use either of two other options to celebrate this special day.

2023 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.	Lori Tremmel	696-3802	Evangelism	Michael Lamborn	793-4212
Assist. Admin. Assist.	Laura Orczeck	224-1208	Stewardship	Rev. Ed Harshbarger	650-5584
President	Martie Gilbert	793-4461	Finance	Jim Barley	793-4623
Vice President	Greg Haffling	793-9827	Social Ministry	Tina Harclerode	317-5312
Secretary	Vacant		Worship & Music	Jane Fagans	793-4401
Treasurer	Beth Garner	793-3966	Staff Support	Kaye Burket	224-5224
Financial Secretary	Vacant		Sexton	Phil Claar	215-0885
Property	Ed Kreider	793-4302			

HIGHLIGHTS BY COUNCIL IN JANUARY 2023

We have no secretary on council to post highlights.

Giving

2022 December		Year to Date as of 12/31/2022	
Current	\$22,967.60	Current	\$166,648.13
Benevolence (Synod)	\$1,315.00	Benevolence (Synod)	\$15,674.00
United Lutheran Seminary	\$712.00	4th Qrt. Lutheran Seminary	\$2,784.50

2021 December		Year to Date as of 12/31/2021	
Current	\$27,521.29	Current	\$172,023.25
Benevolence (Synod)	\$2,195.00	Benevolence (Synod)	\$15,668.00
United Lutheran Seminary	\$1,040.50	4th Qrt. Lutheran Seminary	\$3,615.50

2020 December		Year to Date as of 12/31/2020	
Current	\$24,256.77	Current	\$183,226.35
Benevolence (Synod)	\$2,538.00	Benevolence (Synod)	\$21,475.50
United Lutheran Seminary	\$1,298.00	4th Qrt. Lutheran Seminary	\$3,267.64

2019 December		Year to Date as of 12/31//2019	
Current	\$31,693.08	Current	\$203,770.19
Benevolence (Synod)	\$2,894.00	Benevolence (Synod)	\$20,778.55
United Lutheran Seminary	\$2,007.50	4th Qrt. Lutheran Seminary	\$4,145.50



2022 Income vs Expenses		
Current	December	Year to Date as of 12/31/2022
Actual	\$467.70	(\$42,650.89)
Per Budget	\$4,648.02	(\$53,186.87)
<u>Benevolence</u>		
Per Commitment to Synod	(\$851.67)	(\$10,326.00)

There were 4 Sundays in December 2022, 2021 and 2020.



February 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 Lori 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 5:00 pm Yoga, FH	2 Ground Hog Day  9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	3 Pastor's Sabbath	4
5 5th Sun. after Epiphany 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	6 6:00 pm Worship & Music Mtg., via Zoom 6:00 pm Cub/Boy Scouts, SR	7	8 1-4 pm Pastor in Office 5:00 pm Yoga, FH	9	10 Pastor's Sabbath	11 8 am-3 pm Fellowship Hall in use by Dairyside
12 6th Sun. after Epiphany Scout Sunday 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	13 6:00 pm Cub/Boy Scouts, SR	14 6:30 pm Council Mtg., WR/Zoom 	15 1-4 pm Pastor in Office 5:00 pm Yoga, FH	16 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St. 2:00 pm Homewood Communion Service	17 Pastor's Sabbath	18
19 Transfiguration of Our Lord Youth Sunday 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> 2:00 p.m. Snowtubing Youth Lock—In 11:00 a.m. </div>	20 President's Day No Cub/Boy Scouts, SR 6:30 pm Christian Ed. Mtg., via Zoom	21	22 Ash Wednesday 10:00 am Employee Mtg., FH 12:00 pm Lenten Service , Sanctuary 7:00 pm Lenten Service Sanctuary	23	24 Pastor's Sabbath	25
26 1st Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	27 6:00 pm Cub/Boy Scouts, SR 6:30 pm Social Ministry Mtg., via Zoom	28 12:30-3:00 pm Knotty Ladies, QR				