



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 stmatthewluth@aol.com • web: www.stmatthewlc.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmatthewlc

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Number 7

Dear People of God:

When teaching or preaching a passage that mentions religious persecution, I've often noted that in our nation, where we are guaranteed freedom of religious practice and freedom from an established state religion, and especially as Christians who are part of a cultural majority, we cannot fully understand what it's like for the government to interfere with the exercise of our faith. For ELCA Lutherans, other mainline Protestant denominations, and our Jewish siblings—all faith traditions that value the life, health, and well-being of women in decisions regarding reproductive healthcare—that is no longer the case. The recent ruling of the US Supreme Court now permits legislation that ignores those concerns. In this regard, the government is legally interfering with the free exercise of our religion. That this decision preceded our nation's celebration of Independence Day by not even a fortnight seems a particularly cruel irony.

Theologians of our denomination authored a position in this matter*, yet the individual beliefs of our members vary. So although the court's decision violates our official church teachings, I realize it may not challenge every Lutheran's personal views. Some folks will consider this a tragedy, others a triumph. But setting aside this specific issue and looking at the intersection of faith and the state in general, when Jesus had the opportunity to further his kingdom through political power, he declined (Matthew 4 & Luke 4). One could argue that the Christian Church's greatest failure at following Jesus' example lies in its long history of pursuing political power—very often with tragic results. God is love (1 John 4:8), and love never coerces or forces its own way.

We may be unaccustomed to government intervention in our religious practice, but we're hardly the first to experience that struggle, and God has never yet abandoned the Church. Church dogma and personal preferences aside, people are hurting and afraid, and so we are called to compassion.

Peace,

Pastor Traci

*You can find the ELCA's theological reflections on this and other issues on the ELCA website: <https://elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements>



Thank you so much for the cards, flowers and gifts I received for my 90th Birthday.

All were so very much appreciated. **Mary Creps**

A very special thank you to the Acolytes of St. Matthew who have served at Worship Services during the past year. Your assistance with candle lighting and extinguishing, processing and recessing, and help during the Baptismal liturgy is greatly appreciated by Pastor Traci, the Worship and Music Committee, and the congregation. Also, parents of the Acolytes are to be commended for their continual cooperation with the schedule and support of their children/youth for this opportunity for Christian service. We are looking forward to your service again in the Fall of 2022.

Kaye Burket & Elaine Smith, Acolyte Helpers



Mary Lou Hinish (Correction)
106 Persimmon Ln
Elizabethtown, PA 17022-9527

Jacob Orczeck
Thiel College
75 College Ave
Greenville, PA 16125

Brandon Oswalt
320 Blair St #1
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

Help Needed

Custodian opportunity is available at St. Matthew. Seeking person or couple to provide cleaning of the church and maintenance of grounds in the absence of the Sexton. Casual hours. If interested please contact the church office, 814-793-2413, for more information.



Martinsburg Food Pantry

The Food Pantry will be open for distribution of food on Thursdays, July 7 and July 21 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Volunteers from Brethren in Christ will be assisting, along with our regular volunteers, to distribute the food.

Items most needed for July: Cereal, Ravioli, Pasta Sides, Mashed Potatoes, Tomato Sauce.

Note: During the Summer, donations slow down, and children are home from school so please fill our church basket!

Also, garden produce on the days that Food Pantry is open, are very welcomed.

Thank You! Linda Smith



Summer Worship

9:00 a.m. worship, weather permitting, using the yard, drive, sidewalk, or kitchen Patio. If it rains worship will be in the Sanctuary
10:30 a.m. worship in the sanctuary



Attendance for May 2022

Average Sunday Worship attendance 2022 – 51

Average Sunday Worship attendance 2019 – 84



Flower Committee Announcements

Worship and Music Committee agreed with a recommendation from the Flower Committee that when worship is scheduled in the sanctuary, flowers will be placed on the altar as usual. If you would like to sponsor flowers as a memorial or honorarium, please contact Margie Smith. The price for (2) Altar Vase flowers is \$40. You can share the expense with a friend so each pay \$20.

Donors are reminded to pay for the flowers in a timely manner, preferably on/or before the date of the memorial. Payment may be made in cash or check made payable to **St. Matthew Flower Fund**. You can place the payment in the appropriate mailbox in the hallway outside the church office. Dates available: 7/31, 10/23, 12/4, 12/25.



A Stewardship Minute July 2022

The times are changing.

The Stewardship Minute and the Stewardship Bulletin insert is no longer an option from Parish Publishing.

You can now find the Monthly Stewardship Pamphlet on the website under "Helpful Links" at stmatthewlc.com.

If you would like a paper copy notify the church office so one will be provided for you.

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



Sight and Sound Bus Excursion to see David!

Join the Lutheran Churches of Blair County for this exciting excursion to see Sight & Sounds live on stage production of David on Wednesday, October 19th, 2022. **Price per individual will be \$155.** This will include your transportation, your ticket to a 11am show, and a meal at Hershey Farms.

There will be two locations to which you can arrive for the bus: Lowes Parking Lot in Altoona at 6:30am or Walmart Parking Lot in East Freedom at 6:45am (we will have a sign-up sheet and plan to seat you accordingly by church group). We hope to arrive back within the area sometime around 7:30pm.

Payments/Reservations can be made at Raystown Transit (1117 Logan Blvd, Altoona, PA 16602 OR 814-201-2120). Deadline for Payments/Reservations is September 1st, 2022.



Prayers and Christian Sympathy are asked for...

- Kay McGraw and family upon the death of her husband, Dick McGraw, Monday, June 20, 2022.

Anniversaries for July

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Jim & Jane Fagans
Keith & Andrea McGraw 3 William & Cheryl Gigante 4 Rachel Kensinger & Tammy White 10 Zane & M. Jane Staily 40th 12 John & Pam Russell 14 Casey & Jessica Hoover 15 Mark & Lori Johnson | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 Mike & Christine Panek 16 Paul & Marjorie Helsel
Dr. Murray & Sharon Smith 45th 26 Shawn & Wendy McCauley 26 Greg & Julie Russell 29 A J & Jane Hoenstine |
|---|---|

Birthdays for July

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Glenn Baker 4 Nan Grove 5 Sharon Hicks
William Stahl 8 Marjorie Helsel
Shaffer Johnson
Cora Sweinhart 9 Jeffrey Hoenstine
Brandi Ross
Jeremy Smith
Janet Stewart | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 Scott Paul
Barb Wilt 15 Martie Gilbert 18 Jordan Smith
Wyatt Sweinhart 19 Melissa Fetzer 21 Tom Fishburn
Dan Tremmel 22 Tripp Crilly
Brandon Oswalt 24 Audrey Hite | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25 Julie Dick 26 Douglas Bush
Amy Haffling
Dr. Shawn Orczeck
Carol Rugh 27 Arnold Moore
Caleigh Wright 28 Kylee Frederick
Larry Frederick 30 Beth Rager |
|--|---|---|

SERVING GOD AND US JULY 2022

Date	July 3	July 10	July 17	July 24	July 31
Lectors	Dawn Alexy	Allen Kuster	A J Hoenstine	Melissa Fetzer	Lori Tremmel
Altar Guild	Jane Fagans	Jane Fagans	Jane Fagans	Jane Fagans	Jane Fagans
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	TBD	Camden Kuster
Ushers	Tina Harclerode	Marti Gilbert	Stanley Smith	Ed Kreider	Dennis Smith

Scout Troop #358 Volunteers

Our Troop #358 is looking for Adult Leadership, Volunteers, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. If volunteers do not come forward our Scout Troop is in danger of closing after the next two years.

The Scouts meet during the Fall on Monday nights. Please consider volunteering. For more information you can contact Paul Longwell at

814-793-3135/paul_longwell@juno.com

Or Ted Reynolds at 814-224-2219/office@thecountryshed.com



Eagle Scout



Aaron Reynolds has been an active Boy Scout in St. Matthew's Troop 358, located in Martinsburg, PA, since 2016. After earning 43 merit badges, double the required amount, and 226 hours of community service total, Aaron Reynolds earned his Eagle Scout Award and Rank on October 7, 2021.

His Eagle Scout Project, which consisted of over 350 total community service hours among all participants, and over \$4,000 raised in total, was directed towards honoring a local man named Joseph Chonko, who died of heart problems in 2001.

Joseph grew up in the Martinsburg Area and attended Central High School, where he played various sports, including football, wrestling, track, and snowboarding. He also worked and volunteered at Camp Mantowagan for many years. For these reasons, Aaron's project raised \$1,275 for each Camp Mantowagan and the Central

High School Athletics Department. The money raised was put towards installing new AEDs (Automated External Defibrillator) in both locations. The AEDs serve as a precaution for future heart problems. The remaining funds, nearly totaling \$1,000, were then donated directly to the Joseph Chonko Memorial Foundation, which funds church camps and missions around the world.

The Foundation was set up in Joseph's name after his passing. Funds for this project were raised through a tradition called Wood Day. This was a tradition that was carried out by Joseph and his father while he was alive, and was continued by family and friends after his passing.

Wood Day was a day of cutting down, splitting, and drying out firewood to sell to people in need. As part of his project, Aaron organized wood day in 2021 and made it more profitable than it had ever been and raised awareness for the cause. After receiving his award, Aaron finalized his future plans.

Because of his scouting experience, Aaron discovered his future career. In the fall, Aaron will be attending UPJ to major in Secondary Education, specializing in English. Throughout his high school career, he was involved in Boy Scouts, FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America), NHS (National Honors Society), Chorus, Select Choir, Jazz Band, and the musical program at NBC, where he was an ensemble member in "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown", and the Tinman in "The Wiz". He was also involved with a community volleyball league, and plays Piano and Guitar.



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.



2022 COUNCIL DIRECTORY AND MINISTRY STAFF
All phone numbers start with (814) unless otherwise noted.

Pastor	Rev. Traci Marriott	935-9267	Property	Ed Kreider	793-4302
Admin. Assist.	Lori Tremmel	696-3802	Christian Ed.	Jean Sinal	793-9507
Assist. Admin. Assist.	Laura Orczeck	224-1208	Evangelism	Michael Lamborn	793-4212
President	Melissa Fetzer	793-2735	Stewardship	Rev. Ed Harshbarger	650-5584
Vice President	Martie Gilbert	793-4461	Finance	Jim Barley	793-4623
Secretary	Elaine Smith	(434) 981-0560	Social Ministry	Tina Harclerode	317-5312
Treasurer	Beth Garner	793-3966	Worship & Music	Jane Fagans	793-4401
Financial Secretary	Vacant		Staff Support	Kaye Burket	224-5224
			Sexton	Phil Claar	215-0885

HIGHLIGHTS BY COUNCIL IN JUNE 2022

1. Approved purchase of a portable keyboard and stand to use for music at outdoor worship services.
2. Approved purchase of Michael Ward's stewardship program and will establish a committee to present the campaign to the congregation in the August-September time frame.
3. Council will take a break from meeting during the month of July unless a need arises.

Giving

2022 May		Year to Date as of 5/31/22	
Current	\$16,167.88	Current	\$69,293.32
Benevolence (Synod)	\$1,088.50	Benevolence (Synod)	\$7,305.50
Youth and Camping	\$911.50	2nd Qrt. Youth & Camping	\$2,390.50

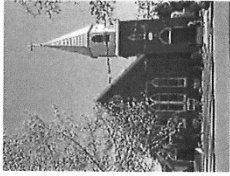
2021 May		Year to Date as of 5/31/2021	
Current	\$12,115.22	Current	\$63,566.14
Benevolence (Synod)	\$819.00	Benevolence (Synod)	\$6,272.50
Youth and Camping	\$867.00	2nd Qrt. Youth & Camping	\$1,624.50

2020 May		Year to Date as of 5/31/2020	
Current	\$21,346.60	Current	\$82,122.60
Benevolence (Synod)	\$2,040.00	Benevolence (Synod)	\$9,228.00
Youth and Camping	\$1,401.00	2nd Qrt. Youth & Camping	\$2,585.50

2019 May		Year to Date as of 5/31/2019	
Current	\$14,499.33	Current	\$81,117.33
Benevolence (Synod)	\$1,372.50	Benevolence (Synod)	\$7,523.05
Youth and Camping	\$1,063.00	2nd Qrt. Youth & Camping	\$2,784.00

2022 Income vs Expenses		
Current	May	Year to Date as of 5/31/2022
Actual	\$1,069.61	(\$13,261.59)
Per Budget	(\$2,151.70)	(\$22,304.60)
<u>Benevolence</u>		
Per Commitment to Synod	(\$1,078.17)	(\$3,527.83)

There were 4 Sundays in May 2019.
There were 5 Sundays in May 2020, 2021 and 2022.



July 2022

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
 115 E Penn St., Martinsburg, PA 16662-1127
 814-793-2413



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 5th Sun. after Pentecost 9:00 am Outside Worship 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5 6:30 pm Stewardship Mtg., Zoom	6 1-4 pm Pastor in Office 5:00 pm Yoga, FH	7 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	8 Pastor's Sabbath	9
10 6th Sun. after Pentecost 9:00 am Outside Worship 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	11	12 Martinsburg Ag Parade	13 1-4 pm Pastor in Office 5:00 pm Yoga, FH	14	15 Pastor's Sabbath	16
17 7th Sun. after Pentecost 9:00 am Outside Worship 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	18 6:30 pm Social Ministry via Zoom	19	20	21 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	22 Pastor's Sabbath	23
24 8th Sun. after Pentecost 9:00 am Outside Worship 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	25	26 12:30-3:00 pm Knotty Ladies, QR	27 10:00 am Employee Mtg., FH 1-4 pm Pastor in Office 5:00 pm Yoga, FH	28	29 Pastor's Sabbath	30
Synod Youth Gathering.				Allegheny Synod Youth Gathering. Pastor Traci will be out of town at Youth Gathering.		
31 9th Sun. after Pentecost 9:00 am Outside Worship 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary				FH—Fellowship Hall CE-Christian Ed Office CL-Church Lounge QR-Quilt 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		