



Greetings People of God:

Although I am not much of an athlete myself, I have always been a huge fan of the Olympics, and the Winter Olympics in particular. I subscribed to the streaming service for the month just to be able to watch, and this was the second Olympic Games for which I found the pattern and knitted the USA Team uniform hats for the Opening and Closing ceremonies. I'll never win a medal, but I love to see others achieve that goal.



This year I was particularly impressed by the good sportsmanship and true team spirit of (most of) the participants. I watched serious medal-contenders who had not made the podium cheer for teammates with as much enthusiasm as if they had just medaled themselves. I watched athletes who were in danger of being bumped off the podium react in genuine dismay when the teammate who was expected to best them fell. I appreciated the humility with which competitors spoke of both their achievements and their shortcomings—their understanding that though hard work and perseverance are vital, both natural ability and circumstances play a huge role in Olympic success; it takes a ton of resources and a supportive community to get an athlete to the games, and many talented people simply don't have those advantages.



To see the world come together at a time when so much tries to drive us apart was good for the soul—a reminder that humanity is all on one team; ultimately, we thrive together or not at all. The first gospel lesson we will read this month reminds us that God so loved the world. The world, not one nation, race, or religion. May we see the image of God in all people and work for the mutual flourishing of all those whom God loves—which means everyone.

*Peace,
Pastor Traci*



Saturday, March 7th before you go to bed.

A Stewardship Minute

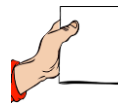


The March issue of *Stewardship* reminds us that the Lenten season is a time for remembering Christ's gift of salvation for us. "During Lent, let us remember true giving involves sacrifice, it is unselfish and it is ongoing." Have you ever known anyone who gave in such a manner? There are such dedicated people.

For instance, a retired pastor was asked to tell about an old saint he had known who was truly dedicated to God named Frank Jones. Mr. Jones was in his nineties and lived alone, yet he was never lonely. In fact, every time the pastor visited him, he found other people coming and going from Frank's home. Old people who had lost a mate loved having fellowship with old Frank. Frank was a cheerful man, warm-hearted, and a true lover of God. His mail carrier always was invited into Frank's home. He would sit for a while, sometimes drinking tea that Frank had prepared for him and always left with a feeling of joy. Frank had worked on the railroad. One of his legs had been badly injured while still a young man. Invariably as the pastor stood to leave, Frank would hand him an offering for the church. Once the pastor said to him, "Frank, it is wonderful that you want to give to the church. But, the church is in good shape now, why don't you keep it to meet some of your own needs?" Frank smiled and replied, "I am very glad the church is doing well and may not need my gift. But for my soul's sake, I need to give my offering."

Prayer: *Almighty and ever-loving God, please instill in each of us the awareness that we need to be good stewards for our soul's sake. Amen*

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

Thank you

Thanks so much for the gift cards. John and I will use them well in our retirement.

**Shalom,
Bishop Collins**

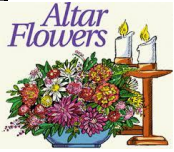
Thank you

***To the congregations of the Allegheny Synod
from Mt. Calvary, Johnstown:***

We are deeply grateful for your support, encouragement, prayers, and physical presence as we were honored to host Bishop Shock's installation service. While our facility was the site, it was a memorable event for all of us in the Allegheny Synod.

A special thanks to the amazing Lutheran cookie bakers and to the folks who made Bishop Shock's congratulatory bulletin board happen. It was a blessing for all of us to be able to work together to honor our new Bishop.

***To adapt a familiar quote: It takes a Synod!
Thank you one and all.***



The 2026 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.

If you would like a Sunday(s) you can also call the church office at 814-793-2413.



Social Ministry Committee Corner

Happy March, Spring is coming.

Social Ministry Committee members will be coordinating and delivering the Lenten meals to our homebound. Lenten Menu has been posted.

2026 Mending Ministry will resume Wednesday March 18. 2-4 pm at St. Matthew.

Sarah Detwiler is coordinating with the Altar Guild updating our Chrismons for the Christmas season. Volunteers are needed for this project. The first work session will be March 18th with Mending Ministry. This project will continue throughout the year.

Save the Date:

Young at Heart Dinner
July 21. At noon.

Theme for this year Hawaiian.

Pastor Traci and members from Christian Education and Social Ministry are working on how to provide summer fun/camp for youth in our community.

Let us spend the month of March preparing meaningful time with God in scripture and prayer.

Lottie Ebersole,
Social Ministry Chairman

Martinsburg Food Pantry

Volunteers from Martinsburg Grace Brethren Church will be helping at the Food Pantry on the first and third Thursdays, March 5 and March 19, besides the regular helpers. It will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., and Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. by appointment.



The food items most needed for March are: Juice, Hamburger Helper, Pancake Mix, Pancake Syrup, and Paper Towels. These or any items can be placed in the food basket at church.

Many thanks!
Linda Smith

Birthdays for March

- 1 Rebecca Moore
- 2 Sal I. Lamborn
- 3 Linda L. Lehman
- 4 Carla Brumbaugh
- 5 M. Jane Staily
- 6 Patricia Russell
- 9 Brock Frederick
Lyndsay Tremmel
- 10 Sadie Freyer
Jessica Close
Sondra Ursiak
- 11 Ann Irvin
Daniel S. Kensinger
- 12 Alan A. Brubaker
Pat Mountain
- 13 Misty J. Smith
Rhyvan Tremmel
Katie Zimmerman

- 16 Roy W. Creps
- 17 Sharon E. Frederick
- 20 Thomas D. Brown
- 22 Matthew K. Buchart
- 23 Lucas Jon Gilbert
- 25 Betty Selby
- 26 Kay L. McGraw
- 28 Erik B. Snyder
- 29 Erin N. Gates

Anniversaries in March

- 8 Dwight & Yong Mi Johnson
- 9 Thomas D. & Linda J. Brown
- 16 Nicholas & Erin Gates
Jeffrey & Sharon Hicks
- 22 Jack & Kay Howsare
- 25 Bill & Betty Selby

2026 COUNCIL DIRECTORY AND MINISTRY STAFF

All phone numbers start with (814) unless otherwise noted.

Pastor	Rev. Traci Marriott	935-9267	Evangelism	Peggy Steinfurth	515-6205
Admin. Assistant	Jen Ripka	935-3801	Stewardship	Vacant	
Assistant Admin. Assist	Laura Orzeck	224-1208	Finance	Jim Barley	793-4623
President	Greg Haffling	793-9827	Social Ministry	Lottie Ebersole	232-6665
Vice President	Don Bulger	329-3412	Worship & Music	Tina Harclerode	317-5312
Secretary	Carla Brumbaugh	932-4082	Staff Support	Beckie Erb	312-7087
Treasurer	Beth Garner	932-4156	Sexton	Phil Claar	215-0885
Property	Paul Decker	330-6345			
Christian Ed.	Amanda Decker	934-8798			

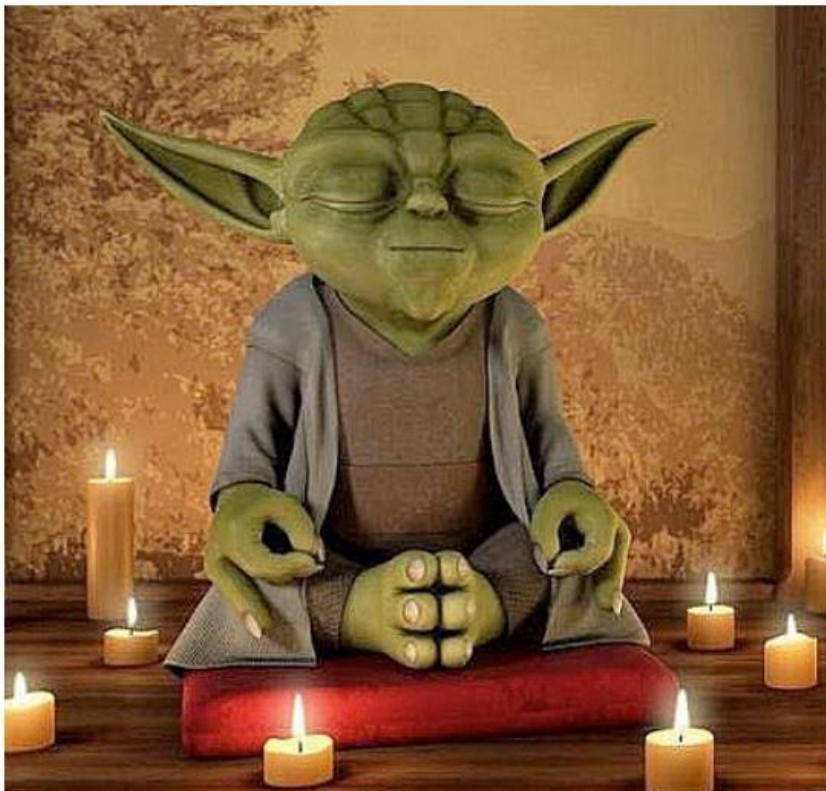
Highlights by Council February 2026

1. Jim Barley and Peggy Steinfurth will represent St. Matthew as voting members at Synod Assembly on June 20.
2. Bishop Kevin will be preaching at St. Matthew on Sunday, April 12. There will be a light lunch and fellowship time following the service.
3. A baked potato bar followed by board games is scheduled for Sunday, March 15 following the worship service.
4. Confirmation classes have started back up after a break for the holidays. Classes are scheduled to be finished by May 31. There are 7 youth attending classes.
5. The adult Sunday School class will take a break from their usual lesson book to do a Lenten Study.
6. The Young at Heart dinner is scheduled for July 21 with a Hawaiian theme.
7. The Social Ministry committee will be updating the Chrismons, as well as mending and serving meals to homebound during Mending Ministry to be held in the months of April, May, June, August, and October.
8. The Evangelism committee sent Valentines to homebound members and to those on the prayer list. The committee continues to provide greeters for Sunday worship service.
9. CPR and AED training will be scheduled sometime this Spring.
10. The council agreed to allow Lifeline screening to use the fellowship hall on Thursday, June 4..

SERVING GOD AND US
March 2026

Date	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29 Palm Sunday
Acolytes	Norah Kuster	Lily Lightner	Ben Decker	Lucy Lightner	Gabby Decker Lily Lightner Lucy Lightner
Lectors	Martie Gilbert	Peggy Steinfurth	Shawn Orczeck	Elaine Smith	Greg Haffling
Altar Guild	Tonya Walter Tina Harclerode	Tonya Walter Tina Harclerode	Tonya Walter Tina Harclerode	Tonya Walter Tina Harclerode	Tonya Walter Tina Harclerode
Audio/Video	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster
Assist. Min.	Lottie Ebersole	Greg Haffling	Dawn Alexy	Jane Hoenstine	Shawn Orczeck
Ushers	Greg Haffling	Steve Oswalt	Dennis Smith	Paul Decker	Randy McGraw

RETURN OF THE YOGA



Join Pastor Traci
in the Fellowship Hall
for Gentle Yoga
for All Abilities

Tuesdays In March:
3rd, 24th, 31st at 6PM

&

Every Wednesday
in March at 7PM-ish,
Following Lenten
Worship

**St. Matthew's 4th Annual
St. Patrick's Good Luck Game Day
& Baked Potato Bar**



Baked Potatoes,
Toppings, Drinks
& Desserts
Provided

Bring Your
Favorite
Board Game Or
Card Game

Talk-O Tuesday



Fellowship, Food, & Faith Conversation
Tuesday, March 17th at 6PM
La Fiesta at the Airport
RSVP to the office by Noon

Community Mending Ministry at St. Matthew

 *Favorite clothing in need of repair?* 
Give it another chance!

Bring laundered clothes that need mending to work on yourself or get help from our sewers. Materials, machines, & expertise provided.
And we'll have snacks!

Wednesday, March 18th
2PM to 4PM

St. Matthew Lutheran Martinsburg Fellowship Hall
115 E Penn Street (Maple Street Parking Lot)

Save the Date...


The Weekend.

Allegheny Synod Youth Event
December 11-13, 2026
St. James Lutheran Church & Comfort Inn
Huntingdon, PA



March 2026
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
1 <u>2nd Sunday in Lent</u> 9:30 am Sunday School Catechism 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	2	3 4-6 pm Pastor in Office 6 pm Yoga, FH	4 3-5 pm Pastor in Office 5:30 pm Lenten Supper, FH 6:30 pm Worship, FH 7 pm Yoga, FH	5 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	6 Pastor's Sabbath	7
8 <u>3rd Sunday in Lent</u> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	9	10 4-6 pm Pastor in Office 6:30 pm Council Mtg., WR/Zoom	11 3-5 pm Pastor in Office 5:30 pm Lenten Supper, FH 6:30 pm Worship, FH 7 pm Yoga, FH	12	13 Pastor's Sabbath	14
15 <u>4th Sunday in Lent</u> 9:30 am Sunday School Catechism 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary 11:30 am—? St. Patrick's Game Day & Lunch FH	16	17  6:00 pm Talk-O Tuesday, La Fiesta, Airport	18 2-4 pm Mending Ministry 3-5 pm Pastor in Office 5:30 pm Lenten Supper, FH 6:30 pm Worship, FH 7 pm Yoga, FH	19 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	20 Pastor's Sabbath	21
22 <u>5th Sunday in Lent</u> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	23 6:00 pm Worship & Music Mtg, via Zoom	24 4-6 pm Pastor in Office 6 pm Yoga, FH	25 3-5 pm Pastor in Office 5:30 pm Lenten Supper, FH 6:30 pm Worship, FH 7 pm Yoga, FH	26	27 Pastor's Sabbath	28
29 <u>Palm Sunday</u> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	30	31 4-6 pm Pastor in Office 6 pm Yoga, FH	FH—Fellowship Hall CE-Christian Ed Office CL-Church Lounge QR-Quilt Room WR- Window Room K—Kitchen In case of emergency, Pastor Traci maybe reached at 814-935-9207 Jen will be in the Office Mon.-Fri. from 9:00 am-12:00 pm			