



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 site: www.stmatthewlc.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmatthewlc

Volume 66

APRIL 2026

Number 4

Greetings People of God!

The other day (for just one day) the weather was so warm I cracked the window. So I woke up to the sound of birds chirping—the first I'd noticed this year. The next day Francis the cat was beside himself watching two large robins that had perched on the back porch. Even after a few more days of cold and a couple snow flurries, yesterday I noticed the first yellow blooms on the neighbors' forsythia. Signs of new life are everywhere.

We celebrate Easter when those of us who live in the Northern Hemisphere are just beginning to enjoy warmer temperatures, first flowers, and the re-greening of a landscape that has been dull and dreary for months—except for the occasional brightening of snow. Because it's determined by the lunar calendar, the exact date of Easter varies each year, but the range of possible dates always coincides with the return of obvious growth and life to our natural world.

Yet, Jesus' resurrection was anything but natural. In this season we are reminded that only two things are ever certain—death and taxes—then God goes and defeats death! (We're still waiting for God to deal with the taxes.) The worst thing we could imagine for ourselves or our loved ones (I'm back to talking about death now, not the taxes) is no match for the God of love and life. How great is God who is mightier than our most feared foe!

Let's not list Easter among the annual signs of Spring lest we think of it coming with the same predictability as the blooming flowers or returning robins. In the resurrection, God did the unpredictable and turned the world upside down; who knows what God will do next?!

Peace,
Pastor Traci

*Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.” —Matthew 28:10 (NRSVue)

In Matthew’s Gospel Mary Magdalene and the other Mary go to see the tomb on the morning after the sabbath. Matthew also tells us clearly that these two women are eyewitnesses to his death, his burial, and the sealing of the tomb. They know that he is dead and where his body has been placed. They also know that they will not see him again.

Yet on that morning when God upends all our human knowledge and expectation, they do see him again, and he is alive! Rather than prove them to be unreliable sources, Jesus gives them new information, good news: “go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

There they will see me. Where they had already watched him in ministry; where he had first called his disciples; in their hometowns; among their people; there they will see me.

This is not merely a promise for the immediate time after his resurrection; this is eternal promise. After he ascends to the Father; as they continue his ministry; while they teach and proclaim and baptize in his name; there they will see me.

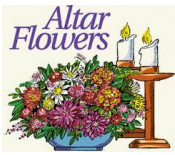
This is eternal promise for us, as well. In our congregations; out in our neighborhoods and communities; where we are called to proclaim good news; as we carry out the ministry he has given us: Jesus says, “There they will see me.”

This year, hear the message that Jesus gave to Mary and the other Mary. Wherever you gather, however you celebrate the resurrection to new life, whomever you are with, we pray that you see Jesus, and in seeing him, you receive new life. Blessings to you this Easter season.

In the peace of our risen Christ,

+Bishop Kevin and the Office of the Bishop Staff:

Dn. Alicia, Pr. Tyler, Pr. Marty Jo, Pr. Traci, Dn. Sue Ellen, Pr. John, and Michelle



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. 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.

Martinsburg Food Pantry



Volunteers from Clover Creek of the Brethren will be assisting, along with the regular helpers to distribute items on the first and third Thursdays, April 2 and April 16. The pantry will be open from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m. and other times by appointment.

Most needed items for April are Pasta Sauce, Scalloped Potatoes, Baked Beans, Peanut Butter and Cleaning Supplies. We appreciate all items that are donated!

*Thank you!
Linda Smith*

Many thank yous for the cards, texts and personal expressions of sympathy regarding the death of my brother, Rev. H. Richard Barley.

Jim Barley

Dear Jane & All Your Wonderful Helpers,

Thank you all for such a wonderful meal you graciously served my family & friends during our time of fellowship and celebration of Audrey's life.

*Love Always,
The Dan Kensinger Family*



April 2026

There is a delightful story of one man's generosity in the April issue of *Stewardship*. He and his family attended a small church that had no cool air in the summertime. His son noticed that worshipers were very uncomfortable. One Sunday when the people came to worship, however, everyone noticed that a large fan had been placed overhead in the sanctuary. The pastor said that an anonymous person was responsible for the fan and he was sure that they would be grateful. After worship, a boy asked his mother whom she guessed was the donor of the fan. The mother whispered in his ear saying "It was your father." Of course the lad was proud of his father's generosity. He never forgot the gift.

Sometime ago an Oklahoma newspaper carried a story about a local Jewish congregation that held its first worship service in their new synagogue. It was a very hot summer day and those present became uncomfortable from the heat. The layman leading the affair said that he knew everyone was pleased with the beautiful building, but acknowledged that they were all bothered by the heat. He said, "What we need is a large air conditioning unit, don't you think?" Heads nodded positively. "I have a proposal to make," the leader said. "I believe that we can raise enough money to make this a cool and comfortable place to worship. Who will be first to call out the amount they will contribute to help us all be comfortable?" Immediately members of the congregation started calling out amounts they would give. It was not long until the leader said, "I have been adding up the amounts of your generosity. We now have enough to make us all comfortable when we come to worship!" Then he walked over to a wall where there was a switch that controlled an air conditioner and flipped it on!

Prayer: *Gracious Lord, you help us to meet our own needs. Please help us to do what we can to help others in need. Amen*

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

St. Matthew Welcomes

Bishop Kevin Shock

Sunday, April 12th for 10:30AM Worship
Followed by Lunch in the Fellowship Hall



Kevin Shock, Bishop of the Allegheny Synod, will preach on the 2nd Sunday of Easter & share in fellowship & a light lunch following worship. Come & get to know Bishop Kevin!

Talk-O Tuesday



Fellowship, Food, & Faith Conversation
Tuesday, April 7th at 6PM
La Fiesta at the Airport
RSVP to the office by Noon



Social Ministry Committee Corner

Lenten Meals

Many thanks to the Committee Chairman, members and Pastor Traci who assisted in making the 2026 Lenten Meal's a success.

We averaged 18 attending at the church and 10 takeouts for the home bound.

Mending Ministry

The next Mending Ministry will be Wednesday April 15 from 2-4 pm.

Social Ministry Committee will provide a takeout meal for our home bound members if they desire.

Mending Ministry will be held the third Wednesday also in May, June, August and October. In addition to mending we will provide a light meal for our homebound. Volunteers are welcome to deliver the meals. By delivering a meal you have an opportunity to visit and provide fellowship with a member who no longer can attend Sunday worship.

Coming Events:

Young at Heart Dinner

Tuesday July 21, 2026 at noon.

A delicious meal and entertainment have been planned around a Hawaiian theme.

Community Breaking Bread Meal

Monday September 14, 5 pm at the Church of God.

May the love of Christ fill our hearts and we take the time to share his love with others with acts of kindness.

Social Ministry Committee

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, April 15th
2PM to 4PM**

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

See what is going on in the Synod!

Blair-Huntingdon Conference Spring Caucus Meeting
Thursday, April 30th at 7PM
The Lutheran Home, Hollidaysburg

Assembly Voting Members are requested to attend this meeting in preparation for June's Assembly, but everyone is welcome to come hear about what is happening in the Synod.



Allegheny Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Save the Date...

The Weekend.

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

Sequanota Events

More information can be found online at <https://sequanota.com/>



Happy Camper Fun Run - 5K Campership Fundraiser *April 25, 2026*

Cost: \$50/participant

Run/Walk at home virtually or come to Sequanota and choose one of two race course options (road and trail). Grab a [pledge form](#) and ask friends and family to sponsor you as you sprint, skip, shimmy, swim, bike, canoe, roller blade, walk, or hike for Sequanota. Cabins will be available to rent for the weekend.

PROCEEDS WILL PROVIDE CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS THIS SUMMER.

Our goal is to raise \$7,500 from this 5K to fund 15 Bring a Friend Free scholarships. Encourage your local congregation, youth group, or family to participate with you.

Love your Mother (Earth) Day

Date: April 25, 2026

Cost: Lodging and meals by donation.

We all need to be outside more. Whether it is a five minute walk, resting by a stream, or a new year's goal to hike more - nature tells us who we are and whose we are. Join us this weekend for a 5K walk through nature as it springs to life, some Bible study, tree planting and an engaging session on how practicing our role in caring for our home. We only have one planet - this weekend is designed to help us appreciate and take ideas home to live more faithfully as a steward of it. This year there will not be any scheduled events on Sunday.

There is not a set fee for this weekend retreat. Please attend and donate as you are able to offset the cost of lodging and meals. The Happy Camper Fun Run 5K registration is separate. All proceeds for the 5K benefit Summer Camp Scholarships.

Suggested Donation:

\$50/room or cabin

\$10/person - lunch

All are welcome! Register online or call the office.

Spring Benefit Dinner

May 1, 2026

Suggested donation of \$60/person

4:45 PM Tours of camp

5:30 PM Appetizers & Trivia Time

6:00 PM Dinner

6:45 PM Entertainment & Annual Report

An evening of fellowship to support camp and raise money to help kids attend summer camp. Three meal options for those attending in person: two meat options, one vegetarian. Please choose one when RSVP-ing. If you are unable to attend in person but would like to hear a camp update, please join us on Zoom for summer staff introductions, camp songs, and the annual report presentation.

Mother's Day Banquet

Sunday, May 10, 2026

2 Seatings: 11:30 AM or 1:30 PM -- Reservations required

Cost: Free will donation.

This tradition has been happening for over 15 years at camp. We all want to go out and celebrate together, but the restaurants wait lines can be long. Bring your mom and your whole family to camp. We have two seatings 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. We can handle big and small families. Call for a reservation and your table will be waiting for you. Afterwards go for a hike or sit around and enjoy the day under a shade tree telling stories. Contact the camp office to make a reservation for your group. RSVP: (814) 629-6627

The Tend Festival

June 25-28, 2026

Where are you filling up your faith? As the church begins to shift to live in our new post-Christian culture. God's people still need a place to be inspired and grow in our faith. It is hard to do weekly Sunday school or Bible study. Come to the Tend Festival to share in intentional time of faith discussions, good music, art, worship, ecology and fellowship. We all still need community support and nurture and this event has been a great way to find that community. This event will have an open schedule allowing participants the freedom to pick what is right for them. It will include options for multiple workshops, open recreation & hiking, food and time to refresh yourself and the family.

ENDOWMENT FUND



THIRD CENTURY FUND (ENDOWMENT FUND)

The Third Century Fund is seeking individuals or committees who are in the need of funding for education, worship or capital projects. You or your committee may request funding in writing by contacting Laura Orczeck, chairperson, or committee members: Allen Kuster, Barb Wilt, Beth Garner, or Pastor Traci.

Deadline to submit a request is Sunday, May 24, 2026. Funds will be distributed in June of 2025.

The following is from the by-laws of the Third Century Fund and outline the guidelines for fund requests.

PURPOSE

The St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund is established to encourage responsible Christian stewardship and to promote the mission of the congregation. In response to God's love and mercy, the Endowment Fund seeks to enhance and expand the mission outreach objectives of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church. Members and friends of St. Matthew congregation are encouraged to practice responsible Christian Stewardship by making contributions to the Endowment Fund. There are a variety of ways such gifts can be made such as cash, securities, bequests through wills or living trusts, life insurance policies, charitable gift annuities and life estates. The Endowment Fund provides financial support for the church in a manner that is separate from the expenditures normally funded by the annual operating budget of the congregation.

USE OF THE FUND

All contributions to the St. Matthew Lutheran Church Endowment Fund will be undesignated and added to the principal balance of the fund. The Endowment fund principal balance will be retained and only the dividend income will be used for annual disbursements. Consideration for awarding fund requests will be given using the following guidelines:

1. Youth of all ages - scholarship support of congregational members and their children; for youth events, for church camps or similar Christian programs, and education.
2. Christian outreach ministries and missions of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, its members, and the ELCA.
3. Worship and Music - support for the worship of St. Matthew.
4. Capital Projects - major renovations or building projects of St. Matthew.

SERVING GOD AND US

April 2026

Date	April 2 <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	April 5 <i>Easter Sunday</i>	April 12	April 19	April 26
Acolytes		Ben Decker Gavin Kuster Norah Kuster	Mace Baker	Norah Kuster	Gabby Decker
Lectors					
Altar Guild	Elaine Buchart Jean Sinal Jane Fagans	Elaine Buchart Jean Sinal Jane Fagans	Elaine Buchart Jean Sinal Jane Fagans	Elaine Buchart Jean Sinal Jane Fagans	Elaine Buchart Jean Sinal Jane Fagans
Assist. Min.	Elaine Smith	Jane Fagans	Lottie Ebersole	Jean Sinal	Stacy Kuster
Offering Counters	Beth Garner Jim Barley	Beth Garner Jim Barley	Beth Garner Jim Barley	Beth Garner Jim Barley	Beth Garner Jim Barley
Audio/Video	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster
Ushers		Martie Gilbert	Ed Kreider	Jeff Garner	Stanley Smith

April Birthdays

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Amanda Decker | 5 Jay Hoenstine | 14 Elaine Hoover |
| Paul Helsel | 6 Wendy McCauley | 15 Mary Jane Allison |
| James C. Walter | 7 Abby Carder | 17 Michael Lamborn |
| 3 Rachel L. Kensinger | Camden Kuster | James Russell |
| 4 Jane S. Carpenter | Dan Ross | 20 Ruth E. Johnson |
| Makaila Tremmel | 12 Robert P. Dickson | 21 Miles I. Lamborn |
| | Keith A. McGraw | 23 Randy C. McGraw |

April Anniversaries

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 17 Bruce & Brandi Ross | 25 Jim & Pam Russell |
| 20 Matt & Samantha Freyer | 25 Wade T. & Michele M. Smith |

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 Orczeck	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 March 2026

1. Jacob Orczeck has been and will continue working to improve and update the AV equipment in the Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, and Window Room. Thanks Jacob!
2. St. Matthew's website will include a link to information about the local scout troop.
3. The AED has new batteries and pads and will be available, in case of an emergency.
4. Look for information on CPR and AED training to be made available soon.



The flyer features a dark blue header with the Life Line Screening logo and tagline 'The Power of Prevention'. Below the header, there are three circular images: a healthcare professional performing a screening on a patient, a smiling couple embracing, and a man and woman looking at a laptop. The main text is white and blue, providing event details. A dotted line separates the event information from the screening description.

**You're invited to a
Life Line Screening event!**

Where: St Matthew Lutheran Church
115 E Penn St
Martinsburg, PA 16662

When: Thursday, June 4, 2026
June is Men's Health Month

Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in **Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk** Screenings.

Trusted by over 11 million customers.

Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

Who should attend:

Anyone **age of 40+**

Special Pricing for \$129

- ♥ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- ♥ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening

4 ways to book your appointment...

Call **800-324-9458** and use
promo code **HABC001**

Visit  **LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC**




Text the word **"circle"**
to **216-279-1607**

These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease. Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.



April 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
5 <u>The Resurrection of Our Lord</u> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	6 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 814-935-9267 Jen will be in the Office Mon.-Fri. from 9:00 am-12:00 pm	7 3-5pm Pastor in Office  6:00 pm Talk-O Tuesday, La Fiesta, Airport	1 8	2 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St. 7 pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service	3 6 am-6 pm Prayer Vigil 7:00 pm Tenebrae Service	4 11
12 <u>2nd Sunday of Easter</u> Worship with Bishop Kevin followed by Lunch in the Fellowship Hall 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	13 6:30 pm Social Ministry Meeting., Zoom	14 4-6 pm Pastor in Office 6:30 pm Council Mtg., WR/Zoom	15 2-4 pm Mending Ministry	16 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	17 Fellowship Hall in Use <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> Pastor Traci continuing ed. Can be reached at 814-935-9267. </div>	18 Fellowship Hall in Use
19 <u>3rd Sunday of Easter</u> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	20 3-5pm Pastor in Office	21 3-5pm Pastor in Office	22 23	24 25	24 25	25
26 <u>4th Sunday of Easter</u> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	27 12:30-3:00 pm Knotty Ladies, QR 1-4 pm Pastor in Office	28 12:30-3:00 pm Knotty Ladies, QR 1-4 pm Pastor in Office	29 30	30 3-5pm Pastor in Office		