



Saint Matthew
LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Matthew's Messenger

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Number 8

Greetings, People of God:

I ran into a problem as I was preparing for one of my bible studies at Camp Nawakwa last week; although I had a printed outline of this summer's theme, I temporarily lost digital access to the curriculum for the age group I was going to be teaching. As I was hunting through computer files I found a lesson on the designated story...but it was from the 2019 curriculum. This prompted a conversation between a couple of us camp chaplains about how it's a big bible, but we don't study very much of it. I have worked with the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries curriculum in one way or another most years since my first summer as a counselor in 1997; it seems like in that whole time we've only rotated through about 20 stories.

However, the story in question was one of my favorites (Samuel anointing David, 1 Samuel 16), and I can certainly see why it was chosen for this year's theme and why it would be a good choice for a youth bible study in general. All scripture may be useful (2 Timothy 3:16), but not all of it is equally beloved. We gravitate toward certain passages as we tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love, as the song says.

A number of years ago, our siblings in the United Church of Christ adopted the slogan "God is still speaking" not to depart from scripture, but to listen to how the same stories we have read for generations speak to our current context. We work through the same lectionary over and over again in a three year cycle, yet each time I write a sermon, it's as if I'm reading the story for the first time—because, in a sense, I am! Neither I nor the world are the same as three years ago; still, God's living word speaks to us eternally.

What are some of the old, old stories you love? Read them again and discover what new truth God is communicating through them for this season of your life.

Peace,
Pastor Traci



Blessing of Backpacks and Those Who Carry Them
Calling all backpacks, briefcases, lunchboxes and those who carry them to join us Sunday, August 17th for a special blessing as we begin the new school year. Sunday, August 17th during the 9:30 a.m. worship service.

Dear Pastor Traci and Members of St. Matthew

During Ramon's illness of the past six months, the caring and comforting spirit of Pastor Traci and the St. Matthew family have been heart-felt of the enduring love of God for our family. Even though his last week was difficult for both him and his family, Pastor Traci was present to ease our pain and keep us grounded in our faith for eternal life. Now, in our time of bereavement, we wish to express our sincere gratitude for your prayers, cards, words of concern, visits, and gifts in his memory. May you be blessed to continue to share God's love with those of our church family and community.

*In Christian Love,
Kaye Burket and Family*



Dear Church Family,

I appreciate the generous gift from the Third Century Fund for my second year at the University of Richmond School of Law. Your continued support is inspiring as I continue my educational journey. This summer, I have been interning at the Chesterfield Commonwealth Attorney's Office in Virginia. During this internship, I have seen God's work in several ways within the Criminal Justice System. A strong example of seeing His work was when I had the opportunity to learn about Chesterfield County Jail's Helping Addicts Recover Progressively (HARP) program. The HARP program is a peer-to-peer recovery program offered in the County Jail and in the community that seeks to mitigate the negative impact on individuals with substance abuse disorders. The program is spiritually based and has been very successful in reducing recidivism by addressing the core addictions that have resulted in criminal activity. Participants attend educational and mental health classes, guide one another through their recovery journeys, and participate in devotional classes and virtual church services. It was deeply moving to hear from HARP participants as they shared how their growing relationship with God has played a significant role in their recovery, offering them vast amounts of hope as they plan to re-enter society. Again, thank you for your generous scholarship that will help foster my legal studies and experiences.

*Gratefully,
Olivia R. Day*

Martinsburg Food Pantry



Volunteers from the Martinsburg Mennonite Church will be helping to distribute food on the first and third Thursdays, August 7 and August 21 from 9:00am until 11:00am, along with the regular helpers.

If anyone harvests more vegetables or fruit than can be used, we will welcome it on the dates the pantry is open. We thank Camden for the green beans from his "Eagle Scout Garden"!

Food most needed for August: Juice, Pasta or Rice Sides, Fruit, Cereal, Peanut Butter

*Many thanks for all your donations,
Linda Smith*

School Supplies for Food Pantry (K-5)



The Food Pantry is providing school supplies, again, for school children in August.

The following items are needed, and you can place them in the school box in the narthex. Thank You!

- Crayola Crayons (24 colors)
- 12 pack of #2 pencils & large erasers
- Crayola washable markers (10 colors)
- Crayola colored pencils (24 color set)
- Highlighters (yellow, pink & green)
- Elmer's large glue sticks (.77 oz.)
- 8½x11 spiral notebooks (3 hole punched)
- Elmer's washable school glue (4 oz bottle)



A Stewardship Minute AUGUST 2025

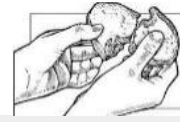
“Stewardship means responsible use of that which we hold in trust from God, but which God has loaned for our blessing and enrichment while on this earth.”

The newsletter called *Stewardship* always has articles that help us understand the true meaning of Christian stewardship. In the August issue there is a piece reminding us that stewardship is a matter of the heart. The article points out that in Luke 6:45, Jesus said: “The good man out of the good treasure of his heart produces good...” Basically, stewardship is a matter of having a good and loving heart; a heart that centers on serving God seriously with one’s whole being; a heart that puts our mind, talents, time, and resources to work on behalf of God’s kingdom on earth. The issue of *Stewardship* also has an article of a woman named Mary who was such a giving person that she was asked by a young girl “Why are you so nice to all of us?” Mary answered by saying “It is my way of thanking God for all that I have been given. Besides I get so much joy out of trying to help others.” Out of the good treasure of Mary’s heart, she was producing good.

What if every member of a church offered their heart, mind and strength to serve God seriously? That church would be a place of joy, a house filled with love, caring and good deeds of every sort. What if we went beyond the church, working for peace in this war-torn world? Good hearted Christians using the “good treasures” of their hearts would produce good. Remember this: “With God all things are possible.” (Matthew 19:26) In Mark 9:23, our Lord said “All things are possible to him who believes.” Let us think seriously about stewardship as a matter of the heart.

Prayer: Dear Lord, give us the mind and heart to believe that all things are possible with your guidance and help. In Christ's name we pray. **Amen**

A Stewardship Minute is available online: at
www.parishpublishing.org.



Breaking Bread

August 11, 2025

5:00 p.m.

Martinsburg Church of God

123 Market St., Martinsburg, PA 16662

Cost: FREE, Just like God’s Love!

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.



QR Code 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.

Share the Harvest



The “Share the Harvest” table is up and running. In the months to come, if you have extra fruit or vegetables to share with members of the congregation, please bring your items and place them on a table in the Narthex. Members will be able to help themselves to items as desired. Any remaining produce after Sunday morning will be given away at the discretion of the donor.

“Let us share God’s harvest with others.”



Dennis and Margie Smith were blessed with a 7th great grandchild on 7-22-25.

“Dove Strayer” is the granddaughter of Daniel &

Robyn Smith and the daughter of Britney & Dustin Strayer of Pittsburgh, PA.

SERVING GOD AND US AUGUST 2025

Date	August 3	August 10	August 17	August 24	August 31
Lectors	Allen Kuster	Elaine Smith	Dawn Alexy	Destarta Carberry	Gabby Decker
Altar Guild	Laura Orczeck	Laura Orczeck	Laura Orczeck	Laura Orczeck	Laura Orczeck
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	Ed Kreider	Randy McGraw	Dennis Smith	Jeff Garner	Martie Gilbert
Assist. Min.	Elaine Smith	Stacy Kuster	Jim Barley	Greg Haffling	Dawn Alexy

Anniversaries for August

04 Chris & Michelle Cronrath	11 Jimmy & Lori Reimer	25 Les & Sandy Loomis
06 Russell & Anita Hoover	13 Don & Christine Bulger	26 Richard & Cindy Snyder
07 Jessica & Jason Close	15 Barry & Carla Brumbaugh	29 Carlos & Amanda Lamborn
08 Jay & Mary Baker	18 Michael & Catherine Corcoran	30 John E. & Doris L. Waddick
	21 Matthew & Heather Nelson	

Birthdays for August

01 Laura Webb	14 Austin Replogle	24 Anita Hoover
05 Tracey Michelone	15 Jaelynn Tremmel	26 Connor Neely
06 Destarta Carberry	16 Dennis Brown	27 Calleigh Wright
08 Christopher Bush	Steve Oswalt	28 Gunnar Buchart
09 Sabrena Beyer	19 Linda Smith	30 Tina Harclerode
12 Benjamin Decker	20 Peggy Steinfurth	Matthew Parks
Jacob Russell	21 Erica Kaurudar	31 Rachel Bithell
13 Isaac Russell	Dr. Lanny Ross	Jamie Richardson
14 C J Gahagan		

2025 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	Vacant	
Treasurer	Beth Garner	932-4156	Sexton	Phil Claar	215-0885
Property	Paul Decker	330-6345			
Christian Ed.	Amanda Decker	934-8798			

NO HIGHLIGHTS BY COUNCIL. NO JULY MEETING.

Social Ministry Committee Corner



Young at Heart Luncheon had the following: a delicious meal, wonderful entertainment, new friendships made, and the youth at St. Matthew made a lasting impression for our guests.

Thank you to Social Ministry Committee members and everyone from St Matthew's who helped make Young at Heart Luncheon a success.

The next Mending Ministry will be on August 20 from 2 to 4 pm. Takeout will be provided for our home bound.

Community Meal: Additional help is needed in preparing and serving this meal. St Matthew is helping the Church of God by giving their help a night off. This meal will be on Monday September 8 at 5 pm. A brief meeting will be held following the worship service on August 24 to assign responsibilities.

Next Social Ministry Committee meeting will be Wednesday August 6 at 6:30pm via zoom.

Talk-O Tuesday



Fellowship, Food, & Faith Conversation
Tuesday, August 19th 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, August 20th
2PM to 4PM

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

Come enjoy fun, food, and fellowship
at

Lutheran Day at the Altoona Curve



Sunday, August 24

Buffet begins at 5pm

Game begins at 6 pm

Tickets - \$15/each

Price includes all-you-can-eat buffet one hour before the game at the first base picnic area at PNG Field and a Terrace level (200-level) game ticket. *Please note: Children 2 and under are free.*

Join us as the Altoona Curve celebrates faith of all kinds with a night full of unity, fellowship, and community spirit during Faith Night. Fireworks following the game! Kids 14 and under run the bases!

*Give orders and money to Jen in St. Matthew's office by Friday, August 8th so we can all get seats together.



August 2025
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 115 E Penn St., Martinsburg, PA 16662-1127
 Email: stmatthewmartinsburg@gmail.com 814-793-2413

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		30	31		1	2
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Pastor Traci on vacation. Pastor Ralph Hamer may be reached at 814-215-7333 for emergencies. </div>						
3 <u>8th Sun. after Pentecost</u> 9:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	4 Pastor Traci on vacation. Pastor Ralph Hamer may be reached at 814-215-7333.	5 Pastor Traci on vacation. Pastor Ralph Hamer may be reached at 814-215-7333.	6 3 PM Window Room in Use 6:30 pm Social Ministry Meeting, Zoom	7 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St. 10-am-1 pm Pastor in Office	8 RSV/P Deadline Synod Curve Game Pastor's Sabbath	9
10 <u>9th Sun. after Pentecost</u> 9:30 am Worship in Sanctuary Evangelism Committee meeting immediately following Worship	11 Pastor Traci on vacation. Pastor Ralph Hamer may be reached at 814-215-7333.	12 2-6 pm Pastor in Office 6:30 pm Council Mtg., WR/Zoom	13	14	15 Pastor's Sabbath	16
17 <u>10th Sun. after Pentecost</u> 9:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	18 Pastor Traci on vacation. Pastor Ralph Hamer may be reached at 814-215-7333.	19 2-5 pm Pastor in Office 6:00 pm Talk-O Tuesday, La Fiesta, Airport	20 Mending Ministry 2-4pm, FH	21 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	22 Pastor's Sabbath	23
24 <u>11th Sun. after Pentecost</u> 9:30 am Worship in Sanctuary Synod Curve Game 5 pm Buffet 6 pm Game	25 Pastor Traci on vacation. Pastor Ralph Hamer may be reached at 814-215-7333.	26 12:30-3:00 pm Knotty Lardies, QR	27 Pastor Traci continuing ed. 8/27-8/31. Pastor Ralph Hamer may be reached at 814-215-7333.	28	29 Pastor's Sabbath	30
31 <u>12th Sun. after Pentecost</u> 9:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	1 Labor Day Office Closed					
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Pastor Traci continuing ed. 8/27-8/31. Pastor Ralph Hamer may be reached at 814-215-7333. </div>						
FH—Fellowship Hall CE-Christian Ed Office CL-Church Lounge QR-Quilt Room WR- Window Room K—Kitchen In case of emergency, Pastor Traci may be reached at 814-935-9267						