



Saint Matthew
LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Matthew's Messenger

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

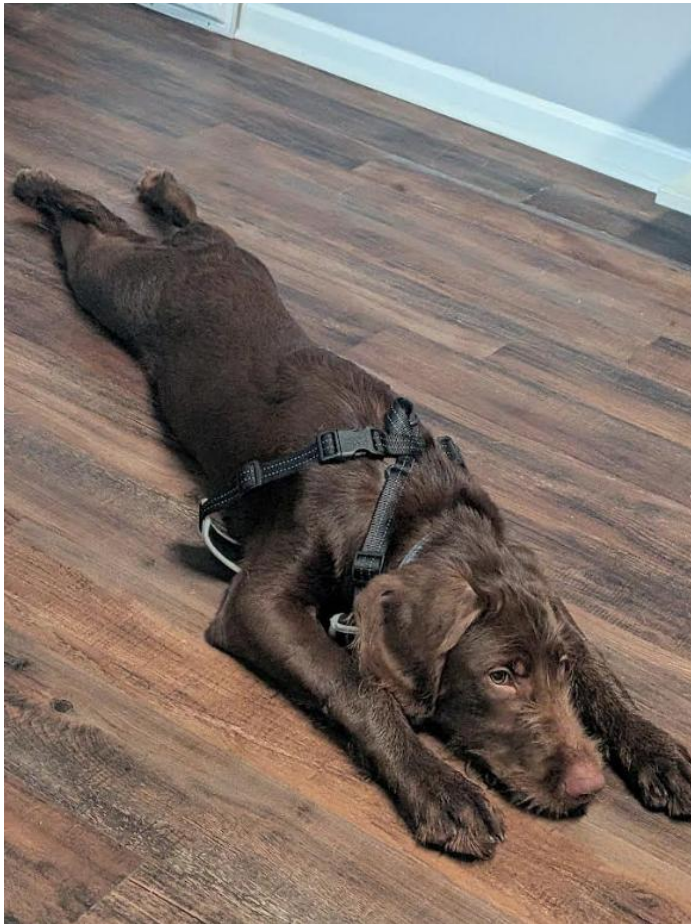
Phone 814.793.2413 • Fax 814.614.4003 • e-mail stmatthewmartinsburg@gmail.com

• web: www.stmatthewlc.com • Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmatthewlc

Volume 66

AUGUST 2026

Number 8



Greetings, People of God:

The other day someone asked me what was new, and I felt strange really having no answer. We had just spoken about Angus, my new dog, so they already knew about the main new thing in my life. Otherwise, it's been pretty much business as usual, which I don't mind at all. But their question made me feel as if I should have been able to point to some big, exciting news.

We have been working our way through the Sundays after Pentecost, what we sometimes call "ordinary" season, and Jesus's many parables about the kingdom of God. It is probably because Jesus talked to crowds of farmers and other laborers that he used so many comparisons to agricultural and domestic work—the predictable, everyday tasks that put food on the table and roofs over heads. Not new, not especially exciting, but ordinary and necessary.

Our culture teaches us to always be looking for (and usually buying) something new and flashy. With next day delivery and so much information available to us instantly, we rarely have to practice patience. It's easy for that rush to influence our spiritual lives as well; but Jesus doesn't tell us parables about quick fixes; faith isn't a destination we can fly to but a life-long journey.

Don't worry if you feel like taking it slow in these dog days of August. God uses the pace of ordinary summer days to bring about extraordinary harvests.

*Peace,
Pastor Traci*



Thank you to all who helped prepare and serve the meal following the funeral for our mother, Jean Stonerook. We greatly appreciate the nourishment provided and the compassion shown by you and other members of St. Matthew.

*Sincerely,
Karen, Dwight and family*



Dear Pastor and Fellowship Group,

Thank you for hosting the Young at Heart Luncheon. We deeply appreciate your hospitality. The food was delicious, the entertainment was wonderful, and most of all the kindness and generosity of God's helpers. Ben was a special delight!

Thank you again for including us in this special program.

Tim and Cathie Yingling

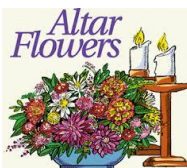


Volunteers Needed



Anne Stewart comes from Pittsburgh to Altoona to visit her parents, Jim and Janet Stewart, about every 3 weeks at Homewood. Would there be some drivers from St. Matthew willing to meet her at the train station and bring her to

Homewood and back to the train station? If interested, please contact her sister Laura at laramarinka@gmail.com



Please welcome Elaine Smith as the new flower chairwoman, replacing Margie Smith who is stepping aside after years of dedication. If there are any questions regarding altar

flowers, please contact Elaine at 434-981-0560.

The 2026 Altar Flower chart is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Altar Flowers are a perfect way to remember loved ones. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar. Price - \$40.00

Martinsburg Food Pantry



Volunteers from the Martinsburg Mennonite Church will be supplying the helpers to distribute food. We will meet on Thursdays, August 6 and August 20 from 9:00 - 11:00a.m.

If anyone harvests more vegetables or fruit than can be used, we will welcome it on the days the pantry is open. Appreciate fresh produce!

Items most needed for August:
Juice, Mashed Potatoes (packages), Green Beans, Ravioli and Pasta Sauce

*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 packs of #2 pencils and large erasers
- Crayola washable markers (10 colors)
- Crayola colored pencils (24 color set)
- Highlighters (yellow, pink, green)
- Elmers large glue sticks (.77oz)
- Spiral notebooks (3 hole punched)
- Elmer's washable school glue (4oz bottle)



A Stewardship Minute AUGUST 2026

“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 August issue of *Stewardship* has a statement that rings very true. It is this: “Stewardship requires us to acknowledge always the source of each gift that has been received and each possession that has been accumulated.” That means that whatever we have in terms of our body, brain power, possessions, or the use of our time, should be used to glorify and serve our loving Creator.

Whenever we pray the Lord’s Prayer, we say: “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Just how should we do our part to make the Kingdom become a reality? Doesn’t it require God’s people to live as Christ wants us to live: praying, planning, building, serving, giving our time, talent, and other resources to make the Kingdom of God a reality?

That is true stewardship ... or would be, if we did our part on earth as it is in heaven. True stewardship will happen when we say seriously:

“Here I am, Lord, use me any way you need me. And thank you, dear Lord, for everything you have blessed me with: my life, my loving family, my friends, my ability to work, and to use any talent and resources I have to help where they are needed. And finally, I want to thank you for the ability to serve in and through the church. Such work has brought immeasurable joy to me again and again.”

Prayer: We belong to you, dear Lord. Help us always to remember that wonderful reality. **Amen**

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

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.”



SERVING GOD AND US

AUGUST 2026

Date	August 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30
Lectors	Elaine Smith	Jane Hoenstine	Norah Kuster	Linda Smith	Carla Brumbaugh
Altar Guild	Tina Harclerode	Tina Harclerode	Tina Harclerode	Tina Harclerode	Tina Harclerode
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	Dennis Smith	Paul Decker	Randy McGraw	Martie Gilbert	Ed Kreider
Assist. Min.	Dawn Alexy	Greg Haffling	Elaine Smith	Jim Barley	Jane Hoenstine

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		

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	Pastor	Rev. Traci Marriott	935-9267
Christian Ed.	Amanda Decker	934-8798			

NO HIGHLIGHTS BY COUNCIL. NO JULY MEETING.

Social Ministry Committee Corner



A heartfelt Thank You to Social Ministry Committee members and everyone from St. Matthew who helped make the Young at Heart Luncheon a success.

The meal was delicious with delightful entertainment and lasting friendships.

The August Mending Ministry will be on Wednesday the 19th from 2 to 4 p.m.

Takeout will be provided for our homebound.

Menu: pork barbecue, macaroni salad and summer fruit.

Save the date: Monday September 14th at 5 p.m. members from St Matthew will be serving the community Breaking Bread Meal at the Church of God. Social Ministry Committee will need additional help with preparing, serving and clean up. The menu will be the same as last year with pizza casserole, salad, Italian bread and dessert.

Additional information will be provided September 1st.

Next Social Ministry Committee meeting will be August 24th at 6 p.m. via zoom.

Lottie Ebersole,
Social Ministry Committee Chairperson

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 19th
2PM to 4PM

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

St. Matthew Church Picnic

Sunday, August 23rd
at the Kreider Farm

Worship at 11AM, Lunch to Follow

Fried Chicken & Drinks Are Provided

*Please bring a lawn chair
& a side or dessert to share*

Talk-O Tuesday



Fellowship, Food, & Faith Conversation
Tuesday, August 25th at 6PM
La Fiesta at the Airport
RSVP to the office by Noon

Save the Date: God's work. Our hands. Sunday--September 13th

For this year's *GWOH* Sunday, together with the members of the other Blair-Huntingdon Conference churches, we will join the residents of the Lutheran Home in Hollidaysburg for worship and an ice cream sundae social.

Worship will be at 2PM at the Lutheran Home, outside if weather permits

Up to & including Sunday the 13th, we will collect prizes for Resident Bingo: candy, hand lotion, puzzle books, writing materials, small seasonal decorations

Join us and/or contribute to the collection



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Save the Date...

The Weekend.

Allegheny Synod Youth Event

December 11-13, 2026

St. James Lutheran Church & Comfort Inn
Huntingdon, PA



Allegheny Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

How has God gifted YOU with skills
& passion for our shared ministry?
We want to know!

Please complete the Allegheny Synod's Life Together Survey to help Bishop Kevin and his staff connect members of our synod with each other and the committees and teams working to spread God's love & light in the world. Access the survey with this QR code or on the Synod website. Contact your church office or the synod office for a paper copy.





August 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
2 <u>10th Sun. after Pentecost</u> 9:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	3 6:00 pm Worship & Music Mtg., via Zoom	4 2-5 pm Pastor in Office	5	6 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	7	8
9 <u>11th Sun. after Pentecost</u> 9:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	10	11 10 am-1 pm Pastor in Office NO COUNCIL MEETING	12	13	14	15
16 <u>12th Sun. after Pentecost</u> Backpack Blessing 9:30 am Worship in Sanctuary 6:00 pm Synod Curve Game	17	18 3-6 pm Pastor in Office 6:30 pm Council Mtg., WR/Zoom	19 2-4 pm Mending Ministry, FH	20 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	21	22
23 <u>13th Sun. after Pentecost</u> Church Picnic at Kreider Farm Worship 11:00 am, Lunch to Follow,	24 6:30 pm Social Ministry Meeting., Zoom	25  6:00 pm Talk-O Tuesday, La Fiesta. Airport	26 2-5 pm Pastor in Office	27	28	29
30 <u>14th Sun. after Pentecost</u> 9:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	31		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			