



Saint Matthew
LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Matthew's Messenger

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

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• web: www.stmatthewlc.com

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Volume 66

FEBRUARY 2026

Number 2

Greetings People of God:

Having just about dug out from Winter Storm Fern, and with the fervent hope that the worst of the dark, cold, and snow are behind us, I'm getting excited for a happier season and looking forward to that quintessential February holiday...Groundhog Day! (What holiday were you expecting me to say?)

Although there are obvious limits to rodent meteorology, it is fun to see what Punxsutawney Phil predicts for our future: six more weeks of winter or an impending thaw that's right around the corner. Thankfully, even if the answer is more winter weather, we know that Spring is coming: it hasn't failed us yet.

February will also see the beginning of our Lenten season—six penitential weeks before our celebration of new life. We are an Easter people, centered in the good news of the resurrection; but our annual Lenten pause helps us to reflect on what that Easter joy means for us. In a world that is not only literally but also figuratively cold, harsh, dangerous, and deadly, Jesus' journey to and through the cross and grave reminds us that sometimes our lives and our society need more than just a little spiffing up with spring cleaning; sometimes only death and resurrection will do.

Take heart and do not be overwhelmed in these times of trial; we know that hope is not in vain. Let us eagerly await the coming season of redemption, and may we answer God's call to be part of that redeeming work in this world that so desperately needs God's new way of life.

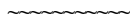
Peace,
Pastor Traci



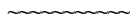
If services need to be cancelled for inclement weather, we will attempt to notify you using email (like we do for the Sunday Bulletin and Messenger) and Facebook. On days when the weather is questionable, please check these notifications before you travel. If you need a phone call instead, please let the office know.

Office Closure During Inclement Weather

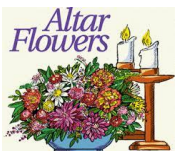
On days that the Spring Cove School District cancels or delays instruction due to weather, the church office will be closed as well. In the event of an emergency, Pastor Traci can be reached at 814-935-9237.



- Prayers and Christian Sympathy are requested for the family and friends of George Walker upon his death on Friday, January 2nd. George is husband of Elizabeth Walker, who is the daughter of Ronald Smith.
- Prayers of Christian sympathy and comfort are requested for the friends and family of Victoria Smith Fowler, who died Tuesday January 13th. Victoria is Rebecca Erb's sister.
- For comfort and sympathy, we pray for the friends and family of Patricia Winston who joined the saints of heaven early on Friday, January 16th.



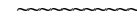
Altar Flowers



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

Annual Giving Statements

2025 Giving Statements will be available in the Narthex following Sunday services on February 1st and February 8th or can be picked up in the office during the week (please call before stopping in). Please review ASAP and contact the church office with any questions. Those not picked up by Monday, February 9th will be mailed.



Social Ministry Committee Corner

February the shortest month of the year is known for:

- Weather Predictions
- Valentine's Day
- The Sun shines longer each evening
- And this year we begin to prepare our hearts for Lent

The first Lenten meal will be February 25 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, hosted by Music and Worship Committee. They will be serving vegetable soup and ox roast sandwiches.

Social Ministry Committee will coordinate the takeout meals for the home bound. Home bound members will be contacted prior to the meal for the 2026 list.

Mending Ministry begins Wednesday March 18 from 2-4 p.m.

Additional volunteers are always welcome.

Social Ministry Committee will meet Monday February 9, 6:30 p.m. via zoom.

Our February Prayer:

May the cold days in February be filled with God's love and understanding. Help us find time for daily bible reading and meditation. Open our hearts to hear and receive your Word to help reflect your love to others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Lottie Ebersole
Social Ministry Committee Chairman

Cookie Donations Requested



Cookie donations are requested for Bishop Kevin's installation on February 7th. The cookies need to be at the church by Friday, February 6th at noon. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

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People of St. Matthew,

Thank you for the Christmas gift. I enjoy streaming services when I am needed and I really appreciate you thinking of me at Christmas!

*Jay Hoenstine*

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People of St. Matthew,

Thank you for the care packages full of goodies you sent during finals week. We really appreciated them and enjoyed them as we finished up our fall semesters. As always, we are grateful for your ongoing support.

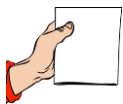
Jeff and Jay Hoenstine

~~~~~  
People of St. Matthew,

Thank you so much for the thoughtful care package you sent during finals week. It truly meant more than you know. My roommates and I were so grateful for the encouragement, treats, and reminders that we were being prayed for and supported. Finals is a stressful time, and your kindness brought us comfort and joy right when we needed it most.

*Lacey Ripka*

## 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.

The men and women of the Martinsburg Volunteer Fire Company would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" for your very generous donation.

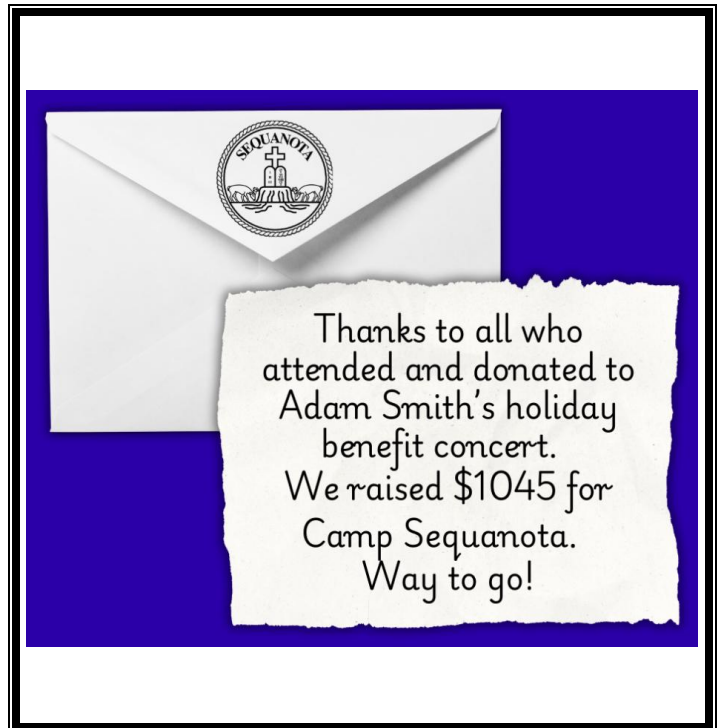
*Sincerely,*

*Tara Hoover, Financial Secretary*

*Thank you!*

~~~~~  
On behalf of the residents of the Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home, we would like to thank you for the generous donation to our Veterans' Holiday Fund program. Thank you for helping to make the holidays, and every day, a little brighter for the veterans and spouses who reside at HVH. We are indeed grateful for your support.

*Christina Dambeck, Commandant
Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home*





A Stewardship Minute FEBRUARY 2026

The February issue of Stewardship has several stories that really make a person think about what it means to be a dedicated Christian.

One article about a Christian lady named Madeleine who is a church volunteer in Boynton Beach, Florida sums it up. Unfortunately old age and illness has compelled her to cut back on her loving service, but the article says “she has faithfully blazed a trail of service to our congregation.” The writer of the article ends the piece by saying: “We are extremely grateful to our Lord who sent the gift of Madeleine to us and grateful to Madeleine who for years has shared her time and her many gifts with us and who is still quick to share a smile or a laugh.” She apparently is a full-time, joyful steward serving the Lord as best she can. This is another statement in Stewardship that stirred me to think seriously about how I spend my time and any talent I may have: “As we live from day to day, we are investing our time and talent in various things. Whatever we are doing had better be important. It costs us a day of our lives.”

St. Paul considered loving and serving God to be a very serious matter. Here are two quotes from St. Paul’s letter to the church at Rome, which ought to show the seriousness of serving or not serving the Lord: “We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.” The second quote explains what we each will face at the end of life: “For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.” I’d like to pass the test. Wouldn’t you?

Prayer: Loving Lord, please show us the way we should live each day so that on judgment day we will hear “Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your master.” **Amen**

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

Ways to Support St. Matthew

Offering Envelopes: These are mailed to our contributors at their homes monthly.

Personal Bank Drafts if you would like to use this method contact your bank and have the donation taken from your bank account and sent to St. Matthew (usually monthly automatic bank drafts from your checking account. **(There is no fee to the church or to you for this convenient donation.)**)

“Simply Giving” by Vanco. If you would like to use the on-line program of automatic bank drafts/debit card from your checking account. *(Forms are in the church office. Please see Jen. The church gets billed a monthly fee for this service.)*

Giving Online: Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions 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 “**Give**” button, (on the top white banner)
- 3) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.

Mobile Giving: Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions. Electronic giving offers convenience for individuals and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. Simply follow these easy steps:

- 1) Visit “**Play Store on your mobile device**”
- 2) Find the “**Vanco Payment**” app (this is free)
- 3) Click on the “**Install**” button
- 4) Open the app on your device
- 5) Follow the onscreen instructions to schedule your one time contribution or recurring contributions. *(There is a processing fee at the time of the transaction. You have the choice to pay the fee for the church or have the fee taken from your donation.)*



Martinsburg Food Pantry



Volunteers from Salem Church, along with regular volunteers, will be assisting with the distribution of food on Thursdays, February 5 and February 19, from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m..

The most needed items are: Beverages, Fruit, Pasta Sauce, Cleaning Products, and Paper Towels. We are grateful for the filled shelves!

Many thanks to those that helped at the two Thursdays in January: Amy and Greg Haffling, Ed Kreider and Dean Grubb, Jean Sinal, Peggy Steinfurth and Audrey Stern! Also, we thank and appreciate the monetary gifts of \$395. from St. Matthew Members!

Linda Smith

SERVING GOD AND US February 2026

Date	February 1	February 8	February 15 (Scout Sunday)	February 18 (Ash Wednesday)	February 22
Acolytes	Gavin Kuster	Mace Baker	Gabby Decker Lily Lightner Lucy Lightner		Ben Decker
Lectors	Gabby Decker	Destarta Carberry	Scouts	Carla Brumbaugh	Gavin Kuster
Ushers	Ed Kreider	Jeff Garner	Stanley Smith		Tina Harclerode
Audio/Video	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster
Altar Guild	Laura Orczeck Jackie Lightner	Laura Orczeck Jackie Lightner	Laura Orczeck Jackie Lightner	Laura Orczeck Jackie Lightner	Laura Orczeck Jackie Lightner
Assist. Min.	Jane Fagans	Lottie Ebersole	Steve Oswalt	Jean Sinal	Tina Harclerode



Birthdays for February

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Samuel L. Stahl | 9 Loy C. Replogle | 19 Barbara Moorhead |
| 2 Brian Brumbaugh | Gabrielle Decker | 20 Greg Dick |
| 4 Ashley Smith | 12 Jane L. Fagans | A J Hoenstine |
| 5 Mary K. Baker | Pam Russell | Dani Wright |
| Barbara J. Beyer | 13 Christine Bulger | 21 Jeffrey L. Garner |
| Olivia Day | 14 Steve Ebersole | 24 Walter I. Szymckec |
| Elaine Smith | Jeffrey K. Hite | 28 Eric R. Frederick |
| 6 Steve Claycomb | John H. Lear | Matthew Freyer |
| 7 Camden A. Hoover | 15 Richard Snyder | Allen Kuster |
| 8 Jenna Carder | 17 James R. Fagans | 29 Anne E. Stewart |
| Gavin Ross | James A. Stewart | |
| 9 Elizabeth Haffling | 18 Brett Buchart | |
| Casey J. Hoover | Kinsley Frederick | |



Anniversaries in February

- | |
|---------------------------|
| 10 Warren & Dottie Daniel |
| 13 Mark & Debra Guyer |
| 27 Jay & Laura M. Webb |

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	Becky 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 IN JANUARY 2026

1. Council appointed Tina Harclerode as chairperson of the Worship and Music committee for 2026.
2. Lenten services, along with a meal, will begin February 18.
3. The Mending Ministry will begin March 18, 2:00-4:00.
4. St. Matthew will offer a CPR training course in the future. Watch for more details on this important event.



ASH WEDNESDAY

9AM & 7PM

Service of Holy Communion With the Imposition of Ashes
+
Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return



St. Matthew Martinsburg Wednesday Lenten Schedule

5:30PM Dinner & 6:30PM Compline
All in the Fellowship Hall

February 25th ~ Vegetable Soup & Ox Roast

March 4th ~ Grilled Cheese & Tomato Soup

March 11th ~ Chili & Cornbread

March 18th ~ Potato Soup & Ham Sandwiches

March 25th ~ Chef's Choice

*Join us for food, fellowship, and worship
(about ½ hour) with a focus on prayer*



Talk-O Tuesday




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



February 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 4th Sun. after Epiphany 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	2 6:30 pm Social Ministry Meeting., Zoom	3 2-5 pm Pastor in Office	4 1-4 pm Pastor in Office	5 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	6 Pastor's Sabbath	7 Fellowship Hall in Use 1pm-5pm
8 5th Sun. after Epiphany 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	9 6:30 pm Social Ministry Meeting., Zoom	10 3-6 pm Pastor in Office 6:30 pm Council Mtg., WRZoom	11 Pastor Traci Continuing Ed 9am-3pm	12	13 Pastor's Sabbath	14 Fellowship Hall in Use 8am-1pm
15 Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	16	17 2-5 pm Pastor in Office 6:00 pm Talk-O Tuesday, La Fiesta, Airport 	18 Ash Wednesday Worship at 9am & 7pm	19 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	20 Pastor's Sabbath	21
22 1st Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	23	24 2-5 pm Pastor in Office 12:30-3:00 pm Knotty Ladies, OR	25 2-5 pm Pastor in Office Lenten Supper 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm	26	27 Pastor's Sabbath	28