



Saint Matthew
LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Matthew's Messenger

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

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JULY 2025

Number 7

Greetings, People of God:

By happy coincidence, as we begin this month wherein the United States celebrates Independence Day, the lectionary gifts us with these words from the book of Galatians:

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. (5:13)

Of course, when Paul talked about freedom he was not referencing civil or political freedom; he and his contemporaries still lived under the oppression of Roman occupation. However, Paul understood the gift of grace through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit to have made us spiritually free. Sin and death no longer have final authority over us; we are first and foremost subjects of Christ.

Regarding civil community, we are taught that demanding rights without responsibility isn't freedom but chaos. Paul's argument is similar; we were not made free for our own enjoyment; instead, we've been freed for the privilege of offering uncoerced love and service to others. Don't we enjoy donating to a charity more than we enjoy paying bills? We might be out the same amount of money, but gifting by choice is different than satisfying an obligation.

If you watch Fourth Of July fireworks this year, notice how the power of each explosion sends light outward. That should be our orientation as well: the Holy Spirit leading us to direct our energy and resources outward for the good of the whole community, not because we have to, but because we get to. As we gratefully remember our freedom, may we look for the ways God may be calling us to freely, selflessly serve others.

Peace,

✝Pastor Traci



Prayers for Christian sympathy and comfort are requested for Kaye Burket and family upon the death of Dr. Ramon Burket on Thursday, June 26th.

Martinsburg Food Pantry



The Food Pantry will be open for distribution of food on Thursdays, July 3 and July 17 from 9:00 until 11:00a.m. Volunteers from Brethren in Christ Church will be assisting, along with our regular volunteers.

Items most needed for July: Pancake Mix, Syrup, Ravioli, Hamburger Helper, Scalloped Potatoes

We appreciated the leaf lettuce from Camden Kuster's garden in June!

Many thanks for all donations!

Linda Smith

People of St. Matthew,

Thank you for opening your doors for our community health screening in your area. It is because of your generosity that Life Line Screening can bring these health screenings into your community and for that, we are very appreciative.

We look forward to working together again!

Sincerely,

Allen Burlison

Health Service Coordinator
Life Line Screening

Our appreciation and thanks to Camden Kuster for donating leaf lettuce to the Food Pantry from his Eagle Scout Garden!

Martinsburg Food Pantry



A Stewardship Minute July 2025

The July issue *Stewardship* has a fascinating article that describes what is involved in total stewardship. The author points out that stewardship involves “the use of health and hand and heart and time and finances to glorify God.” There is an old love song with the line “All of me, why not take all of me?” That is precisely what a dedicated Christian should say to God: “Take all of me.” I suspect that if you to think about those in our congregation who are totally committed to serving God we would mention many names.

Now think about what our congregation would look like without totally dedicated members. Truly committed Christians sustain Christianity in any era, in any country. Hardly a week goes by without reading of Christians being slain by some radical group in some country across the world. For example, Christians in Egypt known as Coptic Christians are suffering greatly. Some have been killed, others beaten or threatened and some churches have been burned or wrecked. I ask myself if I could be a Coptic Christian in Egypt today? Could you?

What I can say is this: I can commit myself totally to God where I am and try my best to be a dedicated servant of Christ. I can offer my talents such as they are: my time, my talent, my service, and cheerfully offer a healthy portion of my financial resources. I can try to serve God with my all.

Prayer: *Loving God, prevent us from dodging our Christian responsibilities beginning now. Stir up our faith and our courage that we may do all that you expect of us beginning now. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen*

SERVING GOD AND US JULY 2025

Date	July 6	July 13	July 20	July 27
Lectors	Jean Sinal	Martie Gilbert	TBD	TBD
Altar Guild	Tina Harclerode	Tina Harclerode	Tina Harclerode	Tina Harclerode
Offering	Beth Garner	Beth Garner	Beth Garner	Beth Garner
Counters	Jim Barley	Jim Barley	Jim Barley	Jim Barley
Audio/Video	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Jay Hoenstine
Ushers	Paul Decker	Tina Harclerode	Melissa Fetzer	Steve Oswalt
Assist. Min.	Amanda Decker	Tina Harclerode	Lottie Ebersole	Steve Oswalt



Anniversaries for July

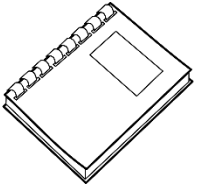
- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Jim & Jane Fagans
Keith & Andrea McGraw</p> <p>3 William & Cheryl Gigante</p> <p>4 Rachel Kensinger & Tammy White</p> <p>10 Zane & M. Jane Staily</p> <p>14 Casey & Jessica Hoover</p> <p>15 Mark & Lori Johnson</p> | <p>15 Mike & Christine Panek</p> <p>16 Paul & Marjorie Helsel
Dr. Murray & Sharon Smith</p> <p>26 Shawn & Wendy McCauley</p> <p>26 Greg & Julie Russell</p> <p>29 A J & Jane Hoenstine</p> |
|---|--|



Birthdays for July

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>3 Glenn Baker</p> <p>5 Sharon Hicks
William Stahl</p> <p>8 Marjorie Helsel
Shaffer Johnson
Cora Sweinhart</p> <p>9 Jerry Allen
Jeffrey Hoenstine
Brandi Ross
Jeremy Smith
Janet Stewart</p> | <p>11 Scott Paul
Barb Wilt</p> <p>15 Martie Gilbert</p> <p>18 Jordan Smith
Wyatt Sweinhart</p> <p>19 Melissa Fetzer</p> <p>21 Tom Fishburn
Dan Tremmel</p> <p>22 Tripp Crilly
Brandon Oswalt</p> <p>24 Audrey Hite</p> | <p>25 Julie Dick</p> <p>26 Douglas Bush
Amy Haffling
Dr. Shawn Orczeck
Carol Rugh</p> <p>27 Arnold Moore
Calleigh Wright</p> <p>28 Kylee Frederick
Larry Frederick</p> <p>30 Beth Rager</p> |
|--|--|---|
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2025 Parish Directory / 2023 and 2024 Annual Report



Copies of the 2025 Parish Directory / 2023 and 2024 Annual Report are now available at the Usher Station. There is a copy of the Parish Directory at the Usher Station with a red pen attached to mark any corrections/additions/deletions that you find. Thank you for your assistance in keeping the Directory current. If you need a copy of the Parish Directory/Annual Report mailed or delivered to you, please contact the church office.

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			

HIGHLIGHTS BY COUNCIL IN JUNE 2025

1. Mending Ministry is scheduled for August 13, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
2. St Matthew will be preparing and serving the community meal at the Martinsburg Church of God on September 8. The Social Ministry committee will be looking for volunteers to help with this project.
3. Congregants will have an opportunity to select hymns to be sung during communion in July and August.
4. Keith McGraw did some work on the soffit and Paul Decker will level the mini-split located outside the church office. Thank you both for taking care of our building!

Social Ministry Committee Corner



YOUNG AT HEART LUNCHEON

Social Ministry Committee members would like to challenge members of St Matthew to invite as many people as possible to the Young at Heart Luncheon. FYI: Homewood has placed reservations for 12. Sponsor a table and fill it with family and friends.

**Date: July 15th at 12:00PM in the fellowship hall.
Please RSVP to the Church Office (814-793-2413) by July 7th**

As noted, the theme is: Christmas in July. We understand this event can be celebrated in many ways. It may be hot outside, BUT in our fellowship hall it will be cool with Christmas.

The entertainment will feature young talent from the Cove.

Time is running out! Get your reservation in to be included!

The committee is looking to borrow Christmas aprons and ugly Christmas sweaters for the servers to wear. If you are willing to donate contact Lottie Ebersole (814-232-6665). Also, if you would like to help contact Lottie.

If you desire, you may attend wearing your favorite Christmas attire.

Social Ministry Corner Highlight is everyone who will be working, participating and volunteering to make the 2025 Young at Heart Luncheon a success.

Also, to our homebound members: if you desire a meal, call the church and have your name placed on the delivery list.

The first half of 2025 is done. Have you met your spiritual goals?

Let's make an effort to show Christ love in our actions.

Next Social Ministry Committee meeting will be Monday July 7 at 6:30 pm via zoom.

Social Ministry Committee

*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.

Talk-O Tuesday



Fellowship, Food, & Faith Conversation
Tuesday, July 29th at 6PM
La Fiesta at the Airport
RSVP to the office by Noon



FAVORITE HYMNS



The Worship & Music Committee is taking requests. Drop a pink slip (available from the Ushers) in the offering plate with the name of the hymn you most want to sing & we'll add it to an upcoming Sunday worship service.





On Eagle's Wings

Katzman Centre

10072 164 Street NW, Edmonton, Alberta T5P 4Y3
Telephone 780-440-6594 Toll Free 1-866-441-6594
Email: office@oneagleswings.ca
Website: oneagleswings.ca

6th June 2025

Dear Friends,

We are serving up something *tasty* at our Bible Camps this summer! Inspired by Psalm 34:8 – *O TASTE and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in Him.*

This summer, children across Northern Canada will be exploring God's Word through a food-themed Bible Camp. Our **TASTE Bible Camp** will include 5 days filled with Bible Stories about God's goodness, hands-on crafts, and of course, mouth watering snacks! We are sure that the children will enjoy every bite - well, every *bit* of camp!

We will open with the story of David on the run (1 Samuel 20 and 21), learning how to trust God's goodness, even in troubled times. From

apples and oranges to yogurt ice cream cones and edible bracelets, the kids will quite literally **TASTE** what is good, as they discover that they can rely on God.



Then the children will hear a story about a great banquet (Luke 14:15-24), and will imagine what it feels like to be invited to something that special. They'll make gem-covered crowns and crafts from stones they find outdoors, a reminder that **Creator invites everyone!**

As the week goes on, through the story of the Woman at the Well (John 4:1-31), our campers will discover that spending time with Jesus refreshes their hearts. Kids will have a *splash* as they participate in fun water-themed games and activities as they remember: Jesus gives living water that never runs dry.

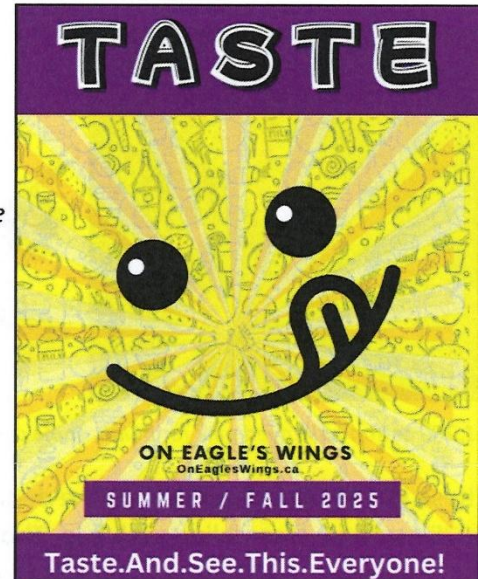
We will close out **Bible Camp** with the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:27-37), learning how to love those around us. Kids will even make their own first aid kits as a reminder to show mercy and kindness to their neighbours.



It is going to be a full summer for *On Eagle's Wings* and we would love for you to be a part of it! Your generous support makes it possible to send teams, supplies and to share the love of God in many northern communities. Will you consider giving today?

Thank you so much for your continued prayers and support. Together we are sharing what it means to **TASTE** and see that the Lord is good!

Robin Abrol, Executive Director





July 2025
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
6 <u>4th Sun. after Pentecost</u> 9:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	7 6:30 pm Social Ministry Meeting., Zoom	1	2 10-am-2 pm Pastor in Office	3 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5
13 <u>5th Sun. after Pentecost</u> 9:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	8 6:30 pm Social Ministry Meeting., Zoom	15 Young at Heart Meal	9 10-am-2 pm Pastor in Office	10	11 Pastor's Sabbath	12
20 <u>6th Sun. after Pentecost</u> 9:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	14	22 12:30-3:00 pm Knotty Ladies, QR	16 10-am-2 pm Pastor in Office	17 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	18 Pastor's Sabbath	19
27 <u>7th Sun. after Pentecost</u> 9:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	21	29 9:30 am Employee Meeting, FH 10-am-2 pm Pastor in Office 12:30-3:00 pm Knotty Ladies, QR 6:00 pm Talk-O Tuesday, La Fiesta, Airport	23	24	25 Pastor's Sabbath	26
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Pastor Traci is away at Camp Nawakwa and can be reached at 814-935-9267. For immediate emergencies, please call Pastor MJ Irvin-Stellabotte 814-934-9941. </div>						
31 Pastor Traci vacation begins						
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						