



Saint Matthew
LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Matthew's Messenger

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

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Volume 66

MAY 2026

Number 5

Greetings People of God:

At the end of the month, we'll celebrate the confirmation of several of our young members. For those of us who were baptized when we were too young to remember it, confirmation is a special opportunity to affirm for ourselves the faith that was passed on to us by those who love us and wanted to raise us in the church. It can help us in our journey of faith to look to certain milestones like Confirmation, but Luther encouraged us to remember our baptism and experience the renewal of God's grace on a daily basis. Not only that, but each time a person of any age is baptized in worship with us, we all participate in reclaiming the promises of baptism for ourselves. This service of confirmation will just be the most formal of many times that our confirmands will affirm their baptism. (But it's not for every affirmation that we get to have cake!)

Confirmation will coincide with Holy Trinity Sunday, the day on our liturgical calendar that is devoted not to honoring a person or remembering an event but to the theological description of God. Although confirmation comes at the end of years of catechism instruction, don't expect the confirmands (or me) to make this occasion about explaining theology. Confirmation is not about a perfect understanding of the catechism; it's about affirming the baptism that made us part of God's family forever.

I'm grateful for the many ways this congregation has surrounded these young people in love throughout their formative years and that they want to continue to worship, learn, and serve in communion with us. If you see, Ben, Gabby, Gavin, Lily, Lucy, Mace, or Norah, remember to tell them how much joy it brings you to keep walking the way of Jesus with them.

Peace,
Pastor Traci



Martinsburg Food Pantry

The Food Pantry will be open for food distribution on Thursdays, May 7 and May 21 from 9:00am until 11:00am. Besides the regular volunteers, those helping will be from the Martinsburg Church of God.

Following are those items most needed:
Peanut Butter & Jelly, Rice Sides, Pasta Sauce, Spaghetti, and Paper Towels

Many thanks for your food, other items, and monetary gifts donated to the Food Pantry!

Linda K. Smith



Congratulations to our 2026 Graduates

Mace Baker, Central High School

Jeffrey Hoenstine,
Saint Francis University
(BS, Criminal Justice)

We'll be celebrating our
graduates in worship on Sunday,
May 31st.



Stewardship
a way of life

A Stewardship Minute May 2026

The May issue *Stewardship* has a delightful story of a little boy who seems to express joy often by clapping his hands eagerly. Put him on the floor with a toy or two and he will clap his hands. Take him to the kitchen table where he sees a container of apple sauce and he claps his hands. Mention that the family is going on a picnic later and he claps his hands in anticipation. This might remind you of a song often sung at a church camp. Remember these words:

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands!

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands!

*If you're happy and you know it, then your face
will surely show it;*

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands!

In John's gospel, we find Jesus telling about the main source of joy for his followers. After saying that if we abide in him we will bear much fruit, our Lord said: "I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete" (John 15:11). Christians should be joyous hand clappers! In John's gospel, Jesus went on to say: "I have called you friends ... You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name" (John 15:16-17). Bearing good fruit through our service in Christ's name is our calling and our duty.

Clap your hands!

Prayer: *Loving God, help us to be faithful stewards of our entire lives, always seeking to do thy will. And help us to joyfully clap our hands for all the blessings you bestow on us. Amen*



Social Ministry Committee Corner

Mending Ministry

Mending Ministry will be Wednesday May 20, 2 to 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Summer is coming be ready to wear all your favorite outfits. A takeout meal will be provided for our homebound members if desired. We are looking for volunteers to assist Social Ministry Committee to deliver some meals. Feedback from our homebound has been they look forward to this meal, one less they have to prepare and the bright smiles from the delivery people. If you would like to volunteer contact Lottie Ebersole.

Young at Heart Luncheon

Invitations for the Young at Heart Luncheon will be available by the end of May. They can be given to friends and neighbors to invite them to this luncheon. A delicious meal with a Hawaiian theme has been planned.

As we approach the growing season it is amazing to think just how one little planted seed can produce so much. Christ plants little seeds in all of us to speak in kindness, help our neighbors and show Christ's love in our actions. During the month of May plant the seeds from Christ and make a garden of love.

Social Ministry Committee



Birthdays for May

1	Les Loomis	6	Monte Beach	19	Elaine L. Buchart
	Travis P. Smith	7	Kathryn A. Panek		Blake Peese
2	Shanda Imler	8	Joshua A. Smith	21	Michael T. Panek
	Nelson Lamborn	9	Greg Haffling		Joel M. Smith
	Mary N. Nelson		Bonnie Ross	22	Connor Johnson
3	Melinda F. Miller	12	Phil Claar	26	Colin Guyer
4	Linda J. Brown	13	Dan Sinal		Dottie Stahl
	Travis S. Hoover	15	Kevin Smeltzer	27	Jenna L. Lenhart
	Marjorie A. Replogle	17	Alyssa Clark	28	Mark Johnson
5	Marjorie Detwiler		Robert M. Kensinger	29	Deborah McGregor
	Michael B. Panek	18	Rev. Traci Marriott		

May Anniversaries

1	Ed & Kara Bennett	18	Stephen & Kimberly Oswalt
2	Shari Gilbert & Carrie Lively	22	Joshua & Mandy Smith
11	Ronald & Robin Robison	24	Jason Close & Jessica Orczeck
15	Michael & Joanna Sutton		Whitney & Emily Smith
		27	Shawn & Laura Orczeck

**SERVING GOD AND US
MAY 2026**

Date	May 3	May 10 <i>Mother's Day</i>	May 17	May 24	May 31
Acolytes	Gavin Kuster	Ben Decker	Lily Lightner	Ben Decker Gavin Kuster Norah Kuster	Mace Baker
Lectors	Jean Sinal	Kaye Burket	Dawn Alexy	Gabby Decker	Jane Hoenstine
Altar Guild	Cindy Synder Jeannie Smith	Cindy Synder Jeannie Smith	Cindy Synder Jeannie Smith	Cindy Synder Jeannie Smith	Cindy Synder Jeannie Smith
Assist. Minsters	Jim Barley	Greg Haffling	Amanda Decker	Elaine Smith	Tina Harclerode
Offering Counters	Beth Garner Jim Barley	Beth Garner Jim Barley	Beth Garner Jim Barley	Beth Garner Jim Barley	Beth Garner Jim Barley
Ushers	Tina Harclerode	Greg Haffling	Steve Oswalt	Dennis Smith	Paul Decker
Audio/Video	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster

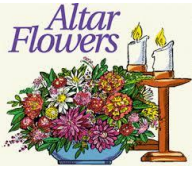
2026 COUNCIL DIRECTORY AND MINISTRY STAFF

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 April 2026

1. Jim Barley and Peggy Steinfurth will attend the Synod Assembly as voting members. The Assembly will be held on Saturday, June 20 at the Blair County Convention Center.
2. Confirmation will be held on May 31. Graduates Mace Baker and Jeff Hoenstine will also be recognized on May 31.
3. The Social Ministry committee will provide meals for about 9 homebound members during the Mending Ministry days in April, May, June, and August.
4. Council is looking into scheduling a CPR course during the upcoming summer or fall.



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

Save the Date...

The Weekend.

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

Rise for Recovery
BLAIR COUNTY

presents

Arts in Recovery

2026

An evening that celebrates and expresses the gift of recovery through music, art, poetry, and more.

Friday May 15th
7:00pm

At Zion Lutheran Church
500 Allegheny Street, Hollidaysburg, PA
(Across the street from the Blair County Courthouse)



St. Matthew Lutheran Church
Welcomes You to Celebrate

**Affirmation of Baptism
~Confirmation~**

of

**Benjamin, Gabrielle, Gavin,
Lily, Lucy, Mace & Norah**

*Holy Trinity Sunday
May 31st at 10:30AM
Reception to Follow*



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, May 20th
2PM to 4PM

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

Talk-O Tuesday



Fellowship, Food, & Faith Conversation
Tuesday, May 26th at 6PM
La Fiesta at the Airport
RSVP to the office by Noon






**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.

**Save the date and come enjoy
an evening of fun, food,
and fellowship!**



**Lutheran Day
at the
Altoona Curve**

Sunday, August 16
Game begins at 6 pm

Watch for
registration details
coming soon!



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.



May 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
3 5th Sunday of Easter 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	4	5	6	7 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St. 1-4 pm Pastor in Office	8	9
10 6th Sunday of Easter 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	11	12 3-6 pm Pastor in Office 6:30 pm Council Mtg., WR/Zoom	13	14 Ascension of Our Lord	15	16
17 7th Sunday of Easter 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	18	19	20 2-4 pm Mending Ministry	21 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St. 2-5 pm Pastor in Office	22	23
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Pastor Traci is on vacation from May 17th—May 20th In case of emergency call, Pastor MJ Irvin-Stellabotte 814-934-9941. </div>						
24 Day of Pentecost 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	25	26 2-5 pm Pastor in Office  6:00 pm Talk-O Tuesday, La Fiesta, Airport	27	28	29	30
31 The Holy Trinity 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary Confirmation & Graduate Recognition Plus Reception	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					