



Saint Matthew
LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Matthew's Messenger

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Greetings People of God:

This autumn is off to a rough start for me. Although her 98th birthday was a really good day, I've made other visits to my grandmother lately where she has been confused about who I am—a harbinger of harder days ahead. On what was supposed to be a routine vaccination visit, the veterinarian discovered my beloved 17+ year old cat Osgar has signs of heart failure—the second cat of mine this year with a terminal diagnosis. That same day I learned a friend's father had died unexpectedly; he was not young, but I knew him as healthier and heartier than average. This year the falling leaves have had plenty of help reminding me of the impermanence of life.

Grief is hard enough as it is, but the way our culture abhors aging and denies death makes talking about it even more difficult; sharing loss and grief can be awkward because that's not something we're encouraged to do. Yet creation has cycles of life and death baked into it; the mortality rate is still 100%, and as a resurrection people, we profess that we only get to new life through the gate of death.

At this time of year I often hear the sentiment: Autumn is a reminder of how beautiful it can be to let things go. I don't read that as a denial of our feelings about loss or death or as an impatient plea to get over grief; instead, it's encouragement to appreciate what we have for the time that we have it, without fighting to hold onto what is impermanent by nature. In the extreme, being too afraid to lose means we won't be brave enough to love.

May this autumn help you appreciate the gifts God has given, even and especially those that are only ours to cherish for a while.

Peace,
Pastor Traci



Martinsburg Food Pantry

The Food Pantry will be open for food distribution on Thursdays, October 2 and October 16 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Covenant Church of the Brethren, Curryville, will supply helpers to distribute food in addition to the regular helpers.

Items most needed for October: Cereal, Juice, Rice Sides, Fruit, Soup, and Ravioli.

There will be a Food Drive sponsored by the Ministerium at the Martinsburg Fire Hall on Saturday, October 11 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. We appreciate your prayers and support!

We are grateful for all the fresh vegetables from Camden Kuster provided from his Eagle Scout garden!

*Many thanks to all members for your donations,
Linda Smith*



Thank you for the anniversary cards and well wishes as Stephen and I celebrated our 50th wedding Anniversary on September 20, 2025. The celebration will end on Saturday October 11 at our annual Apple Butter Boil. Members of St. Matthew are invited to this event. Apple Butter Boil is an all-day event. Lunch is being served at 1 pm. We are providing barbecued chicken, meatballs, baked beans and macaroni and cheese. If you like to bring a side dish to share. You are welcome to join us at any time of the day and take a turn stirring the Apple Butter.

Lottie Ebersole



OCTOBER 2025

Recently, the editor of *Stewardship* received a letter from a man named Thomas. He was so impressed with it that he printed it in the October issue of the newsletter. It is too long for me to read, but I will tell you the gist of it because I was moved by it as was the editor.

Thomas said that his personal commitment is based on the belief that all he is and all he has is a gift from God. Therefore he, following the example of his father, gives generously to his church and other worthy causes. And here is what he has discovered: "I have discovered joy in giving and proven to myself that it is impossible to out-give God." In Luke's gospel (6:38), we find our Lord saying "Give and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap." But what are we given? Well, our being, our lives, our energy, our resources, and our time.

There is a hymn by Thomas Chisolm that sums up what stewardship about:

Living for Jesus, a life that is true, Striving to please him in all that I do; Yielding allegiance, glad hearted and free, This is the pathway of blessing for me.

O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to Thee, For Thou, in Thy atonement, didst give Thyself for me.

I own no other Master, my heart shall be Thy throne.

My life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for Thee alone.

Prayer: *Lord of all, loving Creator and Savior, help us to worship you sincerely and to faithfully serve you all the days of our lives. In Christ's name we pray. Amen*

All Saints Sunday, November 2, 2025

Please submit any names you would like recognized on All Saints Sunday to the church office by completing the form below. **October 29, 2025** is the deadline. You can also submit names using our Email address: stmatthewmartinsburg@gmail.com

+++++

Person submitting: _____



Social Ministry Committee Corner

Breaking Bread Community Meal

Many thanks to the members of St. Matthew who contributed to the Breaking Bread Meal in any way. This was a big endeavor for the Social Ministry Committee and we are grateful how St Matthew members came together to make the meal a success. We served 85, sent out 24 takeouts and had 13 members help throughout the day.

Thank You

Gods Work our Hands

Many hands were used at the Picnic to put together the mint tins.

The mint tins were well received at the Breaking Bread Meal. Thank You to pastor Traci for her guidance for this community outreach.



Mending Ministry

The next Mending Ministry will be October 22 from 2-4 pm.

Menu for our home bound takeout: Baked Potato Soup, Ham & Cheese Sandwich and Cookies.

This ministry also provides mending for people who cannot get to the church that day.

Coming Events

November

St. Matthew will be providing deserts again for the Community Thanksgiving Meal November 10 at the Church of God. A signup sheet will be posted on the bulletin board.

December

Care packages will be made and distributed to our college students and military members.

Many Thanks to the members of St. Matthew for their support of this Committee.

Social Ministry Committee

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.



QRCode 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.

HIGHLIGHTS BY COUNCIL IN SEPTEMBER 2025

1. Pastor Traci will offer confirmation classes in the fall and spring to work towards a May or June confirmation.
2. The August Mending Ministry provided 12 takeout meals for homebound persons and volunteers, as well as mending many items. The next Mending Ministry is scheduled for October 22.
3. Thank-you to all who helped with the Breaking Bread Community Meal served at the Martinsburg Church of God on September 8. Eighty-five meals were served to community members!
4. Committee Chairs are requested to have their budgets for 2026 to Jim by next month's meeting on October 21.

SERVING GOD AND US OCTOBER 2025

Date	October 5	October 12	October 19	October 26
Lectors	Mary & Mace Baker	Linda Smith	Lori Tremmel	Elaine Smith
Altar Guild	Jackie Lightner Tina Harclerode	Jackie Lightner Tina Harclerode	Jackie Lightner Tina Harclerode	Jackie Lightner Tina Harclerode
Offering Counters	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
Ushers	Ed Kreider	Randy McGraw	Dennis Smith	Jeff Garner
Assist. Min.	Tina Harclerode	Jim Barley	Elaine Smith	Steve Oswalt

Anniversaries for October

02 Michael & Jamie Richardson	09 Tyson & Terri Rodgers
04 R. Troy & Jennifer Metzler	15 Titus & Beverly Smith
James & Tonya Walter	21 Alvin & Kim Lee
07 Camden & Veronica Hoover	22 Andrew & Jenna Lenhart

Birthdays for October

01 Ruth Marshall	09 Troy Metzler	16 P. Jeannie Smith
03 Tyler Rodgers	12 James Barley	Norm Tremmel Sr.
04 P. Robert Dickson	Martin Burket	17 Chase Buchart
William Dickson	Titus Smith	20 Kelsiee Hoover
Kyle Guyer	13 Shari Gilbert	23 Carol Replogle
05 Beverly Smith	14 Dwight Johnson	29 Zachary Tremmel
06 Ryan Smith	Dennis Smith	31 Henry Lamborn
Whitney Smith	Emily (Walter) Scholly	Sandy Loomis
08 George Gilbert Jr.	15 Debra Guyer	Lori Reimer
Cindy Snyder		


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			



October 2025
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 17th Sun. after Pentecost 9:30 am Sunday School, WR Catechism 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	6 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	7 Pastor Traci is on vacation 10/6–10/14. In case of emergency call Pastor MJ Irvin-Stellabotte 814-934-9941.	8 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	9 Pastor's Sabbath	10 11	11
12 18th Sun. after Pentecost 9:30 am Sunday School, WR NO Catechism 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary Pastor Traci is on vacation 10/6–10/14.	13 14	15 10am–1 pm Pastor in Office	16 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	17 Pastor's Sabbath	18	19
19 19th Sun. after Pentecost 9:30 am Sunday School, WR Catechism 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary Pastor Traci is on vacation 10/6–10/14.	20 6:00 pm Worship & Music Meeting, Zoom	21 6:30 pm Council Mtg., WR/Zoom	22 2-5 pm Pastor in Office Mending Ministry 2-4pm, FH	23 Pastor's Sabbath	24 Pastor's Sabbath	25
26 Reformation Sunday 9:30 am Sunday School, WR NO Catechism 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary Halloween Party 6-7 pm Lutheran Home Holidaysburg	27 Messenger Deadline 6:30 pm Social Ministry Meeting., Zoom	28 12:30-3:00 pm Knotty Ladies, QR 2-5 pm Pastor in Office 6:00 pm Talk-O Tuesday, La Fiesta, Airport 	29 Trick or Treat 6-8 pm	30 Synod Assembly	31	31