



Photo provided by Jim Barley

Greetings People of God:

Halloween came early to St. Matthew this year, as bats kept us out of the building for most of September. Although we've coexisted with bats in the church in the past, this time we encountered active bat(s?) in high traffic areas of the building at all times of day and night. Bats are a protected species and good for the environment—they eat the pesky insects that we would also rather appreciate from a distance. We love all God's creatures, but we don't love rabies shots, so we pursued professional help. Removal efforts involved sealing access points and installing one-way doors so the bats could leave but not re-enter the building. Because of the height and size of the building, this was a rather involved (and expensive) endeavor.

We want to thank Jen and our Property Committee for coordinating with the pest control folks. I also want to thank the congregation as a whole for rolling with it as we moved worship and meetings online and outside. Much like the care-filled patience we exercised during the critical phase of Covid, this flexibility allowed us to work toward our mission—sharing God's Word and serving all people—while still keeping people safe.

Coincidentally, during this challenge, the lectionary gifted us readings in Matthew's gospel that called us to prioritize people over all other institutional concerns. Worship and church "business" may have looked different these past few weeks, but it still looked like loving God with all our heart, mind, and strength, and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

I look forward to seeing you back in the sanctuary—and I look forward to *not* seeing bats in there with us!

Peace,
Pastor Traci

New Bible Study Opportunity

Thanks to the work of the Go Tell It In The Mountains team, a new Bible Study opportunity will be available weekly beginning in October. We have the ability to meet together in the Window Room and video conference with leaders and other participants from Allegheny, Upper Susquehanna, and North West Pennsylvania Synods. You can also access the study by Zoom from your home. These lectionary studies will cover the upcoming Sunday's gospel and other readings as time permits, from 6:30PM to 7:30PM on Wednesdays. See the flyer below for log-in information or join us in person at church to connect to the wider group.

WEDNESDAY EVENING *Pericope-Based* BIBLE STUDY

— TOGETHER IN SCRIPTURE. STRONGER IN MINISTRY. —

Let's work together to bring weekly, pericope-based Bible study to our congregations and beyond—through Zoom!



ZOOM DETAILS

<https://zoom.us/j/94173815852?pwd=e74xTbZSrFi6lYbwyCRAkGgMeox1G1>

Meeting Id: 941 7381 5852 | Passcode: 880291

WEDNESDAY EVENING SCHEDULE

BASE SCHEDULE

- **6:30 PM** – Opening greeting and prayer for illumination
- **6:33 PM** – Study of the upcoming Sunday's texts
- **7:20 PM** – Prayer requests and praises

EXPANDED SCHEDULE

- **6:15–6:25 PM** – Zoom session opens
- **6:30 PM** – Greeting & Prayer for illumination
- **6:33 PM** – Gospel, Old Testament and Epistle lessons, with time for discussion and real-life application
- **7:20 PM** – Prayer time
- **7:30 PM** – Conclude & end Zoom



LET'S DO THIS TOGETHER!
GO TELL IT IN THE
Mountains



EMAIL US:

director@alleghensynod.com



Prayers of Christian sympathy and comfort are requested for the family and friends of Barbara Moorhead who passed away Thursday, September 10th.



Martinsburg Food Pantry

The Food Pantry will be open for food distribution on Thursdays, October 1 and October 15 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Covenant Church of the Brethren, Curryville, will supply helpers to distribute food, besides the regular helpers.

Items most needed for October:

Fruit, Ravioli, Spaghetti & Sauce, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Paper Towels

We are grateful for all the fresh produce everyone has given, and Camden from his Eagle Scout garden!

*Many thanks,
Linda Smith,*



Endowment committee and people of St. Matthew,
Thank you for the monetary gift from the St. Matthew endowment fund to assist with my college expenses during my second year at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. I truly appreciate the congregation's ongoing support of me. I am blessed to be part of such a wonderful church family.

Jay Hoenstine



Endowment committee and people of St. Matthew,
Thank you for the monetary gift from the St. Matthew endowment fund to assist with my graduate school expenses at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. I truly appreciate your support and kindness.

Jeffrey Hoenstine



For my church family and Pastor:

Thank you for your prayers and for the cards, calls and food after my recent shoulder surgery. Healing is improving after surgery, and the goal is to regain use of the left arm. Prayers are always welcome.

*Love you all,
Margie Smith*

All Saints Sunday, November 1, 2026



Please submit any names you would like recognized on All Saints Sunday to the church office by completing the form below. **October 28, 2026** is the deadline.

You can also submit names using our Email address: stmatthewmartinsburg@gmail.com

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Person submitting: _____



OCTOBER 2026

There is a sad story in the October issue *Stewardship*. It is about a man who did not want his dog anymore. Yet instead of trying to find someone to take the animal, one morning on his way to work, he stopped his car and let the dog out of the car. Then he drove off, thinking that some dog lover would stop and take the animal home with him or her. Sad to say, no one stopped. So there the dog was, sitting and waiting for his owner to return and take him home. It never happened. The writer of that story reported that the man felt somewhat remorseful, but he never went back for the poor animal even so. What does this sad event have to do with stewardship? Stewardship has to do with being responsible people. We are to be caretakers of our bodies, our minds, our spirits, our talents, our time, and of the earth. For if we are not very good stewards of Mother Earth, she will not be able to provide life sustaining resources for humanity. A quote from the poet John Oxenham challenges us all to be good stewards:

*Be clean ... in body and in mind!
Think high, and live up to your thought!
Let every thought word and deed
Be kind and honest, brave and true!
Never refuse another's need,
Do as you'd have him do to you!
Against all evil set your face,
And bravely do your Master's will.*

Prayer: Holy and loving God, help us to be such stewards that you will be able to say to each of us: "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Master" (Mathew 25:21).
Amen.

Social Ministry Committee Corner

Breaking Bread Community Meal

It was a privilege to work with members of St Matthew who helped in any way to make Breaking Bread Community Meal a success. We served 85, sent out 28 takeouts between the both churches, and had 13 members help throughout the day. Thank you

Mending Ministry

The last Mending Ministry will be Wednesday October 21 from 2-4 pm. Takeout for our homebound will be chicken corn soup and chicken sandwich.

St. Matthew will be providing deserts again for the Community Thanksgiving Meal November 9 at the Church of God. A signup sheet will be posted on the bulletin board mid October.

As we enter the month of October let us share the love of Christ in all that we do.

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 2026

1. The last Mending Ministry for 2026 will be October 26, 2:00-4:00.
2. Committee chairpersons should submit their 2027 budgets to Jim Barley by October 13.
3. Please notify Peggy if you know of someone who would like to receive a greeting card from the Evangelism Committee. The committee automatically sends cards to homebound and those on the prayer list.
4. Worship service will return to the sanctuary on September 27 at 10:30 a.m. 5. Sunday School will resume on September 27 at 9:30 a.m.

Join us for the **4th Annual Blair-Huntingdon Halloween Party** *at the* **Lutheran Home in Hollidaysburg**

**Costumes, games, food & fun with the
residents of the Lutheran Home
916 Hickory Street, Hollidaysburg
3PM to 4PM
Sunday, October 25th**



*Meals will be provided to homebound members.

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, October 21st
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, October 27th at 6PM
La Fiesta at the Airport
RSVP to the office by Noon

Join Pastor Traci & Angus at St. Matthew for

TRICK OR TREAT

No Trick or Treaters in your neighborhood?

*No problem! Dozens of ghosts & goblins
trick or treat at church every year.*



6-8PM
Thursday
October 29

Throw on a costume &
join us to give out candy.
Shopping for Trick or Treat?
Grab an extra bag for St. Matthew.
(Please drop off by Wednesday the 28th)

Journey to Bethlehem

*This year the Journey comes to you in a newly staged,
accessible performance of the story of Christmas*

Sunday, December 20th



*Anyone interested in participating in this year's
Journey to Bethlehem, which will be adapted for
seated performances in the sanctuary,
please contact Jane Fagans or Pastor Traci*

Save the Date...

The Weekend.

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

SERVING GOD AND US OCTOBER 2026

Date	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25 <i>Reformation Sunday</i>
Acolytes	N/A	N/A	N/A	TBD
Lectors	Dawn Alexy	Shawn Orczeck	Jean Sinal	Steve Oswalt
Altar Guild	Jeannie Smith Cindy Snyder	Jeannie Smith Cindy Snyder	Jeannie Smith Cindy Snyder	Jeannie Smith Cindy Snyder
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	Steve Oswalt	Dennis Smith	Paul Decker	Randy McGraw
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				

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			



October 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
4 19th Sun. after Pentecost 9:30 am Sunday School, WR 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	5 6:00 pm Worship & Music Mtg., via Zoom	6 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	7 3-6 pm Pastor in Office 6:30-7:30 pm Bible Study in Window Room/online	1 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	2	3
	11 20th Sun. after Pentecost 9:30 am Sunday School, WR 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	12	13 6:30 pm Council Mtg., Hybrid	14 3-6 pm Pastor in Office 6:30-7:30 pm Bible Study in Window	15 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	16 Pastor Traci is on vacation 10/16-10/20. In case of emergency, call Pastor MJ Irvin-Stellabotte 814-934-9941.
18 21st Sun. after Pentecost 9:30 am Sunday School, WR 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	19	20	21 2-4 pm Mending Ministry, FH 6:30-7:30 pm Bible Study in Window Room/online	22	23	24
25 Reformation Sunday 9:30 am Sunday School, WR 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary Halloween Party 3-4 pm Lutheran Home Holidaysburg	26 6:30 pm Social Ministry Meeting., Zoom	27 12:30-3:00 pm Knotty Ladies, QR 6:00 pm Talk-O Tuesday, La Fiesta, Airport	28 3-6 pm Pastor in Office 6:30-7:30 pm Bible Study in Window Room/online	29  Trick or Treat with Pastor Traci and Angus 6-8 pm at St Matthew	30	31