



Saint Matthew  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## St. Matthew's Messenger

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Number 9

Greetings People of God:

Let's take a minute to think about a churchy word: *evangelism*

We are part of the ELCA, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The words *evangelical* and *evangelism* (as well as *gospel*) come from the Greek word *evangelos*, which means *bearer of good news*. Several years ago, the ELCA started *God's work. Our hands.* (GWOH) Sunday, encouraging the churches of our denomination to intentionally and visibly bear the good news to our neighbors—something beyond echoing the good news back and forth to each other within the confines of the church.

This year, GWOH Sunday coincides with our church picnic at the Kreider Farm. Monday, September 8th, the day following the picnic, we'll be cooking and serving the monthly community meal AT THE CHURCH OF GOD, in order to give their regular kitchen crew a break. At the picnic, for GWOH, we'll take a few minutes to pack tins of dinner mints to hand out at the community meal, labeling them with the invitation "Share a sacred moMINT with us".

Is the play on words cheesy, hokey, "cringe" as the kids say nowadays? Absolutely. But it does reflect how God calls us to be in relationship with our neighbors: sharing sacred time together. We do not own the good news and deign to offer it to others. Nor is our evangelism to be a "turn or burn" warning about conversion—that doesn't sound like good news at all. The church grows in purpose, faith, and mission when we tell others how God's transforming love is at work in our lives and when we listen to how God's transforming love is working in the lives of our neighbors who are not part of our (or any) church; sharing implies both parties participate.

In our overscheduled, overburdened lives, sharing our time is truly a gift. May God bless the sacred moments we share with our neighbors whether we're worshipping together in church or we're out in the community, working together for the sake of the world that God so loves.

*Peace,*  
*+Pastor Traci*



## Worship Schedule for September

Starting September 14<sup>th</sup>, Sunday School will begin at 9:30 a.m. and Worship returns to a 10:30 a.m. start time.



Prayers of Christian Sympathy and comfort are requested for Tom Woodrow and family upon the death of his daughter Ruth.

*thank you*

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 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*

## God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>

During the Church Picnic



## Prayer Vigil

Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church will hold our annual World Prayer Vigil in observance of World Communion Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. Members are asked to commit one half hour to pray for any concerns of a personal, church, or worldwide nature. We hope to have enough participation to fill a twelve-hour time period with continuous prayer. The sign-up sheet is located on the Narthex Bulletin Board.

Dear Rev. Traci & the Congregation at St. Matthew:



Greetings and grace to all from the Crossroads @ Breezewood! Many thanks for the generous Easter Collection in support of the Breezewood Trucker Traveler Ministry! Your partnership greatly enables us in the mission of presence, prayer, counsel, and

hospitality among truckers, travelers and local area employees. There continues to be a myriad of calls and requests for assistance for pastoral care, food, lodging, gas, and transportation to name a few. We feel blessed and fortunate to have "open doors" for ministry in a commercial marketplace setting where thousands of people populate each day.

Thank you for the spiritual and financial resources you provide for the Breezewood Ministry!

*In Christ,  
Bruce*



## Share the Harvest

The “Share the Harvest” table is in the Narthex and will be there until October. If you have extra fruit or vegetables to share with members of the congregation, please bring your items and place them on a table in the Narthex. Members will be able to help themselves to items as desired. Any remaining produce after Sunday morning will be given away at the discretion of the donor.

*“Let us share God’s harvest with others.”*

## Martinsburg Food Pantry

Volunteers from Memorial Church of the Brethren will be helping distribute food at the pantry on Thursdays, September 4 and September 18 from 9:00 am until 11:00 am. During harvest time, if you have any extra vegetables or fruit, it would be appreciated on the dates we are open.

**Items most needed for September:** Hamburger Helper, Peanut Butter, Pasta Sauce, Baked Beans, and Paper Towels.

We want to thank members for the school supplies, food, and monetary donations.

*Many thanks,  
Linda Smith*



## A Stewardship Minute SEPTEMBER 2025

In the September issue of *Stewardship* there is a wonderful story about a young girl named Emily who on the first day of school noticed that a girl at a desk near hers did not have the supplies she would need as a student. When Emily went home that day, she told her mother about the situation. They both decided that they should go shopping and purchase whatever the poor child would need. Arriving a bit early at school the next day, Emily put all the supplies needed on the child’s desk along with a note that read “Surprise, Emily”. Emily may not have realized it, but she was being a good steward. Stewardship involves giving of one’s self and of one’s resources for the needs we see around us.

A certain pastor arrived at his church one morning and saw a 95-year-old man standing on a small ladder. He had a tool in his hand he was using to trim a hedge that had grown too large. The pastor suggested that the old fellow leave that job for someone younger. The old guy ignored the advice and continued whacking away at the bush. You and I might gasp at the story but we cannot deny that he was exercising stewardship as best he could. It turned out that he finished the job without getting hurt at all. In the fourth chapter of Saint Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians, he wrote: “This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy,” What a challenge! “It is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.” I ask myself, “Am I good steward who is always trustworthy?”

**Prayer:** Lord of life, help us to be faithful unto death that we may always be worthy followers and servants of whom you are proud. In your name.  
**Amen**

A Stewardship Minute is available to subscribers of *Stewardship* at [www.parishpublishing.org](http://www.parishpublishing.org).



*Social Ministry Committee Corner*  
**Breaking Bread Community Meal**

The Social Ministry Committee and church volunteers ask for your support and prayers as we gather supplies and prepare and serve the Breaking Bread Community Meal September 8, 5-6 pm at the Martinsburg Church of God.

St Matthew has stepped forward to give the Church of God volunteers the month of September off. They have been providing the Breaking Bread Community Meal for the past 3 years.

At this meal St Matthew will be providing a small token expressing God's love as our community outreach for God's Work. Our Hands.

Thank you to Pastor Traci for providing inspiration and taking lead for this project.

\*Next Mending Ministry: October 22, 2-4 pm at St Matthew.

\*Social Ministry Committee will meet Monday September 29, 6:30 pm via zoom.



*Dennis & Margie Smith*  
*Married on September 3, 1965*

60 years of God's blessing and trials in St. Matthew Lutheran church has delivered us a large (even 2 dozen) family to love.

\*Son Douglas & Veronica Smith (celebrate 40 years of marriage with 4 grandchildren (1 deceased) and 4 great-grandchildren.

\*Son Daniel & Robyn Smith (celebrate 35 years of marriage with 2 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

\*Daughter Laurie Smith

Our 3 children grew up in St. Matthew and all follow the teachings of Jesus Christ in their lives with their families. We thank the Pastors and family of the church (over the 60 years) for their guidance, love and sharing of God's Word.

**SERVING GOD AND US  
SEPTEMBER 2025**

Date	September 7	September 14	September 21	September 28
<b>Lectors</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Janet Stewart Elaine Buchart	Janet Stewart Elaine Buchart	Janet Stewart Elaine Buchart	Janet Stewart Elaine Buchart
<b>Offering Counters</b>	<b>Beth Garner Jim Barley</b>	<b>Beth Garner Jim Barley</b>	<b>Beth Garner Jim Barley</b>	<b>Beth Garner Jim Barley</b>
<b>Audio/Video</b>	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Stanley Smith</b>	<b>Paul Decker</b>	<b>Tina Harclerode</b>	<b>Steve Oswalt</b>
<b>Assist. Min.</b>	Jean Sinal	Jane Hoenstine	Lottie Ebersole	Shawn Orczeck

*Anniversaries for September*

02 Robert & Emily Gunnett	10 Daniel & Lyndsay Tremmel	18 Paul & Amanda Decker
03 Dennis & Margie Smith 60 <sup>th</sup>	14 John & Patricia (Pam) Russell	18 Stanley & Michele Smith
09 Tom & Bobbie Fishburn	15 Eric & Jennifer Frederick	20 Stephen & Lottie Ebersole
Greg & Amy Haffling	John & Carol Replogle	22 Rick & Shanda Imler
Matt & Tina Harclerode	16 David & Elizabeth Bithell	

*Birthdays for September*

04 Jennifer L. Winston	14 Sally F. Neely	22 Linda Negley
05 Jennifer L. Frederick	15 Kylie Gunnett	Lori Tremmel
06 Alex W. Hoover	Tera A. Hutto	23 Cheryl L. Gigante
07 H. Jean Sinal	16 Tyler Oswalt	Laura Orczeck
08 Stanley C. Smith	18 Brandon Meck	24 Martha Metz
Nell Snyder	19 Preston Weaver	Bruce Ross
10 Cody Guyer	20 Kay Howsare	25 Rick Imler
Mark Guyer	21 Sharon Smith	Lauren Smith
11 Lily Lightner	Wade T. Smith	27 Mary Ann Satterfield
Lucy Lightner	22 Greta L. Buchart	29 Charles Henzler
12 Michelle Cronrath	Amy M. Carpenter	Matthew D. Lehman
		30 Robin R. Robison

**2025 COUNCIL DIRECTORY AND MINISTRY STAFF**

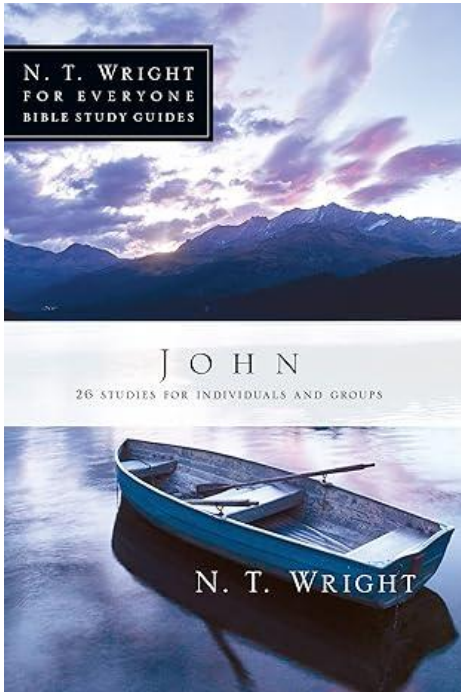
All phone numbers start with (814) unless otherwise noted.

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 AUGUST 2025

1. Jim Barley, Peggy Steinfurth, and Pastor Traci will attend the Synod Assembly at the Blair County Convention Center on October 31 and November 1.
2. The Evangelism committee plans to distribute bookmarks with “Luther’s Morning Prayer” on one side and “Luther’s Evening Prayer” on the other side to members of the church and visitors. The committee also plans to reinstate “greeters” at the Sunday morning service.
3. The Church picnic and “God’s Work, Our Hands” is Sunday, September 7 at Ed Kreider’s farm.
4. Ed Kreider has been spraying and edging around the church this summer. Thank-you Ed!

### Adult Sunday School Class



Beginning Sunday, September 14 the Adult Sunday School class will be studying the Gospel of John using the N. T. Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guide. N. T. Wright is a research professor of New Testament and early Christianity at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland and taught New Testament studies for twenty years at Cambridge, McGill, and Oxford Universities. His study guide leads us to experience the Gospel of John in new ways through thoughtful questions, prayer suggestions, and useful background and cultural information. Whether you want to participate in discussions or join us as a silent observer, all are welcome as we study God’s word in community. We meet at 9:30 Sunday mornings in the Window Room.

**St. Matthew Church Picnic &  
God’s Work Our Hands Sunday  
September 7<sup>th</sup>  
at the Kreider Farm**

**Worship at 11AM, Lunch to Follow**

**Fried Chicken & Drinks Are Provided  
Please bring a lawn chair  
& a side or dessert to share**

# Blessing of the Animals!

Join

Rev. Traci Marriott and Otto Von Scooter  
Rabbi Audrey Korotkin and Carly  
for special blessings for all your pets!



Sunday, September 21,  
2025  
1:00-3:00 PM

**\*AT LEGION PARK, HOLLIDAYSBURG**

# Talk-O Tuesday



Fellowship, Food, & Faith Conversation  
Tuesday, September 23rd at 6PM  
La Fiesta at the Airport  
RSVP to the office by Noon

## Homewood at Martinsburg

### Auxiliary's

### Annual Fall Bazaar

Thursday, September 25th

Friday, September 26th

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day  
In the Givler Cultural Center

Follow us on Facebook!  
Homewood at  
Martinsburg Auxiliary!

Choose from a wonderful selection of  
handmade crafts, gift baskets, and  
delicious food. Enjoy Chef Wes's soups,  
sandwiches, and desserts!  
Treasures for everyone!

Raffle Baskets

437 Givler Drive, Martinsburg, PA 16662  
814.793.3728

Vendor interest email [tapatterson@hmwd.org](mailto:tapatterson@hmwd.org)

Proceeds benefit the Homewood at Martinsburg Auxiliary  
and will be used to purchase  
items that enhance the lives of Homewood residents.

Homewood at Martinsburg Auxiliary is a 501c3

WELCOME OUR  
NEW  
VENDORS!

**\*Our organist De Cree will be selling aprons at this event.**



**September 2025**  
 St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
 115 E Penn St., Martinsburg, PA 16662-1127  
 Email: [stmatthewmartinsburg@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthewmartinsburg@gmail.com) 814-793-2413

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day Office Closed	2 2-5 pm Pastor in Office	3	4 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	5 Pastor's Sabbath	6
7 <u>13th Sun. after Pentecost</u> 11 am Worship/Picnic Kreider Farm God's Work. Our Hands.	8 5-6 pm Breaking Bread Community Meal, Martinsburg Church of God	9 2-5 pm Pastor in Office 6:30 pm Council Mtg., WR/Zoom	10	11	12 Pastor's Sabbath	13
14 <u>14th Sun. after Pentecost</u> 9:30 am Sunday School, WR 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	15 <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;">Pastor Traci away at Bishop Convocation. She may be reached on her cell at 814-935-9267.</div>	16	17	18 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	19 Pastor's Sabbath	20
21 <u>15th Sun. after Pentecost</u> 9:30 am Sunday School, WR 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	22	23 12:30-3:00 pm Knoty Ladies, QR 2-5 pm Pastor in Office 6:00 pm Talk-O Tuesday. La Fiesta, Airport	24 7pm Fall Conference Caucus, Lutheran Home	25	26 Pastor's Sabbath	27
28 <u>16th Sun. after Pentecost</u> 9:30 am Sunday School, WR 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	29 6:30 pm Social Ministry Meeting, Zoom	30 12:30-3:00 pm Knoty Ladies, QR 2-5 pm Pastor in Office		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 Jen will be in the Office Mon.-Fri. from 9:00 am-12:00 pm		