



Saint Matthew
LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Matthew's Messenger

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Dear People of God:

I had to travel over the mountain for a funeral the other day, and at the higher elevations, I noticed that some leaves were already turning blazing colors of red and orange. I don't know what this summer's cycle of intense rains and sweltering temperatures will produce in terms of fall foliage, but I can see that change is coming. I cannot seem to find attribution for the quote, but someone wise once said, "Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go."

I doubt that Matthew had September in Pennsylvania on his mind when he was writing his gospel, but most of this month, our lectionary does focus on Jesus encouraging his followers to forgive others and stop holding grudges. We are called to the work (and sometimes it really can be hard work) of forgiveness because God first forgives us. If you've ever really messed up, yet received mercy, you know how good it feels to be forgiven and how important a gift that forgiveness is to give to others.

But forgiveness is not just what we do for someone else. When we forgive, we help ourselves as well. Jesus invites us to set down heavy burdens: sometimes those burdens are the grudges against other people that we insist on hauling around with us. Forgiveness lightens our load.

As we start to watch Nature's art exhibit of trees releasing their leaves, may God help us to see where our lives could be made more beautiful by letting go.

Peace,
Pastor Traci



Out of an abundance of caution...

St. Matthew will be limiting the use of the building temporarily for the health and safety of our members, visitors, and staff. Please check your email for updates from the office.

Worship, Sunday, September 6th --online only (Facebook)

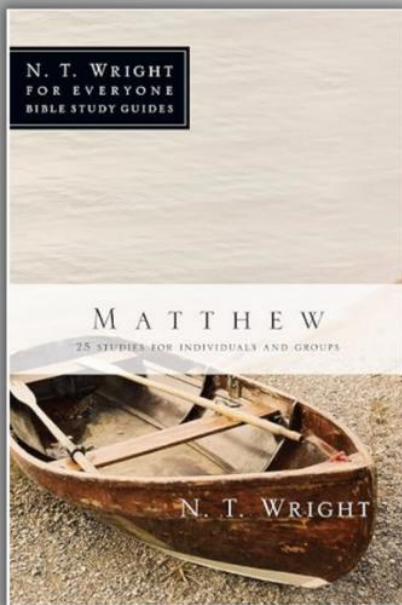
Council Meeting, Tuesday, September 8th --Zoom only

Worship, Sunday, September 13th --to be announced

Return of Sunday School--to be announced



Thank you for your patience!



Back to Sunday School

When Sunday School resumes, we will meet in the Window Room to study N.T. Wright's guide to Matthew, relevant to this year's gospel readings. Books are provided. All are welcome!

**Sunday School is On Hold
Until Further Notice...**



Talk-O Tuesday



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

September Office Hours



Pastor Traci will be away a for a large part of September for continuing education, Bishop's Convocation, and a stewardship conference. No regular office hours will be scheduled this month, but she will be available for meetings in the office or for visits at home by appointment:
814-935-9267 (cell)
revtracimarriott@gmail.com

September Calendar:

- Wed 2nd to Mon 7th: Pastor Away--Continuing Ed
- Sun 6th: Worship: Online only on Facebook
- Tues 8th: Council 6:30PM via Zoom
- Sun 13th: Worship: To Be Determined
- Sun 13th: God's Work Our Hands Worship & Ice Cream at Lutheran Home 2PM
- Mon 14th to Wed 16th: Pastor Away--Bishop's Convocation
- Mon 14th: Community Meal, Church of God
- Sun 20th: Worship: To Be Determined
- Mon 21st to Wed 23rd: Pastor Away--Stewardship Conference
- Sun 27th: Worship: To Be Determined
- Tues 29th: Talk-O Tuesday 6PM, La Fiesta at the Airport

Save the Date: God's work. Our hands. Sunday--September 13th

For this year's *GWOH* Sunday, together with the members of the other Blair-Huntingdon Conference churches, we will join the residents of the Lutheran Home in Hollidaysburg for worship and an ice cream sundae social.

Worship will be at 2PM at the Lutheran Home, outside if weather permits

Up to & including Sunday the 13th, we will collect prizes for Resident Bingo: candy, hand lotion, puzzle books, writing materials, small seasonal decorations

Join us and/or contribute to the collection



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Save the Date...

The Weekend.

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



Allegheny Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

How has God gifted YOU with skills
& passion for our shared ministry?
We want to know!

Please complete the Allegheny Synod's Life Together Survey to help Bishop Kevin and his staff connect members of our synod with each other and the committees and teams working to spread God's love & light in the world. Access the survey with this QR code or on the Synod website. Contact your church office or the synod office for a paper copy.



thank
you

Hello! I would just like to say thank you to the endowment committee for the generous scholarship of \$1000 towards my education at Saint Francis University! It truly means the world to be that you believe I am a worthy recipient of this money, and I promise that it will be used responsibly towards my education and will ease my financial burden, allowing me to focus solely on my schooling. Thanks again for everything!

-Camden Kuster

Prayer Vigil

Saturday, October 3rd, 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 4th. 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. Please call the office at 814-793-2413 or email stmatthewmartinsburg@gmail.com if you are interested in participating.

Martinsburg Food Pantry

Volunteers from Memorial Brethren Church will be helping distribute food on Thursdays, September 3 and September 17 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

During Harvest time, if you have any extra vegetables or fruit you would like to share, it would be appreciated on the days we are open.

Items most needed for September: Macaroni & Cheese, Hamburger Helper, Peas, Spaghetti, and Fruit. Thank you!

Our thanks, also, for all the school supplies received in August! This means a lot to the children and youth as they begin school.

Thank you to Camden for donating veggies from his Eagle Scout garden!

*Many thanks,
Linda Smith*



A Stewardship Minute SEPTEMBER 2026

The September issue *Stewardship* focuses, in part, on the importance of using our time wisely as Christians. After all, God gives us only a number of years to live on earth. It surely would be a disappointment to our loving Creator if we wasted time foolishly.

For example, an old, retired pastor tells of a mother who asked him to visit her middle-aged son in the hospital. The son knew he was dying of alcoholism. As he talked to the minister, he said that he loved drinking alcohol. He smiled as he told of spending time and money in bars. That was his idea of a joyous life; a life ultimately cut very short. "God has given us our life and each day. Each day has 24 hours, each hour has 60 minutes, and each minute has 60 seconds. Make the most of your time and when there is no time left it will be time to go home to God."

My guess is that if we asked almost any pastor if there were any saints in the parish, the pastor could answer, "Why yes, it is the dedicated group, quick to volunteer their time and talent when a need is found." There is a message in James 1: 22 that ought to be heard often in any congregation: "Be doers of the word and not merely hearers..." That means, of course, it is not enough to hear the Good News, but we Christians have the responsibility to put our faith to work through acts of service, love, and witnessing. James also spelled out the duty of Christians. He wrote, "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for the orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world." (James 1:27) If we bear the name of Christian, it is quite clear that we not only believe in our Lord, Jesus Christ, but also serve Christ in whatever way God directs us.

Prayer: *Dear Lord, forgive us for our failures to serve you fully and lovingly. Draw us closer to you Lord and make us restless until we find rest in loving and serving you wherever we are. In your name we pray. Amen.*



Social Ministry Committee Corner
Breaking Bread Community Meal

The September Breaking Bread Community meal will be prepared and served by St. Matthew Lutheran Church. Social Ministry Committee is organizing this meal. The menu includes: pizza casserole, salad, Italian bread and cake for dessert. Additional help is needed to serve and for clean up. Contact Lottie Ebersole if you would like to be part of this community outreach. This meal will be September 14th, 5 pm at the Martinsburg Church of God. Everyone is welcome to attend and share the Love of Christ with our neighbors.

The last Mending Ministry for 2026 will be October 21, 2-4 pm in the fellowship hall. A takeout meal will be provided to our homebound.

Next Social Ministry Committee meeting October 26, 6:30 pm via zoom.

Lottie Ebersole

Social Ministry Committee Chairperson



SERVING GOD AND US
SEPTEMBER 2026

Date	September 6 (Service Online Facebook)	September 13 (Time and Location TBD)	September 20 (Time and Location TBD)	September 27 (Time and Location TBD)
Lectors	NA	TBD	TBD	TBD
Altar Guild	NA	Tonya Walter Jackie Lightner	Tonya Walter Jackie Lightner	Tonya Walter Jackie Lightner
Offering Counters	Beth Garner Jim Barley	Beth Garner Jim Barley	Beth Garner Jim Barley	Beth Garner Jim Barley
Audio/Video	NA	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster
Ushers	NA	Stanley Smith	Tina Harclerode	Greg Haffling
Assist. Min.	NA	Shawn Orzeck	Stacy Kuster	Dawn Alexy



Anniversaries for September

02 Robert & Emily Gunnett	10 Daniel & Lyndsay Tremmel	18 Paul & Amanda Decker
03 Dennis & Margie Smith	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 Orzeck
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

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 Orzeck	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			

HIGHLIGHTS BY COUNCIL IN AUGUST 2026

1. The youth and adult Sunday school classes will meet together during December for a study yet to be determined.
2. The Young at Heart Luncheon was a success and served 54 guests, 20 helpers, and provided 14 take-out meals.
3. St. Matthew will serve the Breaking Bread Community Meal on September 14 at the Martinsburg Church of God.