



St. Matthew's Messenger  
**St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
115 E. Penn Street, Martinsburg, PA 16662-1127

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**PERSEVERANCE**

Dear People of God:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. [Hebrews 12:1-2 NRSV]

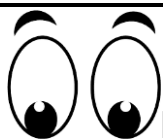
I have never been much of a runner; in my whole life, I've only ever chosen to participate in a few 5K's, nothing longer and certainly not for the purpose of serious competition (which is good, because I would have lost). One of my few attempts ended unimpressively after I trained on the flat, paved battlefield road around Gettysburg then ran up and down hills and through muddy trails on the 5K course at Sequanota. I should have trained on more rugged terrain or chosen a gentler race.

These days I find myself in what feels like an unexpected long-distance endeavor, with the added challenge of having no idea how much farther I have to go. Our pandemic experience has lasted longer than any of us envisioned, and we may have a significant struggle yet in front of us before this time is "over"...not that we even really know what "over" will look like. We didn't have much preparation for life under these constrained conditions: limiting our social interactions with friends and family; adjusting to work or school online or behind masks; forgoing travel, concerts, sporting events, corporate worship. We weren't ready for this, and we're ready for it to be over.

Yet scripture calls us to "run with perseverance the race that is set before us" which acknowledges that the race we get is not always the race we want. The task before us now is to act out of an abundance of caution and care for others. It's not what we planned for; it's not what we would choose; and sadly, it's not over. But as Christians, we are called to radical love that puts other people's needs above our own desires, following Jesus' example of forgoing every power and privilege in order to be the servant of humankind. We are called to keep running, even though it's hard, even though we may feel ill-prepared, even though we're tired. We are still called to the work of loving others, not in the ideal circumstances we wish we were experiencing, but in the real struggle that has been set before us.

The good news is that God promises to be with us, not just in ideal conditions, but always. May we find our strength in the One who bore the weight of the world and continues to hold us gently in infinitely loving arms.

*Pastor Traci*



**Be On the Lookout...**

Information regarding our plans to return to in-person worship will be posted on the website and Facebook page and will be mailed to you directly. Currently, we plan to resume in-person worship beginning in October with services on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the nave and 10:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the nave. Please be on the look-out for more information mid- to end of the month.

## OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE

An outdoor worship service is planned for **Sunday, September 13, 2020 at 10 a.m.**, at the Ed Kreider Farm. Directions to the Kreider Farm are below:



**Directions:** From Martinsburg, take 164 East to Fredericksburg. Turn **left** on Clover Creek road and follow for 2¾ miles to Kreider Lane on the right.

### Guidelines to follow if you plan to attend worship on September 13<sup>th</sup>:

- Bring your own chair.
- Print your bulletin or use electronic device (download and save the file before the service; cell coverage is at a minimum at the farm). If you bring a paper bulletin, take it home with you.
- Hand sanitizer will be available.
- No rest room facilities will be available unless for an emergency.
- The service will not be live streamed but will be recorded and uploaded shortly after the service is over.
- You are required to wear a mask. If you are unable to wear a mask, we invite you to continue worshipping online. (Masks will be available in case you forget yours.)
- Your name and contact information will be recorded (in case contact tracing becomes necessary).
- Wear appropriate clothing and shoes so you are comfortable in an outdoor setting.
- If it rains, the service will be live streamed at the church and recorded as usual. We will not meet in person. Lori will send an email indicating cancellation of the outdoor worship if it is raining.
- The worship service will include communion. Pre-packaged wafers and wine will be prepared and placed on a table for you to pick up before the worship service. Following the service you can discard packaging in the trash can provided.
- Practice social distancing. Whenever possible keep at least six feet from anyone who is not part of your own household. We realize it has been a while since most of us have seen each other, but refrain from the urge to hug or shake hands. A simple wave and hello is good.
- Even though we are gathering outdoors, if you are exhibiting symptoms, awaiting test results, or have been in contact with someone who may have been exposed to the virus, you will need to stay at home. We invite you to worship digitally.

We are looking forward to this unique worship experience.

*Thank you,  
Pastor Traci & The Worship & Music Committee*



### September Worship Schedule

Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship on Facebook, 10:15ish Fellowship on Zoom  
Sunday, September 13 at 10:00 a.m. at the Kreider Farm (**bring a chair and your printed bulletin**)  
Mondays & Fridays: Hymn Devotions posted at 9 a.m.  
Tuesday & Thursdays: Morning Prayer at 9 a.m. & Night Prayer at 9 p.m.  
Tuesday & Friday: Midday Kid's Devotions (without song time)  
Wednesdays: Holden Evening Prayer at 8 p.m.



## A Stewardship Minute September 2020

Jesus gave us two great commandments: Love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength; and, love our neighbor as we love our self. Remember what the psalmist wrote in Psalm 24? He said "...the earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it." (Ps. 24:1) It is logical therefore, that we are showing love and respect for God when we care for this beautiful earth that God has provided for us.

Stewardship of the earth ... keeping it beautiful, managing the land, waters and air properly so that they are clean, productive, healthy, and lovely ... is clearly showing love and appreciation to our Creator. Consider, also, that loving one's neighbor sincerely involves respecting those traveling with us on planet earth. Taking care of our "home" is an important form of stewardship and is in line with Jesus' two commandments.

The September issue of *Stewardship* elaborates on this point and points out that stewardship of our earth is not just an environmental concept, but also a biblical one. As we give our heart-felt concern and respect to those who are using this earth with us, we can only conclude that maintaining it as best we can is in line with what Jesus commanded.

**Prayer:** *Open our minds and hearts, dear Lord, that we may truly be stewards of God's earth and those we are meant to help. Amen*

### Attendance for July 2020

No regular attendance was observed since Covid-19 started March 15, 2020 for St. Matthew. We worshiped online through Facebook and Zoom with an average attendance of 100 viewers.

Chapel Service Attendance None  
because of Covid-19

Average Sunday Worship attendance 2019  
– 88 (4 wks.)

## Transformational Ministry



"Transformational Ministry" is in the form of daily prayer for the Health and Welfare of our ministry here at St. Matthew.

Our September special prayer request is: It has been a tough 5 months since Covid-19 hit the United States in March. We have had to change all schedules to keep up with changes in doctors visits, work, sports activities, schooling, and leisure time activities. Some of these changes have caused mental anguish, stress, and physical disabilities. So let us seek the Lord and ask for his help in establishing a new norm in life. Oh Lord! Help me to adapt to the changes needed to make me a better servant to serve Thee and my fellows. Let us abide in peace, harmony, and understanding. Let there be PEACE in me and the world! AMEN.

### Prayer Vigil



To say we are living in a world greatly in need of prayer may seem like a gross understatement. In 2020 we have witnessed the ongoing COVID 19 Pandemic, an economy that is struggling, racial tensions and injustices, political divides, food and housing insecurities, indecision regarding returning to school, cancellation of entertainment and sporting events, etc, etc. if we ever needed our Lord to "HEAR OUR PRAYER" it is now. We are yearning to return to our churches, participate in communion and fellowship even if it is at a distance. In the difficult times and the "normal" times, Jesus has always been there for us. We have only to knock and the door will be opened.

Won't you join us in our 12 hour prayer vigil by giving one half hour in prayer from your home or wherever you may be on Saturday, October 3, 2020. If you would prefer a morning time from 6 AM until noon, please call Elaine Buchart at 793-3953. Les Loomis will be scheduling from noon until 6 PM at 1-570-885-0572.



## Martinsburg Food Pantry

The Food Pantry will be open for distribution of food on Thursdays, September 3 and September 17 from

9:00 until 11:00 a.m. Volunteers from Memorial Church of the Brethren will help distribute the food, along with the regular helpers. Safety practices will continue during this virus pandemic.

**Items most needed for September:** Fruit, Scalloped Potatoes, Pasta, Tomato Sauce, Peanut Butter and Jelly. Personal Health Items. Any food, supplies or monetary donations are greatly appreciated. Many Thanks!



## Outdoor Home Visits

While the weather cooperates, Pastor Traci is available for socially distanced outdoor home visits which can include communion. Call Pastor at 814-935-9267 if you would like to arrange a visit.



## DeYogaVotions In the Park For September

Yoga with meditation on scripture with Pastor Traci will be offered on Saturdays, September 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, at 9 a.m. at Canoe Creek State Park. These will be outdoor socially-distanced events. Please bring your own mat (and block if you prefer) and meet to the right of the main parking area. Masks should be worn until everyone is in place and ready to begin.



## MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND GOES VIRTUAL

Because of the coronavirus restrictions, the September 18-20, 2020 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend will now be presented online using Zoom video conferencing. **SO YOU NOW CAN EXPERIENCE THE WEEKEND FROM YOUR OWN HOME WHEREVER THAT MIGHT BE.**

If the coronavirus has put stress on your marriage, you are not alone! Lutheran Marriage Encounter wants to help you renew and revitalize your marital relationship no matter whether you have been married a year or 60+ years. And because there is no room and board expense, your total cost to experience this Weekend is only \$100 per couple. In addition, some scholarship funds are available if this creates a hardship for you--simply email or call us at the information below before you register.

You only need to provide a quiet spot with minimal distractions, a good internet connection, and a computer or laptop or some such device suitable for video conferencing. (If you have children in the home, it is highly recommended that they stay with friends or relatives for the Weekend.) The Weekend begins at 8 PM on Friday night and ends at approximately 3 PM on Sunday. **REGISTRATIONS WILL BE LIMITED**, so sign up **NOW** while there are still openings. Simply go to: [www.GodLovesMarriage.org](http://www.GodLovesMarriage.org), find the September 18-20 Virtual Weekend, fill out the form, and pay the \$100 with a credit card, or print the form and mail with a check. Don't miss this opportunity to create a more intimate and joyful marital relationship! For questions, please contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or [fjschamber@comcast.net](mailto:fjschamber@comcast.net).



## **\*\*Volunteers Needed\*\***

When we resume in-person worship (currently planned for Sunday, October 4th and onward) we will need a designated recorder at each service to take names and phone numbers to help with contact tracing in the event that someone tests positive for COVID-19. This will be a one-person (or one-couple) job for each of the three weekly services (9:00 a.m. Sunday in the nave, 10:30 a.m. Sunday in the fellowship hall, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in the nave—a different recorder for each service). Recorders will be able to take information from behind a safety partition. If you are willing to help, please contact Lori at 793-2413 or smatthewluth@aol.com with your availability.

## **Book Study**

Book Study will resume in October (to give everyone a chance to get the book and start reading). Discussions will be held during the day and in the evening on Thursdays to accommodate multiple schedules. The selection for October will be CS Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters*. The book is appropriate for high school age and up and is available in print or through electronic devices.



Thank you for your much needed and greatly appreciated gift of \$120 from the Children's Day Offering.

***Gary Schmidt, MA, Good Shepherd***

Your dedication to our mission is clearly demonstrated by your financial support of ALSM PPE Fund. ***Patricia Savage, President/CEO***

## **Phone & Address Change**

### **John Lear**

771 Heverly Ave  
Martinsburg, PA 16662-1626  
814-793-2544

### **Stephen Hinish**

425 E Christiana St  
Martinsburg, PA 16662-1258



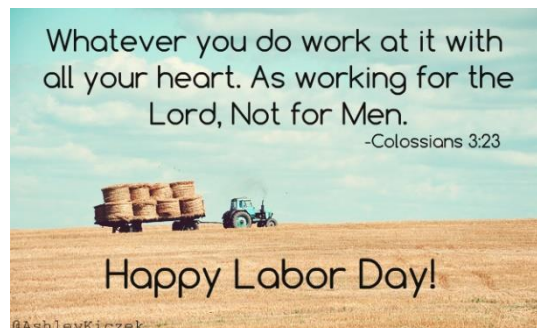
## **Prayers and Christian Sympathy go to....**

- A J Hoenstine and family upon the death of his brother, Nick Hoenstine, Wednesday, August 5, 2020. Jeff and Jay Hoesntine were his nephews.
- Amy Carpenter and family upon the death of her mother-in-law, Tuesday, August 19, 2020. Janie was her granddaughter.
- Anna Klepser and family upon the death of her son, John Klepser, Monday, August 24, 2020. Mary Jane Satterfield was his sister.
- Mary Lou Hinish and family upon the death of her husband, Dean Hinish, Tuesday, August 25, 2020. Stephen Hinish and Suzanne Good were his children.

## **Prayer Chain**



When you have name to put on the Prayer Chain, please call Lori at 814-793-2413 or email at smatthewluth@aol.com. If you called Anna Klepser to put the name on the Phone Prayer Chain, you also need to get in touch with Lori.



**Monday, September 7, 2020**



## Anniversaries for September

- |                           |                              |                         |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 02 Robert & Emily Gunnett | 15 Eric & Jennifer Frederick | Stanley & Michele Smith |
| 03 Dennis & Margie Smith  | John & Carol Replogle        | 23 Rick & Shanda Imler  |
| 09 Greg & Amy Haffling    | 16 David & Elizabeth Bithell |                         |
| Matt & Tina Harclerode    | 18 Paul & Amanda Decker      |                         |



## Birthdays for September

- |                          |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 01 Jeanne Skillington    | 11 Lily Lightner         | 22 Greta L. Buchart     |
| 02 James Negley          | Lucy Lightner            | Amy M. Carpenter        |
| 04 Jennifer L. Winston   | 12 Michelle Cronrath     | Linda Negley            |
| 05 Jennifer L. Frederick | 13 George R. Gilbert Sr. | Lori Tremmel            |
| 06 Hal B. Grove          | 14 Sally F. Neely        | 23 Cheryl L. Gigante    |
| Alex W. Hoover           | Merry Ritchey            | Laura Orczeck           |
| 07 Vivian Beach          | 15 Tera A. Baker         | 24 Martha Metz          |
| H. Jean Sinal            | Kylie Gunnett            | Bruce Ross              |
| 08 Stanley C. Smith      | 16 Tyler Oswalt          | 25 Rick Imler           |
| Nell Snyder              | 18 Brandon Meck          | Lauren Smith            |
| 10 Cody Guyer            | 19 Preston Weaver        | 27 Mary Ann Satterfield |
| Mark Guyer               | 20 Kay Howsare           | 29 Matthew D. Lehman    |
| 11 Shelley Clinich       | 21 Sharon Smith          | Patrick Snyder          |
|                          | Wade T. Smith            | 30 Robin R. Robison     |

### ALSM Chronicles

August 25, 2020

Greetings. I wanted to share the following statement with you about The Lutheran Home at Hollidaysburg.

Since March, our building like all skilled nursing homes around the Commonwealth have been on lock down since the onset of the virus. Visitors are not permitted until there are no cases present. Every day over the past five months our staff has been working tirelessly to provide care to keep residents safe. These frontline workers deserve recognition for their dedication.

The Lutheran Home at Hollidaysburg like other nursing homes in our region has cases of Covid-19.

The PA Department of Health has engaged the services of the Pennsylvania National Guard medical personnel to assist our staff in caring for our residents through this challenging time. When assistance was offered, we accepted. We appreciate the respite for our team members. Our staff fulfills our mission of love, compassion, and mercy but need added support at this time. We have and are following all the precautions recommended and mandated by our regulating bodies.

We are working arduously to care for our staff and our residents with consultation from the PA Department of Health and other health care professionals.

If you have any questions, please be in touch with me at [patricia.savage@alsm.org](mailto:patricia.savage@alsm.org) or 814.696.4556.

Sincerely,

*Pat Savage*

President/CEO

## 2020 COUNCIL DIRECTORY AND MINISTRY STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Traci Marriott	935-9267	Property	Warren Daniel	935-9249
Admin. Assist.	Lori Tremmel	696-3802	Christian Ed.	Bonnie Casey	285-1610
Assist. Admin. Assist.	Laura Orczeck	224-1208	Evangelism	Les Loomis	(570) 885-0572
President	Melissa Fetzer	793-2735	Stewardship	Greg Haffling	793-9827
Vice President	Sheena Tremmel	515-2962	Finance	Jim Barley	793-4623
Secretary	Elaine Smith	(434) 981-0560	Social Ministry	Peggy Freyer	614-4552
Treasurer	Beth Garner	793-3966	Worship & Music	Jane Fagans	793-4401
Financial Secretary	Anna Klepser	793-2094	Staff Support	Kaye Burket	224-5224

### HIGHLIGHTS BY COUNCIL IN JULY

1. Council agreed to split the final disbursement of the Rosamond Smith Bequest into two funds: \$14,997 to The Thrivent Diversified Income Plus for the Youth and \$14,997 to Thrivent Income Fund to be used as needed.
2. Council agreed to accept the recommendation from Staff Support to no longer distribute the Monthly Messenger and any other bulk mailings by US Postal Service except for those that do not have internet (24). This will save the church approximately \$1,200 annually.

### Giving

2020 July		Year to Date as of 7/31/2020	
<b>Current</b>	<b>\$11,240.86</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>\$106,338.16</b>
<b>Benevolence (Synod)</b>	<b>\$1,625.00</b>	<b>Benevolence (Synod)</b>	<b>\$12,401.00</b>
2019 July		Year to Date as of 7/31/19	
<b>Current</b>	<b>\$14,851.35</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>\$112,079.11</b>
<b>Benevolence (Synod)</b>	<b>\$1,706.00</b>	<b>Benevolence (Synod)</b>	<b>\$11,002.55</b>
2020 Income vs Expenses			
<u>Current</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Year to Date as of 7/31/2020</u>	
Actual	(\$7,638.04)	(\$7,818.38)	
Per Budget	(\$7,390.22)	(\$24,079.42)	
<u>Benevolence</u>			
Per Commitment to Synod	(\$541.67)	(\$2,765.67)	

### 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](http://www.stmatthewlc.com)"
- 2) Click on the "Give" button, (on the top white banner)
- 3) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.

**Barcode Offerings:**

- 1) Visit "Play Store on your mobile device"
- 2) Find QR Code (this app is free)
- 3) Click on the "Install" the app
- 4) Open the app on your device
- 5) Scan the Barcode: (follow the prompts)

