

## *The Fifth Sunday in Lent*

**March 22, 2026**



*We ask that all present sign our Friendship Sheet. After you add your name to the sheet, please pass it toward the center aisle. Then return it to the outside aisle so that you become familiar with our family in Christ. These sheets help our pastor and congregation with our ministry. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew to worship and serve Christ together!*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Of the Land and Season booklet, page 1 (for Spring)

#### **\*GREETING**

*P:* The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

#### **\*KYRIE**

OLS pages 2-3

#### **\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

OLS pages 3-4

#### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*P: Let us pray ...* Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14

<sup>1</sup>The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

<sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.”

*L:* The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 130 (read responsively)**

<sup>1</sup> Out of the depths

I cry to you, O Lord;

<sup>2</sup> **O Lord, hear my voice!**

**Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.**

<sup>3</sup> If you were to keep watch over sins,

O Lord, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup> **Yet with you is forgiveness,**

**in order that you may be feared.**

<sup>5</sup> I wait for you, O Lord; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

<sup>6</sup> **My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,**

**more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

<sup>7</sup> O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love;

with the Lord there is plenteous redemption.

<sup>8</sup> **For the Lord shall redeem Israel**

**from all their sins.**

**SECOND READING: Romans 8:6-11**

<sup>6</sup> To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

*L:* The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel: John 11:1-45**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup> Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup> after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup> The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup> But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." <sup>11</sup> After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." <sup>12</sup> The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." <sup>13</sup> Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup> For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup> Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

<sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” <sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup> When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup> He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” <sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

<sup>45</sup> Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

*P:* The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**HOMILY**

*Pastor Traci*



1 Some-times our on - ly song is weep - ing; our on - ly  
2 Some-times we catch the faint-est hum - ming, a far - off



sound is gasp - ing breath. Some-times it seems that God is  
tune our hearts know well. Some-times we sense the Spir - it



sleep - ing while our brief lives are bound in death.  
com - ing. Our song re - turns; our voic - es swell.



Who hears the song our sor - rows swal - low and of - fers  
The Spir - it sings though we are shak - en, and Christ has



hope to calm our fears? When all our words seem frail and  
shared our heart - felt cries. Re - stored, our wea - ry souls a -



hol - low, God heeds the prayers with - in our tears.  
wak - en to join God's song that nev - er dies.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: WAYFARING STRANGER, North American traditional

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## \*APOSTLES' CREED

OLS page 6

## \*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*A:* Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*A:* We pray for the church. Grant life and peace to all who gather in your name. Breathe into us so that we may share your message of forgiveness, hope, and love. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

*A:* We pray for creation. Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper the work of those who restore homes and habitats after natural disasters, and sustain places where biodiversity thrives. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

*A:* We pray for the nations. Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all who live in places of war and violence, and guide refugees and asylum seekers to safety. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

*A:* We pray for all people in need. Take away the stone of poverty that weighs down so many. Console any who weep and heal all who are sick. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

*A:* We pray for this assembly. Ready the hearts and spirits of all preparing to be baptized. Deepen our wonder at the mystery of your resurrection and life. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

*A:* We offer our thanksgiving for all people who have died in faith. Give us faith to trust in your power to redeem and save, and bring us up from our graves to life in you. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

*P:* Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **C: Amen.**

## \*THE PEACE

*P:* The peace of the LORD be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Please share the peace with those around you using a greeting that is comfortable for both you and them.*

## \*OFFERTORY HYMN

*Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring*

OLS page 7

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

OLS page 8

*An offering plate is located near the entrance to the nave;  
we offer thanks for the abundance God has first shown us:*

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

OLS page 8

**\*SANCTUS**

OLS page 8

**\*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

OLS page 9

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

OLS page 10

**\*THE AGNUS DEI**

*Lamb of God*

OLS page 10

**POST COMMUNION HYMN**

*O Lord of the Blossom*

OLS page 11

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION, BENEDICTION**

OLS page 12

**\*SENDING HYMN**

*Seasons*

OLS page 10

**\*DISMISSAL**

OLS page 12

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Also, please be advised that our parking lot has surveillance cameras and  
that our worship service is video recorded and/or live-streamed on social media.

## Serving God and Us

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew

Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Organists – Mary Nelson, DeAnna Cree

Our Pianists – Adam Smith, Ben Decker

Our Missionary Family – Robin Abrol, On Eagle’s Wings

Our Administrative Assistant – Jen Ripka

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton – Phil Claar

Our Assisting Minister – Jane Hoenstine

Our Lector – Elaine Smith

Our Acolyte – Lucy Lightner

Our Usher – Paul Decker

Our Altar Guild – Tonya Walter, Tina Harclerode

Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

**First Quarter Ventures in Faith to “Local Needs”**

### **This Week at St. Matthew:**

#### **814-793-2413: Office Hours**

Pastor Traci – Tues. – 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Wed. – 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Jen – Tues., Wed., Fri. – 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

#### **This Week Events**

**Today –**

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

Monday –

Worship & Music Meeting 6:00 p.m., Zoom

Tuesday –

Yoga 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Wednesday –

Lenten Supper 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Worship 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Yoga 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Sunday –

*Palm Sunday*

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

**Prayers are needed for our homebound:** Mary Jane Allision, Fred Brandenburg, Linda Claar, Mary Creps, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Dan Kensinger, Jean Stonerook, Robert Winston.

*So we can give special attention to those with pressing needs, names were removed at the end of the month. Please let the office know if a name should be added to the prayer list for an extended period of time.*

**Prayer Concerns:** Baby Campbell, Juls Bratton and Charlee Howsare and family, Greta Buchart, Doug Bush, Julie Dick, Mary Farabaugh, Ken Harkless, Marilyn Horton, Kathy Keith, Rachel Kensinger, J.C. and Naomi (Noni) Lehman & Family, Kristen Malloy, Dan Ross, John Russell, Dan Sinal, Joshua Sollenberger, Kaleb Sollenberger, Bill Stahl, Jim Stewart, and for our **Missionaries: Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings.**

**Away at School:** Max Baker, Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jay Hoenstine, Jeff Hoenstine, Camden Kuster, Lacey Ripka.

**Those Serving in our Armed Forces:** Bradley Buchart, Melody Estep.



**St. Matthew Martinsburg  
Wednesday Lenten Schedule**  
5:30PM Dinner & 6:30PM Compline  
*All in the Fellowship Hall*

February 25<sup>th</sup> ~ Vegetable Soup & Ox Roast  
March 4<sup>th</sup> ~ Grilled Cheese & Tomato Soup  
March 11<sup>th</sup> ~ Chili & Cornbread  
March 18<sup>th</sup> ~ Potato Soup & Ham Sandwiches  
March 25<sup>th</sup> ~ Chef's Choice

*Join us for food, fellowship, and worship  
(about ½ hour) with a focus on prayer*

### **Good Friday Prayer Vigil**



On Friday, April 3, 2026 from 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., St. Matthew Lutheran Church has scheduled our annual Good Friday Prayer Vigil. 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 sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board in the Narthex before **Monday, March 30, 2026.** This is an excellent way for you to enrich your spiritual and prayer life.

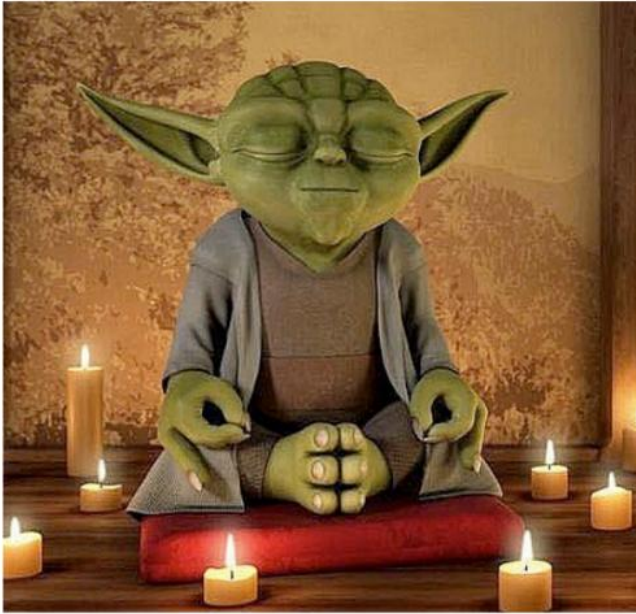
## Card Shower

Let's brighten the day of Dan Sinal who is currently staying at Homewood.



**Cards can be sent to:**  
PO Box 282  
Martinsburg, PA 16662

# RETURN OF THE YOGA



Join Pastor Traci  
in the Fellowship Hall  
for Gentle Yoga  
for All Abilities

Tuesdays In March:  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> at 6PM

&

Every Wednesday  
in March at 7PM-ish,  
Following Lenten  
Worship



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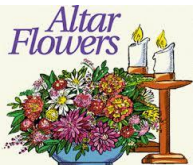
## Martinsburg Food Pantry



Volunteers from Clover Creek of the Brethren will be assisting, along with the regular helpers to distribute items on the first and third Thursdays, April 2 and April 16. The pantry will be open from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m. and other times by appointment.

**Most needed items for April are:** Pasta Sauce, Scalloped Potatoes, Baked Beans, Peanut Butter and Cleaning Supplies. We appreciate all items that are donated!

*Thank you!*  
*Linda Smith*



The 2026 Altar Flower chart is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Altar Flowers are a perfect way to remember loved ones. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar. Price - \$40.00

Save the Date...

# The Weekend.

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