

## *The Sixth Sunday of Easter*

**May 10, 2026**

10:30 a.m. Worship



*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**

#### **PRELUDE**

#### **\*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*P:* Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*P:* Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

**C: Amen.**

*P:* Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us including Plum Creek, Clover Creek, and the Juniata River. Blessed are you.

**C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

*P:* Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

**C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

*P:* Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

**C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

*P:* Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*Jerusalem, My Happy Home*

*ELW # 628*

**\*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.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

*Glory to God*

*ELW # S204a*



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*P:* *Let us pray ...* Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, 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: ACTS 17:22-31

<sup>22</sup> Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup> “Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

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

## PSALM 66:8-20 (*read responsively*)

<sup>8</sup> Bless our God, you peoples;  
let the sound of praise be heard.

<sup>9</sup> **Our God has kept us among the living  
and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

<sup>10</sup> For you, O God, have tested us;  
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

<sup>11</sup> **You brought us into the net;  
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

<sup>12</sup> You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,  
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

<sup>13</sup> **I will enter your house with burnt offerings  
and will pay you my vows—**

<sup>14</sup> those that I promised with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

<sup>15</sup> **I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;**

**I will give you oxen and goats.**

<sup>16</sup> Come and listen, all you who believe,  
and I will tell you what God has done for me.

<sup>17</sup> **I called out to God with my mouth,  
and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

<sup>18</sup> If I had cherished evil in my heart,  
the Lord would not have heard me;

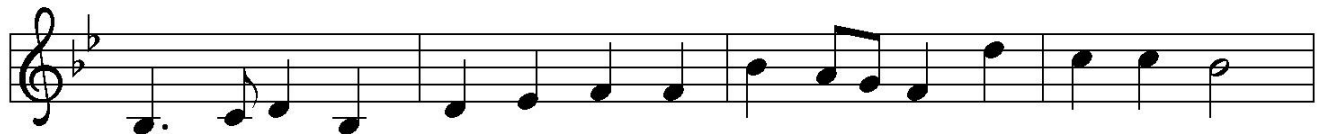
<sup>19</sup> **but in truth God has heard me  
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

<sup>20</sup> Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,  
nor withheld unfailing love from me.

**SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22**

<sup>13</sup> Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, <sup>16</sup> yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup> in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup> And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

**\*Gospel: John 14:15-21**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup> “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

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

**HOMILY**

*Pastor Traci*

*Refrain*



Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of



liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing



and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.



1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's  
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my  
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of



kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and  
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and  
friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

*Refrain*



fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.  
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.  
day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953

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Music © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

## **\*NICENE CREED**

*P:* Let us confess our faith through the words of the Nicene Creed.

**C:** We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **\*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

*A:* Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A:* God of new life, you call us through the waters of baptism to be in relationship with you and one another. Guide the church and its leaders to proclaim Christ's righteousness throughout the world. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

*A:* You create the world and all that is in it. Shelter budding plants and young animals, provide unpolluted habitats and clean water, and raise up stewards for the environment. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

*A:* You set civil servants in the places where we live. Instill truth and equity among judges and lawyers, gentleness and courage among first responders, and peace among leaders of towns and nations. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

*A:* You provide comfort in times of trouble. Heal those who are sick, shelter any who are unhoused, feed those undernourished, and accompany and console all who are lonely, bereaved, anxious, or ill. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

*A:* You are love and you desire that we love one another. As a mother hen cares for her chicks, bless all who provide motherly care in our lives, and inspire us to care for one another. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

*A:* God of new life, your steadfast love endures forever. Inspire us by the example of the faithful departed, who clung to your promises of life, forgiveness of sins, and salvation. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

*P:* God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **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 PRAYER**

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

*A: Let us pray...* Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **C: Amen.**

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*P:* The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

*P:* Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

*P:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*PROPER PREFACE**

*P:* It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*SANCTUS**

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord*

*ELW # S207*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

*P:* Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:

Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.

You have filled all creation with light and life;

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations.

You rescued Israel, your chosen people.

Through the prophets you renewed your promise;

and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son,  
who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom  
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*P:* Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup  
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.  
And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power  
to share with us the great and promised feast.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*P:* Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,  
the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection,  
that we who receive the Lord's body and blood  
may live to the praise of your glory  
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

*P:* Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place,  
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest  
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

**C: Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

*P:* Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and  
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

**\*THE AGNUS DEI**

*Lamb of God*

*ELW # S208*



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

**\*INVITATION**

*P:* Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord. **C:** **Thanks be to God.**

**COMMUNION HYMN**

*Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness*

*ELW # 488*

**\*BLESSING**

*P:* May the body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C:** **Amen.**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*A:* *Let us pray...* Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **C:** **Amen.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

*P:* God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever. **C:** **Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG**

*O Holy Spirit, Enter In*

*ELW # 786*

**\*DISMISSAL**

*P:* Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!  
**C:** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**\*POSTLUDE**

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Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #SB105031  
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.

**Today's Altar Flowers** are placed to the Glory of God in memory of loved ones by  
Mary Nelson.

### **Serving God and Us**

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew  
Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott  
Our Organist – Mary Nelson  
Our Pianist – Ben Decker  
Our Missionary Family – Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings  
Our Administrative Assistant – Jen Ripka  
Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orzeck  
Our Sexton – Phil Claar  
Our Assisting Minister – Greg Haffling  
Our Lector – Kaye Burket  
Our Acolyte – Ben Decker  
Our Usher – Greg Haffling  
Our Altar Guild – Cindy Snyder, Jeannie Smith  
Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster  
Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

**Second Quarter Ventures in Faith to “*Youth & Camping*”**

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

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

Pastor Traci – Tues. – 3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Pastor Traci is on vacation from May 17<sup>th</sup>—May 20<sup>th</sup>.

In case of emergency call, Pastor MJ Irvin-Stellabotte 814-934-9941.

Jen – Mon., Wed., Thurs. – 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

### **This Week Events**

**Today –**                    *6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*    *Mother's Day*  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

**Tuesday –**                Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., Window Room/Zoom

**Thursday –**              *Ascension of Our Lord*

**Sunday –**                    *7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*  
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, Ruth Marshall, 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, Bill Davis, 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.



### **Martinsburg Food Pantry**

The Food Pantry will be open for food distribution on Thursdays, May 7 and May 21 from 9:00am until 11:00am. Besides the regular volunteers, those helping will be from the Martinsburg Church of God.

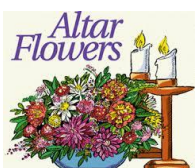


#### **Following are those items most needed:**

Peanut Butter & Jelly, Rice Sides, Pasta Sauce, Spaghetti, and Paper Towels

Many thanks for your food, other items, and monetary gifts donated to the Food Pantry!

*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



St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
*Welcomes You to Celebrate*

**Affirmation of Baptism  
~Confirmation~**

**of  
Benjamin, Gabrielle, Gavin,  
Lily, Lucy, Mace & Norah**

*Holy Trinity Sunday  
May 31st at 10:30AM  
Reception to Follow*



**Congratulations to our 2026 Graduates**

Mace Baker, Central High School

Jeffrey Hoenstine,  
Saint Francis University  
(BS, Criminal Justice)

We'll be celebrating our graduates in worship on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>.

*Rise for Recovery*  
BLAIR COUNTY  
presents  
**Arts in Recovery**  
**2026**  
An evening that celebrates and expresses the gift of recovery through music, art, poetry, and more.  
**Friday May 15th**  
**7:00pm**  
At Zion Lutheran Church  
500 Allegheny Street, Hollidaysburg, PA  
(Across the street from the Blair County Courthouse)

## 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, May 20th  
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, May 26th at 6PM  
La Fiesta at the Airport  
RSVP to the office by Noon

### You're invited to a Life Line Screening event!

**Where:** St Matthew Lutheran Church  
115 E Penn St  
Martinsburg, PA 16662

**When:** Thursday, June 4, 2026  
June is Men's Health Month

Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in **Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk** Screenings.

*Trusted by over 11 million customers.*

Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

**Who should attend:**  
Anyone age of 40+

### Special Pricing for \$129

- ♥️ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥️ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥️ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- ♥️ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening

### 4 ways to book your appointment...

Call 800-324-9458 and use  
promo code HABC001

Visit [LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC](https://llsa.social/habc)



Text the word "circle"  
to 216-279-1607

These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease. Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.

Save the date and come enjoy  
an evening of fun, food,  
and fellowship!



**Lutheran Day  
at the  
Altoona Curve**

**Sunday, August 16**  
Game begins at 6 pm

Watch for  
registration details  
coming soon!



Save the Date...

**The Weekend.**

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

**ENDOWMENT  
FUND**



**THIRD CENTURY FUND (ENDOWMENT FUND)**

The Third Century Fund is seeking individuals or committees who are in the need of funding for education, worship or capital projects. You or your committee may request funding in writing by contacting Laura Orcezek, chairperson, or committee members: Allen Kuster, Barb Wilt, Beth Garner, or Pastor Traci.

Deadline to submit a request is Sunday, May 24, 2026. Funds will be distributed in June of 2025.

The following is from the by-laws of the Third Century Fund and outline the guidelines for fund requests.

**PURPOSE**

The St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund is established to encourage responsible Christian stewardship and to promote the mission of the congregation. In response to God's love and mercy, the Endowment Fund seeks to enhance and expand the mission outreach objectives of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church. Members and friends of St. Matthew congregation are encouraged to practice responsible Christian Stewardship by making contributions to the Endowment Fund. There are a variety of ways such gifts can be made such as cash, securities, bequests through wills or living trusts, life insurance policies, charitable gift annuities and life estates. The Endowment Fund provides financial support for the church in a manner that is separate from the expenditures normally funded by the annual operating budget of the congregation.

**USE OF THE FUND**

All contributions to the St. Matthew Lutheran Church Endowment Fund will be undesignated and added to the principal balance of the fund. The Endowment fund principal balance will be retained and only the dividend income will be used for annual disbursements. Consideration for awarding fund requests will be given using the following guidelines:

1. Youth of all ages - scholarship support of congregational members and their children; for youth events, for church camps or similar Christian programs, and education.
2. Christian outreach ministries and missions of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, its members, and the ELCA.
3. Worship and Music - support for the worship of St. Matthew.
4. Capital Projects - major renovations or building projects of St. Matthew.



1 Je - ru - sa - lem, my hap - py home, when shall I come to thee?  
2 O hap - py har - bor of the saints, O sweet and pleas - ant soil!  
3 Thy gar - dens and thy gal - lant walks con - tin - ual - ly are green;  
4 There trees for - ev - er - more bear fruit and ev - er - more do spring;  
5 Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - ru - sa - lem, God grant that I may see



When shall my sor - rows have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?  
In thee no sor - row may be found, no grief, no care, no toil.  
there grow such sweet and pleas - ant flow'rs as no - where else are seen.  
there ev - er - more the an - gels sit and ev - er - more do sing.  
thine end - less joy, and of the same par - tak - er ev - er be!

Text: F. B. P., 16th cent.

Music: LAND OF REST, North American traditional

*Refrain*



Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of



liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing



and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.



1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's  
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my  
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of



kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and  
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and  
friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

*Refrain*



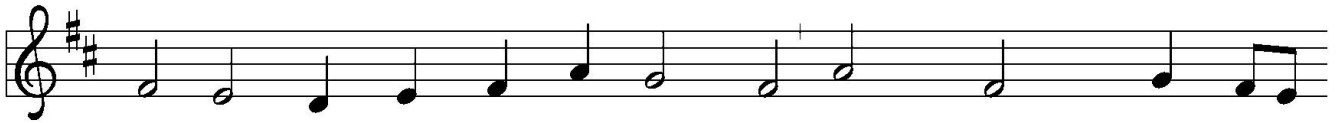
fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.  
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.  
day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

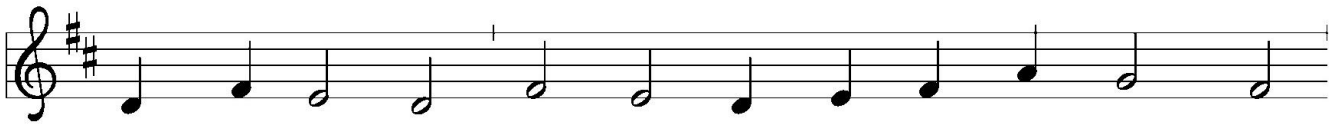
Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953

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1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, leave the gloom - y  
 2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, ea - ger - ly and  
 3 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der o - ver this sur -  
 4 Je - sus, source of last - ing plea - sure, tru - est friend, and



haunts of sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's splen - dor,  
 glad - ly greet him. There he stands al - read - y knock - ing;  
 pass - ing won - der that the bread of life is bound - less  
 dear - est trea - sure, peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing,



there with joy your prais - es ren - der. Bless the one whose grace un -  
 quick - ly, now, your gate un - lock - ing, o - pen wide the fast - closed  
 though the souls it feeds are count - less; with the choic - est wine of  
 joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing: hum - bly now, I bow be -



bound - ed this a - maz - ing ban - quet found - ed; Christ, though heav' n - ly,  
 por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im - mor - tal: "Come, and leave your  
 heav - en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious  
 fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you; wor - thi - ly let



high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.  
 loved one nev - er; dwell with - in my heart for - ev - er."  
 con - so - la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.  
 me re - ceive you, and, so fa - vored, nev - er leave you.



1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, en - ter in, and in our hearts your  
 2 Left to our - selves, we sure - ly stray; oh, lead us on the  
 3 O might - y Rock, O Source of life, let your good Word in



work be - gin, and make our hearts your dwell - ing. Sun of the soul,  
 nar - row way, with wis - est coun - sel guide us; and give us stead -  
 doubt and strife be in us strong - ly burn - ing, that we be faith -



O Light di - vine, a - round and in us bright - ly shine, your strength  
 fast - ness, that we may fol - low you for - ev - er free, no mat -  
 ful un - to death and live in love and ho - ly faith, from you



in us up - well - ing. In your ra - diance life from heav - en now is  
 ter who de - rides us. Gent - ly heal those hearts now bro - ken; give some  
 true wis - dom learn - ing. Lord, your mer - cy on us show - er; by your



giv - en o - ver - flow - ing, gift of gifts be - yond all know - ing.  
 to - ken you are near us, whom we trust to light and cheer us.  
 pow - er Christ con - fess - ing, we will cher - ish all your bless - ing.