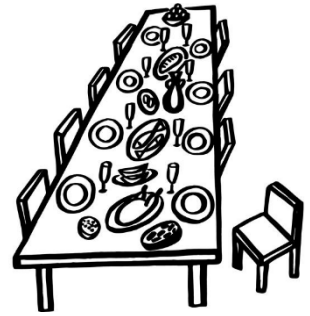


The 12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 31, 2025

9:30 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

We Gather Together

Netherlands Melody

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. C: Amen.

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

P: Merciful God,

C: you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

P: We belong to Christ Jesus and we are God's children through faith. In the cross of ✠ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, our sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, we are a new creation. C: Amen.

*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

S138

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Assisting minister

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,

we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray ... O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

FIRST READING: Proverbs 25:6-7a

The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.

⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,

^{7a} for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

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

PSALM 112 (read responsively)

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord
and have great delight in God's commandments!

² **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³ Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴ **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶ **For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

⁸ **Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands ¹ fast
forever;

they will hold up their head with honor.

¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine
away;**

the desires of the wicked will perish.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

S142



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Gospel Luke 14:1, 7-14

The holy gospel according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to

take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

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

HOMILY

Peggy Steinfurth

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *The Church of Christ, in Every Age*

ELW # 729

***APOSTLES’ CREED**

P: Let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

A: Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

A: For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations, we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labor Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give ushers and greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors, and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

C: Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

P: The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✠ bless you and give you peace. **C: Amen.**

***SENDING SONG**

In Christ There Is No East or West

ELW # 650

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. **C: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Festal Chorus

George F. Handel, Composer

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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.

Today's Altar Flowers are placed to the Glory of God in memory of Rev. Charles Haffling, Greg's father, by Greg and Amy Haffling.

Serving God and Us

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew
Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott
Our Organists – Mary Nelson, DeAnna Cree
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 – Dawn Alexy
Our Lector – Gabby Decker
Our Usher – Martie Gilbert
Our Altar Guild – Laura Orczeck
Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster
Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

Third Quarter Ventures in Faith to “*OEW and Missionaries*”

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Mary Jane Allision, Fred Brandenburg, Linda Claar, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Allen Heltzel, Ann & Larry Irvin, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Jean Stonerook, Pat & 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, Greta Buchart, Doug Bush, Terry Creek, Julie Dick, Joe Fagnani, Mary Farabaugh, Marilyn Horton, Rachel Kensinger, Kristen Malloy, Janice Orczeck, John Russell, Dan Sinal, Joshua Sollenberger, Kaleb Sollenberger, 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, Colin Guyer.

This Week at St. Matthew:

814-793-2413: Office Hours

Pastor Traci – Tues. 2:00-5:00 p.m.

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

This Week Events

- Today –** *12th Sunday after Pentecost*
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
- Monday –** *Labor Day Office Closed*
- Thursday –** Food Pantry 9:00-11:00 a.m., Allegheny St.
- Sunday –** *13th Sunday after Pentecost*
Worship Service/Church Picnic 11:00 a.m., Kreider Farm
God's Work. Our Hands.

Martinsburg Community Meal

Volunteers from St Matthew are preparing and serving the September Breaking Bread community meal at the Martinsburg Church of God on Monday, September 8th from 5-6:00 p.m.

All St. Matthew members are invited to attend. For those who have volunteered to help, your assignment time is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Any questions please contact Lottie Ebersole, Chairperson of the Social Ministry Committee.



Martinsburg Food Pantry



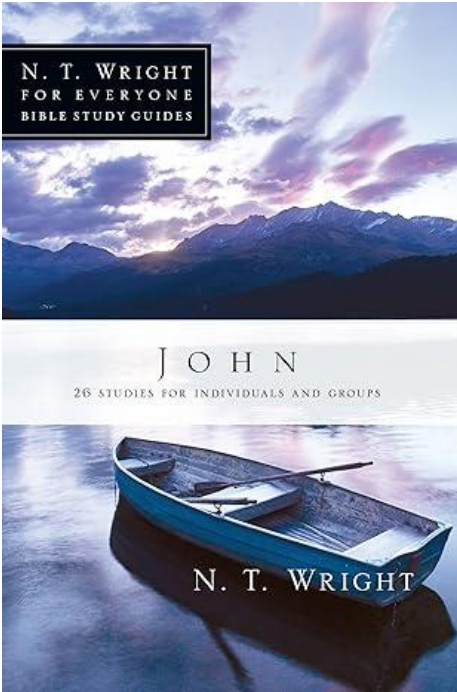
Volunteers from Memorial Church of the Brethren will be helping distribute food at the pantry on Thursdays, September 4 and September 18 from 9:00 am until 11:00 am. During harvest time, if you have any extra vegetables or fruit, it would be appreciated on the dates we are open.

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

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 7th
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

Follow us on Facebook!
Homewood at
Martinsburg Auxiliary!

Thursday, September 25th
Friday, September 26th
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day
In the Givler Cultural Center

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

WELCOME OUR
NEW
VENDORS!

437 Givler Drive, Martinsburg, PA 16662
814.793.3728

Vendor interest email 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

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

*OPENING HYMN

Gather Us In

ELW # 532



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

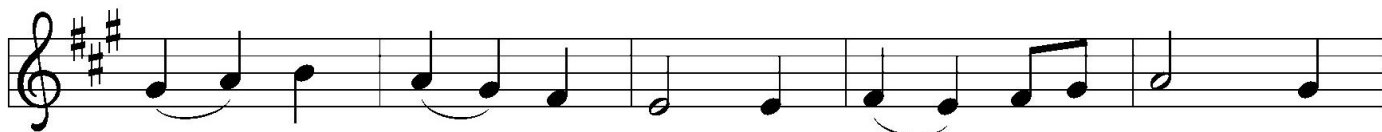
Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698-1768

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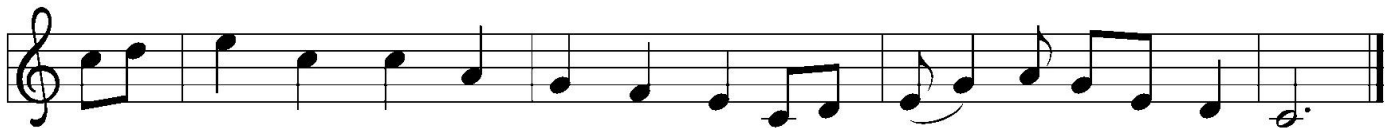
***SENDING SONG**

In Christ There Is No East or West

ELW # 650



- 1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com-mu-nion find;
- 3 Join hands, dis-ci-ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com-mu-ni-ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser-vice is the gold-en cord close bind-ing hu-man-kind.
All chil-dren of the liv-ing God are sure-ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852–1941, alt.

Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949