
❖ The View ❖

Volume XL Issue XII

February 2017

A NEWSLETTER FROM ST. MATTHIAS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Visit us on the web at www.stmatthiasgreensburg.org



... for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me... And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' (Matthew 25:35, 40) February 5th is Super Bowl Sunday! And it's also Souper Bowl Sunday, as we join many other congregations who will be collecting funds for the Westmoreland County Food Bank to help feed those who are hungry through the Souper Bowl of Caring program. Feeding those who are hungry isn't just "a nice thing to do" or "a good deed". It's an opportunity to grow in our relationship with God. First, it's an opportunity to thank God for the abundant blessings that we have. It's easy to take for granted the fact that we have ample food in our cupboards and know that we'll be able to have breakfast, lunch, and dinner each day. And it's also easy to give ourselves the credit for that abundance, and forget that God is the one who provides all that we have. It's a great reminder of the blessing to thank God for all that He provides.

Second, it's an opportunity to share God's love with others. Rather than just give thanks to God for all that we have, we have the opportunity to share that abundance with those who don't have those same blessings. What better way to thank God and share His love with others than to use what He has blessed us with to bless others?

Third, it's an opportunity to develop new relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Each time my daughter Lindsay and I make a delivery of food to the "Welcome Home" Homeless Shelter here in Greensburg, we get an opportunity to meet our neighbors in need, to hear their stories, to

receive their love, companionship, and thankfulness, and to share God's love with them, as they share His love with us as well. And we are blessed because of it.

Fourth, it's an opportunity to serve and love Jesus Himself. As Jesus Himself teaches us in the gospel of Matthew, when we feed someone who is hungry, give drink to someone who is thirsty, welcome those who are strangers to us, clothe those in need of clothing, visit those who are sick or in prison, we aren't just "doing a good deed". We're serving and loving Jesus Himself. And we learn to see Jesus, ourselves, and those in need as "one", as Jesus brings us together as the body of Christ in the world. And what a joyful way to know that God's love for us goes deeper than our own relationship with Him, and connects all of us as His children and His body in the world.

I hope you'll be able to attend worship during the weekend of February 5th and participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring as we share God's love with others, and receive that same love in return. And if you aren't able to attend, please know that you're welcome to make a monetary donation at any time during the month of February with the notation of "Souper Bowl of Caring", and we'll make sure it gets included with all the donations received. Thanks be to God for the opportunity to not only receive His blessings, but to share them with others, and to find the joy and peace that comes with knowing that Jesus connects all of us as His children and His body in the world!

In Christ,

Pastor Paul

Youth Sunday School at 9am

Our Youth Sunday School meets every other week on Sunday morning at 9am. All youth from toddlers through high school are welcome to attend. In the month of February, our youth will be meeting on Feb 12th and 26th.

Altar Guild

Sign ups to volunteer to be apart of the altar guild are in the narthex. Places are still available to help out, and training is available!

CPR Classes at St. Matthias

CPR classes at St. Matthias are planned for the following days:

Feb 18th	10:00am-11:30am
Feb 16th	6:00pm-7:30pm
Feb 24th	9:00am-3:00pm
Feb 28th	6:00pm-7:30pm
Mar 11th	9:00a-3:00pm
Mar 16th	6:00pm-7:30pm
Mar 28th	12:00pm-1:30pm
Mar 30th	6:00pm-7:30pm

A Tribute to My Sister Vera Maxwell (December 8, 1924-January 11, 2017)

Just as Mary and Martha
Followed in Jesus' way
I know that my dear sister
Has walked with Him each day.

So long ago my loving peer
Took the Master's hand.
She let Him guide her through the years
Strong footprints in the sand.

So now as she has gone away
I recall her dedication.
Her faithful walking with the Lord
Is cause for celebration.

She was a kind and loving friend,
A mother and a wife.
God holds her in His loving arms
As we review her life.

We thank God for the smiles she gave,
With love to everyone.
We hear the Saviors words once more
She lived a life "Well done".

By Dolores Fruth



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Youth Sunday School at 9am on February 12th and the 26th
- Ash Wednesday is March 1, 2017. A special service will be at 7:00pm.
- If you would like to volunteer for the Altar Guild or to be a lector, usher, greeter, communion assistant, acolyte, teller or hospital visitor, call or email the office!
- Sunday, February 5, we will celebrate Souper Bowl Sunday! The youth will be collecting donations to benefit the Westmoreland County Food Bank following the worship service at the back door to the Sanctuary.
- Worship and Music meets on the 7th.
- The Council meeting is on the 13th.
- The Property Committee meets on the 28th.
- The Social Ministry committee meeting is cancelled for February.

Faith Works Envelopes

Faith Works envelopes are on the back pew in the sanctuary. Please use these envelopes to support any of the following ministries:

Bethesda Children's Home
Camp Agape
Camp Lutherlyn
Gettysburg Seminary
Glade Run Lutheran Services
Lutheran Campus Ministry in Oakland
Lutheran Senior Life
Lutheran Service Society
Synod Mission Support
Thiel College

Check off which agency you wish to contribute to and place the envelope with your donation in the offering plate. Please remember to indicate your envelope number.



Altar Flowers

The sign up sheet for the altar flowers has been updated with the dates and prices, so if you would like to sign up for a Sunday, the sheet is now ready! Thank you for your patience!

Church Council Highlights

January 9, 2017

St. Matthias Church Council met Monday evening, January 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the church. All Council members were present with the exception of Joe Schmitt. Also present were Eldora Crist, Treasurer, Eliot Moore, Financial Secretary, and Pastor Paul.

Devotions were presented by Terri Santavy.

The first order of business was the election of Council Officers. Nominations were made for Council President. Fred Oestreicher nominated Sharon Marks and Terri Santavy seconded the nomination, vote was unanimous. Nominations were made for Council Vice President. Sharon Marks nominated Fred Oestreicher and Wayne Himler seconded the nomination, vote was unanimous. Nominations were made for Council Secretary. Fred Oestreicher nominated Mary Lou Wolff, and Sharon Marks seconded the nomination, vote was unanimous.

The meeting was called to order by President Sharon Marks at 7:08 p.m. The Council Meeting Agenda was presented for approval.

Andrew Harrold made a motion to accept the agenda and Wayne Himler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The minutes of the December 5, 2016 Council meeting were presented for review and additions or changes. A motion was made by Fred Oestreicher and seconded by Wayne Himler to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The December Treasurer's Report was presented and reviewed by Eldora Crist, Treasurer. A motion was made by Fred Oestreicher, seconded by Andrew Harrold and carried to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented and file it for Audit.

Annual Financial Summary: The 2016 Annual Financial Summary was presented by Eliot Moore. A motion to accept the Annual Financial Summary was made by Andrew Harrold and seconded by Wayne Himler. Motion carried.

Communications: A thank you letter was received from the Westmoreland County Food Bank for the \$295 donated on December 5, 2016 from the Harvest Table collection in 2016.

Concerns: None.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Paul's written report for December was presented. Pastor reported that he made hospital visits to Frank Moore and Vera Maxwell, nursing home visits to Don Kauffman, and home visits to Don Kaufmann and Jane Gsell. Pastor received new members Vicki and Norb Georges on December 18.

Committee Reports were presented.

Old Business:

Community Garden: Fred Oestreicher is looking at putting together an agreement for use of the Garden.

Website: The December newsletter was difficult to read on the website. A new method for posting the January newsletter was tried and it looks fine. Nathan to correct the November link.

Council Survey Results: No additional survey results were received since our December Council meeting. There were equal responses for changing the worship time and keeping it the same. No action will be taken at this time.

Newsletter Distribution: A cover page will be included in the January newsletter to those who haven't responded, and if we don't hear from them, their names will be removed from the newsletter mailing list.

Annual Reports: Annual reports have been completed for all committees for the Annual Meeting Part 2 on January 15, 2017.

Agenda for Annual Meeting Part 2: An agenda for the meeting was prepared and reviewed.

Installation of New Council Member: Joe Schmitt was elected at our annual meeting and will be installed on January 15.

New Business:

Review of Committees and Council Liaisons: A review of the current Council liaisons was reviewed and discussed.

Payroll Update: Mary Lou Wolff has volunteered to process our payroll internally.

Proposed February and March CPR Class dates: A handout was reviewed of dates for February and March CPR classes.

Request for Use of Facilities: Ben and April Blankenship have requested to use the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, January 21, 2017. Eliot and Stacy Moore have requested to use the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 4, 2017. Motion made by Terri Santavy, and seconded by Andrew Harrold to approve the use of the Fellowship Hall for these two event. Motion carried.

Jeff Schliffka Final Payment for Services: It is unclear whether Jeff's paycheck covers the current month's work or the previous month. A motion was made to pay Jeff \$437.50 as a final payment for cleaning services as a show of good faith. Motion was made by Terri Santavy and seconded by Fred Oestreicher to make this payment. Motion carried.

ELCA 2016 Parochial Reports (Forms A, B, & C): Reports have been received and will be completed by Eliot Moore, Financial Secretary, and Pastor Paul on line before the February 15 deadline.

Internal Audit: Vera Cottrell has graciously provided an internal audit for the past several years. A motion was made by Terri Santavy and seconded by Andrew Harrold to approve of Vera Cottrell performing an internal audit of the 2016 finances of St. Matthias. Motion carried.

Annual Contribution Statements – Thrivent Choice Dollars Letter: The Annual Contribution Statements for 2016 will be placed on the table in the narthex and mailed if they are not picked up by the end of January.

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, February 13, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. Devotions for the next meeting will be presented by Fred Oestreicher. A motion to adjourn was made by Andrew Harrold and seconded by Wayne Himler. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Lou Wolff, Council Secretary

St. Matthias WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

FEBRUARY 2017 MEETINGS

Women of the ELCA **will not meet** in the months of January and February 2017. Our next meeting will be March 9, 2017. Tina Weimer and Joan Wilson will serve as Hostesses. Dana Gruesu will present the Bible Study. All women of St. Matthias are invited to join us for Fellowship, Bible Study and short business meeting. If you need a ride to the church, please let Tina Weimer or Virginia Strobeck know and arrangements will be made to pick you up and return you to your home.

2017 Annual Tea

Plans are being made for our 2017 Annual Tea to be held on Sunday, May 7, 2017, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. We will enjoy a "Story Teller" (Kate McConnell) for our program. Sign-up sheets will be available in the Narthex if you would like to sponsor a table and help provide food for the Tea. The theme for the Tea will be "Dogs"; little dogs, big dogs, service dogs, dogs in history, TV dogs, or dogs in literature. Mark you calendar now and plan to attend. Tickets will be available soon.



Women of the ELCA Tenth Triennial Gathering

The Tenth Triennial Gathering of Women of the ELCA will be held **July 13-16, 2017**, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. For more information visit welcatg.org or call 1-800-638-3522 ext. 2730. Reservations are still being accepted.

Invitation

We invite you to join our community of women who have supported one another for over 25 years. We invite you to share your gifts and talents as you connect with other women of faith.

2017 DESIGNATED OUTREACH

Grace Youth and Family Foundation was voted as our 2017 Designated Outreach project at our 2016 SWO Convention.

We will not be collecting items for this project this coming year, but will give a "Love Offering" to support Grace Youth and Family Foundation. This "Love Offering" will be given through St. Matthias Women of the ELCA at various times during 2017. Watch for further details.

New Program Booklets are Available

The 2017 Program Booklets will be distributed at the Christmas Party. They will also be available on the table in the Narthex. The booklets list dates of the Women of the ELCA meetings, active members, Bible Study Leaders and Hostesses. Pick up your copy and join us monthly for planning, Bible Study and Fellowship. All women and young girls are invited to join us.

Upcoming Events for 2017

- May 13-14, 2017—SWO Convention at Bishop Connare Center in Greensburg;
- September 16-18—Weekend Retreat at Camp Lutherlyn together with the women of Northwest PA Synod
- Spring Cluster Meetings— Place & time to be announced. Sometime in April 2017
- Fall Cluster Meetings—Place & time to be announced. Sometime in October 2017



If you would like to volunteer as a worship assistant, please call or email the office with the position/positions you would like to volunteer for. The positions are lector, ushers, greeters, communion assistant, and acolyte.

Thank you!

Prayer List

Ray Bowman — Keith Bowman’s Brother
 Sally — Friend of Sharon Marks
 Scott — Friend of Darla Dalena
 Rita Miller — Doris McDonell’s sister in law
 Frank Santavy — Barry & Dave Santavy’s Father
 Constance Gazze — Friend of Arlene Wohlin
 Pastor Fred Heitzenroder — Member
 Ed Ferrier— Bob Ferrier’s Brother
 John Weimer— Member
 Joe Guesu— Member
 Pastor Josh Reinsborrow-- Friend of the church
 Henry Reinsborrow— Friend of congregation
 Don Kauffman— Member
 Julia Santavy —Barry& Dave Santavy’s Mother
 Virginia Strobeck—Member
 Frank Moore—Member
 Herb Hodge—Member
 Norma Hay—Member
 Vern Adams—Member
 Helen Calley — Friend of the Ferrier Family
 Diane Doyle — Friend of Wayne Himler
 Bob Marks—Member

Names will remain on the list for three (3) months after which they will be removed unless the request is renewed with the church office.

To contact the prayer chain, please call:
 Joan Wilson at (724) 836-3055 or
 Virginia Strobeck at (724) 837-0193.

PRAYING is the first of our Faith Practices Medallions...and is lifted up in this way so that all may remember these folks who are in some way related to St. Matthias Lutheran Church. We appreciate this opportunity to inform you of an active ministry going on throughout our congregation on a daily basis. Remember these brothers and sisters in Christ in your prayers.

ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES

Have you signed up for your 2017 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend? Marriage Encounter invites married couples on a journey—a deepening of your love. The program allows husband and wife to eliminate all distractions and focus solely on each other for the weekend. A \$100 per couple registration fee gets you signed up; plus toward the end of the weekend, you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish toward

continuation of the program. Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included. The 2017 Northeast US Weekends are:

- March 24-26, 2017 at Toftrees Golf Resort Conference Center -- a peaceful resort nestled in 1500 wooded acres in State College, PA.
- April 28-30, 2017 in Lancaster, PA, at the all newly-renovated Heritage Hotel Lancaster, home of the unique tree-house-inspired restaurant, “Loxley’s.”
- September 15-17, 2017 at Spruce Lake Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA, a new hotel-style facility on Spruce Lake in the heart of the Pocono Mountains – an hour north of Allentown.
- October 6-8, 2017 at the Black Swan Inn in Lee, Massachusetts. Nestled in the foothills of the Berkshire Mountains, a hidden gem overlooking Laurel Lake – an hour north of Hartford, CT.




To sign up online, go to: www.GodLovesMarriage.org and pay the \$100 registration fee using your credit card, or mark the option to mail in a check For questions, or if you would like a brochure mailed to you, contact Northeast US Area Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or email:

fjschamber@comcast.net. Registrations are limited, so act TODAY to ensure that you can attend the Weekend of your choice!



Amber Schmitt	Feb 1
Doris McDonnell	Feb 2
Blake Hart	Feb 5
Norma Jean Hay	Feb 7
Joseph Schmitt	Feb 11
Gary Fink	Feb 11
Benjamin Wohlin	Feb 13
Kathy Teacher	Feb 17
Nicholas Schmitt	Feb 17
Shawn Harrold	Feb 17
Elizabeth Spillar	Feb 17
Siera Schmitt	Feb 17
E.T Howell	Feb 19
Nicole Turner	Feb 20
Jessica Sindorf	Feb 22
James Fink	Feb 23
Virginia Strobeck	Feb 25
Andrew Hixson	Feb 25
Benjamin Hixson	Feb 27

FEBRUARY 2017

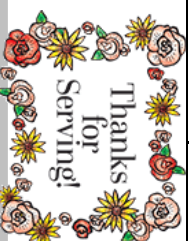
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30pm Choir Practice	2 	3	4 7pm Holy Communion
5 10:15am Holy Communion SOUPER BOWL!	6	7 9:45am Al-Anon 10am Pastor's Mtg 7pm Worship & Music	8 7:30pm Choir Practice	9	10	11 7pm Holy Communion
12 9:00am Youth Sunday School 10:15am Holy Communion	13 Newsletter Deadline 7pm Council Meeting	14  9:45am Al-Anon 10am Pastor's Mtg	15 7:30pm Choir Practice	16 CPR 6-7:30pm	17	18 CPR 10-11:30am 7pm Holy Communion
19 10:15am Holy Communion	20 	21 9:45am Al-Anon 10am Pastor's Mtg	22 7:30pm Choir Practice	23	24 CPR 9am-3pm	25 7pm Holy Communion
26 9:00am Youth Sunday School 10:15am Holy Communion	27	28 9:45am Al-Anon 10am Pastor's Mtg CPR 6-7:30pm 7pm Property Meeting	1 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	Special Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Social Ministry Committee will not meet in February. Ash Wednesday will be March 1st with worship at 7:00pm. 		

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR February 2017

	February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26	March 1 Ash Wednesday	March 5
GREETERS	Barb Fink	Barry & Terri Santavy	Vera Koontz	Robert & Gayle Kunko	Vern & Debra Adams	Arlene Wohlin
USHERS	Linda & Ray Wasilowski	Robert & Gayle Kunko	Nathan Turner & Lindsay Gruesu	Madison Sano & Linda Wasilowski	Fred & Bobbie Oestreicher	Robert & Gayle Kunko
LECTORS	Virginia Strobeck	Jean Kauffman	Nancy Ferrier	Tina Weimer	Lindsay Gruesu	Barb Fink
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Fred Oestreicher	Nancy Ferrier	Debra Adams	April Blankenship	Valetta Bradosky	Fred Oestreicher
A—ACOLYTE C—Crucifer TB—Torch Bearers CB—Canon Bearer	Lindsay Gruesu	Michael Schmitt	Madison Sano	Siera Schmitt	Lindsay Gruesu	Aaron Dominick
TELLERS	Eliot Moore & Sharon Marks	Eliot Moore & Sharon Marks	Eliot Moore & Sharon Marks	Eliot Moore & Sharon Marks	Tina Weimer & Bob Ferrier	Tina Weimer & Bob Ferrier
ALTAR GUILD	Dana Gruesu & Eldora Crist	Dana Gruesu & Eldora Crist	Dana Gruesu & Eldora Crist	Dana Gruesu & Eldora Crist	TBA	TBA
HOSPITAL VISITOR	Valetta Bradosky	Valetta Bradosky	Valetta Bradosky	Valetta Bradosky	Jean Kauffman	Jean Kauffman

2017 Church Council

Sharon Marks, President Eliot Moore- Financial Sec. Eldora Crist, Treasurer Mary Lou Wolff, Secretary Wayne Himler	Fred Oestreicher, V. President Andrew Harrold Terri Santavy Joe Schmitt Paul M. Gruesu, Pastor
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If you are unable to serve on the Sunday assigned, please find someone to take your place and notify the Church Office of the change. Thank you.



If you would like to volunteer as a worship assistant, please call or email the office with the position/positions you would like to volunteer for.