
❖ The View ❖

Volume XL Issue XI

January 2017

A NEWSLETTER FROM ST. MATTHIAS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Visit us on the web at www.stmatthiasgreensburg.org



Deut. 26:10:

So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.

How do we use the property at St. Matthias, that land that God has given us, to reach out to others with God's love? We have a Sanctuary, dedicated for worship, where all are welcome to come and hear God's good news and receive His Sacraments. We have a nursery where our young ones can find a safe and welcoming place to play and learn about God. We have Sunday School space that allows us to grow in our faith while praying and learning about God. We have offices and meeting rooms that allow us to pray, plan, communicate, and complete God's work on a daily basis. We have a Kitchen and Fellowship Hall where we can eat, drink, celebrate, pray, study the Bible, and grow in our faith together. We also use this space to welcome community groups like Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Al-Anon, and CPR training classes to help God's house be a place of welcome and nurturing for our whole community.

And in 2017, we're looking to use the land that God has given us to reach out with God's love in another new and exciting way with our Community Garden. Behind the church

building, we've designated an area of the lawn to be used to grow vegetables. These vegetables will then be collected by the Westmoreland County Food Bank to help feed those who are hungry. What better way to use the land that God has given us than by reaching out to those in need with the fruits that God has so generously and abundantly provided?

As we continually look for ways to reach out to others with God's love, I look forward to beginning this new and exciting ministry with you this year. Please watch the newsletter for more details about this ministry and how you can participate. Please join me in praying for God's guidance and blessings to be with us in all that we do. And please join me in saying "Thanks be to God" for all that He so generously and abundantly provides!

In Christ,
Pastor Paul

IMPORTANT DATE

Save the Date

Our **Annual Congregational Meeting, Part 2** will be **Sunday, January 15th, 2017** immediately following the worship service. Please make arrangements to stay.

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 January, our youth will be meeting on Jan 15th and 29th at 9am.

New Year's Day Worship at 11am

Please note that New Year's Day falls on a Sunday this year. With that in mind, our Sunday morning worship on that day will be 11am, instead of the normal 10:15am worship time. Also, there will be NO Saturday evening worship on New Year's Eve.

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:

January 5th	6:00-7:30pm
January 17th	6:00-7:30pm
January 20th	12:00-1:00pm
January 28th	9:00am-3:00pm

Thoughts In a Room Stuffed With Gifts to Wrap

As you read this, the bigger part of the "Holiday Madness" is over, but not for me, at this moment.

I thought when we had our garage sale in October that I was somewhat "stuff" free. Then I got the Christmas "stuff" out. I knew I was holding on to things that were no longer of any value to me, and maybe to no one else either.

Part of the reason for this is sheer laziness, part sentiment, and part the time period when I grew up. We didn't have much stuff in the thirties and forties. I shared half a cupboard with my sister, and it was a small cupboard. Now I have a big walk in closet and it is crammed.

Perhaps it is a pre-occupation with ourselves and our consumer mentality. For we Christians it is

very much the opposite of what Our Lord expects of us. Jesus told us to forget ourselves, take up our cross daily in our walks with Him. Self-abandonment, a denial of the things that are not in line with the way we are to go with Christ leading.

Did I cause a little twinge of guilt as you sit there with your gifts, your dreams of an expensive vacation, a new car, a bigger house with more closet space to hold more "stuff"? I didn't mean to cause any pain, after all, I'm talking to myself here—the big "I" that gets in the way of my life as a follower, a believer in the living and ascended King Jesus.

But I do wonder— is this reality, this yearly orgy or is walking with Christ the true reality?

Vera Maxwell
(not really Mrs. Santa Claus)

(this article was submitted by Vera in January 2002)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- New Year's Day service will be **Sunday, January 1st at 11:00am**.
- Youth Sunday School is January 15th, and 29th.
- Church Council meeting is Monday, January 9th at 7:00pm.
- **The deadline for all Newsletter submissions for the February newsletter is January 13th.**
- **Annual Meeting Part two is on January 15th, 2017.**
- Choir Rehearsals are held Wednesday evening at 7:30pm.
- Please remember if you are scheduled as a worship assistant and are unable to keep the date, please find a replacement and notify the church office of the change.
- If you have not picked up your 2017 offering envelopes, please do so.

Church Council Highlights

ST. MATTHIAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

December 5, 2016

St. Matthias Church Council met Monday evening, December 5, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the church. All Council members were present with the exception of Sharon Marks. Also present were Eldora Crist, Treasurer, Eliot Moore, Financial Secretary, and Pastor Paul.

Devotions were presented by Mary Lou Wolff.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Fred Oestreicher at 7:03 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 November 14, 2016 Council meeting were presented for review and additions or changes. A motion was made by Terri Santavy and seconded by Wayne Himler to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried. Minutes of the Annual Meeting Part I were presented for review and approval. Terri Santavy made a motion to accept the minutes which was seconded by Andrew Harrold. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The November Treasurer's Report was presented and reviewed by Eldora Crist, Treasurer. The ending balance in the checking account was \$434.90 and there was a need to transfer \$500 out of the investment account this month. A motion was made by Terri Santavy, seconded by Andrew Harrold and carried to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented and file it for Audit.

Communications: There was a letter from Jones Floral advising us of a price increase effective January 1, 2017 for a cost of two vases at \$40. Also received was a Mission Support letter.

Concerns: None.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Paul's written report for November was presented. Pastor reported that he made hospital visits to Don Kauffman, nursing home visits to Peggy Lou Hicks and Don Kauffman, and home visits to Vern Adams. He presided at the funeral of Peggy Lou Hicks on December 3, 2016 and visited prospective new members Vicki and Norb Georges. Pastor attended the Greensburg Ministerium meeting and the Synod Resource Center Advisory Board meeting.

Committee Reports were presented.

Old Business:

Community Garden: The idea was presented to the congregation and approved at the Annual Meeting Part 1 on November 20.

Website: The November and December newsletters are now available on the website.

Council Survey Results: We continue to collect results from the poll via the newsletter regarding interest in continuing the 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship time year round and how members would like to receive the newsletter.

Newsletter Distribution: At the Annual Meeting, the congregation approved the removal of the bulk mailing permit from the 2017 budget. A review of the current newsletter distribution list is being done and we'd like volunteers to help with these efforts.

Annual Reports: Annual reports need to be completed for each committee for the Annual Meeting, Part 2 on January 15, 2017. Reports should be submitted by December 10.

New Business:

Cleaning Ad Hoc Committee: As per the approval of the budget at the congregational meeting, current paid janitorial services will be discontinued and we will handle on a volunteer basis. Bobbie and Fred Oestreicher and Valetta Bradosky have agreed to form a Cleaning Ad Hoc Committee to organize this effort. Committee will meet on December 7 at 6:00 p.m.

New Members to be Received: Vicki and Norb Georges have requested to join St. Matthias. They've worshipped with us, received a home visit from Pastor Paul and have had new member orientation. They will be received on December 18.

Garden of the Saints Request: Peggy Lou Hicks, a member of St. Matthias, passed away on November 28. At the request of her husband, Gary Hicks, Peggy Lou's remains were buried in the Garden of the Saints here at St. Matthias during her funeral on December 3. Pastor asked for Council permission to bury Peggy Lou's cremains prior to the funeral. Permission was granted. Official "Garden of the Saints" Request Paperwork has been prepared.

Pastor Paul's 2017 Housing Allowance: Pastor Paul requested that his 2017 housing allowance be set at \$21,000, the same amount that was in the 2016 budget. Motion made by Terri Santavy, and seconded by Wayne Himler to approve this amount. Motion carried.

Agenda for Annual Meeting, Part 2 (January 15): Amy will prepare the agenda for the Annual Meeting, Part 2 for review at our Council meeting on January 9, 2017. Purpose of the meeting is to discuss committee reports and conduct any other congregational business.

Installation of New Council Member: Joe Schmitt was elected at our Annual Meeting, Part I, and can be installed on January 1 or 8 since our next Council meeting is on January 9.

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, January 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. Devotions for the next meeting will be presented by Terri Santavy. A motion to adjourn was made by Terri Santavy and seconded by Wayne Himler. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Lou Wolff, Council Secretary

St. Matthias WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

JANUARY & 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 Connaire 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

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.

Prayer List

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 Gruesu— 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
 Vera Maxwell— Member
 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.



Alex Turnbull	January 5
Charles Marshal Kemerer	January 6
Amy Myers	January 8
Andrea Myers	January 8
Jennifer Dietrich	January 9
Vienna O'Brien	January 9
VaLetta Bradosky	January 10
Dana Gruesu	January 10
Eldora Crist	January 11
Debra Cisowski	January 11
Nicole Oestreicher	January 12
Alycefaye Stewart	January 18
Alexander Oestreicher	January 19
David Turner	January 20
Lilyana Blankenship	January 21
Tracy Palmer	January 27



Adam & Christine Harrold	January 10
Larry & Sonnie Miller	January 27

SAVE THE DATE

On **January 22**, we will have a "**Lunch and Learn**" immediately after church in the fellowship hall. Trish Henry from Thrivent will be here to talk to us about their **Action Team** program which provides seed money to congregations for projects. Come and learn how we can use this program to help us make a difference in our church and in our community. Trish feels our Bear Ministry and the Community Garden are two existing programs that may find this useful.

This meeting is open to all members of the congregation, not just those who have Thrivent products. Those who serve on council, committees, as well as members who have an idea for congregation ministry, are encouraged to attend. As the name implies, we will provide a light lunch. The program should take less than an hour. Please plan to come. Any questions? Please contact Arleen Hawk (724)822-0828.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR January 2016

	January 1 Worship at 11:00am	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
GREETERS	Vera Cottrell	Linda & Ray Wasilowski	Doris McDonnell	Alyse Lightner	Fred & Bobbie Oestreicher
USHERS	Madison Sano & Ron Pegg	Don & Ron Kauffman	Robert & Gayle Kunko	Fred & Bobbie Oestreicher	Nathan Turner & Lindsay Gruesu
LECTORS	Lisa Pegg	Eldora Crist	Barb Fink	Debra Adams	Fred Oestreicher
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Fred Oestreicher	Nancy Ferrier	Debra Adams	April Blankenship	Valetta Bradosky
A—ACOLYTE C—Crucifer TB—Torch Bearers CB—Canon Bearer	Siera Schmitt	Madison Sano	Nicholas Schmitt	Aaron Dominick	Aiden Nicodemus
TELLERS	Bobbie Santavy & Nancy Ferrier	Bobbie Santavy & Nancy Ferrier <i>This schedule is correct as of December 9, 2016 (This schedule change after that date)</i>	Bobbie Santavy & Nancy Ferrier	Bobbie Santavy & Nancy Ferrier	Bobbie Santavy & Nancy Ferrier
ALTAR GUILD	Valetta Bradosky	Valetta Bradosky	Valetta Bradosky	Valetta Bradosky	Valetta Bradosky
HOSPITAL VISITOR	Doris McDonnell	Doris McDonnell	Doris McDonnell	Doris McDonnell	Doris McDonnell

2016 Church Council

Sharon Marks, <i>President</i> Eliot Moore- <i>Financial Sec.</i> Eldora Crist, <i>Treasurer</i> Mary Lou Wolff, <i>Secretary</i> Wayne Himler	Fred Oestreicher, <i>V. President</i> Andrew Harold Terri Santavy Paul M. Gruesu, <i>Pastor</i>
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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.

Thank you!

January 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 11:00am Holy Communion	2	3 9:45am Al-Anon 10am Pastor's Mtg	4 7:30pm Choir Practice	5 CPR Class 6-7:30pm	6	7 7pm Holy Communion
8 10:15am Holy Communion	9 7pm Church Council	10 9:45am Al-Anon 10am Pastor's Mtg	11 7:30pm Choir Practice	12	13 <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>	14 7pm Holy Communion
15 9:00am Youth Sunday School 10:15am Holy Communion <u>ANNUAL MEETING PT. 2</u>	16	17 9:45am Al-Anon 10am Pastor's Mtg CPR Class 6-7:30pm	18 7:30pm Choir Practice	19	20 CPR Class 12-1pm	21 7pm Holy Communion
22 10:15am Holy Communion	23	24 9:45am Al-Anon 10am Pastor's Mtg	25 7:30pm Choir Practice	26	27	28 CPR Class 9-3pm 7pm Holy Communion
29 9:00am Youth Sunday School 10:15am Holy Communion	30	31 9:45am Al-Anon 10am Pastor's Mtg	Special Notes: Worship on January 1 will be at 11:00am.			