

The View

July & August 2024

A NEWSLETTER FROM ST. MATTHIAS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Visit us on the web at www.stmatthiasgreensburg.org



“And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”

These are the final words of the Declaration of Independence, adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. “With a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence”... what exactly does that mean? In simplest terms, it means that the Continental Congress, and the nation which was adopting it, (what we now know as the United States of America), wasn't just placing their trust in God, but firmly relying on God, to lead them into their future.

Sometimes we might confuse this to mean that... they were certain they were doing the right thing, and knew that God was “on their side”, so to speak. Instead, it actually means that, after much deliberation, prayer, and discussion, although they weren't absolutely certain where God was leading them, they moved forward to where they thought God was leading them, knowing that God would guide them, even if they were making the wrong decision.

Martin Luther spoke about this mindset when he used the words “sin boldly” to his brother in Christ, Philip Melancthon, who, paralyzed by his fear of “doing the wrong thing”, was having trouble making decisions. Martin Luther's words “sin boldly” weren't an excuse to “do whatever you want, because God will forgive you anyway”. Instead, Martin was reassuring Philip that we will, in fact, sometimes make the wrong decisions, even if we're trying to faithfully follow God, because of our sinful nature. But rather than calling us to fall into despair, and become paralyzed by the fear of making the wrong decision, God calls us to deliberate, pray, and discuss our problems together, and then boldly take

action to wherever we feel God is leading us, knowing that we might accidentally be doing the wrong thing.

Why does God allow us that freedom? Because rather than placing our faith and trust in our own knowledge and wisdom, God wants us to trust in Him and His knowledge and mercy, knowing that even when we accidentally make the wrong decisions, God's love for us is stronger than our own sin. With this in mind, Martin Luther wrote: “Be a sinner, and let your sins be strong (or “Sin boldly”), but let your trust in Christ be stronger, and rejoice in Christ who is the victor over sin, death, and the world. We will commit sins while we are here, for this life is not a place where justice resides.”

Ultimately, Martin Luther is teaching us to confess to God that even though we try our best to be honest, faithful, and obedient to God, we often fail, and end up sinning against God and our neighbors. About this, Martin Luther wrote: “Pray hard, for you are quite a sinner.”

However, in the midst of that confession, God also calls us to be bold in our attempt to love God and love our neighbors, because even in our sinful nature, God's love and mercy is stronger than even our most grievous sins. And that gives us both humility and courage to live our lives as disciples of Jesus. And that leads us to say... Thanks be to God. Amen.

In Christ,
Pastor Paul

REVIVAL
hope. worship. prayer.



July

Saturday, July 6	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Thursday, July 11	3:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
Saturday, July 13	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, July 20	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, July 25	5:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.
Saturday, July 27	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

August

Saturday, Aug. 3	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Thursday, Aug. 8	3:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 17	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Aug. 22	5:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 24	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 31	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



Stamp Camp

On the 3rd and 4th Monday of each month, Kim Peles is leading a fellowship group at St. Matthias called "Stamp Camp". All are welcome for

fellowship and to make personalized greeting cards together, which you can use to share God's love with others. There's a nominal fee to cover the cost of supplies. **There are 2 sessions on the 3rd Monday, one beginning at 10am, and the other beginning at 6pm. On the 4th Monday there is only one session at 6pm.** Please feel free to contact Kim at (724) 875-0049 for more information.



Blessing of Teachers and Students August 18th

Believe it or not, our kids will be returning to school soon! Pastor Paul will share a special prayer and blessing for our school-age youth and their new teachers. We'll look forward to seeing you!



Blessing of the Animals

Do you own a pet? Bring him or her along to our brief outdoor worship service to thank God for the gift of our pets and to offer a blessing to all animals. We'll be offering this blessing on

Wednesday, July 31 at 7pm, on the front lawn at St. Matthias. Please feel free to bring along any pets that you may have (dogs, cats, rabbits, hermit crabs, goldfish, etc.) and join us for this special worship service. We ask that you please bring along a leash for any pets that are mobile. You're also welcome to invite any friends or neighbors who would like to bring along their pets as well. In case of inclement weather, a rain date of Thursday, August 1st at 7pm has been scheduled. We hope to see you and your pets there!

2025 Budget Requests

All 2025 Budget Requests are to be given to Eliot Moore, financial secretary, by the end of August so the financial committee can prepare the 2025 Budget. All committees are to review their current budget allocations, and to submit any additional items, or changes to the current amounts, for their committee. Please see Eliot Moore if you have any questions.



Rally Day – Sunday, September 8th

Please note that Rally Day will be on Sunday, September 8th.

Beginning on Rally

Day, our Sunday morning worship will change to 10:15am. We'll also be having our annual church picnic after worship. All are welcome. We'll look forward to seeing you there!

St. Matthias Women of the ELCA

July 11 at 1:00 will be Vicki Georges and Tina Weimer as hostesses.

August 8 will be Lorraine Howells and VaLetta as hostesses.

September 20-22 NW/SW WELCA Lutherlyn Retreat. This is a three day event. Theme is **Stir-up Friends, Fellowship and Faith.**
Hebrew 10:24 “and let’s consider how to encourage one another in love and good deeds.



Cleaning Committee

In an effort to conserve our financial resources, our congregation has started cleaning the church with the help of our own members. We certainly would appreciate more volunteers. It actually isn't very hard work. We have a list of what needs done every other week and all the supplies to do the cleaning are in the janitor's room. Anyone willing to help out, please contact Pastor Paul or the church office! Thank you!

Cleaning Dates:

July:

8 - 13 - Valetta Bradosky, Gayle & Bob Kunko
22 - 27 - Valetta Bradosky, Dana Gruesu

August:

5 - 10 - Valetta Bradosky, Teri & Jim Frye
19 - 24 - Valetta Bradosky, Barb Winslow

September:

2 - 7 - Valetta Bradosky, Lisa Pegg
16 - 21 - Valetta Bradosky, Bobbi Oestreicher
30 - Oct. 5 - Valetta Bradosky, Mary Lou & Bob Wolff

October:

14 - 19 - Valetta Bradosky, Gayle & Bob Kunko
28 - Nov. 2 - Valetta Bradosky, Dana Gruesu

November:

11 - 16 - Valetta Bradosky, Teri & Jim Frye
25 - 30 - Valetta Bradosky, Barb Winslow

December:

2 - 7 - Valetta Bradosky, Lisa Pegg
16 - 21 - Valetta Bradosky, Bobbi Oestreicher



Church Council Highlights

MAY 13, 2024

Devotions were led by Ryan Winslow. President Bob Wolff called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm

In Attendance: Bob Wolff, Ryan Winslow, Fred Oestreicher, Pastor Paul, Lisa Pegg, Greg Paterno, and Sharon Marks. Also present was Eldora Crist, Treasurer and Eliot Moore, Financial Secretary. **Agenda: Motion** made by Bob Wolff to approve the agenda. Second by Fred Oestreicher. Motion carried. **Minutes from the April 8 Meeting: Motion** made by Fred Oestreicher to approve the minutes. Second by Lisa Pegg. Motion carried. **Treasurer's Report: Motion** made by Fred Oestreicher to approve the Treasurer's Report. Second by Greg Paterno. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor participated in the funeral for Pastor Fred Heitzenroder at Salem Lutheran Church on April 27 and presided at his interment into the St. Matthias Garden of the Saints on April 28. He made nursing home visits with Harry Miller and Don Ohr. He presided at Harry Miller's funeral on May 7 and his interment on May 8. He attended the Synod's Zoom meeting regarding next year's Bishop's election, as well as a Zoom meeting for the Synod Assembly Planning Committee. He met with Christian Huey and Sherry Venersky for their 3rd premarital counseling session. Their wedding is scheduled for June 21. He also participated in our community's Holocaust Remembrance Service at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Latrobe on May 5. Pastor continues to serve as Interim Pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Greensburg for approximately 5 hours per week.

Communications: A budget request has been received for the 2025 budget for office printers and the Secretary's computer. **Concerns:** None

Committee Reports were given.

Old Business

Voting Members for June Synod Assembly: This year's Assembly will be held at Penn West California University from Friday, June 14 through Saturday, June 15. Up to 2 voting members from St. Matthias may attend. The cost is covered in the budget. Youth Convo has been cancelled. Newly confirmed youth may still attend as voting members.

New Business

Request: Requested CPR Class Dates were reviewed.

Garden of the Saints Request: Debra Adams has requested that her mother, Enola Erdley (member) be interred in the Garden of the Saints on May 25. Motion by Sharon Marks to approve the request. Second by Fred Oestreicher. Motion carried.

The Council reviewed the Calendar and Worship Assistants for June.

The date of the next meeting will be Monday, June 10, 2024, at 7:30 pm via Zoom. Devotions will be led by Sharon Marks.

Motion made by Fred Oestreicher to Adjourn. Second by Lisa Pegg. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Marks.

Church Council Highlights

JUNE 10, 2024

Devotions were led by Sharon Marks Vice-President Ryan Winslow called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm. **In attendance:** Ryan Winslow, Fred Oestreicher, Pastor Paul, Greg Paterno, and Sharon Marks. Also in attendance was Financial Secretary Eliot Moore and Treasurer Eldora Crist. Absent were Bob Wolff and Lisa Pegg. **Motion** made by Sharon Marks to approve the agenda with the addition of one new item under New Business. Second by Fred Oestreicher. Motion carried. **Motion** made by Fred Oestreicher to approve the Secretary's Minutes from the May 13 meeting. Second by Greg Paterno. Motion carried. **Motion** made by Sharon Marks to approve the Treasurer's Report. Second by Fred Oestreicher. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor attended the Conference 4 Caucus meeting at Salem Lutheran Church in Delmont. He also presided at the funeral of Enola Erdley on May 25, and her interment into the St. Matthias Garden of the Saints. He attended the final Synod Assembly Planning Committee meeting via Zoom on June 6. Pastor continues to serve as Interim Pastor at Good Shepard Lutheran Church in Greensburg for approximately 5 hours per week.

Communications: None **Concerns:** None

Committee Reports were given.

Old Business: None

New Business

2025 Budget Requests: Requests for the 2025 annual budget should be given to the Financial Secretary by the end of August. He along with the Finance Committee will meet in September to prepare the 2025 proposed budget. Requests for a new computer for the Secretary's office as well as new printers and a copier will be included.

Semi-Annual Financial Statements: Those who have made financial contributions to St. Matthias will receive these statements at the beginning of July.

Annual Meeting, Part 1: Motion by Greg Paterno to schedule the meeting on November 17, 2024, following worship. Second by Fred Oestreicher. Motion carried. The agenda for the meeting is (1) elect new council members, (2) present the proposed 2025 budget for approval, and (3) conduct any other congregational business.

Memorial Fund: Procedures for acknowledging Memorial gifts were reviewed, including notification to the donor and the family of the deceased along with a time frame for notification.

HVAC Units: Fred Oestreicher reported that 2 units in the sanctuary are not working. Both are past their life expectancy. **Motion** made by Greg Paterno to purchase 2 new units at a cost of \$7600. Second by Sharon Marks. Motion carried. The life expectancy for the new units is 15-20 years.

CPR Classes: Dates requested for CPR classes were reviewed.

The Calendar and Worship Assistants for July and August were reviewed. The next meeting will be held Monday July 15, 2024 at 7:30 pm via Zoom. Devotions will be led by Fred Oestreicher.

Motion made by Fred Oestreicher to adjourn. Second by Ryan Winslow. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Marks

2024 Mowing Schedule

The following is the mowing schedule for the 2024 season. On the dates that you're assigned, we ask that you try to mow toward the end of the week, if possible, so that the yard is mowed for the weekend. Feel free to switch with someone if you have a scheduling conflict. If you have any questions or problems please contact the church office at 724-834-2457 or any member of the property committee. If you need to buy fuel, fill the red 5 gallon container and give the fuel receipt to Eldora Christ for reimbursement. If you can't mow on your week due to weather conditions please make arrangements to help the next scheduled person the following week. Thank you for serving God in this important ministry.

The Property Committee

Dates listed are Monday through Saturday.

Week of:

April 1 - April 6 - Fred Oestreicher
April 8 - April 13 - Ray Wasilowski
April 15 - April 20 - Andrew Harrold.
April 22 - April 27 - Jeff Sano.
April 29 - May 4 - Gary Sullivan.
May 6 - May 11 - Elliot Moore
May 13 - May 18 - Jim Frye.
May 20 - May - 25 - Bob Wolff.
May 27 - June 1 - Norb Georges
June 3 - June 8 - Brian Hixson
June 10 - June 15 - Dave Bell
June 17 - June 22 - Ray Wasilowski
June 24 - June 29 - Andrew Harrold
July 1 - July 6 - Jeff Sano
July 8 - July 13 - Elliot Moore
July 15 - July 20 - Jim Frye
July 22 - July 27 - Bob Wolff
July 29 - Aug. 3 - Norb Georges
Aug. 5 - Aug. 10 - Brian Hixson
Aug. 12 - Aug. 17 - Gary Sullivan
Aug. 19 - Aug. 24 - Ray Wasilowski
Aug. 26 - Aug. 31 - Andrew Harrold

Sept. 2 - Sept. 7 - Jeff Sano
Sept. 9 - Sept. 14 - Dave Bell
Sept. 16 - Sept. 21 - Elliot Moore
Sept. - 23 - Sept. 28 - Jim Frye
Sept. 30 - Oct. 5 - Bob Wolff
Oct. 7 - Oct. 12 - Norb Georges
Oct. 14 - Oct. 19 - Brian Hixson
Oct. 21 - Oct - 26 - Fred Oestreicher

Barb Winslow will help mow if asked.

Prayer List

Larry	Friend of Darla Dalena
Matt and His Family	Member
Valerie Pratt	Darla Dalena's Brother
Larry Slicker	Bob Wolff's Mother
Sarah Wolff	Friend of Tina Weimer
Chase Lawlor	Ron Pegg's Friend
Kevin	Susan Spillar Nephew
Brian Sindorf	Friend of Lisa Pegg
Carol	Friend of Vickie Georges
Roy Millhouse	Keith & Carol Bowman
Chase Yates	great grandson
Jesse Evans	Darla Dalena's friend
Greg Ferrier	Member
Garrett Riggs	friend of Vicki Georges
Bryan Tomko	friend of Vicki Georges
Chris Thorpe	friend of Vicki Georges
Bud Barth	friend of Linda and Ray Wasilowski
Tom	Friend of Lisa Pegg
Joshua	Pam Sullivan's Grandson
Frank Kuzin	Mary Lou Wolff's Brother
Virginia Turner	Member
Joan Downing	Member
Vicki Georges	Member
Joe Welling	Friend of Alycefaye Stewart
Alycefaye Stewart	Member
Arleen Hawk	friend of the congregation
Evelyn Malinish	Member
Craig	Dana Gruesu Coworker
Ron & Carol Bowman	Keith Bowman's brother
	and sister in law
Teri Pappas	Vicki Georges sister
Lorraine Howell	Member
Barry Santavy	Member
Ted Wohlin	Arlene Wohlin's Husband

To contact the prayer chain, please call:

Joan Wilson at (724) 836-3055

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.

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

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.



Joseph Lightner	July 2
Justin Sindorf	July 2
Mary Lou Wolff	July 11
Timothy Dominick	July 12
Kaylee Daniska	July 12
Elijah Johnston	July 14
Caitlyn Huey	July 15
Nathan Turner	July 17
Barbara Fink	July 17
David Santavy	July 19
Madison Sano	July 31



Francis & Meredith Schmadel	July 2
Norb & Vicki Georges	July 7
David & Barbara Hoffman	July 24



Teresa Frye	August 3
Virginia Bowman	August 4
John Wohlin	August 5
Amber Dudash	August 12
Barbara Hoffman	August 17
Meredith Schmadel	August 18
Ryan Winslow	August 19
Maryann Himler	August 20
Adam Harrold	August 21
Robert Wolff	August 22
Donald Kauffman	August 23
Fred Oestreicher	August 30

Amber & Kevin Organiscak	August 9
Joseph & Bernice Gruesu	August 15
John & Tina Weimer	August 16
Richard & Kristin Pullet	August 20
Terry & Lova Yeagers	August 29



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 9:45am Al-Anon	3	4 	5 8:00pm NA	6 CPR 8:30am– 3:00 pm
7 Pentecost 9:30am Worship	8	9 9:45am Al-Anon	10	11 WELCA 1:00pm CPR 3:30pm– 6:45pm	12 8:00pm NA	13 CPR 8:30am– 3:00pm
14 8 Pentecost 9:30am Worship	15 7:30pm Church Council	16 9:45am Al-Anon	17	18	19 8:00pm NA	20 CPR 8:30am– 3:30pm
21 9 Pentecost 9:30am Worship	22 Stamp Camp	23 9:45am Al-Anon	24	25 CPR 5:30pm.- 8:45p.m	26 8:00pm NA	27 CPR 8:30am– 3:00 pm
28 10 Pentecost 9:30am Worship	29 Stamp Camp	30 9:45am Al-Anon	31 			

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR July 2024

	July 7	July 14	July 21	July 28	August 4
Host	Ray Wasilowski	Bobbie Oestreich	Bob Wolff	Sharon Marks	Fred Oestreich
GREETER	Norb & Vicki Georges	Darla Dalena	Linda & Ray Wasilowski	Andrea Petrill	Bobbie Oestreich
LECTOR	Andrew Harrold	Fred Oestreich	Bob Marks	Tina Weimer	Lisa Pegg
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Debra Adams	Bernice Gruesu	Fred Oestreich	Andrew Harrold	Ryan Winslow
TELLERS	Eliot Moore Norb Georges	Eliot Moore Norb Georges	Eliot Moore Norb Georges	Eliot Moore Norb Georges	Sharon Marks Ryan Winslow
ALTAR GUILD	Linda Wasilowski	Linda Wasilowski	Linda Wasilowski	Linda Wasilowski	Eldora Crist
CARD MINISTRY	Vicki Georges	Vicki Georges	Vicki Georges	Vicki Georges	Eldora Crist

2024 Church Council

Bob Wolff, President
Ryan Winslow, Vice President
Fred Oestreich, Secretary
Eldora Crist, Treasurer
Eliot Moore, Financial Secretary

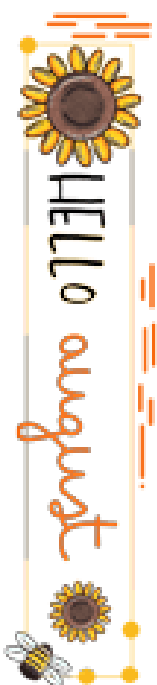
Lisa Pegg
Sharon Marks
Paul Gruesu, Pastor
Greg Paterno

**Ways you can
SERVE**

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.

**Helper
Signup**

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.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 11 Pentecost 9:30am Worship	5	6 9:45am Al-Anon	7	8 WELCA 1:00pm CPR 3:30pm-6:45pm	9 8:00pm NA	10 CPR 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
11 12 Pentecost 9:30am Worship	12 7:30pm Church Council	13 9:45am Al-Anon	14	15	16 8:00pm NA	17 CPR 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
18 13 Pentecost 9:30am Worship Blessing of the Teachers & Students	19 Stamp Camp	20 9:45am Al-Anon	21	22 CPR 5:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.	23 8:00pm NA	24 CPR 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
25 14 Pentecost 9:30am Worship	26 Stamp Camp	27 9:45am Al-Anon	28	29	30 8:00pm NA	31 CPR 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR August 2024

	August 4	August 11	August 18	August 25	September 1
Host	Fred Oestreich	Norb Georges	Jeff Sano	Jim Frye	Ray Wasilowski
GREETER	Bobbie Oestreich	Joe & Bernice Gruesu	Valetta Bradosky	Lorraine Howell	Norb & Vicki Georges
LECTOR	Lisa Pegg	Debra Adams	Andrew Harrold	Fred Oestreich	Bob Marks
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Ryan Winslow	Dana Gruesu	Debra Adams	Bernice Gruesu	Fred Oestreich
TELLERS	Sharon Marks Ryan Winslow	Sharon Marks Ryan Winslow	Sharon Marks Ryan Winslow	Sharon Marks Ryan Winslow	Bob Wolff Lisa Pegg
ALTAR GUILD	Eldora Crist	Eldora Crist	Eldora Crist	Eldora Crist	Dana Gruesu
CARD MINISTRY	Eldora Crist	Eldora Crist	Eldora Crist	Eldora Crist	Tina Weimer

2024 Church Council

Bob Wolff, President
Ryan Winslow, Vice President
Fred Oestreich, Secretary
Eldora Crist, Treasurer
Eliot Moore, Financial Secretary

Lisa Pegg
Sharon Marks
Paul Gruesu, Pastor
Greg Paterno

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St. Matthias Evangelical Lutheran Church

**100 Chapel View Drive
Greensburg, PA 15601-1002**

Address Service Requested

DATED MATERIAL

THE VIEW

ST. MATTHIAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

July/ August 2024

Visit us on the web at www.stmatthiasgreensburg.org

**Services of Holy Communion:
Sunday 9:30am**

**Paul Gruesu, Pastor pastorpaul7@yahoo.com
Secretary: Amy Repak stmatthiassecretary@gmail.com
Organist/Choir Director: Chuck Vita**

