

The View

July & August 2026

A NEWSLETTER FROM ST. MATTHIAS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Visit us on the web at www.stmatthiasgreensburg.com



How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,

where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God. Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. Psalm 84:1, 3-4

One of the deepest ways we experience God's love is through animals, and the gift of pets.

Have you ever had a pet? It's amazing how one of God's creatures can come into our lives, capture our hearts, and become a part of our families. We've all heard stories of how pets have changed people's lives, whether it be a pet who helped save a child from a fire, or an animal that helped a grieving person find peace and love, or countless other examples. And I'm sure you have stories about your own pets as well.

Sometimes it's easy to take for granted the special blessings that God provides us. On **Wednesday, July 29th at 7pm**, we're continuing our yearly tradition of having a brief outdoor worship service on the front lawn at St. Matthias to thank God for the gift of our pets and to offer a blessing to all

animals. Regardless of whether you have a pet, please come and enjoy this special time of blessing and celebration with us! All pets are welcome, and you're also welcome to invite any friends or neighbors who would like to bring along their pets as well. This is an excellent opportunity to invite those who otherwise might be hesitant to come to worship, as it offers a more relaxed way for them to come and get to know our congregation in a fun and meaningful way.

In case of inclement weather, a rain date of Thursday, July 30th at 7pm has been scheduled. We hope to see you and your pets there!

Let us pray. Creator God, we thank you for the gift of your creation. Water, earth, and sky are yours, as are all their inhabitants, wild and tame. We thank

you for creatures that offer us companionship and love, and that befriend, enrich, and protect us. May we, who are made in your image, care for them well. As we offer our thanks to you for all of your creation, help us to remember the special blessing that you offer us through our pets. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

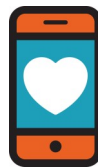
In Christ,
Pastor Paul

Blessing of Teachers and Students August 16th

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!



Meet Our New Online Giving!



MOBILE
GIVING

We are excited to announce that along with your regular envelope and cash offerings we have now added to our website an online giving option. So if you have forgotten your envelope or have a visitor come and they prefer to go the online route, giving is as easy as going to our St. Matthias homepage and clicking the online giving button, scan the QR code below or go to This information will be available in the pews for everyone to use soon.





July

July 9, 2026 — 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM
 July 11, 2026 — 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM
 July 17, 2026 — 9:30 AM to 2:15 PM
 July 18, 2026 — 11:30 AM to 3:00 PM
 July 25, 2026 — 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM
 July 30, 2026 — 2:30 PM to 9:00 PM

August

August 7, 2026 — 9:30 AM to 2:15 PM
 August 8, 2026 — 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM
 August 13, 2026 — 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM
 August 15, 2026 — 9:30 AM to 2:15 PM
 August 21, 2026 — 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM
 August 22, 2026 — 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM
 August 27, 2026 — 2:30 PM to 9:00 PM



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 IN JULY THE DATES HAVE CHANGED TO THE 14TH AND THE 28TH..** Please feel free to contact Kim at (724) 875-0049 for more information.



GO.



SERVE.



LOVE.



REPEAT.



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 29th 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, July 30th at 7pm has been scheduled. We hope to see you and your pets there!**

2027 Budget Requests

All 2027 Budget Requests are to be given to Eliot Moore, Financial Secretary, by the end of August so the Financial Committee can prepare the Proposed 2027 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 13th

Please note that Rally Day will be on Sunday, September 13th. We'll also be having our annual

church picnic after worship. All are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there!



St. Matthias Women of the ELCA

July 9, 1:00 – Devotional/Social Dana Gruesu hostess.
August 13- Devotional/Social Bernice Gruesu hostess.
Please note that Tina Weimer has a new email address which is tina.weimer@proton.me. She is also using her cell phone 724-244-0970.



The Designated Outreach Program of our Synodical Women Organization for the year 2026 is Reagan's Journey. The purpose of this outreach is to make life better for children with special needs. Brochures available on the narthex table.

This year's Joint Retreat with Northwestern PA Synod will once again be held at Camp Lutherlyn the weekend of September 25-27. Our theme for the weekend is "Stop, Listen, Hear," with the Bible verse being Mark 4:23 "If you have ears to hear, then hear!" It's going to be an incredible weekend filled with faith, fellowship, and fun as we take time to slow down, listen for God's voice, and truly hear His message.

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!

JULY

13-18—Lisa Pegg

27– Aug 1– Bobbi Oestreicher

AUGUST

10-16– Mary Lou Wolff

24-29– Gayle Kunko

SEPTEMBER

7-12– Dana Gruesu

21—26– Terry Frye

OCTOBER

12-17– Barb Winslow

26-31— Lisa Pegg

NOVEMBER

9-14– Bobbi Oestreicher

23-28– Mary Lou Wolff

DECEMBER

7-12— Gayle Kunko

21-26- Dana Gruesu



Church Council Highlights

MAY 11, 2026

Devotions were led by Greg Paterno .President Greg Paterno called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

In attendance: Greg Paterno, Sharon Marks, Gary Sullivan, Pastor Paul, Ryan Winslow, Bobbie Oestreicher, Dave Bell. Also in attendance was Financial Secretary, Eliot Moore. Treasurer, Mike Oestreicher, was unable to attend.

Motion made by Ryan Winslow to approve the agenda. Second by Dave Bell. Motion carried.

Motion by Greg Paterno to approve the minutes of the April 13 meeting. Second by Gary Sullivan. Motion carried.

Motion by Sharon Marks to approve the Treasurer's Report. Second by Ryan Winslow. Motion carried. **Pastor's**

Report: Pastor presided at the funerals for Lillian Reno and Norma Bennett, and at the rehearsal and wedding of Jill Baker and Reese Bessel. He provided instruction and presided at the Baptism of Leslie Rigby and Ryan Ashley. Pastor participated in Spring Cleanup Day and participated in our community's Yom HaShoah worship Service at Congregation Emanu-El Israel in Greensburg, He met with Dave Bell to assist with his Internal Audit of the finances at St. Matthias.

Communications: The filing cabinets in the church office will be cleaned out and outdated materials removed. One cabinet that is beyond repair will be eliminated. **Concerns:** None

Committee Reports

Worship and Music: *The marriage of Jill Baker and Reece Bessel was celebrated on April 25. Two adult Baptisms, as well as the Blessing of Fields and Gardens were celebrated on May 3. Rabbi Lenny Sarko provided a blessing for our Community Garden.*

Christian Ed and Youth: *No new information.*

Stewardship: *No new information.*

Fellowship: *A Potluck luncheon was held on May 3 to celebrate two adult Baptisms, and a Bake Sale was held to open our Community Garden. All proceeds will go to the Westmoreland County Food Bank. A Potluck luncheon will be held on May 31 to welcome new members and celebrate the graduation of our high school seniors.*

Evangelism and Social Ministry: *The bake sale generated \$161 which was sent to the Food Bank. "The Food 2 Go 4 Kids" program will resume in the fall.*

Finance: *No new information.*

Property: *Spring Cleanup Day was held on April 18.*

Cleaning Committee: *No new information.*

Community Garden: *Open house was held on April 18. A bake sale was held on May 3 to open the garden.*

Women of the ELCA: *No new information.*

Old Business

Dave Bell presented his 2025 Internal audit. **Motion** by Ryan Winslow to approve the audit. Second by Sharon Marks. Motion carried.

Registration deadline for Synod Assembly is May 15.

Background checks for 9 people who are either on staff or work with finances and/ or the database were completed. Linda Wasilowski agreed to review those background checks to preserve confidentiality.

New Business

The PA Corporate Annual Report was completed online by Financial Secretary, Eliot Moore.

The Annual Meeting Part 1 was set for November 22, 2026.

Motion made by Gary Sullivan, on behalf of the Property Committee to purchase an outdoor security camera. Second by Greg Paterno. Motion carried. The cost of the camera as well as the subscription fee will be covered by donations from congregation members. Pastor Paul and Amy will have access to the camera on their phones.

CPR dates were reviewed.

The calendar and Worship Assistants were reviewed.

The next meeting will be held on Monday June 8, 2026 at 7 pm via Zoom.

Gary Sullivan will lead devotions.

Motion by Sharon Marks to adjourn. Second by Dave Bell. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Marks

Church Council Highlights

June 8, 2026

Devotions were led by Gary Sullivan. President Greg Paterno called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

In attendance: Greg Paterno, Sharon Marks, Gary Sullivan, Pastor Paul, Ryan Winslow, Bobbie Oestreicher, Dave Bell. Financial Secretary, Eliot Moore and Treasurer, Mike Oestreicher were unable to attend. **Motion** made by Sharon Marks to approve the agenda. Second by Dave Bell. Motion carried. **Motion** made by Greg Paterno to approve the minutes of the May 11 meeting. Second by Bobbie Oestreicher. Motion carried.

Motion made by Gary Sullivan to approve the Treasurer's Report. Second by Ryan Winslow. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor presided at the Baptisms of Ryan Ashley and Leslie Rigby, and the reception of 8 new members into St. Matthias. He attended the Excela Health Patient Advisory Panel meeting in Latrobe and a Zoom meeting for the Synod Lab Assistant Program. He attended a Synod Assembly Planning meeting via Zoom and the Conference 4 Pre-Synod Assembly Caucus meeting in Youngstown. Pastor made nursing home visits with Virginia Smeltzer, Jean Kauffman, Glenda Rosendahl, and Don Ohr.

Communications: None **Concerns:** None

Committee Reports

Worship and Music: *Eight new members were welcomed into membership and the high school graduations of Anna and Maddy Paterno were celebrated.*

Christian Ed and Youth: *No new information*

Stewardship: *No new information*

Fellowship: *A Potluck luncheon was held on May 31 to welcome new members and recognize the graduation of our high school seniors.*

Evangelism and Social Ministry: *Leftover items from the bake sale were donated to the homeless shelter.*

Finance: *The Vanco online giving option has been added to the website. The process of testing each function is currently underway.*

Property: *No new information.*

Cleaning Committee: *No new information.*

Community Garden: *No new information*

Women of the ELCA: *On June 11 a Devotional/Social and Thank offering will be held.*

Old Business

The internal audit conducted by Dave Bell was submitted to Synod. This completes the audit process for 2025

Linda Wasilowski will review the background check information on the Secure Search website for 9 persons at St. Matthias.

New Business

Motion made by Sharon Marks to approve Pastor Paul presiding at the wedding of Aurora Brown and Shane Scott in April of 2027. Second by Ryan Winslow. Motion carried.

Additional CPR Class dates were reviewed.

All committees are reminded to submit additions, changes, or deletion for the 2027 budget to Eliot Moore, Financial Secretary by the end of August.

Semi Annual Financial Statements will be available by the first of July.

The Calendar and Worship Assistants were reviewed. The next meeting will be held on Monday July 6, 2026 at 7 pm via Zoom. Sharon Marks will lead devotions.

Motion by Sharon Marks to adjourn. Second by Dave Bell. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Marks

2026 Mowing Schedule

The following is the mowing schedule for the 2026 season. On the dates you're assigned, we ask that you try to mow toward the end of the week if possible, so 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 Mike Oestreicher 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.

~~March 30 - April 4 Fred Oestreicher~~

~~April 6 - April 11 Ray Wasilowski~~

~~April 13 - April 18 Andrew Harrold~~

~~April 20 - April 25 Jeff Sano~~

~~April 27 - May 2 Eliot Moore~~

~~May 4 - May 9 Gary Sullivan~~

~~May 11 - May 16 Jim Frye~~

~~May 18 - May 23 Mike Oestreicher~~

~~May 25 - May 30 Brian Hixson~~

~~June 1 - June 6 Dave Bell~~

~~June 8 - June 13 Fred Oestreicher~~

~~June 15 - June 20 Ray Wasilowski~~

~~June 22 - June 27 Andrew Harrold~~

June 29 - July 4 Jeff Sano

July 6 - July 11 Eliot Moore

July 13 - July 18 Gary Sullivan

July 20 - July 25 Jim Frye

July 27 - Aug. 1 Mike Oestreicher

Aug. 3 - Aug. 8 Brian Hixson

Aug. 10 - Aug. 15 Dave Bell

Aug. 17 - Aug. 22 Fred Oestreicher

Aug. 24 - Aug. 29 Ray Wasilowski

Aug 31 - Sept 5 Andrew Harrold

Sept. 7 - Sept 12 Jeff Sano

Sept. 14 - Sept. 19 Eliot Moore

Sept. 21 - Sept 26 Gary Sullivan

Sept. 28 - Oct. 3 Jim Frye

Oct. 5 - Oct. 10 Mike Oestreicher

Oct. 12 - Oct. 17 Brian Hixson

Oct. 19 - Oct. 24 Dave Bell

Oct. 26 - Oct. 31 Fred Oestreicher

Barb Winslow will help mow if asked.



Prayer List

Welcome Home Homeless Shelter

Pam Serlo	friend of Kathy Teslevich
Jean Newell	relative of Bernice Gruesu
Jerry Nortum	relative of Bernice Gruesu
Jeff Noll	Friend of Linda & Ray Wasilowski
Kim Thomas	Friend of Dana Gruesu
Terri	Friend of Lindsay Gruesu
Emma	Friend of Lindsay Gruesu
Aurora	Friend of Pam Sullivan
Matt Frye	Son of Jim and Terri Frye
Virginia Smeltzer	Member
Jesus Garcia	Friend of Deb Adams
Montserrat Segovia	Friend of Deb Adams
Frank	friend of Bob Wolff
Danny Sindorf	relative of Sue Spillar
Teri Jordanhaze	friend of Sue Spillar
Sue Spillar	member
Karin McQuigg	friend of Sue Spillar
Jackie	Linda Wasilowski's friend
Lisa Dalena	relative of Darla Dalena
Melissa Hanlon	Dana Gruesu's Coworker
Carol Garlow	Sister in Law of Linda Wasilowski
Ross Sano	Jeff Sano's Brother
Larry Saylor	Dana Gruesu's Cousin
Glenda Rosendahl	Member
Valetta Bradosky	Member
Loretta	Pam Sullivan's Mom
Bob Ferrier	Member
Andrea Petrill	Member
Eric Hohman	friend of Paul and Dana Gruesu
Alycefaye Stewart	Member
Larry Slicker	Darla Dalena's Brother
Evelyn Malinish	Member
Ron & Carol Bowman	Keith Bowman's
	brother and sister in law
Lorraine Howell	Member
Barry Santavy	Member

To contact the prayer chain, please call Tina Weimer at 724-244-0970 or email her at tina.weimer@proton.me

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.



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
Chloe Borelli	July 17
Nathan Turner	July 17
Barbara Fink	July 17
Rose Rigby	July 19
David Santavy	July 19
Madison Sano	July 31

Francis & Meredith Schmadel	July 2
David & Barbara Hoffman	July 24



Teresa Frye	August 3
Virginia Bowman	August 4
John Wohlin	August 5
Kathy Teslevich	August 8
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
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

JULY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 HAPPY FOURTH JULY
5 6th Pentecost 10am Worship	6 7:00pm Council Mtg	7 9:45am Al-Anon	8 11am Worship & Music Meeting	9 1:00pm Women of the ELCA CPR 3-9pm	10 8pm NA	11
12 7th Pentecost 10am Worship	13	14 9:45am Al-Anon	15	16	17 CPR 9:30am— 2:15pm 8pm NA	18 CPR 11:30am— 3:00pm
19 8th Pentecost 10am Worship	20	21 9:45am Al-Anon	22	23	24 8pm NA	25 CPR 8:30am— 3:00pm
26 9th Pentecost 10am Worship	27	28 9:45am Al-Anon	29 7:00pm Blessing of the Animals 	30 CPR 2:30pm— 9:00pm	31 8pm NA	

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR July 2026

	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26	August 2
Host	Jeff Sano	Jim Frye	Ray Wasilowski	Bobbie Oestreich	Bob Wolff
GREETER	Lorraine Howell	Darla Dalena	Andrea Petril	Joe & Bernice Gruesu	Fred & Bobbie Oestreich
LECTOR	Bob Marks	Tina Weimer	Lisa Pegg	Andrew Harold	Andrew Harold
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Fred Oestreich	Dana Gruesu	Andrew Harold	Bernice Gruesu	Debra Adams
TELLERS	Sharon Marks Bobbie Santavy	Sharon Marks Bobbie Santavy	Sharon Marks Bobbie Santavy	Sharon Marks Bobbie Santavy	Tina Weimer Bob Wolff
ALTAR GUILD	Linda Wasilowski	Linda Wasilowski	Linda Wasilowski	Linda Wasilowski	Pam Sullivan
CARD MINISTRY	Debra Adams	Debra Adams	Debra Adams	Debra Adams	Women of the ELCA

2026 Church Council
 Greg Paterno, President
 Sharon Marks, Vice President
 Gary Sullivan, Secretary
 Mike Oestreich, Treasurer
 Eliot Moore, Financial Secretary

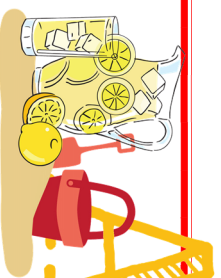
Ryan Winslow
Bobbie Oestreich
Dave Bell
Paul Gruesu, Pastor



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.



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.



AUGUST

2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10th Pentecost 10am Worship	3	4 9:45am Al-Anon	5	6	7 CPR 9:30am— 2:15pm 8pm NA	8
9 11th Pentecost 10am Worship	10 7:00pm Council Mtg	11 9:45am Al-Anon	12	13  1:00pm Women of the ELCA CPR 3-9pm	14 8pm NA	15 CPR 9:30am— 2:15pm
16 12th Pentecost 10am Worship Blessings of Teachers & Students	17	18 9:45am Al-Anon	19	20	21 8pm NA	22 CPR 8:30am— 3:00pm
23 13th Pentecost 10am Worship	24	25 9:45am Al-Anon	26	27 CPR 2:30pm— 9:00pm	28 8pm NA	29
30 14th Pentecost 10am Worship	31					

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR August 2026

	August 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30	September 6
Host	Bob Wolf	Bobbie Oestreicher	Fred Oestreicher	Jeff Sano	Jim Frye	Ray Wasilowski
GREETER	Fred & Bobbie Oestreicher	Ray & Linda Wasilowski	Valetta Bradosky	Lorraine Howell	Jeff Sano	Darla Dalena
LECTOR	Andrew Harrold	Gary Sullivan	Fred Oestreicher	Bob Marks	Tina Weiner	Lisa Pegg
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Debra Adams	Fred Oestreicher	Dana Gruesu	Andrew Harrold	Bernice Gruesu	Debra Adams
TELLERS	Tina Weimer Bob Wolf	Tina Weimer Bob Wolf	Tina Weimer Bob Wolf	Tina Weimer Bob Wolf	Tina Weimer Bob Wolf	Greg Paterno Jeff Sano
ALTAR GUILD	Pam Sullivan	Pam Sullivan	Pam Sullivan	Pam Sullivan	Pam Sullivan	Linda Wasilowski
CARD MINISTRY	Women of the ELCA	Women of the ELCA	Women of the ELCA	Women of the ELCA	Women of the ELCA	Women of the ELCA

2026 Church Council

Greg Paterno, President
Sharon Marks, Vice President
Gary Sullivan, Secretary
Mike Oestreicher, Treasurer
Eliot Moore, Financial Secretary

Ryan Winslow
Bobbie Oestreicher
Dave Bell
Paul Gruesu, Pastor



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.



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.

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 2026

Visit us on the web at www.stmatthiasgreensburg.com

**Services of Holy Communion:
Sunday 10:00 am**

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

