

The View

January/February 2026

A NEWSLETTER FROM ST. MATTHIAS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Visit us on the web at www.stmatthiasgreensburg.com



pastor's page

Lent is coming soon! On February 18, we celebrate with the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday, the

beginning of the season of Lent.

Beginning with February 25, on Wednesday nights in Lent, we'll worship with Holden Evening Prayer at 7pm and an Adult Bible Study at 7:30pm. All are welcome, and no previous experience is required!

The season of Lent gives us the gift of a time of reflection, repentance, leaning, and growth in our faith in Jesus. Our worship allows us to show our gratitude and praise to God, while also reflecting on Scripture and how it relates to our daily lives. And our Bible Study allows us to study Scripture, ask questions, and have prayerful conversations about where God is calling us individually, and as the family of God, here at St. Matthias and beyond.

Please let me know if you have any suggestions for the topic of our Lenten Bible Study, as I like to focus on topics that are of most interest to the congregation. We hope you can come and participate in our Lenten celebrations. We'll look forward to seeing you there!

In Christ,
Pastor Paul



ASH
Wednesday

Ash Wednesday Worship on February 18

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18, and we'll gather for worship and the imposition of ashes at 7pm that evening. Please welcome any friends or neighbors who would like to attend!

Thank You!

Greetings,
This is a formal appreciation for permitting me the opportunity to preach the Sermon Series "Healthy Philosophy for Active Christians" in September.

Thanks to Pastor Paul's gracious cooperation to abdicate the pulpit for 3 weeks. I know that may be an uneasy thing for pastors. And thanks to the congregation's (both online and in-person) open-minded participation on this adventurous endeavor. Your support, blessings, and prayers were very encouraging. I hope you enjoyed it!

Regards, *Andrew Harrold*



Souper Bowl of Caring

On **February 8th** we'll be participating in the "Souper Bowl of Caring", where we'll collect monetary funds to benefit our wonderful partners in ministry, the Westmoreland County Food Bank, to help feed those who are hungry. Please consider giving to this important ministry.

Community Garden

Thanks to all for the continued success of our Community Garden. The final donations to the Westmoreland County Food Bank is over 1400lbs of produce so far and \$574 to the Westmoreland County Food Bank. Also the \$574 was matched by Pennline Service for a total monetary donation of \$1,149.62! Thanks to everyone for your support of this important ministry. If you are interested in joining the community garden in 2026 we will be holding an open house on **April 18th at 1pm!**



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:

JANUARY

12 - 17 - Bobbi Oestreicher
26 - 31 - Mary Lou Wolff

FEBRUARY

9 - 14 - Gayle Kunko
23 - 28 - Dana Gruesu

MARCH

9 - 14 - Terry Frye
23 - 28 - Barb Winslow

APRIL

9 - 14 - Lisa Pegg
20 - 25 - Bobbi Oestreicher

MAY

4 - 9 - Mary Lou Wolff
18 - 23 - Gayle Kunko

JUNE

1 - 6 - Dana Gruesu
15 - 20 - Terry Frye
27 - July 4 - Barb Winslow

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

NOVEMBER

9-14— Bobbi
23-28— Mary Lou

OCTOBER

12-17— Barb Winslow
26-31— Lisa Pegg

DECEMBER

7-12— Gayle
21-26- Dana

Annual Meeting

Our **Annual Congregational Meeting, Part 2** was held on **Sunday, January 18th** immediately following the worship service.



January 2026

Jan 8 | 2:30 PM – 5:30 PM
Jan 17 | 11:30 AM – 4:15 PM
Jan 24 | 8:30 AM – 2:45 PM

February 2026

Feb 6 | 11:30 AM – 4:15 PM
Feb 12 | 2:30 PM – 8:45 PM
Feb 14 | 8:30 AM — 6:15 PM
Feb 21 | 8:30 AM – 2:45 PM
Feb 26 | 2:30 PM – 5:30 PM

March

March 7 8:30 AM to 2:45 PM
March 14 8:30 AM to 6:15 PM
March 20 11:30 AM to 4:15 PM
March 26 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM
March 27 8:30 AM to 6:15 PM

April

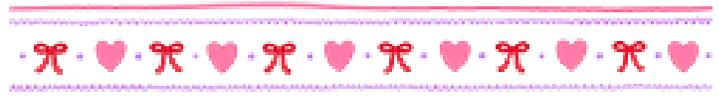
April 10 8:30 AM to 6:15 PM
April 11 8:30 AM to 2:45 PM
April 23 2:30 PM to 8:45 PM
April 30 8:30 AM to 6:15 PM

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.

Please feel free to contact Kim at (724) 875-0049 for more information.



Church Council Highlights

NOVEMBER 10, 2025

Devotions were led by Gary Sullivan. **In Attendance:** Greg Paterno, Fred Oestreicher, Bob Wolff, Pastor Paul, Ryan Winslow, Gary Sullivan, Sharon Marks. Absent was Valerie Pratt. Also in attendance was Financial Secretary Eliot Moore and Treasurer Mike Oestreicher.

President Greg Paterno called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. **Motion** by Sharon Marks to approve the agenda. Second by Fred Oestreicher. Motion carried. **Motion** by Ryan Winslow to approve the minutes from the October 6 meeting. Second by Fred Oestreicher. Motion carried.

Motion by Sharon Marks to accept the Treasurer's Report. Second by Fred Oestreicher. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report Pastor attended the Bishop's Convocation in Bolivar from October 13-15, and the Bishop's Installation service at Berkley Hills Lutheran Church in Ross Township. He attended a "Reckoning with Anti-Semitism" workshop at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Shadyside on October 21. Pastor made nursing home visits with Jean Kauffman, Lillian Reno, and Glenda Rosendahl. Pastor's call to serve as Interim Pastor at Good Shepherd Greensburg will end on November 30, 2025, as Good Shepherd is welcoming a new Pastor.

Communications An amendment to the Proposed 2026 Budget was voted via e-mail. In favor G.Paterno, F. Oestreicher, B Wolff, R Winslow, S. Marks. Opposed, G. Sullivan. Not voting, V. Pratt. Motion to amend carried.

Valerie Pratt informed Pastor Paul of her resignation from council effective immediately. She has moved to the Irwin area and plans to join a church closer to her. The council accepted her resignation and wishes her all the best in her new location.

Concerns None

Committee Reports were given.

Old Business

The agenda for the Annual Meeting Part 1 was reviewed.

New Business

Motion by Sharon Marks to approve the request for use of the Fellowship Hall on January 10, 2026. Second by Bob Wolff. Motion carried.

CPR dates were reviewed

Motion by Fred Oestreicher to approve the vacation request from Chuck Vita. Second by Bob Wolff. Motion carried. **The Calendar and Worship Assistants** were reviewed.

The next meeting will be held December 8, 2025, at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Devotions will be led by Fred Oestreicher. **Motion** made by Gary Sullivan to adjourn. Second by Bob Wolff. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.

St. Matthias Women of the ELCA

REMINDER—THE WOMEN OF ST. MATTHIAS DO NOT MEET IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY.

NEW 2026 PROGRAM BOOKLETS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOURS. IF YOU ARE ABLE, GIVE YOUR OFFERING ENVELOPES TO TINA.

Special thanks to all attended the Christmas Luncheon at Hoss's. There were 21 that attended. We enjoyed the food, fellowship and laughter.



Church Council Highlights

December 8, 2025

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

In Attendance: Greg Paterno, Fred Oestreicher, Bob Wolff, Pastor Paul, Ryan Winslow, Gary Sullivan, Sharon Marks. Also in attendance was Financial Secretary Eliot Moore and Treasurer Mike Oestreicher. Also in attendance was Bobbie Oestreicher and Dave Bell, newly elected council members.

Motion made by Sharon Marks to approve the agenda. Second by Bob Wolff. Motion carried.

Motion made by Bob Wolff to approve the Secretary's minutes from the Nov 10 meeting. Second by Gary Sullivan. Motion carried.

Motion made by Fred Oestreicher to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting Part 1, November 16, 2025. Second by Bob Wolff. Motion carried.

Motion made by Ryan Winsow to approve the Treasurer's Report. Second by Bob Wolff. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report Pastor made 3 hospital visits with Brian Hart. He attended his viewing and presided at his funeral. Pastor attended a Synod Assembly Planning meeting and an Anti-Semitism meeting via Zoom. He also attended the Excella Health Patient Advisory Council for Community Concerns in Latrobe and presided at a funeral for a non-member. Pastor made nursing home visits with Jean Kauifmman, Lillian Reno, and Glenda Rosendahl.

Communication Andrew Harrold requested approval from council to conduct a Blue Christmas Worship Service on December 12, 2025, at 6:00pm. Consensus for approval of the council was obtained through e-mail from all council members.

Concerns None

Committee Reports were given

Old Business

Annual Reports are to be submitted to the church office by December 15.

Mary Lou Wolff contacted council concerning a decision that was made at the March meeting. Council approved 4 council members to sign checks. The paperwork for that decision was never completed with the bank. Mike Oestreicher, Greg Paterno, Gary Sullivan, and Sharon Marks will sign the necessary papers at the bank this week to be in compliance with the decision made at the March meeting. The council thanks Mary Lou for bringing this oversight to council's attention.

New Business

Motion made by Sharon Marks to declare Pastor's Housing Allowance to be \$21,000 for the year 2026. Second by Bob Wolff. Motion carried.

Installation of elected Council members Greg Paterno, Sharon Marks, Bobbie Oestreicher, and Dave Bell will be held on Sunday, Jan 4 during the worship service.

The agenda for the Annual Meeting Part 2 on Jan 18, 2026 was reviewed. Committee liaisons were asked to identify a member of each committee to give a brief oral report at the Annual Meeting Part 2.

The Calendar and Worship Assistants for December were reviewed.

The date of the next meeting will be January 12, 2026, at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Devotions will be led by Sharon Marks.

Council thanked Fred Oestreicher and Bob Wolff for their service on council.

Motion made by Bob Wolff to adjourn. Second by Fred Oestreicher. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Marks

Prayer List

Welcome Home Homeless Shelter
 Eric Hohman friend of Paul and Dana Gruesu
 Chip Friend of Tina Weimer
 Jackie Linda Wasilowski's friend
 Andrea Petrill Member
 Lisa Dalena relative of Darla Dalena
 Len Mulheren Friend of Lisa Pegg
 Cooper Phares friend of Dana Gruesu
 Bob Ferrier Member
 Amy and Erik Repak Member
 Carol Bowman Member
 Laura Dalena Darla Dalena's Niece
 Melissa Hanlon Dana Gruesu's Coworker
 Loretta Pam Sullivan's Mom
 Carol Garlow Sister in Law of Linda Wasilowski
 Ross Sano Jeff Sano's Brother
 Karen Anderson Friend of the Congregation
 Larry Saylor Dana Gruesu's Cousin
 Valetta Bradosky Member
 Glenda Rosendahl Member
Alycefaye Stewart Member
Larry Slicker Darla Dalena's Brother
Leon Moyer Eldora's Son in Law
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 724-832-9541 or email her at tina.weimer@comcast.net
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
- 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.



Vienna O'Brien	January 9
Valetta Bradosky	January 10
Dana Gruesu	January 10
Debra Cisowski	January 11
Nicole Oestreicher	January 12
Alycefaye Stewart	January 18
Alexander Oestreicher	January 19
David Turner	January 20
Lilyana Blankenship	January 21
Tim Weaver	January 29



Adam & Christine Harrold
 January 10
 Fred & Bobbie Oestreicher
 January 17



Amber Schmitt	Feb 1
Doris McDonnell	Feb 2
Blake Hart	Feb 5
Madilyn Paterno	Feb 11
Anna Paterno	Feb 11
Joseph Schmitt	Feb 11
Benjamin Wohlin	Feb 13
Nicholas Schmitt	Feb 17
Shawn Harrold	Feb 17
Elizabeth Spillar	Feb 17
Siera Schmitt	Feb 17
Jessica Sindorf	Feb 22
Andrew Hixson	Feb 25
Norb Georges	Feb 26



Dear St. Matthias,
 Thank you for all the cards and prayers that were said for my son Erik and I after our accident in December. All of your prayers and positive thoughts have helped our recovery and I am happy to be back in the office!
 Thank you,

Amy

JANUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day	2 8pm NA	3
4 2nd Christmas 10am Worship	5	6 Day of Epiphany 9:45am Al-Anon	7 11am Worship & Music Comm Mtg	8 CPR 2:30—5:30pm	9 8pm NA	10 Fellowship Hall Reserved
11 Baptism of Our Lord 10am Worship	12  Church Council Meeting 7pm Council Mtg	13 9:45am Al-Anon	14	15	16 8pm NA	17 CPR 11:30am— 4:15pm
18 2nd Epiphany 10am Worship Cong. Mtg. Part 2	19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Stamp Camp	20 9:45am Al-Anon	21	22	23 8pm NA	24 CPR 8:30am— 2:45pm
25 3rd Epiphany 10am Worship Food 2 Go 4 Kids— Food Due	26 Stamp Camp	27 9:45am Al-Anon	28	29	30 8pm NA	31

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR January 2026

	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25	February 1
Host	Ray Wasilowski	Bobbie Oestreicher	Bob Wolff	Jeff Sano	Fred Oestreicher
GREETER	Darla Dalena	Jeff Sano	Ray & Linda Wasilowski	Andrea Pettrill	Bobbie Oestreicher
LECTOR	Lisa Pegg	Debra Adams	Andrew Harrold	Bob Marks	Tina Weimer
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Andrew Harrold	Fred Oestreicher	Dana Gruesu	Bernice Gruesu	Debra Adams
TELLERS	Mary Lou Wolff & Mike Oestreicher	Greg Paterno & Bobbie Santavy			
ALTAR GUILD	Dana Gruesu	Dana Gruesu	Dana Gruesu	Dana Gruesu	Dana Gruesu
CARD MINISTRY	Women of the ELCA	Women of the ELCA			

2026 Church Council

Greg Paterno
Sharon Marks
Paul Gruesu, Pastor
Mike Oestreicher, Treasurer
Eliot Moore, Financial Secretary

Ryan Winslow
Gary Sullivan
Bobbie Oestreicher
Dave Bell



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.

FEBRUARY 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 4th Epiphany 10am Worship Food 2 Go 4 Kids— Pack up Bags</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 Food 2 Go 4 Kids—Delivery</p>	<p>6 CPR 11:30am— 4:15pm 8pm NA</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 5th Epiphany SOUPER Bowl Sunday 10am Worship</p>	<p>9  Church Council Meeting 7pm Council Mtg</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 CPR 2:30pm— 8:45pm</p>	<p>13 8pm NA</p>	<p>14  CPR 8:30am— 6:15pm</p>
<p>15 Transfiguration Sunday 10am Worship</p>	<p>16 Presidents' Day Stamp Camp</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18  ASH Wednesday Ash Wednesday 7pm Worship</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 8pm NA</p>	<p>21 CPR 8:30am— 2:45pm</p>
<p>22 1st Lent 10am Worship</p>	<p>23 Stamp Camp</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 7pm Holden Evening Prayer 7:30pm Bible Study</p>	<p>26 CPR 2:30pm— 5:30pm</p>	<p>27 8pm NA</p>	<p>28</p>

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR February 2026

	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 18 Ash Wednesday	February 22
Host	Fred Oestreich	Jeff Sano	Jim Frye	Ray Wasilowski	Bobbie Oestreich
GREETER	Bobbie Oestreich	Joe & Bernice Gruesu	Lorraine Howell	Darla Dalena	Ray & Linda Wasilowski
LECTOR	Tina Weimer	Lisa Pegg	Debra Adams	Fred Oestreich	Andrew Harrold
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Debra Adams	Andrew Harrold	Fred Oestreich	Dana Gruesu	Bernice Gruesu
TELLERS	Greg Paterno & Bobbie Santavy				
ALTAR GUILD	Dana Gruesu				
CARD MINISTRY	Women of the ELCA				

2026 Church Council
 Greg Paterno
 Sharon Marks
 Paul Gruesu, Pastor
 Mike Oestreich, Treasurer
 Eliot Moore, Financial Secretary

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 Dave Bell



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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.

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

January/February 2026

Visit us on the web at www.stmatthiasgreensburg.com

Services of Holy Communion:
Sunday 10:00am

SPECIAL SERVICE:
Ash Wednesday, February 18, 7:00pm

Paul Guesu, Pastor
Secretary: Amy Repak
Organist/Choir Director: Chuck Vita

