

The View

November/December 2025

A NEWSLETTER FROM ST. MATTHIAS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Visit us on the web at www.stmatthiasgreensburg.com



If someone says “A Lutheran Pastor, Deacon, and a donkey walk into a bar...”, we’d all be waiting for the punchline. And if I

said, “What does All Saints Sunday, Christ the King Sunday, and the season of Advent all have in common?”, we might be looking for some kind of punchline as well.

After all, we don’t think of those 3 Festivals as being related, even though we’ll celebrate them all in the month of November. But they are, in fact, deeply related.

All Saints Sunday reminds us that, although we still experience the power of death in our earthly life, our life continues with God in His heavenly kingdom, despite the fact that we have sin and fall short of the glory of God.

And why is that the case? Because of what we celebrate on Christ the King Sunday, where we remember that Jesus overcame the power of sin and death by sacrificing His own life on the cross for each one of us... yes, you and me included! And nothing can overcome God’s love and grace... not sin, not death, and not the devil... because Jesus is, in fact, the King of the Universe!

And with that good news, on the following Sunday, we celebrate the beginning of the season of Advent (the beginning of the new church year), by preparing our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus on Christmas. The same Jesus who could have come as a powerful warrior, sitting on the throne and demanding that we worship Him... but instead came as a vulnerable baby in a manger, grew up in a humble home, and came to give His life for us, just so we would be free from our sin and able to live in the joy of God’s kingdom come... right here, right now. Thanks be to God!

In Christ
Pastor Paul



MAKE SURE TO READ THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2026 INSERTED AT THE END OF THE NEWSLETTER!

ANNUAL REPORT **2025 Annual Reports**

Please note that a brief Annual Report will need to be submitted to the office for each of our committees, so that it can be included in our 2025 Annual Report, which will be reviewed at our Annual Meeting, Part 2 on January 18th. The deadline for submitting Annual Reports for each committee is December 16th.



Save the Date

Our Annual Congregational Meeting, Part 1 will be Sunday, November 16th immediately following the worship service. Please make arrangements to stay. The date for Annual Meeting Part 2 will be January 18th.



Don't forget to turn your clocks back an hour on **November 2nd**



Thanksgiving SERVICE

Thanksgiving Worship

Thanksgiving Worship will be on **Wednesday, November 25th, 7pm.** We invite you to

start your thanksgiving celebration by worshipping with us. It's a very brief and meaningful way to give thanks to God for all that He so generously and abundantly provides all year long!

Poinsettias For Christmas Eve

Once again this year we are offering 6" pots of Poinsettias to decorate our church for Christmas. There will be a choice of red or white. They will be \$10.00 each. If you would like to have a plant for your own use after the Christmas Eve service, please fill out the form included in the newsletter. Forms will also be available on the table in the narthex. Please have all order forms completed and returned to the office by Sunday, **NOVEMBER 23rd.**



Christmas Eve Worship



Please note that Christmas Eve falls on a Wednesday this year, and our

Christmas Eve candlelight worship will be at 7pm. We look forward to seeing you there as we celebrate the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Card Ministry



We are looking for members to join the card ministry which sends cards to shut ins and people in the hospital. If you are interested please contact Pastor Paul.

Community Garden

The community garden had another fruitful year. We would like to thank the congregation and the gardeners for all their work and support. Between the harvest table and the gardeners we donated 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.

Stamp Camp

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



DECEMBER will only be Monday the 8th. 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.**



November

- 2025-11-01 8:30am to 5:15pm
- 2025-11-08 8:30am to 2:45pm
- 2025-11-13 5:30pm to 8:30pm
- 2025-11-22 8:30am to 2:45pm

December

- 2025-12-05 11:30am to 4:15pm
- 2025-12-11 2:30pm to 8:30pm
- 2025-12-13 8:30am to 5:15pm
- 2025-12-20 8:30am to 2:45pm
- 2025-12-27 8:30am to 2:45pm



The Season of Caring

We are now entering the “Season of Caring” here at St. Matthias. We have supported these programs for several years and are pleased to help them once again. Note: The dates for all three programs are the same: **start November 16th and end December 14th**. These programs are:



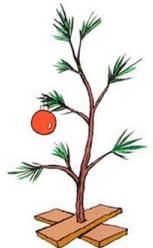
Maxwell & Nicely Elementary Schools

Every year we request the names of 8 children from each school so we can shop for Christmas gifts from their wish list. They are identified by the schools because their families are having financial difficulties.

In the past we have suggested gifts be valued at least \$20. If a list is lengthy, it may be a good idea for several members to pull their resources. Tags will be on the Jesse tree in the narthex on **November 16th**. The gifts need to be at the church no later than **December 14th**. (Note: we are depending on the school for the lists, so the date the tags appear may be later.) There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Sign your name next to the tag identifier when you take a tag. Add your phone number in case we need to do a follow-up. When you bring the gift to the church, please attach the tag provided. Place the gift in an open gift bag. If the gift is in more than one bag, copy the identify information on to another tag. Be sure the tags are firmly attached. If you have any questions, please contact Bobbie Oestreicher.

Bethesda Lutheran Services

Also on the Jesse Tree you will find tags for Bethesda Children Services. We have been supplying \$20 Wal-mart gift cards for the children in the group homes. Our goal is 15 gift cards. These cards entitle the group home residents to purchase items they want under supervision of the agency’s staff. Bethesda, located in Meadville, PA, is one of our synod’s missions. They provide care to troubled youth in a loving, supportive environment. The tags will be put on the Jesse Tree for **November 16th** and the deadline for providing gift cards is **December 14th**. Direct any questions to Pastor Paul.



Welcome Home homeless shelter

Blessing
bags



On **November 16th** you will be able to collect an **Advent Blessing bag**. Over the next few weeks you are to fill the bag with “blessings” which will be given to the folks served by the Welcome Home homeless shelter in Greensburg. Accompanying each blessing bag will be **a list containing the items requested by the homeless shelter**. Please have the requested items delivered to the church by **December 14th**. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Paul. PS: A request: We know the BAGS HAVE TORN in the past due to the weight of cans, etc. They are provided as a helpful reminder for you. If necessary, please replace the paper bag with either a more substantial bag or box to make carrying them easier. Thank you.

Church Council Highlights

September 10, 2025

Devotions were led by Greg Paterno. **In Attendance:** Greg Paterno, Bob Wolff, Pastor Paul Gary Sullivan, Sharon Marks. Absent was Ryan Winslow, Fred Oestreicher, Valerie Pratt. Also present was Financial Secretary Eliot Moore and Treasurer Mike Oestreicher. President Greg Paterno called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm. **Motion** by Sharon Marks to approve the agenda. Second by Bob Wolff. Motion carried. **Motion** by Bob Wolff to approve the Secretary's Minutes from the August meeting. Second by Gary Sullivan. Motion carried. **Motion** by Gary Sullivan to approve the Treasurer's report. Second by Sharon Marks. Motion carried. **Pastor's Report** Pastor presided at the funeral of a non-member. He also made nursing home visits with Lillian Reno, Jean Kauffman, and Glenda Rosendahl. Pastor continues to serve as Interim Pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Greensburg approximately 5 hours per week. **Communications:** By consensus, Council agreed to pay the \$20 fee for Andrew Harrold to attend Lay Worship Leader training sponsored by our Synod on September 13 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Gibsonia.

Concerns: None **Committee Reports**

Worship and Music: *The new bi-fold bulletins have been ordered and will be used at the beginning of the Advent season. Rally Day was held on September 7. The worship time has been changed to 10 am year-round. The newsletter, website, and other communications were updated. Andrew Harrold will be providing a sermon series during worship on September 14, 21, and 28.*

Christian Ed and Youth *No new information.*

Finance: *No new information*

Fellowship: *A potluck luncheon was held on September 7 as part of our Rally Day Celebration.*

Evangelism and Social Ministry: *The committee will meet after worship on September 21 to plan the Advent and Christmas ministries. Delivery of Food 2 Go 4 Kids at Maxwell Elementary is scheduled for September 18.*

Finance: *The committee will meet in September to create the proposed 2026 budget to be reviewed by council at the October meeting.*

Property: *Fall clean-up is scheduled for September 20 at 9 am. Jim Frye updated the church signage to reflect the new worship time which began on September 7.*

Cleaning Committee: *No new information*

Community Garden: *No new information.*

Women of the ELCA: *The women will meet on Thursday September 11 at 1 pm at the church.*

Old Business

The agenda for the Annual Meeting Part 2 was reviewed. In addition to the two members of council who will run for a second three year term, the congregation has the opportunity to add up to 3 more council members. The congregation is asked to prayerfully consider serving on council or nominating other members for council. Please contact Pastor Paul or any council member.

New Business

Requested CPR Class Dates were reviewed.

A reminder to all council members to make every effort to attend the October meeting since we will be reviewing the 2026 proposed budget.

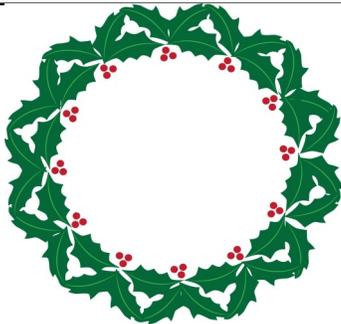
The Calendar and Worship Assistants were reviewed. The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 6, 2025, at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Devotions will be led by Ryan Winslow.

Motion by Sharon Marks to adjourn. Second by Gary Sullivan. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Marks

St. Matthias Women of the ELCA



**Women of St. Matthias
Christmas Luncheon
HOSES, Friday , December 12 2025
NOON Sign-Up by December 9
Name and number attending.
Everyone buys their own meal.**

There are many ministries for you to participate in this Advent Season. St. Matthias has the children's gifts program for Nicely and Maxwell School, Bethesda Children's home gift cards and food and needed items for the Welcome Home Shelter. This is the season for giving. Please consider giving if you are able.

**November 13 meeting-getting ready for 2026.
Putting labels on Advent Bags, checking bears.**

**Prayer chain
November-Debra Adams**



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:

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

OCTOBER 6, 2025

Devotions were led by Ryan Winslow. **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. Absent was Valerie Pratt. President Greg Paterno called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. **Motion** by Fred Oestreicher to approve the agenda. Second by Ryan Winslow. Motion carried. **Motion** by Fred Oestreicher to approve the minutes from the September 8 meeting. Second by Gary Sullivan. Motion carried. **Motion** by Sharon Marks to approve the Treasurer's Report. Second by Bob Wolff. Motion carried. **Pastor's Report:** Pastor attended the Fall Clean-up Day and made 3 hospital visits with Lorraine Howell. He attended the Al-Anon anniversary celebration and supervised Andrew Harrold during the formation of his sermon series. He presided over the interment of Joan Downing at Twin Valley Cemetery. Pastor continues to serve as Interim Pastor at Good Shepard Lutheran Church approximately 5 hours per week. **Communications:** None **Concerns:** None

Committee Reports

Worship and Music: Andrew Harrold provided a 3-part sermon series during worship on September 14, 21, and 28. The committee met on October 1 to plan the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons. St. Matthias Commemoration will be held on October 12. We will honor our charter members Barb Fink and LouJean Bishop. Rabbi Lenny Sarko will provide a blessing of thanksgiving for our Community Garden.

Christian Ed and Youth: No new information

Stewardship: No new information

Fellowship: A potluck luncheon and bake sale will be held on October 12 for our St. Matthias Commemoration.

Evangelism and Social Ministry: The committee met after worship on September 21 to plan the Advent and Christmas ministries. The committee delivered 39 meals to Maxwell Elementary for the Food 2 Go 4 Kids ministry. A Bake Sale will be held on October 12 to close the Harvest Table. All proceeds will go to the Westmoreland County Food Bank.

Finance: The Committee met on September 17 and October 2 to create the proposed 2026 budget.

Property: Fall Clean-up Day was held on September 20. Weeding and tree limb removal were part of the work. Seven people participated.

Cleaning Committee: No new information

Community Garden: The Community Garden has provided 1116 pounds of produce to the Food Bank through the end of August along with a \$574.31 monetary donation.

Women of the ELCA: No new information

Old Business

The agenda for the Annual Meeting Part 1 was reviewed.

New Business

Committee liaisons are reminded that annual reports are due by December 15.

Pastor's Healthcare: **Motion** by Sharon Marks to select the "Select Copay 2000" for Pastor's healthcare election. Second by Bob Wolff. Motion carried.

Proposed 2026 Budget: Council reviewed and discussed the proposed 2026 budget prepared by the Finance Committee. **Motion** made by Gary Sullivan to approve the amended proposed budget. Second by Bob Wolff. Motion carried. The proposed budget will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting Part 1 in November. **The Calendar and Worship Assistants** were reviewed. The next meeting will be held on November 10, 2025, at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Devotions will be led by Gary Sullivan.

Motion by Fred Oestreicher to adjourn. Second by Ryan Winslow. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm. Respectfully submitted, Sharon Marks

Prayer List

Laura Dalena	Darla Dalena's Niece
Brian Hart	Member
Tanya	Friend of Annette Benedict
John	Cousin of Annette Benedict
Rebecca Dickenson	Friend of Pastor Paul
Melissa Hanlon	Dana Gruesu's Coworker
Ann Lucas	Friend of Darla Dalena
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
Leon Moyer	Eldora's Son in Law
Chase Yates	Keith & Carol Bowman great grandson
Alycefaye Stewart	Member
Carol	Friend of Lisa Pegg
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:
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.



November 1	Darla Dalena
November 2	Ronald Pegg
November 3	Noah Sindorf
November 5	Olivia Sindorf
	Ronald Reno
November 9	Christian Huey
November 10	Lindsay Gruesu
November 12	Madison Baker
	Greg Paterno
November 14	Wendy Heitzenroder
November 16	Lowell Cisowski
November 25	Tianna Shook
November 26	Bobbie Santavy



Gayle Kunko	December 6
Dana McEliece	December 11
Jennifer Sano	December 11
Annette Benedict	December 11
Michael Marnell	December 20
Adam Santavy	December 21
Jeffrey Sano	December 22
Lorianne Ferrier	December 23
Nancy Ferrier	December 24
Ashley Palmer	December 26
Amber Organiscak	December 27
Deborah Moff	December 30
Leonard Bowman	December 30
Michael Paterno	December 30



Robert & Arleen Hawk	December 28
Lowell & Debra Cisowski	December 29



Once again this year we are offering 6" pots of red or white Poinsettias to decorate our church for Christmas. If you would like to assist with the decorations and have a plant for your own use after the Christmas Eve service, please complete the following:

Number of _____ Red Poinsettias at (\$10.00 each)

Number of _____ White Poinsettias at (\$10.00 each)

Total Amount enclosed \$ _____ Envelope # _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Your name _____

Please return this form to the church office with the cost of the poinsettias by **November 23rd** Thank you.

Will pick up after Christmas Eve Service _____

Give to a shut-in _____



Once again this year we are offering 6" pots of red or white Poinsettias to decorate our church for Christmas. If you would like to assist with the decorations and have a plant for your own use after the Christmas Eve service, please complete the following:

Number of _____ Red Poinsettias at (\$10.00 each)

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Total Amount enclosed \$ _____ Envelope # _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Your name _____

Please return this form to the church office with the cost of the poinsettias by **November 23rd** Thank you.

Will pick up after Christmas Eve Service _____

Give to a shut-in _____

NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 CPR8:30am - 5:15pm
2 All Saints Sunday 10:00am Worship	3	4 9:45am Al-Anon	5	6	7 8pm NA	8 CPR 8:30am- 2:45pm
9 22 Pentecost 10:00am Worship	10 7pm Council Meeting	11 <i>Veterans Day</i> 9:45am Al-Anon	12	13 WELCA 1pm CPR 5:30-8:30pm	14 8pm NA	15 CPR 8:30am- 2:45pm
16 23 Pentecost 10:00am Worship Annual Meeting Part 1	17 <i>Stamp Camp</i>	18 9:45am Al-Anon	19	20	21 8pm NA	22
23 Christ the King 10:00am Worship	24 <i>Stamp Camp</i>	25 9:45am Al-Anon 7pm Thanksgiving Worship	26	27 <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>	28 8pm NA	29
30 First Advent 10:00am Worship						



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR November 2025

	November 2 All Saints Day	November 9	November 16	November 23 Christ the King	November 25 Thanksgiving	November 30 First Advent	December 7
Host	Bobbie Oestreicher	Bob Wolff	Jeff Sano	Jim Frye	Ray Wasilowski	Fred Oestreich	Bobbie Oestreicher
GREETER	Linda & Ray Wasilowski	Andrea Petril	Fred & Bobbie Oestreicher	Joe & Bernice Gruesu	Lorraine Howell	Darla Dalena	Linda & Ray Wasilowski
LECTOR	Bob Marks	Tina Weimer	Gary Sullivan	Fred Oestreicher	Lisa Pegg	Debra Adams	Andrew Harrold
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Andrew Harrold	Fred Oestreicher	Ryan Winslow	Dana Gruesu	_____	Andrew Harrold	Fred Oestreicher
TELLERS	Eliot Moore Jeff Sano	Eliot Moore Jeff Sano	Eliot Moore Jeff Sano	Eliot Moore Jeff Sano	Eliot Moore Jeff Sano	Eliot Moore Jeff Sano	Sharon Marks Tina Weimer
ALTAR GUILD	Dana Gruesu	Dana Gruesu	Dana Gruesu	Dana Gruesu	Dana Gruesu	Dana Gruesu	Dana Gruesu
CARD MINISTRY	Debra Adams	Debra Adams	Debra Adams	Debra Adams	Debra Adams	Debra Adams	Women of the ELCA

2025 Church Council

Greg Paterno, President Bob Wolff, Secretary Fred Oestreicher, Vice President Mike Oestreicher, Treasurer Eliot Moore, Financial Secretary	Valerie Pratt Gary Sullivan Paul Gruesu, Pastor Ryan Winslow Sharon Marks
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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.

DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 9:45am Al-Anon	3	4	5 CPR 11:30am to 4:15pm 8pm NA	6
7 Second Advent 10:00am Worship	8 Stamp Camp 7pm Council Meeting	9 9:45am Al-Anon	10	11 CPR 2:30pm to 8:30pm	12 WELCA Christmas Lunch 12pm 8pm NA	13 CPR 8:30am to 5:15pm
14 Third Advent 10:00am Worship <u>All Christmas Gifts and Blessing Bags Due</u>	15	16 9:45am Al-Anon	17	18	19 8pm NA	20 CPR 8:30am to 2:45pm
21 Fourth Advent 10:00am Worship	22	23 9:45am Al-Anon	24 Christmas Eve 7pm Worship	25 Merry Christmas	26 8pm NA	27 CPR 8:30am to 2:45pm
28 First Christmas 10:00am Worship Lessons & Carols	29	30 9:45am Al-Anon	31 New Year's Eve			

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR December 2025

	December 7	December 14	December 21	December 24 Christmas Eve	December 28	January 4
Host	Bobbie Oestreich	Bob Wolff	Jeff Sano	Fred Oestreich	Jim Frye	Ray Wasilowski
GREETER	Linda & Ray Wasilowski	Andrea Petril	Fred & Bobbie Oestreich	Joe & Bernice Gruesu	Lorraine Howell	Darla Dalena
LECTOR	Andrew Harrold	Bob Marks	Gary Sullivan	Tina Weimer	Fred Oestreich	Ryan Winslow
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Fred Oestreich	Ryan Winslow	Debra Adams	Dana Gruesu	_____	Andrew Harrold
TELLERS	Sharon Marks Tina Weimer	Sharon Marks Tina Weimer	Sharon Marks Tina Weimer	Sharon Marks Tina Weimer	Sharon Marks Tina Weimer	
ALTAR GUILD	Dana Gruesu	Dana Gruesu	Dana Gruesu	Dana Gruesu	Dana Gruesu	
CARD MINISTRY	Women of the ELCA	Women of the ELCA	Women of the ELCA			

2025 Church Council

<p>Greg Paterno, President Bob Wolff, Secretary Fred Oestreich, Vice President Mike Oestreich, Treasurer Eliot Moore, Financial Secretary</p>	<p>Valerie Pratt Gary Sullivan Paul Gruesu, Pastor Ryan Winslow Sharon Marks</p>
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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.

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

November/December 2025

Visit us on the web at www.stmatthiasgreensburg.com

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

**THANKSGIVING WORSHIP:
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25th, 7:00pm**

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP:
7:00pm**

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

