

# The View

July & August 2025

## A NEWSLETTER FROM ST. MATTHIAS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Visit us on the web at [www.stmatthiasgreensburg.org](http://www.stmatthiasgreensburg.org)



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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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. In case of inclement weather, a rain date of Thursday, July 24<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup>**

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!

### **Perspectives on patriotism**

While pondering differences between patriotism and nationalism, Ryan Hamm looks to Jesus' example in Luke 19:41-44.



"Jesus, it seems, loved his people, his city, his nation — so much so that he cried over it," he writes in Christianity Today. "He didn't despise his country or wish ill upon it — instead, he wanted nothing but the best for it, and it grieved him to see how his people had rejected his teachings." This example of "patriotism perfected" can serve as a guide for modern-day Christians, according to Hamm. "It's an example that's both pragmatic and romantic, shot through with justice, truth and love. It's not a nationalistic patriotism — it's a love for nation that doesn't pit it against other nations. Instead, it's a recognition of love followed by a mournful recognition of shortcomings." Put another way, God doesn't love America more than any other nation. And he doesn't want us to worship our nation alongside him, because that is idolatry. Instead, we are to love and proclaim God above any earthly realm.



### July

07/11 8:15 AM - 4:00 PM  
 07/12 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM  
 07/18 11:15 AM - 4:00 PM  
 07/19 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM  
 07/24 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM  
 07/26 8:15 AM - 4:00 PM  
 07/31 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

### August

08/02 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM  
 08/08 11:15 AM - 4:00 PM  
 08/09 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM  
 08/14 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
 08/16 8:15 AM - 4:00 PM  
 08/22 11:15 AM - 4:00 PM  
 08/23 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM  
 08/28 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM



### Stamp Camp

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.



### 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 23 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 24th at 7pm has been scheduled. We hope to see you and your pets there!

### 2026 Budget Requests

All 2026 Budget Requests are to be given to Eliot Moore, Financial Secretary, by the end of August so the Financial Committee can prepare the Proposed 2026 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 7<sup>th</sup>

Please note that Rally Day will be on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

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!

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# St. Matthias Women of the ELCA

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**The Synodical Women's Organization Designated Outreach Program for the year 2025 is Robin's Home of Butler. The purpose of this outreach is for women veterans and their children that need housing stabilization and supportive services. There are brochures on the narthex table.**

**We will be collecting items July and August from the wish list for donations to Robin's House. Needed items include coffee creamer, sugar, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, cleaning supplies, towels, washcloths, \$25 gift cards from Walmart, Aldi, Visa. If you are unable to shop, the Women of St. Matthias will do it for you.**

**Starting June 18 for three months, Zion W-ELCA will be offering a fellowship time and Bible Study. Information is on the table in the narthex. Please pick up a copy of the schedule and times if interested.**

**July 10—social, and devotional. Hostesses-Tina Weimer and VaLetta Bradosky.**

**August 14—devotional, social and refilling Teddy Bears in Pews with Alycefaye Stewart. Hostess-Bobbie Oestreicher.**

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## **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:

14th - 19th - Mary Lou and Bob Wolff

28 - Aug. 2nd - Gayle and Bob Kunko

### August:

11th - 16th - Dana Gruesu

25th - 30th - Teri and Jim Frye

### September:

8th - 13 - Barb Winslow

22nd- 25th - Lisa Pegg

### October:

6th - 11th - Fred and Bobbi Oestreicher

20th - 25th - Mary Lou and Bob Wolff

### November:

3rd - 8th - Gayle and Bob Kunko

17th - 22nd - Dana Gruesu

### December:

1st. - 6th. - Teri and Jim Frye

15th. - 20th - Barb Winslow

29th - January 3rd - Lisa Pegg



# Church Council Highlights

## ST. MATTHIAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES MAY 12, 2025

Devotions were led by Ryan Winslow.

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

President Greg Paterno called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

**Motion** by Sharon Marks to approve the agenda. Second by Fred Oestreicher. Motion carried.

**Motion** by Ryan Winslow to approve the minutes of the April 14 meeting. Second by Gary Sullivan. Motion carried.

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

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Paul made nursing home visits with Lillian Reno, Jean Kauffman, and Don Ohr. He participated with community clergy and rabbis in the Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Service) at Seton Hill. He also attended a Synod Assembly Planning Committee meeting via Zoom, as well as our Conference 4 Caucus meeting for Synod Assembly. Pastor continues to serve as Interim Pastor for Good Shepherd, Greensburg for approximately 5 hour per week.

**Communications:** None

**Concerns:** None

### Committee Reports

**Worship & Music:** Our thanks to Chuck Vita for coordinating the music Holy Week as well as Easter Sunday. The new microphones have been used beginning on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday and are working well.

**Christian Ed. & Youth:** No new information.

**Stewardship:** No new information.

**Fellowship:** No new information.

**Evangelism & Social Ministry:** Food is being collected for the final delivery to the "Food 2 Go 4 Kids" program. A thank you letter was received from the Blackburn Center for the donations from the "Let's Make a Lenten Meal" project.

**Finance:** No new information.

**Property:** Eight people attended the Spring Cleanup on May 3. The landscape was weeded and new mulch was spread.

**Cleaning Committee:** No new information.

**Community Garden:** Twelve people attended the Open House on April 26.

**Women of the ELCA:** The SWPA Women of the ELCA convention is scheduled for May 30-31 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. The next business meeting will be on June 12.

### Old Business

The new phone and internet services have been installed. The X-Finity account has been cancelled. Old devices have been returned. The old devices were hardwired and that will need to be addressed. The wall phones no longer work. A phone needs to be placed near the AED in the narthex.

### New Business: None

**The Calendar and Worship Assistants were reviewed.** The next meeting will be held on June 9 at 7:30 pm via Zoom. Devotions will be led by Fred Oestreicher.

**Motion** made by Fred Oestreicher to adjourn. Second by Gary Sullivan. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Marks



# Church Council Highlights

## ST. MATTHIAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JUNE 9, 2025

Devotions were led by Fred Oestreicher.

**In Attendance:** Greg Paterno, Fred Oestreicher, Bob Wolff, Pastor Paul, Ryan Winslow, Gary Sullivan, and 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 7:34 pm.

**Motion** by Gary Sullivan to approve the agenda. Second by Sharon Marks. Motion carried.

**Motion** by Bob Wolff to approve the secretary's minutes from the May meeting. Second by Fred Oestreicher. Motion carried.

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

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor attended Spring Cleanup Day on May 3, the Synod Assembly Zoom session at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Glenshaw on May 16 and 17, and the Latrobe Family Medicine Advisory Board meeting on May 20. Pastor continues to serve as Interim Pastor at Good Shepherd in Greensburg approximately 5 hours per week.

**Communications:** None

**Concerns:** Amy will take the two old printers to the recycling center.

**Committee Reports** were given.

**Old Business:** No old business.

### **New Business**

PA Corporate Annual Report for Synod was completed online by Eliot Moore in April The deadline is the end of June

All committees are asked to provide Eliot Moore with any 2026 Budget requests by the end of August. The requests will be used to create the proposed 2026 budget to be presented to the congregation in November.

Semi Annual Financial Statements will be prepared by Mary Lou Wolff and Amy and will be available at the church in July. Those not picked up will be mailed.

By consensus, Council has set November 16, 2025 as the date for the Annual Congregational Meeting Part 1 immediately following worship.

Some parishioners have requested a change of time for summer worship. A survey will be available for 4 weeks to collect information on the congregation's preference. Results will be used to determine if any changes will be made to the time for worship.

**The Calendar and Worships Assistants were reviewed.** The next meeting will be held on Monday July 7 at 7:30 pm via Zoom. Devotions will be led by Sharon Marks.

**Motion** made by Fred Oestreicher to adjourn. Second by Gary Sullivan. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.

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Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Marks

## 2025 Mowing Schedule

The following mowing schedule for the 2025 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 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.

#### Week of:

April 1 - April 6 - Fred Oestreicher  
April 7 - April 13 - Ray Wasilowski  
April 14 - April 20 - Andrew Harrold.  
April 21 - April 27 - Jeff Sano.  
April 28 - May 4 - Gary Sullivan  
May 5 - May 11 - Eliot Moore.  
May 12 - May 18 - Jim Frye.  
May 19 - May 25 - Bob Wolff  
May 26 - Jun 1 - Norb Georges  
June 2 - June 8 - Brian Hixson  
June 9 - June 15 - Dave Bell  
June 16 - June 22 - Ray Wasilowski  
June 23 - June 29 - Andrew Harrold  
June 30 - July 6 - Jeff Sano  
July 7 - July 13 - Eliot Moore  
July 14 - July 20. - Jim Frye  
July 21. - July 27 Bob Wolff  
July 28 - Aug. 3 - Mike Oestreicher  
Aug. 4 - Aug. 10 - Brian Hixson  
Aug. 11 - Aug 17 - Gary Sullivan  
Aug. 18 - Aug. 24 Ray Wasilowski  
Aug. 25 - Aug. 31 Andrew Harrold.

Sept. 1 - Sept. 7 - Jeff Sano  
Sept. 8 - Sept. 14 - Dave Bell  
Sept. - 15 - Sept 21 - Eliot Moore  
Sept 22 - Sept - 28 - Jim Frye  
Sept - 29 - Oct. 5 - Bob Wolff  
Oct. 6 - Oct. 12 - Norb Georges  
Oct. 13 - Oct. 19 - Brian Hixson  
Oct. 20 - Oct. 26 - Mike Oestreicher  
Oct. 27 - Nov. 3 - Fred Oestreicher

Barb Winslow will help mow if asked.



## Prayer List

Bob Marks	Member
Valerie Pratt	Member
Wendy Weimer	John & Tina Weimer's Daughter in Law
Ross Sano	Jeff Sano's Brother
Lillian Reno	Member
Norb Georges	Member
Jessica	Mary Lou Wolff's Daughter
John Anderson	Friend of Sharon Marks
Karen Anderson	Friend of the Congregation
Rick Elliot	Sharon Mark's Friend
Larry Salyor	Dana Gruesu's Cousin
Jackie	Coworker of Annette Benedict
Valetta Bradosky	Member
Theresa Frye	Terri Frye's Daughter in Law
Glenda Rosendahl	Member
Tonia	Friend of Annette Benedict
Leon Moyer	Eldora's Son in Law
Carol	Friend of Bernice Gruesu
Larry	Friend of Terri Frye
Brian Sindorf	Susan Spillar Nephew
Roy Millhouse	Friend of Vickie Georges
Chase Yates	Keith & Carol Bowman great grandson
Joan Downing	Member
Alycefaye Stewart	Member
Carol	Friend of Lisa Pegg
Kevin	Ron Pegg's Friend
Larry Slicker	Darla Dalena's Brother
<b>Evelyn Malinish</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>Ron &amp; Carol Bowman</b>	<b>Keith Bowman's brother and sister in law</b>
<b>Lorraine Howell</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>Barry Santavy</b>	<b>Member</b>



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
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
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 9:45am Al-Anon	2 11:00am Worship & Music Meeting	3	4 8pm NA	5
6 4 Pentecost 9:30am Worship	7 7:30pm Council Meeting	8 9:45am Al-Anon	9	10  WELCA 1:00pm	11 CPR 8:15 AM-4:00 PM 8pm NA	12 CPR 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM
13 5 Pentecost 9:30am Worship	14 <i>Stamp Camp</i>	15 9:45am Al-Anon	16	17	18 CPR 11:15 AM - 4:00 PM 8pm NA	19 CPR 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM
20 6 Pentecost 9:30am Worship	21	22 9:45am Al-Anon	23 7pm Blessing of the Animals	24 CPR 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM	25 8pm NA	26 CPR 8:15 AM - 4:00 PM
27 7 Pentecost 9:30am Worship	28 <i>Stamp Camp</i>	29 9:45am Al-Anon	30	31 CPR 5:30PM- 8:30PM		



## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR July 2025

	July 6	July 13	July 20	July 27	August 3
<b>Host</b>	Fred Oestreicher	Jim Frye	Ray Wasilowski	Bobbie Oestreicher	Sharon Marks
<b>GREETER</b>	Darla Dalena	Jeff Sano	Linda Wasilowski	Andrea Petrill	Fred & Bobbie Oestreicher
<b>LECTOR</b>	Lisa Pegg	Debra Adams	Fred Oestreicher	Bob Marks	Tina Weiner
<b>COMMUNION ASSISTANT</b>	Bernice Gruesu	Andrew Harrold	Ryan Winslow	Fred Oestreicher	Dana Gruesu
<b>TELLERS</b>	Mary Lou Wolff Jeff Sano	Mary Lou Wolff Jeff Sano	Mary Lou Wolff Jeff Sano	Mary Lou Wolff Jeff Sano	Andrew Harrold Greg Paterno
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Dana Gruesu	Dana Gruesu	Dana Gruesu	Dana Gruesu	Dana Gruesu
<b>CARD MINISTRY</b>	Annette Benedict	Annette Benedict	Annette Benedict	Annette Benedict	Sharon Marks

### 2025 Church Council

<b>Greg Paterno, President</b> <b>Bob Wolff, Secretary</b> <b>Fred Oestreicher, Vice President</b> <b>Mike Oestreicher, Treasurer</b> <b>Eliot Moore, Financial Secretary</b>	<b>Valerie Pratt</b> <b>Gary Sullivan</b> <b>Paul Gruesu, Pastor</b> <b>Ryan Winslow</b> <b>Sharon Marks</b>
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**Ways you can  
SERVE**

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.

**Helper  
Signup**

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.

# AUGUST

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

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR August 2025

	August 3	August 10	August 17	August 24	August 31	September 7 Rally Day
<b>Host</b>	Sharon Marks	Bob Wolff	Jeff Sano	Fred Oestreicher	Jim Frye	Ray Wasilowski
<b>GREETER</b>	Fred & Bobbie Oestreicher	Joe & Bernice Gruesu	Valetta Bradosky	Lorraine Howell	Darla Dalena	Jeff Sano
<b>LECTOR</b>	Tina Weimer	Gary Sullivan	Andrew Harrold	Lisa Pegg	Debra Adams	Fred Oestreicher
<b>COMMUNION ASSISTANT</b>	Dana Gruesu	Debra Adams	Bernice Gruesu	Andrew Harrold	Fred Oestreicher	Ryan Winslow
<b>TELLERS</b>	Andrew Harrold Greg Paterno	Andrew Harrold Greg Paterno	Andrew Harrold Greg Paterno	Andrew Harrold Greg Paterno	Andrew Harrold Greg Paterno	Bobbie Santavy Gary Sullivan
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Dana Gruesu	Dana Gruesu	Dana Gruesu	Dana Gruesu	Dana Gruesu	Dana Gruesu
<b>CARD MINISTRY</b>	Sharon Marks	Sharon Marks	Sharon Marks	Sharon Marks	Sharon Marks	

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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**

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**THE VIEW**

**ST. MATTHIAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**July/ August 2025**

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

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

