

The View

Volume XLII Issue XXXVII

February 2019

A NEWSLETTER FROM ST. MATTHIAS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Visit us on the web at www.stmatthiasgreensburg.org



In Pennsylvania, we're all familiar with the ritual we observe in Punxsutawney on February 2nd each year... Groundhog Day! Some of

you may have seen the movie "Groundhog Day" starring Bill Murray, where he plays a weatherman for a Pittsburgh TV station who goes to Punxsutawney to cover the event. But when he wakes up the next morning, he finds that it's February 2nd all over again, and everything repeats itself. And he's caught in an endless loop of re-living the same day over and over again.

Our universe is like that in some ways. In our solar system, our planet revolves once every 24 hours, day after day. Our moon goes through its orbit of the earth in regular cycles, and we experience the same 4 seasons, year after year. However, unlike the movie, each day, each month, and each year aren't identical. Each day, and each moment, is unique, even within the bounds of how our solar system and universe operates.

Too often, when we think of "creation", we think of a singular action, long ago, by God, to create the universe. And it seems to imply that after that singular action, God went on vacation, to allow the universe to operate like a watch that's been wound tight. But God's creative acts continue each and every moment of each and every day. Not only in the birth of new life, such as newborn infants or flowers sprouting in springtime, but also in the vast complexity of how life is able to flourish in new and unique ways, each and every day.

As we prepare for the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday on March 6th, we remember that it's intended to be a period of growth. Let's begin

preparing our hearts and minds for that season by contemplating how God is providing you with opportunities to grow and flourish in new and unique ways, each and every day. I invite you to ask God to open your mind toward these opportunities, and to consider where God may be calling you in this stage of your life. And remembering and giving thanks to God for the opportunity to be part of that growth, regardless of our age or circumstances. It's for that blessing that we say... Thanks be to God!

In Christ,
Pastor Paul

Souper Bowl of Caring on February 3rd

February 3rd is not only the day of the big football game, it's also Souper Bowl Sunday, where St. Matthias, along with many other congregations throughout the country, will be collecting monetary donations to help support those who are hungry during the winter season. All donations received at St. Matthias will go directly to our wonderful partners in ministry, the Westmoreland County Food Bank.

On Saturday evening and Sunday morning, February 2nd and 3rd our youth will be collecting monetary donations at the back of the church at the end of our worship for Souper Bowl Sunday. Please consider contributing to this important ministry by bringing a monetary donation or writing a check made out to St. Matthias, with "Souper Bowl Sunday" in the memo section.





ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday Worship Wednesday, March 6, 7:00pm

Join us as we start Lent with our Ash Wednesday Service on March 6, at 7:00pm.

Organist/Choir Director Position Available

St. Matthias is searching for an Organist/Choir Director for our Sunday morning worship service and additional special services. A job description is available at our website at

www.stmatthiasgreensburg.org,

and resumes can be submitted to secretary@stmatthiasgreensburg.org. Questions can be directed to the church office at (724) 834-2457.



CPR Classes at St. Matthias

CPR classes at St. Matthias are planned for :

Feb 5th	6:00pm-8:30pm
Feb 16th	8:30am -11:00am
Feb 23rd	7:30am-6:00pm
March 2nd	7:30am-6:00pm
March 5th	6:00-8:30pm
March 30th	8:30am-11:00am



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. **FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH there will be 1 session on the 3rd Monday, starting at 6pm. On the 4th Monday, there will be 2 sessions, one beginning at 10am, and the other beginning at 6pm.** Please feel free to contact Kim at (724) 875-0049 for more information.

Youth Sunday School at 9am

Our Youth Sunday School meets every other week on Sunday morning at 9am. All youth from toddlers through High School are welcome to attend. The Newsletter calendar will highlight those Sundays when Youth Sunday School is in session. Feel free to contact Pastor Paul with any questions. We look forward to seeing you there!



Cleaning Committee

In an effort to conserve our financial resources, our congregation has started cleaning the church with the help of our own members. So far, we have enough members to cover nine weeks. We certainly would appreciate more volunteers. It actually isn't very hard work. We have a list of what needs done 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—week of:

27-Feb1— Valetta Bradosky, Jeff, Jen, & Madison Sano

February—week of:

3-8— Valetta Bradosky, Fred & Bobbie Oestreicher

10-15— Valetta Bradosky, Mary Lou & Bob Wolff

17-22— Valetta Bradosky, Gayle & Bob Kunko

24-March1—Valetta Bradosky, Dana, Bernice & Lindsay Guesu

March—week of:

3-8- Valetta Bradosky, Sharon & Bob Marks, and Doris McDonnell

10-15— Valetta Bradosky, Andrew & Shawn Harrold

17-22— Valetta Bradosky, Alycefaye Stewart & Arleen Hawk

24-29— Valetta Bradosky, Jeff, Jen, & Madison Sano

31-April 5— Valetta Bradosky, Fred & Bobbie Oestreicher

Altar Guild

Sign ups to volunteer to be a part of the altar guild are in the narthex. Places are still available to help out, and training is available!





Dear Pastor Paul and Congregation Members,

The family of the late Frank Santavy, would like to thank you all for your prayers, and recent and ongoing support during his illness. It is

a true blessing to have a faith community during times of loss, and sorrow....

May God richly bless each and everyone of you!

Love,

The Family of Frank Santavy

Social Ministry Christmas Collections for 2018

During the holidays, St. Matthias collected for the following three programs:



Jesse Tree/Bethesda Children's Home

As part of our ongoing support to

Bethesda Lutheran Services, we sent 15 Wal-Mart gift cards to the children at Bethesda. These cards are either given to children or are used to purchase items for new students in the residential program.

Jesse Tree/Maxwell and Nicely Schools

The wishes of 9 children at Maxwell and 10 at Nicely were filled and delivered to the schools for pick up by the parents. Helping Santa is part of a Christian tradition. The patron saint is Nicholas the Wonder Worker, Bishop of Myra who provided for the in needy in Asia Minor during the 3rd century.



Advent Blessing Bags/ Welcome Home Shelter

Picture this: 50 GROCERY BAGS filled 4 PEWS which filled 2 CARS to transport the congregations' donation of food and cleaning supplies to the homeless shelter. The gifts were very welcomed, indeed!

Thank you all for your donations!

A Small Place

When I was in my early teens, I thought I wanted to be a Missionary. I was very idealistic and I know I hadn't thought out all the necessary requirements in being a missionary. The Church was such a large part of our lives as children; my sisters and I were church kids.

This desire of mine changed when I got in High School and young love entered into my life. So, like most of the young girls then, I got married, and had a family. But I never left the church. I was still a church person. I wanted to do something for God but what? Then I read a few lines that made me think about my life as it was.

*"Is your place a small place, tend it with care,
God put you there."*

My place was a small place, but I could bring up my children in the church. I could teach Sunday School, sing in the choir, serve in the Church beyond the local parish. A small place but one in which I was called to be faithful. I was where God had put me. And you are where God has put you.

The message, the "good news" is carried by one person to another. We are called to use what God has given us to carry the logos into our small worlds. And God works in us to will and to do His good pleasure. I don't carry my message, I don't carry my opinions—I am God's person in this small place—to listen, to encourage, to love and to be who God meant me to be. Even with all my shortcomings.

And you, dear children, are in the same place as I am, your own small world, where God put you to be His person for Christ. As Mother Teresa said, "We can do no great things, we can only do small things with great love."



Vera Maxwell

(taken from the February 2005 newsletter)

Church Council Highlights

Devotions were read by Norb Georges at 7pm. Pastor Paul began the meeting by welcoming Sally Brier, who was elected as a Council member at our Annual Meeting, Part 1, and installed as a Council member on Saturday, January 5th, and Sharon Marks, who was installed on Sunday, January 6th. Sally is finishing the 3rd and final year of the first term on Council for Joe Schmitt, who resigned at the end of 2018. The Preliminary 2019 Council Members Handout was reviewed.

First Order of Business: Election of Council Officers, Council **President:** Andrew Harrold nominated **Sharon Marks** for Council President. No other persons were nominated. Motion seconded by Wayne Himler. Motion carried. Council **Vice President:** Sharon Marks nominated **Andrew Harrold** for Council Vice President. No other persons were nominated. Motion seconded by Wayne Himler. Motion carried. Council **Secretary:** Andrew Harrold nominated **Wayne Himler** for Council Secretary.

No other persons were nominated. Motion seconded by Norb Georges. Motion carried.

In summary, for 2019, Council President, Sharon Marks, Council Vice President Andrew Harrold, Council Secretary: Wayne Himler. Council President, Sharon Marks, called the meeting to order at 7:10pm. The agenda was reviewed. Andrew Harrold made a motion to approve the agenda, as presented. Motion seconded by Wayne Himler. Motion carried. The minutes from the December 10, 2018 Council meeting were reviewed. Norb Georges made a motion to approve the minutes, as presented.

Motion seconded by Wayne Himler. Motion carried.

Eldora Crist, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's report. Andrew Harrold made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion seconded by Wayne Himler. Motion carried. Eliot Moore, Financial Secretary, presented the Annual Financial Summary for 2018.

Sally Brier made a motion to approve the Annual Financial Summary for 2018. Motion seconded by Wayne Himler. Motion carried.

Pastor Paul presented his report for December. It included presiding at 2 funerals for non-members at Mason-Gelder Funeral Home: Daryl Baker and Mary Yereb. He made a Nursing Home visit to new member Lillian Reno at Redstone Highlands, and home visits to Jim and Teri Frye, and Betty Blank, whose daughter, Marcia George, passed away recently. He also highlighted the welcoming of new members Ron Reno and his mother, Lillian Reno on December 16th. He attended the Synod's Property Committee on January 9th (as a representative of the Synod's Resource Center Advisory Board) and attended the Synod's Revitalization Project meeting via Zoom Call on January 10th. A thank you letter was received from Nicely Elementary School for the Christmas gifts for children in need given by St. Matthias. In addition, Tammy from our investment firm contacted Eliot Moore to schedule a yearly meeting. Eliot said that he'll schedule the meeting to setup online access to view the monthly reports, so that they can be reported to Council in a more timely manner each month.

No concerns were reported.

Committee Reports were reviewed.

**** Old Business was reviewed ****

**** New Business ****

1. Requested CPR class dates

The requested CPR class dates from Nation's Best CPR were reviewed. All were approved with the exception of the evening of April 11, which conflicts with our regularly scheduled Women of the ELCA meeting. Pastor Paul will notify Nation's Best CPR of these approvals, and will ask if they would like to cancel or re-schedule the April 11th class session. Consensus received by Council on this action. No vote needed.

2. 2018 Parochial Reports (Forms A, B, & C)

Each year, the ELCA asks each congregation to submit their Parochial reports (Forms A, B, & C) to their local Synod and to the Churchwide office. These reports detail the number of members, ministries conducted throughout the year, overall finances, etc. Thanks to John Weimer's database, we can produce these reports with the click of a mouse and by filling out some general information. Eliot Moore, Financial Secretary, and Pastor Paul will fill out these reports online before the Feb. 15th deadline.

3. Annual Contribution Statements – Thrivent Choice Dollars Letter

The Annual Contribution Statements for 2018 will be printed out for each giving unit in the congregation. For those who participated in the Thrivent Choice Dollars program, they'll also receive a thank you letter for those contributions as well. These statements will be placed on the table in the narthex, and those not picked up will be mailed out at the end of January.

4. Review of Committees and Council Liaisons

The list of congregational committees and their associated Council Liaisons was reviewed. A few updates were made to the list of Liaisons: Sally Brier will be the liaison for the Worship and Music Committee. Sharon Marks will be the liaison for the Stewardship and Fellowship Committees. Norb Georges will be the liaison for the Property Committee.

5. Internal Audit

Vera Cottrell has graciously provided an internal audit of our finances at St. Matthias for the past several years, and has agreed to do so again this year. Norb Georges made the motion to approve Vera Cottrell to perform an internal audit of the 2018 finances at St. Matthias. Motion seconded by Andrew Harrold. Motion carried. Once Vera's audit is complete, we'll review her report for acceptance by Council. The February calendar and Worship Assistants were reviewed, and no updates were necessary.

The next Council meeting will be on Monday, February 11, at 7pm. The deadline for the February newsletter is January 14. Sharon Marks volunteered to lead devotions at the February Council meeting. Andrew Harrold made the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion seconded by Wayne Himler. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Paul Gruesu

St. Matthias Women of the ELCA

Please correct your program booklet's phone number for Arleen Hawk 724-822-0828. Hostesses for March 14 will be Vicki Georges and Darla Dalena. We will be collecting thankoffering.

There are no meetings in January and February. Please pick up your program booklets in the narthex if you did not get one at the Christmas Luncheon. Remember to hand VaLetta your offering for these months.



Our 2019 designated outreach is **Hearth**, a transitional housing program for Homeless Women with children who are survivors of domestic violence or other trauma. They are located in Glenshaw.



50% OFF ON 2019 REGISTRATION FEE FOR LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKENDS

Because we are celebrating 50 years of Worldwide Marriage Encounter, the 2019 registration fee will be \$50 instead of \$100, so don't postpone your attendance any longer--take advantage of this opportunity!

Also new this year, because couples have told us tht they would prefer to know the costs and pay ahead, prices for the lodging for 2 nights and 5 meals for each of you will be posted on the website and payable upon registering. Those fees can be refunded up to approximately a month before the event should conflicts arise, and

financial assistance is available for those in need. Some Weekends fill quickly, so don't delay, SIGN UP TODAY to avoid being on a waiting list.

Your marriage relationship is one of the things in life that provides the greatest potential for happiness. Resolve to make 2019 the year you attend a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend to learn how to maximize the joy and intimacy that God intends for your marriage. The 2019 Weekends are:

- * April 5-7, 2019 at the lovely, warm and inviting Country Inn and Suites just off of Highway 99 in a very quiet area of State College, PA
- * April 26-28, 2019 at Heritage Hotel Lancaster, a newly-renovated hotel, home of the unique, treehouse-inspired restaurant, "Loxley's" in Lancaster, PA
- * October 11-13, 2019 at the spacious, modern decor rooms at the Hyatt Place Pittsburgh/Cranberry in Cranberry Township, PA
- * November 1-3, 2019 at the award-winning Hampton Inn Berkshires beautifully situated on the edge of a nature preserve in Lenox, MA

See the website: www.GodLovesMarriage.org for the pricing for each Weekend, and sign up today using your credit card or by marking the option to mail a check.

For questions, or if you would like a brochure mailed to you, please contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or fjschamber@comcast.net.

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Prayer List

Evelyn Malinish— Member
 Joe Welling— friend of Alycefaye Stewart
 Judy Himler—Wayne Himler's Sister in Law

Rita Miller— Doris McDonnell's Sister in Law
 Greg Ferrier— Member
 Meg— Friend of Greg Ferrier
 Ray Bowman— Keith Bowman's Brother
 Dolly Queer— Linda & Ray Wasilowski's Friend
 Carol Garlow— Linda & Ray Wasilowski's Sister in Law
 Vicki Georges— Member
 Jim Bartolomucci— Member
 Bill Garvin— Eldora Crist's Brother
 Ross Sano— Jeff Sano's Brother
 Carol Hess— Sister of Barry and Dave Santavy
 Kelsey & Baby Dawson Howe— Great niece of Darla Dalena
 Pat— Friend of the Weimers
 Dave Santavy & Family— Terri Santavy's Brother in Law
 Johnny S.— Friend of Darla Dalena
 Ron Pegg— Member
 Pastor Fred Heitzenroder— Member
 Kate & Baby Annabelle— friend of Norb & Vicki Georges
 Helen Holleran — Vicki Georges' In Law
 Elaine Hartman— Friend of the Gruesu Family
 Don Ohr — Member
 Virginia Turner —Member
 Bob Marks — Member
 Barry Santavy — Member
 Ted Wohlin — Arlene Wohlin's Husband
 Norma Hay —Member

Names will remain on the list for three (3) months after which they will be removed unless the request is renewed with the church office. 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.



Amber Schmitt	Feb 1
Doris McDonnell	Feb 2
Blake Hart	Feb 5
Norma Jean Hay	Feb 7
Joseph Schmitt	Feb 11
Gary Fink	Feb 11
Benjamin Wohlin	Feb 13
Kathy Teacher	Feb 17
Nicholas Schmitt	Feb 17
Shawn Harrold	Feb 17
Elizabeth Spillar	Feb 17
Siera Schmitt	Feb 17
Nicole Turner	Feb 20
Jessica Sindorf	Feb 22
James Fink	Feb 23
Andrew Hixson	Feb 25
Norb Georges	Feb 26
Benjamin Hixson	Feb 27

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.



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR February 2019

	February 3	February 10	February 17	February 24	March 3
GREETERS	Joan Downing	Linda & Ray Wasilowski	Andrea Petril	Jeff Sano & Doris McDonnell	Fred & Bobbie Oestreicher
USHERS	Robert & Gayle Kunko	Don & Ron Kauffman	Nathan Turner & Ray Wasilowski	Fred & Bobbie Oestreicher	Lindsay Gruesu & Madison Sano
LECTOR	Barb Fink	Nancy Ferrier	Lindsay Gruesu	Eldora Crist	Debra Adams
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Norma Bennett	Fred Oestreicher	Valetta Bradosky	Debra Adams	Nancy Ferrier
A—ACOLYTE C—Crucifer TB—Torch Bearers CB—Canon Bearer	Madison Sano	Aiden Nicodemus	Lindsay Gruesu	Michael Schmitt	Katie Frye
TELLERS	Fred Oestreicher & Bob Ferrier	Fred Oestreicher & Bob Ferrier	Fred Oestreicher & Bob Ferrer	Fred Oestreicher & Bob Ferrer	Tina Weimer & Sharon Marks
ALTAR GUILD	Dana Gruesu & Jen Sano	Dana Gruesu & Jen Sano	Dana Gruesu & Jen Sano	Dana Gruesu & Jen Sano	Eldora Crist
HOSPITAL VISITOR	Eldora Crist	Eldora Crist	Eldora Crist	Eldora Crist	Tina Weimer

2019 Church Council

Sharon Marks, President
Andrew Harrold, Vice President
Eldora Crist, Treasurer
Wayne Himler, Secretary

Norb Georges
Paul M. Gruesu, Pastor
Sally Brier

PLEASE REMEMBER

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.

WE

VOLUNTEERS



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 SOUPEER BOWL OF CARING 10:15am Holy Communion	4	5 9:45am Al-Anon CPR 6-8:30pm	6 7:00 Choir Practice	7	8	9 7pm Holy Communion
10 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Holy Communion	11  7:00pm Council Meeting	12 9:45am Al-Anon	13 7:00 Choir Practice	14 	15	16 CPR 8:30am - 11:00am 7pm Holy Communion
17 10:15am Holy Communion	18  6:00pm Stamp Camp	19 9:45am Al-Anon	20 7:00 Choir Practice	21	22	23 CPR 7:30am-6pm 7pm Holy Communion
24 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Holy Communion	25 10:00am Stamp Camp 6:00pm Stamp Camp	26 9:45am Al-Anon	27 7:00 Choir Practice	28		

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

February 2019

Visit us on the web at www.stmatthiasgreensburg.org

SERVICES OF HOLY COMMUNION:

Saturday 7:00 pm

Sunday 10:15 am

Sunday School 9:00AM (every other week)

Paul M. Gruesu, Pastor

Secretary: Amy Repak

