A NEWSLETTER FROM ST. MATTHIAS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Visit us on the web at www.stmatthiasgreensburg.org

Volume XLII  Issue XXXXVIII  January 2020

Be on the Lookout
A number of people living in our area tend to become depressed in January. After the rush and (sometimes) joy of Christmas, the prospect of 3 full months of cold winter weather can bring a level of lull and disappointment to the month of January. Places like nursing homes, homeless shelters, and the homes of shut-ins, which were given lots of attention during the month of December, tend to be very quiet in January.

So what are we, the children of God, to do about that? We have something they need… the good news of Jesus. And we can share it with our words and our actions. It may be as simple as a phone call to someone who might otherwise not hear from friends or family this time of year. It could be sending them a nice card in the mail, or stopping by for a short visit. Regardless of how we do it, when you contact someone who would otherwise be ignored, you’re sending a message… “I love you and care about you”. And we can also remind them that God loves them, too.

Whenever I visit someone, I let them know how things are going at St. Matthias, and that we miss being able to see them. And I try to remember to include the words “remember that we love you, and God loves you, too”. “We” love you… all of us at St. Matthias. And God loves you. Those are incredibly powerful words. And I’m never afraid to say them, because I know they’re true.

Be on the lookout for those who may be feeling blue in January. And remember that God is calling you to share His love with them. Because sharing God’s love with someone makes all the difference in the world. It’s for that opportunity and that privilege, that I say… Thanks be to God! Amen.

In Christ,
Pastor Paul

PLEASE DISPOSE OF ANY OF YOUR UNUSED 2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES!

Social Ministry Gifts at Christmastime
Our Social Ministry would like to thank all of you who participated in our various ministries throughout Advent to bring joy and nourishment to our neighbors in need at Christmastime. Thanks to your generosity, 22 children from Maxwell and Nicely Elementary Schools received Christmas gifts from their wish lists, and 13 Wal-Mart gift cards were sent to Bethesda Lutheran Services to benefit the children there. In addition, 42 Advent Blessing Bags filled with non-perishable food items and 2 large turkeys and a ham were shared with the Welcome Home Homeless Shelter here in Greensburg. Thank you for sharing God’s love with others and for your wonderful generosity!

“Giving Thanks to God” Ministry
There is a box in the narthex to collect your anonymous responses from our “Giving Thanks to God” Ministry. Some of these anonymous responses will be shared with the congregation at our Annual Meeting, Part 2, on January 19, 2020, as a way of celebrating and giving thanks to God for all that He so abundantly provides. Thank you for your participation in this wonderful ministry!

Save the Date
Our Annual Congregational Meeting, Part 2 will be January 19, 2020.

immediately following the worship service. Please make arrangements to stay.
CPR Classes at St. Matthias

CPR classes at St. Matthias are planned for:
- Jan 4 8:30am-11:00am
- Jan 10 8:30am-12:30PM
- Jan 11 7:30am-6:00pm
- Jan 18 7:30am-6:00pm
- Jan 23 5:30pm-8:00pm
- Feb 1 8:30am-3:15pm
- Feb 11 6:00pm-8:30pm
- March 3 6:00pm-8:30pm
- March 14 8:30am-3:15pm
- March 28 8:30am-11:00am

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!

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:
  - 5-10 Valetta, Sharon & Bob Marks, & Doris McDonnell
  - 12-17 Valetta, Andrew & Shawn Harrold
  - 19-24 Valetta, Fred & Bobbie Oestreicher
  - 26-31 Valetta, Jeff, Jennifer & Madison Sano
- February—week of:
  - 2-7 Valetta, Fred & Bobbi Oestreicher
  - 9-14 Valetta, Marylou & Bob Wolff
  - 16-21 Valetta, Gayle & Bob Kunko
  - 23-28 Valetta, Dana, Bernice & Lindsay Gruesu

Youth Sunday School

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!

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.

2020 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends Announced

Your marriage relationship is something that provides the greatest potential for happiness. Is yours living up to this potential? Please make 2020 the year you resolve to attend a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend to learn how to maximize the joy and intimacy that God intends for your marriage!

The following Northeast US Weekends have been scheduled:
* May 1-3, 2020 at Heritage Hotel in Lancaster, PA. A recently-renovated hotel, home of the unique, tree-house-inspired restaurant, "Loxley's."
* October 2-4, 2020 at Comfort Inn Latham-Albany North--just 10 miles north of Interstate 90 near Albany, the vibrant capital of NY.

Please go to the national website: www.GodLovesMarriage.org to see the very reasonable group rate for each Weekend. You may make your payment for the cost for your lodging and 5 meals for each of you plus the registration fee with your credit card, or you may mark the option to send a check. Scholarships are available for those in need who request them at the website. Registrations are limited by the size of the conference rooms, so to be sure to get the Weekend of your choice, sign up at your earliest convenience at www.GodLovesMarriage.org. For questions please contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at fjschamber@comcast.net or 724-325-3166.
Church Council Highlights

St. Matthias Lutheran Church Council Minutes – 12/9/2019

Voting Council members Andrew Harrold, Wayne Himler, Sally Brier, Norb Georges, and Pastor Paul were in attendance. Sharon Marks was absent. Also in attendance was our Treasurer, Eldora Crist, and our Financial Secretary, Eliot Moore. Tina Weimer was also present to address two items under “new business”. New 2020 Council members Fred Oestreicher and Bob Wolff were also invited to attend, and were present. Devotions were read by Andrew Harrold at 7:00pm. Due to Council President Sharon Marks’ absence, our Council Vice-President, Andrew Harrold will lead our meeting. The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm by Andrew Harrold. The agenda was reviewed. Sally Brier made a motion to approve the agenda, as presented. Motion seconded by Wayne Himler. Motion carried. The minutes from the November 11 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. Norb Georges made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report. Motion seconded by Wayne Himler. Motion carried.

Pastor Paul presented his report for November. His verbal report included attending 2 meetings with our local Lutheran congregations about organizing a “stay at home” mission trip work camp next June, hosting our Greensburg Ministerial meeting at St. Matthias, a home visit with Ron Reno, and attending the Synod Assembly Planning Committee meeting. Communications: None Concerns: None

** Committee Reports were given **

Ad Hoc Committees:
- **Women of the ELCA:** Committee will meet on Friday, December 13th for their annual Christmas luncheon at Lakeview banquet center in Greensburg. **Cleaning Ad Hoc Committee:** No new information. **Community Garden:** No new information

** Old Business **

1. **2019 Annual Reports**

   Annual Reports need completed for each of our committees for the Annual meeting, Part 2 on January 19, 2020. With the exception of a few reports which are time sensitive (Finance report), we’d like to have the reports completed in electronic form and submitted to Amy by December 15th. Each committee’s responsible person has been contacted, and we’re anticipating all relevant reports will be submitted by the December 15th deadline.

2. **New Business**

   1. **Pastor’s 2020 Housing Allowance**
      
      Pastor Paul requested a 2020 housing allowance of $21,000.00. This is the same amount that was in the 2019 budget. Norb Georges made a motion to approve Pastor Paul’s request for a 2020 housing allowance of $21,000. Motion seconded by Wayne Himler. Motion carried.

   2. **Installation of New Council Members**
      
      Fred Oestreicher and Bob Wolff were elected at our annual meeting, part 1, and should be installed on January 5th, since our next Council meeting is on January 13th. Fred and Bob confirmed their availability to be installed on that date. Council also offered their sincere thanks to Sally Brier for serving on Council for the remainder of Joe Schmitt’s first term.

   3. **Color Printer Replacement**
      
      Our secretary Amy informed us that the color printer was not responding to print requests. John and Tina Weimer thoroughly checked the printer and concluded that it would cost more to fix it than to replace it. It’s currently 4 years old. John and Tina recommend purchasing the same type of printer, since we already have several extra color ink cartridges, which cost more than the printer itself. The cost would be approximately $255. Norb Georges made a motion to approve John and Tina’s recommendation and to ask them to purchase a new Xerox 6510 color laser printer, which is the same model, for approximately $255. Council would like it to be purchased immediately, so that our secretary Amy can have use of the color printer for the Christmas Eve bulletins. Motion seconded by Wayne Himler. Motion carried. Council would like to thank John and Tina Weimer for all of their time and effort in helping with this replacement.

5. **Replacing Pastor’s Laptop and Secretary Computer**

John and Tina Weimer presented a handout to Council which details the software upgrade on Pastor’s laptop and on the Secretary’s desktop computer to Windows 10, which took place this week. This is necessary, since support for older versions of Windows expires in mid-January. This upgrade cost approximately $295. In addition, John and Tina pointed out that both current computers were purchased in 2014, and could encounter difficulties at some point in the future. As new versions of Windows 10 are provided, these older machines may not have the processing power to handle the upgrades. With that in mind, John and Tina recommend that we include approximately $2,200 in the 2021 church budget to replace Pastor’s laptop and the Secretary desktop computer. They also advise us that due to future Windows 10 upgrades, these replacements may need to occur in 2020; however, we’re hoping they can still function until 2021. Council would like to thank John and Tina Weimer for all of their time and effort in installing the new Windows 10 software, and in helping us be aware of how and when to replace our existing computers. Their expertise in these matters is greatly appreciated, and helps our Council make wise and appropriate decisions.

** End of New Business **

The January calendar and Worship Assistants were reviewed, and a few small updates were made. The next Council meeting will be on Monday, January 13, at 7pm. Norb Georges mentioned that due to scheduling reasons, he will not be able to attend our January through March Council meetings. The deadline for the January newsletter is December 9. Fred Oestreicher volunteered to lead devotions at the January Council meeting. Andrew Harrold made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Sally Brier. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Paul Gruesu
Prayer List

Dan Ginter—Nancy Ferrier’s Brother
Chris Kennedy—Patty Reno’s Friend
Mike Kunko—Bob & Gayle Kunko’s Nephew
John Frank—Barb Winslow’s brother
Cal Frye—Jim & Terri Frye’s Grandson
Dolores Wooly—Derek Ferrier’s wife’s grandma
Branden Vita—Friend of Arlene Wohlin
Carol Garlow—Linda & Ray Wasilowski’s Sister in Law
Bruce Dalena—Darla Dalena’s Son
Bobbie Oestreicher—Member
Ruth Ginter—Nancy Ferrier’s Mom
Lynn Vita—Chuck Vita’s Wife
Alycefaye Stewart—Member
Julie Santavy—Barry & Dave’s Mom
Terri Santavy—Member
Norb Georges—Member
Doris McDonnell—Member
Nancy Quist—Jean Kauffman’s friend
Joanne Stillwell—Friend of Dana Gruesu
Bill Trisoline—Member
Phil Nowakowski—Friend of Nancy Ferrier
Ed Ferrier—Bob Ferrier’s Brother
Ron Bowman—Keith Bowman Brother
Jeanie Bowman—Keith Bowman Niece
Evelyn Malinish—Member
Rita Miller—Doris McDonnell’s Sister in Law
Ray Bowman—Keith Bowman’s Brother
Jim Bartolomucci—Member
Dave Santavy & Family—Member
Pastor Fred Heitzenroder—Member
Kate & Baby Annabelle—friend of Norb & Vicki Georges
Helen Holleran—Vicki Georges’ In Law
Don Ohr—Member
Virginia Turner—Member
Bob Marks—Member
Barry Santavy—Member
Ted Wohlin—Arlene Wohlin’s Husband
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.

Janvier Birthdays

Vienna O’Brien January 9
Valette Bradosky January 10
Dana Gruesu January 10
Eldora Crist January 11
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

Janvier Anniversaries

Adam & Christine Harrold January 10
Larry & Sonnie Miller January 27

Flower Chart

The 2020 Flower Chart is now posted in the narthex. The price for flowers is $48 for two vases. Bulletin dedication is the same price, $7.50 per Sunday.

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 January 2020

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Communion Assistant</th>
<th>Lector</th>
<th>Ushers</th>
<th>Greeters</th>
<th>Tellers</th>
<th>Altar Guild</th>
<th>Hospital Visitor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 5</td>
<td>Norma Bennett</td>
<td>Jean Kauffman</td>
<td>Jean Kauffman</td>
<td>Joan Downing</td>
<td>Linda &amp; Ray Wasilowski</td>
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If you would like to volunteer for a position, please call or email the office at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 5. 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.

2020 Church Council

Bob Wolff  
Paul M. Georges, Pastor  
Nord Georges

Sharon Marks  
Wayne Himler  
Fred Oestreicher  
Eldora Crist, Treasurer  
Andrew Harrold  
Sharon Marks

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.
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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
Organist/Choir Director: Chuck Vita