

# The View

January/February 2024

A NEWSLETTER FROM ST. MATTHIAS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



Happy New Year!

On January 7, we celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord Jesus. And in our Baptism, we remember that it is God who chooses us, not the other way around. One of the reasons Lutherans baptize infants is because infants can't do anything to "earn" their Baptism. In our Baptism, God chooses, adopts, and claims us as His own children.

Just as children can't choose their parents, in the same way, in our Baptism, God chooses us even before we can choose God. And God chooses to be our Heavenly Father even if (and when) we choose to run away from God or give up on God.

How many of our brothers and sisters in Christ, including ourselves, fall into the trap of thinking that we choose God, versus the promise that God chooses us? Jesus said to his disciples: "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide." (John 15:16). And St. Paul writes: "For God chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight..." (Ephesians 1:4).

And this same God who chooses us doesn't leave our side, no matter what. Even if we run away from God, give up on God, or give up on ourselves. That's the nature of God's love for us, and it's never too late for us to live in the joy of being one of God's children. Thanks be to God! Now, please, go and share that good news, because we all desperately need to hear it!

In Christ,  
Pastor Paul

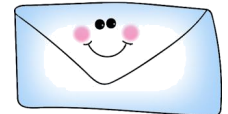


**Save the Date**

Our Annual Congregational Meeting, Part 2 will be Sunday, January 21st immediately following the worship service. Please make arrangements to stay.

**Offering Envelopes**

The 2024 offering envelopes were mailed out in December. Please contact the church if you have not received them.



**PLEASE DISPOSE OF ANY OF YOUR UNUSED 2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES!**

**Ash Wednesday Worship on February 14**

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 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!



**Souper Bowl of Caring**

On February 11th 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.

## 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:

Jan 1 - 6 - Gayle and Bob Kunko  
 Jan. 15 - 20 - Dana Gruesu  
 Jan. 29 - Feb. 3 - Teri and Jim Frye  
 Feb. 12 - 17 - Barb Winslow  
 Feb. 26 - March 2 - Lisa Pegg



## Wednesday Evenings in Lent

During the season of Lent, come and join us for **food, worship, and Bible study** as you're able! **All are welcome**, so please invite your neighbors and friends!

The schedule is as follows:

### February 21, 28, March 6, 13:

5:45pm Soup Supper  
 7:00pm Holden Evening Prayer  
 7:30pm Adult Bible Study

### March 20:

5:45pm Soup Supper  
 7:00pm Holden Evening Prayer

## Adult Bible Study on Wednesday nights

During the season of Lent, Pastor Paul will be leading an Adult Bible Study on **Wednesday nights at 7:30pm**. **All are welcome** to attend, and **no previous Bible experience is required!** Please feel free to contact Pastor Paul with any questions. The dates of the classes are: **February 21, 28 and March 6 & 13** beginning at **7:30pm** each night. If the Adult Bible Study class would like to meet for additional sessions, Pastor Paul will be happy to do so. We'll look forward to seeing you!

## Community Garden

Thanks to all for the continued success of our Community Garden. Year 7 we donated 1366 pounds of fresh produce and \$2651.00 to the Westmoreland County Food Bank. That brings our 7 year total to 5,557 pounds and with matching funds, \$7939.00.



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

## Flower Chart Retired

Due to lack of interest, as of 2024 there will no longer be a flower chart sign up in the lobby. If you are interested in buying altar flowers going forward, you will need to call or email the office and Amy will call the flower shop for the price of the flowers and place your order. The price for flowers is TBD. Bulletin dedication is the same price, \$7.50 per Sunday.

## 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!



Thursday, Jan. 4	5:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 11	2:30 pm—9:00pm
Thursday, Jan. 18	3:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 20	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 25	5:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 3	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 8	3:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 17	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 24	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 29	5:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

# Church Council Highlights

November 13, 2023

Devotions were led by Bob Wolff. President Bob Wolff called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

**In Attendance:** Bob Wolff, Ryan Winslow, Fred Oestreicher, Pastor Paul, Lisa Pegg Norb Georges, Greg Paterno, and Sharon Marks. Ryan Winslow was absent. Also in attendance were Treasurer, Eldor Crist, and Financial Secretary, Eliot Moore.

**Agenda: Motion** made by Fred Oestreicher to approve the agenda. Second by Bob Wolff. Motion carried.

**Minutes: Motion** made by Lisa Pegg to approve the minutes. Second by Fred Oestreicher. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report: Motion** made by Sharon Marks to approve the Treasurer's Report. Second by Bob Wolff. Motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor attended the Bishop's Convocation from October 9-11. He met with Christian Huey and Sherry Venersky to discuss plans for their wedding next June. He presided at a funeral for a non-member and continues to teach Confirmation on Tuesday evenings. Pastor continues to serve as Interim Pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Greensburg approximately 5 hours per week.

**Communications:** None

**Concerns:** None

**Committee Reports were presented.**

**Old Business**

**Church Safety Policies and Procedures:** *No new information.*

**Annual Meeting:** *The agenda and procedures for the November 19 Annual Meeting, Part I were reviewed. Council would like to thank Norb Georges as he completes his 2<sup>nd</sup> term on Church Council.*

**Annual Reports:** *Committee Annual reports are to be completed by December 15<sup>th</sup>.*

**New Business**

**Review of Wedding Policy:** *The St. Matthias Wedding Policy was reviewed and updated. The last review was completed in 2016.*

**Flower Chart:** *The Flower Chart posted in the Narthex will not be available in 2024 due to lack of participation. However, parishioners will still be able to purchase flowers for the altar if they desire to do so.*

**Facilities Request:** *Council approved the use of facilities for a member on January 13<sup>th</sup>.*

Council reviewed the Calendar and Worship Assistants for December.

The next Council Meeting will be held on December 11, 2023 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Devotions will be led by Lisa Pegg.

**Motion** mad by Lisa Pegg to adjourn the meeting. Second by Bob Wolff. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Marks

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# Church Council Highlights

**December 11, 2023**

Devotions were led by Lisa Pegg. President Bob Wolff called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

**In Attendance:** Bob Wolff, Ryan Winslow, Fred Oestreicher, Pastor Paul, Greg Paterno, and Sharon Marks. Norb Georges was absent. Also in attendance was Treasurer Eldora Crist. Financial Secretary Eliot Moore was unable to attend.

**Agenda:** It was noted that approval of the Annual Meeting Part I minutes needed to be added. Motion by Sharon Marks to approve the amended agenda. Second by Fred Oestreicher. Motion carried.

**November 13 Minutes:** Motion made Fred Oestreicher to approve the minutes. Second by Lisa Pegg. Motion carried.

**Annual Meeting Part I Minutes: Motion** made by Bob Wolff to approve the minutes for inclusion in the Annual Report for congregational approval. Second by Fred Oestreicher. Motion Carried.

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

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor visited with Lillian Reno and Virginia Turner at Redstone Highlands. He attended two Synod Assembly planning meetings and presided at the funeral of a non-member. Pastor made a home visit with prospective members and continues to serve as Interim Pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church approximately 5 hours per week. **Communications:** Amy has requested to receive her December paycheck one week early. Council agreed by consensus.

**Concerns:** None **Committee Reports** were presented.

## Old Business

**Church Safety Policies and Procedures:** No new information

**2023 Annual Reports:** All committee reports need to be completed and submitted in electronic form by December 15.

## New Business

**Annual Meeting Part II:** The Agenda for the meeting to be held on January 21, 2024 was reviewed.

**Housing Allowance:** Motion made by Sharon Marks to designate \$21,000 of Pastor's salary as his 2024 Housing Allowance. Second by Fred Oestreicher. Motion carried.

**Reception of New Members:** Pastor has been communicating with 6 individuals who may wish to become members. A date will be set in January by Pastor for reception of new members at the 10:15 worship service.

**Chuck Vita 2024 Vacation:** Our organist and choir director will receive 3 weeks vacation beginning in 2024.

Council reviewed the Calendar and Worship Assistants for January.

The next Council Meeting will be held on January 8, 2024 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Devotions will be led by Sharon Marks.

**Motion** by Fred Oestreicher to adjourn the meeting. Second by Lisa Pegg. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Marks

**St. Matthias** Women of the **ELCA** 



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

**NEW 2024 PROGRAM BOOKLETS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX IF  
YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOURS. IF YOU ARE ABLE, GIVE YOUR  
OFFERING ENVELOPES TO VALETTA.**

**Prayer List**

Harry Miller	Member
Susan Spillar	Member
Lou Jean Bishop	Member
Diane Coumos	Joe Gruesu's Niece
Carol Garlow	Linda & Ray Wasilowski's Sister in Law
Aileen Mattiuz	Friend of Linda & Ray Wasilowski
Angela	Friend of Bobbie Oestreicher
Audrey	Friend of Terri Frye
Carol	Friend of Bernice Gruesu
Nancy Ferrier	Member
Baby Jack	Friend of the Wolff Family
Gina Ilich	Friend of Chuck Vita
Bella Shaler	Friend of Chuck Vita
Chris Thorpe	Vicki George's Nephew
Tara Nunimaker	Vickie Georges' Niece
Dave George	Friend of Jim & Terry Frye
Joe Welling	Friend of Alycefaye Stewart
Ross Sano	Jeff Sano's Brother
Alycefaye Stewart	Member
Carol Bowman	Member
Evelyn Malinish	Member
Craig	Dana Gruesu's Coworker
Richard Bell	Brother of Dave Bell
Ron & Carol Bowman-	Keith Bowman's brother and sister in law
Teri Pappas	Vicki Georges sister
Lorraine Howell	Member
Pastor Fred Heitzenroder	Member
Barry Santavy	Member
Ted Wohlin	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.

**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.



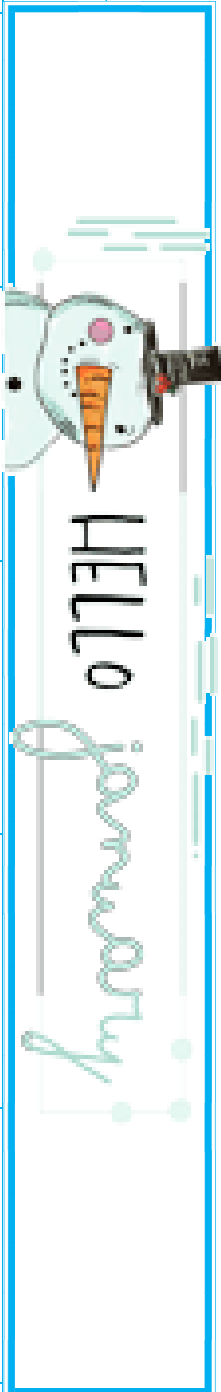
Vienna O'Brien	January 9
VaLetta Bradosky	January 10
Dana Gruesu	January 10
Eldora Crist	January 11
Debra Cisowski	January 11
Nicole Oestreicher	January 12
Alycefaye Stewart	January 18
Alexander Oestreicher	January 19
David Turner	January 20
Lilyana Blankenship	January 21
Tim Weaver	January 29



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



Amber Schmitt	Feb 1
Doris McDonnell	Feb 2
Blake Hart	Feb 5
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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day	2 9:45am Al-Anon 6:45pm Confirmation Class	3	4 CPR 5:30pm-8:45pm	5	6
7 Baptism of Our Lord 10:15am Worship	8 7:00pm Church Council	9 9:45am Al-Anon 6:45pm Confirmation Class	10 7pm Worship & Music Meeting	11 CPR 2:30-9:00 pm	12	13 Fellowship Hall Reserved
14 2 Epiphany 10:15am Worship Food 2 Go 4 Kids items due	15	16 9:45am Al-Anon 6:45pm Confirmation Class	17	18 CPR 3:30-6:45PM Food 2 go 4 Kids Delivery	19	20 CPR 8:30am-3:30 pm
21 3 Epiphany 10:15am Worship <u>Annual Meeting Pt 2</u>	22 Stamp Camp	23 9:45am Al-Anon 6:45pm Confirmation Class	24	25 CPR 5:30pm-8:45pm	26	27
28 4 Epiphany 10:15am Worship	29 Stamp Camp	30 9:45am Al-Anon 6:45pm Confirmation Class	31			

# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR January 2024

	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28	February 4
<b>Host</b>	Sharon Marks	Fred Oestreich	Norb Georges	Jeff Sano	Jim Frye
<b>GREETER</b>	Lorraine Howell	Andrea Petrill	Fred & Bobbie Oestreich	Joe & Bernice Gruesu	Lorraine Howell
<b>LECTOR</b>	Bob Marks	Tina Weimer	Lisa Pegg	Andrew Harrold	Debra Adams
<b>COMMUNION ASSISTANT</b>	Bernice Gruesu	Andrew Harrold	Ryan Winslow	Fred Oestreich	Dana Gruesu
<b>TELLERS</b>	Fred Oestreich Ryan Winslow	Fred Oestreich Ryan Winslow	Fred Oestreich Ryan Winslow	Fred Oestreich Ryan Winslow	Eliot Moore Lisa Pegg
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>					
<b>CARD MINISTRY</b>	Vicki Georges	Vicki Georges	Vicki Georges	Vicki Georges	Eldora Crist

## 2024 Church Council

**Bob Wolff,**  
**Ryan Winslow,**  
**Fred Oestreich**  
**Eldora Crist, Treasurer**  
**Eliot Moore, Financial Secretary**

**Lisa Pegg**  
**Norb Georges**  
**Paul Gruesu, Pastor**  
**Sharon Marks**  
**Greg Paterno**



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.

# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR February 2024

	February 4	February 11	February 14 Ash Wednesday	February 18	February 25	March 3
<b>Host</b>	Jim Frye	Bob Wolf	Bobbie Oestreicher	Ray Wasilowski	Sharon Marks	Fred Oestreicher
<b>GREETER</b>	Lorraine Howell	Bobbie Oestreicher	Joe & Bernice Gruesu	Lorraine Howell	Darla Dalena	Linda & Ray Wasilowski
<b>LECTOR</b>	Debra Adams	Fred Oestreicher	Bob Marks	Tina Weimer	Lisa Pegg	Andrew Harrold
<b>COMMUNION ASSISTANT</b>	Dana Gruesu	Debra Adams	Bernice Gruesu	Andrew Harrold	Fred Oestreicher	Ryan Winslow
<b>TELLERS</b>	Eliot Moore Lisa Pegg	Eliot Moore Lisa Pegg	Eliot Moore Lisa Pegg	Eliot Moore Lisa Pegg	Eliot Moore Lisa Pegg	Bob Marks Eldora Crist
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>						
<b>CARD MINISTRY</b>	Eldora Crist	Eldora Crist	Eldora Crist	Eldora Crist	Eldora Crist	Tina Weimer

## 2024 Church Council

**Bob Wolff,**  
Ryan Winslow,  
Fred Oestreicher,  
Eldora Crist, Treasurer  
Eliot Moore, Financial Secretary

**Lisa Pegg**  
Norb Georges  
Paul Gruesu, Pastor  
Sharon Marks  
Greg Paterno

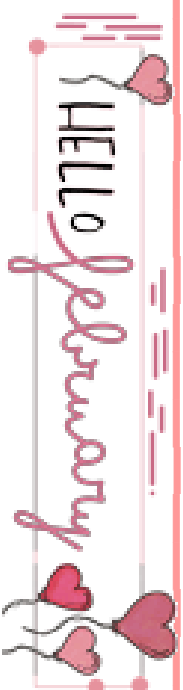


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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 CPR 8:30am–3:00 pm
4 5 Epiphany 10:15am Worship	5	6 9:45am Al-Anon 6:45pm Confirmation Class	7	8 CPR 3:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.	9	10
11 Transfiguration of our Lord 10:15am Worship	12	13 9:45am Al-Anon 6:45pm Confirmation Class	14 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 7:00pm Worship	15	16	17 CPR 8:30am–3:00 pm
18 1 Lent 10:15am Worship	19 Stamp Camp	20 9:45am Al-Anon 6:45pm Confirmation Class	21 5:45pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Holden Evening Prayer 7:30pm Adult Bible Study	22	23	24 CPR 8:30am–3:30 pm
25 2 Lent 10:15am Worship	26 Stamp Camp	27 9:45am Al-Anon 6:45pm Confirmation Class	28 5:45pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Holden Evening Prayer 7:30pm Adult Bible Study	29 CPR 5:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.		

# **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**

**January/February 2024**

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

**Services of Holy Communion:  
Sunday 10:15am**

**Ash Wednesday Worship  
February, 14 at 7:00pm**

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

