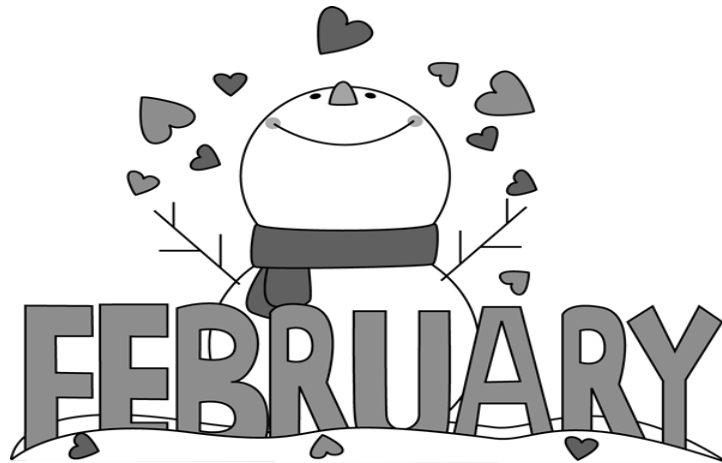


THE COMMUNICATOR

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

2024



ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

875 Eggert Drive, North Tonawanda, New York 14120

Pastor R. Blaine Jorg

716-239-1097 cell

716-692-6862 church office

HOME VISITS

Pastor Blaine Jorg is available to bring Holy Communion to the home of any member desiring a visit. You may also call him, regardless of the time, if any congregation member is in need of pastoral care. This is particularly important when there is a serious illness, an accident, a hospitalization and when death approaches or occurs.

Cell: 716- 239-1097

E-mail: ministry285@yahoo.com



Church Phone Extension

When calling 692-6862, you do not need to wait for a prompt to dial an extension. When you call the church phone number, and the call connects, you may dial any extension, immediately. If that extension transfers to a voice mail and you want to speak to a person, you may dial another extension. You do not need to hang up and call back.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church 716- 692-6862

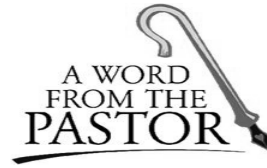
St. Matthew Lutheran Church Fax# 716-692-0242

The following extensions can be reached from both phone #'s above:

Church Office	Ext. 202
Bible Conference Room	Ext. 204
Quilting Room	Ext. 206
Kitchen	Ext. 207
Music Room	Ext. 209
Computer Room	Ext. 210
Library	Ext. 214
Custodian Office	Ext. 219
Gymnasium	Ext. 220
YCC Room	Ext. 221

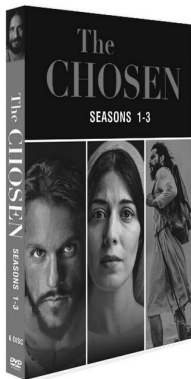
Contact the office at St. Matthew Lutheran Church at

office@stmatthewlutheran.net



Dearest members of St. Matthew:

For quite some time now I have been watching, reviewing, showing, and evaluating the show “The Chosen”. What an amazing show, “The Chosen” depicts Jesus and the many people around Him in such an amazing, true way, if you haven’t been watching it, I highly suggest that you do. The first several episodes are tough to get into, but once it hits, it’s a non-stop, put on another episode kind of show. I was watching last night Season 2, Episode 3, “Matthew 4:24”, in this episode, Jesus is not “Present” until the last three minutes, but it was so impactful to me. In Matthew 4:24 the people are bringing out their sick and Jesus is healing everyone who comes out, Jew, Greek, Gentile, everyone. The Disciples are keeping guard and making camp at the



same time. Mary, the mother of Jesus arrives and in the later part of the episode, Jesus is still out, but the Disciples and the women are all around the fire, telling stories about their life, asking questions of each other to pass the time. Simon, who is a bit of a hot head, ends up trying to demolish Matthew about his past as a Tax Collector, well things get heated, some of the Disciples come to Matthew’s defense, saying, he isn’t a Tax Collector anymore, and some side with Simon, wanting an

apology from Matthew for what he has done to the Jewish people over the years. As the scene starts to get intense, Simon says he will never forgive Matthew for what he has done, that Matthew turned his back on his people, and what makes him worthy to walk with Jesus! Jesus then walks by, sweaty, dirty, He has blood on Him, He is physically exhausted. The yelling stops as He walks by, thinking He might settle the debate, but He doesn’t. He walks into His tent, and lies to go to sleep, we hear Him praying, thanking God for the day, and for good sleep that night. The Disciples are stunned at what they are doing.

When we take our eyes off Jesus is when we too become angry, extremely disappointed and frustration sets in. This seems to be a common teaching through out scripture, and yet we forget this very important theme. As we enter the Epiphany season then Lent, let us not take our eyes off the One who brings everything to us. The One who heals, the One who brought us out of darkness and into His marvelous light. When frustration sets, anger rises, look to the Son of God and His righteousness first and always. Lay your trouble at His feet, be reconciled, LOVE.

With much love and compassion to my fellow believers here at St. Matthew,

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Blaine



We will have Lenten Services on Wednesday's starting on

Ash Wednesday, February 14th at 7:00pm, February 21st, February 28th

March 6th, March 13th and March 20th.

Maundy Thursday service, March 28th at 7:00pm

Good Friday service, March 29th at 7:00pm

Easter Sunday service, March 31st at 9:30am



Here's what is new around our church:

We heard back from Thrivent on our October food drive. The NT Food Pantry will be receiving the additional \$500 donation due to our successful collection effort. The pantry was extremely appreciative of our donations and efforts. They were especially thankful for all the personal care items that were donated through the seed money from Trivent and our Thanksgiving collection.



Thanks to the efforts of our Treasurer and Church Council, we were able to hold our budget meeting on time in November this year. We passed a budget that could be tough to meet in the coming year. Our Financial Secretary reviewed the lost offerings through transfers out and deaths, and it totaled up to \$25,000. We did not review names, only the totals of envelopes that will not be issued next year. While we were conservative in budget projections, and we are concerned that the loss of income could become an issue, the shortage is not insurmountable. If every person gave \$10 more per week, we can come out even, if all the expenses hold true. It is understood that many people are on fixed incomes, and it could be tough on some personal budgets to contribute more, but we thought it was worth pointing out what it would take to have a good budget year. In any event, please prayerfully consider your giving levels and continue to pray about our budget. We provided copies of the budget at the Voter's meeting and the week after by the bulletins. If you didn't get one, please ask.

Another thing I'd like people to prayerfully consider is volunteering for positions. We also held elections in November. We were able to fill only one open position. The remainder of the openings are still open, and many of the people in the positions have been in place for many, many years. Some fresh eyes in a position can help come up with fresh ideas and add enthusiasm to the church. Look in the front of this communicator for the positions and openings. If any position interests you, but you aren't sure what the duties are, please ask. Many of the duties are listed in the by-laws, but any of the council members are willing to talk with you about the positions.



On a positive note, the budget will come out on the positive side for 2023 due to lower expenses than projected, and giving above anticipated levels. It speaks to the dedication of our members and their support to keep the church going smoothly. We thank everyone for their continued support.

Upcoming activities include a Farmer's breakfast, tentatively in February. Watch the bulletin for details. **Our next regular Voter's meeting will be held February 18th.** As you participate in events and socialize throughout the year, please remember to share your photos for the Thanksgiving service. It's never too early to send pictures. Send them to wbundy@daemen.edu. Remember, when sending photos, send the original and do not reduce the size. The full sized pictures look so much better when projected on the wall.

WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER AT ST. MATTHEW'S?

Please continue praying and thinking of ways we can make things better here at St. Matthew's and in our community. Share your thoughts by speaking to Pastor, the Elders or dropping off your thoughts in a note to the office. Your input is important to us. Thank you.

LADIES GUILD NEWS & NOTES **JANUARY & FEBRUARY “2024”**

Wishing you all a most happy & blessed “**NEW YEAR**”!

It’s hard to believe that we have stepped into a new year, and we pray God will guide us through whatever comes our way this year. There are so many wonderful possibilities waiting for us to explore. May the good Lord show us all how we can better serve our church and neighbors by spreading the good news of His saving grace.

Let’s do a little recap of our December activities before going forward. December 8th was our **Ladies Guild Christmas Party** and we gathered for a wonderful afternoon of fellowship and a fun Christmas themed game of Pictionary. We also welcomed several guests including Rachel Behnke’s sister who traveled from down south in hopes of bringing us some of her warm weather.

Our “**Helping Hands at Christmas Mitten Tree**” project was a success once again thanks to your generous donations. We collected 29 Mittens/ Gloves; 4 Scarves; 73 pairs of assorted Socks; 60 Hats; 19 Baby hats/mittens; and 10 Stuffed Animals. This totaled 195 items that were distributed to 4 different agencies in our area to help our neighbors in need this winter. Thank You!

The Ladies Guild would like to **thank everyone** for supporting our events such as the Pie Sale & Christmas Cookie sale most recently. The funds we raise help with keeping our church in good repair. And at Christmas we also are honored to send monetary gifts to the following organizations to support their ministry:

LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS; ABLE LIGHT (formerly Bethesda Lutheran Home); CONCORDIA SEMINARY (ST. CATHARINES); MINISTRY TO ARMED FORCES; NIAGARA LUTHERAN HOME; ST MATTHEW SUNDAY SCHOOL; NORTH TONAWANDA FOOD PANTRY; LUTHERAN SERVICE SOCIETY; OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD.

And Thank You gifts to our St. Matthew Staff



THERE WILL BE NO JANUARY MEETING!

FEBRUARY NEWS:



FEBRUARY 9TH, 2024

TASTING PARTY

TIME: 12:00 PM (NOON)

So, it's time once again to search your recipes and prepare a dish to share at the luncheon. Please bring a copy of the recipe to be included in our Tasting Party Cookbook. And bring along a friend to enjoy the luncheon as well! The more the merrier.

The Committee is Ellen Graf, Cheryl Turner, Donna Heiser, Terry Smith, Linda Robinson, Linda Olczak and Kristen Jorg

+ + +

ASH WEDNESDAY IS FEBRUARY 14TH

I am considering doing Lenten Dinners once again this year. These would be held before our Wednesday evening Lenten Services. If you would like to help, please contact Linda Robinson at (716)622-1255. Thank You

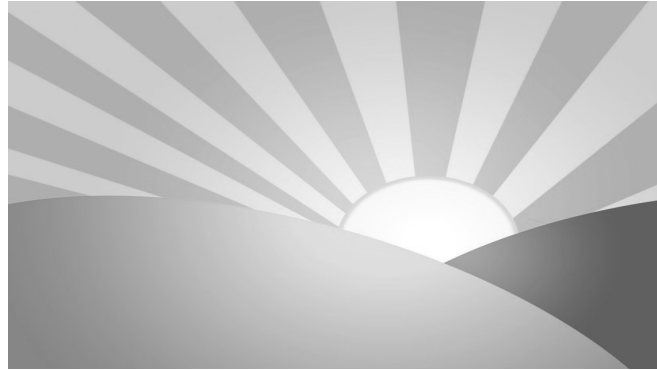


January Serving Schedule

	January 7th*	January 14th	January 21th*	January 28th
ELDERS	Pete Jaenecke Bill Olczak	Dan Wolf Joe Durick	Craig Heigl Rob Pidanick	Siggy Barke John Patton
VESTRYMEN CAPTAINS	Art Marshall Paul Schultz	Gary Majewski Joe Siegmann	James Fretthold Bill Bundy	Tom Hromowyk
USHERS	Jeff Binkley Charles Jaenecke Keith Schumacher	Chris Reischel Jeff Reischel Dave Wendt	Dave Urtel Tank Jorg Tim Jorg	Eric Berg Justin Hromowyk Mark Lemke
COUNTING TEAM	Team 2 Bill Bundy Paul Schultz	Team 3 Jolie Giardino Miriam MM Paula Benedyzak	Team 4 Wendy Binkley Sue Ridge Florence Lindaman	Team 5 Jeffrey Binkley Megan Goodwin Mike & Terry Lance
9:15AM GREETERS	M/M Patton	Linda Robinson	Toni Durrick Linda Pascucci	Joe Durick
SARB SERVERS	Mary Sansone* Sheryl Essenburg	Carol Wilczak* Sandy Moesch	Linda Robinson * Sharon Engler	Debbie Hromowyk* Lisa Ellman

February Serving Schedule

	February 4th*	February 11th & 14th* Ash Wednesday	February 18th* & 21st	February 25th & 28th
ELDERS	Pete Jaenecke Bill Olczak	Dan Wolf Joe Durick	Craig Heigl Rob Pidanick	Siggy Barke John Patton
VESTRYMEN CAPTAINS	Art Marshall Paul Schultz	Gary Majewski Joe Siegmann	James Fretthold Bill Bundy	Tom Hromowyk
USHERS	Jeff Binkley Charles Jaenecke Keith Schumacher	Chris Reischel Jeff Reischel Dave Wendt	Dave Urtel Tank Jorg Tim Jorg	Eric Berg Justin Hromowyk Mark Lenke
COUNTING TEAM	Team 6 Bill & Linda Olczak Leslie Stolzenfels Karen Horrigan	Team 1 Leslie Stolzenfels Dale & Donna Heiser Karen Horrigan	Team 2 Bill Bundy Paul Schultz	Team 3 Jolie Giardino Miriam MM Paula Benedyszak
9:15AM GREETERS	M/M Stapar	Toni Durick Linda Pascucci	Carol Wilczak	M/M Siggy Barke
SARB SERVERS	Mary Sansone* Sandy Patton	Carol Wilczak* Sheryl Essenburg	Linda Robinson* Sandy Moesch	Debbie Hromowyk* Sharon Engler



Look around and you will know how
great **GOD** is. It is not good to
blame **Him**
for what it is that you are
experiencing now.
Instead, lift it up to **HIM**
and **HE** will
let you feel **HIS** greatness.
YES, GOD is good.



Joy Jenks 1/3

Paul Schultz 1/16

Sandra Moesch 1/29

Kelly Urtel 2/7

Eric Thursam 2/8

Jeffrey Thursam 2/28



Happy Anniversary

Keith & Debra Baron 1/1

Craig & Becky Heigl 1/1





Richard & Linda Davidson 1/7

Dan & Kathie Wolf 2/14

If you would like to have your birthday listed in the communicator please see Gloria Haeseler or stop by the office for more information.

January 2024

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 7 9:15am Worship Service w/ Communion 10:30-Bible Study 10:30-Sunday School SARB	1	2	3	4 6:30pm-Elders Mtg.	5	6 
8 9:15am Worship Service w/ Communion 10:30-Bible Study 10:30-Sunday School SARB	8	9 10am-Bible Brunch 6:30pm Church Council Mtg.	10 5:45 Choir re- hearsal 6:30pm Confirm Class 7:00 Cradle Roll Mtg.	11 10:30 Bible Class	12	
14 9:15am Worship Service 10:30-Bible Study 10:30-Sunday School SARB	15	16	17 5:45 Choir re- hearsal 6:30pm Confirm Class	18 10:30 Bible Class	19	20
21 9:15 am Worship Service w/ Communion 10:30-Bible Study 10:30-Sunday School SARB	22	23 	24 5:45 Choir re- hearsal 6:30 Confirm Class	25 10:30 Bible Class	26	27 
28 9:15am Worship Service 10:30am Bible Study 10:30am Sunday School SARB	29		31 5:45 Choir re- hearsal 6:30 Confirm Class			

February 2024 St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 9:15am Worship Service w/ Communion 10:30 Bible Study 10:30 Sunday School	5	6	7 5:45 Choir rehearsal 6:30 Confirm Class	8 10:30 Bible Study	9 12:00 Ladies Guild Tasting Party	10
11 9:15 am Worship Service 10:30 Bible study 10:30 Sunday school SARB	12	13 10am Bible Brunch 6:30 Church Council	14 5:45 Choir rehearsal 6:00 Confirm Class 7:00 Ash Wed 40 Day of Life Vigil	15 10:30 Bible Study	16	17
18 9:15am Worship Service w/ Communion 10:30 Bible Study 10:30 Sunday School SARB VOTERS Mtg.	19	20 	21 5:45 Choir rehearsal 6:00 Confirm Class 7:00 Lenten Service	22 10:30 Bible Study	23 	
25 9:15am Worship Service 10:30 Bible Study 10:30 Sunday School SARB	26		28 5:45 Choir rehearsal 6:00 Confirm Class 7:00 Lenten Service			

LIFE CORNER



40 DAYS FOR LIFE SPRING VIGIL

Thank you to all who volunteered during the Fall Vigil!

To date, God has saved 24,165 babies, closed 147 abortion centers, and helped 254 workers to quit the abortion industry!

Our Spring Vigil will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024! There will be a Casting the Vision event the end of January to invite friends who may join us in prayerful, peaceful vigil. Please begin praying for God to lay people on your heart to speak with about this life-affirming ministry that brings hope and resources to the place where expecting parents need us the most. We are also looking for people to help schedule prayer slots, arrange events, and help with recruitment and PR. Please call Kristen Jorg with any questions at 231-286-8685.

"Learn to do good, seek justice, correct oppression, bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause." Isaiah 1:17

CRADLE ROLL

Our Cradle Roll is starting up again! **Our first committee meeting will be on January 10 at 7pm.** We are excited to begin fostering the relationship between parents, their young ones, and their Lord with communication and activities that will help parents to bring up their children in the Lord. Please call Kristen Jorg at 231-286-8685 to add your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews and even neighbor children. We would like to have 2 or 3 additional members on the committee. Please let me know if you can help.

"Train up a child in the way he should go so that when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6



It is with great sadness, but confident joy the family of **Rod Rowland** announces his passing on Monday, November 26, 2023. Services were held at the convenience of the family.

Mariam Marasco-was called to Glory on December 5, 2023. Service will be held at the convenience of the family.

Rod w. Echlin-was baptized on December 10, 2023, here at St. Matthew Lutheran Church. Bill Olczak was his witness. Officiant was Pastor Blain Jorg.



Thank you for all your recent prayers, cards, flowers, phone calls and well wishes during my recent surgery. What a comfort knowing my "prayer warriors" are praying and keeping in contact with me. God bless, Carol Wilczak



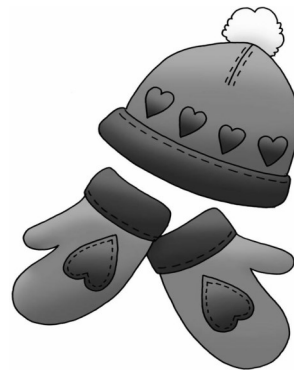
Our Shut In Members

Irene Curtis

2717 Oppenheim Ct. Apt# 1
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
Birthday December 18th
(Toni Durick & Dottie Lemke)

William & Patricia Doebler

Elderwood @ Wheatfield Rm# 219
2600 Niagara Falls Blvd. Niagara Falls, NY 14304
Williams Birthday-August-3rd
Patricia's Birthday-January 6th
Anniversary-May 5th
(Ellen Graf)



Carol Haak

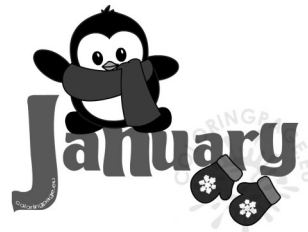
100 Crestwood Court Apt.#217
Niagara Falls, NY 14304
Birthday-September 11th
(Linda Jasulevich)

Joy Jenks

100 Crestwood Court Apt. # 101
Niagara Falls, NY 14304
Birthday-January 3rd
(Ellen Graf)

Priscilla Mattheus

Beechwood Homes at Trinity House Rm# 139
2235 Millersport Highway
Getzville, NY 14068
Birthday-June 17th
(Linda Robinson)



Ora Ganschow

1334 Moll Street, North Tonawanda NY 14120

Birthday-February 22

(Doris Matheis)

Diane Pieper

131 Homestead Dr.

N. Tonawanda, NY 14120

Diane's Birthday-January 14th

(Carol Wilczak)



Gerald Treichler

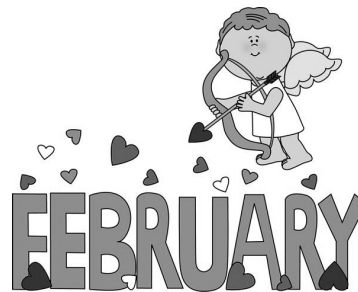
Wheatfield Commons

3920 Forest Parkway Rm# 103

North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Birthday-March 8th

(Linda Jasulevich)



If you wish to be on the Ladies Guild shut-in list please contact Linda Robinson at 716-622-1255.

Operation Christmas Child-THANK YOU!!!!



A very special THANK YOU to everyone for your AMAZING contributions to Operation Christmas Child this year, and to those that came to help fill the boxes. Your generosity allowed us to put together 90 boxes for children that would otherwise not have the items that we filled them with, the toys, hygiene products, and school supplies.

We were also able to send \$700 toward the \$10 donation of the collecting, processing and shipping costs requested for each box. The boxes get sent to very remote locations across the world, many of which are accessible only by loading the boxes on camels to get them to where they are going. In addition, the donations help to provide ministry materials for each box that includes The Greatest Gift Gospel Booklet. More information will be coming soon on this very special part of Operation Christmas Child and Samaritan's Purse.

What a blessing to be able to provide not only physical items to children, but also the greatest gift they could ever receive, that of knowing Jesus and the most amazing gift that He gave us all!

As we look toward next year with Operation Christmas Child, please note that the Christmas Tree donation jar will remain in the narthex to take donations year-round. You can also drop off any items directly to Kim Binkley.

There will be more communications and opportunities to help grow this very special outreach program, including fundraisers and more events for our St. Matthew family to help be a blessing to other families around the world.

Please contact Kim Binkley with any questions or concerns at 716-909-6310, or via email at kbink1789@roadrunner.com.

THANK YOU AGAIN!!!



If you would like to have a poem, joke or thought in the communicator please contact the office at 716-692-6862 or email to office@stmatthewlutheran.net.

ALTAR GUILD

*"Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet
and a Light unto my path"*

Psalm 119:105

LITURGICAL COLORS FOR JANUARY

White: means light, purity, joy
and glory.

Green: symbolizes the hope of
eternal life.

CAPTAIN: Ellen Graf*
Carol Wilczak
Lisa Ellman
Linda Robinson

LIURGICAL COLORS FOR FEBRUARY



Green: symbolizes the hope of
eternal life.

White: means light, purity, joy
and glory.

Violet: is the color of sorrow
and suffering.

CAPTAIN: Dottie Lemke*
Linda Pascucci
Toni Durick
Sharon Lemke



ALTAR GUILD CARD RACK

Don't forget to stop at the card
rack in the narthex to pick out a
card for that "special" person or
event. Save a trip to the store,
support the Altar Guild.

Thank you



ST. MATTHEW YCC - YOUNG CHRISTIANS FOR CHRIST

Regularly 6pm to 8pm every 2nd and 4th Saturdays , Breanna Gerner,
Youth Director – (716) 525-6953, bgerner22@gmail.com

Please note we will be meeting on Saturdays till Spring

January 13th – Ice Cream Party!

What is a better way to start off the New Year than with ICE CREAM?! Bring a topping of your choice and let's eat!

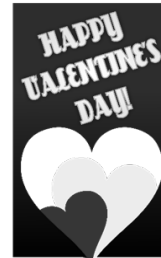


January 22nd – Bible Jeopardy

Fan Favorite! Face off in a game of bible jeopardy, hit the buzzer first to get a chance to answer the question. Get it wrong and the opposing team will get a chance to steal the points!

February 10th – Sledding!! @ 12pm

We will meet in the church parking lot by 11:45 so that we can leave by noon. I will bring snacks and water but there is also an option to buy food for purchase at the sledding hill. Bring your own sled, I'll have a few extras, but I recommend bringing your own!



Please let Ms Breanna know availability by **Feb 5th**

Back up date - March 16 - If there is no natural snow on the hill we will be using our can fund to go to a tubing park instead on March 16th. ***Weather Permitting***

24th - *no YCC* Ms. Breanna will be traveling for work

St. Matthew



UPDATE

St. Matthew Food Pantry does not need any donations at this time. We are asking that you donate to the North Tonawanda. They are looking for the items listed below. You can bring them in and place them in the blue tote in the Quilting room. If you know of a neighbor, friend or family in need, please contact the church office at 716-692-6862. Thank you.

THE NORTH TONAWANDA FOOD PANTRY

**Is open 8:30am 12:30pm Mon-Fri
for deliveries on 100 Ridge Street, NT,
716-692-8552**

The North Tonawanda Food Pantry is need of **CLEANING SUPPLIES**. They are always in need of shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes and deodorant (personal care items). Thank you for your generosity.

875 Eggert Drive North Tonawanda, New York 14120

Church Office: 716-692-6862

office@stmathewelutheran.net

Fax: 716-692-0242

