

THE COMMUNICATOR

MARCH/APRIL

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

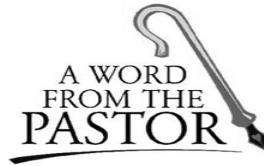
St. Matthew Lutheran Church Fax# 716-692-0242

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

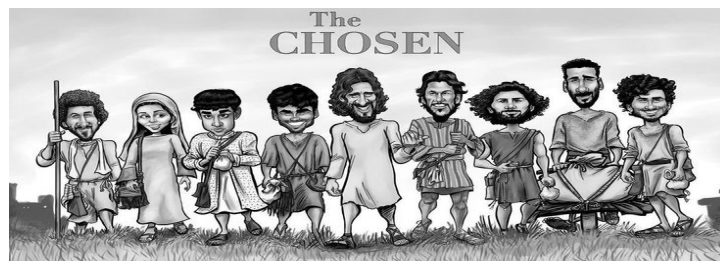
Contact the office at St. Matthew Lutheran Church at

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 on

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

Palm Sunday service, March 24th at 9:15am

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

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

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



President's Report



MEN'S RETREAT

As is typical this time of year, the Lutheran Hour Ministries – Eastern District Men's Retreat plans are settled and the registration period is open. This year's topic will be "Enriching your prayer life and relationship with the Lord". Registration forms are available. I encourage any of the men in the congregation to consider attending. You can attend for just the day on Saturday, or stay over in one of the many cabin options available. Please see the registration form for more details. Even men who are not members of an LCMS church are welcome, so you can invite a friend. These retreats are always informative and fun, and are a good chance to get away and recharge your faith. If anyone wants a ride or carpool to this event, or would like to take others, contact Michele in the church office and we will try to connect people with rides.



**Don't forget to direct
Choice Dollars®**

If you are a Thrivent member, don't forget to allocate any Thrivent Dollars you may have to allocate from 2023. You only have until March 31st to designate them. Choice Dollars are your way of directing some of the money Thrivent sets aside for charity. You can do this by phone or online. See notices in the bulletin for details. Thrivent will designate any unallocated funds in the 2023 Choice Dollars program to organizations they choose.



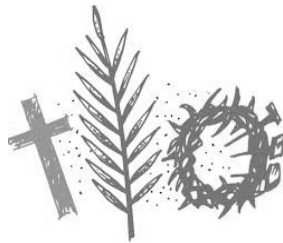
I am happy to report that the Ladies Guild is planning on the Easter Breakfast for this year. It has been a few years since we gathered for this, and it is good to see it is back. The Board of Fellowship is still hoping to host a Farmer's Breakfast sometime later in the spring. Keep an eye out for details.



Please continue to share your photos for the Thanksgiving service. It's never too early to send pictures. I have received a few already, and I will continue to accumulate them throughout the year. Send your pictures to wbundy@daemen.edu. Remember, when sending photos, send the original and do not reduce the size. Ask me for help if you are having trouble with this.

Bill Bundy

President



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 **“NO MARCH MEETING”**

We will be continuing our Lenten Dinners through Wednesday, March 20th. And we look forward to seeing more of our members take advantage of dining with us before attending the weekly Lenten Services. Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way. We have had fun working together to serve you.

MENU FOR LENTEN SUPPERS AT 5PM EACH WEDNESDAY
DURING LENTEN.

The 6th-Chef salad, homemade chicken chowder and pie

The 13th-Chef salad, Joe's chili and ice cream.

The 20th-Chef salad, pizza and cake/bars.

Thank you to everyone who attended our February Tasting Party meeting. It was great to have so many tasty dishes to try out. We certainly have very creative cooks.

MARCH 31ST



We will be hosting Easter Breakfast before our Easter Festival Worship Service.

We are looking for donations of:

Baked goods; Colored hard-boiled Easter Eggs.

*If you are able to help, we will be setting the tables on Good Friday following the evening worship service.

*Also, we will be preparing food items to serve on Saturday morning, March 30th @ 9:00 a.m.

We could use your help putting together our dishes for Easter morning. Many hands make the process go quickly.

Thank you, Linda Robinson, Breakfast Chairman

APRIL 12, 2024
APRIL GUILD MEETING



SPEAKER: KRISTEN JORG

She will fill us in on the details of the most recent prayer vigil.

COMMITTEE: Gloria Haeseler, Sandy Moesch,
Carol Wilczak, Linda Pascucci,
Rachel Behnke, and Kim Binkley

KITCHEN SHOWER TIME:

The following are suggestions needed to restock our kitchen:

Ove' Glove pot holders; Paper Towels;
Coffee (DeCaf & Regular); Sandwich bags;
Quart Storage bags; Quart Freezer bags;
Snack bags; and Kleenex



"ELECTION OF OFFICERS"

ST. CATHARINES GUILD DAY

Saturday, April 13th*



*Thank you to the members of our Ladies Guild & Altar Guild for pitching in to make it possible for Pastor Jorg to have his new "hot wheels" scooter to get around more easily. Please read "The Big Chair Race" in this Communicator.

March Serving Schedule

	March 3rd* & 6th	March 10th & 13th	March 17th* & 20th	March 24th Palm Sunday & Maundy Thursday	March 29th Good Friday	March 31st Easter
ELDERS	Pete Jaenecke Bill Olczak	Dan Wolf Joe Durick	Craig Heigl Rob Pidanick	Siggy Barke John Patton	Pete Jaenecke Bill Olczak	Dan Wolf Joe Durick
VESTRYMEN CAPTAINS	Art Marshall Paul Schultz	Gary Majewski Joe Siegmann	James Fretthold Bill Bundy	Tom Hromowyk	Art Marshall Paul Schultz	Gary Majewski Joe Siegmann
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	Jeff Binkley Charles Jaenecke Keith Schumacher	Chris Reischel Jeff Reischel Dave Wendt
COUNTING TEAM	Team 4 Wendy Binkley Sue Ridge Florence Lindaman	Team 5 Jeffrey Binkley Megan Goodwin Mike & Terry Lance	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 Benedyczak
9:15AM GREETERS	M/M Patton	Linda Robinson	Toni Durrick Linda Pascucci	Joe Durick		Debbie Kenney
SARB SERVERS	(Mary Sansone)* Lisa Ellman	(Carol Wilczak)* Sandy Patton	(Linda Robinson)* Sheryl Essenburg	NO SARB		NO SARB

April Serving Schedule

	April 7th*	April 14th	April 21st	April 28th
ELDERS	Craig Heigl Rob Pidantick	Siggy Barke John Patton	Pete Jaenecke Bill Olczak	Dan Wolf Joe Durick
VESTRYMEN CAPTAINS	James Fretthold Bill Bundy	Tom Hromowyk	Art Marshall Paul Schultz	Gary Majewski Joe Siegmann
USHERS	Dave Urtel Tank Jorg Tim Jorg	Eric Berg Justin Hromowyk Mark Lemke	Jeff Binkley Charles Jaenecke Keith Schurmacher	Chris Reischel Jeff Reischel Dave Wendt
COUNTING TEAM	Team 4 Wendy Binkley Sue Ridge Florence Lindaman	Team 5 Jeffrey Binkley Megan Goodwin Mike & Terry Lance	Team 6 Bill & Linda Olczak Leslie Stolzenfels Karen Horrigan	Team 1 Leslie Stolzenfels Dale & Donna Heiser Karen Horrigan
9:15AM GREETERS	M/M Stapar	Toni Durick Linda Pascucci	Carol Wilczak	M/M Siggy Barke
SARB SERVERS	(Debbie Hromowyk)* Sandy Moesch	(Mary Sansone)* Sharon Engler	(Carol Wilczak)* Lisa Ellman	(Linda Robinson)* Sandy Patton

He Did This For Me?

Oh my precious Savior
Who gave Your life for me
Just to think You suffered so
As they hung You on the tree.

Oh the beatings and the mocking
And the blood You had to shed
And the crown of thorns that were
Jammed on such a Holy head.

How can I ever thank you
You have done so much for me
I am humbled and so heartbroken
And as thankful as I can be.

And all You ask in return
Is just that I believe
That You are God's only Son a
And only to You I should cleave.



Submitted by Dottie Lemke



Lindsay Ann Bozek 3/5

Dottie Lemke 3/7

Nancy Meyenhofer 3/21

Toni Durick 3/22

Emily Thursam 4/8
Frank McCullough 4/9
Linda Robinson 4/13



Happy Anniversary

Richard & Sharon Engler 4/3


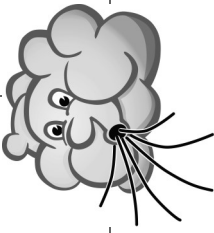


John & Eleanor Grichen 4/4

Richard & Lynne Siegmann 4/26




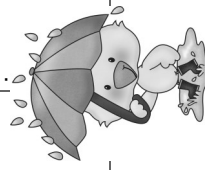
If you would like to have your birthday listed in the communicator please see Gloria Haeseler or stop by the office for more information.

March 2024

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:15am Worship Service w/ Communion 10:30-Bible Study 10:30-Sunday School SARB	4	5 	6 5:45 Choir rehearsal 6:00 Confir. 7:00 Lenten Service	7 6:30 Elders Meeting	8	9
10 Day light saving time 9:15am Worship Service 10:30-Bible Study 10:30-Sunday School SARB	11	12 10am-Bible Brunch 6:30pm Church Council Mtg 7:00pm Mid-point Rally.	13 5:45 Choir rehearsal 6:00 Confir. 7:00 Lenten Service	14	15 	16 6pm-YCC 
17 9:15 am Worship Service w/ Communion Confirmation Sunday SARB	18	19	20 5:45 Choir rehearsal 7:00 Lenten Service	21		
24 Palm Sunday 9:15am Worship Service 10:30am Sunday School 31 EASTER BREAKFAST Easter Sunday Service at 9:30am w/Communion	25 	26	27 5:45 Choir rehearsal	28 7:00 Maundy Thursday Ser. w/ Comm.	29 7:00 Good Friday Ser.	30 6pm-YCC

April 2024 St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> 	2	3	4	5	6	5pm Victory Bash
<p>7</p> <p>9:15am Worship Service w/ Communion 10:30 Sunday School SARB</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:10am Bible Brunch 6:30 Church Council</p>	<p>10</p> <p>5:45 Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>11</p> 	<p>12 noon-Ladies Guild Mtg.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>St. Catherine Day 6pm-YCC</p>	
<p>14</p> <p>9:15 am Worship Service 10:30 Sunday school SARB</p>	15	16	17	18	19	20
<p>21</p> <p>9:15am Worship Service w/ Communion 10:30 Sunday School SARB</p>	<p>22</p> <p>23</p> 	<p>24</p> <p>5:45 Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>25</p> 		<p>27</p> <p>6pm-YCC</p>	
<p>28</p> <p>9:15am Worship Service 10:30 Sunday School SARB</p>	29	30				

LIFE CORNER



AUTHOR OF LIFE

“He was the source of life, and that life was the light for humanity”.
John 1:4

From the moment God breathed into the dust He had formed in His hands, we have had a Father. A perfect Father. He imagined us and created us each with a purpose. He numbered the hairs on our heads and the days of our lives. And He wastes nothing. Even the time we waste is not wasted by God. Every second we spend in the womb has its job and even every second of our passing into heaven has its job.

As creations of God, we know He is in control of all these things and we strive to walk in His ways. Especially when it comes to life.

Join us in supporting the life God has created by standing in peaceful prayer at the point of decision for someone who is afraid. We bring no judgement, no argument, no guilt. What we offer is Christ's love, hope, help, and healing for not only those about to make a life decision for a child, but for those who work interferes with God's plans, and those who have already walked through those doors.

Join us by going to www.40daysforlife.com and searching for the North Tonawanda site and signing up to pray one hour a week to keep God's beautiful creations from being wasted. Your time won't be.

40 Days for Life runs through Palm Sunday, March 24th.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, 3/12 7 pm

Midpoint Rally with Ramona Trevino,
Former Planned Parenthood manager and current Outreach Director
for 40 Days for Life

Saturday, 4/6 5 pm

Victory Bash Chicken Dinner and potluck sides with H.I.S. Band
acoustic performance

Tickets are free, but seats must be reserved for both events. Call
Kristen at 231-286-8685 to reserve.

Lutherans for Life

Meets at First Trinity every other Monday at 5:45. Please join us in
working to support life in every aspect of need from birth to natural
death and all aspects in between.

Any questions call Kristen at 231-286-8685



It is with great sadness, but confident joy the family of **Ora Ganschow** announces her passing on January 10, 2024. The funeral Service was held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at St. Matthew Lutheran Church. Interment was in Clarence. Officiant's Pastor Jorg and Pastor Kenneth Craig.

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

Elderwood Rehab Rm# 416B
2600 Niagara Falls Blvd, 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)



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
(Joe Durick)



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



THE BIG CHAIR RACE



The day had finally arrived for St. Matthew's really big race. We decided that our church parking lot was just the perfect place. **It** was a beautiful day for racing, not a rain cloud in the sky. The crowds were all gathering there and I can definitely tell you why.

It was Pastor and Terry each in their motorized chair.

The excitement and anticipation could be found everywhere.

Pastor had his game face and Terry had a big smile.

It wouldn't be a very long race, I'd say less than a 1/2 a mile.

Well, they both lined up at one end ready to begin the race.

I looked over at Terry again with that big smile on her face.

They both revved up their motors and knew it soon would start.

What excitement you could feel, it brought
palpations to your heart.

Someone said there they go. The race had begun.

They took off like a bat. Just who would be the one?

I looked at Pastor's face once more. He never had even a grin.

He wanted to win this race, he felt it deep within.

But there was Terry, with that big smile on her face.

She wanted to win for sure, but to her it was only a simple race.

Their chairs were rolling down the lot so fast. But mostly neck
and neck. When all of a sudden Terry took off and
Pastor said "What the heck"???

Terry got to the finish line first. Smiling all the way. When asked
how she did it, I think this is what she would say.....

The moral of my story is if you want to win the race, You just
have to remember always to wear a big smile upon your face.

Submitted by Dottie Lemke

ALTAR GUILD

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

Psalm 119:105

LITURGICAL COLORS FOR MARCH

Violet: is the color of sorrow
and suffering

Red: indicates charity, life, and
the presence of the Holy Spirit

CAPTAIN: Mary Sansone*
Gloria Haeseler



LITURGICAL COLORS FOR APRIL

White: means light, purity, joy
and glory.

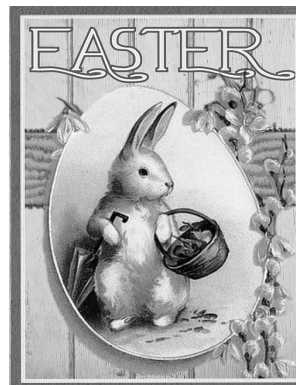
CAPTAIN: Donna Hutton*
Florence Lindeman
Doris Matheis



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

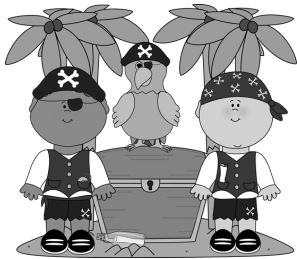
*****All Saturday Meetings*****

March-16th - Sledding/Tubing

If there is snow we will go sledding at Chestnut Ridge Park at noon. If there is no snow, and a tubing park is open, we will be using our can fund to go tubing! Will update all parents as the date gets closer.

30th - Easter Egg Hunt

Join us for an egg hunt around the building!
Feel free to bring your own basket/bag, optional.

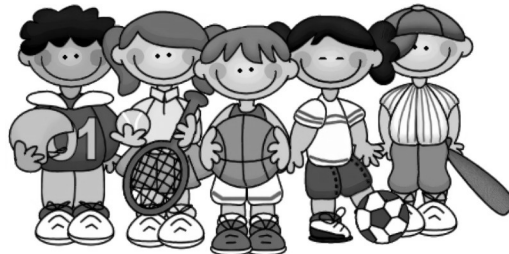


April-13th -Pirate Night

We will spend the evening trying to steal the pirate's treasure at the bottom of his ship. Join your matey's aboard and be as sneaky as possible to win!

27th - Team Games

Ladderball, Bocce ball (weather permitting), Wiffle ball, and Kan Jam!
Fun activities to play with friends and enjoy some friendly competition.



St. Matthew



UPDATE

St. Matthew Food Pantry has a great need for **ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS**. Please place the items in the **bushel basket in the narthex**. 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 in need of canned sweet potatoes, canned vegetables, cake mixes. 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

