

THE COMMUNICATOR

MAY/JUNE 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 Ken Craig 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: 716-946-5725

Home: 716-6931373

E-mail: pastorklc@verizon.net



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

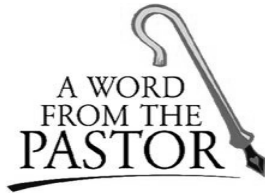
St. Matthew Lutheran Church Fax# 716-692-0242

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



Dear Members of St. Matthew...

On April eight I'd be willing to wager that most if not all of you were outside wearing odd dark glasses looking up into the sky watching the solar eclipse. While I was doing just that the Bible verse that came to mind was... "Let there be light", its amazing that when our light goes away just how dark it can be... I wonder if that's why light is so prominent in the scriptures. Light is one of the first things God created, and it is a common theme in the Old Testament. And as for the New Testament, Jesus refers to light quite often, lets look at John's Gospel, throughout his work he refers to light, and Jesus uses it to describe Himself... John 1:3 "In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it." Jesus' forerunner, John the Baptist gave witness to the Light, in John 8:12 Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."



Oh, how safe we feel walking around a dark house when our electric goes out, how we usually know exactly where our flashlight is located, yet we take cautious steps to find it, and once it is switched on, we walk with confidence and feel more secure. Just like the flashlight, we walk in confidence while the light of the world is with us, when Christ is illuminating our path, we trust what we see, where we are going and know we are safe, its when we ignore our light that we stumble and are hesitant, unsure, and cautious. Don't let the light of Christ go dim on you, always walk in the light of our Savior.

God was a light to Israel in the wilderness, (Ex. 13), and He is “a light to our path and light for our feet” (Ps 119:105). God has and will continue to provide His light for all who follow Him, yet we all know someone who is walking in a darkness of their own creation, assist them in finding the true light, lead them to the scriptures, the Light of life. God wants all His creation to enjoy His gifts in this life and the next, we can help those in darkness, we are called to help, to lead them to the light of life. “I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.” John 12:46

God’s blessings to you all, may God continue to light your paths, and be your guiding light in your life all your days.

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

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Blaine



All of the Jorgs would like to thank our dear congregation for your love and support through Pastor’s stroke and recovery. You have fed us, prayed us through, and worked diligently to keep our family and this church able. Thank God for all of you!

May He bless St. Matthew tenfold.
God is good, even on the hard days!



It has been brought to my attention that there is some confusion about our situation at St Matthew, with Pastor Blaine's health, and our association with Pastor Craig. We rushed to put together a Voter's meeting in March because we were unsure of how Pastor Blaine's recovery would go and whether or not he would even be able return as a full time pastor. In the rush, we just asked for your permission to move forward in planning to care for our church. There were a lot of details that all depended on Pastor Blaine's recovery. I am sure we are all happy that Pastor Blaine has been able to return to service. His recovery is nothing short of a miracle. This is an answer to prayers and we continue to pray for continued improvement and health. I would like to clear up a couple initial concerns.

At the meeting in March, we incorrectly reported that Pastor Craig was already receiving \$1,400 per month for visitations. That amount was questioned and so we went back to take a closer look. The last payment to Pastor Craig was \$1,400, but was actually for 3 months. Pastor Craig has been receiving about \$450 per month for visitations. Some months are less, others are more, based on needs such as hospital visits, funerals and people that are close to death. Pastor Blaine has been unable to make many home visits due to mobility issues and illness, and it was important to take care of our members, so the Elders and Pastor Blaine requested the help of Pastor Craig. Part of those visits are budgeted under guest pastors, but that budget line did not anticipate the continued need for the extra assistance. It looks like we will need Pastor Craig's assistance for visitations for a while, but will not need him to fill in for the other pastoral duties. This will help limit the impact on the budget.

Please, if you have any questions or concerns, let us know. We do not mind answering questions and want you to be aware of everything that is happening in the congregation. Sometimes we may not have an answer right away, but that does not mean we don't want you to know. In addition to getting answers to you, it is just as important to have the correct answer. It is okay to email us or call the church office, and somebody can get back you you.



We will have a regular Voter's meeting on May 19th. These meetings have been fairly short in recent years, so there is time to answer additional questions. Please plan on attending meetings when they are scheduled. This is the best time to find out what is happening in the church.



The Ladies Guild is planning a Country Breakfast on Saturday, May 18th to assist with the additional pastoral expenses. There is also the possibility of a garage sale/thrift sale on that same day. Look in this communicator and watch the bulletin for additional details.

Remember that the Men's Retreat at Pioneer on the Lake is fast approaching May 31 – June 2, and the deadline to register is May 17th. See other areas of the communicator for additional information. Also, our Church Picnic is scheduled for June 9th. The picnic is always a lot of fun, and we encourage you to spend the afternoon visiting. People who arrived early to setup and prepare food may be doing some clean up, but everything will be left open for a while, and there is no rush to leave. Enjoy the time of fun and fellowship outdoors.



MEN'S RETREAT

Please continue to share your photos for the Thanksgiving service. It's never too early to send pictures. 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

LADIES GUILD NEWS & NOTES

MAY & JUNE 2024

It's hard to believe that here we are planning for our May & June events which will wrap up our work year for Ladies Guild! Seems like we were just planning on getting things underway for last Fall.



I would like to extend my Thanks to everyone who helped with our Lenten Dinner Caribbean Children's Foundation Mission Project. Unfortunately, we had to cut short our dinners due to circumstances beyond our control. We are so glad to see that Pastor Jorg has been blessed with the Lord's healing grace and is on his way to recovery. Even though we did not reach our \$900 goal we were able to raise \$302.00 toward that goal. Thank You again, Linda Robinson



We would also like to thank all who attended our Easter Continental Breakfast. We found ourselves shifting gears from a full-fledged Easter Breakfast due to worship service time constraints. But we did have a nice response.

THERE IS NO MAY MEETING

Just because there is no May meeting doesn't mean that we are not at work for our church. **The Guild will be hosting a "COUNTRY BREAK-FAST" on Saturday, May 18th** as a fundraiser to help defray some of the expenses that our church is facing for additional pastoral coverage as Pastor Jorg recovers.

Details to follow on a separate page

JUNE GUILD MEETING

Friday, June 14, 2024

2:00 P.M.

PROGRAM:

PREPLANNING YOUR FINAL WISHES

SPEAKER: LISA FRETTHOLD HANSSON

COMMITTEE: Janice Wiech, Mary Sansone, Dottie Lemke, Toni
Durick,
Sharon Lemke, Sheryl Essenburg

Please bring a friend and join us for an enlightening talk with Lisa.



ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Will be held at the June meeting.

LADIES GUILD RETREAT

SATURDAY, JUNE 22ND

9:00 A.M. – 1 P.M.

LOCATION: The Parsonage
394 Rosebrock, N. Tonawanda

TOPIC: "HEAVEN"

PRESENTED by Ellen Graf & Dottie Lemke

Bring a dish to pass for Lunch; your bibles; and lawn chairs



And you are encouraged to bring a friend!

May Serving Schedule

	May 5th*	May 12th Mothers Day	May 19th*	May 26th
ELDERS	Craig Heigl Rob Pidanic	Siggy Barke John Patton	Pete Jaenecke Bill Olczak	Dan Wolf Joe Durick
VESTRYMEN CAPTAINS	James Fretthold Bill Bundy	Tom Hromowyk	Art Marshall Paul Schultz	Dave Wendt Joe Siegmann
USHERS	Dave Urtel Tank Jorg Tim Jorg	Eric Berg Justin Hromowyk Mark Lenke	Jeff Binkley Charles Jaenecke Keith Schumacher	Chris Reischel Jeff Reischel Dave Wendt
COUNTING TEAM	Team 2 Bill Bundy Paul Schultz	Team 6 Bill & Linda Olczak Leslie Stolzenfels Karen Horrigan	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	(Debbie Hromowyk)*	(Mary Sansone)*	(Carol Wilczak)*	NO SARB
SERVERS	Sheryl Essenburg	Sandy Moesch	Sharon Engler	

June Serving Schedule

	June 2nd*	June 9th	June 16th* Fathers Day	June 23rd	June 30th
ELDERS	Craig Heigl Rob Pidanick	Siggy Barke John Patton	Pete Jaenecke Bill Olczak	Dan Wolf Joe Durick	Craig Heigl Rob Pidanick
VESTRYMEN CAPTAINS	James Fretthold Bill Bundy	Tom Hromowyk	Art Marshall Paul Schultz	Dave Wendt Joe Siegmann	James Fretthold Bill Bundy
USHERS	Dave Urtel Tank Jorg Tim Jorg	Eric Berg Justin Hromowyk Mark Lemke	Jeff Binkley Charles Jaenecke Keith Schumacher	Chris Reischel Jeff Reischel Dave Wendt	Dave Urtel Tank Jorg Tim Jorg
COUNTING TEAM	Team 3 Jolie Giardino Miriam MM Paula Benedyszak	Team 1 Leslie Stolzenfels Dale & Donna Heiser Karen Horriga	Team 2 Bill Bundy Paul Schultz	Team 3 Jolie Giardino Miriam MM Paula Benedyszak	Team 4 Wendy Binkley Sue Ridge Florence Lindaman
9:15AM GREETERS	M/M Stapar	Toni Durick Linda Pascucci	Carol Wilczak	M/M Siggy Barke	Debbie Kenney
SARB SERVERS	(Linda Robinson)* Sandy Patton (TBD)	HAVE	A	GREAT	SUMMER!

Confirmation Class



The Confirmation Class of 2024 will be Confirmed on
Sunday, May 5, 2024

A reception was held after the service
to celebrate this Christian milestone.

The confirmands are:

Matthew Cake,

Jayden Henderson,

Kyler Henderson,

Lily Jorg,

Hunter Knoell,

Hannah Koepsell,

Skylar-Rose Smith



BIRTHDAYS

Tank Jorg 5/7

David Urtel 5/19

BIRTHDAYS IN



Breanna Gerner 6/1

Mikala Thursam 6/5

Florence Lindaman 6/9

Lily Jorg 6/16

Priscilla Mattheus 6/17

Joan Baroudi 6/22

Ellen Graff 6/25

Richard Engler 6/25

Jeff Reischel 6/27



William & Carol Bundy 5/5

William & Patricia Doebler 5/5

Tim & Tamara Walters 5/12

Thomas & Ann Marie Kromer 5/15

Dale & Donna Heiser 5/18

Tom & Debbie Hromowyk 5/20

Jesse & Jenna Knapp 6/7





Earl & Ellen Graf 6/20

Robert & Allison Carroll 6/24



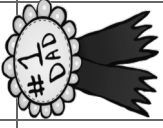
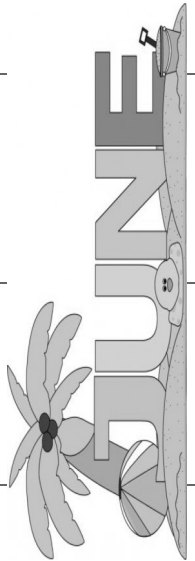
If you would like to have your birthday listed in the communicator please see Gloria Haeseler or stop by the office for more information.

May 2024

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	SPRING					
5 9:15 am Worship Service w/ Communion Confirmation SARB	6 	7	8 6:00 Choir re- hearsal	9 	10	11
12 MOTHERS DAY 9:15 am Worship Service SARB	13	14 10am-Bible Brunch 6:30pm Church Council Mtg	15 6:00 Choir re- hearsal	16	17	18 8:30am- Country Breakfast 
19 VOTERS MEETING 9:15 am Worship Service w/ Communion SARB 6:00pm-YCC	20	21	22 6:00 Choir re- hearsal	23	24	
26 9:15 am Worship Service NO SARB 6:00pm-YCC	27	28	29 6:00 Choir re- hearsal	30	31 Mens Retreat weekend 	

June 2024 St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:15 am Worship Service w/Communion SARB	3	4	5 6:00 Choir rehearsal	6 6:30 Elders Meeting	7	8
9 CHURCH PICNIC—YCC 11:00am Worship Service	11 Church Picnic 	11 11:30am-Bible Brunch Picnic 6:30 Church Council	12 6:00 Choir rehearsal	13	14 2:00pm-Ladies Guild Meeting	
16 FATHERS DAY 9:15 am Worship Service w/ Communion	18 #1 DAD 	19 6:00 Choir rehearsal	20	20	21	22 9:00am-Ladies Guild Retreat
23 9:15 am Worship Service	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 9:15 am Worship Service						

LIFE CORNER

2024 NATIONAL WALK FOR LIFE WEEKEND



GET INSPIRED... Online Rally-Friday, May 3-7:00pm-8:00pm

To Act... In-Person Walk-Saturday, May 4 9:00am-12:00pm

REGISTER AT: COMPASSCAREWALK.COM

GOAL: Save 2x the number of women and babies from abortion in America's abortion capital, N.Y. in 2024 by raising \$1,000,000.

Publicly express your pro-life passion through the Walk for Life Weekend, declaring to the world the equal value of every human life, made in the image of God.

**BY PARTICIPATING IN THE
WALK FOR LIFE WEEKEND YOU...**

Raise awareness about the equal value of all people

Plus

Save 2x the women and babies from abortion by raising \$1M.

“Master, you entrusted **two talents** to me. See, I have gained **two more talents**”. His master said to him, “**Well done...** enter into the joy of your master.”

Matt 25:22-23

Register at:

2x.LIFE

WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS

To The Decorating Committee and congregation of St. Matthew Lutheran Church:

After serving in the Lord's house as members of the decorating committee for approximately the last 15 years, we feel we have exhausted our creative ability to come up with unique settings for the various holidays.

We have decided to retire at the end of this Easter holiday season. We also believe it's time to make room for others to experience the joy and friendships that we have experienced in being part of this wonderful group.

If there is anyone interested in joining the decorating committee, we would definitely be willing to stay long enough to help you transition into the group. If you have any questions about the Decorating Committee you may call Sue Jaenecke at (716) 213-8015.

Signed,

Sue Jaenecki, Pete Jaenecki,

Becky Heigl, Craig Heigl



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

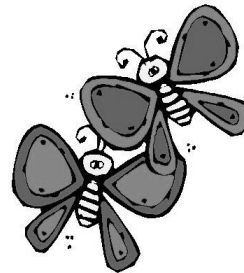
Elderwood @ Wheatfield Rm# 219
2600 Niagara Falls Blvd. Niagara Falls, NY
14304
Williams Birthday-August-3rd
Patricia's Birthday-January 6th
Anniversary-May 5th
(Ellen Graf)

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.

St. Matthew YCC - Young Christians for Christ

Regular Meetings 6pm to 8pm unless stated otherwise.

**Breanna Gerner, Youth Director – (716) 525-6953,
bgerner22@gmail.com**

Back to Sunday meetings for May & June

May will be the 3rd & 4th Sunday due to Mothers day



May-19th- Yard Game Night!

Bean bag toss, Kan Jam, and Lawn Toss are just a few of the games we will have. If it's nice enough we will play outside!

May-26th - Scavenger Hunt

Hunt around the building for clues that lead to treasure!! Since we didn't have many in attendance for our last hunt, we will play in teams to see who can figure out all the clues first!



June-9th-Church Picnic - Slip-n-slide kickball

Annual event to take place after our outdoor service and church picnic. Always a ton of fun! Usually starts around 1/1:30pm and ends whenever everyone is tuckered out.



ALTAR GUILD

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

Psalm 119:105

LITURGICAL COLORS FOR MAY

White: means light, purity, joy
and glory.

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

CAPTAIN: Sharon Engler*
Elenor Grichen
Paula Benedyczak



LIURGICAL COLORS FOR JUNE

GREEN: symbolizes the hope
of eternal life.

CAPTAIN: Linda Jasulevich*
Gayle Reischel
Jan Weich
Rachel Behnke

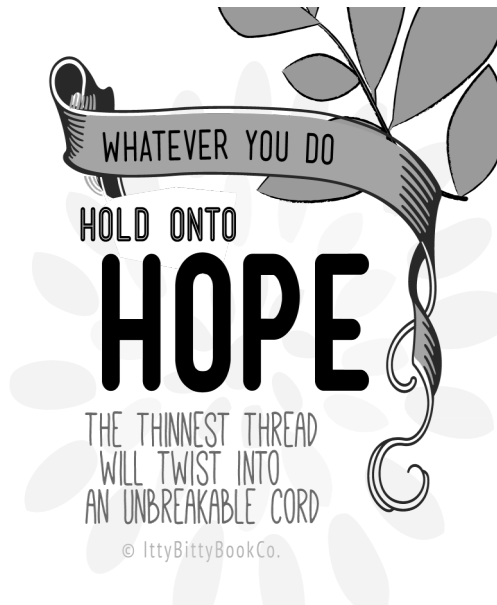


ALTAR GUILD CARD RACK

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

FOOD PANTRY



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 need **canned fruit, box potatoes or boxed pasta and breakfast bars**. They are always in need of shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes and deodorant (personal care items). Thank you for your generosity.