

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

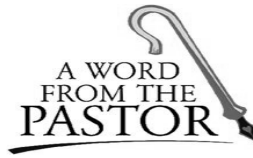
St. Matthew Lutheran Church Fax# 716-692-0242

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...

Hold on tight everyone, this months letter is long. Actually I am sending you all a message that was told by Pastor Doecker at a youth retreat I attended many years ago. I will be writing it as it was told, and it will be in the first person, but remember, I was told this, it didn't happen to me, but I think we all need this reminder, so here we go...

I was on my way to a youth conference in California some time ago where I was the key speaker. My plane landed and I was waiting for my ride at the baggage pick-up. After a little while a tall unshaven twenty-one year old who looked like Shaggy from Scooby Doo walked up to me and asked, "Are you Pastor Doecker?" I looked him up and down, a bit confused and replied that I was. He lead me to his van and after loading my luggage I had a seat in the front of his van. To say I had a seat, well I sat in the front where a seat should be, but it wasn't and so I sat on the floor of the van with my back against the glovebox and looked up to "Shaggy". He was about six feet one and had a plastic spoon on a rope necklace around his neck. It was going to be a long ride to the hotel so we started to talk of many things. At one point I asked what part of the youth team he worked with. He advised me that he goes into the red light district of his city and saves young men from prostitution. As my eyes got big I heard this account from him.

The last time my partner and I went into a very seedy bar and sat at the bar awaiting and looking for someone to talk to. As we waited I started a conversation with the young man of twenty two next to me, "Do you come here often?" I asked, and with out looking to me he responded, "I'm not working tonight, take it somewhere else", after some small talk I discovered that he had been kicked out of his house when he came out as gay to his parents, and hasn't talked to them since, and now he prostitutes himself to make money. We continued to talk and I witnessed to him for some time to the point where there at the bar in this crowded club, I held his hand and prayed for him. When I was finished, he asked if he should call his folks, so I walked outside with him and my partner followed. He used his cell phone to call, as the conversation started he walked slightly away and in circles talking to his parents. After some time he returned to where I was standing and with tears in his eyes he said, "They want me to come home." That night we scheduled a bus ride home for him and I gave him some money for his trip. I got to tell you that seeing forgiveness in action can be powerful.

As I looked up at this young man driving the van I realized that I the teacher has become the student. And I was being taught by Shaggy, I was truly humbled in that van and realized myself how important forgiveness is and the great forgiveness Christ has given us. I then looked at Shaggy and asked him why he had a spoon necklace and what the meaning behind it was. He responded:

Well, when you look into the drawer with all the silverware in it you realize something. Knives are for cutting, forks are for stabbing, but a spoon is for serving. This is a reminder that we as God's children are to be servants to all.

Dear brothers and sisters of St. Matthew, we too are to be servants, Jesus tells us that He didn't come to be served, but to serve, and that the greatest of us should be the servant of all. As we continue through this beautiful thing called life, serve each other in joy, be humble and listen to others. You never know how God is going to use you or who He is going to put in your path as His representative. Be spoons my friends.

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

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Blaine





At our May Voters Meeting, concerns were brought up about major repairs needed throughout our facility. The boiler pump has been repaired and our parking lot is probably repaired and sealed as you are reading this. There is a little bit of good news on the school roof. We found a reputable company that is able to apply a stabilizing layer of foam and a granule top layer to the roof that we expect will sustain the roof for at least 15 years, and at about 45% of the cost. (\$89,000) As of this writing, we expect our special voters meeting on June 23rd to approve this. There is still some major items around the property, and we will need to replenish our capital improvement fund, but these are some big projects that were urgent and are good to have done.



Pastor Blaine is scheduled to have his back surgery in mid-July. He was hoping to avoid the surgery due to the brain bleed earlier this year, but the pain has been just too great, and it seems this is the only option. Please pray the the surgery and recovery goes well so he can return to us in better condition. Recovery will take time, and we will have substitute pastors where we can.

As life changes around our church, life changes in our personal lives as well. Our Vice President, Craig Heigl and his wife Becky, are both retired now and plan to start traveling. Craig has already let the church council know that he will be stepping away from his position this fall. While he will help us out where he can, this will still leave a serious hole in our leadership team. We really need somebody to help out. We have been without a recording secretary since I took over the position of President, and now we need a Vice President. If we can fill just ONE of these positions, it will be a great help, but filling both of them would be wonderful.

If you would like to know more about these positions, or others, see me or any of the council members. **Many hands make for light work.** Too few hands, and you risk burning out the people who help all the time. Please prayerfully consider assisting us in one of these positions. I will happily help out and can provide any needed guidance to whomever may take on a position.



Most regular activities are paused for the summer. This is a time for rest and enjoyment of the warmer weather. The ladies are planning their Strawberry Social, so remember to come for activities like this and share time with each other. Please remember to share your photos for the Thanksgiving service. Summer is a great time for activities, and it's fun to see what everyone has done though out the year. It's never to early to send pictures. Send your pictures to wbundy@daemen.edu. When sending them, send them original size so they show up well with the projector. Ask me for help if you are having trouble with this.

Bill Bundy

President



LADIES GUILD NEWS & NOTES

JULY & AUGUST

Greetings Ladies!

It seems like we just got started with our current Guild work year, and here we are bringing our work year to a close with our last meeting this past Friday until next October.

But that doesn't mean we don't have any plans in the works for this summer....

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who has supported all our events over this past year.

Most recently, the Country Breakfast & Yard Sale that showed a profit of \$700 & \$450 respectively to supplement the extra pastoral expenses during Pastor Jorg's recent health concerns.



Thank you to everyone who helped provide salads & desserts for the Church Picnic.

LADIES GUILD RETREAT

We had a lovely time of fellowship & food & bible study on Saturday, June 22nd at the Parsonage.

Dottie Lemke & Ellen Graf led us in a study about "Heaven".

And our dear ladies really gave an excellent presentation.



ANNUAL STRAWBERRY SOCIAL



SUNDAY, AUGUST 4TH

Immediately following our worship service.

We will be serving Hamburgers & Hot Dogs
and all things "Strawberry"

Proceeds will be used to purchase more new chairs for
the lower fellowship hall.

LADIES GUILD CARPET FUND

The Ladies of the Guild have established a Carpet Fund to replace
the carpeted areas of the lower Fellowship Hall. This will take some
time to fund this project.

If you would like to make a donation to our project, please make your
checks payable to St. Matthew Ladies Guild Carpet Fund and use the
provided envelopes available in the Narthex on the stand next to the
church office.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact
Ellen Graf @ 716-694-6525. Thank You, Ladies Guild Board

We humbly ask that you keep all of our members and our
Shut-Ins in your thoughts and prayers over the summer



July Serving Schedule

	July 7 th	July 14 th	July 21 th *	July 28 th	
ELDERS	Siggy Barke John Patton	Pete Jaenecke Bill Olczak	Dan Wolf Joe Durick	Craig Heigl Rob Pidanic	
VESTRYMEN CAPTAINS	Tom Hromowyk	Art Marshall Paul Schultz	Dave Wendt Joe Siegmann	James Fretthold Bill Bundy	
USHERS	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 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	
9:15AM GREETERS	M/M Patton	Linda Robinson	Toni Durrick Linda Pascucci	Joe Durick	
SARB SERVERS	HAVE	A	GREAT	SUMMER	

August Serving Schedule

	August 4th*	August 11th	August 18th*	August 25th	
ELDERS	Siggy Barke John Patton	Pete Jaenecke Bill Olczak	Dan Wolf Joe Durick	Craig Heigl Rob Pidnick	
VESTRYMEN CAPTAINS	Tom Hromowyk	Art Marshall Paul Schultz	Dave Wendt Joe Siegmann	James Fretthold Bill Bundy	
USHERS	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 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	
9:15AM GREETERS	M/M Stapar	Toni Durick Linda Pascucci	Carol Wilczak	M/M Siggy Barke	
SARB SERVERS	SEE	YOU	IN	SEPTEMBER	



7/3 Paul & Lynda Schultz

7/3 Dave & Kelly Urtel

7/11 Olaf & Gail Stapar

7/28 John & Sandy Patton

7/31 Colin & Jessica Morrow

8/4 Jeffrey & Wendy Binkley

8/5 Jack & Michele Siegmann

8/7 Mario & Cindy DeMarchis

8/19 Mike & Terry Lance

8/21 Jim & Sandra Moesch

8/25 Ziggy & Judith Barke

8/27 Lorna & Robert Burton

8/31 Casey & Beth Gordon



Megan Goodwin 7/6

Gloria Haeseler 7/15

Chris Reischel 7/20

Kristen Jorg 7/25

Ryan Baroudi 7/30

Leah Urtel 8/3
Tyler Thursam 8/8
Donna Hutton 8/8
Tim Jorg 8/11
Dr. Lisa Ann Haeseler 8/17
Michael Thursam 8/18
Michael Meyerhofer 8/22
Carl Robinson 8/30



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



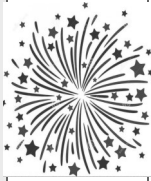


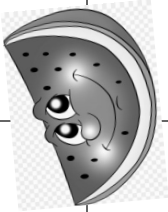
The Lord called **Gary Majewski** to Glory on Thursday, April 25, 2024.
The service was at St. Matthew Lutheran Church. on Friday, May 3,
2024. Officent Pastor Paul Moldenhauer.

Diane Pieper was called to Glory on June 5, 2024. The service was
held at St. Matthew Lutheran Church on Tuesday, June 11, 2024,
Officiant Pastor Ken Craig.
Interment was at St. Matthew Lutheran Cemetery.

Priscilla Mattheus was called to Glory on June 16, 2024.
A graveside service will be held at
St. Matthew Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

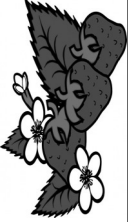
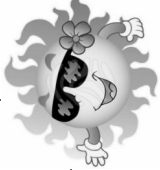
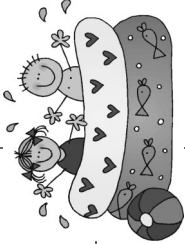
July 2024

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 
7 9:15 am Worship Service w/ Communion	8	9	10	11	12	
14 9:15 am Worship Service	15	16	17 YCC-Darien Lake	18	19	20
21 9:15 am Worship Service w/ Communion	22	23	24 	25 	26	27
28 9:15 am Worship Service	29	30		.		

August 2024

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:15 am Worship Service w/ Communion Strawberry Social	5	6	7	8	9	
11 9:15am Worship Service 40-Days for Life Picnic	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 9:15 am Worship Service w/ Communion	19	20	21 YCC-Maid of the Mist	22		24
25 9:15 am Worship Service	26	27	28	29	30	31



Caribbean Children's Foundation

Fondasyon Timoun nan Karayib yo
Fondation des Enfants de la Caraïbe

**CARIBBEAN CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION
TUITION ASSISTANCE
MISSION PROJECT UPDATE**

As you know we have been providing tuition assistance to the children of Haiti for a number of years. Due to our Lenten Dinners being cancelled after only two weeks due to circumstances beyond our control, we were unable to reach our yearly goal of \$900 for 3 Tuitions.

However, we were able to raise \$300 of the total needed.

I am asking for your help in raising the additional monies needed to reach our goal. If you would consider donating any amount toward that remaining goal, please contact me for details on how to contribute.

And please keep the children and missionaries of Haiti in your prayers during these turbulent times.

Thank You, Linda Robinson (716)622-1255



CHURCH PICNIC THANK YOU FROM **THE BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP**

God weaved in enough dry time, between the downpours, to get our Annual Church Picnic, and outside service in and completed,

With the tent down and put away! **GOD IS SO GOOD!**

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT THE WORK!

Thank you to all who helped with set up Saturday, the donations of salads, desserts, etc., and all who helped with cleaning/starting the grills, cleaning the stove in pavilion, cooking, serving, selling tickets, clean up, moving tables and chairs, and taking the tent down!!!

Thank you to the Ladies Guild for cleaning the pavilion on Friday, and taking care of serving and cleaning up all the desserts, salads, and sides!!!

We had roast beef, hamburgers, hotdogs, numerous donated salads and desserts, with coffee, pop, water, and Hannah's lemonade.

We can't say thank you enough, for all the many people, and their time and help from Friday through Sunday, **THANK YOU!**



Thank you to all who came out to support **SARB** this pass year. Thank you to the pick-up and servers who volunteer their time each week. We are currently supporting and praying for a student from St. Catharines, Aaron Parkhurst. Aaron is from Silver Creek and was placed with two churches for his vicarage. One in Silver Creek and one in Gowanda, under Pastor Travis Grubbs. Please continue to pray for Aaron and his family as he continues to do God's work. His address is : Aaron Parkhurst, 12377 Pennsylvania Ave., Silver Creek, NY 14136.



Our Shut In Members

Irene Curtis

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

William & Patricia Doeblner

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)

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.

LIFE CORNER

Mark your calendars for the

Buffalo 40DFL 2024 PICNIC!

(Buffalo, North Tonawanda, and Niagara Falls Teams)

Sunday, August 11, 2024

2-8 pm, Dinner at 5pm

Como Lake Park Casino

2220 Como Park Boulevard, Lancaster NY

This will be an RSVP event - - details to follow!

How sweet are thy words unto my taste! Psalm 119



Of Western NY

Meets Mondays at 5:45 pm at

First Trinity Lutheran Church

Working as Gospel-oriented voices for all aspects of life

from natural birth to natural death.

To be a part of our team, please contact Kristen at (231) 286-8685 with questions, ideas, or to carpool to meetings.

Did you know that 40 Days for Life has helped save over 24,800 babies? Did you know that we have also helped over 260 abortion workers quit the industry and find life-affirming work? Did you know that we have helped close over 150 abortion facilities and that our own North Tonawanda Planned Parenthood has reduced its client hours from 3 days a week to 2 since the start of our prayer vigils just over a year ago?

40 Days for Life Fall Vigil begins the end of September! Many new and exciting developments are at hand, including a new book on how to talk to people about the sacred gift of life. Ask Kristen how you can get a copy and how you can join our North Tonawanda team in honoring the Author of all life!

St. Matthew YCC - Young Christians for Christ

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

SUMMER ACTIVITIES WILL BE ON WEDNESDAYS

Wednesday July 17th



We will meet at church around 10am. Tickets will be purchased ahead of time for anyone needing one. Lunch will be provided but please bring extra money for snacks/drinks. Darien Lake is now cashless so getting a prepaid card ahead of time will save us some time at the park.

Wednesday August 21st



We will meet at church around 10am and take a trip to Niagara Falls for a day of fun! We will walk around the park, ride on the Maid of the Mist and really enjoy our day! Anyone is welcome to join us for this day trip.

Please let me know in advance.

ALTAR GUILD

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

Psalms 119:105

LITURGICAL COLORS FOR JULY

Green: symbolizes the hope of
eternal life.

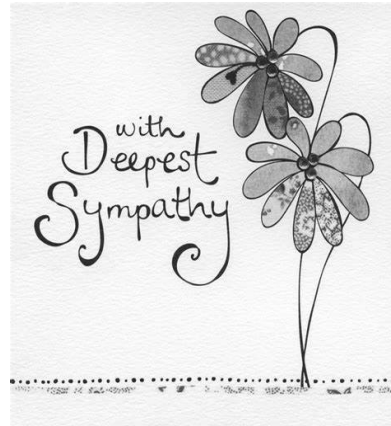
CAPTAIN: Ellen Graf*
Carol Wilczak
Lisa Ellman
Linda Robinson



LIURGICAL COLORS FOR AUGUST

GREEN: symbolizes the hope
of eternal life.

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



A SUMMER BLESSING



May you walk with God this
summer in whatever you do and
wherever you go. May you talk
to God this summer and every
day and in every situation.
May you talk with God everyday.

WALKWAY OF MEMORIES



We will be taking orders for our Walkway of Memories Fund. If you would like to commemorate a family, birth, anniversary, or a memory of a loved one by purchasing a brick fill out the envelope on the table next to the office door, follow the directions on the envelope, enclose your check and place in the basket on the office desk. If you have any questions call the office at 716-692-6862.

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 **ketchup, mustard, salad dressings, mayo, pkg snacks for kids**. They are always in need of shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes and deodorant (personal care items). Thank you for your generosity.