

## 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**

**Email: [ministry285@aol.com](mailto:ministry285@aol.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

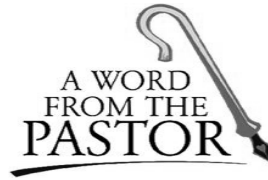
St. Matthew Lutheran Church Fax# 716-692-0242

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](mailto:office@stmatthewlutheran.net)



Dear Members of St. Matthew...

“Good resolutions are simply checks that mankind draws on a bank account where they have no account.”

Oscar Wilde

Every year there is something we wish to change, altar, or erase from our life, to get into better shape, to eat better, to laugh more, to not do things we know are not healthy for us. But how often do we truly put ourselves to the task of such change. And if we do, how often do we pray to our Father in Heaven before we make our resolutions and come at them with the full force of God on our side? How much are we truly willing to change the things we desire in our life with God on our side? I'm not sure if I ever fully accomplished any of my New Years resolution, except one, to pray more. When we dedicate ourselves to God, and are in partnership with Him, He will help us grow. So try something different, if you desire to get into better shape, read more, change your life for the positive, by all means do that! But keep God in the midst of all you do, and put that on the top of your resolutions, God comes first! So do not draw your “payment” from an account for which you are not invested, instead, draw upon God our Heavenly Father, His Son, our Lord Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit, for not only are we invested in Him, but more importantly, He is invested in YOU!

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

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Blaine



## OUTREACH INFORMATION

The Outreach Saturdays will resume on Saturday, January 11th, 2025. Please join us as we meet from 9am-1pm, doing various activities and working together to organize special ways to reach out to those in need, let those that can use a lift know we are thinking about them, and saying thank you to those that protect and serve us every day.



In the last month we have sent 120 boxes to special children for Operation Christmas Child, along with \$650 for shipping costs and The Greatest Journey. We sent a box full of Christmas cards to United Soldiers and Sailors of America that they will distribute to our men and women away from home serving our country. We also just finished 26 bags for patients at Niagara Hospice House, which included a snowflake suncatcher, a teddy bear friend, a Thinking of You coloring sheet, a Christmas ornament, and little candy canes crocheted by Lily Jorg.



These Saturdays have proven to be a good time for us to spend time together, get to know each other better, all while helping those in need as our Heavenly Father has directed us to. We look forward to you joining us as we begin another year of Outreach Opportunities. Please come with ideas for those that we can help, say thank you to, or uplift.

This is a very informal, casual, and fun few hours every Saturday. There is no obligation to stay the whole time and/or come every week. When you do come, and please feel free to bring a friend, know that there will be smiles, treats, and the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others, all while working together with you fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Please contact Kim Binkley with any questions at 716-909-6310 or [kbink1789@roadrunner.com](mailto:kbink1789@roadrunner.com).

Looking forward to seeing you!!!!





## President's Report

As we enter January, it is a time that we mark new beginnings. We celebrate the birth of Jesus and his Baptism. We start our year with our newly elected officers. I'd like to thank those who stepped up and volunteered to help out. Especially thanks to Linda Robinson for taking on the position of Recording Secretary. I am so grateful for the additional help.



We heard back from Thrivent on our October food drive. Once again, the NT Food Pantry received 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 Thrivent and our Thanksgiving collection.



I'd like to thank Paul Schultz and all of his helpers for clearing out the dead trees and removing the maple tree up next to the building. Tree removal is not an easy job, and it is expensive to hire somebody. He removed 16 trees and trimmed at least one. All that work would have easily cost us \$25,000, probably more. We are so grateful that he took the lead and got the job done.

As we close 2024, the budgeted giving was running short of our budgeted expenses, but as usual the overall impact was lower than projected due to everyone spending carefully. We expect a better year in 2025, mainly due to lower utility costs. We pray that we can continue to keep the church running smoothly. We thank everyone for their continued support.



# Looking Ahead...

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 [wbundy02@gmail.com](mailto:wbundy02@gmail.com). Remember, when sending photos, send the original and do not reduce the size whenever possible. The full sized pictures look so much better when projected on the wall. Please take note of the new email address. Daemen is discontinuing alumni emails and my Daemen email address will stop working on May 31st, so please remove it from your contact lists.



Our next regular Voter's meeting will be held February 16th.

Bill Bundy  
President



There are so many members working behind the scene that I would like to recognize the dedicated men & women who give their time to care for our candles keeping them burning all the time. **Thank you** so much to Peter Jaenecke, Dottie Lemke, Linda Robinson and Gayle, Jeff and Chris Reischel. I know the congregation appreciates your time to let the light shine... We each take three months at a time to fill them with oil and keep them clean.

## **LADIES GUILD NEWS & NOTES**

### **JANUARY /FEBRUARY 2025**

It's hard to believe that we have already celebrated Christmas & New Years and we are now starting a new year by God's amazing grace.

We would like to thank everyone who supported our Events and Mission Projects this past year such as our Holiday Bazaar, Thanksgiving Pie Sale, Christmas Cookie Sale, as well as our Sock/Mitten Tree at Christmas.

Because of your generosity many of our neighbors in need of warm socks, mittens, and hats will be taken care of in this cold season.

Also, a BIG thank you to everyone who helped us reach our goal of \$900.00 in support of the Caribbean Children's Tuition Fund this year.

Our Christmas Celebration Pot Luck Dinner/ "Harmonic Edge Concert" event on December 5th was enjoyed by all. We have even been asked to perhaps make it an annual event!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our "You've Got Mail" I believe we had more people take part than ever before due to the rising cost of postage! Can't beat the 25 cent cost compared to 73 cents for snail mail.

#### **"NO JANUARY LADIES GUILD MEETING"**

But just because there is no January meeting it doesn't mean that we will not be doing work around our church...





**FEBRUARY 7, 2025**  
**PROGRAM: TASTING PARTY**  
**12:00 PM NOON**

It's time to search your cookbooks and recipes to find a wonderful dish to prepare for this popular meeting event.

So, bring in a dish to pass along with the recipe to share. Also, feel free to bring a friend along to enjoy the meal.



COMMITTEE: Ellen Graf, Cheryl Turner, Donna Heiser, Terry Smith,  
Linda Robinson, Linda Olczak, Kristen Jorg, Janice Wiech

**Yummy!**

## January Serving Schedule

	Jan 5th*	Jan 12th	Jan 19th*	Jan 26th
<b>ELDERS</b>	Dan Wolf Joe Durick	Craig Heigl Rob Pidanick	Siggy Barke John Patton	Pete Jaenecke Bill Olczak
<b>VESTRYMEN CAPTAINS</b>	Joe Siegmann	Bill Bundy	Tom Hromowyk	Art Marshall Paul Schultz
<b>USHERS</b>	Chris Reischel Jeff Reischel Dave Wendt	Dave Urtel Tank Jorg Tim Jorg	Justin Hromowyk Mark Lenke	Jeff Binkley Keith Schumacher
<b>COUNTING TEAM</b>	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
<b>9:15AM GREETERS</b>	M/M Patton	Linda Robinson	Toni Durrick Linda Pascucci	Joe Durick
<b>SARB SERVERS</b>	Sandy P * Rachel B	Sheryl E * Carol W	Sandy M* Linda R	Sharon E* Mary S



## February Serving Schedule

	Feb 2nd*	Feb 9th	Feb 16th*	Feb 23rd
ELDERS	Dan Wolf Joe Durick	Craig Heigl Rob Pidanick	Siggy Barke John Patton	Pete Jaenecke Bill Olczak
VESTRYMEN CAPTAINS	Joe Siegmann	Bill Bundy	Tom Hromowyk	Art Marshall Paul Schultz
USHERS	Chris Reischel Jeff Reischel Dave Wendt	Dave Urtel Tank Jorg Tim Jorg	Justin Hromowyk Mark Lemke	Jeff Binkley Keith Schumacher
COUNTING TEAM	Team 2 Bill Bundy Paul Schultz	Team 3 Jolie Giardo Miriam M/M Paula Benedyszak	Team 4 Wendy Binkley Sue Ridge Florence Lindaman	Team 5 Jeffrey Binkley Megan Goodwin Mike & Terry Lance
9:15AM GREETERS	M/M Stapar	Toni Durick Linda Pascucci	Carol Wilczak	M/M Siggy Barke
SARB SERVERS	Lisa E* Debbie H	Sandy P * Rachel B	Sheryl E * Carol W	Sandy M* Linda R

## Life Corner

All People are Made in the Image of God

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Genesis 1:26



### Lutherans for Life

**LIFE WEEK 2025 January 19-26**

**LIFE SUNDAY 2025 January 26**

Head to [Lutheransforlife.com](https://lutheransforlife.com) for a week of Gospel-oriented Life-affirming programs.

Each day of Life Week will have a presentation aimed at teaching us how to see how LIFE SHINES in our fellow man as the image of God.

Check out all the programs Lutherans for Life is part of including Y4Life, a program worth sending off to your family members with children.

Our local Lutherans for Life Chapter meets at First Trinity. Please contact Kristen if you would like to join.



## **40 Days for Life**

### **Spring Vigil March 3-April 15**

As of the end of our Fall Vigil, the worldwide Fasting, Prayer, and Presence of 40 Days for Life has saved 25,252 babies that we know of (and how many that have been silently saved), has resulted in the closure of 157 abortion centers, and the conversion of 267 known abortion workers to life-affirming work!

We will have a planning meeting on Wednesday, January 29 at 7 pm for preparation of materials, day captains, and early shift sign-ups for regular weekly prayer warriors. We will discuss and schedule a group training for anyone wanting to be a "Sidewalk Counselor" and lay out the schedule for the Midpoint Rally and the Victory Bash. Please invite friends from St. Matthew and other churches to join us.





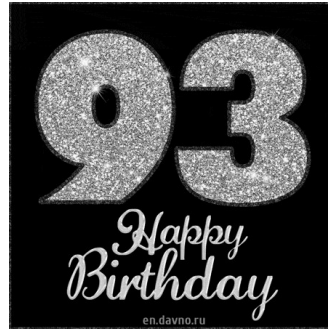
# Epiphany

IS THE CHRISTIAN FEAST  
THAT CELEBRATES THE  
INCARNATION AND IN  
PARTICULAR THE REVELATION  
TO MANKIND THAT GOD  
TOOK ON HUMAN FORM.



1/3 Joy Jenks

Please consider sending a  
Birthday card to Joy Jenks. She will be  
celebrating her 93rd birthday on January  
3rd. Her address is 100 Crestwood Court  
Apt# 101 NT, NY 14120.



1/16 Paul Schultz

1/29 Sandy Moecsh

2/7 Kelly Urtel

2/8 Eric Thursam

2/28 Jeffery Thursam




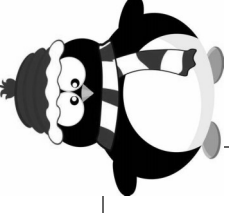


1/1/ Craig & Becky Heigl 25 years

2/14 Dan & Kathy Wolf

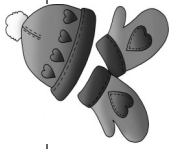



If you would like to have your birthday listed in the communicator  
please see Gloria Haeseler or stop by the office for more information.

# January 2025

## St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 9:15 am Worship Service w/ Communion 10:30am Bible Study SARB	6 	8 5:45pm Choir	9 10:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Elders Meeting	10 10:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Elders Meeting	11 9am-Outreach Saturdays resume	
12 9:15 am Worship Service 10:30am Bible Study SARB 6:00pm-YCC	13 14 10:00am Bible Brunch 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	15 5:45pm Choir	16 10:30am Bible Study	17	18	
19 9:15 am Worship Service w/ Communion 10:30 Bible Study SARB 1:30pm-YCC	20 21 	22 5:45pm Choir	23 10:30am Bible Study	24	25	
26 9:15 am Worship Service 10:30am Bible Study SARB	27 28	29 5:45pm Choir	30 10:30am Bible Study	31		

# February 2025 St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:15 am Worship Service w Communion 10:30am Bible Study	3	4 	5 5:45pm Choir	6 10:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Elders Meeting	7 12:00pm Tastings Party	8
9 9:15am Worship Service 10:30am Bible Study SARB 12:00pm-YCC	10	11 10am Bible Brunch 6:30pm Church Council Mtg.	12 5:45pm Choir	13 10:30am Bible Study	14 	15
16 9:15 am Worship Service w/ Communion <b>VOTER'S MEETING</b> 10:30am Bible Study SARB	17	18 	19 5:45pm Choir	20 10:30am Bible Study	21	22
23 9:15 am Worship Service 10:30am Bible Study SARB 6:00pm-YCC	24	25 7	26 5:45pm Choir	27 10:30am Bible Study	28 	



John M. Menkiena Sr.-Husband of Michele Menkiena and son in law of Lynn Thomas was called home by Jesus on December 2, 2024. Send condolences to Michele Menkiena , 170 Mead St Apt #6, North Tonawanda, NY 14120.

### **Death, what a wonderful way to explain it.**

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."

Very quietly the doctor said "I don't know?" You're a Christian man, and you don't know what's on the other side?" The doctor was holding the handle of the door, on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was there, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear." I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know now thing....

I know my master is there and that is enough.



# WORSHIPPING AT CHURCH

S A L E Y T P N X K J A J U Y N E O L I B G S Y  
T P O W C O B R Y K M N P Z J M W E G W D N L N  
E E X L B L H T O Q S C T X S T A S N M C E F S  
O Z G A O I W S I J E S U S Q J Y I V W O P H L  
J I C L M S S A C R I F I C E D U N T G P W L X  
C C P T H T X B R E A D N M Q B J G I A J S R D  
H O L Y J E S R S P E A K E R L P I E Z D A E V  
Z P I R S N A S Q Z V Q Z A I E Q N U Y B C V C  
D Z A E I Y B S C D B I B L E S D G T R I R E H  
R J S M K W B G P R I M A R Y S B Q L A K A R U  
P B P E O D A O G W J V K E D I K S X V Y M E R  
R B J M P U T H J U N Z P W W N H X U Q H E N C  
A I Y B U A H G W I T B F A L G Y Q I X T N T H  
Y Z Q E A M W K Z P S F C R P L O A H X T T D E  
E B F R F I N B X U C N U O Z M C H F H P V A N  
R E M R H W M Y I J P I M Q K Q O G P M I F Y Q  
R Z G T I Y W A T E R R C O M M A N D M E N T J  
X E C S P J M A D R T I M U Y M Z O E F U F W M  
L I D D C C H I K Y O X P Z L E Z L X W P W Q N  
P Z Y M I I Y B V W W V O M N R B T X M M G V N  
K U M T M D T I S G B S B A L I I I Y X S R V V  
H D L M E D N L J X G V Q M S U N D A Y C N B O  
Z Y N W Q O Y M N Y V H V E C J R I A G Q A D U  
Q A X F T T J S H W B L C N L M Y C V F P I O E

commandment	sacrifice	sacrament	blessing
reverent	remember	speaker	singing
primary	sabbath	listen	prayer
sunday	church	water	bread
jesus	bible	amen	holy
day			

# Our Shut In Members



**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**

Brookdale Niagara Rm#10  
6751 Nash Road  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120  
Birthday-September 11th  
(Linda Jasulevich)



**Joy Jenks**

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



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

## IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

**Doris Matheis**

Sandra Lane Apts-Apt #139  
North Tonawanda NY, 14120  
Birthday-February 23rd



**Florence Lindaman**

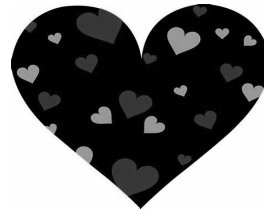
1110 Payne Avenue Apt #132  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120  
Birthday-May 6th

**Howard Carlson**

496 Wallace Avenue  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120  
Birthday-December 26th

**Mary Grimaldi**

Brookdale Niagara Memory Care R# B1  
6751 Nash Road  
North Tonawanda NY 14120  
Birthday-February 17th



**Tom Essenburg**

285 Roberts Drive  
North Tonawanda NY, 14120  
Birthday January 9th

ISN'T THIS SO TRUE?

WE ARE USE TO SITTING IN THE SAME SPOT EACH WEEK

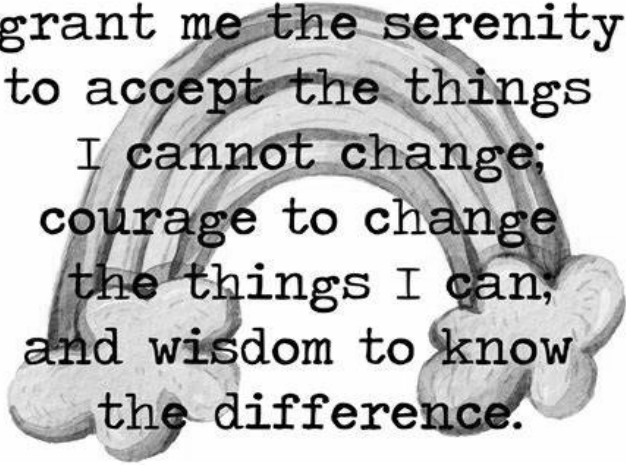


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"Welcome to our church—even though you're sitting in our family pew . . ."



grant me the serenity  
to accept the things  
I cannot change;  
courage to change  
the things I can,  
and wisdom to know  
the difference.



# ALTAR GUILD

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

*Psalm 119:105*

## LITURGICAL COLORS FOR JANUARY

**GREEN:** symbolizes the hope  
of eternal life.

**WHITE:** means light, purity  
and glory.

CAPTAIN: Ellen Graff\*  
Carol Wilczak  
Lisa Ellman



## LITURGICAL COLORS FOR FEBRUARY

**GREEN:** symbolizes the hope  
of eternal life.

**WHITE:** means light, purity  
and glory.

CAPTAIN: Dottie Lemke\*  
Linda Pascucci  
Toni Durick



## 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 is in need of soup, canned fruit and paper products. **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; Quick meals/ side dishes: hamburger helper, tuna helper, rice a roni, pasta roni, white and flavored rice . They are always in need of shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes and deodorant (personal care items). **Please place items in the blue bin in the Quilting Room.** Thank you for your generosity.

**St. Matthew YCC - Young Christians for Christ**  
**Regularly 2 times a month from 6-8**  
**Breanna Gerner, Youth Director – (716) 525-6953,**  
**bgerner22@gmail.com**

**January**

**12th - Kids Choice!**

Games chosen by kids! We have lots of favorites and will choose based on those



**19th – Swimming @ Aquatic Center**

We will meet at the aquatic center @ 1:30pm and pickup will be at 4:30pm! Entry fee is taken care of by YCC.

If anyone needs a ride please let me know!

**\*please note in January we will meet the 2nd and 3rd Sunday\***

**February**

**9th – Sledding!! @ 12pm, Chestnut Ridge**

We will meet in the church parking lot at noon and leave from there. I will be bringing snacks and water but there is also an option to buy food for purchase at the sledding hill. I'll have a few extra sleds, but I recommend bringing your own!



Please let Ms Breanna know availability by Feb 5th

\*Back up date - Feb 23\* - If there is no natural snow on the hill we will be using our can fund to go to a tubing park instead.

\*\*\*Weather Permitting\*\*\*

**23rd - Mafia game night/ Backup Sledding**

A beloved favorite mafia game, and possible backup sledding day

## **PRAYER FOR WINTER TO BE A SEASON OF REST AND RENEWAL**

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Heavenly Father, as I enter into the winter season, I come before you seeking rest and renewal. In the midst of the busyness of life, I ask that you grant me moments of stillness and peace, where I can find refreshment for my soul.

Lord, I know that winter is a time when nature rests and prepares for the coming spring. I pray that you would also help me to slow down, to embrace the quiet moments, and to find solace in your presence. Fill me with your Spirit, rejuvenate my weary spirit, and restore my soul.

In this season of rest, I also ask that you reveal to me any areas of my life that need to be surrendered or let go. Help me to release any burdens or anxieties that I may be carrying, and guide me towards a place of greater surrender and trust in you.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of winter, where I can find rest and renewal in your presence. May this season be one of deep spiritual growth and transformation, as I draw closer to you and experience your love and grace in new and profound ways.

In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.



**PRAYING THE GOSPELS**





# TRUST IN THE LORD

with all thine heart  
and lean not unto  
thine own understanding.  
in all thy ways  
acknowledge him,  
and he shall direct thy paths.