

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@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

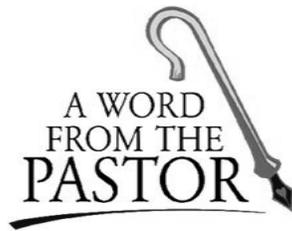
St. Matthew Lutheran Church Fax# 716-692-0242

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



Dear Members of St. Matthew...

We now enter the Lenten Season of Repentance and Preparation for the coming of Jesus's Resurrection. As we travel through this time, keep your hearts to God in Spirit and Truth. It is important for us as the church to be in worship, not only on Sunday's but throughout the Lenten services on Wednesdays, beginning with Ash Wednesday, continuing through Holy Week, and culminating with Resurrection Sunday.



As we will exit Holy week, we have many decisions to make, we will need VBS volunteers, we will need a group to host the decisions about building up our usage for the school as voted on in the Voters Meeting. So as we continue our Worship, we must also look to our future at St. Matthew. May the Lord's blessings be with you as we continue in our beautiful journey of Faith.

Volunteers Needed

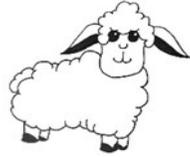


With much love and compassion to my fellow believers here at St. Matthew,

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Blaine

Vine and Branches



It's the time of year when Spring is upon us, with the vines and branches getting ready to display the beauty of new growth and life. We see God's hand at work as the green grass grows, flowers bud and bloom in vibrant and beautiful colors, and the birds fill the air with their sweet songs.

Vine and Branches has been busy! After sending wonderful Valentine's Day gift bags to the patients at Niagara Hospice, we followed that up with the Hospice Bouquet sale, an opportunity to show a special person in your life how much they mean to you, or to brighten the day of a Hospice patient or a Veteran. We sincerely thank all that gave so generously to both of these wonderful ways we were able to help our Hospice friends. We also have been working on something to make the last little bit of winter a little more bearable, bringing a "smile" to your face as we bid the snow and cold weather goodbye!! Stay tuned!



Looking to Spring, we are excited for Easter and celebrating our Savior as he conquered death and the tomb, the Risen Christ that we will one day see in Heaven's glory! We have a surprise planned to share with you for Easter Sunday, where our little lamb representative will be a part of us celebrating Jesus, the Holy Lamb of God.

We are also working on our Newsletter, Operation Christmas Child, and other projects that we hope you will come and join us for. The Treehouse is where you want to be on Saturdays any time from 9am-1pm. Laughter, fun and snacks are always part of the day as we spend time together working on ways to carry out the work that our Risen Lord has called us to do.

Thanks so much for all of your support, and we look forward to seeing you!

Please contact Kim Binkley at 716-909-6310 with any questions.



President's REPORT

President's Report

We are once again entering a season where we will be without a pastor at our church. Pastor Blaine has prayerfully considered and accepted a Divine Call from Grace Lutheran in Hop Bottom, PA. When I received the letter that Pastor had accepted the call, I read it several times, looking to make sure I was reading it correctly because it seemed surreal. I wondered what we could do to change Pastor's mind, thinking that Pastor may have made the wrong decision. I came to the realization that this was done with prayer and discernment on behalf of Pastor, leaning to God's guidance, and that it was important to trust that process as God leads us forward.



It is unfortunate that there are not enough pastors, it seems we keep playing musical chairs with them, and some churches are left without a pastor. We need to remember that we do not follow any one specific person, but we are bound together by faith in the one true and triune God. As we often look at spring as a new beginning, with a fresh shade of green on the season, we can look at this as a new beginning in which God will lead us to the new pastor. Even now, God continues to prepare that future pastor for us. We will look for this new pastor to provide us with the guidance to stay firm in our faith and help us to grow God's kingdom of believers. The search process will take time, and patience is important.

We will all experience grief in losing our pastor to another church. It is important that we stay together and support each other. Your church leaders will need your help and assistance as well. We still look forward to Easter. The ladies are planning a fellowship pancake breakfast later in April. Young at Heart is planning a spring activity. The youth will carry on with their activities. The LLL Men's Retreat is all set for the end of May. Watch the bulletin for details on these items. Be sure to attend the events and enjoy the fellowship with each other. Please stay active in the church. Be open to helping out, even if the task may feel a little outside of your comfort zone. Everyone, together, will be helping and supporting one another.





The Lutheran Laymen's League Men's Retreat 2026 (May 29-31) registration forms are available now. This year's topic will be "Discipleship in the Lion's Den", and will be led by Dr Gregory Seltz. Pastor Seltz is Speaker Emeritus of the Lutheran Hour and currently the Executive Director of the Lutheran Center for

Religious Liberty in Washington DC. This looks to be a very dynamic speaker, and if you have ever thought that you might like to attend, this will be a great year to start. Please see the registration form for more details. There are options if you don't want to spend the whole weekend. 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 and fellowship with others. It is our way of going to the mountain top for a little while. 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.



If you are a Trivent member, don't forget to allocate any Thrivent Dollars you may have from 2025. You only have until March 31st to designate them. Choice Dollars are your way of directing some of the money that 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 2025 Choice Dollars program to organizations they choose.

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 wbundy02@gmail.com. When sending photos, try to send the original and do not reduce the size. Ask me for help if you are having trouble with this.

Bill Bundy
President



LADIES GUILD NEWS AND NOTES

Hello ladies, Here we are looking forward to Spring after surviving a long frigid and snowy winter.



THERE WILL BE NO MARCH MEETING

We would like to thank everyone who attended our February Tasting Party meeting. The array of dishes that were brought in were tasty and we thank those who shared their recipes with us.

The “new” Tasting Party Recipe Book for 2025/2026 will be out soon!

Now on to April...

EASTER CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST EASTER MORNING, APRIL 5TH 8 A.M. – 9 A.M.



Please join us in the lower fellowship hall for a light meal. Selections will include coffee cakes, muffins, fresh fruit, hard boiled Easter eggs, juice with coffee & tea, before attending our Easter worship service.

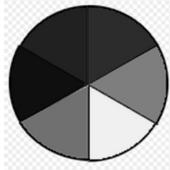
**We will be setting up on Saturday morning at 9 A.M.

**Donations of baked goods, hard boiled Easter eggs would be greatly appreciated. If there are any questions please contact Linda Robinson.

Thank You

**APRIL LADIE'S GUILD MEETING
FRIDAY, APRIL 10TH (2:00P.M.)**

PROGRAM: HOUSE OF COLOR with Karli Saph Color Stylist



Won't you join us for an afternoon of studying what colors might be right for our fashion choices as we enter the Spring season.

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

April is also the month for our annual
KITCHEN SHOWER
Please bring in items to be used in the kitchen
such as paper towels, Dawn dish washing soap,
scouring pads, etc.



ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Election of Officers for 2026-2027 will be held

St. Catharines Guild Day - Saturday, April 18th

If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Carol Wilczak
for more information.



**PANCAKE & BREAKFAST CASSEROLE
BREAKFAST**
SUNDAY, APRIL 26th (following the worship
service)

If there are any questions, please contact
Miriam Moldenhauer-Majewski.

March Serving Schedule

	March 1st* & March 4th	March 8th & March 11th	March 15th* & March 18th	March 22nd & March 25th	March 29th & April 2nd Palm Sunday & Maundy Thursday
ELDERS	Craig Heigl Rob Pidanic	Siggy Barke John Patton	Pete Jaenecke Bill Olczak	Dan Wolf Joe Durick	Craig Heigl Rob Pidanic
VESTRYMEN CAPTAINS	Bill Bundy	Tom Hromowyk	Art Marshall Paul Schultz	Joe Siegmann	Bill Bundy
USHERS	Dave Urtel Tank Jorg Tim Jorg	Justin Hromowyk Mark Lemke	Jeff Binkley Keith Schumacher	Chris Reischel Jeff Reischel Dave Wendt	Dave Urtel Tank Jorg Tim Jorg
VIDEO	Tank Jorg	John Patton	Bill Bundy	Hunter Knoell	Tank Jorg
COUNTING TEAM	Team 2 Bill Bundy Paul Schultz	Team 3 Jolie Giardino Miriam M/JM Paula Benedyzsak	Team 4 Wendt Binkley Sue Ridge Florence Lindama	Team 5 Jeffrey Binkley Megan Goodwin Mike & Terry Lance	Team 6 Bill & Linda Olczak Leslie Stolzenfels Karen Horrigan
9:15AM GREETERS	M/M Patton	Linda Robinson	Toni Durrick Linda Pascucci	Joe Durick	Debbie Kenney
SARB	Carol W*	Linda R*	Mary S*	DebbieH*	No SARB
SERVERS	Sandy M	Ellen G	Sheryl E	Sandy P	

April Serving Schedule

	April 3rd Good Friday	April 5th* Easter Sunday	April 12th	April 19th*	April 26th Pancake Breakfast
ELDERS	Siggy Barke John Patton	Pete Jaenecke Bill Olczak	Dan Wolf Joe Durick	Craig Heigl Rob Pidanick	Siggy Barke John Patton
VESTRYMEN CAPTAINS	Tom Hromowyk	Art Marshall Paul Schultz	Joe Siegmann	Bill Bundy	Tom Hromowyk
USHERS	Justin Hromowyk Mark Lemke	Jeff Binkley Keith Schumacher	Chris Reischel Jeff Reischel Dave Wendt	Dave Urtel Tank Jorg Tim Jorg	Justin Hromowyk Mark Lemke
VIDEO	John Patton	Bill Bundy	Hunter Knoell	Tank Jorg	John Patton
COUNTING TEAM	Team 1 Leslie Stolzenfels Dale & Donna Heisler Karen Horrigan	Team 2 Bill Bundy Paul Schultz	Team 3 Jolie Giardino Miriam M/M Paula Benedyszak	Team 4 Wendt Binkley Sue Ridge Florence Lindama	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	Open
SARB SERVERS	No SARB	No SARB	Rachel B* Lisa E	Carl W* Sharon E	No SARB



Lenten Worship will be held at 7:00pm on Wednesday's, March 4th, 11th, 18th and the 25th.



Palm Sunday, March 29th , Worship will be at 9:15am

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd, Worship will be held at 7:00pm
w/ Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 3rd will be held at 7:00pm

Easter Sunday Worship, April 5th will be held at 9:30am
w/ Holy Communion





Spring 40 Days for Life has begun! We are bringing resources to parents who have an unplanned child on the way and are considering abortion. Your prayers and your presence could save or change someone's life. Please sign up to come out and pray with us. We will be at 15 Webster Street daily through Palm Sunday. Please call Kristen with questions at 231-286-8685.

SUNDAY SCHOOL'S PRAYER TREE



Our Sunday School is learning about the importance of prayer. They have a tree in the narthex along with paper hearts. They ask that you write the name of anyone who is in need of prayers and clip it on the tree branches. Before Sunday School each week they will come to the tree and collect the prayers. Thank you.



Ruth E Maereten passed on December 23, 2025. Mother of
Paula Benedyczak. A service was held at
St. Matthew Lutheran Church on January 23, 2026.
Officiant Pastor Blaine Jorg.

Sunday Evening WORSHIP SERVICE



In addition to our regular Sunday worship service we will have a Sunday night worship service with Holy Communion on the second Sunday of each month at 7:00pm.

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. We need to have 5 or more orders to have them stamped. If you have any questions call the office at 716-692-6862.



3/5 Lindsay Bozek

3/7 Dottie Lemke

3/21 Nancy Meyenhofer

3/22 Toni Durick

4/8 Emily Thursam

4/13 Linda Robinson



4/3 Richard & Sharon Engler

4/4 John & Eleanor Grichen

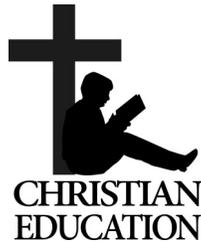
4/26 Richard & Lynn Siegmann 40years

March 2026 St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:15 am Worship Service w/ Communion 10:30am-Bible Study, 10:30amSARB	2	3	4 7:00pm Lenten Service	5 10:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Elders Mtg.	6	7 9am-Vines & Branches Saturdays
8 9:15 am Worship Service 10:30am-Bible Study, 10:30amSARB 10:30am-Sunday School 10:30amAltar Guild Meeting 7:00pm Worship Service w/	9	10 6:30pm Church Council Mtg.	11 7:00 Lenten Service	12 10:30am Bible Study	13	14 
15 9:15 am Worship Service w/ Communion 10:30am-Bible Study, 10:30am-SARB 10:30am-Sunday School	16	17 	18 7:00pm Lenten Service	19 10:30am Bible Study	20	21
22 9:15 am Worship Service 10:30am-Bible Study 10:30am-SARB 10:33am-Sunday School	23	24	25 7:00pm Lenten Service	26 10:30am Bible Study	27	28
29 PALM SUNDAY 9:15 am Worship Service 10:30am Bible Study, 10:30amSARB 10:30am Sunday School		31				

April 2026 St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Holy Week						
5 EASTER SUNDAY 8:00am-Easter Continental Breakfast before service 9:30am Worship Service w/ Communion	6	7	8	9 10:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Elders Meeting	10 10:00am-Ladies Guild Meeting	11 
12 9:15am Worship Service 10:30am Bible Study, 10:30am SARB 10:30am Sunday School 7:00pm Worship Service w/ Communion	13	14 :30pm Church Council Mtg.	15	16 10:30am Bible Study	17	18 St. Catharines Guild Day
19 9:15 am Worship Service w/ Communion 10:30am Bible Study 10:30am SARB 10:30am Sunday School	20	21	22	23 10:30am Bible Study	24	25 
26 9:15am Worship Service Pancake, Casserole Breakfast 10:30am Bible Study, 10:30am SARB 10:30am Sunday School	27	28				



Hi Carol and members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church,

St. Louis has been absolutely wonderful! Definitely missing my folks at home and the seminary, but it's been great getting to meet new seminarians from St. Louis and develop a bond in Christ with them. I definitely am not missing the cold and snow however! We did get an about 4 inches a couple weeks ago and the temperatures have been around the 20s, but lately they've been in the 40's and it's feeling like March almost!

My mom did get the cheques and she cashed them in last week or the week before, can't quite remember. I think there's still a back log in the Canadian system based on those strikes, but it should be clearing up soon. Thanks again for those gifts, they have been very helpful in paying for tuition and books.

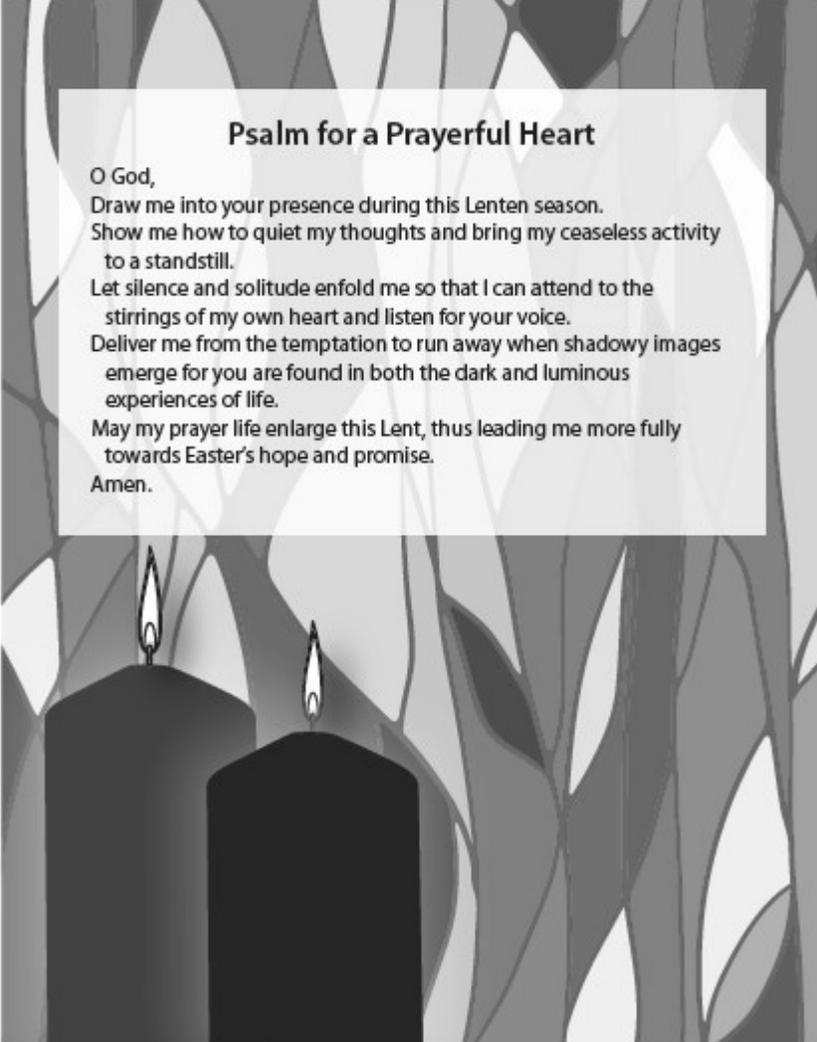
God's blessings to you and your congregation as you prepare to contemplate the passion of our Lord and celebrate his glorious resurrection. Hope to visit your congregation when I come back home.

In Christ,

Andrew



SARB would like to **thank everyone for supporting SARB** and their mission to help a student from St. Catharines. Our student, Andrew Hayes, is currently in St. Louis on an exchange program. Please remember him in prayer or send a note or card. Easter is in April. His address is 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105.



Psalm for a Prayerful Heart

O God,
Draw me into your presence during this Lenten season.
Show me how to quiet my thoughts and bring my ceaseless activity
to a standstill.
Let silence and solitude enfold me so that I can attend to the
stirrings of my own heart and listen for your voice.
Deliver me from the temptation to run away when shadowy images
emerge for you are found in both the dark and luminous
experiences of life.
May my prayer life enlarge this Lent, thus leading me more fully
towards Easter's hope and promise.
Amen.

Our Shut In Members

William Doebler

Elderwood @ Wheatfield Rm# 219
2600 Niagara Falls Blvd. Niagara Falls, NY 14304
Williams Birthday-August-3rd
(Ellen Graf)

Today someone is
thinking about you,
caring about you,
and keeping you
in their thoughts.



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

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

Tom Essenburg

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



Sharon Lemke

1227 East Robinson St
North Tonawanda NY 14120
Birthday-April 4th

Schalley Rambath

Brookdale Senior Living Rm#510
6751 Nash Road
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
Birthday-April 21st

Gloria Haeseler

39 Bentham Parkway
Snyder, NY 14226
Birthday-July 15th



Ellie Grichen

42 Crestwood Court
Niagara Falls, NY 14304
Birthday-December 4th

**St. Matthew YCC - Young Christians for Christ
Breanna Gerner, Youth Director – (716) 525-6953,
bgerner22@gmail.com**



MARCH 22nd

Easter Egg Hunt

**We will hunt around the building for candy
filled eggs in celebration of
Jesus' resurrection!**



APRIL 12th

Hawaiian Night



**Wear a Hawaiian shirt or anything beach/tiki
themed. We will be playing Hawaiian themed
games such as limbo, coconut toss
and lei tag!**

ALTAR GUILD

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

Psalm 119:105

LITURGICAL COLORS FOR MARCH

VIOLET; Color for sorrow & suffering

RED; Indicates charity, life, the presence of the Holy Spirit

CAPTAIN: Mary Sansone*
Gloria Haeseler
Sheryl Essenburg



LITURGICAL COLORS FOR APRIL

BLACK; is for sorrow and mourning

WHITE; means light, purity, joy & glory.

CAPTAIN: Donna Hutton*
Florence Lindamen
Linda Davidson



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



Thank you for restocking our Food Pantry here at church. If you would like to donate food items please bring them in for the **North Tonawanda Food Pantry**. Our community is always in need of boxed, canned goods and personal care items. Leave them in the basket and we will be sure to take them to the Pantry in North Tonawanda. Thank you.

THE NORTH TONAWANDA FOOD PANTRY

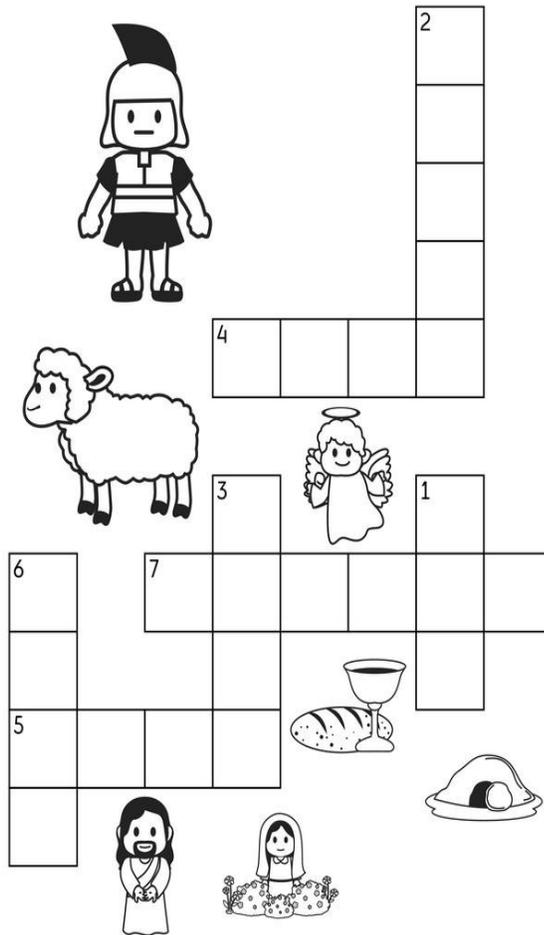
**Is open 10:00am 12:30pm Mon-Fri
for deliveries on 100 Ridge Street, NT,
716-692-8552**

The North Tonawanda Food Pantry is in need of items for Easter Dinner, ex; boxed potatoes, gravy, canned veggies,. They are always in need of shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes and deodorant (personal care items). **Please place items in the basket in the narthex.** Thank you for your generosity.



Easter Crossword Puzzle

Read the clues and fill in the corresponding squares on the puzzle.



DOWN

1. Not Old
2. Old and New Testament scripture
3. A grave or crypt
6. A type of tree with fan-shaped leaves

ACROSS

4. Trust in a good outcome
5. A young sheep
7. Pack-Animal



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

875 Eggert Drive

North Tonawanda, NY 14120

716-692-6862

office@stmattewlutheran.net

