

HOME VISITS

Pastor David Keating from St. Mark Lutheran Church will be 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: 631-974-4034

Office: 716-693-3715

email:pastor@stmarknt.org



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

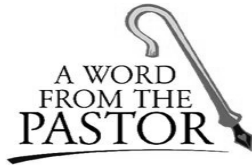
St. Matthew Lutheran Church Fax# 716-692-0242

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



Thank you to St. Matthew for welcoming me as I serve as your vacancy pastor during the call process that lies ahead. I thought I would use the communicator to introduce myself as we work alongside one another during the time that lies ahead. My name is David Keating and I serve as pastor at St. Mark on Oliver Street. Before being called to St. Mark, I was the associate pastor at St. James Lutheran Church in Chicago, Illinois. My wife and I have three little girls... Phoebe (age 5), Lydia (age 2), and Elizabeth who is due in the first week of May.

We love living in North Tonawanda. I grew up on Long Island and am a lifelong New Yorker. My wife grew up in Nebraska and is the daughter of another Lutheran pastor. We met in college through a college campus ministry program before we moved to Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

I am an avid reader and student of history. I am currently working my way through the Alexander Hamilton biography by Ron Chernow and a history of the Supreme Court written by Sarah Isgur. I'm also an avid sports fan and love watching the Yankees, Knicks, and (sadly) Jets. I am warming to Buffalo sports though and am hoping the Sabres make a deep run this year! When I am not reading or following sports, my wife and I like to go for walks, explore nature, and enjoy live music together.

As I considered a devotion topic for this article, I thought of Matthew 9. Jesus says, ***"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."***

We live in unique times as Christians in America; and the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod has unique challenges as well. But, we also have unique opportunities ahead as well. I believe that hearts are still hungry for the gospel. People need the peace that only Christ Jesus can provide. As St. Matthew considers what lies ahead on the road we walk together, may we pray that Jesus sends more pastors and laborers into the harvest field knowing that, as the gospel is preached, there will be longing hearts who find their way to Christ, our Lord.

I look forward to working with you and providing Word, Sacrament, and pastoral care to your congregation! If you need to talk or would like to reach me, do not hesitate to give me a call or an email and I will help as best I can! Thank you for the opportunity to serve you!

God's Blessings

Pastor Keating

Cell: 631-974-4034

Office: 716-693-3715

email: pastor@stmarknt.org





President's Report

As we heard on April 12th, Rob Pidanick and I met with President Pingel and Bruce Sutherland of the Eastern District to discuss our vacancy and the steps needed to move forward and seek a new pastor. I was impressed by the fresh attitude at the district level, and the help offered. The first item is a need to complete the church self assessment, which provides an analysis of our church and our current situation. This is required and, in the past, this has been an extremely long document that took a lot of time to complete. President Pingel has assured us that the form has been revised and shortened to make the process more streamlined in gathering meaningful information. The district has also requested a demographic study from the LCEF. This comes at no charge and is used to help churches assess their local community's needs and trends, which is particularly useful for planning initiatives. They are also suggesting that we complete a Congregational Assessment of Development/Decline Status (CADDs). This is a survey with 95 questions that asks all members about our church and what is envisioned for its future. This too is available for no cost. When we start the CADDs, it will be vital that everyone participates. Finally, Bruce will be helping us with financial analysis to make sure we pay the pastor appropriately. It can be difficult to determine what pay to offer a pastor, and Bruce can help us with appropriate suggestions.



We are most grateful that Pastor David Keating from St Mark has volunteered to assist us. He will be leading services and providing pastoral care during our vacancy. This lets us focus on getting a new pastor, instead of worrying about who will lead the service each Sunday. Pastor Keating is a young pastor with an amazing amount of energy and positive attitude. We need to be clear from the outset that he is here to help, but is not looking to combine congregations or seek a joint call. He just wants to make sure that our church remains stable while we undertake the search process. **The Sunday service time has been moved to 9am to ensure that he can be back at his church on time for their service.**



Our church picnic is on for **June 14th**. Help will be needed to set up the tent, prepare food, and cleanup afterwards. We look forward to the food and fellowship. The question has already been asked from some members about how the service time will be affected. As of this article writing, we don't have an answer to that question yet, but the Elders will discuss it and we will have to adjust the best we can. Please be alert to any updates.

Please don't forget that the Lutheran Laymen's League Men's Retreat 2026 (May 29-31) registration deadline is May 15th. This year's topic will be “Discipleship in the Lion's Den”, and will be led by Dr Gregory Seltz. While all of the speakers were very good for the retreats I have attended, this looks like a very dynamic speaker. Bruce Sutherland of the Eastern District says that Greg Seltz is an amazing speaker and could talk about anything and make it interesting. There are shorter attendance options if you don't want to stay the entire weekend. 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.



I can never say thank you enough to everyone for keeping the church going. The many volunteers that give of their time and talents, as well as all the members who give financially is greatly appreciated. While our aging property will continue to need repairs, some of which are quite expensive, our members continue to step up to help, supporting with not only monetary giving, but offering their time and talents to save us from needing to hire out every repair or replacement. Keep up the good work.

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



May Serving Schedule

	May 3rd*	May 10th Mothers Day	May 17th*	May 24th	May 31st
ELDERS	Pete Jaenecke Bill Olczak	Dan Wolf Joe Durick	Craig Heigl Rob Pidanic	Siggy Barke John Patton	Pete Jaenecke Bill Olczak
VESTRYMEN CAPTAINS	Art Marshall Paul Schultz	Joe Siegmann	Bill Bundy	Tom Hromowyk	Art Marshall Paul Schultz
USHERS	Jeff Binkley Keith Schumacher	Chris Reischel Jeff Reischel Dave Wendt	Dave Urtel Tank Jorg Tim Jorg	Justin Hromowyk Mark Lemke	Jeff Binkley Keith Schumacher
VIDEO	Bill Bundy	Hunter Knoell	Tank Jorg	John Patton	Bill Bundy
COUNTING TEAM	Team 6 Bill & Linda Olczak Leslie Stoizenfels Karen Horrigan	Team 3 Joie Giardino Miriam M/M Paula Benedyzsak	Team 2 Bill Bundy Paul Schultz	Team 1 Leslie Stolzenfels Dale & Donna Heisler Karen Horrigan	Team 4 Wendt Binkley Sue Ridge Florence Lindaman
9:15AM GREETERS	M/M Patton	Linda Robinson	Toni Durrick Linda Pascucci	Joe Durick	Joe Durick
SARB SERVERS	Linda R* Sandy M	See	you	in	the fall

June Serving Schedule

	June 7th*	June 14th	June 21st* Fathers Day	June 28th
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
VIDEO	Hunter Knoell	Tank Jorg	John Patton	Bill Bundy
COUNTING TEAM	Team 5 Jeffery Binkley Megan Binkley Mike & Terry Lance	Team 6 Bill & Linda Olczak Leslie Stolzenfels Karen Horrigan	Team 1 Leslie Stolzenfels Dale & Donna Heisler Karen Horrigan	Team 2 Bill Bundy Paul Schultz
9:15AM GREETERS	M/M Stapar	Toni Durick Linda Pascucci	Carol Wilczak	M/M Siggy Barke
SARB SERVERS	Have	a	great	summer

LADIES GUILD NEW & NOTES
MAY & JUNE 2026

Hello Ladies! It's hard to believe, but here we are
almost to the end of our
2025-2026 work year for Ladies Guild!

Thank you to everyone who attended our Farewell Pot Luck Luncheon for Pastor Jorg & Family. We are sad to see them go, but pray God's divine guidance and protection in their new journey of faith.



We would also like to thank everyone who attended our
Easter Continental Breakfast. Fellowship & yummy
treats were enjoyed by everyone.

THERE WILL BE NO MAY GUILD MEETING
“Happy Mother’s Day” to all the Mothers & Grand-
mothers!

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2026-2027

All of our current officers will be returning to the Board
at their positions

President – Ellen Graf

Vice-President – Donna Heiser

Secretary – Carol Wilczak

Treasurer – Linda Pascucci

Publicity – Dottie Lemke & Linda Robinson

Stewardship Representative – Toni Durick

Advisor to the Board – Linda Robinson

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP CLEAN THE PAVILLION
ON SATURDAY, JUNE 6TH – 10:00 A.M.**



JUNE 12TH @ 2:00 PM

LADIES GUILD MEETING

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE & PROGRAM FROM WHAT
WAS LISTED IN OUR WORK BOOKS!**

Speaker will be Betsy Divita

The group provides beds to kids in need at no cost to the family.

COMMITTEE: Mary Sansone, Dottie Lemke, Toni Durick,
Sheryl Essenburg, Terry Smith

More information about the group can be found online
@ shpbeds.org

LADIES GUILD RETREAT

NEW DATE: "FRIDAY, JUNE 19TH

9:00 AM – 1 PM

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

We usually hold this event on a Saturday

Our Topic will be "SUNFLOWERS & THE SON"

Presented by Ellen Graf

Please join us, just bring along your bible, a dish to pass for lunch & a friend. The Board will provide morning coffee & treats.



STRAWBERRY SOCIAL

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2026

More details to follow in the bulletin



Dear beloved friends,
We would like to express our thanks for the time, effort and love that you shared with us on our last Sunday at St. Matthew. You gave us such a beautiful send off! We have been so privileged to share faith in God with you over the past 6 1/2 years and we will be praying for you for the remainder of our years. You are in our hearts and we will miss you.

With so much love in Christ,
Pastor and the Jorgs

Here is our address:
341 Greenwood St.
Hop Bottom, PA, 18824
This is the parsonage at Grace Lutheran Church.

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.



5/7 Tank Jorg

5/19 Dave Urtel

6/1 Breanna Gerner

6/5 Mikala Thursam

6/9 Florence Lindaman

6/22 Joan Baroudi

6/25 Ellen Graf

6/25 Richard Engler



5/5 William & Carol Bundy

5/12 Tim & Tammy Walters

5/15 Tom & Ann Marie Kromer

5/18 Dale & Donna Heiser

5/20 Tom & Debbie Hromowyk





6/6 Andrew & Ashley Knoell

6/7 Jenna & Jesse Knapp


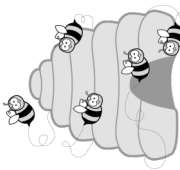







6/20 Earl & Ellen Graf

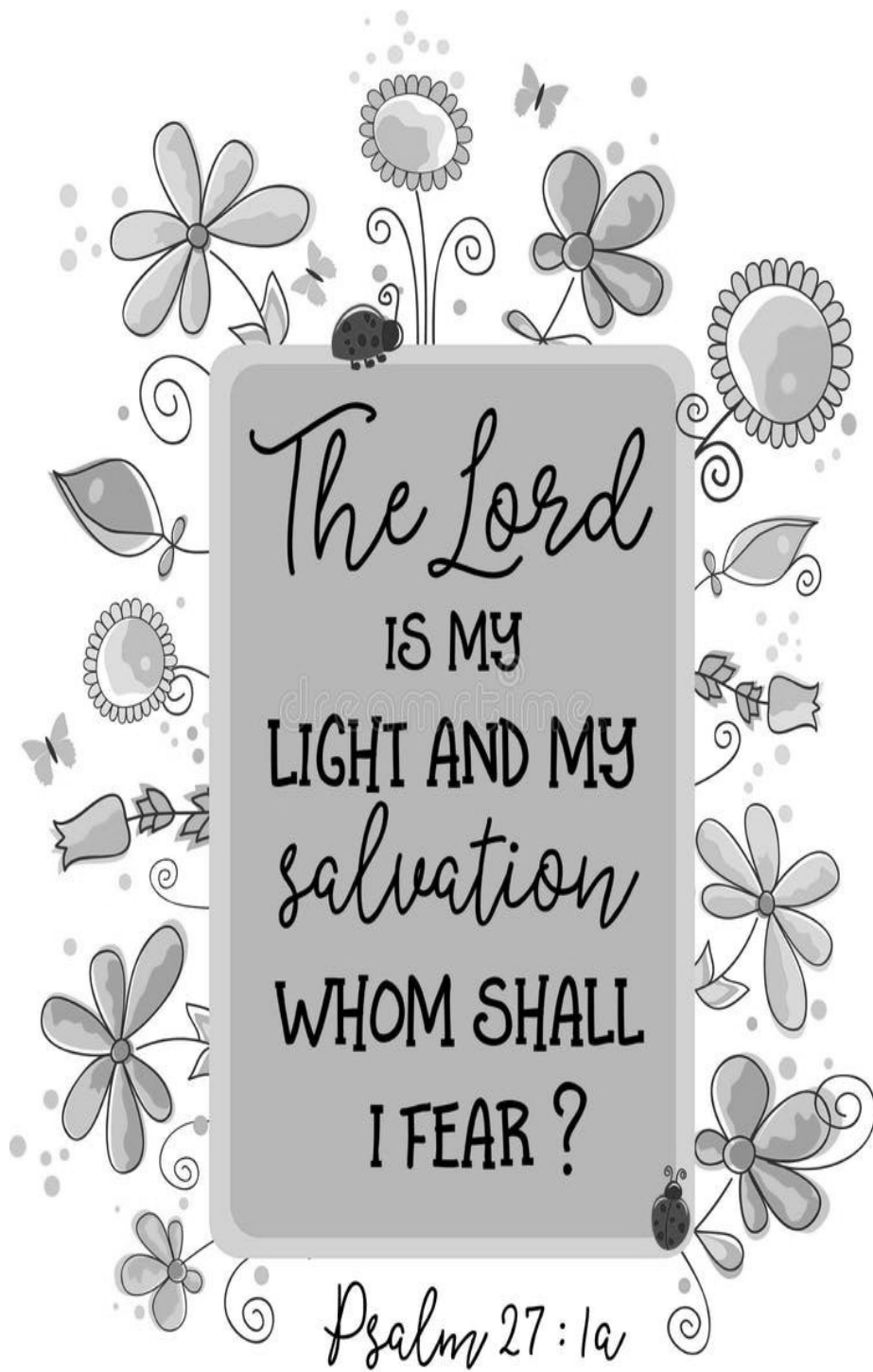
6/24 Allison & Robert Carroll

May 2026 St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9am-Vines & Branches Saturdays
3 9:00 am Worship Service 10:30am SARB 10:30am-Sunday School	4	5	6:45pm Choir rehearsal	7 6:30pm Elders Meeting	8	9
10 MOTHERS DAY 9:00 am Worship Service w/Communion		12 6:30pm Church Council Mtg.	13	14 	15	16
17 9:00 am Worship Service w/ Communion	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 9:00 am Worship Service	25	26	27	28 	29	30
31 9:00 am Worship Service						

June 2026 St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 7 9:00 am Worship Service w/Communion	1	2	3	4 6:30pm Elders Meeting	5	6 9am Vine & Branches 10:00am Pavilion cleaning
14 9:00 am Worship Service	8 9:30pm Church Council Mtg.	10 1	11 	12 2:00 Ladies Guild Meeting	13	
21 FATHERS DAY 9:00 am Worship Service w/Communion	15 	16	17	18	19 Ladies Guild Retreat 9:00am -1:00pm	20
28 9:00 am Worship Service	29	30 	24 	25 	26 	27 



Psalm 27:1a



Dear Father, We thank you for our amazing
brave men and women who made the
ultimate sacrifice for the people of this nation.

Thank you for people who put others
before themselves and, in
doing so, emulate the same
kind of love that you did
when you died on the cross for us.

In Jesus' Name, 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)



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**

I just wanted to share a quick update about YCC.

For now, we'll be putting the group on pause.

With our pastor's recent departure and fewer kids able to attend, it feels like the right time to step back and regroup.

That said, this isn't goodbye! Over the next few months, I'll be reaching out to other churches and connecting around the area to try and rebuild and bring fresh energy to the group.

I'm really hoping we can get things going again in the fall. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or just want to help in any way, I would truly love to hear from you. This group means a lot, and your input could make a big difference.

Thank you so much for your support!

- Breanna Gerner



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
& glory.

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

CAPTAIN: Sharon Engler*
Linda Robinson
Paula Benedyczak



LIURGICAL COLORS FOR JUNE

GREEN: symbolizes the hope of
eternal life.

CAPTAIN: Linda Jasulevich*
Gayle Reischel
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



We are now taking donations for the church food pantry. We are in need of soup, cereal and canned beans. Please put them in the basket in the narthex. Thank you again for your generosity.



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 personal care items: shampoo, toothbrushes/paste, razors, feminine care, deodorant, toilet paper. Please put the items in the blue bin in the Quilting Room. Thank you for your generosity.



MEMORIAL DAY Maze

Start



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

875 Eggert Drive

North Tonawanda, NY 14120

716-692-6862

office@stmatthewlutheran.net

