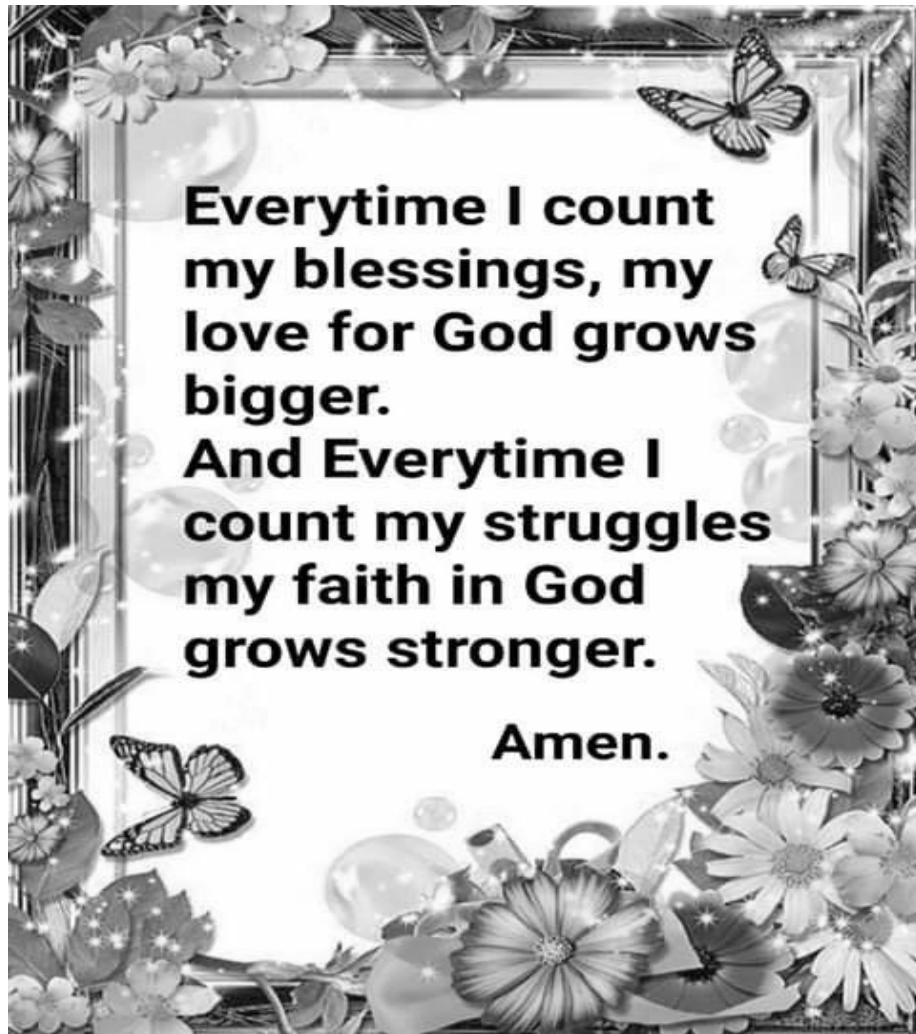


THE COMMUNICATOR

JULY/AUGUST

2026



ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

875 Eggert Drive, North Tonawanda, New York 14120

716-692-6862 church office

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

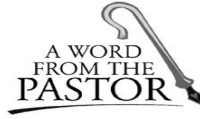
When calling 692-6862, you do not need to wait for a prompt to dial an extension. When you call the church phone number, and the call connects, you may dial any extension, immediately. If that extension transfers to a voice mail and you want to speak to a person, you may dial another extension. You do 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



Ordinary Time?

We are now in the midst of what is called
“The Season After Pentecost.”

This season has sometimes been called “ordinary time.”
“Ordinary time” doesn’t sound very exciting. After all, we don’t like to think of church as ordinary. We know that extraordinary things happen there. God forgives our sins, the Word is preached, God’s gifts are given out in baptism and communion. How can we possibly refer to times where these things are received as ordinary?



Yet, when we think about the rest of our lives... we would often describe them as such. We live ordinary lives. We have regular routines from day-to-day. We do ordinary things like take our kids to school, prepare meals, do work around the house, and enjoy our hobbies.

The mistake comes from thinking that “ordinary” means “unimportant.” Ordinary things are very important! Through ordinary means, like our meals, jobs, everyday phone calls, conversations, and relationships, we are strengthened. We grow through these things. We learn more, grow more, and continue to become the people that God intends us to be through ordinary, every day moments.

The same is true of His Church. Through ordinary offices of the Church, God accomplishes extraordinary things. Through the regular participation in the Divine Service, we learn more about who God is and who we are in light of Christ’s saving work. Through our regular, ordinary prayers... God hears and answers the petitions of His people. Through our ordinary moments with one another, amazing bonds of fellowship are formed in and through the Church. Through simple means like bread and wine, we are nourished with the Body and Blood of Christ. God rejoices as He accomplishes miraculous things through ordinary means because through these things

He give us forgiveness, life, salvation...
He gives us hope in Christ Jesus!

God’s Blessings
Pastor Keating

Cell: 631-974-4034
Office :716-693-3715
email:pastor@stmarknt.org

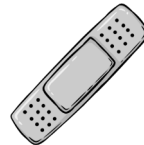
Vine and Branches



Summer is here! Warm weather, sunshine, beaches and barbeques. What does that mean for Vine and Branches? Christmas of course! We are kicking off Operation Christmas Child in June and July, and we are excited to once again have our church family support Samaritan's Purse through the donation of boxes to children in need around the world. We are finalizing our Christmas in July kick-off event, (stay tuned for details!) and in the meantime are asking for donations of the personal care items listed below which we will organize at the event in July and be part of the box filling in November. Cash donations can also be given to Kim Binkley to purchase these items:

Toothbrushes Wash clothes Combs & brushes

Nail clippers Hair Accessories Small bandages-ex; Band-aids



For more information, check out the bulletin boards on the wall by the main church doors, the table in the Narthex, or better yet, come and find out more Saturdays any time from 9am-1pm! Bring your ideas for how you would like to see Vine and Branches share the love of God with others. We all have talents that we have been blessed with, come share yours with us! And don't forget, we have snacks too!

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

In May, our voter's approved some big items. Since we don't want a new pavement to be worn early by heavy trucks, the church driveway will be replaced after some other concrete work is complete. Repairs and refurbishment of the parsonage are ongoing. The parsonage was built in the early 1960's and very little work has been done since then. It needs some repairs while refreshing the look. The good thing is that the building and interior is sound, so much of the work is just a well needed refresh rather than complete replacement. The chimney and roof are big concerns that we want to attend to. We will be using the money that we normally paid for a pastor to make sure the parsonage is ready for the next pastor when he arrives.



At the end of May, I attended the Men's Retreat at Pioneer on the Lake. The topic was 'Daniel in the Lion's Den, 2KG citizenship for the sake of the Gospel'. Discussion centered around the 2 kingdoms that God has established for us, and how we interact with them. We learned that God established both the government and the church. While the church takes priority, interacting with the government is important work as well, as can be demonstrated in Daniel. As it is every year, all the men who attended enjoyed themselves, and came away with a more enriched understanding of God's Word. Next year's retreat will be June 4-6, 2027. I strongly encourage the men of the congregation to consider setting aside the date to attend next year.

The church picnic fell on Flag Day this year. It was a little different holding the service at 9am, and the food was quite early as well. Also, the weather was a little damp from some morning rain, so we moved everything inside. We enjoyed some food, salads and deserts, and we fellowshiped with each other. Although everything was different, and all completed by Noon, I think everyone enjoyed themselves. Thanks to all who helped with setup, cooking and serving, and helped cleanup afterwards. It makes the picnic more enjoyable when everyone plays a part.





I don't have much news about our search for a pastor right now. The council and elders are discussing the search process, and are prompting the district to help us move forward with the next steps. We have made contact with the district, and we will continue to press forward as rapidly as we can. Pray for our search process that we find the right man for our congregation. We are so thankful that Pastor Keating from St Mark is providing pastoral services for us. While Rob Pidanick has filled in for us, his recent health issue has highlighted how God has prepared us, before we even knew what was on the horizon. Please pray for Rob that his health may continue improve and hopefully lead to a full recovery.

During the summer months, it is our tradition to take a break from regular meetings and business. The council and elders will meet as necessary to keep our pastoral search moving forward, but everything else will take a break. We look forward to our Strawberry Social, which will be Sunday, August 9th. Afterwards there will be food and strawberry desserts. We hope to have an outdoor service, but we're not sure how the schedule will work right now, so watch the bulletin for details. Be sure to enjoy the activities during our summer break.



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. Remember, 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



July Serving Schedule

	July 5th*	July 12th	July 19th*	July 26th
ELDERS	Dan Wolf Joe Durick	Craig Heigl Rob Pidanic	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 3 Jolie Giardino Miriam M/M Paula Benedyszak	Team 4 Wendt Binkley Sue Ridge Florence Lindaman	Team 5 Jeffery Binkley Megan Binkley 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
SARB SERVERS	SUMMER	FUN	IN THE	"SON"

August Serving Schedule

	August 2nd*	August 9th	August 16th*	August 23rd	August 30th
ELDERS	Dan Wolf Joe Durick	Craig Heigl Rob Pidanick	Siggy Barke John Patton	Pete Jaenecke Bill Olczak	Dan Wolf Joe Durick
VESTRYMEN CAPTAINS	Joe Siegmann	Bill Bundy	Tom Hromowyk	Art Marshall Paul Schultz	Joe Siegmann
USHERS	Chris Reischel Jeff Reischel Dave Wendt	Dave Urtel Tank Jorg Tim Jorg	Justin Hromowyk Mark Lemke	Jeff Binkley Keith Schumacher	Chris Reischel Jeff Reischel Dave Wendt
VIDEO	Hunter Knoell	Tank Jorg	John Patton	Bill Bundy	
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 Lindaman	Team 5 Jeffery Binkley Megan Binkley Mike & Terry Lance
9:15AM GREETERS	M/M Stapar	Toni Durick Linda Pascucci	Carol Wilczak	M/M Siggy Barke	
SARB SERVERS	SEE	YOU	IN	THE	FALL

LADIES GUILD NEW & NOTES JULY & AUGUST 2026

Here we are again...closing out our 2025-2026 work year!

We have shared many hours of joyful work projects for our church and community, and lifted up prayers for many of our dear members and loved ones who have been facing health challenges. But the Lord guides us and protects us and assures us that He is always there for us in every trial.

We have enjoyed a variety of different programs over the year such as **Ben & Ella Goehring (LCMS Missionaries now deployed to serve in Romania)**, and to whom we have sent a monetary gift to help support their mission. They spoke to us in October about their mission trip.

-October 25th was our Annual Holiday Bazaar.

-December brought our Christmas Celebration Pot Luck Dinner with Harmonic Edge Quartet as the entertainment.

-February was our annual Tasting Party which was enjoyed by all who attended and provided their tasty food and recipes to share.

-Easter was celebrated on April 5th with our Easter morning Continental Breakfast.

-April also brought us a program from Karli Saph, Color Stylist from the House of Color.

-And, the Pancake & Breakfast Casserole Breakfast on April 26th.

-Sadly we bid farewell to Pastor Jorg & Family as they moved on to serve another congregation in Hop Bottom, PA. We pray God's divine guidance and protection in their new faith journey.

-On June 12th, we hosted a presentation by Betsy Divita & her husband on "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" and how their group is helping children in this area. (More details to follow).-And to wrap up our

work years programs, the annual **Ladies Guild Retreat was held on Friday, June 19th.** Led by Ellen Graf as she shared the Topic:

"Sunflowers & The Son" we studied the Word and enjoyed each other's company and pot luck lunch.

MARK YOU CALENDARS! Sunday, August 9th 2026,

STRAWBERRY SOCIAL and OUTDOOR SERVICE,

(service time to be announced).

Hotdogs & Hamburgers will be served along with everything

STRAWBERRY!



Now for more information on **SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE**

NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!



Too many children in the Buffalo area lack the basic necessities that so many of us take for granted. That includes something as fundamental as a safe, comfortable bed in which to sleep. Our goal is to change that.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) is a national charitable organization with over 400 chapters across the U.S. that builds and delivers twin size beds to kids ages 3-17 yrs. at no cost to that child's family. Research has shown that as many as 10,000 kids in the Buffalo area lack a safe, comfortable place to sleep. Currently, SHP-Buffalo services zip codes in the City of Buffalo, Cheektowaga, Depew, Niagara Falls and Batavia where the need is the greatest. To date, we have delivered over 7000 beds to area children.

SHP-Buffalo is an entirely volunteer organization. Dedicated volunteers build the beds from scratch at our workshop located at 80 Earhart Dr., suite 20, Williamsville, then delivers them to homes and set up the beds fully outfitted with a new mattress and new bedding. As a 501c3 non-profit charity, we rely on donations to purchase wood, tools and materials to build beds and to buy new mattresses. We also accept donations of NEW twin-size bedding (cloth mattress pads, sheets, comforters, blankets and pillows). From start to finish, each bed costs approximately \$300, each bunk bed \$600.

Donations can be made to the SHP BUFFALO chapter through the SHP website at shpbeds.org, OR by check to Sleep in Heavenly Peace-Buffalo chapter, PO Box 1168, Williamsville, NY 14231
OR on our Facebook page @SHPBuffalo.

LADIES GUILD has placed a bin in the Narthex for donations of the bedding supplies listed. **TWIN** sheets, mattress pads, blankets, comforters. If you would like to help please place your donations in the bin.
Thank You!





John and Sandy Patton would like to Thank everyone for the prayers and cards while John recovered from his surgery. Blessing and good health to everyone.

THANK YOU from the Board of Fellowship



to all who helped with this year's annual picnic! Thank you to the many, many people behind the scenes to help with the annual church picnic!

The many include: Michele – with the advertising, the many men with the tent set up and take down; all those caring for the lawn and grounds, to the elders with help the morning of the event; to the many women who helped with cleaning the pavilion, set up the day before; and the many women and men who help with clean up, dishes, etc.

We truly couldn't do it without ALL of those who helped!

THANK YOU!

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.

7/6 Megan Goodwin

7/15 Gloria Haeseler

7/25 Kristen Jorg

7/30 Ryan Baroudi



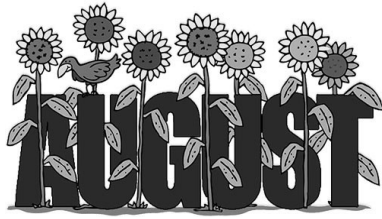
8/3 Leah Urtel

8/8 Donna Hutton

8/11 Tim Jorg

8/17 Dr. Lisa Ann Haeseler

8/22 Michael Meyerhofer



Paul & Lynda Schultz 7/3

Dave & Kelly Urtel 7/3

Olaf & Gail Stapar 7/11

John & Sandy Patton 7/28

Jessica & Colin Morrow 7/31



Jeffery & Wendy Binkley 8/4

Jon & Michele Siegmann 8/5

Christiana Brenon & Michael 8/10

Mike & Terry Lance 8/19

Siggy & Judith Barke 8/25

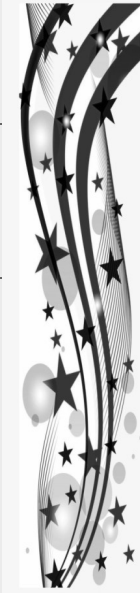


Lorna Burton & Robert 8/27

Lora Waliszewski & Ron 8/27

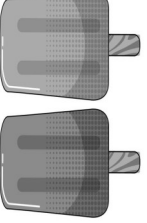
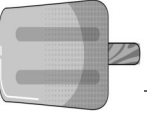
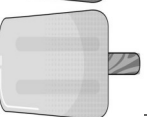
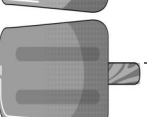

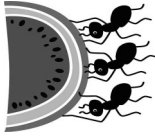
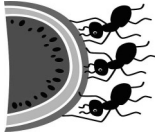
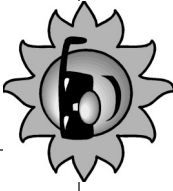
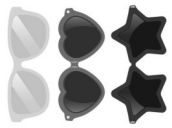

Casey & Beth Gordon 8/31



July 2026 St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4th of July 9am-Vines & Branches Saturdays
5 9:00 am Worship Service w/ Communion	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 9:00 am Worship Service	13	14	15		17	18
19 9:00 am Worship Service w/ Communion	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 9:00 am Worship Service	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2026 St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
2 9:00 am Worship Service w/ Communion	3	4	5 	6 	7	8 
9 STRAWBERRY SOCIAL 9:00 am Worship Service	10	11	12	13	14	
16 9:00 am Worship Service w/ Communion	17	18	19 	20	21 	22
23 9:00 am Worship Service	24	25		26		29
30	31					

Belief and Practice of



With the universal Christian Church, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod teaches and responds to the love of the Triune God:

the Father, creator of all that exists;

Jesus Christ, the Son, who became human to suffer and die for the sins of all human beings and to rise to life again in the ultimate victory over death and Satan; and

the Holy Spirit, who creates faith through God's Word and Sacraments.

The three persons of the Trinity are coequal and coeternal, one God

Being "Lutheran"

Our congregations accept and preach the Bible-based teachings of Martin Luther that inspired the reformation of the Christian Church in the 16th century. The teaching of Luther and the reformers can be summarized in three phrases: Grace alone, Faith alone, Scripture alone.

Who is Jesus?

For more than 2,000 years, people have asked this question. We were not present when Jesus lived on this earth, but in the Bible we have the record of His birth, life, death on the cross, and resurrection. Through the study of the Bible, you can seek the answer to this age-old question: "Who is Jesus?"

What does "Synod" mean?

The word "Synod" in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod comes from Greek words that mean "walking together." The term has rich meaning in our church body because congregations voluntarily choose to belong to the Synod.

Though diverse in their service, our congregations hold to a shared confession of Jesus Christ as taught in Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.

Lutheran congregations are confessional. Our congregations believe the Lutheran Confessions are a correct interpretation and presentation of biblical doctrine.

Contained in *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*, these statements of belief were transcribed and shared broadly by church leaders during the 16th century.

Luther's *Small Catechism* contains essential summaries of our beliefs, while the *Augsburg Confession* gives more detail about what Lutherans believe.

Resources; The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. All Rights Reserved.



IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

William Doebler

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

Doris Matheis

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



Florence Lindaman

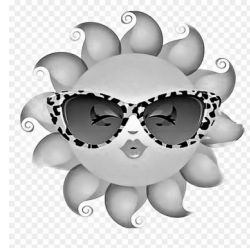
1110Payne Avenue Apt #132
North Tonawanda, NT 14120
Birthday-May 6th

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

Jack and Ellie Grichen

42 Crestwood Court
Niagara Falls, NY 14304
Birthday-Elli-December 4th, Jack-August 5th

Mary Ann Grimaldi

612 Williams Street, NT NY 14120, birthday February 17th

Rhea Reichert

11 Keph Drive, Amherst, NY NT 14120, birthday March 12th

Linda Davidson

7289 Graydon Dr., NT, NY 14120, birthday November 15th

Casey Gordon

213 Schenck St. NT, NY 14120, birthday August 26th

Rob Pidanck

111 Mount Vernon Rd. Buffalo, NY, 14226, birthday July 2nd

Tammy Walters

29 Ransom Road. NT, NY 14120

Hannah Koepsell

721 Meadowbrook Dr. NY, NY 14120, birthday March 27th

Tom Kromer

8020 Packard Road, NF, NY 14228, birthday September 6th

Marilyn Heigl

Hickory Creek of Winamac, 515 East 13th St. Winamac, Indiana
46996, birthday May 21st

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
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 JULY

GREEN: symbolizes the hope of
eternal life.

CAPTAIN: Ellen Graf*
Carol Wilczak
Lisa Ellman



LIURGICAL COLORS FOR AUGUST

GREEN: symbolizes the hope of
eternal life.

CAPTAIN: Dottie Lemke*
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



We are now taking donations for the church food pantry. We are in need of pancake syrup, BBQ sauce, salad dressings and canned carrots. Please put them in the basket in the narthex. Thank you again for you 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 pudding and Jello cups, cereal, apple juice. We can always use 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.

SUMMER

WORD SEARCH



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

BOAT
BUGS
CAMP
FISH
HOT
POOL
SAND
SUN
SWIM
TRIP

