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

Members of St. Matthew,

It's the End of the World as We Know It (and I Feel Fine)"

There's a song by R.E.M. from 1987 that declares "It's the end of the world as we know it… And I feel fine!" It seems like a funny title. Really? The world is ending and you feel fine? Shouldn't we all be panicking? What reason is there to feel fine? I think, in our modern moment, it can feel like the end of the world. Whether it be headlines in the news, political turmoil, or crises in our everyday lives… sometimes it can feel like things are falling apart… like it's the end of the world.

November also marks the end of the church year. Each year, as our church calendar draws to a close, we read Jesus's words concerning the end of the world as we transition to Advent. In Matthew 25, Jesus says, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'"

We might be surprised that Jesus speaks so candidly about the Last Day. There he will separate the sheep from the goats and gather the sheep to himself. How do you know you are a sheep? Sheep know the voice of the Good Shepherd. The sheep hear his words and listen to him. The sheep follow where the shepherd leads. Sheep also do sheep things. Jesus describes them this way, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'"

Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'"

The sheep may not have known what they were doing… after all, they are sheep. But, knowingly or not, they took care of Jesus. They fed, clothed, and visited Christ himself through their daily tasks and callings as Christians. Through ordinary moments of care and compassion, the sheep were hearing the call of Christ, our Good Shepherd.

So, Jesus says, "You are a sheep!" You have nothing to fear. Even if it feels like it's the end of the world you can feel fine knowing that Jesus has and will continue to gather you to himself. The same Jesus who comes to us as a baby at Christmas will come again on the Last Day where he will make all things new. Sin is forgiven. Satan is defeated. Death is undone. And you have eternal life in Christ… because you are a sheep.

Blessing

Pastor Keating

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR



Tom Essenburg was called home on September 8, 2026.
The service was held at Fretthold Funeral Home.
Officent was Reverend Kenneth Craig

A funeral service was held at St. Matthew Lutheran Church for Carol Bundy on October 7, 2026. Carol was called home to God on October 1, 2026. Officent was Pastor David Keating.

President's Report



It is November again, and as we approach the end of the church year, we reflect on our thankfulness. I always like to thank all the church workers and volunteers because it is everyone that makes this church a great place to be. I'd also like to express great thanks and gratitude on behalf of my entire family for the love and caring expressed by all at the passing of my mom, Carol Bundy. So many members came to the visitation, attended the funeral and stayed for the luncheon. We are indeed grateful for the prayers, the cards and memorials. It meant so much that my church family joined along with my personal family, relatives and friends.





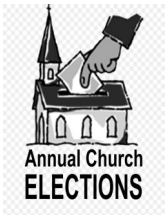
There have been many questions about our search for a pastor. I am glad to say the elders have received their first list of candidates, and they are diligently reviewing the information that has been provided and scheduling to have conversations with those that appear to be a good match. The parsonage work has been moving along at high speed. We anticipate that it will be ready by the time we have a pastor. While we hope to have a pastor soon, we must be patient as we cannot rush the process. It is important that we carefully select the pastor that God leads us to choose.

As we work through the pastoral search process, we continue to be thankful that Pastor Keating has been filling in and doing a great job of keeping our pastoral needs cared for during this interim period. **There will be some scheduling changes. The Thanksgiving service is planned to start at 8:30am this year. Advent services will alternate with St Mark. There will be other adjustments at Christmas as well.** Keep watching the bulletin for the schedule. Also, we expect to be hearing Elder Rob Pidanick as he fills in a couple weeks and gives Pastor Keating a break.



Concerning our budget, our giving to meet the 2026 adopted budget is down so far this year. We are currently trending to be down approximately $12,000 for the year which is in line with the budget. We hope that giving will come closer to meeting the budget as we get closer to the end of the year. Please pray about our budget, that we plan and spend all of God's resources with care. The council hopes to be ready to present a budget at our November meeting.

We also have the election of officers in November. With the election of officers, please again, prayerfully consider assisting us in one of these positions. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to work together to help the mission of the church succeed and continue. You can see the available positions by reviewing the list in front of any communicator. Our next Voters Meeting is scheduled for November 15th.
Please plan on attending.





Remember to share your photos for the Thanksgiving service. There are only a couple weeks left to turn them in. Send your pictures to wbundy02@gmail.com. You can also give them to me on a memory stick, and I will copy the files and return the stick back to you. I ask that all the pictures be turned in by November 15th, so there is time to organize them. Ask me for help if you are having trouble sending or sharing them.



Coming up in December will be the Ladies Guild Pot Luck Dinner. There is different entertainment planned this year. It is a great time and it gets us in the Christmas mood. Be sure to watch for details and plan on attending.

Bill Bundy
President

LADIES GUILD NEWS & NOTES
November/December

It's hard to believe that we are already planning for the last two months of 2026! The leaves have turned to beautiful colors thanks to our Lord the master creator.

"THANK YOU" to everyone who supported our recent HOLIDAY BAZAAR! Your continued help with preparation, and serving our community at the Bazaar and everything in between helped make our event a success.

THERE WILL NOT BE A NOVEMBER GUILD MEETING

On Saturday, October 17th six of our ladies attended the annual ST. CATHARINE'S HARVEST DAY event at the Seminary in St. Catharine's, Canada. It was a lovely day that featured their Guild Meeting, Chapel, and a presentation by Deaconess, Susan Knowles. We then were able to meet the students and have lunch together. God provided a beautiful day to travel.



THANKSGIVING PIE SALE

Sunday, November 22, 2026 immediately following the worship service. Come find us and the pies in the school hallway

MITTEN/SOCK TREE

Once again we will be collecting socks, mittens, hats, gloves, & scarves for those in our community who are in need of a little extra warmth this coming winter season. Items needed are for all ages & sizes. The tree will be in place starting **Sunday, November 8th.** Thank You

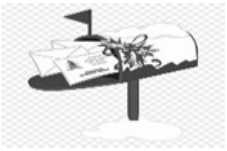


CHRISTMAS POT LUCK & CELEBRATION
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

ENTERTAINMENT: KATHY CARR from Matt's Music
Please join us at 5:00 PM for a POT LUCK DINNER. Just bring along a dish to share. And of course, please bring along a friend as well! Following dinner, we will be entertained by Kathy & her husband with music we can all join along to enjoy. (As a Thank You we will be making a donation to Matt's Music Financial Aid Fund to be used for lessons for kids that come from families experiencing financial hardship.)



YOU'VE GOT MAIL



Our elves, Toni Durick & Dottie Lemke will be accepting your Christmas Cards for "church members only" for a fee of 25 cents per card. (You really can't beat the price!) Just address your cards to the recipient and bring them to the card elves in the Quilting Room on the following dates:

DROP OFF – NOVEMBER 29TH
DROP OFF – DECEMBER 6TH
DECEMBER 13TH – FINAL PICKUP FOR MAIL!



CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE
Sunday, December 13, 2026 immediately following the worship service. Come find us for your cookies in the school hallway.

November Serving Schedule

	November 1st*	November 8th	November 15th*	November 22th	Thanksgiving Day November 26th **At 8:30am**	November 29th December 2nd Advent
ELDERS	Craig Heigl Rob Pidanick	Siggy Barke John Patton	Pete Jaenecke Bill Olczak	Dan Wolf Joe Durick	Craig Heigl Rob Pidanick	Siggy Barke John Patton
VESTRYMEN CAPTAINS	Bill Bundy	Tom Hromowyk	Art Marshall Paul Schultz	Joe Siegmann	Bill Bundy	Tom Hromowyk
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	Justin Hromowyk Mark Lemke
VIDEO	Tank Jorg	John Patton	Bill Bundy	Hunter Knoell	Tank Jorg	John Patton
COUNTING TEAM	Team 2 Bill Bundy Paul Schutz	Team 3 Jolie Giardino Miriam M/M Paula Benedyszak	Team 4 Wendt Binkley Sue Ridge Florence Lin-daman	Team 5 Jeffery Binkley Megan Binkley Mike & Terry Lance	Team 6 Bill & Linda Olczak Leslie Stolzenfels Karen Horrigan	Team 1 Leslie Stolzenfels Dale & Donna Heiser Karen Horrigan
9:15AM GREETERS	M/M Patton	Linda Robinson	Toni Durrick	Joe Durick		
SARB SERV-ERS	Carol W* Ellen G	Linda R* Sheryl E	NO SARB	Mary S* Sandy P	NO SARB	Debbie H* Lisa E
Altar Com-mittee	Sharon E*, Linda R, Paula B		Sharon E* Linda R, Paula B			

December Serving Schedule

	December 6th* December 9th Advent	December 13th December 16th Advent	December 20th* December 23rd Advent	Christmas Eve-Dec 24th **At 5:00pm**	Christmas Day December 25th **At 8:30am w/ Communion**	December 27th	December 31st*
ELDERS	Pete Jaenecke Bill Olczak	Dan Wolf Joe Durick	Craig Heigl Rob Pidanick	Siggy Barke John Patton	Pete Jaenecke Bill Olczak	Dan Wolf Joe Durick	Craig Heigl Rob Pidanick
VESTRY-MEN CAPTAINS	Art Marshall Paul Schultz	Joe Siegmann	Bill Bundy	Tom Hromowyk	Art Marshall Paul Schultz	Joe Siegmann	Bill Bundy
USHERS	Jeff Binkley Keith Schumach-er	Chris Reischel Jeff Reischel Dave Wendt	Dave Urtel Tank Jorg Tim Jorg	Justin Hro-mowyk Mark Lemke	Jeff Binkley Keith Schumacher	Chris Reischel Jeff Reischel Dave Wendt	Dave Urtel Tank Jorg Tim Jorg
VIDEO	Bill Bundy	Hunter Knoell	Tank Jorg	John Patton	Bill Bundy	Hunter Knoell	Tank Jorg
COUNTING TEAM	Team 2 Bill Bundy Paul Schutz	Team 3 Jolie Giardino Miriam M/M Paula Bene-dyszak	Team 4 Wendt Binkley Sue Ridge Florence Lindaman	Team 4 Wendt Binkley Sue Ridge Florence Lin-daman	Team 5 Jeffery Binkley Megan Binkley Mike & Terry Lance	Team 6 Bill & Linda Olczak Leslie Stolzenfels Karen Horrigan	Team 6 Bill & Linda Olczak Leslie Stolzenfels Karen Horrigan
9:15AM GREETERS	M/M Stapar	Toni Durick					
SARB SERVERS **Altar Com-mittee-**	Rachel B* Sandy M ——Linda J*, Gayle R Rachel B	Carol W* Ellen G	Linda R* Sheryl E ——- Linda J*, Gayle R, Rachel B	———	Linda J*, Gayle R Rachel B	NO SARB —-	Linda J*, Gayle R Rachel B

“NEW” TIMES AND DATES OF HOLIDAY SERVICES



Thanksgiving day service will be at
8:30am on November 26th at St. Matthew Church



For Wednesday’s Advent service, the message will be;

“**Prepared the Way of the Lord”**

December 2nd at 7:00pm at **St. Mark Church**

December 9th at 7:00pm here at **St. Matthew Church**

December 16th at 7:00pm at 7:00pm at **St. Mark Church**

Christmas Eve service will be on **December 24th** at 5:00pm here at **St. Matthew Church**

Christmas Day service will be on **December 25th** at 8:30am w/ Communion here at **St. Matthew Church**





Jeffrey Pignatora 11/9

Sharon Engler 11/29

Rachel Behnke 12/7

Lisa Ellman 12/10

Gayle Reischel 12/12

Carol Wilczak 12/18

Earl Graf 12/20

Mary Sansone 12/25





Wedding Anniversary

Patrick & Donna Hutton 12/9

CALENDAR FOR FILLING CANDLES

Linda R– Dec-Jan-Feb

Gayle & Chris R-March-April-May

Pete J-June-July-Aug

Dottie L-Sept-Oct-Nov



Thank you all for your help in keeping the candles burning in church.

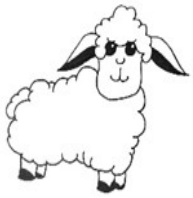
November 2026

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00am Worship Service w/Communion 10:00am Sunday School SARB	2	3	4 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal	5 10:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Elders Meeting	6	7 9-1 Packing OCC Boxes
8 MITTEN TREE STARTS 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00am Sunday School SARB 	9	10 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	11	12 10:30am Bible Study	13	14  9-1 Packing OCC Boxes
15 Voters Meeting 9:00 am Worship Service w/ Communion 10:00am Sunday School SARB	16	17	18 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal	19 10:30am Bible Study	20	21
22 PIE SALE 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00am Sunday School SARB	23 		25	26 **Thanksgiving Day service 8:30am**	27	28
29 YOU"VE GOT MAIL STARTS 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00am Sunday School SARB 	30		 			

December 2026 St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			2 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal **7:00 pm Advent service at St. Mark**	3 10:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Elders Meeting	4 2pm Ladies Guild meeting	5 9am Vine & Branches
6 9:00 am Worship Service w/ Communion 10:00am Sunday School SARB	7	8 10:00am Bible Brunch 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	9 **7:00pm Advent service at St. Matts**	10 10:30am Bible Study	11 	12
13 COOKIE SALE 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00am Sunday School SARB 		15 Ladies Guild Potluck 5:30pm	16 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal **7:00pm Advent service at St. Mark**	17 10:30am Bible Study	18	19
20 9:00 am Worship Service w/ Communion 10:00am Sunday School SARB	21	22	23	24 **Christmas Eve services 5:00pm**	**25** **Christmas Day service 8:30am w/ Communion**	26 
27 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00am Sunday School SARB	28	29	30 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal	31		



Vine and Branches

It’s holiday time! The branches outside are holding the leaves that are changing into brilliant and wonderful colors. We look forward to Thanksgiving, the time to truly thank God for all of the many blessings that he has given and continues to give us. The branches will then be those on beautifully lit trees with special ornaments that tell the stories of treasured moments with families and friends, and the celebration of the birth of our true Vine, Jesus Christ on Christmas Day.





Vine and Branches has been busy preparing for the exciting time that we pack the boxes for Operation Christmas Child. This year we will have two days of packing, one on Saturday, November 7th, where we will pack the boxes for the 2–4-year-old boys and girls, and Saturday, November 14th, where the boxes will be packed for the 5-9- and 10–14-year-old girls and boys. Thanks to you all for your amazing donations and support for this very special way for us to share the love of God with children across the world in need.

We would love to see you on Saturday mornings any time between 9am and 1pm. New ideas, projects and times of fellowship and fun are what we are looking forward to as we look ahead to the new year. Please consider sharing with us the opportunity to be able to touch the lives of others, and share with them the love and joy that our Heavenly Father has given to all of us.

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

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

Praising God with Music

Dedicated to Tom Goodrich



We praise to the father, we praise to the Son
We praise with our music, To the Holy One.

We listen to the organist , a talent God given
Bring peace to our souls, makes life worth living.

You can tell how he plays, to His Lord up above
He plays with such feeling, he plays with such love.

The piano or organ, which ever it may be
He has the right touch, never hitting the wrong key.

As the music fills the church, our spirits are lifted high
We all feel his passion, his love for God is why

The angels in heaven, would love his music there
He is a blessing to us, a friend so very dear

Thank you for all your time, and your energy,
You are a blessing to us all, I am sure all St. Matthew would agree.

Dottie Lemke

9-16-2026

Thank You Tom for the beautiful music each week.

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

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

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
Wheatfield Commons Rm # 130, 3920 Forest Park Way, NT, NY 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.





We are looking for members to join any of the organizations with in the church. If you have a talent you can share with us. Please contact the office.



Pastor Moldenhauer use to say “Sing with the voice God gave you.” Maybe sing with the choir? They practice every other Wednesday night at 5:45 for about an hour.



Are you handy around the house? Tom would always appreciate extra help maintaining the church and grounds.



Do you like to decorate and have others enjoy what you have put together? Help us celebrate the different seasons and holidays here at St. Matthew.

We have many opening for volunteers on the Church Directory page. We are also in need of members to come forward to relieve many members who have served this church for many years.



We are looking for members who would like to
Be A Greeter. It would be one Sunday morning a month.
Give everyone a smile and hand out bulletins.
It’s that easy. Call the office at 716-692-6862.

ALTAR GUILD

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

Psalm 119:105

LITURGICAL COLORS FOR
NOVEMBER

GREEN: symbolizes the hope of eternal life.
WHITE: means light, purity, joy & glory.
BLUE: is the preparation for the coming of the Christ Child;

CAPTAIN: Sharon E*
Linda R, Paula B



LIURGICAL COLORS FOR
DECEMBER

BLUE: is the preparation for the Christ Child.
WHITE: means light, purity, joy and glory

CAPTAIN: Linda J*
Gayle R, Rachel B





Check out the "newly, organized" Altar Guild card rack. Thank you to Linda J who volunteered to reorganize the card rack. Cards are $1 each and cards will be added as needed.



St. Matthew



We are now taking donations for the church food pantry. We are in need of non perishable items for the up coming holidays. 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 items for the up coming holidays. 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.