

The View

Volume XLIII Issue III

July & August 2023

A NEWSLETTER FROM ST. MATTHIAS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Visit us on the web at www.stmatthiasgreensburg.org



On June 18th (Father's Day) at St. Matthias, we had the joy and privilege of celebrating the Baptism of Isak Kihle-Potter, a 10

month old baby from Oslo, Norway.

How could a 10 month old baby from Norway end up being baptized at St. Matthias in Greensburg, PA? Isak and his parents, Zach and Marie, live in Oslo, Norway, and attend a Lutheran church there. While Isak could've been baptized in Norway, Isak's parents were hoping to have Isak's father's side of the family, which currently live in places like Florida and Ohio, to be able to attend Isak's baptism.

On Father's Day weekend, Isak's relatives were gathered in Greensburg, PA, to celebrate the life of Isak's great grandmother, who had passed away recently. With that in mind, they asked St. Matthias if we'd be willing to give them the opportunity to celebrate Isak's baptism together, which we were more than thrilled to do!

But let's get back to the original question... How could a 10 month old baby from Norway end up being baptized at St. Matthias in Greensburg, PA? The real answer is... the Holy Spirit! Sometimes, God provides opportunities for us to celebrate at the most unexpected times and in the most unlikely of places.

When I spoke with Isak's parents, Zach and Marie, over Zoom a few months ago, in preparation for Isak's baptism, they were more than willing to offer thanks to God for the opportunity to celebrate Isak's baptism with their family, especially since it wasn't what they had originally thought was possible. I was impressed that a young couple was so grounded in their faith and willing to follow where God was leading them. Although Isak's baptism at St. Matthias was wonderful and joyous, my most memorable moment wasn't at Isak's baptism, but during that Zoom call I had with Isak and his parents a few month's before. At the end of the call, I asked if we could pray together. As I was closing the

prayer, I opened my eyes and saw Zach and Marie with their newborn son Isak, all with their eyes closed. I saw baby Isak safely resting in his mother's arms. I saw Isak's mother Marie resting her head on her husband Zach's shoulder. And I saw Isak's father Zach smiling as he had his arms around both his wife Marie and baby Isak. It was a beautiful picture of a young couple, along with their newborn child, finding peace and solitude not just amongst themselves, but all 3 of them being wrapped up in the arms of God Himself. As we closed the prayer with "Amen", I thanked God for bringing Zach and Marie together in the gift of marriage, and for giving them the blessing of their newborn son Isak. And I also thanked God for giving us at St. Matthias the opportunity to welcome them into our worship, and to celebrate Isak's baptism together with them, and with the whole body of Christ. Thanks be to God! Amen.

In Christ,
Pastor Paul

Blessing of the Animals

Do you own a pet? Bring him or her along to our brief outdoor worship service to thank God for the gift of our pets and to offer a blessing to all animals. We'll be offering this blessing on **Wednesday, July 19 at 7pm**, on the front lawn at St. Matthias. Please feel free to bring along any pets that you may have (dogs, cats, rabbits, hermit crabs, goldfish, etc.) and join us for this special worship service. We ask that you please bring along a leash for any pets that are mobile. You're also welcome to **invite any friends or neighbors** who would like to bring along their pets as well. In case of inclement weather, a rain date of Thursday, July 20th at 7pm has been scheduled. We hope to see you and your pets there!

CPR TRAINING

Get trained. Save a life. You'll be glad you did.

July

Thursday, July 6 1:30pm.–4:45p.m.
 Saturday, July 15 8:30a.m –3:00 p.m.
 Thursday, July 20 3:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.
 Saturday, July 29 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

August

Thursday, August 3 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 Saturday, August 19 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 Thursday, August 24 3:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.
 Thursday, August 31 11:30 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.



Stamp Camp

On the 3rd and 4th Monday of each month, Kim Peles is leading a fellowship group at St. Matthias called “Stamp Camp”. All are welcome for fellowship and to make personalized greeting cards together, which you can use to share God’s love with others. There’s a nominal fee to cover the cost of supplies. **There are 2 sessions on the 3rd Monday, one beginning at 10am, and the other beginning at 6pm. On the 4th Monday there is only one session at 6pm.** Please feel free to contact Kim at (724) 875-0049 for more information.

Blessing of Teachers and Students August 20th



Believe it or not, our kids will be returning to school soon! Pastor Paul will share a special prayer and blessing for our school-age youth and their new teachers. We'll look forward to seeing you!

OUR CHURCH'S FINANCIAL HEALTH

A quick update from the Finance Committee after the first quarter of 2023. Looking at the quarter’s numbers, we are trending behind on our finances. Although expense have been reasonably close to the plan, receipts have been \$4,969 less. This is behind our 2022 receipt performance. In 2022, the receipts at the end of Mach were \$37,006. In 2023, we ended the quarter at \$31,382. Any help to drive us closer to plan, in the form of lower expenses or higher receipts, would be greatly appreciated. Thank You, Finance Committee



2024 Budget Requests

All 2024 Budget Requests are to be given to Eliot Moore, financial secretary, by **the end of August** so the financial committee can prepare the 2024 Budget. All committees are to review their current budget allocations, and to submit any additional items, or changes to the current amounts, for their committee. Please see Eliot Moore if you have any questions.

Rally Day – Sunday, September 10th

Please note that Rally Day will be on Sunday, September 10th.

Beginning on Rally Day, our **Sunday morning worship will change to 10:15am**. We'll also be having our annual church picnic after worship. All are welcome. We'll look forward to seeing you there!



St. Matthias Women of the ELCA

Our new **2023 Designated Outreach recipient** is **TryLife Center** located in Lower Burrell and provides parents with education, one on one support, and material assistance for FREE. This includes pregnancy, adoption, abortion, and parenting where women can learn and discuss parenting support, pregnancy support, life skill support, and referrals. **Check them out at www.trylife.center on their website .** Love offering of \$250 was given to them in May from St. Matthias Women.

July 13 Meeting at 1 pm with Bernice Gruesu and VaLetta Bradosky as hostesses.

August 10 Meeting at 1 pm with Lorraine Howell and Evelyn Malinish as hostesses.

Thank you  **To all the worker bees and attendees that made our St. Matthias Ladies Tea a success.**

Cleaning Committee

In an effort to conserve our financial resources, our congregation has started cleaning the church with the help of our own members. We certainly would appreciate more volunteers. It actually isn't very hard work. We have a list of what needs done every other week and all the supplies to do the cleaning are in the janitor's room. Anyone willing to help out, please contact Pastor Paul or the church office! Thank you!

Cleaning Dates:

July:

3 to 8 Mary Lou Wolff
17 to 22 Gayle Kunko
31 to Aug. 5 Dana Gruesu

August:

14 to 19 Terri Frye
28 to Sept. 2 Barb Winslow

September:

11 to 16 Bobbi Oestreicher
25 to 30 Mary Lou Wolff

October:

9 to 14 Gayle Kunko
23 to 28 Dana Gruesu

November:

6 to 11 Terri Frye
20 to 25 Barb Winslow

December:

4 to 9 Bobbi Oestreicher
18 to 23 Mary Lou Wolff



Church Council Highlights

MAY 8, 2023

Devotions were led by Bob Wolff. President Bob Wolff called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm. **In Attendance:** Bob Wolff, Ryan Winslow, Fred Oestreicher, Pastor Paul, Lisa Pegg, Norb Georges, Greg Paterno, and Sharon Marks. Treasurer Eldora Crist and Financial Secretary Eliot Moore were also in attendance. **Agenda: Motion** made by Fred Oestreicher to approve the agenda. Second by Ryan Winslow. Motion carried. **Minutes: Motion** made by Fred Oestreicher to approve the April 10 minutes. Second by Lisa Pegg. Motion carried. **Treasurer's Report: Motion** made by Norb Georges to approve the Treasurer's Report. Second by Sharon Marks. Motion carried. **Pastor's Report:** Pastor Paul reported that he participated in our community's Holocaust Remembrance service at Seton Hill on April 16. He also attended a Racial Justice training seminar at Zion Lutheran in Penn Hills on May 4. He participated in Clean Up Day on May 6, and helped serve at the Women's Annual Tea on May 7. Pastor visited Jean Kauffman, Lillian Reno, and Virginia Truner at Redstone Highlands. He continues to serve as Interim Pastor at Good Sheperd Lutheran Church in Greensburg for approximately 5 hours per week.

Communications: None **Concerns:** None

Committee Reports

Worship and Music: The vocal choir, chimes choir, and instrumental choir continue to do a great job in making our worship meaningful and heartfelt.

Christian Ed and Youth: Pastor Paul is collecting info on potential students for Confirmation class in the fall. This group will include students from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church as well.

Stewardship: No new information

Fellowship: No new information

Evangelism and Social Ministry: The last delivery date for Food 2 Go 4 Kids program was March 16. We anticipate this ministry will continue in the fall.

Finance Committee: No new information

Property: Twelve people attended Spring Cleanup Day on May 6. Mulch was spread in the shrubbery beds. Thanks to all who participated.

Ad Hoc Committees

Cleaning Committee: No new information

Community Garden: Spring Open House was held on April 29.

Organizations

Women of the ELCA: The Women's Tea held on May 7 was well attended.

Old Business

Church Safety Policies and Procedures: No new information

Synod Assembly: Council is recruiting 2 voting members to attend Synod Assembly to be held on June 16 and 17. Friday, June 16 evening session will be held via Zoom. Saturday, June 17 will be an in-person morning and afternoon session at California University of PA.

New Business

Baptism: Pastor Paul has been contacted by Zach Potter and Marie Kihle who live in Oslo, Norway, and attend a Lutheran Church there. Zach's family will be gathered in the Greensburg area over Father's Day weekend. Zack and Marie asked that their son, Isak who is 10 months old, be baptized at St Matthias on June 18, so that family can be in attendance. Pastor has met with the parents via Zoom and has gathered all necessary information. A cake and coffee reception will follow the service.

Council reviewed the Calendar and Worship Assistants for June.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday, June 12, 2023, at 7:30 pm via Zoom.

Devotion for the June meeting: Sharon Marks

Motion to adjourn made by Fred Oestreicher. Second by Bob Wolff. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Marks

Church Council Highlights

JUNE 12, 2003

Devotions were led by Sharon Marks. President Bob Wolff called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

In Attendance: Bob Wolff, Ryan Winslow, Fred Oestreicher, Pastor Paul, Lisa Pegg, Norb Georges, Greg Paterno and Sharon Marks. Treasurer Eldora Crist and Financial Secretary Eliot Moore were also in attendance.

Agenda: Motion made by Norb Georges to approve the agenda. Second by Fred Oestreicher. Motion carried.

Minutes: Motion made by Bob Wolff to approve the May 6 minutes. Second by Lisa Pegg. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Fred Oestreicher to approve the Treasurer's Report. Second by Ryan Winslow. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Paul reported that he made home visits with Chuck and Nancy Kemerer and prospective members Glenda and John Rosendahl. He presided at the funeral for a non-member at Mason-Gelder Funeral Home. He presided at the funeral Arlene Wohlin at St. Matthias on June 10. He attended a Synod Assembly Planning Committee meeting and the Conference 4 Pre-Assembly Caucus meeting via Zoom. He will be chairing the Elections Committee again at this year's Synod Assembly on June 16-17. Pastor continues to serve as Interim Pastor at Good Shepard Lutheran Church in Greensburg for approximately 5 hours per week.

Communications: None **Concerns:** Fred Oestreicher suggested that we should offer training for use of the AED and CPR. Pastor Paul will speak with the CPR instructors that utilize our church.

Committee Reports were given

Old Business

Church Safety Policies and Procedures: No new information

Recruitment of Voting Members for Synod Assembly: Debra Adams has volunteered to attend Synod Assembly as a voting member. Pastor Paul will be at California University of Pa for Synod Assembly June 16-17.

New Business

Seminarian/Discernment Support: Council will develop a policy to provide funds for seminary students or those considering a call to ministry.

Requested CPR Date: Dates for use of the church for CPR training were reviewed.

2024 Budget Requests: All 2024 budget requests should be submitted to the Finance Committee by the end of August. All committee liaisons are asked to pass along this information to their respective committees.

Semi-annual Financial Statements: Statements will be available at the end of June.

Guest Musicians: The budget contains a line item for "Instrumentalists and Soloists", which currently has \$250 budgeted. Motion made by Sharon Marks to cap stipends at \$50 per performance for non-member Guest Musicians to express our appreciation. Second by Norb Georges. Motion carried.

October Council Meeting: Pastor Paul will be attending the Bishop's Convocation on October 9-11. October Council Meeting date has been changed from October 9 to October 2, 2023.

Council reviewed the Calendar and Worship Assistants for July.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday July 3 at 7:30 pm via Zoom.

Devotions for the July meeting: Fred Oestreicher

Motion made by Fred Oestreicher to adjourn. Second by Norb Georges. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Marks.

2023 Mowing Schedule

The following is the mowing schedule for the 2023 season. On the dates that you are assigned, we ask that you try to mow toward the end of the week, if possible, so that the yard is mowed for the weekend. Feel free to switch with someone if you have a scheduling conflict. If you have any questions or problems, please contact the church office at 724-834-2457 or any member of the Property Committee. If you need fuel, fill the red 5 gallon container, and give the receipt to Eldora Crist for reimbursement. If you cannot mow on your week due to weather conditions, please make arrangements to help the next scheduled person the following week. Thank you for serving God in this important ministry.

The Property Committee

Dates listed are Monday through Saturday

Week of:

April 3 - April 8 - Fred Oestreicher
April 10 - April 15 - Ray Wasilowski
April 17 - April 22 - Andrew Harrold
April 24 - April 29 - Jeff Sano
May 1 - May 6 - Keith Bowman
May 8 - May 13 - Eliot Moore
May 15 - May 20 - Jim Frye
May 22 - May 27 - Bob Wolff
May 29 - June 3 - Norb Georges
June 5 - June 10 - Brian Hixson
June 12 - June 17 - Dave Bell
June 19 - June 24 - Ray Wasilowski
June 26 - July 1 - Andrew Harold
July 3 - July 8 - Jeff Sano
July 10 - July 15 - Eliot Moore
July 17 - July 22 - Jim Frye
July 24 - July 29 - Bob Wolff
July 31 - Aug 5 - Norb Georges
Aug 7 - Aug. 12 - Brian Hixson
Aug 14 - Aug 19 - Dave Bell
Aug 21 - Aug. 26 - Ray Wasilowski
Aug 28 - Sept 02 - Andrew Harrold

Sept 4 - Sept 09 - Jeff Sano
Sept 11 - Sept. 16 - Keith Bowman
Sept 18 - Sept 23 - Eliot Moore
Sept 25 - Sept. 30 - Jm Frye
Oct. 2 - Oct. 7 - Bob Wolff
Oct. 09 - Oct. 14 - Norb Georges
Oct 16 - Oct. 21 - Brian Hixson
Oct. 23 - Oct. 28 - Fred Oestreicher

Barb Winslow will help mow the weeks of: May 1 and Sept. 11

Prayer List

Don Garlos	Linda Wasilowski's Brother
Lisa	Friend of Sharon Marks
Aileen Mattiuz	Friend of the Wasilowski
Ross Sano	Jeff Sano's Brother
Rich	Elliot Moore's Father
Richard Boccabella	friend of Darla Dalena
Alycefaye Stewart	Member
Tim Howell	Son of Lorraine Howell
Bob Ferrier	Member
Greg Ferrier	Member
Leslie Conrad	Lou Jean Bishop's Sister
Carol Bowman	Member
Richard Bell	Brother of Dave Bell
Jim Bushey	Keith Bowman's friend
Ron & Carol Bowman-	Keith Bowman's brother and
sister in law	
Teri Pappas	Vicki Georges sister
Nancy Kemerer	Member
Lorraine Howell	Member
Rita Miller	Doris McDonnell's Sister in Law
Pastor Fred Heitzenroder	Member
Barry Santavy	Member
Ted Wohlin	Member

To contact the prayer chain, please call:
Joan Wilson at (724) 836-3055

PRAYING is the first of our Faith Practices Medallions...and is lifted up in this way so that all may remember these folks who are in some way related to St. Matthias Lutheran Church. We appreciate this opportunity to inform you of an active ministry going on throughout our congregation on a daily basis. Remember these brothers and sisters in Christ in your prayers.

Faith Works Envelopes

Faith Works envelopes are on the back pew in the sanctuary. Please use these envelopes to support any of the following ministries:

- Bethesda Children's Home
- Camp Agape
- Camp Lutherlyn
- Gettysburg Seminary
- Glade Run Lutheran Services
- Lutheran Campus Ministry in Oakland
- Lutheran Senior Life
- Lutheran Service Society
- Synod Mission Support
- Thiel College

Check off which agency you wish to contribute to and place the envelope with your donation in the offering plate. Please remember to indicate your envelope number.



JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Joseph Lightner	July 2
Justin Sindorf	July 2
Mary Lou Wolff	July 11
Timothy Dominick	July 12
Kaylee Daniska	July 12
Elijah Johnston	July 14
Caitlyn Huey	July 15
Nathan Turner	July 17
Barbara Fink	July 17
William Anderson, Sr.	July 18
Fred Heitzenroder	July 19
David Santavy	July 19
Madison Sano	July 31

Francis & Meredith Schmadel	July 2
Norb & Vicki Georges	July 7
David & Barbara Hoffman	July 24



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Teresa Frye	August 3
Virginia Bowman	August 4
John Wohlin	August 5
Amber Dudash	August 12
Barbara Hoffman	August 17
Meredith Schmadel	August 18
Maryann Himler	August 20
Adam Harrold	August 21
Robert Wolff	August 22
Donald Kauffman	August 23
Fred Oestreicher	August 30

Amber & Kevin Organiscak	August 9
Joseph & Bernice Guesu	August 15
John & Tina Weimer	August 16
Richard & Kristin Pullet	August 20



July

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 5th Pentecost 9:30am Worship	3 7:30pm Church Council	4  HAPPY 4TH OF JULY	5	6 CPR 1:30-4:45p.m.	7	8
9 6th Pentecost 9:30am Worship	10	11 9:45am Al-Anon	12	13  1:00 Women of the ELCA	14	15 CPR 8:30-3:00 p.m.
16 7th Pentecost 9:30am Worship	17 Stamp Camp	18 9:45am Al-Anon	19  7pm Blessing of the Animals	20 CPR 3:30-6:45 p.m.	21	22
23 8th Pentecost 9:30am Worship	24 Stamp Camp	25 9:45am Al-Anon	26	27	28	29 CPR 8:30-1:30 p.m.
30 9th Pentecost 9:30am Worship	31					

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR July 2023

	July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30	August 6
Host	Jeff Sano	Jim Frye	Ray Wasilowski	Bob Wolff	Bobbie Oestreich	Sharon Marks
GREETER	Darla Dalena	Linda & Ray Wasilowski	Andrea Petril	Bobbie Oestreich	Joe & Bernice Gruesu	Valetta Bradosky
LECTOR	Lisa Pegg	Debra Adams	Fred Oestreich	Bob Marks	Tina Weimer	Lisa Pegg
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Ryan Winslow	Fred Oestreich	Debra Adams	Bernice Gruesu	Ryan Winslow	Debra Adams
TELLERS	Sharon Marks Norb Georges	Eliot Moore Bob Wolff				
ALTAR GUILD						Linda Wasilowski
CARD MINISTRY	Tina Weimer	Valetta Bradosky				

2023 Church Council

Bob Wolff, President Ryan Winslow, Vice President Fred Oestreich, Secretary Eldora Crist, Treasurer Eliot Moore, Financial Secretary	Lisa Pegg Norb Georges Paul Gruesu, Pastor Sharon Marks Greg Paterno
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2022 Church Council



If you would like to volunteer as a worship assistant, please call or email the office with the position/positions you would like to volunteer for.



If you are unable to serve on the Sunday assigned, please find someone to take your place and notify the Church Office of the change. Thank you.



August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:45am Al-Anon	2	3 CPR 1:30- 4:30 p.m.	4	5
6 10th Pentecost 9:30am Worship	7	8 9:45am Al-Anon	9	10 1:00 Women of the ELCA	11	12
13 11th Pentecost 9:30am Worship	14  7:30pm Church Council	15 9:45am Al-Anon	16	17	18	19 CPR 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
20 12th Pentecost 9:30am Worship Blessing of the Teachers & Students	21 Stamp Camp	22 9:45am Al-Anon	23	24  Hempfield	25	26
27 13th Pentecost 9:30am Worship	28 Stamp Camp	29 9:45am Al-Anon	30	31 CPR 11:30 am– 2:45pm		

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR August 2023

	August 6	August 13	August 20	August 27	September 3
Host	Sharon Marks	Fred Oestreich	Norb Georges	Jeff Sano	Jim Frye
GREETER	Valetta Bradosky	Lorraine Howell	Vicki Georges	Darla Dalena	Linda & Ray Wasilowski
LECTOR	Lisa Pegg	Debra Adams	Bob Marks	Fred Oestreich	Tina Weimer
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Debra Adams	Bernice Gruesu	Fred Oestreich	Ryan Winslow	Bernice Gruesu
TELLERS	Eliot Moore Bob Wolff	Eliot Moore Bob Wolff	Eliot Moore Bob Wolff	Eliot Moore Bob Wolff	Fred Oestreich Vicki Georges
ALTAR GUILD	Linda Wasilowski	Linda Wasilowski	Linda Wasilowski	Linda Wasilowski	Eldora Crist
CARD MINISTRY	Valetta Bradosky	Valetta Bradosky	Valetta Bradosky	Valetta Bradosky	Vicki Georges

2023 Church Council

Bob Wolff, President Ryan Winslow, Vice President Fred Oestreich, Secretary Eldora Crist, Treasurer Eliot Moore, Financial Secretary	Lisa Pegg Norb Georges Paul Gruesu, Pastor Sharon Marks Greg Paterno
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St. Matthias Evangelical Lutheran Church

100 Chapel View Drive
Greensburg, PA 15601-1002

Address Service Requested

DATED MATERIAL

THE VIEW

ST. MATTHIAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

July/ August 2023

Visit us on the web at www.stmatthiasgreensburg.org

Services of Holy Communion: Sunday 9:30am

Paul Gruesu, Pastor
Secretary: Amy Repak
Organist/Choir Director: Chuck Vita

