

# St. Matthew's Newsletter

"We show our love for God by welcoming all to grow in faith, community and service."

Pastor Mindelle K. Bartholomew

November 2023

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St. Matthew's Lutheran  
Church  
3249 N. Old Trail  
P.O. Box 68  
Shamokin Dam, PA 17876

*Pastor Mindelle K  
Bartholomew*

**Pastor's Contact Info:**  
570-742-7146 (Preferred)  
570-847-0573 (Pastoral  
Emergencies)  
Mindelle2@ptd.net

**Church Contact Info:**  
570-743-3052  
Saintmattslc@gmail.com

**Office Hours:**  
Monday  
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
  
Wednesday  
12 Noon- 4:00 pm  
  
Thursday  
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**+WORSHIP+  
SUNDAY  
10:30 a.m.**

*Greetings!*

The end of the church year is fast approaching as is the Christmas season. Societal pressures are already upon us to begin preparing for Christmas. We used to wait until after Thanksgiving to prepare. Now decorations and promotions are appearing in stores even before Halloween, the holiday that garners the second most revenue. All of this pressure adds to the everyday stressors in our lives resulting in shortened tempers and even physical ramifications.

In the Lutheran Church, our year comes to an end on Christ the King Sunday. This year it falls on November 26 and it is time to celebrate the reign of God come near in Jesus Christ. We who strive to live in the ways of God, to live in the reign of God are called to proclaim to others, that Christ is at hand. We proclaim the love of God in Jesus Christ, by telling our stories and sharing that love with all.

The next Sunday begins our Advent journey to Christmas. It is the antithesis of our 21<sup>st</sup> century preparation. In Advent we are called to slow down and prepare our hearts to receive again the light and love of Jesus Christ. At the darkest time of the year, Christ comes. In the darkest moments of our lives, Christ comes. In the joy of new birth, Christ comes.

Because Christmas Eve falls on the fourth Sunday of Advent, our mid-week services will begin on November 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the fellowship area. Together we will make a journey through the darkness to the light of Christ come into the world for all people. You are invited to exchange the busyness of your life for reflection and prayer throughout the Advent season. One way to do this is by participating in our Advent worship.

Peace in Christ,

*Pastor Mindy*

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS & MEETING DATE

The Congregational Council will meet on Monday,  
November 9th at 6:30 p.m. in the church.

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### ~Members Serving in November~

#### GREETER:

November 5- Jane Barnasconi  
November 12- Melanie Derr  
November 19- Carol Smith  
November 26- Carolann Bilger

#### LECTOR:

November 5- Sue Sidler  
November 12- AnneMarie  
Lawrence  
November 19- Susan Fries  
November 26- Carolann Bilger

#### COMMUNION ASSISTANT:

November 5- Suse Sidler  
November 12- Michele Mitchell  
November 19- Helle Derr  
November 26- Melanie Derr

#### OFFERING COUNTERS

November 5- M. Derr/H. Derr  
November 12- L. Lawrence/C.  
Smith  
November 19- C. Smith/M/  
Mitchell  
November 26- M. Derr/H. Derr

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**Congratulations to Pastor Mindy on her ordination. St. Matthews is so blessed to have her.**

❖ **There will be a Veterans Day coffee hour on November 12, 2023 to honor all of our veterans. Please come to Rec building after church for fellowship.**

❖ **We are looking for children's coats or monetary donations to buy children's coats for our upcoming coat drive.**

❖ **Coat Drive – We will be having our second annual coat drive on November 18th, 2023 in the Rec Building. We are looking for volunteers to help during the day. If interested please sign up.**

❖ **If any member of our congregation has questions, comments, or suggestions; please feel free to bring them to the attention of any member of council**

## Upcoming Events

- November 1<sup>st</sup> All Saints Day Remembrance services at 11 am and 7 pm
- November 5<sup>th</sup> is All Saints Sunday
- November 12<sup>th</sup> Veteran's Day coffee hour
- November 18<sup>th</sup> Coat Drive
- Nov 26<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Evening Advent Worship begins



The Church Office will in be closed November 23<sup>rd</sup> in observance of Thanksgiving.

Office hours that week will be Monday and Wednesday 9 am to 1 pm.

**BUDGET INFORMATION: JAN-September**

Donations \$3125  
Envelopes \$92858  
Rec. Building \$4310  
TOTAL \$100,293

Amount needed to meet budget \$100,524

**November BIRTHDAYS!**

- 1 Dave Harris
- 14 Sandy Moore
- 14 Ali Slivinski
- 16 David Hayes
- 22 Melanie Derr



**Cupboard of Blessings:**

we are seeing an increasing need for food and other necessities of life related to this wonderful

outreach program. We have a donation bin set up in the Fellowship area for anyone who may wish to contribute in order to help our friends in need.

**PRAYER LIST**



Lisa Yeager oversees the prayer chain. If you have a prayer request, please call or text Lisa at 570-743-7158 or email her at [jmlvay@ptd.net](mailto:jmlvay@ptd.net). (Please leave a message if Lisa cannot make it to the phone.)

**Current Prayer List:**

Family and friends of Thomas Propst, Jr; Todd Benner; Mary Hackenburg; Mindi Aungst; Family and friends of Helen Scholl; Family and friends of Richard (Dick) Herbert; Congregation Beth-El; Our Israeli and Palestinian siblings; Family and friends of Brian Kerstetter; Ellie Crane and her parents, Jamie and Dylan Crane; Loretta Swank; Wolfe family; Hendricks family; Briar Moll; Dave H.; George Wilhour; Edie Wilhour; Bob Banzoff; Marianne and Bob Worth; Brenda Enfield; Rusty Kerstetter; Pearl B.; Anita; Jo Bailey; George; Alea; Larry; Tammy; Anna and Don Fausey; Donna Marcinko; Councill family; Gene; Kay F.; LeaRae Lewis; The Lewis family; Jude S.; Carol H.; Charlotte Zartman; Marian Beaver; Lenus Haines; Frances; Scott Hummel; Warren; Gene Christine; Ethel Broschart; Dennis Fausey; People of Ukraine; Henry K.; Chris Becker; Russ Wynn; Brielle Caponera; Richard Saxton; Kay Fleming; Palmar Woodcock; Ben Keiser; Kenny Smith Jr.; Archer; All front-line workers and first responders and their families; St. Matthew's Church; America; and persecuted Christians around the world.

# All Saints Celebrations



## **ALL SAINTS REMEMBRANCE** **November 1, 2023 11:00 am & 7:00 pm**

A time of remembrance for all those who have left this earthly life. It will be an opportunity to light a candle for your loved one, hear words of assurance from scripture and other readings, and have them remembered in a prayer if you wish. This is a time to lift up all the everyday saints who died this year and all those who have gone before us. Those attending are invited to bring a photo of a loved one to display if they wish.

## **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**

Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> is All Saints Sunday. On that day we will be remembering all those earthly saints with who have gone before us and now rest in the arms of our loving Savior. There will be a special emphasis on those members of our congregation who have died in the past year. They will be mentioned in the day's sermon and a candle will be lighted for each them. We will also light one candle to remember all those who hold a special place in the hearts of our St. Matthew's family.

Folks are encouraged to bring photographs of the saints in their lives to place on tables in the fellowship area on All Saints Sunday.

### **Veterans Day Coffee Hour**

Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>

Immediately following worship

Join us in honoring all our Veterans!



We are collecting winter coats for our annual coat give-away. Please check your closets. All sizes needed especially women's and teen girls. The Coat Drive will take place on Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 2 pm. Help is needed for that day and for Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup> for set up.

## SHAMOKIN DAM TREE LIGHTING

We will be erecting and lighting a Christmas tree for the Shamokin Dam community again this year. Our siblings in Christ from Calvery Fellowship Susquehanna Valley and Brookside Ministries have chosen not to participate this year.

Folks are encouraged to come and bring friends to help erect the tree and put lights on Saturday Morning November 18th at 10:00 am. The rain date is November 25th at 10:00 am.

The Tree Lighting is scheduled for Sunday, November 26th at 5:00 pm at the water tower. The rain date is Sunday, December 3rd at the same time and place. We will also be looking for a few people to make some cookies for the Tree Lighting.

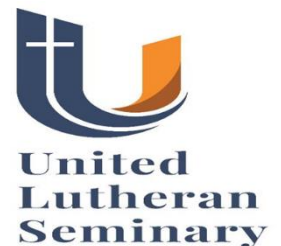
We encourage folks to participate as you are able. This is one way St. Matthew's can be a witness and give back to our community.



The synods of ELCA Region 8 are pleased to offer **Toward Racial & Social Justice Training** in a hybrid setting—in person or via zoom.

Toward Racial & Social Justice: November 28, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The training is being sponsored by United Lutheran Seminary's Kindling Faith and the Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA. The events will be held on the ULS Gettysburg Campus or livestream. Lunch is included for the in-person options. To register, visit <https://ulsforms.wufoo.com/forms/mlxbqsm04b7mdy/>





## ***Advent***

Advent is fast approaching! The first Sunday of Advent is December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Midweek Advent worship will begin on Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. It will continue for the four (4) Wednesdays of Advent – the last being December 20<sup>th</sup>. Come and find peace in the chaotic season!

**Advent Holy Hike** December 17, 2023 at  
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm Camp Mount Luther, 355  
Mt Luther Ln, Mifflinburg, PA 17844, USA

Join us for a meditative hike reflecting on the promises of the coming Messiah and the Christmas story. Christmas refreshments to follow.



It's almost Christmas poinsettia time!  
Once again we will be offering red and pink 6.5"  
pots

They will be \$12 each.  
Order form on next page in this newsletter.  
Absolute deadline will be November 26th

# 2023 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM



**6.5" Multi Bloom Poinsettia**

**\$12.00 Each**

Red \_\_\_\_\_ Pink \_\_\_\_\_

In \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
Memory/Honor List name to be honored

In \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
Memory/Honor List name to be honored

In \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
Memory/Honor List name to be honored

In \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
Memory/Honor List name to be honored

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**ORDERS ARE DUE SUNDAY, November 26th!**

*(Please place your order form, with your money, in the collection plate or place it on the desk in the church office. Thanks!)*



Congratulations to **Pastor Mindy**!

What a blessed day!



Vicar Mindy being presented for ordination



Pastor BJ Collins preaching



Laying on of hands



**Pastor Mindy**  
presiding

