



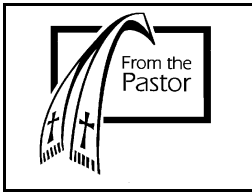
# The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of  
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church  
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Volume 67, Number 4

April 2015

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## From Our Pastor

*“(After Jesus rose from the dead) the eleven disciples went to Galilee to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him they worshipped him, though some*

*doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” Matthew 28:16-20*

**H**ave you ever heard the expression “a week of Sundays? It is not used as often anymore, but I remember there was a time when I heard it often. It refers to a long period of time: “I haven’t seen you in a week of Sundays!” or “This is so cool I could do it for a week of Sundays!” If you think it through, a week of Sundays is seven weeks: seven days in a week, seven Sundays come and go, a week of Sundays is seven weeks. I have always presumed this phrase comes from the liturgical calendar, because that is how long the Easter season is. We spend 6 weeks reflecting on life and the need for God in Lent, and then spend seven weeks, “a week of Sundays,” celebrating the resurrection and Christ’s victory over death for us.

After Jesus rose from the dead, the disciples worshipped. They celebrated the presence of the risen Lord with them, and the promise that he, by the power of the Holy Spirit, would be with them forever. Some of them doubted, but still they worshipped. Some of them were confused, but still they worshipped. They rejoiced in the knowledge that Jesus lives, that Jesus loves, that Jesus claimed them as his own.

We are in a similar position to the early disciples. We approach Easter Day with excitement and expectation, with doubt and confusion, but we come to worship the same Jesus who lives, loves, and claims us as his own. This is such good news that we could do it for a very long time. We can worship for “a week of Sundays.”

I look forward to seeing all of you on Easter Day as we

celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. I also encourage you to keep worshipping on the other days, in your confidence or doubt, your joy or confusion, because Jesus won the victory for you. Remember, he is with you always, to the end of the age!

Blessed Easter!

Pr. Karl M. Richard

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## Financial Update

*“In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Acts 20:35*

	<u>February 2015</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Giving/Income:	\$34,210.54	\$81,067.24
Expenses	<u>42,876.05</u>	<u>89,501.96</u>
Plus/Minus	(8,665.51)	(8,434.72)

**February Summary:** With all the snow and ice this winter our attendance has been down. Consequently, our weekly offerings have been down, too. If you missed a Sunday or two, please send your offering to the church so we can keep current with our operations. There is an envelope for this purpose in your monthly packet. Thank you!

**Giving Opportunities:** Did you know that every time we need to clear the parking lot because of snow or ice that it costs us \$500? So far this year we have had to do this at least 8 times! Do you think you would be able to help out by paying for all or a part of one of the snow removals? If so, please place an envelope in the offering plate noting the reason. Everything helps as we continue God’s work, regardless of the weather.

Your Finance Committee

## Easter Schedule

### Maundy Thursday, April 2, 2015

12:00 p.m. Service of Holy Communion  
7:00 p.m. Service of Holy Communion  
The Stripping of the Altar

### Good Friday, April 3, 2015

12:00 p.m. Community Service sponsored by the  
Springfield Ministerium held at First  
Presbyterian  
7:00 p.m. Good Friday Evening Service

### Holy Saturday, April 4, 2015

7:00 p.m. Easter Vigil Service

### Easter Sunday, April 5, 2015

8:00 a.m. Festival Worship Service  
9:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast  
11:00 a.m. Festival Worship Service  
(No Sunday Bible School)

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## Christian Education Committee

Easter blessings to everyone. There will be no Sunday School classes on Easter Sunday, April 5. We encourage families to attend one of the church services at 8:00 or 11:00 a.m. There is also a breakfast being held at the church between the two services. Come and get a bite to eat and enjoy some fellowship before or after you worship the Risen King.

Families who have children in fifth grade and are ready to make their First Holy Communion have been notified about the classes being held on Monday nights March 23 and 30 to learn about this next step in a young person's faith journey. Pastor Richard and Carol Penjucke will be leading the instruction.

Vacation Bible School plans are just around the corner. This year's theme is Everest. It will be held during the mornings the week of July 27. **We are in need of adults to help.** Please contact Julie Cirillo.

Carol Penjucke

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## Wednesday Bible Study: What is Islam?



With the news full of the aggressive group that calls itself the Islamic State, there have been many questions about what Islam truly is. There are many who feel that Islam = terrorist. This is not the case, no matter how people on each side of our current political and military

battles want to suggest it is. What is Islam? What are its basic teachings? How does it compare or contrast with Christianity and Judaism? In Bible Study over the months of April and May we will look at the similarities and differences of the three main monotheistic religions - Christianity, Judaism, and Islam - all of which look to the person of Abraham as their common spiritual ancestor. We may also look at the basics of two other faiths, Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons, which also claim a common spiritual lineage. Join us on Wednesdays at 6:30 a.m. in the Library or noon in the Parlor, to see what we can learn about these faith traditions that can give a more complete picture than the views we get from the media. We will begin our study on April 15. I hope to see you there.

Pastor Richard

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## Children's Corner

### Dear Children,

He is risen! He is risen indeed!" In a few days, all the Christian community will join in a glorious celebration as we acknowledge the resurrection of Our Lord. We have finished a cold, bleak winter, with long nights and biting winds; now we are about to see buds on the trees and other signs of spring. In our churches we have gone through the dark thoughts of the betrayal of Judas, the lonely night praying with Christ and his disciples, the Last Supper, and finally the crucifixion of Our Lord - but as God promised, Christ rose from the dead to give all of us new life. What a story!

I remember growing up in northern Pennsylvania - we had some pretty rough winters - the roads were so icy and snow covered that Dad had to put chains on the car to drive around. I remember wearing boots and long leggings from November until the first of April. Removing all those items that reminded us of freezing days gave everyone such a sense of freedom. This "sense of freedom" is much like that wonderful feeling we have when we know that Jesus loves us and forgives us all our sins.

One of my favorite cartoonists is Bill Keane (who is now deceased) - he drew and wrote about events in his family. His wife, four small children, a dog, and a cat were carefully crafted in his drawings to bring the real world to life. In one of his cartoons, Dolly (about 5 years old) runs into the meadow as the sun is beaming down on her and she sees some robins eating worms, flowers opening up, bunny rabbits hopping around, trees that are budding, and meadowlarks singing. She immediately stops running, puts her arms out, and says, "**Springtime is God's way of saying Let's Party!**"

### Dear Parents,

Now that Easter is somewhat late this year, we can truly appreciate what new life is like. This would be a great time to take

a nature walk to see God's gifts as we enjoy the change of seasons. Thanking God for his Greatest Gift gives families a wonderful opportunity to pray together and enjoy special church services. Don't forget to check our wonderful church library for books on Easter. Also, you might want to point out the colors of our paraments, which are white and gold, signifying joy and celebration.

Sylvia Yost

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## Men's Breakfast

Our April Men's Breakfast will be held at The Court Diner, 140 E. Baltimore Pike, Media, on Saturday, April 18, at 7:15 a.m. All men are invited to join us for morning devotions, a great speaker, an excellent breakfast, and good fellowship. Please come and enjoy an excellent way to start the day.

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## First Thursday Friends ("FTF")

Since the first Thursday in April is Maundy Thursday, the First Thursday Friends will gather at Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que on the **second** Thursday, April 9, at 11:30 a.m. Famous Dave's is located in Springfield Park Shopping Center at 825 Baltimore Pike, Springfield.

Please join us. All are welcome. Contact John Stefl at 610-544-2816 for more information.

John Stefl

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## Library



Spring has arrived - so says the calendar. It is refreshing to hear the songs of the birds and soon the trees etc. will be coming to life. We've come through Lent, and Easter is here. He is risen. Rejoice!

This month's book is *He Chose the Nails* by Max Lucado - Shelf 248.4/Luc. Much has been said about the gift of the cross itself, but what of the other gifts? What of the nails, the crown of thorns? What about the garment taken? What about the garment given? Have you taken the time to open these gifts?

He didn't have to give them, you know. The only required act for our salvation was the shedding of blood, yet he did much more. So much more. Search the cross, and what do you find?

A wine-soaked sponge  
A sign  
Two crosses beside Christ

Let's examine them, shall we? Let's unwrap these gifts of grace as if - or perhaps indeed - for the first time. As you touch them - as you feel the timber of the cross and trace the braid of the crown and finger the point of the spike - pause and listen. Perchance you will hear him whisper: I did it just for you.

Barbara Kinsey

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## Saint Matthew Christian Nursery School News



We enjoy singing songs for Spring and watching for the first buds of a flower. The children have been busy with fun activities as they await its arrival. They are anxious to ride their bikes, and play more in the school yard. The children will also be planting seeds to celebrate new life.

School will be closed for Spring Break March 30 - April 6. We are also very busy preparing for our Annual Art Show which is Wednesday, May 6 (5:30 - 7:30.) Please stop by and visit all of the special creations! Our school will be closed that Wednesday for set up.

We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Spring season.

Linda M. Maylie, Director

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## Lutheran World Relief Quilts

Did you know that there is a group of women who create quilts that are sent yearly to Lutheran World Relief as part of our Women of the ELCA organization? These quilts provide warmth for people in all kinds of climates. Besides being used as a bed cover, the quilt can also be used as a baby carrier tied around a mother's back, spread on the ground piled with vegetables for a market display, a sack to transport those goods to the market, a sunshade, or a shawl. The quilts are a reminder that someone cares a lot. In the year 2014 408,245 quilts were shipped around the world to help those in need! This is a staggering number and our group is proud to be a part of it.

At the present time our group has several sewers who assemble the tops and backs using their sewing machines. However, we always welcome more ladies who have this talent. Right now we are in need of people who can tie knots. Batting is placed between the tops and bottoms. This is where the **tying**

becomes important. Using embroidery thread and needles, we securely tie the layers of the quilt together. Each block requires about five knots. The backing is then folded over the front to create a binding that is stitched by a sewing machine to finish it off. We will gladly supply the needles, thread, and training! It would be helpful if a person who is tying brings a small pair of scissors, but not necessary.

Our group meets the second Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m. and we finish around noon. We can usually get one quilt done and to a sewer for the binding step in that time frame. Can you help out? We have several quilt tops and bottoms waiting to be assembled and we have a great time enjoying Christian fellowship. Give our group a try! Contact Carol Penjue or Joanne Castagna for more information.

Carol Penjue

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## Tenebrae Service

**T**enebrae, A Service of Darkness by Hal H. Hopson will be presented at the 7:00 p.m. Good Friday service by the choir, an instrumental ensemble of strings and woodwinds, and narrators. Tenebrae comes from a Latin word meaning darkness and is a centuries-old service that dramatizes the suffering, death, and burial of Jesus through a service of word and music. This somber service is an ending to our Lenten journey as we are once again reminded of the sacrifice that was given to us. It is the perfect way to prepare our hearts for the upcoming joy that will be celebrated on Easter Day.

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## Social Ministry

**H**opefully, most of our members have been able to view the thank you DVD that was sent to us from the children of Faith Immanuel Lutheran Church that ran on our screens before our services for several weeks. Pastor Moses also sent me an email stating "It is the only outside of household and perhaps the only gifts some of these kids get." Thank you all, once again, for the support that you give for this project that truly touches these children.

In May, Social Ministry will again be assembling breakfast bags for Aid for Friends. We are asking for donations to help us provide nutrition for shut-ins in our area. Items needed are juice boxes, coffee bags, tea bags, sugar packets, oatmeal packets, pudding, raisins, fruit snacks, breakfast/cereal bars, hot chocolate, fruit cups, pop-tarts, and similar items. There will be a bin in the hallway for your donations.

We continue to collect donations for the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry. Donations from Saint Matthew decreased in 2014 from the previous year. A recent study by Feeding America

found that 1 in 7 Americans rely on food pantries, so please remember Loaves and Fishes when you shop.

On Mother's Day, there will be an envelope in our bulletin for Baby Manna. The funds collected help provide nutrition for babies so they can thrive during their early years.

Social Ministry seems to be always saying thank you. Our good works could not continue if it weren't for the generosity of our wonderful congregation.

Cheryl Morrell

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## Stewardship and Staffing - the "Plus 20" Club

**L**ast month I wrote describing our goal and need to increase our staff at Saint Matthew. I pointed out how we need more than one pastor and a half-time musician to fill the programming needs of our congregation as we strive to connect people and change lives. I stated that to do this we need your help! We will not be able to make even a part-time position available without additional support from our members.

How can we do it? If we receive an extra \$20 per month from 100 of our families, we will be close to the amount we need for a half-time position to help with Youth and Confirmation ministry. If we can get more, we may be able to bring on a full-time person to help us connect people and change lives!

I asked if you will be one of those who will give an extra \$20 a month. An extra \$20 per month isn't a huge amount of money. You can be one of the families that makes a difference in your church and in this community for Jesus.

I am very pleased to say that I have heard from some people that they are considering this challenge. I have heard from at least one family that they have already started to make this increased gift. I am so grateful!

For lack of a more clever name, I am calling this challenge the "Plus 20" Club. Will you join in this challenge to give an extra \$20 per month to Saint Matthew for the work of Jesus? If so, please let me know so we can keep a tally of the "Plus 20." Will you help in the work of "Connecting People, Changing Lives" through Jesus Christ?

An extra \$20 per month from 100 of our families. This is not too hard for us to do. Will you help?

Pr. Karl M. Richard

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## Women of the ELCA News

**G**reetings to all! At last we can say Spring has arrived and we hope each of you has a delightful Springtime with fresh breezes, beautiful flowers and a peaceful and God-filled Easter season! Christ is risen, he is risen indeed! Alleluia! God's blessings to all of our brothers and sisters in Christ!

A few reminders of what is on our calendar for the months of April and May. On Sunday, April 12, we will be having our annual Women's Sunday Service at both the 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. church service. We hope that as many ladies as possible will volunteer to assist in serving the congregation on that morning. Please speak to any circle member to let them know you would like to help. We will be making phone calls too, if needed. Thank you for your help on this special day. As a reminder, we will be having a guest speaker at both services - Mrs. Lorraine Martinez of the Chester County Migrant Ministry located in Kennett Square, PA. She spoke to us at our December Christmas Breakfast and her message to us then was something we cannot forget - a very heartfelt presentation. Between the two services we will have a social time and she might be interested in visiting a few of the Sunday School classes (both adult and youth) at this time. Can we count on you for that special morning church service?

On Wednesday, May 20, 2015, we will be having our annual Covered Dish Supper and also we will have a guest speaker for this special gathering. There will be more information on this event in the next newsletter - please mark your calendar - hopefully you'll be able to attend.

On Saturday, April 18, 2015, the Delaware Conference of the Women of the ELCA will be having their Spring Conference at Saint Timothy's, Pennell and Lamp Post Lane, Aston. The speaker will be The Rev. Dr. Dolores Littleton of Trinity Lutheran Church, Havertown, PA. 10:00 a.m. - Registration; 10:30 a.m. - Brunch, followed by meeting and speaker. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the hallway - there will be carpooling.

### April Schedule:

April 5	A blessed Easter
April 8	Board Meeting
April 11	LWR Quilting
April 12	Women's Sunday Service (8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.)
April 15	Ronald McDonald Quilting
April 18	Spring Conference at Saint Timothy's, Aston
April 22	Esther Circle
April 28	Sarah Circle

Dee Bratz and the Executive Board

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## Monthly Mailbag



Dear Pastor Richard and all of Saint Matthew,

**T**he amazing amount of time and effort put in by the Souper Bowl committee, the people of Saint Matthew, and the other churches, made Souper Bowl of Caring 2015 a tremendous success. It is astonishing to see how one small beginning has led to a nationwide effort to gather food for those in need.

This year I again had the privilege of assisting in blanketing the town with flyers to alert families that the Souper Bowl was taking place, You should be most proud to know that Saint Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church's efforts led to a collection of 6,073.7 pounds of food.

It takes a lot of people to make a project like the Souper Bowl successful. The clients and volunteers could not believe the stacks of cases of food! You have visited us and know how very much this means to us. It not only enables us to provide full boxes of food, but to offer extra food to our struggling families.

You are all such a wonderful group of people and we feel blessed that God sent you to us because we simply could not do what we do without Saint Matthew. This year's effort leaves me speechless with gratitude. A special thanks to Rick, Joelle and Joe Link; Carol Mueller; Nadine Atkinson; Ginger Heck; Carol and Bill Penjucke; Nancy Regan; Julie, Jenna and Joey Cirillo; Joan Krauter; Amanda and Abigail Richard; Joanna Liscom; Dave Krauter; Natalie Berry; Eryl Roth; the wonderful crew who sorted the food; and anyone else I may have missed.

Now in our 14<sup>th</sup> year of operating, I never cease to be amazed what the children of God can do. This year you lived "Connecting People, Changing Lives." Please know you have had a profound effect upon all of us at the pantry as well as the clients we serve.

Blessings,  
Joanne F. Castagna, Director  
Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry

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Dear Pastor Karl and My Saint Matthew Family,

How wonderful to belong to such a loving family as Saint Matthew's. It was Pastor Karl's visits, the lovely flowers Joan brought to me and the many prayers and cards that helped me recover enough to be able to come home.

I look forward to the time when I can come to church. I miss you all.

Love,  
Judy Guille

\* \* \*

Dear Saint Matthew Congregation,

Thank you for all the prayers given for Hal as he has had many health issues - the latest being mitral heart valve replacement. It has been a month and he is getting stronger. Thank you also for the altar flowers and the cards. It means so very much to have all of you, our church family.

Barbara and Hal Kinsey

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Dear Saint Matthew Congregation,

Once again I am reminded of the good and caring folks of Saint Matthew! I am truly blessed by your kindness, good thoughts, and most especially your prayers. Thank you for the cards, calls, food, and all your inquiries into my health. I can truly say I am much improved because of your love! The call from Pastor Karl meant so much, particularly since I was not getting a definitive diagnosis. He is such a steady influence!

It appears that the "episode" I suffered was the result of a complex migraine, rather than a mini-stroke.

What a congregation! Keep doing the wonderful things you do. I am so grateful.

Blessings!  
Jeff Wesley

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### Vital Statistics

**Baptism:** Anna Josephine Godfrey  
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Godfrey  
Born: October 24, 2014  
Baptized: February 22, 2015

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### Health and Healing

We ask you to remember all those who are ill, as well as those who mourn the loss of a loved one, in your thoughts and prayers. We also remember and pray for the homeless, the hungry, and all the men and women serving in our armed forces.

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