



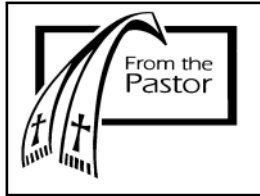
The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Volume 77, Number 4

April 2025

Internet Web Site: www.stmattspringfield.org



From Our Pastor

Connect
Care
eEquip
Cultivate

We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

These are words from one of the Eucharistic Prayers that is often used in the Easter season. They are words that celebrate the new life that comes through Jesus, and particularly through his death and resurrection. But as we pray this prayer, what does it mean to cry out for the resurrection of our lives?

I suppose it means we need to recognize that there are parts of our lives that feel dead. There are those hurts and disappointments, those divisions and separations that have festered and grown over time that leave us feeling cut off and alone, without hope or a clear path forward into the future. There may be a desire, a cry, that God would bring healing, hope, and restoration to such situations in our lives.

I suppose it may also be a chance to recognize that there are those things within us that need to die so that what is good and pleasing, to God and to ourselves, can grow in its place. What are those things for you? Is it resentment, prejudice, jealousy, pride, anger? We have the image in Scripture of a gardener that prunes away the parts of the tree that are not healthy and which inhibit good growth and the ability of the tree to bear fruit. What "dead wood" do we need to have pruned away so that the love of God can fully take root and new life can bloom in us?

I suppose it is also a recognition of, and a yearning for, the fulfillment of the promise that Jesus makes to his disciples, "Where I am, there you may be also." In the Eucharistic feast we have a thinning of the veil between heaven and earth, a "foretaste of the feast to come," as we share a meal with Jesus, who is our resurrection and our life, in whom we have our hope and our confidence.

In the Easter season in particular we celebrate the promise that this world is not all there is, but that, through Christ, we can see in death the gate to eternal life. As we continue to live in this world where there is so much disappointment, separation, brokenness, sin and death, how can we not cry out for resurrection to the life and world God is preparing for all who

love him? And so, it is fitting that we pray this prayer, and we conclude our cry with, "Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!"

May you feel the power of the resurrection as you live in the love of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord.

Pastor Karl M. Richard

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Lent, Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Midweek Lenten Services:

Wednesday, March 12, 19 and 26; April 2 and 9

12:00 Noon and 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor

Palm Sunday, April 13

8:00 a.m. Communion Service in Sanctuary

9:30 a.m. Communion Service with Sunday School in Sanctuary and live via Zoom

Video of this service is also available

Maundy Thursday, April 17

12:00 Noon Communion Service in Sanctuary

7:00 p.m. Communion Service in Sanctuary and live via Zoom

Good Friday, April 18

12:00 Noon Springfield Community Service at Church of the Redeemer

7:00 p.m. Service in our sanctuary and live via Zoom

Easter Sunday, April 20

8:00 a.m. Communion Service in Sanctuary

9:15 a.m. Easter Breakfast

10:30 a.m. Communion Service in Sanctuary and live via Zoom

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Christian Education

We have Worship with Sunday School each week at the 9:30 service. We are in need of some substitute teachers. If you are interested, please contact Julie Cirillo.

Please join us along with the Fellowship Committee for our Nighttime Egg Hunt! It will be April 11 at 6 p.m. All are welcome to attend. If interested in helping, please let us know!

We are now taking registrations for our Vacation Bible School which will be July 28th-August 1st. All are welcome to come, we need many hands to make this a successful week for our children. Please contact Julie if interested.

Julie Cirillo

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Bible Study

Midweek Bible Study will resume April 30th. We will continue to have two sessions, one at noon, another at 8:00 p.m. Both will be available in-person in the parlor, and via Zoom for those who wish to join from a distance. At the writing of this newsletter a topic has not been chosen for this session. Watch your email and the website for further information.

Pastor Karl M. Richard

Men's Breakfast

We have scheduled the April Men's Breakfast for Saturday, April 26, (the Saturday after Easter) at 7 a.m. at the Court Diner in Media. It's a great way to start the day!

Easter Egg Hunt

Join us on April 11th at 6 p.m. for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt. We are looking for children to participate and adult/youth to help out. If you can't make the event, you can still help by donating a bag of peanut-free candy to stuff the Easter eggs. A donation box will be placed outside of the church office. Please sign up online at stmattspringfield.org for children participating in the hunt or outside the church office for hunters and helpers by April 4th. Any questions, please contact the church office at 610-543-8700. Thank you!

Fellowship Committee

Women's Sunday—April 27

On April 27 we will celebrate Women's Sunday. Joy Grace, president of Southeast Pennsylvania Synod Women of the ELCA, will be our guest speaker. A coffee hour will be held between the services. All are invited to attend.

News from the Property Committee

As noted last month, our elevator doors were not working as well as they should. I am pleased to report that our elevator company installed a new switch, and the doors are working again.

The generator—although it was working properly, its weekly run was not. The generator company came out and reset all timers, and it is working as it should.

The two lights at the main door, coming off the parking lot, were not working. Two new lights were installed. Also, a new microphone was installed for the Lectern to replace the old one that was cutting out when it was moved.

As Spring approaches there are many cleanup projects that must be done. One of these was the tree in front of the church, which had been leaning and dying for several years. The tree had succumbed to the fate of the wind. The tree was removed, and grass has been planted.

Joe Regan

Lilies

We will once again be decorating the sanctuary on Easter Sunday with our lily crosses and assorted spring flowers. We are asking for donations of \$12. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex or you can call the church office. The deadline to have a dedication listed in the bulletin is April 13. Flowers may be picked up after the last service on Easter Sunday.

Social Ministry

We are continuing to receive donations of individually wrapped cereal bars for the Welcome Church. There is a pink bin in the hallway if you wish to contribute to this project. Thank you to everyone who has already supported this endeavor.

Cheryl Morrell

Welcome Church

Through the spring and summer, please remember the homeless with coffee and toiletries.

Joan Krauter

Gemma Services

The ladies of the Circle prepared 60 treat bags for the children who live in the residential treatment program at Gemma Services. We are told that the children always look forward to the bags filled with several different kinds of candy that the ladies fill at our meeting. We then deliver them to the Plymouth Meeting campus.

Nancy Regan

Food Collection for Media Food Bank

On March 2 when we delivered all the wonderful items to the food bank, we were greeted by the volunteers who now know that we are from Saint Matthew. They are looking for us to deliver a car full of items on each first Sunday. This month we were told the weight of our items was 385 pounds. Thank you, thank you to everyone who donates food and items for us to deliver each month. The bank appreciates all we can deliver. Our next collection date is April 6th, 2025.

Nancy Regan

Beds for Kids

Beds For Kids provides beds and all the necessary items for children who are "bedless." Last year they delivered 2,923 beds, sheets, pillows, and spreads, which is a new record for them. They will take gently used bedding and books. Should you like to donate, there is a box under the table in the hallway. Thank you to all who support this program!

Nancy Regan

Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the May newsletter are due in the church office by **noon on Tuesday, April 15.**

Children's Corner

Dear Families,

We have made it through the long, dark, days of winter, now it is time to get ready for spring. Spring always reminds me of new beginnings. Spring is a wonderful time to find all the creations that the Lord has made for us.

Here are some activities to do with your families to celebrate Spring:

- Plant new life: Get your gardening gear out and allow your child to help in planting new life. Show them how to prepare the soil, where to plant the seeds, and how to nurture and protect the plant daily.

- Spring cleaning with the whole family: After the work is done, treat your children to their favorite food. Over lunch or dinner, thank them for their hard work and draw a connection between house cleaning and heart cleaning. Talk about the importance of keeping a clean heart before God. Discuss Psalm 51:2 which says, "Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin." Also, Psalm 51:10 says, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." Talk about asking forgiveness for our sins on a daily basis and keeping a right heart before God. Highlight Psalm 51:12, "Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me." Our lives, as Christ followers, should be marked by joy! This is a great way to show how to ask for forgiveness and allow them to do the same.

Julie Cirillo

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Lutheran World Relief Quilting

March 15 was National Quilting Day. Our Lutheran World Relief Group decided to spend 4 hours together to work on our quilts. We invited the members of our congregation and we sent out invitations to other churches in our conference. We encouraged the attendees to come and go as they pleased.

Four members of our congregation joined us: Lynda Knaggs, Bea Toomey, Carol Mueller, and Penny Hermann. We also had a guest from Temple Lutheran, Janet Bruss.

We got 5 quilts completed and four just need the bindings done. All in all it was a very productive day and we appreciated the extra sets of hands!

If you would like to know more about this quilting group, please contact one of our members!

Marjorie Aronson	Nancy Regan
Barb Kinsey	Dawn Liscom
Joan Krauter	Joanne Castagna
Carol Penjuka	

Blessings,
Carol Penjuka

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Nursery School

Spring has sprung at our Nursery School, and we are in full bloom! We are looking forward to the warmer weather and the increased opportunities for outdoor experiences for our students. Registration for the 2025 - 2026 School Year is ongoing. We continue to offer programs for 2-, 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds. Classes are filling up fast! To schedule a tour and/or to register go to <https://www.stmattscns.org/registration-forms-1> or contact the office at 610-543-5589. Please share this information with your family, friends and neighbors. Don't forget to follow and like us on Facebook and Instagram to see the hard work of the staff and students! Happy Easter and Happy Spring!

Warmly,
Ana Fischer, Executive Director

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Vital Statistics

25th Wedding Anniversary

Dave and Kim Baumann
April 15, 2025

Death

Sally Kampmeyer
Died March 19, 2025
Funeral March 24, 2025

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Monthly Mailbag



Dear Pastor Karl and Saint Matthew Family,

Thank you all very much for the ongoing support of my girl scout troop's collection of supplies for the California fire victims!

The donations have been collected and will soon be sent over to California!

Thank you again!

Love,
Anna Kinder

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is a privilege to write thank you letters to the many individuals and organizations who continue to support Loaves and Fishes and provide us with the monetary and in-kind donations that keep us going. Your generous donation from the Souper Bowl of Caring in 2024, totaling \$312 and 6,037 pounds of food, helped us keep providing essentials for the families who came to us for help. Thank you for your faithfulness to the pantry, and may God bless you in 2025.

Yours in Christ,
Lana Lindenmuth
Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry

Dear Saint Matthew Lutheran Church,

We are truly grateful for your generous donation of cards, calendars, pens, religious items, a purse, a sweatshirt, and more. Your kindness and thoughtfulness mean so much to our residents, bringing them both comfort and joy.

Your generosity is a beautiful reflection of the spirit of giving, and we deeply appreciate your support. These gifts not only brighten their days but also remind them that they are cherished by the community. Thank you for your continued kindness and for making a difference in the lives of those we serve.

With heartfelt appreciation,
Susan Harrar
Director of TAS and Volunteer Services
Fair Acres

Dear Saint Matthew Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$432.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response. As a church, we are freed by the transformative life of Christ, and this freedom emboldens us to love and serve our neighbors just as Christ has shown us. Your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA help people around the world feel the power of God's love.

Your Spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

In Christ,
The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, Giving, Service and Justice
ELCA World Hunger & Lutheran Disaster Response

Dear Saint Matthew Friends,

You are simply the best! We are very grateful for your continued friendship and generosity to Gemma Services. Thank you for your donation of one fleece blanket and 60 treat bags for youth in residence at Gemma. As you know, your support

helps Gemma continue to provide vital behavioral health, prevention, child welfare and educational services (through Martin Luther School) for youth and families who are facing challenging times. Your friendship matters a great deal to us; thank you!

With the help of friends like all of you, Gemma is able to accompany more than 3,000 youth and families each year as they face life's challenges, heal from traumas, manage mental health challenges, learn new skills and work to reach their individual goals. We would be happy to welcome any of our friends from Saint Matthew to visit one of Gemma's three locations to see firsthand the programs you are helping us to provide. We will also continue to keep you up-to-date with any volunteer opportunities beyond all the ways you currently support us. You can learn more about all of Gemma's programs, latest happenings and current support needs by visiting www.gemmaservices.org.

Should you have any questions or wish to schedule a visit, please contact me at 610-825-4440 ext. 3307 or Abryant@gemmaservices.org. On behalf of all at Gemma, thank you!

Sincerely,
Amanda Bryant
Director of Donor & Volunteer Engagement
Gemma Services

Dear Lutheran Church Women of Saint Matthew,

Warm and hopeful New Year greetings from United Lutheran Seminary! As we step into this new year, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your recent donation. Your partnership is instrumental in sustaining our operations and ensuring that our mission thrives.

At ULS we continue to expand our understanding of community. Our mission is not limited to serving one type of student or degree. We are committed to providing transformative theological education to everyone—whether through degree programs,

distance learning, or our Kindling Faith events. This inclusive approach is only possible thanks to your support.

Your generosity makes a meaningful difference, helping us shape the leaders of tomorrow. If you would like to learn more about how we are continuing to grow or if you need assistance, feel free to reach out to us at advancement@uls.edu. Stay connected with our ongoing learning opportunities through ULS Kindling Faith Continuing Education: <https://www.unitedlutheranseminary.edu/academics/kindling-faith>.

With deep appreciation and best wishes,
Conor Brooks, CFRE
Vice President for Institutional Advancement
United Lutheran Seminary

Dear Lutheran Church Women of Saint Matthew,

Thank you for your gift of \$200.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response.

As a church, we are empowered to love and serve our neighbors as Christ first loved us. Your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA help people around the world feel the power and hope that flow from God's full, boundless love. Drawn together and guided by the Holy Spirit, we accomplish together what none of us could do alone, grace upon grace.

Your Spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters, in the immediate aftermath and far into the future. No matter the disaster, no matter the need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. You make God's love real.

With gratitude,
Rachel Wind, Executive for Development
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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