



The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Springfield, Pennsylvania

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From Our Pastor

Connect
Care
Equip
Cultivate

“Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again.” – from the communion liturgy

“Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.” – from the Nicene Creed

“Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Risen our Victorious Head!” – from the hymn “Christ is Risen”

Easter Day is the day of the resurrection of our Lord, the day of Christ’s triumph over sin, death, and the devil. For the next two months of the Easter Season, we celebrate the central message of the Gospel, that through the Cross and grave, Christ rises victorious from the dead, opening the kingdom of heaven to all who believe in him. We meet this time with trumpets and choirs and shouts of “Alleluia!” We sing songs of victory and triumph, rousing songs that make us feel motivated to move and to act. We celebrate that God makes us “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” (1 Peter 2:9). We celebrate victory, new life, the power of God, and the end of all that is evil because of what God has done in Christ Jesus. But what does this power look like? What does it mean to say the Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and he dead?

There are so many thoughts around the resurrection, and what it means for those of us who bear the name Christian. Many of these thoughts surround how we will receive power because of what Christ has done. And while there is some scriptural basis to this thought, as Jesus tells the disciples in Acts 1:8, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.” But we have to be careful what we presume this power to be, and for what purpose it is given. Too often Christians become fixated on the glory of the Resurrection, without remembering that Christ’s power is really shown in the humiliation of the Cross.

Christians are no different from most other human beings: we like to feel like winners, not losers. We like to be victorious. Silver medals are nice, but they are still not on the top podium.

But we are not given power from Jesus so we can be winners. We are given power from Jesus to follow his example to care to the point of death, that others might know the deeds of God that call us out of darkness. The competitive ways of the world that pit people against each other are fine for sport, but they do not bring people together or build people up. They do not create peace, but rather breed suspicion and division. The power of Jesus was not in his ability to vanquish death. The true power of Jesus was to love his “opponents” enough that he would take on death for them. Jesus’ power was his willingness to suffer at the hands of the people in order to break the power that resentment, fear, competition, and suspicion hold over people. You cannot have resurrection to new life until you are willing to see the end of the old life.

Followers of Jesus know this, but we still rebel against it. We find it difficult to imagine that the cross is the place of power, not the resurrection. We tend to want to see a reckoning for those we see as evil, not the chance of forgiveness and restoration. We have our human sense of justice that those who have harmed us will be punished, and perhaps for eternity. Much of this comes from a misreading of the Bible, and particularly those passages we call “apocalyptic;” passages we feel describe the end times, where the righteous will shine like the sun, and the wicked will weep and gnash their teeth. We think there should be some benefit to being followers of Jesus, a special place as chosen people, who then get to see those who are not chosen suffer defeat. We look at the books of Daniel and Revelation and search for signs of our winning, and their losing.

But that is not why Jesus came.

While there may be a sorting of sheep and goats at the end of time, the Great Shepherd comes to make as many sheep as possible. And he calls us into his ministry of reconciliation so that people of every nation and tribe and people and tongue may know the love of God in Jesus Christ.

This Spring the midweek Bible Study will focus on these apocalyptic texts to see what they say, and what they do not say, about the coming of the Lord. We will look to understand the purpose of these writings, and what we can appropriately glean from their words.

We gather for our celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead to remember first and foremost that God’s strength is in the power of love. We remember that the power of God’s love was shown in Jesus being willing to die such an abysmal death on the cross. It is through Jesus’ own death that he was able to destroy death. Because we have been joined to his death in our baptism, the evil within us has been

vanquished, so that we may live in the power of his resurrection. And we are empowered to go out in the power of God's love to declare this marvelous act that calls us out of darkness and into the light of Christ.

As we make our joyous proclamations of God's power this season, may we recognize that the true power of the resurrection is the power of love to bring life from death.

Pastor Karl M. Richard

Christian Education

We are getting ready for Vacation Bible School. Are you looking to have the best week of your summer? Come join us July 27-July 31. This year our theme is *Rainforest Falls, Exploring the Nature of God*. Our program runs from 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. All are welcome to join us! If you have questions, please reach out to Julie.

Julie Cirillo

Financial Update

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your faithfulness to Saint Matthew and for the generosity of this church family. We praise You for the gifts that sustain our ministry, support our mission, and help care for the needs of this congregation now and in the future. As we share this month's financial update, we give thanks for those who continue to give faithfully, for those honoring their pledges, and for the many ways Your people are helping strengthen the life of this church. Grant us wisdom in our stewardship, courage in our planning, and trust in Your continued provision. May all that we receive and all that we offer be used to glorify You and serve others with love. Amen.

	<u>Feb. 2026</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Giving/Income	\$ 66,122.	\$ 100,811.
Expenses	<u>49,026.</u>	<u>97,865.</u>
Plus/Minus	\$ 17,096.	\$ 2,946.

Summary: February was an encouraging month financially for Saint Matthew. Giving remained strong, and the church ended the month with a positive balance. Year to date, we continue to see steady support from the congregation, which helps sustain ministry, meet ongoing expenses, and strengthen our financial footing as we move further into the fiscal year. We are grateful for the faithful generosity that continues to support the mission and ministry of Saint Matthew.

Envelope/General Giving: February reflected strong and faithful congregational giving, with envelope giving continuing to make up the largest portion of worship support. Additional gifts through plate and other giving also helped strengthen the overall monthly total. This steady generosity continues to provide meaningful support for the ministry and mission of Saint Matthew, and we are grateful for each contribution given in faith and commitment.

Giving Opportunities: Every gift given to Saint Matthew helps strengthen ministry, support worship, care for our

church home, and serve others in Christ's name. As we continue into this new fiscal year, your faithful giving makes a meaningful difference. Thank you for being part of the work God is doing through this congregation.

Roof Fund Pledges: We are grateful for the continued support of the Roof Fund and for the faithfulness of those who have made pledges toward this important need. Each payment made toward pledged commitments helps us move closer to fully restoring these funds, allowing money to be returned to the Endowment. Strengthening the Endowment is an important part of supporting the long-term fiscal health of Saint Matthew and sustaining the ministry needs of the church for the future. Thank you for continuing to honor your pledge and invest in the care and future of our church home.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Cunningham and
Rebecca DeSantis

News from the Property Committee

With the snow and ice behind us, a record for monies spent--almost \$16,000.00 on snow removal and ice salting. It was a rough season. Our elevator had its three-year hydraulic pressure test. I am pleased to say we passed and all is fine with our elevator.

With Spring getting ready to pop with our daffodils and other flowers, roses and grass turning greener, I am pleased to advise there was no price increase from our landscaper for the cutting, welding and mulch this year.

Joe Regan

Men's Breakfast

We have scheduled the April Men's Breakfast for Saturday, April 18, at 7 a.m. at the Court Diner in Media. It's a great way to start the day!

Social Ministry

We are continuing to accept donations of breakfast/cereal bars for those who attend the Welcome Church through the end of this month. We thank all of you who have already supported us with this project. There is a pink bin in the hallway for your gifts.

Cheryl Morrell

Welcome Church

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

Joan Krauter

Gemma Services

We continue to deliver 60 small individual bags of candy to the children who are in the residential treatment program at Gemma Services. We are told

the children look forward to the candy bags each month. Candy that was donated after Halloween is used to fill the bags for the children to enjoy. This is an ongoing project done by the ladies at the monthly circle meeting.

Nancy Regan

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Food Collection for Media Food Bank

As we have said every month, how amazing the people of Saint Matthew have been in supporting the food collection for the Media Food Bank. This month we delivered 190 pounds of food and household items to the people in need. Thank you to all who continue to support this ongoing program. Our next collection will be April 5.

Nancy Regan

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Ascension Day Service

Mark your calendar now for the Ascension Day Service. The Delaware Conference is hosting the Ascension Day Service on Thursday, May 14, at Reformation Lutheran Church in Media. There will be a light dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the service will begin at 7:30 p.m. The guest preacher will be Rev. Dr. Teresa Smallwood, Dean of United Lutheran Seminary.

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Children's Corner

April is always a joyful and exciting month in the church as we celebrate the **resurrection of Jesus on Easter!** During our Christian Education time this month, the children will be learning about the events of **Holy Week**—Jesus' journey to the cross and the wonderful news that **He is risen!**

Our lessons will focus on the incredible love God shows us through Jesus. We will talk about how Jesus loves us, forgives us, and promises to always be with us. Through Bible stories, crafts, songs, and activities, the children will explore what it means to live with **hope, kindness, and faith** every day.

What We Are Learning

- **Palm Sunday** – Jesus enters Jerusalem and the people celebrate Him.
- **The Last Supper** – Jesus shares a special meal with His disciples.
- **Good Friday** – Remembering Jesus' sacrifice for us.
- **Easter Sunday** – The joyful celebration that **Jesus is alive!**

For Parents

Faith grows best when it is nurtured both at church and at home. This month, try taking a few moments to talk with your child about the Easter story. Reading a Bible story together, saying a bedtime prayer, or asking your child what they learned in class can help reinforce these important lessons.

You might ask your child:

- What happened on Easter morning?
- Why is Easter such a happy day for Christians?
- How can we show Jesus' love to others?

A Simple Family Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for loving us so much. Thank you for dying on the cross and rising again so we can have new life with You. Help us share Your love with others each day. Amen.

We look forward to celebrating this joyful season together with all of our families. **He is risen! He is risen indeed!**

Sharon Gibson

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Nursery School

March was a month full of fun and excitement at our nursery school! Our little learners enjoyed a variety of activities that brought smiles, laughter, and a sense of community.

We were delighted to welcome some mischievous leprechauns for a special visit, bringing lots of giggles and joy to our classrooms. Judy Tudy also treated the children to her amazing magic show, even pulling a bunny out of her hat for the kids to pet!

Families joined us for our church Easter egg hunt, searching for eggs and sharing in the festive fun. We wrapped up the month with a special Palm Sunday celebration, "Painting with My Peeps," where families attended the 9:30 a.m. church service and then visited the nursery school to meet the Easter Bunny and paint Easter ceramics.

We are now accepting registrations for the 2026–2027 school year! If you are interested, please reach out to Jenny Redding at **610-543-5589**.

Exciting adventures in learning, faith, and fun await us in the year ahead!

Jenny Redding, Director

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Hosts for Hospitals

I'd like to share with you a personal experience that my husband Bill and I recently had. We were recently introduced to an organization called "Hosts for Hospitals."

HOSTS for HOSPITALS provides lodging to patient-families who must travel to the Greater Philadelphia region for medical care. This year, with the 250th anniversary of our nation, Philadelphia will be hosting a number of major events that are expected to draw unprecedented numbers of visitors to the region. For patient-families, the challenge of finding a place to stay will be acute.

Bill and I met with a representative for an interview and decided to offer our available two rooms for families in need while staying in the Philadelphia area for medical care. We had our first experience, which was with the grandparents of a one-year-old girl needing heart surgery. Fortunately, her surgery went well and this little girl is on her way to a full recovery. It was a joy and a privilege hosting her grandparents.

In response to the need of finding places to stay, Bill and I wanted to share our HOSTS for HOSPITALS experience to help expand its housing network. We wish to raise awareness within our community, encourage our friends to consider

offering lodging, and invite them to share the work of HFH with others in the Greater Philadelphia area. In this way, we aim to help ensure that every patient-family coming to Philadelphia for medical care can find affordable and supportive lodging during their time of need. To learn more, please use this link or QR code below.
HostsForHospitals.org/Phila250

St Matthew Lutheran Church
 Connecting People - Changing Lives

Hospitality With A Heart.
 EST. 2000
HOSTS for HOSPITALS
 Partnerships across Greater Philadelphia to help house Patient-families

Help provide Patient-family lodging this year when many hotel rooms will be unavailable as hundreds of thousands of tourists attend special events in Greater Philadelphia.

Contact HOSTS for HOSPITALS to learn more:
HostsForHospitals.org/Phila250
lodging@HostsforHospitals.org
 484-380-2999

View this broadcast to see how impactful HOSTS for HOSPITALS lodging is for both Hosts and their Patient-family guests!

FOX 29

"It's taken a huge load off our shoulders so we can really focus on what he needs!"

<https://hostsforhospitals.org/Fox29ImpactHFH/>

Many blessings for a meaningful Easter Season.

Lynda Knaggs
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Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the May newsletter are due in the church office by **noon on Wednesday, April 15.**
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Women's Tea

Sarah Circle will be hosting a tea for the women of our church on Saturday, May 2, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. in Elbert Hall. Our guest speaker will be Marjorie Aronson. Marjorie will share her love of quilting with us as she shares her newer works of art while we snack on tea

sandwiches, scones and sweets and sip tea. The cost is \$15 per person. Proceeds will go to Lutheran World Relief. Invite a friend. Sign-up sheets and envelopes are on the table in the hallway. Please sign up by April 27, 2026 so we can prepare the proper amount of food.

Carol Penjuko
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Vital Statistics

25th Wedding Anniversary

Chris and Rebecca DeSantis
 April 28, 2026
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Monthly Mailbag

Dear Saint Matthew Lutheran Church,

On behalf of everyone at Fair Acres, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your recent donation. The calendars, cards, devotionals, planners, and other thoughtful items were such a welcome surprise for our residents.

Moments of kindness like yours create meaningful impact in ways that are not always visible at first glance. A simple card becomes a reminder that someone is thinking of them. A devotional offers quiet encouragement. Your generosity helps turn ordinary days into brighter ones.

We are grateful not only for the items you share, but for the spirit of care and fellowship that accompanies them. Your continued outreach strengthens the bond between your congregation and our residents, and that connection means more than words can fully express.

Thank you for remembering our community and for making a difference in the lives of those we serve.

With warm appreciation,
 Susan Harrar
 Director of TAS & Volunteer Services
 Fair Acres
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Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Maundy Thursday, April 2

- 12:00 Noon Communion Service in our Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Communion Service in our Sanctuary and live via Zoom

Good Friday, April 3

- 12:00 Noon Springfield Community Service at Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
- 7:00 p.m. Service in our sanctuary and live via Zoom

Easter Sunday, April 5

- 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