



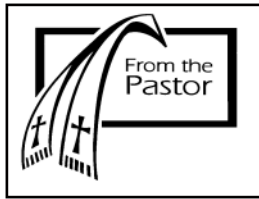
# The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of  
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church  
Springfield, Pennsylvania

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## From Our Pastor

Connect  
Care  
eQuip  
Cultivate

### What's in a Name?

The first day of January has many designations. It is New Year's Day. It is also the Eighth Day of Christmas (eight maids a milkin', seven swans a swimmin'). And, according to the Church's liturgical calendar, it is the day called "the Name of Jesus." This designation comes from the story of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke, and echoes the words of the Gospel of Matthew.

"After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb." Luke 2:21

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:20, 21

The eighth day is the traditional day of circumcision for boys in Judaism, and at their circumcision they are given their name. "By what name shall this child be known in Israel?" This is what the Gospel of Luke says was done for Jesus. Eight days after he was born Jesus would have been brought to the Temple to be made a part of the Covenant People, and given his name.

This designation of the "eighth day" is a way of pointing out a shift in time. Beyond the week, not just on the first day of the next week, comes the "eighth day." Thus the eighth day signifies a time of something new.

In baptism you have been made part of God's Covenant people. In baptism you have been made new. In Jesus you have been given a name. You are given the name "Christian." You are called "Child of God."

What a great thing it is to celebrate this day, and to celebrate "the Name that is above all names" (Philippians 2:9), the "Name under heaven by which we may be saved" (Acts 4:12). And how coincidental it is that this Day is celebrated on the first day of the New Year, a time when all is made new. The celebration of the covenant, the marking of the Name of Jesus, is set at the very beginning. Martin Luther encouraged people to start each day in the name of Christ, and to end each day the same way. Make the sign of the cross, say the Creed and the Lord's Prayer, give thanks for the gift of the new day, and commend the passing day to God.

As you begin a new year of life, remember to keep Jesus first in your life. Live a life of worship to the One who came that we might be part of God's covenant. Live a life that reflects the love and compassion of the One who puts others first. Seek first the reign of God, and God's righteousness in all that you do and say. Look first to the words of Jesus for wisdom and guidance for how you live each new day in the coming year. For it is in this Name, the name of Jesus, which means "he who saves," that "we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

May the covenant blessing of God be known in your life,

Pastor Karl M. Richard

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## Worship and Music Notes

Just as God's love for us is constant and never ending, so is church work!! It is difficult to put down on paper information for a January newsletter when we are so focused on finalizing details and rehearsal for the various Christmas activities and services.

As I write this on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, I wanted to let everyone know how excited I am about those participating in our various events leading up to Christmas and in our musical ensembles. We have a youth instrumental group making their debut on Christmas Eve who have been a delight to work with. Our adult ensemble has added a couple of newer members plus some surprise instrumentation. We have a vocal ensemble coming together to sing a long-time favorite. Our Sunday School youth put on an original (and adorable) skit at Hanging of the Greens. Plus it has been wonderful to see other members and guests join our long-standing faithful volunteers to help decorate the church, join in Christmas caroling, make cookies and treats, and sign up for various other events happening at Saint Matthew. Just as God's love for us is vibrant in its presence, so is our community of faith!

I hope you all had a very Blessed Christmas and send you wishes for a wonderful New Year. Now for the never-ending church work part – Ash Wednesday is February 14<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned!

Blessings,  
Pat McHugh

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## Fellowship Committee News

In anticipation of the arrival of our Savior we had many fellowship events. The Stewardship Committee hosted Coffee Connection. We attended the train display at Knoetgen Donahue Funeral Home and saw Santa. We attended

the Chester Children's Choir Concert at Swarthmore College. We<sup>2</sup> enjoyed lunch before Hanging of the Greens. We went to the Festival of Lights at Rose Tree Park. We ended the month with a trip to Lancaster to enjoy the Miracle of Christmas at Sight and Sound Theater. The Nursery Board will host Coffee Connection in January. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped with these events. We look forward to getting together in the new year.

Barbara McClintock

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### Christian Education Updates

**H**appy New Year!! Please join us every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. for Sunday School. We have classes for all ages. We also are looking for a few good substitutes to help our teachers. If you are interested, please contact Julie Cirillo.

We are starting to get ready for SCUBA! Our theme this year for Vacation Bible School is *Scuba Diving into Friendship with God!* We will be having our VBS July 8 through July 12. We need many hands to make our week incredible. If you are interested in being a part of our VBS, please contact Julie Cirillo.

Julie Cirillo

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### Annual Meeting

**O**ur Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024, in Elbert Hall. There will be a lunch following the 10:15 service, and the meeting will begin at 12:30.

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### Notes from Your Property Committee

**W**hat your Property Committee has been doing in November:

- The winches for the chandeliers have been installed; the globes have been cleaned. The chandeliers now work on remote control, no more climbing into the attic of the church to lower them down.
- Electric issues are completed. Elbert Hall, Parish Education Wing, first and second floors are working well.
- Our elevator is now in good working order; the door closes when it is supposed to. The emergency phone in the car is working again.

Our final update on **UNANTICIPATED REPAIR WORK THAT HAD TO BE DONE** is now complete. Thank you to all who contributed to this fund, we collected over thirteen thousand dollars.

Joe Regan

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### Men's Breakfast

**W**e have scheduled the January Men's Breakfast for Saturday, January 15, at 7 a.m. at the Court Diner in Media. It's a great way to start the day!

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### Social Ministry

**H**appy New Year!

Once again, we want to thank all of you for your generosity to the children of Faith Immanuel Lutheran Church. We had an especially large group of children this year, and many of you were kind enough to sponsor more than one child!

The gifts were delivered in time for their Christmas party. For many of these children, it can be their only gift, so your support of this endeavor is truly appreciated.

Wishing all of you many blessings in 2024. Thank you again!

Cheryl Morrell

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### Food Collection Report

**W**e continue to collect food for the Media Food Bank the first Sunday of every month. There continues to be a great need in Delaware County for the food-insecure families. Should you be looking for items for the pantry, I was asked to share that they often need condiments such as mustard, mayonnaise, and other seasoning items. We will be collecting items on January 7 before noon. Thank you for your continued support.

Nancy Regan

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### Children's Corner

**D**ear Children,  
Almost every night, after we return to our apartment after supper, Mr. Yost and I watch the news. This has become a habit ingrained by my mother who we always called "the news hound." Don and I picked up the habit early and have always listened to the news programs from 6:00 to 7:00. You may have heard your parents discuss some noteworthy items that were on the screen. Much of the hour is taken up by tragic events like shootings and wars in far-off countries. It makes me think how very unkind some people can be -- like those who rule large countries and oppress those in a nearby territory and those who are shooting and scaring people as they attend church, special events, and even for walking on the sidewalk. Why can't we just display KINDNESS? Your parents might remember the song "What the World Needs Now is LOVE, SWEET LOVE." The dictionary says that KINDNESS is "the sincere and voluntary use for one's time, talent and resources for the betterment of the lives of others." Although the news is depressing, some networks have been showing some wonderful tales of children performing acts of kindness which is usually seen at the end of the newscast (Alex's Lemonade Stand.)

With this line of thought, I would like to tell you of a nice event that happened to me a while back. I was walking in the hallway and feeling rather sad (two of my friends had passed away and three friends were quite ill) when a lady came out of her apartment, pointed her finger at me and said, "Aren't you the lady that likes World War II books?" I replied that indeed I was and with that she disappeared into her apartment and returned with two books in tow and said with a delighted smile, "Enjoy these books and share them with someone else or give them to the library." At that point, I clutched the books under my arm and happily marched on up the hall. As I wrote her a thank you note, I was reminded that kindness between strangers can be so special.

**Dear Parents,**

It is quite challenging to be a parent in this chaotic world. Teaching children kindness probably starts at the dinner table with daily activities containing acts of mercy and thoughtfulness. Recognizing those who could use assistance with appropriate action will encourage children to act for the greater good. Some Bible verses to help are: Luke 6:35. Ephesians 4:32

Sylvia Yost

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## Nursery School

**H**appy New Year! Our students and staff return to school on January 3rd. We are excited to explore all that winter has to offer! We will continue to accept new enrollment for the current school year through February 29th. We will be holding a Registration Night on Thursday, February 15th, for the 2024-2025 School Year. Please fill out a Pre-Registration Form at <https://www.stmattscns.org/pre-registrationform> or contact the office at 610-543-5589, if you are interested in registering your child. Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2024!

Warmly,  
Ana Fischer, Executive Director

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## Gemma Services Christmas Gifts

**T**hank you, thank you to everyone who donated toys, books, and squishy animals to the children in the residential treatment program at Gemma Services. We did very well with so many wonderful items for the children to open on Christmas. We collected the following items this year.

Five Crown Card Game	2
Bath Toy	1
Classic Logo Kits	3
Crayola Art Set	4
Crayons	4
Gel Pens Kit	7
Hot Wheels Cars	25
Hot Wheel Course Kit	1
Hot Wheels Kit	5
Hot Wheels Track	4
Kitten Card Game	1
Lego set	5
Monopoly Card game	1
Nemo Micro Toy	3
Remote Controlled Cars	4
Rubik's Cube	8
Squishmallows	16
Sticker/Puzzle Book	43
Stuffed Animal	2
Uno Card Game	16

Total items Collected 155

Nancy Regan

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## Gemma Christmas Wrapping

**O**n December 14, the Women of the ELCA traveled to Gemma Services to wrap Christmas gifts for the children in the residential treatment program. The ladies wrapped 7 or 8 gifts for each of the approximately 70 children. That would be over 500 gifts wrapped. Thank you to Barbara Doyle, Barbara Kinsey, Marge Kobasa, Joan Krauter, Dawn Liscom, Maureen McCleary, and Barbara McClintock for donating their morning to make the Christmas gifts so special for the children.

Nancy Regan

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## February Newsletter Deadline

**A**rticles for the February newsletter are due in the church office by **noon on Monday, January 15.**

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## Women of the ELCA

**H**appy New Year!

On December 2 we held our annual breakfast. After we enjoyed the delicious meal prepared by our members, we heard from Tim Emmett-Rardin, the Communications & Development Manager from the Media Food Bank. His presentation was enlightening. From our free-will offerings we were able to donate \$150 to the Media Food Bank. Thank you everyone for your support.

A group of ladies went to the Silver Springs School to wrap presents for the children in residence on December 14. A good time was had by all.

Our January calendar is the following:

January 2	1:00 p.m.	LWR quilting
January 9	1:00 p.m.	LWR quilting
January 16	1:00 p.m.	LWR quilting
January 23	6:00 p.m.	Board Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Circle Meeting
January 30	7:00 p.m.	LWR quilting

All meetings take place in the parlor. Please consider joining us. We have a good time socializing and doing projects for others.

Blessings,  
Carol Penjoke

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## Monthly Mailbag



Dear Joan,

Thank you for your donation. It is a generous thing to do and shows what an amazing group of ladies you all are. These donations help keep a smile on the faces of our residents.

With your donation, the residents will be able to pick out nice bingo prizes. They love getting these prizes to offer them as gifts to family, friends or sometimes a little something for themselves. Also, they are always looking for a calendar for the new year and will enjoy the nice selection to choose from. Thank you once again for your kindhearted contribution. It is always appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Sue Harrar, Director of Volunteer Services  
Fair Acres Geriatric Center

Dear Saint Matthew Church Family and Friends,

Thank you so much for all your prayers, cards, texts and calls. You all have really brightened and put so many smiles in my days.

Wishing everyone a Blessed Christmas Season!

Love,  
Carol Mueller

Dear Carol,

On behalf of everyone at the Media Food Bank, especially those we serve, thank you again for the opportunity to speak to members of your congregation about the Food Bank. And thank you, too, for your ongoing collection of food — as well as the generous donation of \$150!

It is because of community support like yours that we're able to fulfill our mission in service to Delaware County individuals and families in need — providing nutritious food and other essential items twice a week, 52 weeks a year. And we are

especially grateful for churches like Saint Matthew as we continue to adapt and respond to rising food insecurity and hunger in our region.

Thanks again to you and everyone at the church for your ongoing support of the Media Food Bank!

Peace,  
Tim Emmett-Rardin  
Communications & Development Manager  
Media Food Bank

Dear Saint Matthew's Friends,

Thank you so much for your prayers, cards and well wishes during the past few weeks. Ernie and I are grateful to be a part of Saint Matthew's caring community. We hope to be back in fellowship in 2024. God bless you all.

Judy and Ernie Telgheider

Dear Saint Matthew,

On behalf of the family and many friends of Frank P. Pflieger, I wish to send our sincere thanks to the kind staff of Saint Matthew Lutheran Church for your outstanding efforts to honor his service to the community and celebration of life.

God bless you and thank you!!

Kimberle (Pflieger) Sheehan

P.S Also, thank you for honoring the lives of Nancy L. Pflieger and Gary S. Pflieger prior to their interment. May their memories live eternal.

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## **Worship Responsibilities**

We will not schedule these responsibilities at this time.  
We will ask people to serve each week as needed.

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