



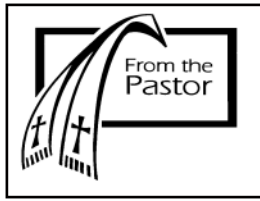
# The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of  
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church  
Springfield, Pennsylvania

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Internet Web Site: [www.stmattspringfield.org](http://www.stmattspringfield.org)



## From Our Pastor

Connect  
Care  
Equip  
Cultivate

“Auld Lang Syne” is one of my least favorite holiday songs.

While I know it is traditional to sing it on New Year's Eve, I find it so sad and mournful that I can hardly get through it. “Taking a cup of kindness” with friends is good, but the idea that it is for auld lang syne, old times' sake, is difficult. I know that all things and all people come and go. Everything has its time and season, and then we move on to whatever is next, but sometimes the passing of the old is more than I wish to bear. Of course, sometimes embracing the new is not easy, either. We become familiar with what we know and love, so reaching out to the new can also be hard.

I guess I just don't like New Year's!

But since time continues to move forward, not backward, what can we say to people like me who are not sure what to make of the New Year? I suppose I take hope in the fact that whether it is now or then, things moving away or things coming into view, God is constant, and God promises to bless us in the time in which we find ourselves. Perhaps we can take hope in what is one of my favorite songs, although we do not think of it as a song. The Psalms are the songbook of the Hebrew Scriptures, and my favorite psalm is 121. For those who do not have it memorized, here is what it says:

- <sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills.  
From whence does my help come?
- <sup>2</sup> My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.
- <sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot be moved,  
he who keeps you will not slumber.
- <sup>4</sup> Behold, he who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.
- <sup>5</sup> The Lord is your keeper;  
the Lord is your shade  
on your right hand.
- <sup>6</sup> The sun shall not smite you by day,  
nor the moon by night.
- <sup>7</sup> The Lord will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.
- <sup>8</sup> The Lord will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time forth and for evermore.

I particularly like the last verse: “The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in, from this time forth and forevermore.” No matter where we go, no matter if our time is short or long in the place we find ourselves, no matter if we are coming or going, God is with us. Seems like a familiar word, as we move from Christmas to Epiphany, celebrating Emmanuel, God with us, as the One who is revealed in the new year.

It is appropriate to remember auld lang syne, but it is more hopeful, I think, to lift my eyes to the hills. It is my hope and prayer that as we all enter 2025, we will be blessed both in our remembrances and in the new opportunities to come, because of the One who keeps our life in His hand.

Happy New Year!  
Pastor Karl M. Richard  
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## Worship and Music Notes

There is interest in having the bell choir for Easter. That would be great! Means that we would need to start rehearsing in January. Please let me know if you are interested. No bell ringing experienced needed—however, it would be helpful if you could read music. Would need a minimum of 5-6 people committed to rehearsing up to once per week starting in January. Bell ringing is a lot of fun. Look forward to hearing from you!

Pat McHugh  
\* \* \* \* \*

## Christian Education Updates

Happy New Year!! Please join us every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. for Worship with 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 True North Vacation Bible School! Save the date for July 28<sup>th</sup> -August 1 for a fun-filled week. If you would like to help or be involved in our VBS, please contact Julie Cirillo at [manoalstgrade@hotmail.com](mailto:manoalstgrade@hotmail.com).

Julie Cirillo  
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## Annual Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2025, in Elbert Hall. There will be a lunch following the 9:30 service, and the meeting will begin after the lunch.

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## Notes from Your Property Committee

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During the last few weeks of November and the first couple of weeks of December, we have been remarkably busy. Our chandeliers were lowered and cleaned by ladies of the church. Thank You to Pat, Natalie, Maureen and Joan. The chandeliers were raised back up, and the new winch worked well.

Update on the roof: we have had several rainstorms, some heavy; so far, no leaks (YEA).

Our bushes have been trimmed and fall clean-up was done. We are all set for the winter. Over the Christmas break our Fire Alarm system will be checked to make sure we are operating smoothly.

Joe Regan

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### Men's Breakfast

We have scheduled the January Men's Breakfast for Saturday, January 18, 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

Social Ministry is so very thankful to all of the members of our congregation who so generously supported our Christmas tradition of providing pajama gifts for the children of Faith Immanuel. We were able to provide gifts for 69 children! Everything was delivered to the church in time for their Christmas party. Thank you! Thank you!

We look forward to continuing our relationship with Faith Immanuel in 2025 with your support.

Cheryl Morrell

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### Food Collection Report

Thanks to added items from the Boy Scout Food Collection, we were able to deliver 913 pounds of food to the Media Food Bank this month. Also, we delivered the turkey that was donated to the church. Thank you to everyone who continues to support this program. The next collection will be January 5.

Nancy Regan

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### Welcome Church

We delivered 39 pairs of socks, 31 hats, many gloves, winter coats, coffee and toiletries to the Welcome Church along with a large cash donation. The Welcome Church thanks everyone for their generous donations.

Joan Krauter

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### Children's Corner

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."*

*2 Corinthians 5:17.*

### Dear Children,

The above verse is certainly appropriate for the New Year—forget the past and concentrate on the future. Have any of you made your New Year's Resolutions? We all want a happy future and we do try to make positive changes. After asking around for favorable suggestions, many people want to lose weight—study more—eat more veggies—read the Bible every day—control negative thoughts, etc. Because I am now older, I

have realized that I really need God's help to make these changes in my life. With that in mind, I have set aside a recurring time every morning to ask our Creator for help. A friend has given me several devotional booklets to use and while the sun is coming up and the eastern sky is slightly mauve, I find great pleasure in reading positive ways to ask God's help to make my life better—and perhaps better for someone else. Then I have to make a list and carry out my plans. The NEW YEAR is here and it is time to forget the mistakes of 2024 and approach 2025 with joy in your heart to make life anew. Some Bible verses to keep in mind: Philippians 4:13. Psalm 65: 11. Psalm 100: 4.

### Dear Parents,

New Year's Resolutions certainly could be a family discussion over cocoa and donuts. Perhaps one could creatively make a list and post it on a mirror. We all need to be reminded of our tasks and I always can use a written reminder. Make this positive—ask God's help and also encourage your other family members—compliments are beneficial.

Sylvia Yost

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### Nursery School

Happy New Year! Our students and staff return to school on January 6th. 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 28th. We will be holding a Registration Night on Thursday, February 20th, for the 2025-2026 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 2025!

Warmly,

Ana Fischer, Executive Director

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### Gemma Services Christmas Gifts

Thank you to everyone who donated gifts to the Gemma Christmas gift collection. We collected and delivered 138 gifts to the children at Gemma.

This year we collected:

Squishmallows	36
Fidgets	18
Super Heroes	9
Lego Sets	8
LOL Dolls	4
Journals	19
Remote Controlled Cars	6
Card Games	6
Crystal Puzzle	1
Painting Kits	2
Gem Kits	4
Crayola Kits	4
Action Figures	4
Crayola Crayons	4
Coloring Books	3
Uno Card Game	10

Total items Collected 138

The gifts were wrapped by the ladies of Women of the ELCA who traveled to Plymouth Meeting and spent a good part of the day wrapping close to 500 items for the children who live at Gemma in the residential treatment program. Each child will receive eight to ten gifts at the Christmas party held before Christmas. A special thank you to Joanne Castagna, Barbara Doyle, Barbara Kinsey,

Joan Krauter, Dawn Liscom, Maureen McCleary and Carol Mueller who gave of their time to be “The Saint Matthew Wrappers” as we are known by the Gemma staff. We have been wrapping for more than 10 years.

We also put together 10 meals for the “Everything But the Turkey” project.

Nancy Regan  
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### February Newsletter Deadline

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

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### Vital Statistics

**Death:** **Paula Krissinger**  
Died November 29, 2024  
Funeral at Lima Methodist

**College Graduate:** **Abigail DeSantis**

**New Members:** **Bill and Penny Hermann**  
**December 15, 2024**

**Cameron Pierce**  
**Bradley, Charlotte**

**David and Sara Vanore**  
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### Monthly Mailbag

Dear Patti and Members of Saint Matthew Lutheran Church,

Thank you for providing 5 twin blankets, 2 queen blankets, bags of beans and rice. They will be very much appreciated. It is a tangible way of letting them know that they are not alone—that there is someone who cares about their needs as they begin to settle in. Thank you for your dedicated time and effort in supporting us.

May the Presence, Protection and Power of our Lord and Savior continue to be with you all as your testimony of love for God reaches those in need.

Respectfully,  
Lorraine E. Armstrong Martinez  
and Melissa Haught  
Chester County Migrant Ministry

Dear Friends,

Thank you for celebrating my 25th anniversary at Saint Matthew. It was a lovely celebration and I was very touched. The gifts were beautiful--so thoughtfully chosen. I love the tote bag, devotion book, desk decorations and hanging ornament--and the cash gift was so very generous. It is a pleasure to worship and work with all of you.

Love,  
Janice Gardner

Dear Barbara,

Thank you for being a hero in the KenCrest Community. Your donation of \$25.00 was received on 11/19/2024.

With programs for children and adults serving more than 5,000 individuals and families across Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Connecticut, there’s no shortage of opportunities for the KenCrest family to reach higher. Your investment in KenCrest ensures that we are able to include, engage, and enrich every life we touch. You are helping to turn dreams into reality, hopes into happiness, and innovation into excellence.

We are grateful to have supporters like you who will help us care and boldly advocate for everyone in our community. Thank you for your generosity, and for embracing KenCrest’s mission as your own.

With appreciation,  
Ellen Mansfield  
Chief Philanthropy Officer  
KenCrest

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