



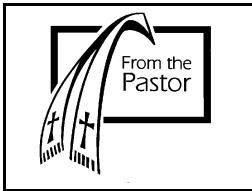
The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Volume 67, Number 6

June 2015

Internet Web Site: www.stmattspringfield.org



From Our Pastor

"Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through

his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:19-25)

God has given us so many gifts through Jesus. Perhaps the greatest is the ability to enter the holy sanctuary of God without fear, since Christ has brought salvation to us through the blood of the cross. Because of Jesus' great sacrifice, we are able with boldness to stand before God, recognizing his great love for us and his call to us to be the people of God.

We have also been given the gift of each other as partners, as brothers and sisters in faith. We are given the gift of community, of family, so we are not alone on this journey of life. We are better together. We are stronger together. We are able to give and receive support as we are together.

The author of Hebrews points these things out in the passage above: since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary, let us hold fast to the confession of our hope, let us provoke one another to love and good deeds; let us meet together.

In our Church Assessment we said that we like to meet together, and that we would like to have more opportunities to do so. We have said that we want to make space to incorporate new people into our fellowship. We have said we want to do whatever we can to let the newer families in our area know that they are welcome. We also said we wanted to become a community of generous givers. For each of these things to be possible, it is important for us to meet together in the sanctuary of God, in the

name of Jesus, and to encourage one another in such meeting, and in such good works as generous living and generous giving.

Summer has come, and it is easy to disappear for the next 3 months, allowing ourselves the freedom to get away from everything. When we get away from everything, it is important to be sure that we do not include getting away from God and the family of faith that supports us as part of that. We have been given the amazing gift of entry into God's presence because of Jesus' dying for us. How can we want to run away from that kind of love? We have been given the gift of one another to share our joys and our sorrows. Why would we want to miss out on this? As new people enter our town, they often do so in the summer months so their children will be set to start the new school year. If they come to worship, and we are not here, how are we fulfilling our desire to welcome them into the community of faith that is Saint Matthew?

Let us not neglect to meet together, as is the habit of some. Let us encourage each other to be people who come together to support each other, support the work of our church and welcome our neighbors into our fellowship. Let us come, worship, give, and welcome with glad and generous hearts, because God has given us the gift of all these things!

Pr. Karl M. Richard

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Financial Update

"God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:8

	<u>April 2015</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Giving/Income:	\$37,571.40	\$163,453.47
Expenses	<u>45,478.10</u>	<u>177,632.62</u>
Plus/Minus	(7,906.70)	(14,179.15)

April Summary: Unfortunately we continued to run a negative for the month and for the year to date. Envelope giving was the lowest that we have received since September of last year. For the 4 months ending in April we are running an overall negative of \$14,179.15. Please help to support the many wonderful things that go on in this building and for which we have received many blessings. We need continued financial support - Even if you are unable to make it to a service, there is an envelope that comes each month with your monthly envelopes that you can enclose and mail. If you are a member who has not been able to attend worship in a while, please come back. We would love to see you, and share God's love in His house.

Giving Opportunities: Did you know that during the spring and summer months in order to beautify our grounds that we pay weekly for lawn cutting and trimming? This weekly cost amounts to \$75 per week. This is one of our recurring costs that we budget in the maintenance section of our annual budget. Would you be able to help out by sponsoring a week or a month to help defray some of this cost? Every sponsor and donation that we receive will free up funds to help us to meet our overall budget. There is a sign-up on the back counter in the hallway if you would like to sponsor or you can just put an envelope marked "Lawn or Grounds Maintenance" in the office or in the offering plates. Thanks to anyone who can help!

Your Finance Committee

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Children's Corner

Dear Children,

Someone gave me a little book titled "Life's Little Instructions from the Bible" - in it are several words of advice and encouragement followed by a Bible verse that matches the inspiring "words of wisdom." For example, "Don't carry a grudge." - "You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge . . . but you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Leviticus 19:18.

As I was leafing through this little book, one particular sentence of truth hit me like a "ton of bricks" and brought me back to my teenage years. "When tempted to criticize your parents, bite your tongue." "Whoever curses his father or mother, his lamp will be put out in deep darkness." Proverbs 20:20. Although it has been many years since I was a teen, I remember vividly stomping up the stairs because I didn't want to do the dishes, biting my tongue because Mom didn't want me out after dark, rolling my eyes, because Dad wouldn't let me have the car - and certainly many more "tough" times. I have since thought back on some of my waywardness and only wish I could have the power to change my attitude. I was fortunate, as my folks were always understanding and forgiving of my little temper tantrums. As the circle of life continues, Mr. Yost and I were fortunate to have two wonderful boys and we went through their moments of uncivilized behavior - we now laugh at some of their antics because they both have children and are now looking in the mirror. Yes, life is

uncertain, fun, mysterious, wonderful, sad, and beautiful! What a gift the Heavenly Father has given us!

Dear Parents,

The following might be a fun exercise for the whole family. Can you match the common words of wisdom with the appropriate Bible verse? I will give you the book and chapter - you find the verse.

Stay humble - Proverbs 15
Admit your mistakes - Proverbs 28
Return all the things you borrow - Psalm 37
Never eat the last cookie - Leviticus 23
Pay your bills on time - Romans 13

Sylvia Yost

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Choir

As our choir season takes its summer sojourn, I want to thank all of our faithful members for sharing their time and talents over the past season. Your dedication and commitment truly enhance the worship life at Saint Matthew. I know I will be seeing you over the summer, but I will miss having you in the choir loft! I also want to thank our instrumental musicians for sharing their talents on Good Friday as well as Easter Sunday. Saint Matthew is blessed to have so many gifted musicians. We're already starting to plan for the fall with a choral workshop as well as more opportunities for our instrumentals. To those of you sitting on the sidelines, warm up your vocal cords and/or pull out that instrument that is gathering dust. We would love to have you join us this fall!

Pat McHugh

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Christian Education Committee

The last day for Sunday School will be June 14. The Christian Education Committee would like to thank all the teachers, substitutes, Pat McHugh, Joe Regan, Dave Krauter, John Wesley, and Don Yost for their dedication to this program. We are already making plans for next year's program. If you have an interest in being a substitute teacher or regular teacher, please speak to Dave Krauter or Carol Penjoke. The teacher guides are easy to follow, making it simple to prepare a lesson. Please prayerfully consider if you can assist in this ministry to the youth.

The warm weather is already upon us, and that brings Vacation Bible School. Another exciting adventure called Everest is being planned. It will run from Monday, July 27, to Friday, July 31, from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. The fun-filled week is for children between the ages of 4 and 9. There will also be a special program

for children who have completed fourth grade through sixth grade. Registration forms are available in the church hallway. The cost: \$20.00 for one child; \$30.00 for two children; a family of 3 or more - \$35.00. **We are in need of volunteers to help.** Please contact Julie Cirillo if you can assist or you need any questions answered. Julie can be reached at manoal1stgrade@hotmail.com, or contact the church office. It's a wonderful time and it provides a wonderful ministry to our church and community.

Carol Penjoke

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First Thursday Friends (“FTF”)

The First Thursday Friends will be gathering at Applebee’s for lunch and fellowship on Thursday, June 4, at 11:30 a.m. Applebee’s is located at 320 MacDade Boulevard, Folsom, PA.

Contact John Stefl at 610-544-2816 for more information or to share a ride. Everyone is welcome.

Sincerely
John Stefl

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Social Ministry

The Social Ministry Committee has two things to thank the congregation for this month! Because of your generosity, we were able to make 54 breakfast bags for Aid for Friends that Rick Link delivered. We also want to thank those of you who contributed to Baby Manna on Mother’s Day.

This summer we will again be collecting school supplies for the children who attend Faith Immanuel Lutheran Church in East Lansdowne. Around July 1, there will be a bin in the hallway for your donations. Lined paper, pens and pencils, erasers, glue sticks, folders, composition books, rulers, pencil cases, book bags, 3x5 cards, binders are just some examples. Everything is needed.

Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely
Cheryl Morrell

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Monthly Mailbag

Dear Saint Matthew Friends,



Many thanks for the cards and expressions of sympathy you gave us because of the death of our sister-in-law Andrea Smith.

Sincerely
Jill and Carl Smith

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To my friends at Saint Matthew,

Thank you so much for the lovely bouquet of altar flowers. There is nothing so spring-like as yellow and white.

Hopefully, I’ll get to church some time soon. As of now, I can’t get into or out of cars. In the meantime, I wish you all a pleasant and blessed spring and summer.

Sincerely, and God bless you all,
Donna Winters

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Dear Saint Matthew Friends,

Thank you for your cards, phone calls, prayers, and expressions of sympathy at the death of Craig’s mother. We truly appreciate the kindness of everyone in our Saint Matthew church family.

Sincerely,
Craig and Janice Gardner

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Dear Saint Matthew,

I want to thank the Altar Guild for delivering flowers to me, and to Joan Krauter for bringing me communion several times. It is very much appreciated.

I miss being up in the balcony with Joe Regan, and doing the DVDs.

Many thanks again,
Bill Conrad

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for the invitation to share Chester County Migrant Ministry and some thoughts during the Sunday worship services on April 12, 2015. I was so blessed by the warmth in which I was received! Thank you for allowing me to receive communion during the first service, and the encouragement that Ethan provided me during the second service. As I have mentioned many times throughout the years, your faithfulness of serving others in the name of Jesus is your true testimony of the love you have for Him.

It is a joy to work along with Saint Matthew Lutheran in serving the families of these communities!

May the Presence, Protection and Power of our Lord and

Savior continue to be with you all as your testimony of God's love reaches to those in need.

Respectfully,
Lorraine E. Armstrong Martinez, Director,
Chester County Migrant Ministry

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Dear Friends of Riddle Hospital Patients,

Your gift of Happy Healing Pillows will help our patients who have had surgery and need that extra special kindness and thoughtfulness your pillows will deliver. Recovery from surgery can be hard, yet with your cheery messages and creative designs on the beautiful pillows, that time can feel a lot easier. Thank you for thinking of Riddle Hospital and our patients.

Tinamaria Fadgen, Unit Clerk,
Eileen Phillips, RN, Director of Acute Care Services,
Riddle Hospital

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Dear Saint Matthew Family,

Thank you so very much for your thoughts, prayers, and cards at my dad's death. It was very comforting to have so much support from you all.

Thanks so much,
Bruce Allen

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Dear Saint Matthew Friends,

Once again I must thank you for the lovely flowers you gave me. The mums and daisies made a spectacular bouquet. This time you chose our second favorite color - yellow.

The flowers had a good home and lasted a long time. I very much appreciated your thoughtfulness.

God bless you all,
Donna Winters

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Dear Saint Matthew Friends,

Just a little note to say thank you so much to my church family for the kind prayers, flowers, and plants. A special thanks to Frankie Savage for my four months of faithful visits with prayers and communion. Pastor Richard also came offering prayers, communion, and healing ointment.

Thanks again,
Jackie Calhoun

Vital Statistics

Baptisms: **Katelynne Marie Homony**
Daughter of Matthew and Lauren Homony
Born November 5, 2014
Baptized April 26, 2015

Gavin Thomas Finn
Son of Thomas Finn and Erin Dixon
Born January 1, 2015
Baptized April 26, 2015

60th Wedding

Anniversary: Edward and Edith Laguna
June 25, 2015

High School

Graduates: Elle Clendenin
Macy Crossin
Charles Eppheimer III
Dominic Franchi
Noah Grace
Christopher Jacque
Adam Krauter
Sarah Larkin
Joanna Liscom
Natalie Masson
Kevin McCormick, Jr.
Amanda Richard
Taylor Wesley

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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 in our armed forces.

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The Good Newsletter, a congregational newsletter, is published monthly, September through June by Saint Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church, 400 Lynbrooke Road, Springfield, Pennsylvania 19064-3599. Please direct all correspondence pertaining to this publication to the Editor, Dr. Carl E. Aronson, at the above address. The deadline for submitting copy is 12 noon on the 15th of each month.