



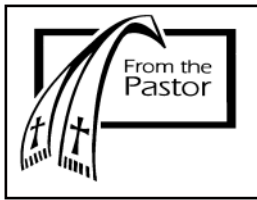
# The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of  
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church  
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Volume 69, Number 6

June 2017

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



## From Our Pastor

Connect

Care

eQuip

Cultivate

### 75 Lutherans

We are moving along through our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, and the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. We have been blessed over these 75 years with faithful people: pastors, lay leaders and members alike, who have proclaimed the good news of Jesus in word and deed. Our signature phrase “connecting people, changing lives” is lived out as we serve together in Jesus’ name.

In order to let others know what we do in Jesus’ name, we are going to be in the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade again this year. It has been several years since we have participated, but we felt this anniversary year was too significant not to make a statement!

We will be creating a float to be in the parade, which will be an anniversary cake. On the layers we will have something along the lines of “Celebrating 75 Years of Connecting People, Changing Lives.” Then around the float we will have numerous displays of the ways in which we do just that. We will have small banners representing worship, education, and social ministry efforts where we connect with others, care for the world, equip youth and families in the faith, and cultivate generous spirits and hearts. Each of these will be made by a different group in the church, and then carried along with the float.

To highlight how much we do, and to emphasize what a vibrant ministry we have, I am looking for us to have (at least?) 75 of us walk in the parade along with the Saint Matthew float. I realize that many people will already be involved with the fire company, ambulance corps, scouts, band, and what have you. Still, I think it would be quite a statement and visual marker if we have at least one person for each year of our service. How much more impressive will this be than if we have just a handful of people walking the route! If the Music Man can celebrate 76 trombones in the big parade, can we not make an equally impressive statement for Jesus, and how much we care about the work of our congregation?

So there is the challenge. Let’s see how many banners we can make representing the ministry we do, and let’s see if we cannot have 75 Lutherans witnessing to the work of Jesus, connecting people and changing lives here at Saint Matthew for 75 years!

We are marching in the light of Christ,  
Pr. Karl M. Richard

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## The Vicar's View:

### The Mystery of the Holy Spirit

Lutherans in America are known for a lot of things, including our (almost idolatrous) love of coffee and potlucks, and our focus on God’s grace. Talking about and reflecting on the Holy Spirit in our lives and in the Bible, unfortunately, is typically not one of our hallmarks.

There are exceptions to this, of course. I’ve known some Lutherans who talk often about the ways in which they see the Holy Spirit present and active. And I could imagine that in other places besides America, for example in sub-Saharan Africa where Lutheranism and Christianity in general are growing, the Holy Spirit might play a more central role in people’s lives and worship.

But in general, many of us (myself included) tend to minimize or ignore the Holy Spirit, in spite of its importance in the New Testament, in Christian tradition, in Martin Luther’s writings, and in our creeds. We acknowledge its equal part in the Trinity every time we say the formula “In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,” and every time we read the last article of the Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds. When we read that latter creed, we profess some bits about what most Christians believe about the Holy Spirit: that it proceeds from the Father and the Son, that it is worshiped and glorified along with the Father and the Son, and that the Spirit has spoken through the prophets. But much of the time, it’s tempting to leave it a bit by the wayside. The Spirit is, in many ways, one of the most mysterious aspects of our Christian faith. And so I often have not much of a clue for how to think about it or even begin to understand it, or interact with it in the ways I do with God the Father and with Jesus.

As you might be able to tell from how often I used the pronoun “it” in the last paragraph, the Holy Spirit usually seems much less like a *person* than the other two persons of the Trinity. If I’m not careful, I end up thinking of the Spirit as a tool or mechanism used by God to accomplish God’s purposes. The things the Spirit does are strewn throughout the New Testament: The Holy Spirit helps Jesus’ first disciples speak under persecution; raises Jesus from the dead and will resurrect us one day as well; serves as our counselor, advocate, and comforter; gives the disciples the ability to speak in so many of the world’s languages that we read about on the day of Pentecost, and many more.

All of these are important and rich ways to think about and understand the Spirit. But I want to end this message by touching on the verses about the Holy Spirit that have by far meant the most to me personally. They’re two verses that I turn to again and again, especially when I start thinking of the Holy Spirit as an object rather than as a person. They’re from the Apostle Paul: “Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.” (Romans 8:26-27)

The Spirit who intercedes for us at our weakest point is God, just as much as the Son who wept at the tomb of his friend Lazarus and gave his life for us, just as much as the Father who loves the world and each of us more than we can imagine. That Spirit is someone who I can worship and glorify, as well as love. In this time of Pentecost, let us lean into the mystery of the Spirit a bit more, and remember that the Spirit is right alongside us, uttering sighs too deep for words, during whatever difficulties we might be going through.

Vicar Daniel Smith

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## Youth Works Trip

**A**t the end of this month, 5 of our youth and 2 leaders will be heading on a Youth Works mission trip. Three years ago we went to the Adirondacks to do service projects for the people there. This year we are going to Steubenville, Ohio, a small city just across the West Virginia border into Ohio. On this trip we will engage in devotion and Bible study, and then go out each day to help with various projects. We will not know exactly what we will do until we arrive, but there will be a program for the children of Steubenville similar to an extended Vacation Bible School program, and there will also be various house projects similar to a Habitat for Humanity project.

The youth going will be Tyler Bennett, Matthew Johnston, Joe Link, Abby Richard and Ethan Scott. The leaders will be Pastor Karl and Jamie Bennett. We will leave right after the late service on June 25, and return Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for safe travel, and for an awesome experience for our “Yotherans.” This is an amazing opportunity for them to be eQuipped for a life of Faith in Jesus, as they become the hands and feet of Christ for the community of Steubenville.

The youth have each paid their registration. Thanks to your support of their cookie and brownie mix sale at Christmas they have raised another \$600 towards the trip. Still, we are about \$750 short of what the trip will cost. If we can, we will try to have another project prior to the trip to ask for your support. Regardless, if you would like to support this mission trip for our youth, please consider making a gift to the cause. Mark your gift with Youth Works in the memo, and it will be credited to the trip.

Thank you for your prayers and your support!

The Saint Matthew Yotherans

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## Social Ministry

**E**ach month, I always begin these articles by saying thank you! It may be repetitive, but it is very sincere, because without all of you, this ministry would not be so successful.

During the month of May, many of you contributed to the Baby Manna Project on Mother’s Day, which helps provide nutrition for infants in need, who are at a critical point in their development. Others generously donated items for the breakfast bags that were packed and given to the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry for the elderly population that they serve. We are also grateful for all of the support that you gave to the Bosnia: Children of War, Children of Peace effort, which was something new introduced to us by Vicar Dan. Your decorated tote bags, gifts of sporting equipment, the hand-sewn pillows, as well as cash contributions were thankfully received by the New Jersey ELCA and will be taken to Bosnia this month.

We are so grateful for your generosity.

Have a wonderful Summer!

Cheryl Morrell

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## Children’s Corner

Dear Children,

**W**e are going to travel down “God’s road of **Grace**” today as I plan to answer the question in the May Children’s Corner--How can a mean person (a wretch) like Mr. Newton write a beautifully crafted hymn glorifying our Lord?

“Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.”

Those inspirational words should tug at your heart because they tell the wonderful story of God’s forgiveness. Now back to our Mr. John Newton--you may remember from the May Newsletter that John Newton was a captain of a slave ship transporting slaves from Africa to England and was **nasty**--a real **wretch**! He spent much of his life swearing, drinking, and behaving violently. He later became involved in the despicable business of slave trading. On one voyage, his ship, loaded with cargo (slaves,) was caught in a horrific storm off the coast of Newfoundland. The crew bravely fought the waves, wind, and

torrents of rain. For some reason, Newton asked God for help--“Lord, have mercy upon us!” History tells us that Mr. Newton hadn’t thought of God since childhood. As the ship safely arrived in Ireland, Newton later wrote “I began to know that there is a God who hears every prayer.” Although this experience helped Newton find God, he did continue in the slave trade, but it took a number of years for Newton to fully become ashamed of these activities. In his later years, he became an ordained minister, and eventually spent a lot of his time arguing for abolition (ending slavery.) He was able to convince some very important people in London that slavery was unlawful and morally wrong. Twelve years after his death, slavery was outlawed in England. Also, many years later, slavery was forbidden in America--thanks to the 13th Amendment to the Constitution.

“I once was **lost**, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.”

### Dear Parents:

Depending on the age of your children, you might want to discuss the history of slavery in our own country. What ended it? Do we still have issues with people who may be different from us? Some vocabulary words you can look up--Newfoundland, Parliament, and Ireland. “Lost” usually means misplaced, but in this hymn, what else does it mean?

“The law indeed was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” John 1:17

Sylvia Yost

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## 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

**A**s we continue to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation and the 75th Anniversary of Saint Matthew Lutheran Church be on the look out for our mini slideshows filled with pictures from the past 75 years at Saint Matthew that will play prior to each Sunday service. As you watch the pictures or simply think back, do fond memories come to mind? If so, we would love you to share your memories so they can be included in our 75th Anniversary Memory Book. Please submit your stories in writing to the office, Frankie Savage, or Nicole Smith. Finally, **Save the Date**—Bishop Claire Burkat will be with us on Sunday, October 8, 2017; and there will be a luncheon and program at The Oaks Ballroom that day.

Nicole Smith

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## Financial Update

*I have held many things in my hands and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God’s hands, that I still possess.* Martin Luther

	<u>April 2017</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Giving/Income	\$46,676.30	\$176,903.26
Expenses	<u>41,673.56</u>	<u>166,597.64</u>
Plus/Minus	\$5,002.74	\$ 10,305.62

**Summary:** We had a very good month financially in April thanks to Easter and the fact that it was a 5 Sunday month. For the month we finished to the positive for \$5,000 and year to date through April we are to the positive \$10,300. From a giving standpoint we are very close to our budgeted giving while our expenses have been below budget. Saint Matthew will need our continued financial support for the balance of the year as giving trends lower after Easter and we head into the summer months. Continued Blessings to all.

**Giving Opportunities:** As an update on our request for funds for parking lot repairs, we have received generous commitments from several donors who have pledged over \$7,000 to assist with the repairs, which again will cost \$8,500. Thanks so much for these gifts!

What an exciting year with two important milestones – the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and the 75th anniversary of the ministry of Saint Matthew! The Fellowship Committee has been very busy planning for a special event with the Bishop in October to celebrate these milestones. Tickets for this event will be approximately \$35 each. Saint Matthew will be purchasing tickets for some guests of honor as well as families that may need assistance to purchase tickets. Will you sponsor one of these tickets? If so, please place your donation in a pew envelope and label it “Fellowship.” Thank you!

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## Wonder and Grace

**M**y windows were open to the cool night air with the tropical sounds of rustling palm leaves and sweet scents of blossoms and fruit. I think back to those nights in Fiji when I would awaken in bed and review, in the soft darkness, my many childhood dreams. It was idyllic and so stimulating to be living in this paradise.

I was in third grade when we moved to the islands and each day my friends and I took the bus to public school from the air base where we lived. A new adventure it was because, back in New Zealand, I could walk to my neighborhood school. The second and perhaps most significant aspect for me at this new school was the population diversity in my classroom. There were so many children of ethnic families with whom I had never interacted. Our friendships began right away.

It didn’t matter to us that we looked different. Fijians were tall and dark, Indians were slim and bronze, Chinese were petite and graceful, and Samoans were fun loving and athletic. Everyone had brown eyes and dark hair I noticed, except for the English, Scots, Australians, and the New Zealanders. We were a mixture with lighter tanned complexion, blue eyes with blonde, red, or dusty brown hair.

We were kids together; there was no discrimination in our consciousness. Here we demonstrated that race and color was not a factor in the friendships we had. When we played at recess or in sports games, there was unity. Each kid had an individual

personality and talent which enriched our teams. From this early interaction in school, I never suffered from racial phobia while growing up. Yes, we **are** created equal.

My early affinity for police officers became heightened in Fiji because of the uniforms these officers wore. Adult Fijians with their Afro hairstyles are giants in stature; men and women exceed six feet tall in bare feet! The native dress is usually a colorful wrap around the body. No pants or trousers in this costume. The uniform worn by the police officers consisted of a dark blue top with silver buttons and badges, a red cummerbund and black belt with silver buckle (like the boy scout belt), a white "sulu" or skirt below the knees with a wide zigzag hem and finally bare legs and black strap sandals. An outfit distinctive indeed!

A friend and I, for fun, had our Moms make us each a police uniform to wear at a fancy-dress party. We were such a hit that we were even invited downtown to Police Headquarters! It was hilarious. The officers were so charmed by our salutes which were returned in fine style! They invited us to inspect the premises and as we entered each office, we received a warm greeting from an officer behind the desk. They then allowed us to visit the cells with the iron bars and bare furniture and even showed us the "padded cell"! I had heard of this. We each took turns at punching the walls which had canvas fabric stretched tight over heavy padding. It was not soft at all, we soon found out, after some bruised knuckles. Not a place to be locked up, we thought.

An Indian friend taught me how to make and fly a kite. We spent many hours together building these delicate and colorful beauties. When the wind was right, our kites would be up and swinging high above our home. My friend lived in the village across the road from us. He would fly his kite with more line than I had and he could extend it over to where my kite was flying and playfully cut my line with a shard of glass secretly attached to his line. Bye, bye kite! Air combat it was! I ran over to the village in protest and got a bite on the leg from one of the dogs who saw me coming. People rushed over to me, lying on the ground, and washed and bound my wound. As they were treating me, they asked me not to tell my Dad what happened. There were afraid the "sahib" might retaliate for an injured son. I never did tell my Dad. The wound soon stopped its bleeding and I took the bandage off. My Mom thought I had a scratch and I left it at that. I still like dogs!

The Suva Sea Baths was a favorite destination for a swim. Near the center of the town, it was where we learned to swim and dive and cool off from the heat of the day. No air-conditioning back then. The main pool was Olympic size with diving boards at one end where the water was really deep. Filtered sea water was used in the pools and it foamed every time we jumped in from the side. Some of my friends knew how to swim well and I emulated them learning to time my breathing like they did. My Dad, who was a great swimmer himself, was teaching my little sister Janette when I came swimming by to show off my new prowess. As my confidence built up, the deep end was attracting me and the spectacle of my friends diving from the high boards. They said I should learn to dive from the side of the pool first so I would get the hang of it and balance my body correctly. A few belly-floppers from poolside convinced me they were right. It was a while before I was ready to plunge from a diving board. Sometimes

my Dad would swim underwater across the pool and back again. He would burst through the surface in front of me with his glass eye held in his teeth. He loved to see my reaction to his rendition of Halloween!

These were wonderful days to remember. Sharing new activities like swimming and diving were akin to taking one's first steps when beginning to walk. One learns by doing and trusting that it is possible to accomplish the task. When our bodies finally coordinate, and balance is born, we can soon achieve the dance of life.

Thank you, Lord, for your loving kindness. Thank you for this world of wonder in which we live. Thank you for helping us see that we human beings are one with each other and one with your wonderful universe.

Please be with us all in gratitude.

Tony Webb

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## First Thursday Friends

**F**irst Thursday Friends will gather on Thursday, June 1, at 11:30 a.m. at The Porch, 865 W. Springfield Road, Springfield, PA 19064. For more information, contact John Stefl.

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## Newsletter Deadline

**A**rticles for the summer (July and August combined) newsletter are due in the church office by **noon** on **Thursday, June 15.**

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## Women of the ELCA

*"Let mutual love continue." Hebrews 13:1*

**M**ay we as a group of women and as a congregation continue to help those in need.

As our women's groups do not meet during the summer, may we continue in prayer and pause to re-energize for the ongoing work of our Lord Jesus Christ here on earth.

June 3 is the Women of the ELCA Convention at Christ Ascension Church on Germantown Pike. Registration is at 9 a.m. Pastor Violet Little from The Welcome Church for the homeless will be our keynote speaker. The cost is \$25.00, due May 20. Contact Joan Krauter for more information.

June 4—Dedication of Quilts for Graduates

June 10—LWR Quilting—10:30 a.m., Parish Education Bldg.

June 14—Board Meeting—9:30 a.m., Library

Joan Krauter, President

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## Monthly Mailbag

Dear Friends and Members of Saint Matthew,

I want to thank you for all the flowers and cards received from the Sunday School class, Janice, Esther Circle,

and V.I.W. It makes me very happy to be remembered. God bless you all.

Love in Christ,  
Eleanor Humphrey

Dear Saint Matthew Friends:

You are too sweet (pun intended)! Thank you for the wonderful collection of candy for the children served by Silver Springs-Martin Luther School. The boys and girls will be very excited to receive these sweet treats!

We are grateful for your friendship and ongoing support of our ministry. With the assistance of friends like all of you, we are able to help the many children in our care learn, heal, and reach for bright futures. Thank you again!

Amanda Bryant, Development Office  
Silver Springs-Martin Luther School

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## Vital Statistics

**High School Graduates:** Brian Barber  
Jacky Chan  
Eve Clendenin  
Matthew DiSanto  
Stephen Knoell  
Marley Kraft  
Joseph Link  
Emerson Marles  
James Morgan  
Jared Morris  
Bailey O'Brien  
Michael Psenicska III  
Abigail Richard  
Matthew Scally  
Amanda Trautmann

**College Graduates:** Madalein Cunningham  
Steven Halko  
Benjamin Lambert  
Cara Toland

**Baptism:** Dalton James Caruso  
Son of David and Diane Caruso  
Born August 29, 2016  
Baptized May 21, 2017

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## Worship Responsibilities

**Altar Guild** **Coordinator: Jeff Wesley**  
June 4 P. McHugh, M. Ziff  
June 11 J. Wesley, B. Terry  
June 18 P. McHugh, D. Liscom  
June 25 D. Frattini, B. Kinsey

**Worship Assistants** **Coordinator: John Kampmeyer**  
June 4 8:00 a.m. Vicar Daniel Smith  
10:15 a.m. Vicar Daniel Smith  
June 11 8:00 a.m. Abby Richard  
10:15 a.m. Jeff Wesley  
June 18 8:00 a.m. Vicar Daniel Smith  
10:15 a.m. (No assistant needed)

June 25	8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	Maureen McCleary Abby Richard
<b>Acolytes</b>		<b>Coordinator: Dawn von Berg</b>
June 4	8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	Ethan Scott Madison Wesley, Patti Wesley
	Crucifer:	Rebecca Engberg
	Torchbearers:	Matt DiSanto, Ethan Kraft
	Bookbearer:	Abby Richard
June 11	8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	Tyler Bennett Patti Wesley, Madison Wesley
	Crucifer:	Rebecca Engberg
June 18	8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	Jacob Scott Matt DiSanto, Ethan Kraft
June 25	8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	Cole Bennett Rebecca Engberg, Abby Richard
<b>Communion Servers</b>		<b>Coordinator: Joan Krauter</b>
June 4	8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	Youth Sunday Youth Sunday
June 11	8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	Barbara Hewitt, Doug Bratz John and Dotty Engelbrecht
June 18	8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	Nancy Regan, Jenna Cirillo Gail Hendrickson, Dawn Liscom, Judy Hendrickson
June 25	8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	Vicar Daniel Smith, Tyler Bennett Vicar Daniel Smith, Bea Toomey
<b>Lectors</b>		<b>Coordinator: Jeff Wesley</b>
June 4	10:15 a.m.	Nicole Smith
June 11	10:15 a.m.	Jeff Wesley
June 18	10:15 a.m.	Vicar Daniel Smith
June 25	10:15 a.m.	Britten Winters
<b>Sunday Nursery</b>		<b>Coordinator: Janice Gardner</b>
June 4	10:15 a.m.	Gary Pflieger, Kathy Kinder
June 11	10:15 a.m.	Kristen and Ivan Plachuta
June 18	10:15 a.m.	Mike and Melissa Lavery
June 25	10:15 a.m.	Nicole and Greg Smith
<b>Greeters</b>		<b>Coordinator: Nicole Smith</b>
June 4	8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	Diane Frattini, Barbara Kinsey Linda Shipley, Jim Snyder
June 11	8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	Nancy Regan, Kathy and Anna Kinder
	10:15 a.m.	Carole Centrella, Bea Toomey
June 18	8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	Chris and Kristen Rohrer Maureen McCleary
	10:15 a.m.	Dorothy D'Arcy
June 25	8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	Matthew and Christine Scott Nicole and Greg Smith

# FUN RUN/WALK

Racing to stock Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry Shelves

## June 3, 2017

(Rain Date: June 10, 2017)

### St Matthew Lutheran Church

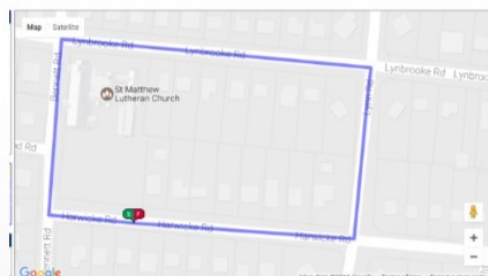
#### RACE DAY TIMELINE

**Registration/Sign-in: 8:00 AM**

**Warm up: 9:15 AM**

**Start time: 9:30 AM**

**Post-event food, fun, and fellowship  
10AM to 12PM**



**REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW!!!!**

**Signup at the Church office or  
Register online at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)  
(keyword search St Matthew Fun Run)**

**GOD'S  
WORK  
OUR  
HANDS**

**FEED  
THE  
NEED**

**Entry Fee:**  
non-perishable  
food item  
(as much as you  
can afford)



*Connecting People,  
Changing Lives*

**St Matthew Lutheran Church**

**400 Lynbrook Road**

**Springfield, PA 19064**

**Race Director: Mike Lavery**

**[stmatthewfunrun@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthewfunrun@gmail.com)**



# CARNIVAL

**COME ONE, COME ALL**  
to the End of Sunday School Celebration

**Sunday, June 11, 2017**

**Immediately after the 10:15 service in the courtyard**

**Join us for food, fun, fellowship, and activities for the kids!**

Signup before June 5th in the church hallway or call

Nicole Smith 610-416-1854

