



# The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of  
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church  
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Volume 77, Number 6

June 2025

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



## From Our Pastor

Connect

Care

eQuip

Cultivate

*When the day of Pentecost had come, [the disciples] were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.*

*— The Acts of the Apostles 2:1-4*

June 8<sup>th</sup> is Pentecost Sunday, the day mentioned above when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples of Jesus, empowering them to go out and declare the love of God in the crucified and risen Christ. This story of the very dramatic outpouring of the Spirit on that day is read each year on the Day of Pentecost. It includes many names of many places that are difficult to pronounce, and which may make us feel as if we are speaking in tongues. We do not ordinarily experience such a visible and dramatic outpouring of the Spirit, and we may feel either that this kind of thing doesn't really happen, at least not anymore, or we may feel as though we have not really experienced the Spirit, because we haven't had a super-natural manifestation of the Spirit in signs and power.

Neither assessment is correct. God can, and sometimes does, act in powerful and mysterious ways, AND God acts in the common, mundane episodes of life. God's Holy Spirit does move us, sometimes in ways that are unmistakable, and sometimes in the sighs and moans that are too deep for words to convey, but which reflect the cry from our heart.

This year on Pentecost Sunday we will be celebrating with seven of our youth – Gavin Aloï, Joe Cirillo, Isaac Godfrey, Anna Kinder, Luke McCallum, Evan Plachuta, Gregory Smith – as they affirm their faith in the rite of Confirmation. On this day we celebrate the movement of the same Holy Spirit that empowered Peter and the original disciples. We pray, “stir up in name the gift of your Holy Spirit.” We ask that the Spirit of God strengthen and empower these young people so that they may continue in the faith, assured that the love of Jesus goes

with them everywhere, and that, because of the presence of the Holy Spirit, they know they are never alone.

We are not likely to have the rush of a violent wind. We are not likely to see tongues as of fire descending on them (in fact, if we do, many will be more alarmed than inspired!). But we will call on the Holy Spirit to be present with blessing, and when we call, God shows up.

As we ask God's blessing on the youth, and to stir up in them the Holy Spirit, we are also reminded that the same words were said to us at our baptism and at our confirmation. We can recall how God has been with us in times of struggle, and that God calls us to go into the world to share the love of Jesus with all people, through what we say and what we do. We are called to act in love toward those whom we know, and those we will never know but who still stand in need of care and support. We are reminded that the Spirit does not just comfort us; the Spirit also empowers us and sends us out. That is the charge that was given to us in baptism when we were joined to Jesus, and the family of God that is the Church:

*“We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.”*

Are you ready to be filled with the Holy Spirit? Are you ready to speak of the love of God in Christ? Are you ready to bear God's creative and redeeming word to all the world?

Ready or not, the Holy Spirit comes, and you will be filled!

Pastor Karl M. Richard

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## Christian Education Updates

Please join us on Sunday, June 1 to celebrate the end of the school year! A very special thank you to our teachers: Jenna Cirillo, Barb McClintock, Jen Conrad, Kristen Plachuta, Dave Russell, Kathy Kinder, Pastor Leslie and Nicole Smith. We are looking forward to planning our Rally Day for September.

We are getting ready for our Vacation Bible School from July 28 - August 1. We are still looking for more volunteers. If interested, please reach out to Julie at [manoa1stgrade@hotmail.com](mailto:manoa1stgrade@hotmail.com). There is a registration form in this newsletter to sign up your children.

Julie Cirillo

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## Geraniums

Once again we will be decorating our altar on Pentecost Sunday (June 8th) with red geraniums. The geraniums will then be planted around the property to be shared with the community throughout the summer as a sign of God's spirit among us. We are requesting a donation of \$7 per geranium for those wishing to make a dedication. A sign-up sheet is in the church hallway or you can call the office.

Lynda Knaggs

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## News from Your Property Committee

During the month of May, we replaced and painted the new door by the sacristy. This replaced the old broken double door. That door was not only hard to open, but it was hard to close and secure.

The exit apron off the parking lot is breaking up. We are getting estimates and hopefully will be able to replace it over the summer. Also new computers have been ordered and have been received and the old ones will be replaced this summer.

As we go outside this spring and summer, please look at our grounds and our flower beds. If you see a weed in our flower beds, please pull it out.

We will be putting up our tent the first week of June. It takes about 3 hours to assemble. If you are available at any time, please let me know. I am shooting for Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Joe Regan

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## Fellowship Committee

We will be having 2 Fellowship opportunities this month. We will be congratulating our Confirmants on June 8th with cake after the 9:30 service. We will be honoring our Fathers on June 15th with a coffee hour between services. On Saturday, August 2nd, we will be attending the Blue Rocks game at 6:05 p.m. If you are interested, please sign up on the clipboard on the table in the hallway.

Barb McClintock

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## Financial Update

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for the blessings You have bestowed upon our church and community. We ask for Your guidance in our financial stewardship, that we may use our resources wisely and generously to support Your mission. Inspire us to work together in unity, fostering a spirit of giving and gratitude. May we grow in faith and serve one another with gratitude. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

	<u>March 2025</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Giving/Income	\$ 49,033.	\$ 160,410.
Expenses	<u>43,679.</u>	<u>158,769.</u>
Plus/Minus	\$ 5,354.	\$ 1,641.

**Summary:** Our total giving and income amounted to \$49,033. Our expenses were \$43,679. This resulted in a balance of \$5,354 for the month. This was a good month in giving and income which allowed us to get out of the negative for the year. Last month we were at a negative balance of almost \$4,000 for the year. We are now at a positive balance of a little over \$1,600.

**Envelope/General Giving:** We had a good month with almost \$40,000 received in our worship givings. Thank you for your

generous giving for the month of March. Year to date for worship givings are just over \$121,000.

**Giving Opportunities:** Your generous contributions are important to our church and play a crucial role in supporting our community initiatives. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a meaningful difference. We deeply appreciate your ongoing support and prayers as we journey through this fiscal year together. Thank you for being an integral part of our mission!

Respectfully submitted,  
Kevin Cunningham and  
Rebecca DeSantis

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## Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the summer (July and August combined) newsletter are due in the church office by **noon** on **Monday, June 16.**

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## Social Ministry

Social Ministry will once again be collecting donations of any and all school supplies for the children of Faith Immanuel Lutheran Church. We will have a pink bin in the hallway at the end of June. Your gifts will be delivered around the third week of August.

Thank you for once again supporting this project.

Have a happy and safe summer!

Cheryl Morrell

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## Children's Corner

*"Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him."*  
Psalm 127:3

Spending time with children is probably the most rewarding time you can spend. They have such a wonderful outlook on life. As the summer months start, remember that children are a gift from the Lord. As you get ready to spend the summer days, a good way to celebrate the summer is to make list of places to go this summer. In this area there are so many places we can go to spend some time together. Some of our family favorites were always the zoo or just the local library.

Julie Cirillo

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## Welcome Church

Please continue to remember the homeless. They continue to need toiletries, coffee and socks.

Joan Krauter

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## Gemma Services

The ladies continue to provide the children in the residential treatment program with small bags of candy treats. The ladies assembled the treat bags at our meeting.

There was a meeting of the church members who support Gemma last month. The big announcement was about the plans for Gemma to increase the size of the school to allow more children to be served with a new building. More information will be forthcoming.

Nancy Regan

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## Food Collections

We will be collecting food on Sunday, June 1. Please remember that with summer vacation and the closed schools there will be no lunch programs for many of the children who receive food from the pantry, therefore lunch items would be very welcome for those families. Thank you to all who continue to fill the large soup can for us to deliver much-needed items to families in need.

Nancy Regan

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## Quilts for Lutheran World Relief

On Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 48 handmade quilts made by the ladies of the quilt group were blessed and packed to be taken to the Synod Assembly to be transferred to Lutheran World Relief who will send them out all over the world to people in need. The ladies meet on Tuesday afternoon to tie the quilts together so then the binding can be top stitched. The 48 quilts represent seven months of work by the group.

Nancy Regan

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## Nursery School

Our Spring Art Show was a tremendous success!!! Our theme "Storybook Land" showcased 8 preschool book themed exhibits, and a total of 1,016 art pieces displayed thanks to the amazing creativity and hard work of our students and staff. If you were unable to attend, pictures are posted on our Facebook page. As we wrap up another school year, I would like to thank our families and community for their commitment and unwavering support.

We continue to accept registrations for the 2025 - 2026 School Year and continue to offer programs for 2-, 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds. Classes are filling up fast! To schedule a tour and/or to register go to <https://www.stmattscns.org/registration-forms-1> or contact the office at 610-543-5589. Please share this information with your family, friends and neighbors. Don't forget to follow and like us on Facebook and Instagram to see the hard work of the staff and students! Cheers to another great year here at Saint Matthew Christian Nursery School! We'll be back in the Fall for more friendship and learning! Enjoy your Summer!

Warmly,  
Ana Fischer,  
Executive Director

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## Vital Statistics

### High School Graduates:

**Ella Markland**  
**Gavin Martin**  
**Anastacia Milana**  
**Madeline Miller**

### Deaths:

**Carol Lynde**  
Mother of Nicole Smith  
Died April 29, 2025  
Funeral May 16, 2025

**Richard Wilson**  
Died May 4, 2025  
Funeral May 10, 2025

### Baptism:

**Ryan Michael Maffei, Jr.**  
Son of Ryan Michael Maffei, Sr.  
and Brittany McHenry  
Born October 24, 2024  
Baptized May 4, 2025

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## Monthly Mailbag

Dear Saint Matthew Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$100.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response.

As a church, we are empowered to love and serve our neighbors as Christ first loved us. Your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA help people around the world feel the power and hope that flow from God's full, boundless love. Drawn together and guided by the Holy Spirit, we accomplish together what none of us could do alone, grace upon grace.

Your Spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters, in the immediate aftermath and far into the future. No matter the disaster, no matter the need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. You make God's love real.

With gratitude,  
The Rev. Daniel Rift  
Director, Congregational Generosity  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dear Saint Matthew Friends,

We are very grateful for your continued friendship and generosity to Gemma Services. Thank you, once again, for your donation of candy-filled treat bags and a blanket for youth in residence at Gemma. As you know, your support helps Gemma continue to provide vital behavioral health, prevention, child welfare, and educational services (through Martin Luther School) for youth and families who are facing challenging times. Your friendship matters a great deal to us; thank you!

With the help of friends like all of you, Gemma is able to accompany more than 3,000 youth and families each year as they face life's challenges, heal from traumas, manage mental health challenges, learn new skills, and work to reach their individual goals. As always, we would be happy to welcome any of our friends from Saint Matthew to visit one of Gemma's three locations to see firsthand the programs you are helping us to provide. We will also continue to keep you up-to-date with any volunteer opportunities beyond all the ways you currently support us.

You can learn more about all of Gemma's programs, latest happenings, and current support needs by visiting [www.gemmaservices.org](http://www.gemmaservices.org).

Should you have any questions or wish to schedule a visit, please contact me at 610-825-4440 ext. 3307 or [Abryant@gemmaservices.org](mailto:Abryant@gemmaservices.org). On behalf of all at Gemma, thank you!

Sincerely,  
Amanda Bryant  
Director of Donor & Volunteer Engagement  
Gemma Services

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