



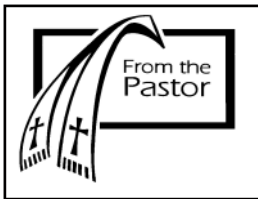
# The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of  
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church  
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Volume 76, Number 3

March 2024

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



## From Our Pastor

Connect

Care

eQuip

Cultivate

*"In like a lion, out like a lamb."*

Perhaps you have heard this description about March. Like the legend of Punxsutawney Phil, it is a "predictor" of the weather and the end of winter. When March comes in like a lion, full of wind and snow, it will go out like a lamb, with calmer, more Spring-like temperatures and sunshine. According to the same legend, however, if March comes in like a lamb, it will go out like a lion, with one last effort of winter to hold on before yielding to the inevitable turn of the season.

As we come to March, and continue our Lenten journey, these two images came to mind, but in a different way. "Lion" and "Lamb" are both images used of Jesus. In Revelation 5:5 we read, "Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.'" While not the most common image among Lutherans, the image of Jesus as "lion" is an indication of his role as the One promised from Judah and from David's line to bring salvation to the world. The Gospel of Matthew reminds us of the words of the prophet Micah,

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

"Lamb" is a much more common image of Jesus for us as Lutherans. Jesus is seen as "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." We sing this often in worship as part of the communion liturgy. "This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign." It is a connection of the sacrifice of Jesus with the sacrifice of the Passover lamb. As the sacrificed lamb of Passover brought Israel life and freedom from bondage in Egypt, so the sacrifice of Jesus, who was crucified when the Passover lambs were sacrificed, brings life and freedom from bondage to sin.

These images came to mind as I think of Easter taking place early this year, in the month of March. Perhaps our watching of the weather can become a vehicle by which we think of the One who is over all things, including the weather. When the weather is rough, we can think of the Lion of Judah, the King of Creation. When we see the gentle rain and crocuses rising with signs of new life, we can think of the Lamb who brings new life to all who trust in him.

May you continue to be blessed in your Lenten journey, and celebrate the Easter feast with joy, as we continue to follow the One who is both "the Lion and the Lamb."

Pastor Karl M. Richard

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## Worship and Music Notes

March will be a busy month as we have already entered Lent. This year we are holding midweek Lenten services on Wednesday at noon and at 7:30 p.m. Services are being held in a mini chapel set up in the parlor. The midweek services are based upon a series that coordinates with our Lenten Devotional booklet – *Guided to the Cross* – and each week the services will reveal how Christ and his cross serve as examples for us of how to live our lives for and through our crucified Lord and Savior.

Holy Week begins with the blessing of the palms on Palm Sunday, March 24, at both services. Palms and palm crosses will be available on that day to take home. There are no Wednesday services that week. Instead Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be held at noon and at 7:30. Saint Matthew will be hosting the Springfield Ministerium Good Friday service at noon. Several local Springfield churches will be participating, and we are inviting singers from those congregations to join our choir in an anthem during the noon service.

Easter Sunday services will be held at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 (note the time shift for this service) with an Easter breakfast held in between.

We will once again be decorating the sanctuary on Easter Sunday with our lily crosses and assorted spring flowers. We are asking for donations of \$12. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex or you can call the church office. The deadline to have a dedication listed in the bulletin is March 24<sup>th</sup>. Flowers may be picked up after the last service on Easter Sunday.

There will be special music at the Good Friday community service as well as on Easter Sunday – both singers and instrumentalists are invited. Watch for rehearsals scheduled in March.

I'm looking for extra help with Altar Guild duties this month. Spring cleaning to include washing the hurricane lamps, polishing brass, washing and ironing linens, some of which can be done prior to Holy Week. And then in Holy Week help with stripping the altar prior to and during the Maundy Thursday service, decorating and resetting the church on Saturday before Easter as well as helping on Easter Sunday. Please let me know if you are available to help.

Looking forward to worshipping with you in our journey this March.

Pat McHugh

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## Lent, Holy Week and Easter Schedule

### Midweek Lenten Services:

**Wednesday, February 21 and 28, March 6, 13 and 20**

12:00 Noon and 7:30 p.m. in the Parlor

### Palm Sunday, March 24

8:00 a.m. Communion Service in Sanctuary

10:15 a.m. Communion Service in Sanctuary and live via Zoom

Video of this service is also available

### Maundy Thursday, March 28

12:00 Noon Communion Service in Sanctuary

7:30 p.m. Communion Service in Sanctuary and live via Zoom

### Good Friday, March 29

12:00 Noon Springfield Community Service at Saint Matthew

7:30 p.m. Service in our sanctuary and live via Zoom

### Easter Sunday, March 31

8:00 a.m. Communion Service in Sanctuary

9:15 a.m. Easter Breakfast

10:30 a.m. Communion Service in Sanctuary and live via Zoom

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## Church Council Members for 2024

### Church Council Members for the year 2024 are:

Kevin Cunningham

Rebecca DeSantis

Beth Hale

Judy Hendrickson

Lynda Knaggs

Joe Link

Barbara McClintock

Nicole Smith

Lisa Thompson

Will Toland

Gary Gordon, Church and Nursery School Treasurer

Craig Gardner, Financial Secretary

Sue Wueschinski, Reconciliation Officer

Dawn Liscom, Head of Counting Teams

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## Christian Education Updates

**C**hristian Education has been busy. We are now using our offering to help raise money for Kids In Need of Desks. It is an organization that provides desks for students in Malawi. We will be collecting until the end of the school year. If interested, check out the bulletin board by the elevator.

The Christian Education Committee and the Fellowship Committee are hosting the annual Egg Hunt. We will be having a nighttime hunt on March 22 at 6:00 p.m. We are looking for candy donations and helping hands. There is a sign-up at church if you are interested in helping. Any questions, please contact Julie.

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**SAVE THE DATE:** Vacation Bible School will be happening early this year!! We will be diving into God on July 8-July 12! Our theme this year is *Scuba*. It will be all underwater things. If interested in being a part of it, contact Julie.

Julie Cirillo

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## News From Your Property Committee

**T**he team reviewed the budget and different jobs around the property that we would like to see accomplished this year. Some of the projects that need to be addressed this year are to clean out the stage area, remove wood from the knotty pine room and replace the main water heater which supplies water to Elbert Hall.

We need to have the chimney pointed and complete this prior to the beginning of the work on the roof. One of the roofers that we will be working with will do this work.

The property team has tested the new remotes for the chandeliers, and they are operational and functioning very well.

The property team is planning a Congregational Painting Day. Some of the areas that we will be working on are the stairway from the knotty pine room, the nursery room, the back of the church that faces the parking lot and other areas in the building. We are asking for many members to give of their time for this project. Stay tuned for more information.

Lynda Knaggs and Joe Regan

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## Fellowship Committee

**T**here were 30 people who enjoyed a Pre-Super Bowl Luncheon and fellowship. Thank you to those who came and donated food and drinks. The Fellowship Committee will host coffee connection this month.

We will be cohosting, along with Christian Education, an Easter Egg Hunt on Friday, March 22nd, at 6:00 p.m. We would appreciate nut-free individually wrapped candy donations to fill the eggs. We will also need help the night of the event.

There will be an Easter Breakfast between the services on March 31 at 9:15 a.m. There will be a sign-up sheet in the hallway for attendance and donations. Hope to see you there.

Barbara McClintock

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## Beds for Kids

**W**e continue to collect and support the Beds For Kids Program. This program works to end child bedlessness in our area by delivering a bed frame, mattress, sheet set, pillow, quilt or spread, bedtime books, and a stuffed animal to children who are in need. Should you have any of these items that are gently used or new, we have a collection box under the table in the hallway. Thank you to all who support this program.

Nancy Regan

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## Food Collection

**A**s always thank you to everyone who donated to our monthly food collection. We were able to deliver enough food on January 7th to fill two shopping carts full to the Media Food Bank. I also had a chance to speak to Pastor Rookard and she gave me a list of items that they need more frequently.

These items are just a suggestion to assist everyone who needs some good ideas. Presently they need: flour, sugar, popcorn, canned milk, ketchup, mayo, vinegar, canned salmon, canned mushrooms, grits, honey, cream of wheat, corn flakes, cookies, rice, juice (boxes and jars), oil, crackers.

Our next collection is on March 3rd. Thank you for all your donations. We know the food is appreciated by the many people who use the pantry.

Nancy Regan

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## Gemma Services

The ladies of Women of the ELCA continue to support the children in the residential treatment program by making small treat bags filled with candy and snacks that have been donated by many members of Saint Matthew. The women filled 60 treat bags and tied two fleece blankets that were delivered.

We also delivered two large bags of mittens that were donated from the Christmas Mitten Tree held by the Nursery School.

Nancy Regan

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## Children's Corner

*"So we are ambassadors for Christ." 2 Corinthians 5*

Dear Children,

As a former teacher of young children, I always found the month of March inspirational for a number of reasons. Number one - my job was to teach the kids a unit on weather and the month of March provides all types of weather - windy days, snowy mornings, lots of drizzly rain, rainbows, sunny skies, etc. Number two - March presents many harbingers of spring with some warm weather, popping up of bulb flowers, grass peeping through the muddy earth, etc. And - number three - because of my Irish heritage, I enjoy the trappings that accompany Saint Patrick's Day - the great food (scones, ham and cabbage), parades, and the lilting Irish music. So now, I would like to acquaint you with the "back story" of Saint Patrick. First and most important, he was a 5th century missionary and bishop and brought Christianity to many non-believers in Ireland. As with most history, legends abound and my research tells me that Saint Patrick wasn't Irish; he probably didn't drive all the snakes from Ireland; Patrick was not his original name; and green was not the color he wore. However, Saint Patrick was an enthusiastic teacher as he taught the people the fundamentals of Christianity as he used the shamrock as a symbol to teach the Trinity of the Christian church. This famous 3-leaf clover was perfect, as it shows the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit all coming from one stem.

All of this made me think of modern-day missionaries and their job. The missionaries that I have known have studied the Bible thoroughly and have also taken classes in education and foreign languages. Then they are thrust out into an unfamiliar world to acquaint people to another way of thinking. What a job!! I am sure the pay is small and time away from their families is challenging - but what a reward!!! The smiles and happiness that go with this work are substantial. Think of it - telling people of God's great love for us, His forgiveness, His guidance—what a way to make people burst with joy!! Although you may not end up

in a career of missionary work, you can still tell people about Jesus and how much He loves us. Think of the comfort and happiness you might bring to someone who has never been to Sunday School. I think we can all be little missionaries of the Trinity.

Dear Parents,

Yes, you too can have a part in a child's life who needs Jesus. Saint Matthew and our community provide many opportunities to teach children and others the love and compassion of Jesus. I have always been puzzled by the concept of the Trinity, but thinking of the shamrock made it easier.

Sylvia Yost

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## Nursery School

Our students are getting excited as Spring approaches, and they get to "wake up" the sleeping teddy bears in their classrooms. We are looking forward to exploring Spring and all the changes it brings. We have opened our enrollment for the 2024 - 2025 School Year and registration is ongoing. We continue to offer programs for 2-, 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds. Classes are filling up fast! 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 for the fall. Also, please remember to "like" us on Facebook and see the hard work of the staff and students! We hope that if March comes in like a lion, it goes out like a lamb!

Warmly,

Ana Fischer, Executive Director

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## Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the April newsletter are due by **noon on Friday, March 15.**

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## Men's Breakfast

Our January and February breakfast meetings were snowed out. We will try again in March—no snow, we hope.

The men enjoy the breakfasts. I am sure everyone will have a few good stories to tell.

See you March 16 at 7 a.m. at the Court Diner in Media.

Come enjoy good Christian fellowship.

Yours in Christ,

Dave Krauter

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## Women of the ELCA

Save the date: April 7 is Women's Sunday. Our guest speaker will be Lorraine Martinez from Chester County Migrant Ministry. Our WELCA group has been supporting this ministry for many years. Please come and hear more about this organization and how they help others.

March Calendar Dates:

March 5	LWR Quilts	1:00 p.m.
March 12	LWR Quilts	1:00 p.m.
March 19	Board Meeting	6:15 p.m.

Circle Meeting 7:00 p.m.

All women are invited to attend our meetings.

Easter Blessings,  
Carol Penjue

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## Vital Statistics

**Birth:** **Eleanor Jean McClintock**  
Daughter of Cody and Shelby  
McClintock  
Born January 23, 2024

**Baptisms:** **Faye Evangeline Hewitt**  
Daughter of Thomas and Susanne  
Hewitt  
Born December 7, 2023  
Baptized January 28, 2024

**Nora Claire Mullen**  
Daughter of Brian and Laura  
Mullen  
Born June 8, 2023  
Baptized February 18, 2024

**Death:** **James Snyder**  
Died February 19, 2024

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## Monthly Mailbag



Dear Saint Matthew Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the residents at Fair Acres, I want to extend our deepest gratitude for the incredibly generous donation of lap robes, calendars, socks and other miscellaneous items. The lap robes will provide warmth in the colder months, the calendars will bring a sense of organization and timekeeping, and the socks and other miscellaneous items are sure to brighten their days in various ways. Your generosity has made a significant difference for those who call Fair Acres home.

We are truly touched by the compassion and kindness demonstrated by the members of Saint Matthew Lutheran Church. Your commitment to making a positive impact in the community is a shining example of the spirit of giving, and it has not gone unnoticed. Please convey our heartfelt appreciation to all members of your congregation who were involved in this wonderful donation.

Once again, thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness. We are grateful to have partners like Saint Matthew Lutheran Church who share in our commitment to creating a warm and supportive environment for those in need.

With gratitude,  
Sue Harrar  
Director of TAS Dept./Volunteer Services  
Fair Acres Geriatric Center

Dear Saint Matthew Lutheran Church Women of the ELCA,

Thank you for supporting the ministries of Women of the ELCA with your recent gift of \$115.00. Your faithful generosity makes a real difference. Thank you.

Even in unsettling times, Women of the ELCA in all its expressions—congregational and special units, synodical women's organizations, the churchwide women's organization—is still at work with life-changing ministry. We might be engaging in ministry and action in different ways for

a while, but that's what we do—because that's who we are: a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. And we've committed ourselves to promoting healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world. Your giving helps make that happen. Thank you.

Thank you for your generosity. Together, thanks to your support, we'll get through this. Thank you. For regular updates on our ever-growing work together, please see our website, [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org). Your giving really does make a difference. Thank you.

With gratitude,  
Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director  
Women of the ELCA

Dear Patti and Members of Saint Matthew,

Thank you for providing the 5 twin blankets, 2 queen blankets, 16 bags of beans and the 2 bags of 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,

Thanks to YOU, Gemma helped to create a magical holiday season for more than 500 youth and families from our local communities this year! This would not have been possible without your partnership, and we are grateful. We write today to share with you the impact of your kind generosity. 180+ friends supported Gemma's annual holiday program. 500+ youth and families participated in Gemma's programs and received presents and gift cards. Families were given \$17,000+ in gift cards for presents or holiday essentials. Volunteers wrapped 450+ gifts and stuffed 60 stockings for youth in residence.

We send our very best wishes for a happy and healthy 2024. Thank you for joining Gemma, this holiday season and throughout the year, to create a world where everyone knows how much they matter!

Most sincerely,  
Amanda Bryant, Lynn Unipan and Betty Wu  
Gemma Services

Dear Members of Saint Matthew,

I can't thank you all enough for your cards, prayers and phone calls after the recent passing of my mother. It meant so much to me, especially all those who listened to my concerns and complaints during her last year of her life when things became incredibly difficult. Your support and compassion really helped keep me going. Thank you so much.

Fran Gordon

Dear Terrific Saint Matthew Friends,

We appreciate Saint Matthew's continued friendship and generosity to Gemma Services (formed by the merger of

Silver Springs-Martin Luther School and the Village)! Thank you for your wonderful donation of 60 treat bags, extra treats, and two cozy fleece blankets for the children and youth participating in our Residential Program. Your support will help us continue to provide vital behavioral health, prevention, child welfare, and educational services for youth and families who are facing extreme challenges.

Your support matters! As you know, Gemma accompanies more than 3,000 youth and families each year as they heal from traumas, manage mental health challenges, and navigate difficult times. This is only possible with the help of friends like all of you! We would be happy to welcome any of our friends from Saint Matthew to visit any of our three locations to see firsthand the programs you are helping us to support.

Thank you all so much for your support, generosity and friendship!

Sincerely,  
Amanda Bryant, Sr. Development Officer  
Gemma Services

Dear Saint Matthew Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gifts of \$100.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response and \$100.00 to Project Comfort/Freight for Lutheran World Relief Quilts. As a church, we believe that God's grace is freely given to us. This brings us peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives. Through your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA you share this amazing grace

with others and help people around the world feel the transformational power of God's love.

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

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

In Christ,  
Amanda White  
Director, Congregational Generosity  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dear Saint Matthew Friends,

Thank you for the wonderful celebration of my ten year anniversary. I was completely surprised and touched by your appreciation. Thank you for the beautiful plaque, flowers and very generous cash gift. I enjoyed the reception very much. Here's to another ten years!

Sincerely,  
Ted Hidell

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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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# ***St. Matthew Easter Egg Hunt***



***March 22<sup>nd</sup> 6:00-7:300 pm***

**Join us for a fun night of hunting for Easter eggs  
Light refreshments  
Bring a basket and a flashlight**



**RSVP by March 15, 2024  
Please sign up in the church hallway  
or the link.**

**<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C44AFAD2DA0FD0-47988914-stmatt>**

## **Lent, Holy Week and Easter Schedule**

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12:00 Noon and 7:30 p.m. in the Parlor

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