



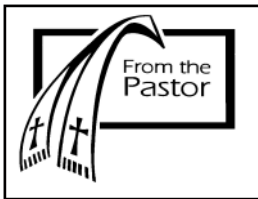
The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Volume 77, Number 3

March 2025

Internet Web Site: www.stmattspringfield.org



From Our Pastor

Connect

Care

eQuip

Cultivate

⁴ *Show me your ways, Lord,
teach me your paths.*

⁵ *Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.* – Psalm 25:4, 5

In the life of the Church, the season of Lent has traditionally been a time of catechesis, a time of learning the basics of the Faith. It was particularly a time of preparation for people who desired to be baptized into the Christian faith, which historically happened at the Easter Vigil, in the wee hours of the night between Holy Saturday and Easter morning.

Lent has continued to be a time for reflection and growth in faith, and many branches of the Christian faith (including ours) offer special devotional materials and midweek worship experiences to allow people who are already baptized to grow deeper in their understanding of Christ, and their calling to live Christ-like lives in the world. Over time, the busyness of our lives has made such practices less common; most people do not commit to this time of discipline of prayer, worship, and study of Scripture. Still, it seems a good thing to offer, and so, this Lent we are once again offering a chance to come together to devote ourselves to the spiritual practices of worship, prayer, study, and discernment.

As a reflection of the age-old practice of preparing people in the basics of the faith, this year I would like us to go back to the basics, re-learning, or perhaps hearing for the first time, stories that were well-known; stories that have been the backbone of our understanding of what the Church is about, and how we are called to live as members of the Church, which is the Body of Christ. This seems timely to me, as there are so many conflicting understandings of what it means to be a “real Christian” in this day, and in this society. Taking time to go “Back to the Basics” may give us the chance to re-set our lives, and our actions, in light of what scripture says, not what people have said scripture says.

Each week at noon or at 7:00 p.m. I invite you to come and engage with the Word and remember who we are called to be. I trust the stories will be familiar, but we need to hear them again, or for the first time, lest we wander from who and what God calls us to be, toward what our own thoughts, or the teachings of the world, call us to be. We will hold in our minds the words of Psalm 25 above, “Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your

paths. ⁵ Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.”

These services will be held the five Wednesdays in Lent, March 12, 19, and 26, and April 2 and 9. March 5 is Ash Wednesday, and we will offer worship at noon and 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship will also be at noon and 7:00 p.m., with the noon service on Good Friday being the community service, hosted this year by the Church of the Redeemer on Springfield Road.

Please carve out this time to grow deeper in your understanding of the faith, as together we go “Back to the Basics.”

Pastor Karl M. Richard

* * * * *

Church Council Members for 2025

Church Council Members for the year 2025 are:

Kevin Cunningham
Rebecca DeSantis
Beth Hale
Judy Hendrickson
Lynda Knaggs
Joe Link, Vice President
Don Masey
Barbara McClintock
Sharon McKee
Nicole Smith
Lisa Thompson
Will Toland, Secretary

Gary Gordon, Church and Nursery School Treasurer
Craig Gardner, Financial Secretary
Sue Wueschinski, Reconciliation Officer
Dawn Liscom, Head of Counting Teams

* * * * *

Christian Education Updates

The Christian Education Committee and the Fellowship Committee are hosting the annual Egg Hunt. We will be having a night-time hunt on April 11 at 6:00 p.m. We are looking for candy donations to stuff the eggs and helping hands. There is a sign-up at church if you are interested in helping. Any questions, please contact Julie.

SAVE THE DATE: Vacation Bible School will be July 28th - August 1st. All are welcome to be a part of our amazing week! Registration forms will be available soon! If interested contact Julie Cirillo.

Julie Cirillo

* * * * *

News From Your Property Committee

January and early February came with four snow events, some plowable, some just salt. As the monies we have set aside for snow removal are now being stretched almost to the limit, we are hoping for Spring and no more snow. January saw our generator being serviced and it's in good running condition.

We had an issue with the water pipes in the Education wing freezing. I am happy to report that between Ted and myself we were able to get the water flowing again.

It was reported that the two entrance lights were not working. We have contacted our electrician, and they are looking for a replacement. Keep looking for the new replacements.

As we all know we are having an elevator door problem. Although it is very aggravating, the elevator is very safe. We are having Excel Elevator out again to see if they can fix it.

Joe Regan

Fellowship Committee

We will start the month with a coffee hour on March 2nd hosted by Fellowship. We are planning the following events. The Easter Egg Hunt will be on April 11th at 6 p.m. We are asking the congregation to donate nut-free candy for the eggs. A sign-up sheet is on the hallway table. Please bring donations in by March 30th. We will have our annual Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday between the services. There will be a sign-up sheet for attendance and food donations. We are looking into the following events for the spring/summer--a Blue Rocks evening game with fireworks and a trip to Sight and Sound to see the show Noah. Please let a member of the Fellowship Committee know if you would be interested in either of these events.

Barbara McClintock

Financial Update

Heavenly Father, as we embark on the new 2025 fiscal year, we come before You with thankful hearts. We seek Your wisdom and guidance in our financial decisions, trusting in Your provision for our church community. Help us to be good stewards fostering generosity and unity among us. May our plans align with Your will and contribute to the growth of Your kingdom. Bless our efforts, and let all we do reflect Your love and grace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

	<u>Jan. 2025</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Giving/Income	\$ 65,382.	\$ 65,382.
Expenses	<u>56,195.</u>	<u>56,195.</u>
Plus/Minus	\$ 9,187.	\$ 9,187.

Summary: For January, we ended positively with just over \$9,000. All bills for the roof have been paid, and as we collect our Look Up, Trust God campaign moneys, it continues to replenish the Endowment fund.

Additional Cost to Budget: With our wintry mix of weather, we've had a little over \$8,000 in snow removal and a few repairs costing around \$4,000.

Envelope/General Giving: We concluded January with contributions totaling over \$65,000, exceeding the budgeted

amount of \$39,500 for the month. Many congregation members make their general contributions upfront for the year, which accounts for the givings we have received.

Giving Opportunities: Please continue to submit your pledge cards for the General Campaign Fund if you have not done so, and start with the annual giving that you pledged. This money helps us maintain our programs and running the facility. Just as we manage our personal budgets with care, the church faces rising expenses too. Give often and early for a successful 2025 year to ensure that we can continue to support our community, maintain our programs, and keep our facilities running smoothly. Let's come together to ensure a thriving future for our church and the community it serves.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Cunningham and
Rebecca DeSantis

Social Ministry

During Lent through Easter, Social Ministry is collecting donations of individually wrapped breakfast bars for The Welcome Church. There is a bin in the hallway for your gifts. Thank you, in advance, for remembering those in need.

Cheryl Morrell

Food Collection

On February 2 we delivered two shopping carts full of food items to the Media Food Bank.

As always they welcomed us with helpers to unload all the items donated by the generous people at Saint Matthew. Thank you to all who continue to make the delivery possible for the families who need our help. Our next drive date is Sunday, March 2.

Nancy Regan

Gemma Services

The ladies of Women of the ELCA prepared 60 treat bags for Valentine's Day for the children in the Residential Treatment Program. They were delivered along with three large bags of mittens that were collected by the nursery school Mitten Tree as a holiday project. Also delivered were 2 bags of so many colorful hand knitted hats donated by Dawn Liscom to keep the children warm this winter.

Nancy Regan

Welcome Church

The Welcome Church for the homeless continues to need coffee, gloves for winter (especially large sizes for men) and toiletries.

Joan Krauter

Children's Corner

"The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." Psalm 103:8

Dear Children,
The verse above has always been one of my favorites and often in our Lutheran liturgy, we have put this to music. As life presents the story of our lives, we need to snatch

those opportunities to show kindness to our friends and especially to those people who can be “difficult.” Here at Maris Grove, people were given green bracelets to wear reminding all of us to show kindness. I personally have a rather bad habit of watching the news and have realized that people of all ages need reminders to show compassion. Many of the news articles have become so bizarre and mean, that some stations end their programs with “good news”—spotlighting compassionate deeds organized by both children and adults. I am so delighted to belong to a group here that gives to those who have little. We participate in giving needed items for our military; winter wear—hats, gloves scarves; food; and school supplies. I am proud to say that our community is an ardent supporter of these events. Often the recipients will come and pick up all the goodies and it is a pleasure to see the joy on their faces. Remember the JOY that we can do if our hearts feel gracious.

As I read the “slow to anger” part of the Bible verse, I go “OOPS” as often I need to be reminded to be “slow to anger.” What can we do about this part of the verse? My mother’s suggestion was always to “go sit in the sun;” you probably don’t drink hot tea which can be very relaxing, but for me a nice hot cup of Earl Grey tea is a great remedy; and as always PRAY; talking to a friend helps; open up your Bible and look at the Psalms.

Dear Parents,

As I read the paper and watch the news, I note what a trying time this must be for parents. Our world has changed since we have raised our children. Now our children have kids of their own. We all do our best in this endeavor by living a good example and guiding our youngsters in the ways that the Lord would desire. As one who has children past middle age, we derive pleasure as we see grandchildren attending church and Christ-centered youth events.

Sylvia Yost

After almost 20 years of writing Children’s Corner articles, Sylvia Yost has decided to retire. We thank Sylvia for the wonderful articles she has written over the years.

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 2025 - 2026 School Year and registration is ongoing. We continue to offer programs for 2-, 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds. Classes are

filling up fast! You can register online at <https://www.stmattscns.org/registration-forms-1>. Please contact the office at 610-543-5589 if you have any questions or are interested in scheduling a tour. 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

Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the April newsletter are due by **noon on Monday, March 17.**

Men’s Breakfast

Our March Men’s Breakfast will be held at 7 a.m. on March 15 at the Court Diner in Media.

Come enjoy good Christian fellowship.

Yours in Christ,
John Stefl

Vital Statistics

Deaths:

Bob McClintock
Died January 29, 2025
Funeral February 1, 2025

Eleanor Humphrey
Died February 4, 2025

Monthly Mailbag



Dear Friends,

Thank you for the cards and text messages expressing your sympathy regarding the death of Bill’s sister, Mary. We really appreciated you reaching out to us.

Sincerely,
Carol and Bill Penjoke

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the cards, phone calls and prayers for me following my knee replacement surgery. A special thank you to Pastor Karl for coming to visit me in the hospital.

Sincerely,
Marie Miller

St. Matthew Easter Egg Hunt



April 11th 6:00-7:30 pm

**Join us for a fun night of hunting for Easter eggs
Light refreshments**

Lent, Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Ash Wednesday, March 5

- 12:00 Noon Service in Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Service in Sanctuary and live via Zoom

Midweek Lenten Services: Wednesday, March 12, 19 and 26; April 2 and 9

12:00 Noon and 7:00 p.m.

Palm Sunday, April 13

- 8:00 a.m. Communion Service in Sanctuary
 - 9:30 a.m. Communion Service in Sanctuary and live via Zoom
- Video of this service is also available

Maundy Thursday, April 17

- 12:00 Noon Communion Service in Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Communion Service in Sanctuary and live via Zoom

Good Friday, April 18

- 12:00 Noon Springfield Community Service at Church of the Redeemer
- 7:00 p.m. Service in our sanctuary and live via Zoom

Easter Sunday, April 20

- 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