



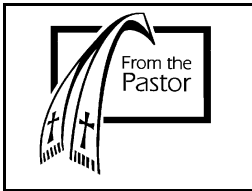
# The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of  
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church  
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Volume 67, Number 5

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



## From Our Pastor

### Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

As we continue through this Easter season, I want to share with you a part of an Easter

Vigil sermon from Saint John Chrysostom who lived from 347-407, and was Bishop of Constantinople from 399.

This was shared by a friend of mine, Pastor Marie Caron, on Facebook. I liked it so much I used it as part of my Easter Vigil sermon. I do not know what passage Saint John used for his sermon, but it reminds me of 1 Peter 3:18-20 and 4:5-6:

*For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.*

*But they will have to give an accounting to him who stands ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is the reason the gospel was proclaimed even to the dead, so that, though they had been judged in the flesh as everyone is judged, they might live in the spirit as God does.*

Here are Saint John Chrysostom's words and moving images for your reflection:

'Something strange is happening - there is a great silence on earth today, a great silence and stillness. The whole earth keeps silence because the King is asleep. The earth trembled and is still because God has fallen asleep in the flesh and he has raised up all who have slept ever since the world began. God has died in the flesh and hell trembles with fear.

He has gone to search for our first parents, as for a lost sheep. Greatly desiring to visit those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death, he has gone to free from sorrow the captives

Adam and Eve, he who is both God and the son of Eve. The Lord approached them bearing the cross, the weapon that had won him the victory. At the sight of him, Adam, the first man he had created, struck his breast in terror and cried out to everyone: "My Lord be with you all." Christ answered him: "And with your spirit." He took him by the hand and raised him up, saying: "Awake, O sleeper, and rise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

May you know that Jesus seeks you out wherever you are, so you might be given new life in and through him.

### Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Pr. Karl M. Richard

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## Financial Update

*"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7*

	<u>March 2015</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Giving/Income:	\$44,814.79	\$125,882.07
Expenses	<u>42,652.56</u>	<u>132,154.52</u>
Plus/Minus	2,162.23	(6,272.45)

**March Summary:** We had a pretty good month in March (5 Sundays) and finished to the positive for the month in the amount of \$2,162.23. However, for the first quarter ending in March, we show a deficit amount of \$6,272.45. As we have just witnessed the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus on Good Friday taking our sins to a painful death on the cross and the beautiful Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday, let's continue to remember the ultimate reason that we need to support God's ministry here at Saint Matthew: For what God has done for us, we need to be His hands and feet in the world.

**Giving Opportunities:** There are many opportunities to assist and support our weekly worship services. You can help to sponsor flowers each week at a cost of \$15 and also sponsor the weekly bulletins, also at \$15. (Sign-up sheets are located on the table at the rear of the sanctuary/narthex.) Other worship supplies that are always needed include candles, communion wine and wafers, children's coloring books and much more. If you can help with some of these costs, please place an envelope in the collection plate and mark it for "Worship Supplies." Thanks to all as we make our worship meaningful and caring.

**Update on Targeted Giving:** In last month's Financial summary we mentioned a giving opportunity to help to defray some of the cost for snow removal/plowing. We are very pleased to announce that we had a strong response from many of you and we received donations in the amount of \$2,399 to help defray these costs (which were over \$5,000.) Thanks to all who were able to pitch in and help out! It's still not too late if you would also like to contribute - just place an envelope in the offering or office and note the reason as Snow Removal/Plowing.

Your Finance Committee

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## Church Assessment Tool Update

Thank you to all who filled out the CAT! We invited 313 people to do so, and received responses from 144. We are very pleased to have had such a strong response. The people who administer this tool were very impressed, as 144 is nearly 100% of our average worship attendance.

The Church Assessment Tool was completed early in February. At the end of February, the Council was given a presentation about what the assessment says to us and about us. At the March meeting Council continued to review and evaluate the findings that have come to us from the responses of our members. There is a great deal of information we learned. Part of what came through is how much we like our congregation. We also received confirmation of some goals and direction we want to follow as a community of faith. This includes a desire to reach out to new people, especially youth and younger families, and a need for expanded staffing to make this possible.

Council is in the process of forming a presentation to share these findings with the congregation. We want to be sure that our members are informed about what we learned, and where we plan to go. We have, as is normal, both opportunity and challenge as we go forward into the future. We want to be sure the whole congregation is "on board" with our plans (and by that, we mean our congregation's plans, not the Council's plans!) as we continue to make Jesus known in this community and in the world.

Please keep an eye out for further information. We hope to share this in our newsletter, perhaps in a special mailing, and ideally with a public opportunity to discuss and share together. Council is still trying to determine the best times and ways to share

what you have already shared with us. In the meantime, we express our deep thanks and appreciation for your participation in the process, and are excited about what we can do together as a family of faith!

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## The Welcome Church - A Church Without Walls

Recently Pastor Richard shared a video about The Welcome Church, A Church Without Walls, as part of one of his sermons. Many people expressed interest in learning more about this church and its ministry.

Good News! On May 20 The Reverend Violet Little of The Welcome Church will be the guest speaker for a covered-dish supper held at Saint Matthew in the Parish Education Building. The dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m. and is sponsored by Women of the ELCA. **Everyone in our congregation is invited to attend.**

The Welcome Church grew out of The Welcome Center, a place of healing and hospitality, founded by Pastor Little. The Welcome Center was hosted by The Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion. Eventually The Welcome Center gained its own non-religious non-profit status. It provided a ministry for people experiencing homelessness. In January 2012, The Welcome Church was officially recognized by the ELCA as a congregation under development with a mission to serve people in poverty. Come learn more about this exciting and unique ministry!

To help our meal planning, we are asking that people sign up to bring a main dish, salad, or vegetable to the covered-dish supper. The dish should feed 6 to 8 people. Sign-up sheets are on the table in the hallway. The Women of the ELCA Executive Board will provide desserts and beverages. There will also be a free-willing offering to benefit The Welcome Church.

Please contact Carol Penjucke if you have any questions. We hope you can join us!

Carol Penjucke - Women of the ELCA

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## Ascension Day Service

Thursday, May 14, the Delaware Conference will gather for its annual Ascension Day service. This year we will be hosting the event at Saint Matthew. The day will include a workshop for rostered leaders from 3:00 - 5:00 which will be led by The Rev. Dr. Nelson Rivera of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. He will be speaking on the topic of the Holy Spirit.

The worship service will be at 7:30. There will be a combined choir. Anyone who would like to sing is welcome to participate. There will be a combined practice on that day before

the worship service.

A community supper will be at 6:30 (choir members may be eating a little before this, depending on practice time.) The congregations of the Conference will be asked to provide soup, salad, bread, or dessert. We will be responsible for drinks and set up. Anyone who can help in setting up or greeting our guests for the evening would be a blessing!

Please plan to join with your sisters and brothers across the Conference as we give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus, and celebrate his ascension to the right hand of the Father!

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## Banner of Life

If anyone in your family is graduating from college or graduate school, we would like to include them on the Banner of Life. Please call Janice in the church office (610-543-8700) or email to [office@stmattspringfield.org](mailto:office@stmattspringfield.org) with the graduate's name and school name.

Also, if there is a special event that you would like to share with us such as retirement, 25<sup>th</sup> or 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, etc., please let us know.

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## Altar Flowers and Worship Folders

Saint Matthew has a terrific way to honor or memorialize special people and events in our lives through the dedicating of the Altar Flowers or Worship Folders each Sunday. There are sign-up sheets in the narthex along with envelopes for your \$15 offering. It is a small amount for each family, but would have an impact with our church finances if each family would sign up once or twice a year. There is no limit to the number of dedications we can have each Sunday.

If you have questions, please see Janice in the church office.

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## Children's Corner

Dear Children,

Last month we talked about Easter and how we can see many signs of new life - baby birds are born, meadows are housing little lambs, wild flowers are springing forth, etc. - but the Greatest Gift of all, of course, is the resurrection of Jesus, who will show us the way to heaven. As we think of new life, I am reminded of a series of wonderful animal books by the English author/veterinarian, James Herriot. He wrote, with great wisdom peppered with humor, wonderful stories of the animals he treated - All Things Bright and Beautiful, All Creatures Great and Small,

All Things Wise and Wonderful, The Lord God Made Them All. Although we love dogs, apartment dwelling lends itself more to cats, so Mr. Yost and I have a very lovable cat named Clancey. Now Clancey doesn't rescue people from the woods, he doesn't come when he's called, he can't be trained to help people with disabilities, and he can't pull a little wagon. Just what can Clancey do? How can we learn from a cat? I decided to take a couple of days and record my findings of Clancey's capabilities and here's what I found:

It takes very little to make a cat content - a place in the sun seems to do it. **Can we learn from that?**

Cats aim for high places after making plans to jump - have you ever watched a cat aim for the top of the refrigerator? First, they focus on their sight, then they bob their little heads as if calculating ( $e=mc^2$ ) and go for it! **Can we learn from that?**

Cats seem to know when things are amiss with its owner - they tend to cuddle more. **Can we learn from that?**

Cats are said to be territorial, but given the right set of circumstances are willing to share their favorite spot with a friend. We found that out when Dave brought his little cat, Ruby, over for a week. **Can we learn from that?**

I will even go so far as to say that I think cats are grateful. We brought Clancey home from a shelter where, although he was well cared for, was caged in a very small area. He was a bit of a "fixer upper" as he had a lot of visits to the vet. We always felt that he was happy to be in our apartment with two devoted cat lovers, because he is always at our heels, waits at the door for us to come home, purrs pretty much 24/7 and sometimes I even think he smiles! **Can we learn from that?**

Spring is a wonderful time to observe all that the Creator has done for us - take a peek in the meadow, the park, and look up at the sky. Take time to thank God for his goodness - and blessings we have received!

Dear Parents,

I am reminded of a Bible verse that you might want to read with your youngster - "And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, the cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good" - Genesis 1:25. What is the Bible asking us to do?

Sylvia Yost

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## Men's Breakfast

Our May Men's Breakfast will be held at The Court Diner, 140 E. Baltimore Pike, Media, on Saturday, May 16, at 7:15 a.m. This is the last breakfast until September. All

men are invited to join us for morning devotions, a great speaker, an excellent breakfast and good fellowship. Please come and enjoy.

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## Saint Matthew Christian Nursery School News



It is hard to believe this is the last month of our school year. The children have grown so much, and we are very proud of them.

To end our school year, we have pizza day and fun-filled activities planned for the children. We will also hold graduation ceremonies in the church on Monday, May 18, for our 3 and 5 day children and Tuesday, May 19, for our 2 day children. We have invited the families and friends of our children to celebrate a special and memorable day.

We are also having a summer camp: "Busy Bee" beginning May 26 through June 18.

The Nursery School has had a wonderful year filled with many blessings and memories. The staff has worked so hard sharing their special teaching talents and unique understanding of the specialness of children.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Pastor Richard, Janice Gardner, Joanne Castagna, Bill Penjuke, Ted Hidell, Jim Snyder, Joe Regan, and the Nursery School Advisory Board for their support and friendship throughout the school year.

The Nursery School is a gift to all of us!

Linda M. Maylie, Director

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## First Thursday Friends ("FTF")

The First Thursday Friends will be gathering at Trattoria Giuseppe for lunch and fellowship on Thursday, May 7, at 11:30 a.m. Trattoria is located at 4799 West Chester Pike, Edgemont, PA in the Edgemont Square Shopping Center.

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

John Stefl

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## Women of the ELCA News

Greetings to our sisters in Christ! We sincerely hope you had a blessed Easter with family and friends. God's blessings to all of you - enjoy the sunshine and the beautiful flowers of springtime that God gives to us.

On April 12, 2015, we had our Women's Sunday service at both the 8 a.m. and the 10:15 a.m. church service with a coffee and cake gathering following each service. Our guest speaker was Ms. Lorraine Martinez of the Chester County Migrant Ministry. Her presentation was interesting and very informative - in fact, it was so nice to hear her mention Esther MacGregor's name and how she got to know Esther through our Saint Matthew Women of the ELCA - we are talking about 20 years ago. Time does fly by quickly! The congregation enjoyed her visit, and she stated how much she enjoyed being with us at the two services. Our Women of the ELCA had special envelopes in the church bulletins for anyone who cared to donate to the Migrant Ministry. Lorraine was very surprised and grateful for this gift of love - we know that it will be used wisely within the Chester County Migrant Ministry. At this time, we say "Thank you to all who participated in making this event so special." Everyone did a great job and you could tell they were pleased to be a part of continuing the history of Saint Matthew Lutheran Church's Women of the ELCA. God's blessings to all of you! You are a super group of ladies.

Please don't forget to sign up for our annual Covered Dish supper to be held on Wednesday, May 20, starting at 6 p.m. in the Parish Education room. Our special guest and speaker will be The Rev. Violet C. Little, Pastor of The Welcome Church, 2111 Sansom Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104. We look forward to welcoming you and joining with you for this special supper and speaker. Ladies, for more info on this event, you will see an article in this newsletter issue written by Carol Penjuke, who is chairperson of this evening gathering. Please be sure to read it and then decide to join us for a great supper and evening speaker. See you there!

### May Schedule:

May 9	LWR Quilting
May 13	Board Meeting
May 20	Ronald McDonald Quilting
May 20	Women of the ELCA Covered Dish Supper - 6:00 p.m.

Dee Bratz and the Executive Board

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## The "Plus 20" Club

Thank you to those who have stepped up and joined the "Plus 20" club! A reminder of what this is: we have asked if people or families will commit to giving an extra \$20 each month in addition to whatever they are already giving. If we have 100 families increase by this amount, we will be able to provide for our ministry expenses, including expanded staffing.

Please prayerfully consider joining the "Plus 20" club. A \$20 bill does not last long, but can have a tremendous impact when given to the Lord!

Pr. Karl M. Richard

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## Social Ministry

**O**n Mother's Day, May 10, Social Ministry will be sponsoring donations for Baby Manna again this year. Baby Manna provides nutrition for infants of parents with limited means to assist with their development in their early years. There will be envelopes available for your gifts.

Cheryl Morrell

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## Geraniums for Pentecost



**O**nce again, we will beautify the sanctuary on Pentecost Sunday, May 24, with red geraniums. After the service, they will be planted outside to brighten the church grounds for the summer. A sign-up sheet is on the hallway table. Geraniums may be ordered until Sunday, May 17. Plants may be donated "in memory of..."

"in honor of..." or as a gift and will cost \$5.00 each.

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## Vacation Bible School

**S**pring is here and summer is not far behind. That means plans for VBS are well under way! This year's theme is Everest and promises to be lots of fun. All the festivities will be held July 27 to July 31 from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. There will be great Bible stories, crafts, snacks, games, and songs. A registration form is included in this newsletter. There will be classes for children ages 4 through 9. There will also be a special program for children who have completed 4<sup>th</sup> grade through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Many volunteer opportunities to help with this program are available. Please contact Julie Cirillo ([manoa1stgrade@hotmail.com](mailto:manoa1stgrade@hotmail.com)) or 610-449-2435 if you would like to help or if you have questions. Hope to see you there!

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## Library

**H**appy Spring! Are we warm yet? It's working on it. Our book this month is *Forgive and Forget: Healing the Hurts We Don't Deserve* found on Shelf 234.5/SME written by

Lewis B. Smedes.

We had a sermon recently on this subject. For all of us who have been wounded by another and struggled to understand and move beyond our feelings of hurt and anger, Mr. Smedes shows that it is possible to heal our pain and find room in our hearts to forgive. Breaking down the process of healing into four stages, and offering stories of real people's experiences throughout, this wise book provides hope and solace for all who long for the peace that comes with forgiveness.

Haven't we all been hurt by someone and not known why, and what have we done to deserve this? It's hard to process. God is there with us even as we hurt. He will give us comfort.

Barbara Kinsey

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## Monthly Mailbag



Dear Saint Matthew Friends,

**T**hank you for the fantastic candy-filled favors and for the bag of stuffed animals! The favors will be a wonderful Easter surprise for the children, and the boys and girls will love receiving a soft new friend. We are so grateful for your ongoing support throughout the year. We don't know what we'd do without all of you!

Sincerely,  
Amanda Bryant  
Silver Springs-Martin Luther School

P.S. Thank you, also, to Nancy and Joey for delivering!

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Dear Saint Matthew Friends,

Thank you so much for the lovely plant Mr. Link brought to me. I love anything pink. I appreciate the directory and bulletin, too.

God bless you all - you are very kind.

Sincerely,  
Donna Winters

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Dear Pastor Richard,

Many thanks to you and all of our friends at Saint Matthew Lutheran Church for your March 31, 2015 gift of \$125 to Silver Springs - Martin Luther School. We appreciate your kindness and ongoing commitment to the special children we serve. Your faithful support helps us to continue providing essential

clinical and educational services for the vulnerable and wounded boys and girls in our care.

Thank you for continuing to help turn hopes into realities, for being such loyal friends to our boys and girls and for helping to ensure that Silver Springs will continue to be a place of educating, nurturing and healing.

Sincerely,  
Joan Piasecki, Gift Coordinator  
Silver Springs - Martin Luther School

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Dear Church Members,

Janet and I want to thank you for the beautiful Easter lily. We really appreciate you thinking of us.

Sincerely,  
Dan McLaughlin

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Dear Carol, Joanne, and Joy,

Thank you so much for coming to Tabor to share your wisdom on how best to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. We have cut the squares for our first quilt (Rosa insists it's a sample!), and are just about to start stitching. We definitely hope to stay in touch! Happy Easter!

Sincerely,  
Pastor Jane  
Tabor Lutheran Church  
Philadelphia, PA  
and ladies of their quilting/sewing group

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Dear Friends at Saint Matthew Lutheran,

A gorgeous Easter lily was delivered to my door. I was down in the lobby when I saw Joan Krauter and knew she was making deliveries. Since I was on my way to my volunteer activity, we chatted and parted. Thank you all for the beautiful remembrance. It caused a stir sitting at my door until I returned. I'm so happy others on my floor enjoyed its beauty.

Sincerely,  
Edna Graefe

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### Vital Statistics

**Marriage:** Patrick McKinney and Jennifer Pontius  
March 21, 2015

**Baptisms:** Arthur Gerald Shipley  
Son of Andrew and Susan Shipley  
Born October 25, 2014  
Baptized April 12, 2015

**Josephine Lieser Shipley**  
Daughter of Matthew Shipley and Nicole Chaney  
Born December 26, 2014  
Baptized April 12, 2015

**25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Jon and Tracey Yost**  
**Anniversary:** May 5, 2015

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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 of the men and women serving 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.



## The Holy Trinity