



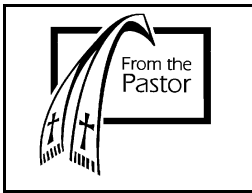
The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Springfield, Pennsylvania

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May 2016

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From Our Pastor

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 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. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability." (Acts 2:1-4)

The day of Pentecost was a Jewish festival that commemorated two things: the offering of the first fruits of the harvest, and the giving of the Torah to Moses. Many faithful people would have gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate. At this time, fifty days after the Passover, fifty days after Jesus rose from the dead, the Holy Spirit was sent to the disciples. They were given the "fruit of the Spirit," just like the Israelites of old were given the Word of the Lord. Then, filled with the Holy Spirit, they went out and started gathering for God a great harvest of souls who would follow the resurrected Jesus and begin the growth of the Church.

What an exciting day and time this must have been. The disciples were able to do amazing and miraculous things like speak in other languages, cast out demons, and share the Good News of God's forgiveness and new life in Jesus. On that first day, 3,000 people were baptized and added to their number.

This month we celebrate the day of Pentecost, and remember that we are also given the gift of the Holy Spirit. When we were baptized, we were baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit! The same force of God's own life and breath was breathed onto us so we too may receive the fruit of the Spirit and be about gathering others in Jesus' name. The gift of the Holy Spirit allows us to Connect with others, Care for others, be equipped for service, and Cultivate generous attitudes so the Good News of forgiveness and new life in Jesus can be known in and through us.

We have been seeing the movement of the Spirit here at

Saint Matthew. We have experienced the power of God as we worship together. We have felt our connection to each other grow as we have enjoyed time together for fun and fellowship. We have seen the community blessed by our efforts to feed and care for those in need, and there is still more to come!

This month, on May 21, we will host the Media Chamber Chorale and the Chester Children's Chorus. We will be inspired by great music and the work the children's choir does to help children in Chester get a good foundation for life. We will give thanks for our moms (and dads) who have been strengthened by the Spirit as they raised us in faith. We will receive new members into the Church through Holy Baptism. We will see among us the movement of this same Holy Spirit of God!

Although we are awaiting the final confirmation, we are also on schedule to begin the journey to welcome an Intern to our congregation. May 18 and 19 are the dates for the Intern/Supervisor team building workshop at the Seminary. By the time you receive this newsletter we should be able to announce the name of our Intern, and the time when the internship will begin. It is an exciting time for us all as we see the movement of the Holy Spirit in our congregation, and in the life of this student of the Word of God!

Pray for the movement of the Spirit to be real in our lives, in our congregation, in the Church, and in the world. The day of Pentecost was not the end of the Holy Spirit's work. It was just the beginning! Amen! Come Holy Spirit!

Pr. Karl M. Richard

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Ascension Day Service

Thursday, May 5, the Delaware Conference will gather for its annual Ascension Day service. This year the event will be held at Saint Mark, Clifton Heights. The preacher for the service will be the Rev. Dr. Karl Krueger. Dr. Krueger is a very dynamic speaker. He is the Director of the Krauth Memorial Library and professor of the History of Christianity at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Dr. Krueger has a true gift for making the stories of the past spring to life for this day.

The worship service will be at 7:00. 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 6:00. The congregations of the Conference will be asked to provide soup, salad, bread, or dessert. Anyone who can help provide 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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Save the Date - Saturday, May 21, at 7:30 P.M.

Saint Matthew will be the site of a joint concert by the Media Chamber Chorale with 50 members of the Chester Children's Choir. The joint ensemble of the 100-voice choir and chamber orchestra will perform the Faure *Requiem*. In addition, both groups will perform separately including traditional spirituals as well as a composition written by John Alston, the director of the Chester Children's Choir.

The Media Chamber Chorale is a long-standing community group of disciplined and dedicated singers led by John Stroud. They offer diverse musical programs throughout Delaware County, from Christmas caroling to John Rutter to Mozart to Sondheim. Check them out at info@mediachamberchorale.org.

The Chester Children's Chorus started in 1994 with seven boys and has grown in number to over 130 children age 8-18 from every school in the city of Chester. During the school year, each member of the group attends two weekly small group rehearsals. During the summer, there is a six-week full-day summer learning program on the Swarthmore College campus that includes two to three hours of music daily, plus academics, dance and art. The group meets regularly during the school year as well, and performs 10-12 community-wide concerts each year. Advanced performers sing classical masterworks with the Swarthmore College Chorus.

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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 send an e-mail to 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, 25th or 50th anniversary, etc.,

please let us know.

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Children's Corner

Dear Children,

When I was a youngster, I took great delight in the activities at our First Baptist Church. I now have such fond memories of those luscious pot luck dinners (all the women tried to outdo each other), retreats, sing-alongs, and Baptist Youth Group. Fellowship meant so much to me at that time in my life, and I have always been grateful for that friendship - even today, some of us still exchange Christmas greetings. I also remember the "learning" part of the spiritual equation - memorizing scripture, answering questions in a study book, and crafting plays that center around a Christian theme. Back in those days, most of the people in a small town seemed to worship pretty much within their denominational boundaries - if you were Methodist, one tended to stay there - so I never went to another church until I went off to college. At that point, I decided to "jump out of the Baptist box" and look at how other folks worshipped. Later on, as Mr. Yost and I moved several times, we always found a church home (Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran), and were delighted to meet fellow Christians.

We also have been fortunate enough to travel in many different countries and we were always amazed that although the order of worship may be different and the songs may seem a bit strange to our ears - in every worship service, we have felt God's presence - we know that no matter what, he loves and forgives us. Wow! What a wonderful thing to know that God hears all of us wherever we are. He is always at home.

One of my favorite nights of worship was in a huge cathedral on the rocky coast of Norway - we arrived by bus late at night to hear some beautiful music and the word of God. We both felt the presence of Jesus - a truly lovely night! Traveling in Greece our hearts were stirred by the beautiful cathedrals and the beautiful sculpted icons and vestments of the Greek Orthodox Churches. Another welcome to God's world was noted in a small clapboard church in southern Louisiana - the children were all "decked out" in their finest clothes and we were heartily welcomed by a lovely-looking woman in a white linen suit. There was no liturgy, but lots of happy music and clapping of hands - a wonderful display of God's Word - "make a joyful noise to the Lord." Visiting other denominations on a Sunday morning as one travels is an inspirational way to receive God's message of love - try it!

Dear Parents,

Depending upon the age of your child, it might be a good time to talk about other Christian faiths. You could take a ride around Springfield and point out the various churches and how important it is for everyone to embrace another's ideas. You

could explain that Pastor Richard belongs to the ministerium and how it affects the community of Springfield. Remind your youngster that many churches of various faiths participate in the "Souper Bowl of Caring" - truly an ecumenical event!

Sylvia Yost

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Christian Education Committee

Before you know it, it will be time for Vacation Bible School. This year's theme is The Cave. All the learning and fun will begin on Monday, July 25. Look for registration forms at the church (and there is a form enclosed with this newsletter) with more detailed information or contact Julie Cirillo at manoalstgrade@hotmail.com. VBS is for children from age 4 to grade 4. Many adults will be needed to make this a success. Please contact Julie if you can assist that week.

Speaking of VBS, please save the cardboard inserts from your toilet paper for an art project. A container is in the hallway marked VBS.

Carol Penjuke

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First Thursday Friends ("FTF")

The First Thursday Friends will gather on May 5, 2016 at 11:30. We will be dining at Pho Street Restaurant, 204 Baltimore Pike, Springfield. Please contact John Stefl if you intend to attend so he can make reservations. Please contact John if you would like a ride.

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Geraniums for Pentecost

Once again, we will beautify the sanctuary on Pentecost Sunday, May 15, 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 8. Plants may be donated "in memory of...", "in honor of...", or as a gift and will cost \$5.00 each.

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Library



April showers bring May flowers. We've surely had the showers and the flowers are showing us no matter what they'll shine through. As we have faith in Jesus Christ and trust in him, we shall be saved.

Our book this month is *In Him There Is*

Life written by John B. Rogers, Jr., found on Shelf 232.9/ROG.

At the heart of this book, more than anything else, is the great good news of God's decision: to be God-with-us through Jesus Christ in life, death and destiny. We see once again how Jesus brought life to people who walked in "the valley of the shadow of death" and how he continues to bring life to us now. The stories of Jesus' contacts with all sorts and conditions of men and women show us that he is able to overcome the brokenness and hopelessness that blight the world and human life. As we are drawn into these stories, we are met by the God who looks for us, finds us, and gives us life.

"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." John 9:5

Come to our library. There are many books to read and learn.

Barbara Kinsey

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Men's Breakfast

The May Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, May 21, at 7:15 a.m. at the Red Iron American Pub, 650 Baltimore Pike, Springfield. All men are invited to join us for morning devotions, a great speaker, an excellent breakfast, and good fellowship. Please come and enjoy an excellent way to start the day.

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Saint Matthew Christian Nursery School



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 fun-filled activities planned for the children. We will also hold graduation ceremonies in the church on Monday, May 16, for our 3 and 5 day children and memorable day. Our last day of school will be Wednesday, May 25, for our 3 and 5 day classes and Thursday, May 26, for our 2 day classes.

We are also having a summer camp: "Busy Bee" beginning May 31 through June 16.

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, 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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Letter to God

Dear God,

I'm just a little kid, and I don't write much, but this Mother's Day, here is an e-mail for you.

My name is Jimmy but I think you knew that.

This is my thank you for making my Mom and all ladies.

They are nicer than us guys. We go out yelling and fighting in the neighborhood and getting dirty playing ball.

And they help us get better.

I got in trouble with Eric who yelled at me because he said I called him names. I don't remember this and so I punched him. Mom said I was wrong for fighting. I said it wasn't my fault. She said every argument that I get into is a little bit my fault. She hugged me and helped me pray to you, but I think you knew that.

Did I spell argument right?

Why do I fight and yell so much? I must be bad. Mom said, no and told me she loves me. I asked her what that means. She said to ask you.

She said that you put her in my life.

So, God, you did pretty good.

Thank you.

Your friend,
Jimmy

P.S. Do you have a mom?

(Original source and author unknown)

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Women of the ELCA News

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." Acts 1:8 What reassurance to know that God's spirit

lives in us to guide us as we journey through life.

Last month was a busy one for our church women. Thank you to Joy Grace, President of the Synodical Women of the ELCA, for her informative message of the many things in which Women of the ELCA are involved. Thank you to all the women who served communion, were Lectors, Worship Assistants, Choir, and Ushers.

We all were blessed to hear Abbas Khalif speak, enjoy fellowship and a good dinner, and for a wonderful retreat led by Carole Centrella's daughter Linda.

This month we look forward to preparing health kits for the Chester Migrants.

May Schedule:

May 11	Board Meeting
May 14	LWR Quilting
May 18	Ronald McDonald Quilting
May 24	Sarah Circle
May 25	Esther Circle

On Saturday, June 4, the 2016 Biennial Convention of the Southeastern PA Women of the ELCA will be held at Silver Springs-Martin Luther School in Plymouth Meeting. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. and Worship is at 9:00 a.m. The cost is \$25.00.

During the month of May we will collect iced tea mix, lemonade mix, and individual bottles of water for the Welcome Church.

Thank you all for your generosity to help the homeless throughout the year.

Joan Krauter

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And Then There Was Janette!

Until the baby comes, Tony, Auntie Lil and Unc want you to be with them at the farm" said my Mom. She had given me the news of the imminent birth of my sibling, but we didn't know if I would have a brother or sister yet. It was a little mysterious to me at the grand age of four years old.

I knew about baby lambs and calves but a little baby child to share a lifetime in the family is a big deal! "Don't worry, son," Mom said, "I'll be with Daddy Pop and Matey here in Gisborne, and we'll call you as soon as the baby comes." My Dad was on temporary duty at the airbase in Ardmore near Auckland and would be back with us after the baby arrived. So off I went to the farm to await the news. My Mom had a large family of

brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, and cousins They were all excited at the coming event. I knew she would be OK with all the attention.

It took a day or two for me before resuming the routine that was a hallmark of life on the farm, and to re-establish my friendships with the animals. I was looking forward to sharing time in the near future with a young “whipper-snapper!”

A week passed by and still no word from Gisborne. A few more days come and go. Then, the phone call . . . Aunt Lil turned to me: “You have a baby sister, Tony, and her name is Janette Mary.” Unc looked at me with tears of relief and caring in his eyes. Mom was like a daughter to them both.

Years before I was born, Mom lived on the farm with Aunt Lil and Unc. In his generosity, Unc planned out a grass tennis court for her to enjoy with her high school friends. Old photographs show the tennis net and the white lines he painted on the grass and the heavy roller which he used to level the playing surface. All the while he was accompanied by a faithful dog - the animals were all his friends who soon became my friends too, when, old enough, I was to come and visit.

“You are a big brother now, young man.” Unc said to me, “I know that you’ll be kind to your sister and gentle in all you do for her.” These words from Uncle Norman have lived with me for nearly seventy years. As time went on I discovered that my life had gained a new dimension - it was now not just me growing up, it was a perspective in which my sister Janette shared with me so many of my coming experiences.

In great excitement, we returned to Gisborne to see my baby sister. I brought with me a prized possession which I wanted to give to her. It was a long tail feather from a pheasant that I’d found, and to me it represented my life of childhood adventure. She was little in her crib and she was pretty, I thought, and she could bellow with good lungs when she was hungry! I was now a proud brother, and with this came new caring and responsibilities into my consciousness.

As human beings we are influenced by events and relationships outside of our physical and mental parameters. It is our inner being, our higher consciousness which gives meaning for us and what we do. Our inner being connects us to the heavenly realms beyond our imagination, and here we find love and life everlasting.

Peace be with us as His children.

Tony Webb

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Monthly Mailbag

Dear Friends at Saint Matthew,



Please accept our most sincere thanks for the lovely lily plant which you sent to make the Easter season extra special.

We very much appreciate your thinking of us.

God bless you all,
Britten and Donna Winters

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Dear Pastor Richard (and all of Saint Matthew):

The amazing amount of time and effort put in by the Souper Bowl committee, the people of Saint Matthew, and the other churches, made Souper Bowl of Caring 2016 a tremendous success. It is astonishing to see how one small beginning has led to a nationwide effort to gather food for those in need.

This year I again had the privilege of assisting in blanketing the town with flyers to alert families that the Souper Bowl was taking place. You should be most proud to know that Saint Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church’s efforts led to a collection of 6,926.2 pounds of food.

It takes a lot of people to make a project like the Super Bowl successful. The clients and volunteers could not believe the stacks of cases of food! You have visited us, and know how very much this means to us. It not only enables us to provide full boxes of food, but to offer extra food to our struggling families.

You are all such a wonderful group of people, and we feel blessed that God sent you to us because we simply could not do what we do without Saint Matthew. This year’s effort leaves me speechless with gratitude. A special thanks to Natalie Berry; Dave Krauter; Rick, Joelle, and Joe Link; Carol Mueller; Nadine Atkinson; Ginger Heck; Carol and Bill Penjuke; Gail Hendrickson; Eryl Roth; the wonderful crew who sorted the food; and anyone else I may have missed.

Now in our 15th year of operating, I never cease to be amazed what the children of God can do. This year you again lived “Connecting People, Changing Lives.” Please know you have had a profound effect upon all of us at the pantry as well as the clients we serve.

Blessings,
Joanne F. Castagna, Director
Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry

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Dear Friends at Saint Matthew Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous gift of Quilts and Kits for LWR’s distribution overseas. These gifts of your hearts and hands are beautiful expressions of God’s grace and love to people all around the world.

As the civil war in Syria continues, the number of civilian

casualties, internally displaced people and refugees also continues to grow. Millions of people have been displaced from their homes. Without work for many months, parents of displaced Syrian children lack any source of income to purchase school or basic hygiene materials for their children. Because of your support, LWR has been able to respond to this crisis, by shipping Mission Quilts, Baby Care Kits, and Personal Care Kits to Serbia to distribute to refugees and migrants. In helping meet the basic needs of displaced youth, you are helping children to succeed in their academic and personal pursuits while alleviating some of the financial burden on displaced families.

In the last few weeks and months, we have also shipped Quilts and Kits to Georgia, Tanzania, Angola, Peru, and Uganda to distribute to people in need. So on behalf of our neighbors in villages, schools, hospitals and refugee camps around the world, I extend deepest thanks for your contribution, and pray God's richest blessings on your life and work as a community.

In Christ,
Melanie W. Gibbons,
Quilt and Kit Ministry Manager
Lutheran World Relief

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Dear Friends,

Many, many thanks to all the folks who sent get well cards and well wishes to both of us and to the Altar Guild for the beautiful altar flowers and the Easter lily - such a wonderful caring church.

Sincerely,
Muriel and Bob Wagner

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Dear Ms. Castagna and Lutheran Church Women of Saint Matthew,

On behalf of the clients and staff of Lutheran Settlement House, thank you so much for your generous donation of \$25 received on 3/10/2016. Your donation makes it possible for us to provide innovative intergenerational programming for teens and seniors in the community. I am so appreciative of your contribution.

2016 has gotten off to an exciting start at LSH. With our beautiful renovations finished, Senior Center programming is back in full swing. Last Thursday we hosted our first ever community meal. The meal was the first big project for the teens in our Out of School Time program. Not only did they prepare a full meal alongside seniors from the Senior Center, our teens also wrote poems about homelessness, based on both personal experience and conversations with community members experiencing homelessness, and shared them aloud to the 18 attendees. These meals will happen monthly, and we are so proud that our teens' hard work paid off.

We are truly grateful for your support.

With greatest appreciation,
Kelly Davis, Executive Director
Lutheran Settlement House

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Dear Pastor Richard and the Members of Saint Matthew,

Thank you so much for all the kind expressions of caring at the time of the death of Carol's father, George App. The comforting words, phone calls, hugs, cards, altar flowers, cakes, and meals really touched us.

Many thanks to Pastor for the numerous hospital visits he made to Dad over the years. His ability to listen and comfort was always appreciated. We were also grateful for his presence as he led Dad's funeral service. His sermon was personal and meaningful to those in attendance.

Another thank you goes to our faithful Eucharistic ministers. We always knew when you visited. He enjoyed chatting with all of you.

Lastly, we would like to thank the Social Ministry Committee who faithfully sent cards and/or plants to Dad at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. It is such a great way to let the shut-ins know they are not forgotten.

Saint Matthew is a special, caring congregation that shows God's love to others. It was wonderful to feel that love during our time of grief.

May God continue to bless you all.

Fondly,
Carol and Bill Penjuke

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Dear Saint Matthew Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous in-kind donation of pillowcases, blankets, hats, scarves, booties and tabs to the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House. We rely on in-kind gifts such as yours to create a community of comfort and hope for the thousands of families with seriously ill children that we serve each year through our two Ronald McDonald Houses, two Ronald McDonald Family Rooms, Hospitality Kiosk, and Ronald McDonald Camp. To learn more about the impact of your contribution, please visit philarmh.org/familystories.

Sincerely,
Ronald McDonald House

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Dear Friends,

My Easter lily arrived while I was busy with my volunteer activity delivering mail in the Willow Brooke Court area.

Many thanks for the beautiful remembrance.

Sincerely,
Edna Graefe

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Dear Saint Matthew Friends,

You are wonderful! Thank you very much for the tasty, Easter-themed treats and terrific bath products for the boys and girls in the Residential Treatment Program at Silver Springs-Martin Luther School. The treat bags are the perfect size and filled with the children's favorite candies and the bath products are sure to be popular in the Good Behavior Store.

We continue to be grateful for your loving kindness toward the children and ongoing support of our ministry. With friends like all of you, we are able to help vulnerable boys and girls in our care heal, learn, and reach for bright futures. On behalf of the children, thank you!

Sincerely,
Amanda Bryant
Development Associate
Silver Springs-Martin Luther School

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Dear Saint Matthew Altar Guild,

Thank you for the beautiful altar flowers from last Sunday. Especially, thank you for recognizing that, if I was not singing with the choir, I was feeling pretty punk. One of the great joys of my life is praising God in song, and I so appreciate the opportunity to do so at Saint Matthew. Again, thank you for brightening up my day (and week!)

Blessings!
Jeff Wesley

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Vital Statistics

Death: **George App**
Died March 20, 2016
Funeral March 26, 2016

25th Wedding

Anniversary: Tom and Debbie Scally
May 18, 2016

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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 the men and women serving in our armed forces.

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