



**From Our Pastor**

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**Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee**

- 1 *Joyful, joyful we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,  
praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.*
- 2 *All thy works with joy surround thee,  
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee,  
center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird, and flowing fountain  
call us to rejoice in thee.*
- 3 *Thou art giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,  
all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine!*

*Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1922*

The words of this hymn by Henry van Dyke are set to the tune "Ode to Joy," which comes from Beethoven's ninth symphony. It is a fitting name for this song that rejoices in the beauty of creation, and how all creation sings with love for God, the Creator. The interweaving of joy, and beauty, and love – both for God, and for each other, shows how inter-related these things are. As we appreciate the beauty of creation, we are filled with joy. As we experience joy, we are filled with love. As we are filled with love for God, we recognize the love God has for us. As we are filled with the love of God for us, we may live in love toward one another. As we live with love toward one another, we see even more beauty, and experience even more joy. As we live in this

beauty, love, and joy, we are lifted to divine levels of each and experience the very inbreaking of God.

As we enter May and we see the flowers blooming, hear the birds nesting and bringing forth their young, and experience a new birth of life all around us, may it be that we are reminded that all this is a gift and a blessing from God. May we be heartened, even in our troubled world, by this sense of joy in the Creator's presence. May we recognize the beauty of creation, and the beauty in our neighbors – those we know, and those we do not know, who are merely "friends we have not met." And may this overwhelming sense of beauty and joy cause us to live in love for all, for this is how we know the joy divine.

Pastor Karl M. Richard

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**Ascension Day Service**

The Delaware Conference is hosting the Ascension Day Service on Thursday, May 14, at Reformation Lutheran Church in Media. There will be a light dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the service will begin at 7:30 p.m. The guest preacher will be Rev. Dr. Teresa Smallwood, Dean of United Lutheran Seminary.

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**Christian Education Updates**

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Easter Egg Hunt. We had about 100 children come to our hunt. The families got to meet the Easter Bunny sponsored by the Nursery School. Then they had some snacks and then they had over 1,000 eggs to find. Thank you to everyone who helped with stuffing the eggs and donated candy!

As we get ready to close out the school year, we would like to thank our amazing Sunday School teachers! A very special thank you to all of the people who come every week ready to teach our children about Jesus!! Thank you to Jen Cirillo, Barb McClintock, Jen Conrad, Kristen Plachuta, Dave Russell, Pastor Leslie, Nicole Smith, Will Toland, Kathy Kinder and John Stefl. We could not have Sunday School without you!

We are getting ready for Vacation Bible School! If you are looking for a fun way to spend a week, join us on July 27<sup>th</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup>. It will be the best week of your summer. Please see Julie for details!

Julie Cirillo

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## Worship and Music Notes

What a glorious Easter it was at Saint Matthew Lutheran Church. Thank you, Pat McHugh, for leading the orchestra, handbells and choir. I would also like to thank everyone who shared their musical talent from Maundy Thursday to Easter Day.

Our Altar Guild team is operating with such efficiency! We have five teams that have been preparing the altar for services and cleaning up afterwards. I would like to see more people on this team. If you are willing to commit to one weekend a month, even just one or two services a month, reach out to me.

Psalm 29:2 (KJV): "Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness."

Lynda Knaggs

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## Financial Update

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your continued faithfulness and for the generosity of this church community. As we reflect on this month, we are grateful for the ways You provide through the gifts of Your people and through the steady care of this congregation for the ministry of Saint Matthew. Grant us wisdom as we steward what has been entrusted to us, especially as we care for the needs of our church, our property, and the work of ministry that happens within these walls and beyond them. Help us remain faithful, generous, and united in purpose, trusting that You will continue to guide and sustain us. Amen.

	<u>March 2026</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Giving/Income	\$ 64,068.	\$ 164,880.
Expenses	<u>52,971.</u>	<u>152,636.</u>
Plus/Minus	\$ 11,097.	\$ 12,244.

**Summary:** March was a positive month financially for Saint Matthew. Giving was especially strong and came in well above what had been budgeted for the month, helping us close March with a healthy surplus. While some expenses were higher in March, particularly in property and maintenance, our year-to-date expenses remain controlled overall. As we move through the early part of the year, we are in a positive financial position and are grateful for the continued faithfulness and generosity of our congregation.

**Envelope/General Giving:** General worship giving was a real strength in March and continues to be a blessing for the church. That steady support is what allows Saint Matthew to meet its day-to-day ministry needs, care for the building, and continue the work we are called to do. We are thankful for every gift and for the faithfulness shown by those who continue to give regularly.

**Giving Opportunities:** There are many meaningful ways to support the ministry of Saint Matthew. Regular giving remains one of the most important ways to sustain the church's mission and daily operations, but designated gifts and special giving opportunities also make a difference. Each contribution helps strengthen the ministry of the church and supports the work we do together in faith. We invite you to continue giving

prayerfully and generously as we move through the year.

**Roof Fund:** We are grateful for the continued support of the Roof Fund and for those who have remained committed to this important need. The Roof Fund balance continues to reflect that support, and every pledge payment helps move this effort forward. As always, we encourage those who made a roof pledge to continue submitting payments so that the endowment can be replenished and remain a sustainable support for the broader fiscal needs of the church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kevin Cunningham and  
Rebecca DeSantis

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## News from Your Property Committee

March ended and April started out with a heater problem in the parlor. It was not that bad, one of the heater valves had to be replaced. All working fine. At the Easter Breakfast we had some excitement with the fire alarm going off in the middle of the 8:00 service. Nothing major, just a faulty sensor and too much smoke. All ended well, and breakfast was delicious.

The high winds of March ripped off a piece of our siding on the window outside room five of the Nursery School. Our contractor will be repairing this very soon.

Joe Regan

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## Women's Tea

Sarah Circle will be hosting a tea for the women of our church on Saturday, May 2, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. in Elbert Hall. Our guest speaker will be Marjorie Aronson. Marjorie will share her love of quilting with us as she shares her newer works of art while we snack on tea sandwiches, scones and sweets and sip tea. The cost is \$15 per person. Proceeds will benefit Lutheran Disaster Relief. Invite a friend. Sign-up sheets and payment envelopes are on the table in the hallway. Please sign up by April 27, 2026 so we can prepare the proper amount of food.

Carol Penjuke

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## Chester County Migrant Ministry

The Women of the ELCA group will be collecting reusable water bottles for our friends at Chester County Migrant Ministry during the month of May. The weather will be changing quickly to hot days and the water bottles will be a great way for the workers to stay hydrated. There will be a box for them next to the hallway table. Thank you so much for your help and support.

Penny Hermann

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## Social Ministry

Social Ministry has been overwhelmed by the generosity of our wonderful congregation for their gifts of breakfast and cereal bars for those who attend the Welcome Church in Philadelphia. We have received over 75

boxes of breakfast/cereal bars from all of you! These will be such a great addition for those who worship there to enjoy with their coffee.

Moses said: Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, “Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.” (Deuteronomy 15:11) We thank you for remembering those who are experiencing homelessness or otherwise feel helpless or marginalized.

I would also like to thank Carolyn Masey for the beautiful Easter cards that she painted for our shut-in members. They were truly special.

We will again be accepting donations of school supplies for the children of Faith Immanuel this summer. More information will follow.

Cheryl Morrell

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## Fellowship News

The Fellowship Committee will be hosting a coffee hour to honor our mothers on May 10th. We will have Muffins for Moms between the services. We will also be honoring our fathers on June 21st. We will have Donuts for Dads between the services. We will be attending the Blue Rocks Baseball game on July 24th. This is a Friday night and there will be fireworks after the game. The game starts at 6:35 p.m. Ticket prices are \$16.00. There will be a signup sheet on the table in the hallway. Money is due to Barb McClintock by June 21st. I hope everyone will join in this enjoyable night of baseball.

Barbara McClintock

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## Welcome Church

Through the spring and summer, please remember the homeless with coffee and toiletries.

Joan Krauter

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## Beds for Kids

We continue to collect items for Beds For Kids. We collect the following new or gently used items: single bed sheets, blankets, and comforters. Also new pillows and new or used children’s books. There is a box under the table in the hallway for these items. We will deliver them to the warehouse in Horsham.

Nancy Regan

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## Gemma Services

The Saint Matthew congregation continues to support the children and families who are considered part of the Gemma Services programs. Currently Gemma Services are working to build a larger school for the children in the programs. Gemma has now been able to provide schooling for children to graduate from Martin Luther School. On Women’s Sunday, April 12, Amanda Bryant was at Saint Matthew to present a program about the services they provide to the children and families. She also thanked the congregation for

the support we provide with turkey dinner items and Christmas gifts, and the favors the ladies of Women of the ELCA assemble at our monthly meetings using donated candy for the children to enjoy.

Nancy Regan

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## Food Collection

We were able to deliver a large quantity of food to the Media Food Bank on April 5. We were told that the need for food continues for the families who use the Food Bank to feed their families. We were able to deliver 242 pounds of food. Thank you to all who support this program.

Nancy and Joe Regan

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## Men’s Breakfast

We have scheduled the May Men’s Breakfast for Saturday, May 16, at 7 a.m. at the Court Diner in Media. It’s a great way to start the day!

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## Children’s Corner

*“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” – Psalm 118:24*

As we welcome the beautiful month of May, we are reminded of God’s amazing creation all around us. Flowers are blooming, the days are growing longer, and new life is everywhere—just as God renews and refreshes our hearts each day.

### Monthly Focus: Growing in Faith

This month, our children will be learning about **growing in God’s love**. Through Bible stories, songs, and activities, we will explore how we can show kindness, patience, and love to others—just as Jesus teaches us.

### Bible Stories We’ll Explore:

- The Good Shepherd (John 10:1–18)
- Jesus Loves the Children (Mark 10:13–16)
- The Vine and the Branches (John 15:1–5)

### Activities This Month:

- Spring-themed crafts celebrating God’s creation
- Planting seeds and learning how we grow in faith
- Songs and movement to praise God joyfully
- Acts of kindness projects in our classrooms

### Special Events:

- **Teacher Appreciation Week** – Celebrating our wonderful staff
- **Mother’s Day Celebrations** – Honoring the love and care of mothers and special caregivers
- Preparing for upcoming end-of-year events

### Family Connection:

We encourage families to take time each day to:

- Say a simple prayer together
- Talk about ways to show kindness
- Spend time outdoors appreciating God’s creation

### ♥ A Note to Our Families:

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your child's faith journey. It is a blessing to watch them grow not only in knowledge, but in love and faith. May this season bring joy, peace, and renewed hope to your family.

Blessings,  
Sharon Gibson  
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### Vital Statistics

**First Communion:** **Kylie Ziff**  
April 5, 2026  
**Gavin Finn**  
**Anna Godfrey**  
April 12, 2026

**Death:** **Betsy Hendrickson**  
Died March 27, 2026  
Funeral April 1, 2026

**25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary:** Josh and Lori Martin  
May 5, 2026

**55<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary:** Phil and Sue Kline  
May 15, 2026  
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### Nursery School

April is a joyful and refreshing time in our nursery school as signs of spring begin to bloom all around us. The children delight in noticing the changes in nature—warmer weather, colorful flowers, and longer days filled with sunshine. This month, we focus on themes of growth, renewal, and gratitude, helping our little ones appreciate God's beautiful creation. Through stories, songs, and hands-on activities, we encourage curiosity, kindness, and a sense of wonder.

We were also blessed to welcome a librarian from the Springfield Library during the week of April 20th. She visited our classroom to share the PA One Book Program with the children and read aloud this year's featured book. The students were engaged and excited to listen, ask questions, and celebrate the joy of reading together. Experiences like this help nurture a love of books and learning that will grow along with them.

Earlier in the month, we enjoyed a wonderful and successful family event on Friday, April 10th. It was an evening filled with fun as the children delighted in face painting and moon bounces while families spent time together in fellowship. Many also enjoyed purchasing dinner and dessert from Zac's and Vera's, making it a special night for all. We are so grateful for our school community and the opportunity to gather in such a joyful way.

As we look ahead, we are excited to share that we still have openings for the 2026–2027 school year! If you or someone you know is looking for a warm, nurturing, and faith-filled early learning environment, we would love to welcome new families into our community. Spaces are limited, so be sure to reach out and reserve your spot!

Jenny Redding, Director  
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### Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the June newsletter are due in the church office by **noon on Friday, May 15**.

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### Monthly Mailbag

Dear Lutheran Church Women of Saint Matthew,

Amount Received: \$25.00

Gift Purpose: United Lutheran Seminary Fund

Thank you for your ongoing financial support of United Lutheran Seminary. We are deeply grateful for your gifts and faithful partnership as we prepare ULS students to witness to and participate in God's work in the world through spiritual leadership, public advocacy, meaningful worship, and care of neighbor rooted in God's grace and love.

United Lutheran Seminary sets a high standard for forming well-prepared Christ-centered leaders shaped by Lutheran and ecumenical theological traditions. Through study, intentional worship, and mentoring with faculty and staff, students deepen their relationships with God and one another while developing the skills needed for effective leadership. They also engage the realities of Black, rural and urban church context, gaining the ability to serve congregations and faith communities with diverse histories and futures.

Your continued generosity and prayers strengthen theological education and provide our students with a solid foundation for leadership in a changing church. Please know that we are grateful for your support and welcome the opportunity to connect with you at [advancement@uls.edu](mailto:advancement@uls.edu). May you have a healthy, safe and blessed New Year. We look forward to personally connecting with you.

Yours faithfully,  
Mr. Conor Brooks, CFRE  
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Dear Saint Matthew friends,

We are very grateful for Saint Matthew's long-standing friendship and generosity to Gemma Services! Thank you, once again, for your donation of candy-filled treat bags for the youth in residence at Gemma and two bags of toys. Your generosity brings so much joy to the children, and your support helps Gemma continue to provide vital behavioral health, prevention, and child welfare services and specialized education services through our Martin Luther School for youth and families who are facing challenging times. Your friendship matters a great deal to us—thank you!

With the help of friends like all of you, Gemma is able to accompany more than 3,000 youth and families each year as they face life's challenges, heal from traumas, manage mental health challenges, learn new skills, and work to reach their individual goals. As always, we would be happy to welcome any of our friends from Saint Matthew to visit one of Gemma's locations to see firsthand the programs you are helping us to provide. We will also continue to keep you up to date with any volunteer opportunities beyond all the ways you currently support us. You can learn more about all of Gemma's programs, latest happenings, and current support needs by visiting [www.gemmaservices.org](http://www.gemmaservices.org).

On behalf of all at Gemma, thank you!

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

Dear Lynda Knaggs and members of Saint Matthew,

Easter has always been my favorite holiday. This year it was made extra special by a visit from Lynda and some flowers from Saint Matthew. Although our visit was short—the grandkids arrived—it was special. Thank you for thinking of me, I am blessed to have such a caring congregation.

Fondly,  
Carol Penjoke

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The 2025 year has ended and what a year it was—often turbulent and troubling. We were uncertain much of the time,

not knowing what tomorrow would bring. But an encouraging trend for the pantry was the way the people of Delaware County (and beyond) came together—individuals, groups, churches, schools, organizations, businesses—donating their time, food and money to help their neighbors. Your donations enabled us to serve over 5,300 residents last year, many of them for the very first time. Those of us who work at the pantry are grateful for the support of everyone who helped.

Your giving totaling \$225 in 2025 plus 6,064 pounds of food from the Souper Bowl of Caring was a tremendous boost to our resources allowing us to provide a variety of items to our families. This year is off to a great start with 4,589 pounds of food from the Souper Bowl of Caring. Your generosity and caring is greatly appreciated.

Yours in Christ,  
Lana Lindenmuth  
Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry

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Are you looking for the perfect  
Mother's Day gift?

The youth can help you out.

We will be selling special candle jars on  
May 3rd and May 10th  
between the services.

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## **Muffins with Mom**

Join us between the services on  
Sunday, May 10, for  
Muffins with Mom