



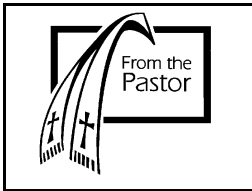
The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Springfield, Pennsylvania

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From Our Pastor

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The third article of the Apostles' Creed lists the ways in which the Holy Spirit is active in the world: through the Church, in the community of the baptized, in the forgiveness of sin and the promise of resurrection to eternal life. As we come to All Saints Sunday, I continue to hear "the communion of saints" running through my head.

We celebrate the promise of God in our baptism as we remember those who have died in the Lord and been reunited with those who have gone before us. The promise given by the Holy Spirit when we were named and claimed in Baptism is the word that can sustain us as we continue our walk of faith. There is a way in which we are still connected in the communion of saints.

There is also the truth that it is because of the communion of saints on earth that we ourselves have come into relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Our parents brought us to the font. Our friends encouraged us to join and be active in a congregation. In day-to-day living and worshipping together, we receive strength in trials, and share our joys in living. These people have been for us, and we have been for others, the communion of saints.

As we gather on this All Saints Sunday, it is a wonderful time for our youth to affirm the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize. Our youth have the chance to declare their confidence in the God who has claimed them as His own. They affirm their place in the communion of saints.

The thing about this communion which is so powerful is the communal nature of it. We are not good on our own. We are stronger, better, when we are in community. It is the communion of saints that brought us into relationship with Jesus. It is the communion of saints that sustains us when our loved ones go to be with Jesus. It is the communion of saints that reminds us that we are in God's community. We are not on our own. The Lord Jesus

is with us, leading, guiding, comforting and sustaining us. Jesus does this by the Holy Spirit moving in and among us in community.

Do not forget the power that is present in this holy community, the communion of saints. Do not block the movement of the Spirit. Do not forget that we are better in community. Let us continue to live together in the power of Jesus' spirit as we are the communion of saints!

- Pr. Karl M. Richard

Community Thanksgiving Eve Service

Often in the larger community of faith, we emphasize what separates us and makes us different from one another. On Thanksgiving, we have the opportunity to put the emphasis in a different place, when as a whole community, we come together and give thanks. This year's Community Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held Wednesday, November 26, at 7:30 p.m. at Princeton Presbyterian Church. This year's service will be a little different, as we hear a variety of voices from different congregations and different perspectives raised in thanks to God. A special highlight of the service will be the Springfield High School Treble Makers, under the leadership of their new director, Marsha Bowe, who will join with our combined choir in a song of thanks and praise. Choir members who would like to sing should come to Princeton at 6:30 p.m. to rehearse. Please bring non-perishable food for neighborhood food cupboards to share your blessings. Let us offer God our thanks and praise along with our whole Springfield community!

New Church Pictorial Directory

Hopefully by now everyone has signed up who wanted to be included in our new Directory! Pictures will be taken on November 5, 6, 7, and 8. We had such a great response that we had to add another date. You can sign up after the church service or online on our church's website. Just click on the Lifetouch link. If you need assistance with signing up, please

contact Carol Penjoke.

We still need people to be greeters on the days the pictures are being taken. Please contact Carol Penjoke or Kathie Morgan if you can help with this effort. **If you cannot make one of these dates, you may submit a picture of your own for a fee of \$10.** Also, there are other churches in the area that will be having their Directories done by Lifetouch. If you cannot come to Saint Matthew, you can arrange to have your photo taken at another church if they have openings. You will receive a free Directory and 8x10 photo if you have your picture taken. Should you care to order pictures, there are discounts for Seniors over age 60, Military, and First Responders.

- Cheryl Morrell

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Financial Update

	<u>September</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income:	\$28,311	\$328,959
Expenses	<u>35,326</u>	<u>372,201</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$ 7,015)	(\$43,242)

We are now two thirds of the way through the year and we have seen a trend develop. Earlier in the year we explained that the Restoring, Rebuilding, Renewing restoration appeal had come to an end. We did very well with a generous response from our members. We received more than \$400,000 in three years, \$380,000 from member giving. We mentioned that with the Appeal coming to an end, we needed people who had split their giving between the Building Fund and the General Fund to decrease offerings to the Building, and shift them back to General giving.

The trend we have seen shows people have half heard our plea. Giving to the Building Fund has decreased. However, it has not been shifted to the General Fund. The result is we are far behind in our income vs. expenses for the year.

The expenses are slightly higher than we had anticipated, due in particular to a harsh winter and a lot of snow removal last year, as well as some repairs we needed to make to our facilities. But all in all, spending is in line with what we budgeted. It is the income which is lacking.

We have shown that we have the resources to fund our ministry. We have given \$125,000 each year to the Restoration Project, so it is clear that we can cover the \$43,000 gap we are seeing so far this year. It does take, however, an intentional shift to support the work we do within the building we have restored.

We are counting on each of our members to do what they can to increase their support for the General Fund. Though it is

never a straight line equation, if each of our 200 or so giving families were to give an extra \$200 between now and the end of the year, we would go far toward eliminating our deficit.

Please consider what you can do to fund our ministry. Thank you for your support.

- Your Finance Committee

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Ministry Gatherings

The first two weeks of November are the time in which we will have our Ministry Gatherings. These gatherings will give us a chance to share in fellowship with other members of our congregation, some of whom we may not know very well. They will also give us a chance to review what we have done at Saint Matthew in the past year, and describe where we are planning to go with our ministry in the coming year. There will be a chance for prayer and reflection, as well as conversation about what we hope to accomplish for the Lord. Also, there will be the opportunity for all our members to consider what they can do to support Saint Matthew Church.

We are counting on each of our members to attend one of these gatherings. We look forward to the opportunity to share who we are, and where we are going as we continue Connecting People, Changing Lives through Jesus Christ.

- The Stewardship Committee

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Food for Loaves and Fishes

During the month of November, please remember the needy people in our area. Non-perishable foods can be brought to church and placed in the shopping cart or can in the hallway. Your generosity provides much-needed food products to people in Delaware County.

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Children's Corner

Dear Children,

One early morning this summer, after reading about some of the daily unpleasant news in the Philadelphia newspaper, I came across an unusual article. The photo caught my eye as it showed a large trailer and some volunteers with a wonderful mission - and that mission was to see that the homeless of Philadelphia had a place to shower, get dried off, and leave with clean clothes and a bag of snacks! What a wonderful idea! I was struck with the fact that "this compassion woman" saw the need for those without a home, living beneath overpasses (or in a

cardboard box) and definitely having no place to cool off and get clean, found the resources to make her dream come true. Somehow she got donations/grants to rent a large trailer, equip it with shower facilities, soap, towels, and clean clothes. After the refreshing experience of cleaning up, this kind woman ended the experience with bags of snacks and water.

This story reminded me of a Bible verse from Matthew 25:33 - Jesus says, "I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink." Jesus will always be happy when we do good things for others, because we are doing good things for Him too. You probably can't rent a "shower facility," but I know that you can always find something to make someone's life easier - say a prayer for a friend who is hurting, visit a relative who may be ill, find some toys that are still in good shape and give them to a special charity - Mom and Dad can help you with some ideas.

Dear Parents,

Here is a little song to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" that you can sing with your child:

Love, love, love the Lord
Each and every day,
Cheerfully, cheerfully, cheerfully, cheerfully
Follow in Christ's way.

- Sylvia Yost

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Christian Education Committee

Come celebrate with us on November 2. New Bibles will be distributed to our third graders, and a new group of confirmands will reaffirm their faith. Come be a part of the faith journey of these young people. A reception, coordinated by the Women of the ELCA ladies, will be held after the 10:15 service.

It's not too soon to mark your calendars for the Hanging of the Greens on Saturday, December 20, 2014. This is a special time when we decorate the church for Christmas. Many hands are needed to put lights on the trees, polish the brass candlesticks, and to perform many other tasks to beautify our sanctuary. After the church is decorated, a chicken dinner will be served. A Christmas program involving our Sunday School children will be presented. Please contact Carol Penjoke or Pat McHugh if you can help out with the children's program.

Bring the entire family. Guests are welcome. In order to plan enough food for the dinner, please use the sign-up sheets in the hallway. Other sign-up sheets will list various tasks that need to be completed. Look for them around the beginning of December.

3:30 p.m. - Rehearsal for children's Christmas Program in Elbert Hall

Decorate the Sanctuary

5:00 p.m. - Dinner in the Parish Education Building

6:00 p.m. - Christmas Program in Elbert Hall

6:30 p.m. - Cookies and juice in the Parish Education Building

- Carol Penjoke

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The Lutheran Magazine

As we close in on the end of 2014 (yikes!), we will take stock of the year behind us and look forward to next year and beyond, and how we plan for our ministry. From a spiritual standpoint, this includes reflection and thanks for many blessings that we have received and how we can share these blessings with others. From an administrative standpoint, this involves both the budgeting process and the stewardship appeal.

One of many line items in our budget is *The Lutheran* magazine. Each Saint Matthew family receives a subscription to *The Lutheran* which allows us to keep up with the happenings in the larger church, provides new ideas to spark ministry, and warms our hearts with stories about God's creative and redeeming love. This subscription costs just \$10 per household, but certainly adds up to a larger number when multiplied across all of the Saint Matthew families. Please consider adding a one-time \$10 gift to your regular giving in the fourth quarter of 2014 to cover this subscription. Thank you and may God bless you as we enter this time of thanksgiving and reflection on our many blessings.

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First Thursday Friends ("FTF")

The First Thursday Friends will be gathering for lunch on November 6 at 11:30 a.m. at Trattorio Giuseppe. This Italian restaurant is located in back of the Edgmont Square Shopping Center, 4799 West Chester Pike, Newtown Square, PA. Everyone is welcome. Contact John Stefl at 610-544-2816 for more information.

- John Stefl

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Men's Breakfast

The November breakfast will be held at The Court Diner, 140 E. Baltimore Pike, Media, on Saturday, November 15, at 7:15 a.m. 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.

Halloween Candy for Silver Springs

Halloween is here with all the candy. If you and your children have candy that you would like to share with the children of Silver Springs-Martin Luther School, we will be collecting candy on Sunday, November 2 and 9. There will be a box in the hallway marked "Halloween Candy." We will deliver it to the children to enjoy. Thank you for sharing and caring about the children.

- Nancy Regan

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Silver Springs News

On Thursday, September 19, seven members from Saint Matthew traveled to Silver Springs to assist the staff with their annual "Fun Day." We were able to help with the fruit, ice cream and pretzel table along with staffing the prize table.

Thank you to Dotty Engelbrecht, Linda Kulp, Joan Krauter, Gary Pflieger, and Carl and Jill Smith for working with the children. We all agree it was a fun afternoon.

- Nancy Regan

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Puppet Ministry

Dear Saint Matthew friends,

Kathie and I have very much enjoyed our puppet ministry. We hope Dudley and some of his friends have brought God's love to you as well as the children in our messages over the past 10 years or so. At this juncture, I have back issues that are not conducive to being a puppeteer, and Kathie has additional work responsibilities that will limit her time for creative pursuits. So, it is with both thanks for the wonderful journey we have had and some sadness in abandoning my alter ego, that I announce our retirement from Saint Matthew's puppet ministry. Thanks so much for all of your encouragement and kind words over the years which have really touched our hearts.

We have a wealth of resources that we collected including puppets, scripts and accessories. If anyone has an interest in beginning a new chapter of puppet ministry at Saint Matthew, all that we have is available to you, and we'd encourage you to talk with Pastor Karl.

God's blessings,
Jeff Morgan

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Saint Matthew Christian Nursery School News



The month of November brings beautiful fall leaves and fun fall activities for the children. They have grown so much, and we are so proud of them.

The Fire Company came to visit for Fire Safety Week and the children learned all about the fire truck and how to "stop, drop and roll" in case of a fire. We also conducted fire drills for all ten classes which were very successful. Our thanks to the Springfield Fire Company and our volunteer firemen.

Our school will be closed Monday, November 3, and Tuesday, November 4, due to the Springfield School District closing. To celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday the children will have a little Thanksgiving "feast" in their classrooms. Our school will be closed November 26, 27, and 28 for the holiday.

We wish everyone a blessed Thanksgiving, and thank God for all the blessings in our lives, especially all of our children and their families.

- Linda M. Maylie, Director

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Women of the ELCA News

I hope this message finds you enjoying the glorious colors and signs of autumn - the leaves, the pumpkins, the diversity of color of the autumnal chrysanthemum plants, the cool breezes and the rain to help keep everything watered and fresh looking. Yes, God's palette of colors certainly makes us grateful to Him for the beauty of His world.

We were happy to hear that we gained a new member at the Sarah Circle meeting of September and the Esther Circle meeting had a member return after a short hiatus. Welcome to both ladies! Perhaps when you read this, you will give some thought to joining one of our circles - we hope so!

We are planning our activities for November and December, and you will hear more about them as the weeks progress. On November 2, we will have our Confirmation Reception for the confirmands and their families; and on Saturday, December 6, we will host our annual Advent/Christmas breakfast. We are planning a few additions to this gathering which we know everyone will enjoy. More info will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead. Our Silver Springs School Christmas List will be shared with you soon, and you will hear more about that from Nancy Regan.

If you have any questions about our Women of the ELCA, please feel free to ask one of our Board members:

President: Dee Bratz

Vice President (Projects Coordinator): Joan Krauter

Secretary: Carol Penjuka

Treasurer: Joanne Castagna

Silver Springs School: Nancy Regan

Esther Circle Leader: Marge Kobasa

Esther Projects Leader: Pat Daniels

Sarah Circle Leaders:

Marie Miller (September and October)

Linda Kulp (November and January)

Shirley Thorn (February and March)

Marie Miller (April and May)

Sarah Projects Leader: Marti Millington

Schedule for November:

November 2 - Confirmation Reception

November 8 - LWR Quilting 10:30 a.m.

November 12 - Board Meeting - 9:30 a.m.

November 12 - Ronald McDonald Quilting -
10:00 a.m.

November 18 - Sarah Circle - 7:30 p.m.

November 19 - Esther Circle - 10:00 a.m.

- Dee Bratz and the Executive Board

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Social Ministry

Once again, Social Ministry will be organizing the Christmas pajama project for the children of Faith Immanuel Lutheran Church in East Lansdowne. This will be the third year for this project, and the children really look forward to receiving these gifts from the members of our congregation. On Sunday, November 15, there will be a bulletin board in the hallway with a tag for each child. Their name, age, sex, and size will be on the tag. There will also be a list for you to sign your name and phone number next to the name of the child's tag you are taking. **Please**

do not forget to do this! Please bring your wrapped gift **with the tag attached** to the church by December 10 so we can deliver the gifts in time for Christmas.

If you have any questions, please see Rick Link or Cheryl Morrell.

We continue to collect non-perishable food and gently used kitchen items and children's books for the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry.

- Cheryl Morrell

It's Time to Order Poinsettias for Christmas



Orders for the lovely Christmas poinsettias that beautify our sanctuary each Christmas season may now be placed by signing up in the church hallway, or calling the church office. The cost of a plant is \$10.00, and can be picked up and taken home following the 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Orders may be placed until Sunday, December 14.

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Monthly Mailbag



Dear Saint Matthew Congregation,

Thank you for your prayers and cards during my heart operation and recovery. I am slowly getting back to normal! The flowers delivered by the Altar Guild the day after my birthday were a nice surprise.

Sincerely,
Frieda Lenthe

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Dear Saint Matthew Friends,

Many thanks to Nancy, Dotty, Joan, Carl, Jill, Linda, and Gary for volunteering at Silver Springs - Martin Luther School's Fun Day! Your expertise at the prize and food tables was particularly valuable this year (especially since it was my first year.)

I hope you had as much fun as the children. They all slept very soundly that night, I was told! Fun Day is only possible through the help of fantastic volunteers like all of you. We simply would not be able to have such a fun, successful day without you!

We are very grateful for your faithful support of our

ministry. Through the help of friends like all of you, we are able to help vulnerable boys and girls heal, learn, and experience the joys of childhood. Thank you again!

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

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Vital Statistics

Marriages: **Kristen Gault and Christopher Rohrer**
Married September 13, 2014

Leslie Penjuka and Christopher Cushing
Married September 13, 2014

Deaths: **William E. Long, Sr.**
Died September 26, 2014
Funeral October 1, 2014

Dorothy Lefever
Died October 14, 2014

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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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