



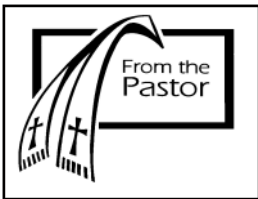
The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Volume 75, Number 10

November 2023

Internet Web Site: www.stmattspringfield.org



From Our Pastor

Connect
Care
eQuip
Cultivate

Thanksgiving is a national holiday in this country. While there have been celebrations at various times over the years, the date of the holiday as we know it was established in 1863 by President Lincoln as the 4th Thursday in November. When he established this holiday, it was set as a time to pray for the healing of the nation at the height of the Civil War. This may not be a bad thing for us to recall this year, as it feels as though our nation is nearly as divided now as we were back then.

As Christians we give thanks to God for all the blessings we have. We recognize God, and not ourselves, as the source of all that we have, and all that we are. When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we ask that God will "give us this day our daily bread." In his explanation to this petition of the prayer, Martin Luther describes "daily bread" very broadly. In his Small Catechism he writes:

What then does "daily bread" mean?

"Everything included in the necessities and nourishment for our bodies, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, farm, fields, livestock, money, property, an upright spouse, upright children, upright members of the household, upright and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, decency, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like."

And while this seems an exhaustive list, in his Large Catechism he includes even more. The bottom line is that all that we have, and all that we are, is a gift from God. And for these things, we should give thanks.

As we gather this year around tables filled with food, and TVs full of football, let us be sure to give thanks to God for all these things. And let us take the advice of President Lincoln that we pray for healing in our nation and in the world. Because the reality is that, in our world, there are far too many people, both at home, and around the globe, who do not feel blessed.

As we have been blessed, we are able to be a blessing. We are called by God to share what we have, to allow others to know they, too, can be blessed. And our ability to see the need, our ability to share from what we have, begins by recognizing the source of life's blessing, and giving thanks.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Pastor Karl M. Richard

Thanksgiving Turkeys

If you receive a free turkey that you will not be using for Thanksgiving and would like to donate it, please let us know. All turkeys received will go to needy families.

Financial Update

The Finance team met on October 11th. We finished the month in the red but for the year so far, we are ahead of the budget. There was a good envelope giving month, but we are still under budget for giving this year. Two of the big expenses last month were the quarterly insurance umbrella premium and the elevator repair. That put us over the budget for expenses so far this year. We are still looking for available grants or funds that would be available to Saint Matthew but haven't been able to find any yet, but we will keep on looking. Please remember to give generously to our Church if you are able.

Peace,
Kevin Cunningham

News from Your Property Committee

During the month of September, a new part was installed on our elevator door that allows the door to open when someone breaks the beam. They will be back in to adjust and install our phone communication box the week of October 16 or sooner.

This past month we inspected all water heaters for leaks and age of the units. There is one unit that is now ten years or older. This unit will be inspected regularly to make sure it does not fail or leak. The batteries in all the carbon monoxide detectors in the Nursery School have been changed. A protective fence was placed around the gas meter in the main courtyard.

We have received our estimate for the equipment and labor for lowering and raising the chandeliers. It was approved, parts have been put on order. Work should be done the third or fourth week in November. Again, thank you to the family who made the contribution for this to go forward. We will be asking for help in cleaning the globes and the chandeliers. Once we get a firm date, we will send out the date and time.

Please join us on Sunday November 5th, for our coffee social at the end of each service. Meet and talk with your Property Committee.

Although some of the **UNANTICIPATED REPAIR WORK THAT HAS TO BE DONE** has been done or is scheduled

to be done, the need for money is still there. If we can reimburse our general fund, it does not make us go deeper in the red of our budget. An update of the dollars in under this special fund: as of October 8th, we have collected over \$1,600.00 towards the match of \$5,000.00 from one of our families. The balance total of the remaining repairs is over \$12,500.00. Please help, it is not too late to add to our total for the match. Please mark your check or envelope **UNANTICIPATED REPAIR WORK THAT HAS TO BE DONE.** Thank you.

Joe Regan
Property Committee

Christian Education Update

A very special thank you to all our amazing Sunday School teachers. Please join us every Sunday at 9:00 in the church. There is a class for everyone! We are also looking for some substitutes. If you are interested, please contact Julie Cirillo.

Thank you to everyone who attended the fall festival. We had an amazing turnout and so many yummy treats were donated. Everything was delicious and it was so nice to catch up with everyone. We can't wait to see everyone again at our next event.

Julie Cirillo

Welcome Church

The cold winter weather is coming. The homeless will need socks and gloves to keep them warm, as well as coffee and toiletries. Please bring these things to the church. There is a box under the hallway table for your donations.

Joan Krauter

November Youth Activities

Join us on Friday, November 10th, at 6 p.m. for a Sunday School sleepover. If any children from Grade 6 down would like to sleepover, we ask that a parent stay with them. We will be making our own pizza for dinner and packaging the cookie and brownie jars for our fundraiser for the Tuscarora youth trip. In addition to these activities, we will be talking about hunger and ways we can help those in need. All children are asked to bring non-perishable food items to be donated to the Scouting for Food event that will start in the morning when we wake up. Any questions, contact Julie Cirillo.

Julie Cirillo

Beds for Kids

Thank you to all who supported the Beds for Kids program. This program is working to end child bedlessness in our area by providing a bed frame, a mattress, sheets, pillow, blanket, quilt or bed spread, bedtime books and a stuffed animal. We were able to deliver a carful of items and several boxes of books to their warehouse in Huntington Valley.

Nancy Regan

Lutheran World Relief

The 25 quilts that were blessed on September 28th were delivered to New Windsor, MD along with 33 personal care kits that were made by the Sunday School children

as a God's Work Our Hands project. We were told that a shipment of quilts and kits had just been sent to Tanzania. Thank you to everyone who donated for this project.

Nancy Regan

Children's Corner

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Thessalonians 5:16-18

Dear Children,
THANKSGIVING is almost here and the very name of the day prompts us to have a grateful heart. Often in the morning, when I exercise, I look out our bedroom window and notice the beautiful blue sky, the puffy white clouds, the green trees (soon to be various colors,) the gardens bursting with vivid hues, and the pretty little birds flitting about. WOW!! The Creator made all this for us to enjoy! I am so thankful that when I was a child, my Sunday School teacher, Mrs. Hahn, who was always inspiring, told us to include our gratitude to the Lord before we ask Him to help us. I had a bit of "mental fun" before I wrote this article and rather than be thankful for the things in my present-day life, I wanted to thank God for things in my past. These are the things I remember:

- my parents who brought me to church
- my tenth grade biology teacher who was not always friendly, but always demanded the very best
- fresh strawberries, corn, and blueberries right from the field
- a little brother who always had a sense of humor
- the smell of fresh hay in my uncle's barn

This past summer, August 30th, around 8:00 p.m., to be exact, I looked out our living room window and saw the most stunning sunset I have ever seen. The whole sky was alive with various shades of magenta, red, orange, lavender—truly a stunning sight. What a gift from The Creator!

It is so much easier to be thankful in good times, but what about having a grateful heart in times that are challenging? Well, in those tough times, remember how God has always loved you and will continue. Turn to scripture and you will receive some heartfelt news. Psalm 106:1.

Dear Parents,

For 13 years, Mr. Yost and I treated our family to a week at the beach in North Carolina. During the day, the family did their own planning of activities, but the rule we established was to meet at 6:00 for dinner. At that time, Elizabeth, (our granddaughter) who was 5 or 6, asked everyone to hold hands and thank God for just one item they were grateful for that day. Thus a tradition was started!! Perhaps you already do this. The following presents a few Bible verses of thankfulness: Psalm 103:1-4; Hebrews 12:28; Isaiah 12 4-5.

Sylvia Yost

Gemma Services Halloween Candy Collection

As we have done for so many years in the past, we will be collecting all leftover or unwanted candy from Halloween to share with the children in the residential treatment program at Gemma Services formerly known as Silver Springs. The Women of the ELCA will make small treat bags with several small candy bars for the children to enjoy.

We will have a collection box in the hallway and we will collect the candy on Sunday, November 5, along with our monthly food pantry collection Sunday.

Nancy Regan

Food Collection

We continue to collect food on the first Sunday of the month for the Media Food Bank. There continues to be a great need for families in our area. Our next collection date is November 5th. All donations may be left in the bucket in the hallway, or we will be collecting donations at the church until noon on November 5th. Thank you to all who continue to support this program.

Nancy Regan

Gemma Services Report

Christmas will soon be here, and the children of Gemma Services will be looking for Christmas gifts. As we have done for many years, we will help supply gifts to make the children's Christmas a special one. When we have the list of requested items, we will pass it on to you. There will be a box marked Gemma Services in the hallway where you may place your unwrapped gifts.

Thank you for your support of this project that we have been a part of for so many years.

Nancy Regan

"Everything But the Turkey" Collection

This year we are again doing the "Everything But The Turkey" collection for families who are involved with Gemma Services. Last year we were able to donate eight "Everything But The Turkey" meals to Gemma Services families who were able to celebrate a delicious Thanksgiving dinner thanks to our efforts.

Items needed are on an easel by the elevator, and there is a box for donations. Donations need to be received by Sunday, November 12. If you have any questions, call Nancy Regan.

Nancy Regan

Social Ministry

In November, before Thanksgiving, the bulletin board for the pajama gifts for the children of Faith Immanuel will be in the hallway. As before, there will be a sign-up sheet along with the gift tags with the name, age, sex and clothing size for each child. If you take a tag, please sign your name and phone number next to the name of the child on the sign-up sheet. Please return your gifts to the church parlor by December 12 so they can be delivered to the church in time for Christmas. If you have any questions, please contact me, Dawn Liscom, Marge Kobasa or Gina Milana. Thank you!

Cheryl Morrell

Nursery School

We had a wonderful time at our Halloween Parades and classroom celebrations! We are looking forward to the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. We have much to be thankful for this season!

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The Nursery School has some employment opportunities at this time. If you are interested in working with us and would like more information, please contact the Nursery School's Office at 610-543-5589, email us at stmattscns@gmail.com or visit our website at www.stmattscns.org/jobs.

If you would like to enroll your child in one of our programs, please contact the office or visit our website as well. We look forward to hearing from you! Happy Thanksgiving!

Warmly,

Ana Fischer, Executive Director

December Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the December newsletter are due in the church office by **noon on Wednesday, November 15.**

Women of the ELCA

Happy November! It is often the month that we give thanks. We would like to give thanks to Nancy and Joe Regan. They delivered 25 LWR quilts to the warehouse in Maryland and a van load of items for Beds for Kids in Bensalem. Their willingness to deliver these items for our group is much appreciated.

Once again our circle is collecting items for the Everything but the Turkey bags. These bags are filled with a food gift certificate and non-perishable food items to help a Gemma family have a pleasant Thanksgiving. Contact Nancy Regan if you would like to help.

Important Dates for November:

11/7	LWR Quilts	1:00 p.m.
11/14	LWR Quilts	1:00 p.m.
11/28	Board Meeting	5:45 p.m.
11/28	Circle	7:00 p.m.

We hope you have a wonderful month of giving thanks!

Please consider joining us!

Carol Penjuke

Vital Statistics

Death:

Frank Pflieger

Died October 4, 2023

Funeral October 26, 2023

Monthly Mailbag

Dear Friends,

A big thank you to all who shared words of consolation, emails, cards in connection with the loss of my brother Alan.

I especially enjoyed the card from the Sunday School.

I leave Alan in God's care until it's my turn to join him in the Church Triumphant!

Dave Russell

Dear Wonderful Saint Matthew Friends,

We are very grateful for Saint Matthew's continued friendship and generosity to Gemma Services (formed by the merger of Silver Springs-Martin Luther School and the Village)! Thank you for your kind donation of 60 treat bags for the children and youth in residence at Gemma. Your support will help us



continue to provide vital behavioral health, prevention, child welfare, and educational services for youth and families who are facing extreme challenges and truly matters!

With the help of friends like all of you, Gemma accompanies more than 3,000 youth and families each year as they heal from traumas, manage mental health challenges, and navigate difficult times. We would be happy to welcome any of our friends from Saint Matthew to visit any of our three

locations to see firsthand the programs you are helping us to support. On behalf of all at Gemma, thank you!

Sincerely,
Amanda Bryant
Senior Development Officer
Gemma Services

Worship Responsibilities

We will not schedule these responsibilities at this time. We will ask people to serve each week as needed.

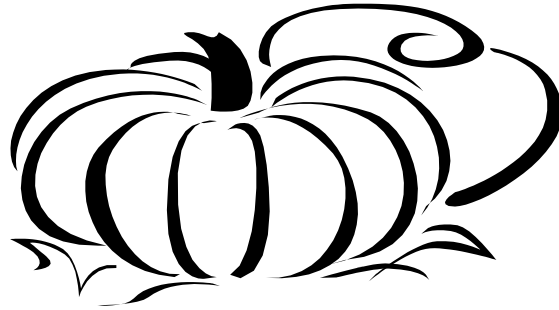


The youth of Saint Matthew will be selling mason jar mixes. They are wonderful Christmas gifts. The proceeds will benefit the youth of Saint Matthew.

The jars will be available for purchase after November 19.

**Any questions, please contact
Julie Cirillo manoa1stgrade@hotmail.com**

Please share your
HALLOWEEN CANDY
with the children of
Silver Springs Martin Luther School.



The candy will be collected through Sunday,
November 5th, 2023.
Thank you!