



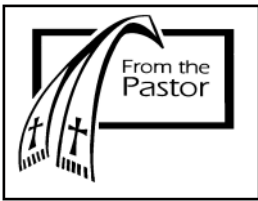
# The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of  
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church  
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Volume 76, Number 10

November 2024

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



## From Our Pastor

Connect  
Care  
Equip  
Cultivate

*<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

As I write this, we are not yet to election day. I, like many of you, am quite anxious about what will happen – who will win, what might happen if one candidate loses, whether the nation in which we live will ever be able to come together again. And yet, in the midst of all things, we are called by Saint Paul to rejoice, pray, and give thanks, because that, Paul says, is the will of God for us.

Paul is not some namby-pamby, pie-in-the-sky idealist. Paul himself has been tortured and rejected, jailed and tormented for the sake of the gospel. These things happened to him even as he remained faithful to God. And in all circumstances, Paul recognized that God is, ultimately, in control. God is the ruler, and we are the subjects. Paul knew the reality that was conveyed in the first letter of John, where it says: “Greater is he who is in you, than he who is in the world.” – 1 John 4:4. He knew the words of Jesus recorded in the Gospel of John, “In this world you will have trouble. But fear not; I have overcome the world.” – John 16:33.

We, too, are called to remember the words of Jesus, and the promise that he is with us always, even to the close of the age. We are called to remember that in every day there is a blessing, because every day is a day that the Lord has made. This is why the Psalmist says we should rejoice and be glad in it.

So, in this month where we celebrate Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday, let us remember every day that wherever we are, whatever our situation, God is with us, God is stronger than our concerns, and God, in Jesus, has overcome the worst the world can do, and has brought us salvation. Let us, therefore, Rejoice always, Pray always, and give Thanks always, for in all ways we are blessed by Jesus.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Pastor Karl M. Richard

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### UNDER THE ROOF!

**N**ow that the roof campaign is underway, it is time to focus on our annual giving campaign. Our theme is “Under the Roof” and we hope to emphasize how we use our beautifully renovated building to serve our members and our community.

Please watch for a letter from the Stewardship Committee in early November. We prayerfully ask that you consider increasing your current pledge as much as you can. We would love to add some exciting new programs to our agenda but don't presently have the funds in the budget to do so. Monthly bills are rising but our contributions are not and we have been woefully short the last few months. We know as always you will be as generous as you can!

The Stewardship Committee

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## News from Your Property Committee

**T**he month of September has been remarkably busy. Over the last two weeks, in addition to our roof being done, we also had our generator get its semi-annual checkup. All our fire extinguishers were serviced and updated for the year to come. The rear stairway light in the education wing was not working and the switches had to be rewired. The light is working fine now.

One major problem this month was our elevator sump pump. One of the two pumps had burned out. We replaced it, only to find out that the control board also failed. This board switches pumps from one to another and detects any oil that would be in the water. Oil would leak into the water from a leak in our elevator. Both repairs were made, although expensive, and both are now working fine.

Joe Regan  
Property Committee

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## Christian Education Update

**A** very special thank you to all our amazing Sunday School teachers. Please join us every Sunday for Worship with Sunday School at 9:30 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 Trunk or Treat. 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

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## Thanksgiving Turkeys

**I**f 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.

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## 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  
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If you were unable to attend the “Look up; Trust God” Kick-off gathering on October 6th, you should have received a campaign pledge card in the mail. Our church had urgent needs, so we received approval from the congregation to use money from the Endowment fund to cover the cost of the roof project in June. The roof work is nearly completed, and we have received pledges and gifts. Initially, we needed to use \$235,000 from the Endowment fund, but thanks to the generous donations and pledges from the congregation, we now only need another \$50,000 in pledges or gifts.

If you haven't pledged yet, please consider contributing to help us cover the cost, replenish the amount the Endowment fund covers, and reach our goal. If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca and Christopher DeSantis at crdesantis@comcast.net.

Chris and Rebecca DeSantis  
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## Financial Update

Dear God, we come before you with grateful hearts, ready to give generously to support our church and its mission. We ask for your guidance in using these funds to further your work and spread your love. May our contributions be a blessing to others and bring glory to your name. Thank you for the opportunity to give back to the community that has given us so much. In Jesus' name, Amen.

	<u>Sept. 2024</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Giving/Income	\$ 28,047	\$ 380,958.
Expenses	<u>42,396.</u>	<u>416,651.</u>
Plus/Minus	\$ (14,349.)	\$ (35,693.)

**Summary:** In September, our financial performance resulted in a negative balance of \$14,400. When considering the year-to-date (YTD) figures, we are negative for \$35,700. However, it's important to note that our budgeted loss year to date stands at \$42,200. Consequently, we are actually ahead of the budget on a year-to-date basis. Additional giving from the congregation will allow us to use less from the Endowment fund than anticipated.

**Additional Costs to Budget:** The malfunctioning of the sump pump's monitor requiring a replacement, incurring a cost of approximately \$9,000.

**Envelope/General Giving:** This was very light for the month, with \$20,000, compared to a budgeted amount of \$28,000. While we also have the "Look up; Trust God" campaign, we hope our congregation continues to give to the regular giving so we can continue our daily ministry.

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**Giving Opportunities:** As we enter the last few months of the year, please remember to support the ministry of Saint Matthew. We hope that starting with monthly updates from the Financial Committee will provide you with giving opportunities throughout the year. Your generous year-end gift is always appreciated and helps us finish the year strong!

Respectfully submitted,  
Kevin Cunningham and  
Rebecca DeSantis  
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## November Youth Activities

Join us on Friday, November 8th, at 7 p.m. for a Youth sleepover. We will be packaging the cookie and brownie jars for our fundraiser for the youth group. Any questions, contact Julie Cirillo.

Julie Cirillo  
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## Beds for Kids

On October 10 we were able to deliver a car full of pillows, blankets, sheet sets, quilts, stuffed animals and boxes of books to the Beds For Kids warehouse in Southampton. The staff was thrilled to receive all the items. They deliver 6-7 sets of beds, frames, bedding items, and books to children who are bed less each weekend. Thank you to everyone who supports this project.

Nancy Regan  
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## Children's Corner

*“Oh give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.”* Psalm 107:1-3

**Dear Children,**  
When I was a young mother, and was kneeling beside my oldest youngster as he said his prayers, he bowed his head and said “Dear God and Santa Claus.” For a moment, I was taken back that he put God and Santa in the same sentence. Upon reflection, I realized that our child realized that both God and Santa were the source of all good things. I have also noticed as I have become older, that gratitude is an important part of my prayer life. Here at Maris Grove, I belong to a small, but inspirational group called “Pause and Pray.” There are only about 8 of us and we start each session by finding some joy in our lives. Some of the joyful findings are sunny weather, good health, a phone call from a long-lost friend, locating a great novel, etc. We meet every Monday afternoon, and after sharing moments of happiness, we pray for those who are ill, an end to violence, and other sad issues in our world. At the risk of repeating myself, my first grade Sunday School teacher reminded all of us kids to ALWAYS thank God for his tender mercies before asking Him to help us pass the math test. Now that I am an older adult, I have experienced events both happy and sad; but I try to find elements of JOY in challenging circumstances.

My mother used to keep a little box on our kitchen windowsill marked “life's blessings” and in it she placed little slips of paper penciled with things for which she was grateful. Since my brother and I were raised during the war when the household goods were hard to come by, I can only imagine what those papers said—I am happy to be able to pay the milkman, I was able to have meat 4 days this week, etc.

Since we have moved to Maris Grove, I walk inside every morning rather early and this gives me the opportunity to look out over the glass-enclosed walkways and totally enjoy God's gift of nature—the foliage, beautifully colored birds, the ocean-blue sky, the pond,

and the colorful gardens of the residents. You might want to keep a small notebook—"My Gratitude Book" on your dresser to list those things for which you are thankful. Rereading it does wonders if one has had a difficult day.

**Dear Parents,**

We used to take our entire family to the Outer Banks each summer; and before we ate our supper, we always went around the table and each person prayerfully said what makes him/her grateful.

Sylvia Yost  
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**Food Collection**

This month we were able to deliver two shopping carts full of food to the Media Food Bank. As always, we were warmly greeted and helped to unload. Everyone donates so many wonderful items to keep the shelves full of food for those in need. Thank you to all who donate to the food drive. Our next date is November 3.

Nancy Regan  
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**Gemma Services Report**

This year as we have done in the past, we have been collecting items to provide Thanksgiving dinners to the families who receive services from Gemma.

The ladies of circle continue to assemble treat bags for the children in the residential treatment program. The ladies fill the small bags with 5-6 nut-free candies for the children to enjoy. Nut-free candy donations are always welcome.

Soon the Christmas season will be upon us and there will be a list of items for the Christmas gifts. We work to make sure every child receives gifts. The gift board will soon be available.

Nancy Regan  
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**Social Ministry**

Social Ministry will again be sponsoring the Christmas Pajama Gifts for the children of Faith Immanuel Lutheran Church. As in years past, in November there will be a bulletin board in the hallway with a gift tag for each child that includes the child's name, age, sex, and clothing size. For each tag you take, please sign your name and phone number next to the child's name on the list provided. Gifts are to be WRAPPED WITH THE TAG ATTACHED and placed in the church library by DECEMBER 15 so the gifts can be delivered.

We would also like to make an additional appeal to our members. Over the past few years, there has been an increase in the number of children attending Faith Immanuel. If you are able, possibly some of you would be willing to take a second tag. Last year, one of our members took tags for 13 children to ensure that each child received a gift. For many of these children, it is the only Christmas gift they receive, so a small toy, book, or other small gift included with the pajamas is really appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Liscom, Marge Kobasa, Gina Milana or myself. We thank you all in advance for your generosity.

Cheryl Morrell  
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**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! If you are interested in enrolling your child or if you are interested in becoming part of our staff, please contact the Nursery School's office at 610-543-5589, email us at [stmattscns@gmail.com](mailto:stmattscns@gmail.com) or visit our website at [www.stmattscns.org](http://www.stmattscns.org). We look forward to hearing from you! Please remember to "like" and follow us on Facebook and Instagram to see the hard work of the staff and students! Happy Thanksgiving!

Warmly,  
Ana Fischer, Executive Director  
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**December Newsletter Deadline**

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

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**Vital Statistics**

**Death: Ronnie Gillingham-Ferraro**  
Died October 4, 2024  
Funeral October 11, 2024

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**Monthly Mailbag**

Dear Saint Matthew Lutheran Church Women of the ELCA,

Thank you for supporting the ministries of Women of the ELCA with your recent gift of \$105.00. Your faithful generosity makes a real difference. Thank you.

Even in unsettling times, Women of the ELCA in all its expressions—congregational and special units, synodical women's organizations, the churchwide women's organization—is still at work with life-changing ministry. We might be engaging in ministry and action in different ways for a while, but that's what we do—because it's who we are: a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. And we've committed ourselves to promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world. Your giving helps make that happen. Thank you.

Thank you for your generosity. Together, thanks to your support, we'll get through this. Thank you. For regular updates on our ever-growing work together, please see our website, [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org). Your giving really does make a difference. Thank you.

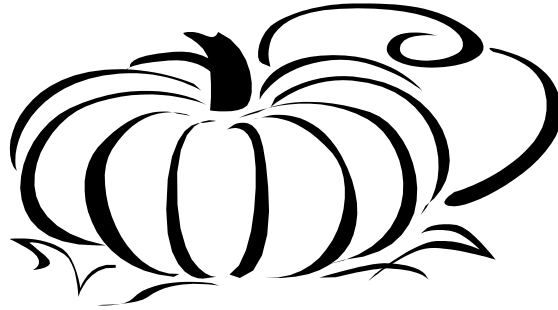
With gratitude,  
Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director  
Women of the ELCA in America

**Worship Responsibilities**

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

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



The candy will be collected through Sunday,  
November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.  
Thank you!



**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  
beginning November 10.**

**Any questions, please contact  
Julie Cirillo [manoa1stgrade@hotmail.com](mailto:manoa1stgrade@hotmail.com)**