



The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Volume 78, Number 10

November 2026

Internet Web Site: stmattspringfield.org



From Our Pastor

Connect
Care
eQuip
Cultivate

November is a month of thanksgiving. We give thanks for the harvest, for the land, for our families, for our nation, for all the blessings God has given us. But we begin the month by giving thanks for all the saints of God.

November 1st is All Saints Day. On this day we recognize all those who were made saints of God by their baptism into Christ, particularly those baptized since last All Saints Day. We also give thanks for all those baptized into Christ who have died and gone to the Lord, particularly since last All Saints Day. This "circle of life" for us is grounded in our being named and claimed in baptism, and for this we certainly give thanks.

In this past year at Saint Matthew we welcomed into the family of faith seven people by baptism into Christ: John "Jack" William Bramhall IV, Olivia Marie Bramhall, Shana Guillermina Silva Matehu, Nicholas Portillo McHugh, Fiona Grace Sorgi, Cecilia Kate Sorgi, and Ember Isabella Sorgi.

We also commended to God's care the following saints who have claimed their baptismal promises: Kerry Hoffert, Betsy Hendricksen, Ben Lambert, Sara Riegner, Dorothy Bartlett, Carole Penjuke, Joyce Ball, Tom Savage, Eugene Hale, Jean Fisher, Richard Regan, Edith Laguna and Dottie Hoffert.

In addition, we give thanks for the ongoing life and growth in faith of the baptized. On All Saints Day we do this by celebrating the Confirmation of our youth. This rite is also called "Affirmation of Baptism." This year seven youth will affirm their faith: Evie Applegate, Maddie Applegate, Bella Bahnsen, Schaeffer Bartlett, Ryan Godfrey, Elena Perlingiero, and Bradley Pierce.

And beyond this, we are thankful for saints who join our fellowship and grow our family of faith. This year we are pleased to welcome Paul and Donna Jann as part of the Saint Matthew family.

As you can see, in the Church our lives are surrounded by God, and the promises made when God names and claims us in baptism. It is in God's love in Jesus that we live and move and have our being. And it is because of God that we give thanks for all the blessings we have received and are able to give. And in particular, we give thanks for the saints of God.

Pastor Karl M. Richard

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Financial Update

Heavenly Father, as we enter this season of gratitude and reflection, we thank You for the many blessings You have provided to our church family. Help us to be faithful stewards of the gifts entrusted to us, giving with generous hearts and serving with joyful spirits. Guide our decisions, strengthen our ministry, and remind us that every gift, no matter its size, helps us continue Your work in our community. In Jesus' name, Amen.

	<u>Sept. 2026</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Giving/Income	\$ 28,135	\$ 413,520.
Expenses	<u>44,373.</u>	<u>427,890.</u>
Plus/Minus	(\$ 16,238.)	(\$ 14,370.)

Summary: September ended with a deficit of \$16,238, bringing our year-to-date deficit to \$14,370. While expenses exceeded income this month, our overall expenses remain approximately \$18,300 below budget for the year.

Envelope/General Giving: Our regular envelope and general offerings are the foundation of Saint Matthew's financial support, helping cover the everyday expenses of maintaining our church and supporting our ministries. Through September, worship giving total is below our budgeted goal. As we move into the final months of the year, we encourage everyone to prayerfully consider their continued giving. Every contribution makes a difference, and consistent giving helps us plan responsibly for the needs of our church.

Giving Opportunities: There are many ways to support the mission and ministry of Saint Matthew beyond regular offerings. Whether through a special gift, memorial contribution, or support for a designated ministry, your generosity helps us care for our church, serve our community, and prepare for the future. If you are considering an additional gift as we approach the end of the year, we encourage you to support an area of ministry that is meaningful to you. Every gift is appreciated and helps strengthen the work we do together.

Roof Fund: Our Roof Fund Campaign has just one year remaining! We are grateful to everyone who has contributed toward this important effort to care for and maintain our church building. With one year left in the campaign, we encourage those who have pledged to continue making their contributions.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Cunningham and
Rebecca DeSantis

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News from Your Property Committee

In the past month of October several things happened. Our elevator was certified after some minor infractions were corrected. Due to a new law from the State of Pennsylvania, we now must inspect the elevator twice a year with one of them being a pressure test. This will add about \$1,500. to our budget. In October we also discussed our upcoming budget. Our budget will be reviewed by our Finance Committee.

In the coming months, our fire alarm will be inspected, and water flow alarm will be inspected. And we are hopeful of having some money left over, to have some lights repaired and replaced.

Looking forward to a warmer winter and less snow than last year.

Joe Regan

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Christian Education Update

The Christian Education Committee is very thankful to the many teachers who come out every week and teach our children. We are looking for a few substitutes to help out on a couple of weeks. No experience is necessary. Please reach out to Julie Cirillo. Thank you!

Julie Cirillo

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Youth Events

The youth of Saint Matthew will be sleeping over on Saturday, November 21. We will be making the jar mixes and jar candles during the evening, then selling them the next day. If you are interested in joining the fun, please reach out to Anna, Julie or Nicole.

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Fellowship Committee Update

I would like to thank everyone who attended and helped at Trunk or Treat. We had over 200 people. We will be honoring our Confirmands with a cake after the second service on November 1st. There will be a speaker from Thrivent on November 8th at both services. He will be providing donuts. We will be going to the Festival of Lights at Rose Tree Park on Sunday, December 6th. We will meet there near the sign at 5:30 p.m.

Barb McClintock

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Men's Breakfast

We have scheduled the November Men's Breakfast for Saturday, November 21, at 7 a.m. at the Court Diner in Media. It's a great way to start the day!

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Monthly Food Collection

Each first Sunday of the month it is so wonderful to see the support for the food collection for the Media Food Bank. Thank you to all who support this ongoing project. We did ask about the list of suggested items and it has been updated. The.

new list copies are available on the hall table. Also there is a need for grocery paper bags. We will be happy to accept and deliver grocery paper bags.

Nancy and Joe Regan

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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.

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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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Children's Corner

Christian Education: Growing in Gratitude

As we enter the month of November, we are reminded of how much we have to be thankful for. Thanksgiving gives us a special opportunity to pause, reflect on God's many blessings, and give thanks for His goodness and grace.

Christian Education helps us grow not only in our knowledge of Scripture, but also in our understanding of what it means to live out our faith each day. Through Sunday School, Bible study, and fellowship, we have the opportunity to learn together, ask questions, encourage one another, and grow closer to Christ.

This month, we especially encourage our children and families to think about the many ways God blesses us. A simple prayer of thanks, helping someone in need, sharing with a neighbor, or showing kindness to a friend can all be ways of putting our faith into action.

November also gives us an opportunity to look ahead. As the church year draws to a close, we prepare our hearts for **Advent**, when we celebrate the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Advent reminds us to slow down, listen, pray, and make room for Christ in our hearts and homes.

As a Lutheran community, we are thankful for the gift of God's Word, the promise of His grace, and the opportunity to gather together as His people. May our classrooms, Bible studies, and worship continue to be places where faith is nurtured and God's love is shared.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." — Psalm 107:1

May November be a month filled with grateful hearts, growing faith, and opportunities to share the love of Christ with others.

Sharon Gibson

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Gemma Services Report

Gemma Services are currently asking for our support of the Everything But The Turkey project. Thank you to all who have taken labels from the board to purchase food items and gift cards for families supported by Gemma. We will assemble the large bags of food and deliver them to the Plymouth Meeting Campus to be given out so families will be able to enjoy Thanksgiving meals.

The ladies of Women of the ELCA continue to fill 55 small bags with 6-8 pieces of candy for the children in the residential treatment program to enjoy each month. We are grateful for any donations of nut-free wrapped candy. There is a box under the table for donations.

Soon the Christmas gift list will be going up. We will be asking for gifts for the children who are supported by the residential program. Several of the ladies will also be going up to the school to wrap all the wonderful gifts. It is a project we look forward to each year.

Thank you for all the support of these projects

Nancy Regan

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Social Ministry

Social Ministry will once again be continuing with our annual pajama gifts for the children of Faith Immanuel Lutheran Church. The past few years, they have had a growing list of children to provide gifts for. Many of you were kind enough to purchase gifts for more than one child last year, and we hope that those of you who can will consider doing this again so that each child will receive a gift. For many of these children, it's the only gift they receive. If possible, a small toy, book, etc. is very much appreciated to add to the gift. When these families lived in their home country, they were continually running from war, so Christmas trees and gifts were non-existent.

In early November, a bulletin board will be in the hallway with a gift tag for each child. On the tag will be the child's name, sex, age, and clothing size. There will also be a sign-up sheet. PLEASE SIGN YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER ON THE SIGN-UP SHEET NEXT TO THE NAME OF THE CHILD ON THE TAG. Please bring your gift, WRAPPED WITH THE TAG ATTACHED, to the Library by DECEMBER 13 so that the gifts can be delivered to Faith Immanuel in time for their Christmas party.

Our congregation has always been very supportive of this endeavor. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity.

Cheryl Morrell

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Giving Thanks for Our Nursery School Community

November is a wonderful time to pause and give thanks for the many blessings we have at Saint Matthew Christian Nursery School. We are especially thankful for our amazing children, supportive families, dedicated teachers and staff, and the continued love and support of our Saint Matthew Church

community.

Our classrooms will spend the month talking about thankfulness, kindness, friendship, and helping others. Through stories, songs, art, play, and classroom activities, our children will have opportunities to think about the special people and things they are thankful for. These simple lessons are an important part of helping our young learners grow socially, emotionally, and spiritually.

We are also very excited to welcome some special visitors for our Grandparents' & VIP Days on November 23 and 24! Our children are looking forward to inviting a grandparent or another special person into their classrooms to see a little bit of what makes Saint Matthew such a special place for friendship and learning.

As we reach the end of November, we will also begin getting into the Christmas spirit with Santa's Secret Workshop! This is always such a special experience for our children, as they will have the opportunity to shop for little gifts for the people they love. There is something so sweet about watching the children carefully choose gifts for their parents, grandparents, siblings, and other special people in their lives. It is a wonderful way for them to experience the joy of giving and to learn that Christmas is just as much about giving to others as it is about receiving.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I continue to feel incredibly grateful for the relationship between our Nursery School and Saint Matthew Lutheran Church. Our school is more than a place where children come to learn their letters, numbers, and colors. It is a community where children are welcomed, loved, encouraged, and given the opportunity to learn through play, friendship, and meaningful experiences.

Thank you to our church family for continuing to support this important ministry. Whether it is through a kind word, a prayer for our children and staff, or simply making our families feel welcome, your support makes a difference.

From all of us at Saint Matthew Christian Nursery School, we wish our Saint Matthew Church family a very happy and blessed Thanksgiving!

With gratitude,
Jenny Redding
Nursery School Director

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Vital Statistics

Marriage: Erin Dixon and Andrew Sorgi
September 25, 2026

Deaths: Edith Laguna
Died September 24, 2026
Funeral October 10, 2026

Dorothy Hoffert
Died October 7, 2026
Funeral October 29, 2026

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December Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the December newsletter are due in the church office by **noon** on **Friday, November 13**.

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Monthly Mailbag

Dear Saint Matthew Lutheran Church,

We are very grateful for Saint Matthew's friendship and generosity to Gemma Services! Thank you for your donation of 60 candy-filled treat bags for youth in residence at Gemma. 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

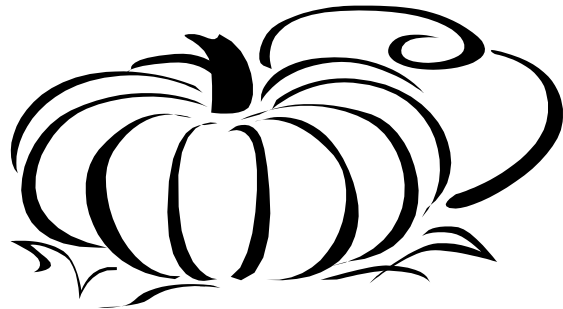
health challenges, learn new skills, and work to reach their individual goals. We would be happy to welcome any of our friends from Saint Matthew to visit one of Gemma's locations to see firsthand the programs you are helping us to provide. We will also continue to share available volunteer opportunities and look forward to having a group join us for wrapping holiday gifts in December. You can learn more about all of Gemma's programs, latest happenings, and current support needs by visiting www.gemmaservices.org.

Should you have any questions or wish to schedule a visit, please contact me at 610-825-4440 ext. 3307 or Abryant@gemmaservices.org. On behalf of all at Gemma, thank you!

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

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



The candy will be collected
through the month
of November.
Thank you!

Youth of Saint Matthew



Mason Jar Mixes and Homemade Candles

The youth of Saint Matthew are selling mason jar mixes for \$15 each. They also are making candles from the remnants of candles used during worship. The jar candles will be \$8 each or two for \$15. All of the proceeds will benefit the youth of Saint Matthew. The jars will be available for purchase starting on November 22nd. Any questions or if you want to preorder, please contact Julie Cirillo at manoa1stgrade@hotmail.com