



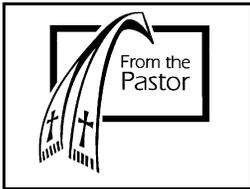
The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Springfield, Pennsylvania

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From Our Pastor

*"I lift up my eyes to the hills -
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved;*

*he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore."
- Psalm 121*

The writer of this psalm reminds us that the Lord is always present, watching over us whether we are aware of it or not. The Lord watches our "going out and our coming in." I have always liked this phrase.

It strikes me as I read this psalm that the writer is experiencing hard times. He or she is looking to the hills for help; actually, looking to the Lord, who is often thought to live in the highest places. Looking to the Lord is a great place to go in times of struggle, for the Lord promises to keep our life.

I am reminded that we often look to the Lord at difficult times, but we do not always remember to do so when all is well. We take for granted the presence of God until we are in crisis, but how would it be if we looked daily to the Lord for guidance?

Many of us do have regular prayer lives. We lift up our eyes to the Lord and seek God's face, and for those who make this a regular practice, the crises of life seem easier to face. There is an awareness of the presence of God on such a regular basis that, when the hardest times hit, those of regular prayer and devotion do

not doubt whether God is there. One may still question what God is or is not doing, one may still find the situation difficult and distressing. Rarely do I sense those who regularly look to the Lord doubting that the Lord is watching over them.

The Lord watches over us whether we are aware of it or not. We can become more aware of God's presence by "lifting our eyes to the hills" on a regular basis, spending time with the One who watches our going out and coming in, who neither slumbers nor sleeps. Let us turn to the One from whom our help comes, not just in crisis, but in all the things each day brings to us. Let us rejoice in the One who keeps us from this time on and forevermore.

- Pr. Karl M. Richard

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New Church Pictorial Directory

Saint Matthew is going to have a new pictorial directory! The last one was done about 12 years ago, so we certainly need an updated one! I have agreed to coordinate this event, but need several more people to help me take pictures of various groups and people (staff) in the church, (cell phone pictures can be used for this,) as well as people to help sign up families for appointments after each service. It would also be helpful to have some greeters at the church on the days of the picture sessions. If you can possibly spare some time to help, it will certainly be appreciated. **Please contact me** if you can help in any way.

Everyone who has their picture taken will receive a free 8 x 10 picture and a free Directory. There are 20% discounts for Seniors (over age 60), First Responders, and Military.

Dates: November 6, 7, 8. So please mark your calendars!

- Cheryl Morrell

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News from the Worship and Music Committee

Jeff Wesley, our long-time committee member and secretary, submitted her resignation to the committee. Jeff has faithfully served on the committee for over 30 years and indicated that after much prayer and soul searching she felt it was time to step down in order to devote her time and energy to other ministries at Saint Matthew, including the Synod Faith Formation group on which she is excited to serve. Her unfailing support and commitment to the Worship and Music Committee over these many years has proved invaluable to our congregation and we thank her. She has indicated that she will continue to be available to the committee for questions/advice. She has vowed to pray for the committee, and the committee in turn will pray for her as she turns her considerable talents and energies in different directions. She continues to be a true blessing to this congregation; and, while our committee is sad to lose her, we are delighted that other ministries will be benefitting from her talents. **Thank you, Jeff!**

Our committee is actively seeking new members. Do you have a passion for Worship? (You do not need to be musically inclined!) Would you be willing to work with a committee that is committed to planning worship services which are spiritual and meaningful celebrations of our Lord and Savior that reach out to a variety of people - both current members as well as those seeking a church family? If so, please contact me.

- Pat McHugh

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Children's Corner

Dear Children,

As many of you walk to the bus stop, I know you are aware of the sound of leaves crunching beneath your feet, the cool crisp feel of the air, and the treat your eyes have as you notice the leaves turning bright colors. Yes, fall is upon us and you are probably thinking about what costume you will wear for Halloween and savoring the luscious treats you might receive for trick-or-treat.

I remember all of this with great fondness, but now I see the need to think of another special day that also comes at the end of this month - **Reformation Day!** The last Sunday of October we always celebrate Reformation Day in honor of Martin Luther, an Augustinian priest, who became deeply troubled with the early church for practices that went against the teachings of Jesus. Martin Luther, after much study and prayer, "waded into the deep waters" of reforming the church and telling everyone that the only thing that Christians needed to do is accept God and He will love and forgive them. I think that the Apostle Paul was Martin Luther's hero because after reading his many letters, Luther became convinced of God's love and forgiveness. Now, you are probably wondering why the 31st of October - that is the day Martin Luther

nailed a very famous letter to the door (remember no TV, I-pads, or computers in those days) stating his feelings about unworthy practices of the church. As the turmoil in the church unfolded and wrong ideas were changed, Luther bravely preached, celebrated the Sacraments, taught, and wrote all about God's love.

After many years of struggle and torment against the church and the government, Martin Luther changed the course of church history - he translated the Bible into German and the former Latin mass evolved into the language of the people and then all could listen to the Word of God. New churches came into being - Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist, etc. - all as a result of the Protestant Reformation. The **most** important thing is that all Christians can live knowing that **Jesus, who died on the cross, has already paid for our sins, and if we have faith in Him, we are forgiven.** On Reformation Sunday, we will sing "A Mighty Fortress is Our God," and we will see **red** paraments and also someone will probably have a pin on their clothing of the Lutheran Rose.

As I am writing this for the newsletter, I am thinking back to the year 2000 when Mr. Yost and I traveled with several people from Saint Matthew to "Lutherland" and we saw the famous door where Luther nailed his proposal for a change in the church, some of the many houses where he lived, and of course many Lutheran churches. All that reminiscing reminded me of a brave and dedicated man who wanted to bring the teachings of Jesus to **all** the people.

Dear Parents,

Would you and your child like to read a book about an adventurous, brave, and faithful man? The book *Martin Luther* found in our church library traces the boyhood, college and divinity student - all the way up to the Protestant Reformation with colorful illustrations and an easily understandable story line. You will find the answers to:

- What was Luther like as a teenager?
- What upset him about the church and what changes did he want?
- What difficulties did Luther encounter while trying to make changes in the church?
- Did Luther ever find happiness? How?
- Why does the world consider Martin Luther a great man?

- Sylvia Yost

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Christian Education Committee

Rally Day was held on September 7. The theme for this year was once again "God's Work, Our Hands." After an opening in the sanctuary, youth and adults assembled 30 breakfast bags and over 30 meals for Aid for Friends. Our church has been supporting this organization for years, and we were

delighted to have the youth of our church be a part of it. A special thank you to Rick Link for making the chili casseroles. Youth then had time to meet with their teachers.

Sunday School will be held every Sunday beginning in the sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. After a brief opening, individual classes will meet. There is a class for everyone from age 3 to adult. Come and join us!

A Sunday School teacher is needed for the 5th and 6th graders. Please talk to Carol Penjucke or Pastor Karl for more details.

Bibles for Third Graders will be distributed at the 10:15 service on October 26. We hope the children will enjoy using them.

Confirmation will take place on November 2 at the 10:15 service. Please come and celebrate this special event in a young person's faith journey.

- Carol Penjucke

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News from the Blue Jean Saturday Group

We have had two good Saturdays. We weeded, we replaced broken or burned out things, and we cleaned. We help our budget by doing instead of paying. Most of all, this group is having fun and enjoying good fellowship with everyone. Please join us on the third Saturday of every month, from 8:30 to 11:00. See you there!

- Joe Regan

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Family Ministries

Family Ministries is hosting its annual Halloween Party on Saturday, October 25th, from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Please join us for fun games, crafts, and "spooktacular" goodies! Adults and children are welcome to come in costumes. R.S.V.P. to Heather Markland by October 15th at hmteach@hotmail.com.

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Library



Hello, my friends, and here we are into Fall and preparing for Halloween. Calm down and take a moment to de-stress. Our book this month is "Intimate Moments with the Savior," written by Ken Gire, Shelf #232.9 GIR. "Intimate Moments with the Savior" is a devotional tapestry, richly woven from threads

of scripture, meditation, and prayer. It captures the intimate moments Jesus spent with individuals, and how those moments forever changed their lives.

In a world filled with "hurried" moments and stressful times, Ken Gire takes us to a place of rest and escape - right at the Savior's feet. He reminds us that intimacy - not activity - is the yardstick that measures our love for Christ.

The Children's Library is complete. Thank you to Don Yost for his excellent craftsmanship. Take a look for yourselves. It is in the Christian Education building where the stage used to be.

- Barbara Kinsey

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First Thursday Friends ("FTF")

The First Thursday Friends will be gathering for lunch on October 2 at 11:30 a.m. at the Olive Garden at 1001 Baltimore Pike, Springfield, PA 19064. Everyone is welcome. All you need is a good appetite for good Italian food. If you would like to share a ride, please contact John Stefl.

- John Stefl

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Men's Breakfast

The October breakfast will be held at The Court Diner, 140 E. Baltimore Pike, Media, on Saturday, October 18, 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.

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Women of the ELCA News

Welcome to the start of the 2014-2015 year of the Women of the ELCA. It's always nice to begin again after the summer hiatus. I hope all of you had a restful time and are ready to meet in our circles and share with each other your fun times during the summer break. Of course, the important part of our circle meetings is the work we do for those less fortunate - a time of busy hands and happy hearts in knowing we are helping to make things a little brighter for these brothers and sisters in Christ. I hope the women of Saint Matthew Lutheran Church, who at the present time are not involved in the women's group, would consider joining one of the two circles (Sarah Circle - 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday evening, or the Esther Circle - 10:00 a.m. on the fourth Wednesday morning.) We meet September to May, and we look forward to welcoming you at a circle meeting of your choice. The ladies will make you feel right at home! Will we see

you there?

The Fall Women of the ELCA Delaware Conference will be on Saturday, October 25, 2014, and it will be held at Saint Matthew, Woodlyn, PA - Fairview Road and Lukens Avenue. Registration is 10 a.m., followed by brunch at 10:30 a.m. Following brunch will be the meeting and speaker, The Rev. Dolores Littleton of Trinity Lutheran Church, Havertown, PA. There will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the hallway - we will carpool to this event. Hope you are able to attend.

The schedule for October is as follows:

- October 8 - 9:30 a.m. - Board Meeting
- October 11 - 10:30 a.m. - Lutheran World Relief Quilting
- October 15 - 10:00 a.m. - Ronald McDonald Quilting
- October 22 - 10:00 a.m. - Esther Circle
- October 25 - 10:00 a.m. - Fall Women of ELCA Delaware Conference
- October 28 - 7:30 p.m. - Sarah Circle

- Dee Bratz and the Executive Board

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Pumpkin Patch at Holy Spirit, Secane

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, 2545 Franklin Avenue, Secane is having a Pumpkin Patch at the church beginning Monday, October 6, through Halloween. There will be pumpkins of all sizes for sale. Stop in Mondays through Fridays from 2 to 8 p.m.; Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 8 p.m.

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Music Notes



Our regular adult choir season is just getting under way, and it is **never too late** to join us! Choir rehearsal is Thursday from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., and the choir sings as a group on the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Sundays of the month at the 10:15 a.m. service. The adult choir consists of those of high school age and up. Join us for some fun and fellowship as well as to be part of our worship team.

There will also be opportunities for special music (vocal and instrumental) throughout the year. Even if you can't commit

to an ongoing rehearsal schedule, if you like to sing, or if you play an instrument, please let me know so I can keep you in the loop on what is happening. Possibly, if there is enough interest, we could create an occasional new loop (bells anyone?). Hope to hear from **you!**

- Pat McHugh

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Saint Matthew Christian Nursery School News



The staff and I are so happy to be back for another school year. We have 165 smiling faces that greet us and lots of hugs. I am pleased to welcome back all of our staff members and cannot express enough thanks for all of their hard work and dedication getting our school ready for the 2014-2015 school year. We would like to thank Ted Hidell, Joe Regan, and Janice Gardner for helping with the opening of our school year.

The month of October brings a visit from the Springfield Fire Company, Mrs. Helen Shelton beginning our music program, and our Halloween parades.

We ask for God's blessing, and thank Him for the children who are in our care.

- Linda M. Maylie, Director

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Social Ministry

Thank you to all of the volunteers who prepared and assembled 144 meals for Aid for Friends at our recent cook-off.

Rick Link will be leading a group that will be packing food at the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry on Thursday evening, October 23. Please see Rick if you can help in this effort.

- Cheryl Morrell

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Monthly Mailbag

Dear Friends of Saint Matthew,



The death of my brother, Paul, came earlier than was expected. The cards, calls and flowers during his illness and passing were greatly appreciated. We talk about the church being a family of believers,

but at times like this, the expressions of the members were comforting to me and my family.

Sincerely,
Bill Kobasa

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Dear Saint Matthew and Altar Guild,

Thank you so much for the flowers for my birthday. They are beautiful. They brightened my day.

Yours in Christ,
Bea Toomey

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Dear Pastor Richard and Congregation,

We wish to express our gratitude to Pastor Oppold for his visit when Bill was hospitalized. His visit was very much appreciated. God has blessed Bill and he's healing nicely, thanks to all your prayers. He received a number of phone calls and a lot of cards. Thank you so much for all the support from Saint Matthew and the congregation.

Sincerely,
Bill and Mary Long

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Vital Statistics

Births: **Jocelyn Alene McCallum**
Daughter of Jared and Katie McCallum
Born August 22, 2014

Logan Michael O'Brien
Son of Nathan and Laura O'Brien
Born September 5, 2014

Baptism: **Jovie Aisling McBrearty**
Daughter of Patrick and Laura McBrearty
Born March 21, 2013
Baptized August 24, 2014

50th Wedding Anniversary: **Bill and Dale Singley**
October 10, 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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