



# The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of  
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church  
Springfield, Pennsylvania

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



## From Our Pastor

Connect  
Care  
Equip  
Cultivate

What does it mean to be a Christian living in this world? How are we to act? How are we to live? Should what we say on Sunday matter on Monday? Or is being a Christian a matter of personal belief (a sort of spiritual insurance?) that does not need to affect what we do in the world?

As we recognize the beginning of the Reformation of the Church this month, as we remember our “namesake” Martin Luther, it may be good for us to recall that he, as a priest and a professor, spent all his time teaching people how one’s faith should be incorporated into everything one does, whether that be how we treat our parents, or how we do our job, or how we act in the public square. While his primary focus was to teach people of the love of God in Jesus, rather than the wrath of God so often experienced in and through the Church, the effect of that was to make a difference in people’s day-to-day lives. If God has loved me, so should I love others. Since Christ died for me, a poor sinner, I should live for others. As grace and compassion has been shown to me, so should I act with grace and compassion to those around me. We should, because of who we are as Christians, live differently toward others than the world would have us live.

This is how Luther taught those in his University classes, and those in his parish to live. He wrote his Small Catechism precisely to help teach families the basics of the faith *so that* love of God would lead toward acting in love of neighbor. For instance, in his teaching on the fifth commandment (you shall not kill) Luther would say, “We are to fear and love God, so that we neither endanger nor harm the lives of our neighbors, but instead help and support them in all of life’s needs.” It is incumbent on the person who follows Christ to not simply avoid doing bad to a neighbor; we are called to help our neighbor as well.

But as we live out our faith, we should not confuse being faithful with being moralistic. Sometimes the need of a neighbor, just like the needs we have ourselves, are not neatly tied up in simplistic dictums of what to do, or not to do. For instance, when Jesus healed people on the sabbath, which was more important? The strict code of not “working” on the Lord’s Day, or the need to help a person in pain while one has the opportunity to do so?

When we live faithfully in love toward our neighbor because we have known the love of God, one’s personal sense of morality needs to give way to the necessity to care for the other in *their* need. “Right” and “Wrong” needs to be answered not in terms of rules and regulations, but in light of the love, grace, and compassion of Christ. This does not mean “anything goes,” but neither can it mean we have a code that, if not followed, cuts people off from each other, and presumes they are cut off from God. There is more gray than black and white in this world. There is more nuance to situations that needs to be seen before we determine what the “right” answer is. Perhaps it is not always, or ever, so much the right answer, as it is the best answer we can find at this time.

As we continue to lean into our lives as Christ’s people, let us not forget that what we hear on Sunday should absolutely affect how we live on Monday – from how we treat each other, to how we do our jobs, to how we act and speak in the public square. We are called to live differently than the world. We are called to live with the love, grace, and compassion of Christ to all whom we meet. May we continually be reformed into the likeness of Jesus to live and love as he did.

Pastor Karl M. Richard

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## Worship and Music

At the time I am writing this we have very successfully celebrated two Sundays of "Worship with Sunday School" at the 9:30 a.m. service. It is wonderful to see and hear kids as they gather with their parents/family in the sanctuary for the first hymn through the Gospel reading and then leave the sanctuary with their Sunday School teachers for their lesson. The adults remain in the sanctuary for the Sermon and Prayer of the Church after which time the kids return for communion where they are invited to come forward to receive communion or a special blessing - depending upon their age - and stay through the end of the service. I encourage your family to join in as it is proving to be a nice blend of worship and learning together.

We are still worshipping outside in the tent at the 8:00 a.m. service while the weather permits. Hopefully we will have some beautiful fall days to be outside. While the tent will stay up through October, a decision will be made each week whether to gather outside or in. Some mornings may be a bit chilly and a sweater or jacket would be a good idea.

We are putting together instrumental ensembles for the celebration of Reformation and the upcoming Advent/Christmas season. During the last school year many youth joined us playing

in their own ensemble as well as joining in with the adult ensemble on the hymns. The plan will be similar this year and will include Reformation Sunday. While we will be reaching out to those who were part of the ensembles in the past years, we also want to invite any adult or youth instrumentalist who may not have joined us previously. (Depending on the instrument, we may be able to find loaner instruments for an adult if you no longer have one.) We would love to hear from you as we start up the ensembles again. Please contact me or the church office.

Pat McHugh  
patmchugh5@verizon.net  
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### News from Your Property Committee

The tent is now back up and looks great, we are back to our early outdoor services with many other activities planned. Hurricane Debby took it down in the rain and with the help of Steve, Bill, Lynda, Craig, and me, we put it up in the rain.

The annual or semi-annual services were done on our generator, and all fire extinguishers were inspected and updated. The toilets in the ladies' room were repaired, the whistle is now gone.

Our new Youth room is now done, all the walls have been painted and our mural has been painted. Thanks to one of our Girl Scouts, Hannah Barber.

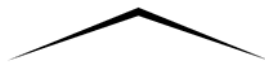
We are all looking forward to the start of our roof project, hopefully soon. We will have our next property meeting in the Parlor on October 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. If have any questions or would like to JOIN, please come.

Joe Regan  
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### Roof Replacement Update

We are still on schedule to start our roof replacement in the next 2-3 weeks. Please watch for supply deliveries which may impact your ability to park. As the work continues there may be temporary closures of parking entrances and exits. We ask for your patience as we begin and complete this project.

Fran Gordon  
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Look Up!  
Trust God!

As the replacement of our roof is set to begin, so does our capital campaign, Look Up! Trust God!

The capital program will begin in mid-September with temple talks by committee leaders over a three-week period explaining our process and goals and giving feedback on where we stand. On October 6<sup>th</sup> after the 9:30 service we plan on a congregational presentation on the capital program to kick off the giving campaign. After the meeting we will be hosting an Oktoberfest event where we will enjoy franks and kraut, root beer, cider and apple cider donuts – Delicious!

There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex for the October 6<sup>th</sup> Oktoberfest event so that will help us to order correctly for the event so we have enough for everyone. At the gathering on the 6<sup>th</sup> you will have the opportunity to hear more about the campaign and receive a commitment card which you can fill out to help us start the campaign.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 6<sup>th</sup>!  
The Campaign Committee

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### Christian Education Update

We had a fabulous Rally Day!! A very special thank you to our wonderful teachers. We are in need of substitute teachers. If you are interested, please reach out to Julie Cirillo. On Rally Day we made 36 personal care kits to be donated to Lutheran World Relief. A very special thank you to everyone who donated the supplies for our kits.

SAVE THE DATE!! We are going north this summer for Vacation Bible School. It is called *True North—Trusting Jesus in a Wild World*. We will be jumping on July 28-August 1. If interested in helping, please reach out to Julie Cirillo.

Julie Cirillo  
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### Sunday School Family Hayride

Join us for a trip to Linvilla Orchards, 137 West Knowlton Road, Media, PA 19063, on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. We will meet in the Linvilla parking lot at 6:45 p.m. Please RSVP ASAP to Nicole Smith [nicolesmith6907@hotmail.com](mailto:nicolesmith6907@hotmail.com). Purchase your tickets for 7:00 p.m. online. Space is limited and times are selling out. Pricing - \$13 for ages 5+; \$10 for ages 1-4. Tickets purchased in person - \$15 for ages 5+; \$12 for ages 1-4. 11 months and under are complimentary. You can use this link to purchase tickets: <https://www.linvilla.com/family-fun/hayride-to-the-witches-house>.

Nicole Smith  
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### Fellowship Committee Update

Fall has arrived and the Fellowship Committee has the following events planned. On Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, we will go on the Hayride to the Witch's House at Linvilla Orchards. We will go on the 7 p.m. hayride and meet at 6:45. You can order your tickets online at Linvilla.com. We will have Trunk or Treat in the parking lot on Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, at 4 p.m. Decorate your car and give out candy to the children. We will have hot dogs, chips, pretzels and s'mores. There will be a sign up genius for attendance and donations.

We are looking into the following events for the holiday: Chester Children's Concert, Rose Tree Light Walk and Flight on Ice for ice skating. I hope everyone will come out to these events.

Barb McClintock  
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### Welcome Church

As we think of cooler weather to come, please remember the homeless with socks, toiletries and coffee. Thank you.

Joan Krauter  
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### Children's Corner

*"The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest."* Psalm 85:12

Dear Children,  
The harvest theme is a pleasure for me to write about as it brings back lovely memories of my childhood. As many of you know, I was raised on a produce farm in northwestern Pennsylvania, and when Autumn was at its height, the air was chilly, colors on the deciduous trees mixed with the various pine trees were gorgeous, the night sky was illuminating, and the crops were ready

for harvest. Although Dad had a regular job, his first love was the soil and he loved the challenge of raising vegetables and fruits from hard clay soil. He spent hours trying to turn unproductive soil into a garden aplenty with luscious food—blueberries, strawberries, melons, corn, asparagus, beans, potatoes, etc. One of my favorite memories in the fall was a corn roast, and I invited our Baptist Youth Fellowship. Dad and the boys built a large fire as we roasted the husked corn and Mom made Sloppy Joes—the feast was followed with singing and fellowship. On a regular evening, as Mom was cooking dinner, she would send John or me to the garden to pick out our favorite veggie. As a side job, we would help Dad sell the vegetables. Dad always told us that if we saw a family that looked like they were barely scraping by, to give them whatever they wanted. I now think what a wonderful way to share God’s bounty. God provides for us and we must share his love.

#### Dear Parents,

I recently was able to continue to enjoy the fruits of the Williams’ farm. Here at Maris Grove, a couple moved into an apartment on our floor. As I introduced myself, I found out that the family had lived in Bradford (my home town) and the man was a pastor of a church in the area. He told me that he often bought produce—especially blueberries—from Dad. What a small world!

Sylvia Yost

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#### Food Collection

We will be collecting food on October 6<sup>th</sup>. We have been remarkably successful in delivering several bags of items to the Media Food Bank over the past months. When we drove into to the Bank this past month on Labor Day weekend, we were greeted by several people and their director who told us they were wondering if we would be coming on a holiday weekend. Of course, the members of Saint Matthew came through again; all the staff were glad to see us. Thank you to all who continue to support our food drive every month. There is a list of suggested needed items on the hallway table.

Nancy Regan

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#### Gemma Services

With the ladies returning to Women of the ELCA circle meetings, we will also return to packaging treat bags for the children in the residential treatment program. Each month we fill small bags with several candy treats for the children to enjoy. We are always looking for nut-free wrapped candy to fill the 70 bags each month. Donations are always accepted including any leftovers from Halloween. There is a box under the table for donations.

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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#### Women of the ELCA Quilts and Sunday School Health Kits

On Wednesday, September 18, the 43 quilts that were created and finished by the ladies of Women of the ELCA and the 36 health kits that were assembled by the Sunday School classes on God’s Work Our Hands Sunday were delivered to Redeemer Lutheran Church in Vineland NJ to an ingathering that will deliver everything collected to the warehouse outside Baltimore MD.

Joe and Nancy Regan

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#### Men’s Breakfast

We have scheduled the Men’s Breakfast for Saturday, October 19, at 7 a.m. at the Court Diner in Media. It’s a great way to start the day!

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#### Nursery School

The school year has begun here at our Nursery School. We are so thrilled with the Terrific Twos and Full Day Programs we are offering again this year! If you are interested in enrolling your child, please contact the Nursery School’s office at 610-543-5589 or visit our website [www.stmattsens.org](http://www.stmattsens.org). We are looking forward to an exciting 2024-2025 school year!

Ana Fischer

Executive Director

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#### November Newsletter Deadline

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

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#### Vital Statistics

##### Baptism

**Rachel Avery Emannual**

Daughter of Ubaid and Delyla Emannual

Born September 19, 2023

Baptized September 22, 2024

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#### Monthly Mailbag

Dear Saint Matthew VBS Friends,

Thanks to you more than 1,000 students started the school year this month with a brand-new backpack filled with supplies they need for success! Because of the generosity of friends and partners like you, Gemma collected twice as many backpacks as last year! Each backpack filled with school supplies went to youth who participate in Gemma’s programs as well as to

children and teenagers in the communities where we work. Thank you for making this impact possible:

- 1,000+ Backpacks
- ~18,000 School Supplies
- ~\$28,000 Saved by Families
- 40+ Group and Individual Donors.

It is with your help that Gemma can accompany so many youth and families from our local communities who are experiencing challenging times. With your support, we are helping to ensure that they know they matter—in this case by providing them with tools to thrive in school.

We would welcome the opportunity to explore additional ways you might support Gemma’s mission, and to show you first-hand the programs you are helping to make possible. Should you have any questions or wish to schedule a visit to one of Gemma’s three locations, please contact me at 610-825-4440, extension 3307 or [Abryant@gemmaservices.org](mailto:Abryant@gemmaservices.org). Thank you

again for your caring support of Gemma’s backpack and school supply collection this year. Your friendship truly matters!

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

Dear Friends,

The Yost family is most appreciative of the phone calls, cards, and prayers as we mourn the passing of Don's sister, Sally McBrayer. We feel so fortunate to belong to such a caring congregation.

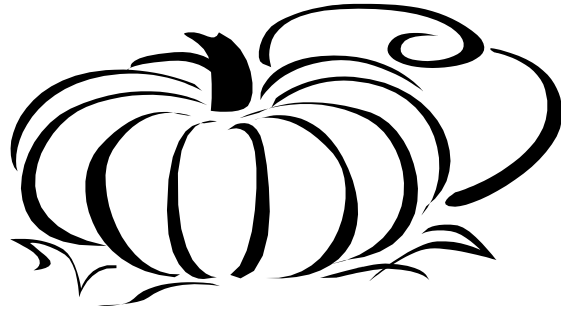
Don and Sylvia Yost  
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### **Worship Responsibilities**

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 November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.  
Thank you!



# Hayride to the Witch's House Come join us

**At Linville Orchards**  
**Saturday, Oct. 26**  
**Ride Time: 7:00 PM**



**Sunday School Hayride**

**Please R.S.V.P. to**

**Nicole Smith**

[nicolesmith6907@hotmail.com](mailto:nicolesmith6907@hotmail.com)



**Tickets Purchased Online**  
**\$13 Ages 5+ / \$10 Ages 1-4**

**Tickets Purchased In Person**  
**\$15 Ages 5+ / \$12 Ages 1-4**

**11 months & under**  
**are complimentary**

**Email or Sign up before**  
**Saturday, October 26th**

**Signup Sheet on Table**  
**Order your tickets online**



**137 West Knowlton Rd.**  
**Media, Pa. 19063**

**Join us for a  
Fall Festival  
with Trunk or Treat  
Sunday, October 27th  
at the church  
starting at 4 PM**



There will be hot dogs,  
pretzels and s'mores.

Please feel free to  
come dressed in costume.

You can decorate your car  
and give out candy to the children.

Go to our website [stmattspringfield.org](http://stmattspringfield.org)  
and use the link to sign up genius.

