



The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Springfield, Pennsylvania

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From Our Pastor

Connect
Care
eQuip
Cultivate

Soli Gratia, Soli Fide, Soli Scriptura

These are the three formative principles of the Reformation. As Luther and his colleagues worked to reform the Church and uncover the core of the Gospel from the many layers of tradition that had obscured the simplicity and power of its life-giving message, they used these three “soli” to guide them: soli gratia, by grace alone; soli fide, by faith alone; soli scriptura, by the Word of God alone.

Over the 1,500 years since Jesus had returned to heaven, the Church had added many traditions to the lived and taught expression of Jesus’ death and resurrection. There were also many other traditions that had been added to guide the worship practices of the people, and the order and structure of the church. Among these traditions were the power and primacy of the Pope as the Prince of the Church and the Vicar of Christ; the veneration of Mary and other saints in a way that placed them, if not on a full par with Jesus, as gatekeepers and intermediaries of God’s grace; the concepts of purgatory and limbo; and a need for some sort of action on our part to prove to God our sincerity before the grace of Jesus would be granted – an indulgence of some sort must be offered to show we are truly penitent. While the reformers believed tradition could be helpful for many things (e.g. Luther kept most of the order of the Mass), if the traditions and teachings of the Church could not be borne out by a clear reference to the Scriptures, it is the tradition that needed to yield, not the Word of God. Soli Scriptura was their guiding principle in evaluating what was helpful, and what was a hindrance to our relationship with God through Christ.

The tradition that had grown over two and a half millennia had caused people to doubt their salvation. How could people know if they had done enough to prove their contrition? What if they did not confess everything before they died? How long would they and their loved ones need to spend in purgatory before they could be admitted into heaven? Could they borrow from the goodness of the great saints who had gone before them to “make up” some of the deficit they had as human beings who live in sin? The practice of the Church and its codification of acts to do before absolution could be granted, obscured the words of Jesus that all a person needed to do to be

saved was to trust in him and his love for them. “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.” (Mt. 11:28) “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, so that whoever believes in him ... should have eternal life.” (Jn. 3:16) It is solely by our faith, our trust, in Jesus that we are saved. It is by what He has done, not what we have done, that we are offered a place in the Kingdom of God. Soli Fide; by faith alone.

And the way that such salvation is possible, the way in which everyone who believes in Jesus can be saved, is Soli Gratia, by the grace of God. A simple definition of grace is “God’s love, freely given.” It is given freely, without cost to us, although at the cost of Jesus’ whole self on the cross. It is given without end, as a river flows freely to the sea. Grace is a gift, not a reward. It is based in love, not in accounts receivable. It is given, not earned. The reformers knew well the sinfulness of the world, and of their own lives. And they felt the same pressures others did, questioning what one must do to be saved from this world of sin and death. As they turned to the Word of God, they rediscovered what had been there all along, but which had been buried under tradition. “Since all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, they are put right with God by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” (Rom. 3:23-24) “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Eph. 2:8-9) Not by our efforts, but by God’s love for us in Jesus. Soli Gratia, by grace alone.

These principles still guide our lives in the Christian Faith. And the idea of Grace reigns supreme. When we can recognize that it is simply out of Love that God accepts us and forgives our sin, we can see that God’s love is what can redeem the entire world. When we recognize that God’s grace is enough for us, we can look on our neighbor with compassion and declare God’s grace is also enough for them to have a new life.

What a different world it could be if we looked to what the Scripture actually says, not what the world and tradition claim it says, if we could learn to trust in Jesus with all we are, and if we could see the grace and mercy of God as the guiding and unifying nature of God’s interaction with us all. Maybe the world might be reformed into the image of Jesus!

There are two final “soli” that the church has also adopted: Soli Christus, and Soli Deo Gloria. By Christ alone, and to God alone be the Glory. May it be so.

Pastor Karl M. Richard

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What happened last month at our Church?

We removed the large, overgrown bushes in the front of the church last year. We are now ready to plant 6 Shamrock Inkberry plants. Once they get established, they require little maintenance, are slow growing and only grow to three or four feet in height.

In this last month they finished working on three out of the eight main air conditioning units that keep our church cool. They needed major repairing. And we needed a new water filter that keeps the water in the heating system clean and corrosive free. Although very necessary, it still cost us over sixteen thousand dollars.

Last month we had one of our projectors in the main sanctuary stop working. We were incredibly lucky, and it was only a bulb, and we had one left as extra. That was the good news. The sad news is these projectors are over twenty-five years old, and parts are no longer available. So, parts and bulbs may be a problem. Along with our projectors, our plastic utility tables are over ten years old, and we are now replacing them as they break.

Joe Regan, Property Chair

Financial Update—June

Heavenly Father, we come before You with grateful hearts, thanking You for the blessings and generosity of our community. Guide us in managing our resources with wisdom and integrity. Inspire us to use our gifts to further Your mission and serve those in need. May our decisions reflect compassion and purpose as we work together to support our church. In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.

	<u>June 2025</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Giving/Income	\$ 96,105.	\$ 328,833.
Expenses	<u>49,535.</u>	<u>306,536.</u>
Plus/Minus	\$ 46,570.	\$ 22,297.

Summary: For June 2025, we have a surplus of \$46,570. Key contributors include a Nursery School profit share of \$38,937, exceeding our budget by \$8,200 and a generous \$20,000 offering from a member. Year-to-date, we are up \$22,300 compared to a budgeted deficit of \$36,900, resulting in a positive variance of \$59,200. We are slightly over budget on expenses by \$3,900.

Envelope/General Giving: This month, our total giving reached \$48,537, consisting of Envelope contributions of \$48,273 and plate offerings of \$264. We are especially grateful for a generous offering from a member, which greatly contributed to helping with our budget. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our church's mission! Your generosity makes a significant difference in our community.

Giving Opportunities: As we look to the future, it's essential to remember the importance of consistent giving. Your contributions not only support our current needs but also create opportunities for growth and increase our capacity for stewardship within our community. Together, we can continue to make a meaningful impact.

Roof Fund Pledges: This is a friendly reminder to please continue sending in your pledges that were made for the Roof Fund. These funds are being used to replenish our endowment funds, allowing us to support our church's mission. Continuing to contribute to your pledge makes a difference and helps ensure

a strong financial future for our community. Thank you for your continued support and commitment.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Cunningham and
Rebecca DeSantis

Financial Update—July

Heavenly Father, As we reflect on our church's finances this September, we acknowledge the challenges we've encountered this month. We are grateful for the blessings we have received and for the generosity of our community. Guide us in using our resources wisely and help us deepen our commitment to giving. May our collective efforts foster growth and empower us to serve our community effectively. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

	<u>July 2025</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Giving/Income	\$ 27,952.	\$ 356,426.
Expenses	<u>46,559.</u>	<u>353,095.</u>
Plus/Minus	(\$ 18,967.)	\$ 3,331.

Summary: While we experienced a shortfall of \$19,000 for the month, we are pleased to report that year-to-date, we remain positive with a surplus of \$3,331. It's important to note that our budget for this period anticipated a deficit of \$45,100, meaning we are performing significantly better than expected.

Envelope/General Giving: We want to stress the importance of our Envelope/General Giving, especially as we navigate through this month. While we experienced a shortfall of \$19,000, your contributions are vital for sustaining our church's mission and ensuring we can continue to serve our community effectively. Now more than ever, we encourage everyone to remain committed to their giving. Each donation helps!

Giving Opportunities: By regularly pledging our gifts, we establish a solid foundation that empowers us to plan and support vital ministry programs and outreach initiatives. Every contribution, regardless of its size, is a blessing and helps us carry out our mission to serve others and spread God's love. We encourage each of you to remain steadfast in your commitment to giving, as we collectively work to further our mission and strengthen our community. Thank you for your continued generosity and support, which are invaluable during these times. Let us keep moving forward together in faith and love!

Roof Fund Pledges: We'd like to remind you to keep sending in your pledges for the Roof Fund. Your generous contributions are vital as we work to replenish our endowment funds, which in turn supports our church's mission. By fulfilling your pledge, you play an important role in securing a bright financial future for our community. We truly appreciate your ongoing support and commitment!

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Cunningham and
Rebecca DeSantis

Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee is looking for a few new ideas and some additional members. As fall approaches it is time to start planning our annual campaign. If you would like to join our committee or have a new and exciting campaign idea, please contact Pastor or Fran Gordon. It is a short-term committee, we will

start meeting at the end of September and be done by December. And, you will not be expected to ask anyone in person for money!

Fran Gordon

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Christian Education Update

On Rally Day we were able to make **42 Health kits!** Thank you to everyone for their donations. Rally Day GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS was clearly shown at Saint Matthew!

Our Sunday School year is on its way. We have classes for preschool children up to Adult during our Worship with Sunday School. We have a new class for our High School students. We are always looking for substitutes if you are interested in helping with our Christian education.

This year Christian Education and Fellowship are going to have our 3rd annual Trunk or Treat. Please save the date--October 26th at 4 p.m. We hope to see you there!

Thank you for all your support!

Julie Cirillo

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Family Hayride

Join us for a trip to Linvilla Orchards, 137 West Knowlton Road, Media, PA 19063, on Saturday, October 18th. We will meet in the Linvilla parking lot at 6:45 p.m. Purchase your tickets for 7:00 p.m. online. Space is limited and times are selling out. Pricing for tickets bought online - \$13 for ages 5+; \$10 for ages 1-4. Tickets purchased in person - \$16 for ages 5+; \$12 for ages 1-4. Eleven months and under are complimentary. You can use this link to purchase tickets: <https://www.linvilla.com/family-fun/hayride-to-the-witches-house>.

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Fellowship Committee Update

The Fellowship Committee will be hosting a coffee hour between the services on October 5th. Stay after the 1st service or come early to the 2nd service to enjoy food and fellowship.

The following events are planned for October. The Hayride to the Witch's House at Linvilla Orchards will be on October 18th at 7 p.m. Please purchase your tickets on their website. We will go on the 7 p.m. hayride and meet at 6:45 at Linvilla.

We will be having Trunk or Treat in the church parking lot on October 26th at 4 p.m. Please watch for the link in the email for participation and food and candy donations. There will also be a paper signup sheet in the hallway. I hope you will join us for fellowship at one or all of 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



Kingdom Kids Newsletter

Theme: "Taking Care of What God Has Given Us"

Scripture Focus: *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others."* – 1 Peter 4:10



What is Stewardship?

Stewardship means taking care of the things God has given us — like our time, toys, talents, the Earth, and even our money! God made everything, and He trusts us to use His gifts wisely. That means sharing, helping, and making good choices.



Bible Story of the Month

The Parable of the Talents – Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus tells a story about a man who gave his servants money to take care of while he was gone. Some used it well and made more, but one hid it and did nothing with it. Jesus teaches us that we should use what God gives us — not waste it!



Ask yourself:

- What talents or gifts has God given me?
- How can I use them to help others?



Stewardship Ideas for Kids

- **Time:** Help your parents without being asked!
- **Talent:** Use your singing, art, or sports skills to bring joy to others.
- **Treasure:** Give a portion of your allowance or birthday money to church or a cause you care about.
- **Creation:** Pick up trash at the park or help water the garden.



Let's Get Creative!

This Month's Challenge: "God's Gift Journal"

Each day for 7 days, write or draw ONE thing God gave you that you're thankful for — and how you can take care of it.



Memory Verse Game

Practice this verse at home:

"The Earth is the Lord's, and everything in it." – Psalm 24:1

Challenge: Say it with silly voices, sing it like a song, or create hand motions!



Parent Corner

This month's focus on **Stewardship** opens great family discussions! Here are a few tips:

- Talk about where your money goes and let kids help choose a giving goal.
- Encourage chores as a way to steward time and responsibility.
- Highlight how Jesus gave *everything* for us — and how we can give back with joy.

Thank you for growing God's gifts together!

— Your Children's Ministry Team

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Beds for Kids

Beds for Kids continues to collect items to reverse children's bedlessness. We are collecting new pillows, new or gently used single bed sheets, blankets, and spreads or comforters, children's books and stuffed animals in good condition. There is a box under the table in the hall for all donations. Thank you to all who support this program.

Nancy Regan

Food Collection

Thank you to all who support the monthly food drive. We continue to collect a car full of food each month. When we arrive at the Media Food Bank the workers are quick to come out to the car with a large shopping cart to help us unload all the boxes and bags of much needed items. They are so grateful for what we provide for them monthly. Our next food drive collection will be on Sunday October 5.

Nancy Regan

Gemma Services

With the beginning of fall we will begin our Everything but The Bird program for the needy families who are serviced by the programs at Gemma. Items collected will be assembled and delivered to families to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal. We were very successful in providing eight meals last year and hope we can meet or exceed that number. The board with item labels will be out soon. Thank you to all who support the program.

Nancy Regan

Men's Breakfast

We have scheduled the Men's Breakfast for Saturday, October 18, at 7 a.m. at the Court Diner in Media. It's a great way to start the day!

Social Ministry

Social Ministry will be continuing with our annual pajama gifts for the children of Faith Immanuel Lutheran Church. Their congregation is growing, which is wonderful; however, this also means 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 14** 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

Nursery School

The Nursery School families and staff had a wonderful summer and are excited to kick off the 2025–2026 school year! After a season full of sunshine and rest, the children have made a smooth transition into their new classrooms and are already settling into their routines with smiles and enthusiasm.

We've started the year with lots of energy and anticipation for the fun ahead. On September 23rd and 24th, our students wore bright red to celebrate the start of the school year in colorful style—it was a joy to see our classrooms filled with cheerful red outfits!

Looking ahead, we're excited to be part of **Springfield Rocks Family Fun Day on Sunday, October 5th**. Stop by and say hello—we'd love to see you there!

We still have openings available for this school year! If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tour, please contact **Jenny Redding, Nursery School Director**, at **610-543-5589**.

Jenny Redding

Nursery School Director

November Newsletter Deadline

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

Vital Statistics

Baptism:

Nora Sue Hewitt

Daughter of Thomas and Susanne Hewitt

Born March 12, 2025

Baptized September 7, 2025

Transfer:

Paula Estornell

Joined Grace Lutheran Church, Broomall—accepted position there.

25th Wedding Anniversary:

Dan and Holly Perlingiero

October 21, 2025

Monthly Mailbag



Dear Pastor Richard,

Thank you to Saint Matthew for supporting the Gemma Capital Campaign with a generous donation of \$150 to support the expansion and relocation of Martin Luther School. This donation will have a big impact in enabling Gemma to meet the needs of our growing student body and provide our students with the best-in-class educational experience they deserve! We are very grateful for your friendship and continued generosity to Gemma Services!

Your congregation's support of the Capital Campaign is instrumental in helping Gemma realize our vision of expanding our special education school—Martin Luther School—to be able to meet the educational needs of hundreds of students each year as their full potential unfolds. We would be happy to

welcome you to visit the new property and see the renovations underway. You can also read updates about the Campaign online at www.gemmaservices.org/capital-campaign.

Thank you again for supporting this Campaign! Should you have any questions about your gift or want to schedule a time to visit 5200 Butler Pike, the future home of our Martin Luther School, please contact Lynn at 610-825-4440 ext. 3206 or Lunipan@gemmaservices.org. We look forward to updating you on the progress of the project and the Campaign! Together we will achieve our vision of creating a school setting that provides a transformative education for our students—because they matter!

With gratitude,
Kristen E. M. Gay, Ph.D., President & CEO
Lynn Unipan, MRSW, CFRE, Chief
Development and Communications Officer

Dear Penny, Nancy and members of Saint Matthew Lutheran Church,

Thank you for providing the 8 health kits for men, 8 health kits for women, 4 twin blankets and the bags of beans, rice and lentils. They will be very much appreciated! It is a tangible way of letting them know that they are not alone—that there is someone who cares about their needs as they begin to settle in. Thank you for your dedicated time and effort in supporting us.

May the Presence, Protection and Power of our Lord and Savior continue to be with you all as your testimony of love for God reaches those in need.

Respectfully,
Lorraine E. Armstrong Martinez and
Melissa Haught
Chester County Migrant Ministry

Dear Saint Matthew Lutheran Church,

Your recent donation of calendars, greeting cards, devotionals, jewelry, socks, bags, and other thoughtful items has truly brightened our residents' days. Each item will find its way into the hands of someone who will treasure it, not only for its usefulness or beauty, but for the kindness it represents.

It's clear that your generosity comes from the heart, and it is felt deeply here at Fair Acres. Your continued support reminds our residents that they are remembered, valued, and cared for by their community.

Thank you for sharing both your gifts and your compassion—we are truly blessed by your friendship.

With sincere appreciation,
Susan Harrar
Director of TAS & Volunteer Services
Fair Acres

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**Join us for a
Fall Festival
with Trunk or Treat
Sunday, October 26th
at the church
starting at 4 p.m.**



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

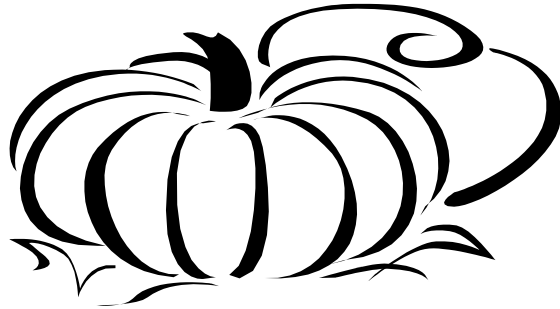
Please feel free to
come dressed in costume.

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

Our nursery school will be holding a
Scholastic Book Fair during this time.

Go to our website stmattspringfield.org
and use the link to sign up genius.

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



The candy will be collected
through November 2nd, 2025.
Thank you!