



The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Springfield, Pennsylvania

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Internet Web Site: stmattspringfield.org



From Our Pastor

Connect
Care
eQuip
Cultivate

The following article is by my wife, Pastor Leslie, who gave me permission to share it with you.

Having grown up as a Lutheran, it had never really occurred to me to wonder whether the date for what has come to be known as Reformation Day had been a deliberate choice made by Martin Luther. It was a day which had simply existed, always, as a part of the fabric of my life. But this year, as I was grumbling to myself about Halloween decorations showing up in the stores as early as mid-August, I did begin to wonder. Why are these two things falling on the same date, October 31? Do they have something in common?

The quick answer is yes, but let's stay together and unpack it a little bit.

The origin of what we call Halloween apparently has its roots in a Celtic ritual called Samhain, which was a type of harvest festival that marked the end of the growing season, and the beginning of the new year. The Celtic new year began on November 1, as they entered the season of winter's darkness, a time often associated with death. The Celts believed that on this night between the end and the beginning of this cycle of time, the boundary between the living and the dead was blurred, and the ghosts of the dead were able to roam free. In order not to be tormented by the dead, Celtic people would disguise themselves so as not to be recognized, and hope that the ghosts would return to the other side by morning.

In the 8th century, Pope Gregory III declared November 1 to be the festival of All Hallowed Saints and Martyrs, as a day to honor the hallowed (holy) dead of the Christian faith. He chose this date specifically, in part to suppress a pagan practice and promote a Christian focus, but I hope also to try to shift people away from terror and toward hope. Eight centuries later, Dr. Martin Luther prepared an academic lecture which he planned to deliver to his fellow professors at the seminary in Wittenburg, Germany. He posted his list of 95 points to be covered in this talk on the community bulletin board, which was the door of the Wittenburg Church. Knowing that the church would be packed with people coming to celebrate the (now mandated attendance) festival, he chose to give his lecture at a time of maximum capacity when everyone was already there, on the day before All Saints, known as All Hallows Eve.

Other than the date, do any of these things have something in common? I think so. Many of the 95 points which Dr. Luther covered in his lecture had specifically to do with the Pope's claim to have authority to release the souls of the dead from the torments of Purgatory, and the Church's sanctioned practice of buying and selling promissory notes of release for these souls. Luther condemned such practices as being antithetical to the free gift of grace and promise of salvation given to us through our Lord Jesus Christ. In Christ we do not have to fear that our soul is to be condemned to torment for our sin, such darkness should not have to haunt us.

I don't know if I will ever like all the gruesome images and decorations that many people are fond of at this time of year. But I think I do have a deeper sympathy for the terrors and uncertainties that human beings have always had to face, and how we try to find ways to express it and cope with it. I don't always feel good about how the Church has acted and appropriated or suppressed the practices of others, but I am grateful for the opportunity to reflect on the faithful service of those who have gone before me in the faith. I am grateful for our brother Martin Luther who had the courage to challenge the Church to remember what Christ has done for us, and that Jesus gave his life so that we may live with him forever. Christ takes away our terror, and gives us hope.

Thanks be to God!
Pr. Leslie M. Richard

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Celebrated Lifetime Ministries Award United Lutheran Seminary

Our Pastor, The Rev. Karl M. Richard, received the Celebrated Lifetime Ministries Award at the United Lutheran Seminary on September 16, 2026.

The "Celebrated Lifetime Ministries" award honors United Lutheran Seminary (and its predecessors Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg/Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia) graduates whose decades of faithful, effective ministry and service to the church and community exemplify a lifetime of dedication to the vocation.

Award Overview

The **Celebrated Lifetime Ministries** award is one of four annual **United Lutheran Seminary Alumni Association (TULSAA)** distinctions. It recognizes alumni who have:

- Demonstrated **dedication to their vocation** and **faithfulness and effectiveness in ministry**
- Shown **witness within the church and community**
- Utilized **unique gifts** in service
- Provided **lifetime illustrations of excellence in ministry**

- Served **synod/judicatory and seminary** in meaningful ways

The award is open to all ULS graduates and certificate holders, and nominations are submitted annually by fellow alumni.

The Rev. Karl M. Richard, MDiv., LTSP '87 was the 2026 recipient.

A lifelong Lutheran and follower of Jesus, Pastor Richard:

- Was baptized in the ULCA in Jerusalem (PA), confirmed in the LCA, and ordained in 1987 into the ELCA ministry
- Served **39 years** in the ELCA, with three calls:
 - Evangelical Lutheran, Poestenkill, NY (Upstate NY Synod)
 - Saint Paul's Lutheran, Applebachsville, PA (SEPA Synod)
 - Saint Matthew Lutheran Church, Springfield, PA (SEPA Synod, since 2008)
- Also served as vice pastor at former congregations in NY and PA
- Participated in cooperative ministries such as the Rensselaer County Lutheran Cooperative Ministry, Sand Lake (NY) Ecumenical Ministerium, and the Springfield (PA) Ecumenical Ministerium
- Attended four ELCA Youth Gatherings, bringing 28 youth to these events
- Supervised three candidates for ministry

Our congratulations to Pastor Karl on receiving this well-deserved recognition. We celebrate your career of dedicated ministry!

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Property Update

At our property meeting, we started working on our budget. This year, if everything stays the way it is going now, we will be over budget, but not a lot. In September we had the water filter changed and additives added to keep our water corrosive free. Some minor repairs were done to our elevator. The State elevator inspector is scheduled for later this month for our elevator to be certified.

The bushes outside of our church were trimmed, more weeding was done again, the dead bushes and weeds were removed and grass planted on the Nursery side of the Church. Our fire alarm had problems, and it was repaired and is now working fine.

Joe Regan, Property Chair

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Financial Update—August

Gracious God, we give thanks for the many ways You continue to provide for Saint Matthew and its ministries. Help us to be faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to us, thoughtful in the decisions we make and generous in the ways we support one another. Guide our church as we plan for the months ahead so that our financial choices always serve Your mission and strengthen our ability to care for our congregation and community. Amen.

	<u>August 2026</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Giving/Income	\$ 31,131.	\$ 385,385.
Expenses	51,377.	383,518.
Plus/Minus	(\$ 20,246.)	\$ 1,867.

Summary: August ended with a deficit of \$20,246, which was slightly better than our budgeted deficit for the month. Year to date, Saint Matthew remains \$1,868 in the positive. This puts us approximately \$73,682 ahead of budget through the end of August. Our year-to-date income is approximately \$57,022 over budget, while expenses are approximately \$16,660 under budget. These two factors continue to help us maintain a stronger position than originally projected for this point in the year.

Envelope/General Giving: August Worship Giving totaled \$23,299, which was approximately \$2,174 over budget for the month. Year to date, Worship Giving totals \$280,386, which is approximately \$37,986 ahead of budget through August. This continued support from our congregation is an important part of helping Saint Matthew meet its ongoing ministry and operating expenses.

Giving Opportunities: In addition to regular giving, there are several ways to support specific areas of ministry at Saint Matthew. Please ask if you have any questions of additional ways you can give. These designated gifts allow members to support ministries or needs that are especially meaningful to them while helping Saint Matthew continue its work within the congregation and community. Every gift makes a difference, and we are grateful for the continued generosity of our church family.

Roof Fund Pledges: Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this fund. Building reserves for major property needs helps Saint Matthew prepare for necessary repairs while reducing the impact those expenses may have on our regular operating budget. Please be sure to continue to submit your pledges.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Cunningham and
Rebecca DeSantis

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Christian Education Update

On Rally Day, we did God's Love, Our Hands by making health kits. We made 41 health kits for Lutheran World Relief.

Thank you for all the help with the supplies for the health kits! A special thank you to Nancy and Joe Regan for driving the kits to a drop-off site. Our younger children made cards for people who aren't able to come to church. It was a wonderful day!

We are so thankful to the teachers who are willing to come every week and teach our children about God's love!

Save the date October 25—we will be doing Trunk or Treat!! It will be in our parking lot at 4 p.m.-6 p.m. We need cars decorated to give out candy! Come join in the fun!

Julie Cirillo

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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 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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Fellowship Committee Update

The Fellowship Committee will be hosting a coffee hour between the services on October 4th. We are asking committees to take a turn to host coffee hour. We will be hosting Trunk or Treat on October 25th at 4 p.m. There will be a sign-up sheet for attendance and those who would like to decorate their car and provide their own candy. We are asking the congregation to sign up to provide desserts. We are looking into renting the caboose for the Santa Claus Special train ride at the Wilmington Western Railroad on December 6th at 3:30 p.m. The caboose holds 20 people and the price will be \$20 per person. Once the caboose is full, others can purchase their ticket online for coach seating.

Barb McClintock

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Children's Corner

"God's Love Is All Around Us!"

Dear Families,
October is a wonderful month to slow down and notice all the ways God has blessed us! As the leaves begin to change colors, the weather gets cooler, and we enjoy the beauty of fall, we will be talking with the children about **God's creation, kindness, gratitude, and His great love for each of us.**



October's Bible Theme

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

This month, we will encourage the children to look for things they can be thankful for. We will talk about being thankful for our families, friends, teachers, our homes, animals, food, and the beautiful world God created. Our goal is to help children understand that even the little things in our day can be blessings from God.



Growing in Kindness

October is also a great time to talk about **kindness**.

We will encourage the children to:

- Use kind words.
- Help a friend.
- Share and take turns.
- Include others in play.
- Say "please" and "thank you."
- Forgive one another.
- Look for ways to help someone who needs a friend.

A simple reminder we can give our children is:

"God loves you, and God wants us to show His love to others."



God Made Our Beautiful World

As we explore the changes happening around us this fall, we will remind the children that **God created our amazing world.** Take a walk with your child and look for:



Red, orange, and yellow leaves



Acorns and pinecones



Animals getting ready for winter



Clouds and changing weather



The last flowers of the season

Ask your child, **"What is something beautiful that God made?"**



Reformation Day – October 31

October 31 is **Reformation Day**, an important day in the Lutheran Church. It remembers Martin Luther and the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. In 1517, Luther posted his Ninety-Five Theses in Wittenberg, Germany. At the heart of the Reformation was the message of the Gospel—God's gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

For young children, we will keep the lesson simple:

God loves us.

Jesus loves us.

God's Word teaches us about His love.

We can share God's love with others.

A wonderful verse to share with children is:

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith."

— Ephesians 2:8



Looking Ahead to All Saints' Day

As October comes to an end, we also begin looking toward **All Saints' Day on November 1.** This is a special time in the church year to remember the faithful people who have gone before us and to celebrate that we belong to God's family. This can be a wonderful opportunity at home to talk with your child about grandparents, family members, friends, and other people who have shown them God's love.



October Prayer

Dear God,

Thank You for the beautiful colors of fall,
for our families and friends,
for our teachers and our school,
and for all the wonderful things You have created.
Help us to be kind, to help others,
to use loving words,
and to remember that You love us every day.
Thank You for sending Jesus to show us Your love. **Amen.**



Family Faith Challenge

This month, try a **“Thankful Tree”** at home!
Draw or make a tree and add a paper leaf each day. On each leaf, have your child name one thing they are thankful for.
By the end of October, you will have a beautiful reminder of all the blessings God has given your family!
“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!” – Psalm 107:1



A Message to Our Families

Thank you for allowing us to share these special moments of faith with your children. We are blessed to watch them learn, grow, ask questions, care for one another, and discover more about God's wonderful world.
May your October be filled with **beautiful fall days, family memories, kindness, and many reasons to give thanks!**

— Your Children's Ministry Team

Welcome Church

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

Joan Krauter

Food Collection

We continue to deliver food donated by so many members of Saint Matthew each month to the Media Food Bank. The staff now greets us with large shopping baskets to unload all. Thanks to everyone who supports this program. Also, the food bank is always in need of paper bags, and we will accept and deliver them. Our next delivery Sunday will be October 4.

Nancy Regan

Gemma Services

Gemma Services has added a beautiful new school for the children who are in the program. There was an open house and tour that we were able to attend. There are many programs where we can assist them. We will be collecting items for the Everything but The Bird program that will provide all the items needed for a successful Thanksgiving Dinner. The items needed will be going up on a bulletin board in the hallway. Last year we were able to provide several meals.

We will also soon be collecting any leftovers or donations of

nut-free Halloween candy. The ladies of the Women of the ELCA Circle will assemble small treat bags at their monthly meeting for the children in the residential program to enjoy.

Thank you to all who support our projects.

Nancy Regan

Men's Breakfast

We have scheduled the Men's Breakfast for Saturday, October 17, at 7 a.m. at the Court Diner in Media. It's a great way to start the day!

November Newsletter Deadline

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

Nursery School

A Place for Friendship and Learning

We are so excited to begin another wonderful school year at Saint Matthew Christian Nursery School! September has been filled with excitement as we welcomed our students and families back into the building. Our classrooms are once again full of little voices, new friendships, learning, laughter, and lots of smiles.

We are incredibly thankful for the continued support of our church community. Our Nursery School is proud to be a ministry of Saint Matthew Lutheran Church, and we look forward to finding even more opportunities this year to bring our church, school, and families together.

October is going to be a very busy and exciting month at the Nursery School!

Our students will have a special visit from the local fire department as we learn about fire safety and the important work firefighters do in our community. We will also begin our Hot Lunch program and Pretzel Thursdays, which are always exciting additions to our school days.

One of our biggest events of the month will be our Trunk-or-Treat and Scholastic Book Fair on Sunday, October 25, from 4:00–6:00 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring our church and Nursery School communities together for an afternoon of fall fun. During the event, the Nursery School will also be selling children's books as part of our Scholastic Book Fair. Families and church members are invited to stop in, browse the books, and pick out something special for the children in their lives while supporting our Nursery School. We hope to see lots of families and members of our church community joining us!

Two Moms and Some Brew will also be joining us at Trunk-or-Treat with their coffee truck, selling coffee and specialty drinks. A portion of the sales will be given back to our Nursery School, so be sure to stop by and enjoy a special treat while supporting our program.

We will finish the month with our Halloween Parades on

Thursday, October 29, and Friday, October 30. Our students will have the opportunity to dress up, parade in their costumes, and celebrate together. Two Moms and Some Brew will be back both mornings so our families can purchase coffee and specialty drinks while enjoying the festivities.

Joe Corbi's Fundraiser – Our Joe Corbi's fundraiser begins Monday, September 21! Families will be selling Joe Corbi's favorites, including pizzas and other delicious items. This fundraiser is a wonderful way to support Saint Matthew Christian Nursery School while stocking your freezer with easy meals and treats.

If you would like to purchase any Joe Corbi's items, please see Janice in the church office. You can also place an order through one of our Nursery School families. We would love the support of our Saint Matthew church family! Every order helps support our students and our Nursery School program.

Enrollment Is Still Open! – We still have availability in some of our Nursery School programs for the 2026–2027 school year! If you or someone you know is looking for a warm, nurturing place for their child to learn, grow, make friends, and have fun, we would love to welcome them to Saint Matthew Christian Nursery School.

For more information about our programs or to enroll your child, please contact Nursery School Director Jenny Redding at [610-543-5589](tel:610-543-5589). Please feel free to share our information with friends, family, and neighbors who may be looking for a preschool program.

We are looking forward to a wonderful fall filled with friendship, learning, faith, and community. Thank you to our church family for continuing to support and pray for our students, staff, and families. We are so grateful to be part of the Saint Matthew community!

Jenny Redding
Nursery School Director

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Upcoming Events at Grace Lutheran, Broomall

The Grace Wellness Center Fall Festival will be held on Sunday, October 11, from 12:00-3:00 at Grace Lutheran, 2191 West Chester Pike, Broomall. They will be celebrating 5 years of holistic wellness by offering food, tours, hosting fun activities and information booths so people can learn more about the wide array of wellness offerings.

The **Look for the Light** event will be held on Saturday, December 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Grace Lutheran. Sister D'Etta Broam, Deacon for Health and Wholeness, SC Synod, ELCA, will be the speaker. Prepare your hearts for the coming of the Christ Child. How do we look for the light on our darkest days? Cost is \$60—lunch is provided.

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Vital Statistics

Marriage:	Kathy Kelly and Danny Grune August 8, 2026
Death:	Jean Fisher Died August 27, 2026 Funeral September 12, 2026
Baptisms:	Fiona Grace Sorgi Born October 17, 2018 Baptized September 20, 2026 Daughter of Andrew Sorgi and Erin Dixon
	Cecilia Kate Sorgi Born January 12, 2020 Baptized September 20, 2026 Daughter of Andrew Sorgi and Erin Dixon
	Ember Isabella Sorgi Born April 22, 2022 Baptized September 20, 2026 Daughter of Andrew Sorgi and Erin Dixon

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Monthly Mailbag

Dear Pastor Richard,

We are very grateful for Saint Matthew's friendship and generosity! Thank you for the donation of \$80. This gift supports Gemma's vital behavioral health, prevention, child welfare programs, and Martin Luther School. Your support truly matters!

With the help of partners 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 difficulties, 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 three locations to see firsthand the programs you are helping us to provide. Should you be interested in exploring volunteer opportunities, please let us know. You can also learn more about all of Gemma's programs, latest happenings, and current support needs by visiting www.gemmaservices.org.

Thank you for being a part of Gemma! Together, we are working to create a world where every person knows they matter. Should you have any questions, wish to schedule a visit, or explore volunteering, please contact Lynn at 610-825-4440 ext. 3206 or Lunipan@gemmaservices.org. On behalf of all of us at Gemma, thank you and best wishes.

Sincerely,
Lynn Unipan, MSW, CFRE, Chief
Development & Communications Officer
Amanda Bryant
Director of Donor & Volunteer Engagement

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**Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
and
Saint Matthew Christian Nursery School**
A place for friendship and learning.

Faith
Family
Fun
Community

TRUNK-OR-TREAT

AND SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Faith • Family • Fun • Community



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25
4:00 – 6:00 PM

SAINT MATTHEW CHURCH PARKING LOT

TREATS
FRIENDSHIP
COMMUNITY!

BOOKS
BUILD
BRIGHTER
FUTURES!

ALL
ARE
WELCOME!

COSTUMES
BOOKS
COFFEE
COMMUNITY
FALL FUN



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The Nursery School will be selling children's books as part of our Scholastic Book Fair. Families and church members are invited to stop in, browse the books, and pick out something special for the children in their lives while supporting our Nursery School.

*Books make
great treats!*



TWO MOMS AND SOME BREW

Two Moms and Some Brew will be joining us with their coffee truck, selling coffee and specialty drinks. A portion of the sales will be given back to our Nursery School, so be sure to stop by and enjoy a special treat while supporting our program!

*Good Coffee
Stronger Community!*



TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Children are invited to dress in their costumes and visit the decorated trunks for treats, smiles, and fall fun!



WE ARE LOOKING FOR FAMILIES TO DO TRUNKS!

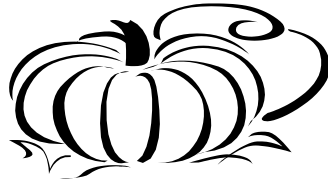
Help make this event a success by decorating a trunk and sharing in the fun with our community!

PLEASE RSVP TO THE CHURCH
<https://stmattspringfield.org/>

*We hope to see lots of families and members
of our church community joining us!*

*All Are
Welcome!*

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



The candy will be collected
through November 1st, 2026.
Thank you!