



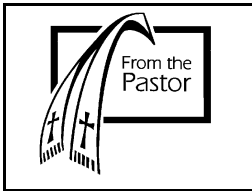
The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Springfield, Pennsylvania

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From Our Pastor

*"The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.*

*Morning by morning God wakens -
wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught."
Isaiah 50:4*

There are so many beginnings in a year: January 1st, the first day of Spring, one's birthday, or the one we approach now - the first day of school. No matter what the calendar says, this last seems to be culturally the most common beginning. Even if we have been out of school for years, there is a draw and an excitement that this time of year brings: new clothes, new classes, new friends, a new chance to start over.

The verse above marks a new beginning for the people of Israel, and for the prophet Isaiah. After a long time in exile, there will be a new beginning. The time of separation is over; the time of reconciliation and restoration is here. The people of Israel are being called home. The servant of the Lord is given the opportunity to hear each day the way in which God is giving a word of hope. The servant is given the chance to sustain the weary with God's word.

Morning by morning God wakens. With the Lord Jesus, each day marks a new beginning: a new chance to hear a word of blessing, a new chance to be reconciled and restored, a new chance to live without fear, because God is calling us to himself.

As summer vacations end and we approach this traditional beginning of a new year, let us put on our new clothes and come back to listen as those who are taught. Let us come back to worship and learning, to prayer and fellowship. Let us hear the word of the One who sustains us with a Holy Word!

See you in church,
Pr. Karl M. Richard

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College Student Addresses

Every fall we like to update our Saint Matthew member addresses of those who are commuting or are away at colleges and universities. Students, moms, and dads: we need your help! Give the church office a call or drop us a card with your school year address on it. Surprises await you!

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Blessing of our Nursery School

This fall we will begin another exciting year for Saint Matthew Christian Nursery School. We are blessed to have a dedicated and caring staff for our school. We are blessed to be able to serve so many families in our community, as we offer learning in a Christian environment to approximately 170 three, four and five year old children. Please join us on Sunday, September 14, as we offer a prayer of blessing and dedication for our school and our staff as we begin a new year of Friendship and Learning.

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Social Ministry

There will be an Aid for Friends Cook-Off on Tuesday, September 9, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Education Wing. There is a sign-up sheet on the hallway table at the church. See Rick Link if you can help or have questions.

Social Ministry continues to support Loaves and Fishes with non-perishable food items, gently used kitchen items, and gently used books for children.

Thank you to all who donated school supplies for the children who are members of Faith Immanuel Church in East Lansdowne. The supplies were delivered to the church in plenty of time for the start of school.

- Cheryl Morrell

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Welcome to Choir!

Choir rehearsal for the adult choir will begin again on Thursday, September 11, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the choir room. **All are welcome** from high school on up!

The choir sings at the 10:15 a.m. service on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, starting with Sunday, September 14.

While I have seen most of you during the summer, I miss our time together in fellowship and fun on Thursday evenings as well as having you up front helping to lead worship on Sunday mornings.

I would also like to extend a special invitation to anyone who has not previously or recently been part of our choir, even those who may only be able to sing with us occasionally. Please give it a try; we would love to have you! If you have any questions, please see me on Sunday, telephone me, or E-mail me at patmchugh5@verizon.net.

- Pat McHugh

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Children's Corner

Dear Children,

As you receive this September newsletter, you are probably thinking of your new school year. The weather has already turned a bit chilly, the hours of daylight are shorter, geese are honking loud and clear, and people are often gathered around local Farmer's Markets looking at apples and fall vegetables. Although I find many enjoyable things about each season, I really become consumed with the sights, sounds, and smells of autumn.

When we lived on Lynbrooke Road (right down the street from Saint Matthew), Mr. Yost and I had fun getting the flower gardens ready for spring (yes spring.) We pulled up all the annuals and prepared the soil for another season - but the best part was planting fall bulbs for spring blooming. For some reason, we didn't always have good luck with our tulips, narcissi, and daffodils. I have always thought that many of the squirrels that took up residence nearby saw us laboriously planting and thought, "Here comes our lunch!" However, one year we planted candy-striped tulips and they bloomed profusely - just as if a symphony conductor raised his baton and said "Bloom." They were exquisite!

Thinking back on that moment - I was awestruck as Mr. Yost and I boarded a bus in Holland to see the tulip fields as well as the famous Kerkenhof Gardens. Both places were filled with the most exotic tulips and flowers of every color and texture one could imagine. We always try to look for those awesome moments in which the Creator has crafted just for us. Not only did we stroll

through fields and gardens containing thousands of varieties - but the colors, not just the colors of the rainbow, but those in-between; and the many textures of petals - plain petals, mottled foliage, feathery petals, ball-shaped flowers - Wow! - what a picture for the eye! These beautiful moments are just one more reason to praise God for making our earth a beautiful sight for our eyes.

Dear Parents,

I have a wonderful picture of our son, David, planting tulips with my father - a lovely remembrance for me. Dave and Grandpa first pored over a Burpee's Seed and Bulb catalogue, selected their flowers and went to work. This is a great project for parents and grandparents. Not only does it teach gardening, but also patience as we wait for the dark months of winter to keep the bulbs safe and warm - and voila - soon you see leaves peek through the ground, then stem, and hopefully the flower will appear. This is God's way of making us smile.

- Sylvia Yost

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Christian Education Committee

Did you notice a few unusual animals around the church this summer? One hundred seventeen children enjoyed our Vacation Bible School program entitled Weird Animals during the last week of July. Each morning started with an opening in the sanctuary. Then each group traveled to various stations for Bible stories, crafts, games and snacks that related to the theme and Bible verse of the day. A closing program was held for the families of the children on the last day. Families were invited to enjoy a pretzel snack afterwards on the lawn in front of the church. Julie Cirillo was the director for this event.

This year's offering was designated to assist the church's school supply drive for Faith Immanuel Church in East Lansdowne. Many items were donated. In addition \$468.60 was collected. This money will be used to purchase backpacks and other supplies needed by the children.

A program of this magnitude needs lots of volunteers. Below is a list of the members of our church who assisted throughout the week.

Jacob Baumann	Joanne Castagna
Jenna Cirillo	Julie Cirillo
Kim Cobb	Dotty Engelbrecht
Janice Gardner	Ginger Heck
Ted Hidell	Lynda Knaggs
Bill Kobasa	Ethan Kraft
Marley Kraft	Will Kraft
Joan Krauter	Linda Kulp
Joe Link	Rick Link
Dawn Liscom	Joanna Liscom
Heather Markland	Pat McHugh

Marti Millington
Julie Newlon
Holly Perlingiero
Kristen Plachuta
Nancy Regan
Amanda Richard
Pr. Leslie Richard
Nicole Smith
Jeff Wesley
Sylvia Yost

Cheryl Morrell
Carol Penjuke
Gary Pflieger
Joseph Regan
Abigail Richard
Pr. Karl Richard
Dave Russell
Jennifer Trimble
Madison Wesley

In addition we had other volunteers who were willing to help us out with our program. Some were relatives, friends, and neighbors of our church members. Some were youth from Covenant Methodist Church. We were grateful for their help and support.

Annette Armellini	Michael Armellini
Lindsay Belliveau	Melissa Considine
Joanne DiCaria	Jess Donovan
Brian Finley	Mark Finley
Ava Gillespie	Marissa Gillespie
Karen Kellett	Jane May
Erin Robinson	Cara Wilkins

Needless to say, we were blessed to have so many people willing to share their time and talents. Kudos to all!

Rally Day is right around the corner. Once again the ELCA is encouraging us to do a God's Work Our Hands Sunday. So on September 7, we will begin our Sunday School hour in the sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. Then children will accompany their teachers and go to two stations. Children in grades 3 and up will help assemble meals for Aid for Friends. Children ages 3 through grade 2 will assemble breakfast bags for Aid for Friends. Parents are encouraged to participate too. What a great way to help others!

Regular Sunday School classes will begin Sunday, September 14, 2014. Join us in the sanctuary each week for songs, offering, an introduction to the day's lesson, and prayer. Oh, by the way, we have a great class for adults. Bring your coffee and join in the conversation in the Parlor after our opening.

- Carol Penjuke

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From Our Associate for Youth and Confirmation Ministries

Due to an unforeseen change in my work schedule for the fall semester, I cannot be available for confirmation classes on Wednesday evenings, and I am finding that family obligations are taking me away more and more on weekends. For these reasons, I am regretfully submitting my resignation of the position that has given me much joy and satisfaction over the past 8 years. I am deeply grateful to the congregation of Saint Matthew

for the privilege of working with the youth and their families in so many ways. While I will be stepping away from most of the responsibilities of the Associate for Youth and Confirmation Ministries position, I hope to remain active with the senior youth group.

- Ginger Heck

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With Praise and Thanksgiving!

As you see in this newsletter, Ginger Heck has stepped down from her position as our Associate for Youth and Confirmation Ministries. I am so grateful for her leading our Confirmation Program, and coordinating the work of our youth groups and related ministries. She has been a trusted partner to me and a true blessing to this congregation. I give my thanks to her for her faithful partnership, and to God for placing her in this position for us. Situations change, and new chapters in our lives begin, but it is important to savor certain chapters as they close. I am glad that Ginger is still remaining with us, and will continue volunteering with our Senior High youth. I hope you will join me in thanking her for eight years of faithful, joyful service to Jesus and the youth of this congregation. Thanks be to God!

- Pr. Karl M. Richard

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Library



Welcome back. Vacation time is over - time to get back to the routine of school, sports, etc.

As the movie ads say, "Coming to a theater near you." This is not a movie announcement, but this is to let you know that the Children's Library is moving from its present location to the Christian Education Wing. If you've been in there, there used to be a stage. The stage is gone and preparation is being made to put the Children's Library there. We're hoping it will be more accessible to all.

Here is a fun informative book: *Lutheran Church Basement Women* by Janet Letnes Martin and Allen Todnem, Shelf 813.54 MAR. Read all about Lutheran Jell-o and learn how to make it "Lutheran." Take a look. There are lots of interesting recipes.

Another book to try: *Luther's Small Dictionary from AAL to Zululand*. It contains answers to the question: What does this mean? The book is by Janet Letnes Martin and Suzanne (Johnson) Nelson. Here are a few words and meanings:

Free will offering: A misnomer because it was never

“free” and Lutherans weren’t usually that willing.

Fidget: What little Lutherans do when the sermon is too long and what older Lutherans do when it hits too close to home.

Wine: An alcoholic drink that Lutherans used only at communion, but not at weddings like they did in the Bible.

This is a fun look-through of word meanings - Shelf 813.54 MAR.

- Barbara Kinsey

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Family Ministries

Family Ministries is hosting a fall Scrapbooking Night on Friday, September 26, from 7-8:00 p.m. Adults and children are invited to create super scrapbook pages! All scrapbooking materials will be provided. Please bring at least five photographs. R.S.V.P. to Heather Markland at hmteach@hotmail.com by September 19. Hope to see you then!

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First Thursday Friends (“FTF”)

The First Thursday Friends will be visiting Miller’s Ale House, 18 Baltimore Pike, Springfield, on September 4 at 11:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome, including you!

- John Stefl

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Men’s Breakfast

Our monthly Men’s Breakfast will resume in September. The September breakfast will be held at The Court Diner, 140 E. Baltimore Pike, Media, on Saturday, September 20, 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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Wednesday Bible Study



“Going on a Journey.”

This could be the subtitle of the book of Exodus. The word itself means essentially what it sounds like: exiting. The people of Israel are being prepared to exit

Egypt and begin their journey back to the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In the preparation and on the journey they are called to trust God, remain faithful to God’s ways, and keep moving forward. This, as you can imagine, is not always easy. But along the journey we discover some of the most important covenants made between God and the people, and are called to journey along with the people of Israel to the place of promise.

This fall you are invited to go on this journey as we explore the book of Exodus. We will meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 a.m. in the library, or at noon in the parlor. The trip begins September 10th. Pick up your staff and come along!

- Pastor Karl

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VBS Thank You

Thank you to everyone who came to help us make our Vacation Bible School *Weird Animals* a huge success. What an **amazing** week! We had 117 children and over 50 youth and adult helpers. Thank you also for all the wonderful snacks donated by the Saint Matthew family. We could not have done it without everyone working together! Thank you for all your support.

- Julie Cirillo

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Ronald McDonald Quilting Group

The ladies in the Ronald McDonald Quilting Group will be resuming their monthly meetings on Wednesday, September 17, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. in the church parlor.

We would like to invite anyone who can sew, knit, crochet, help tie quilts, or stuff pillows to join us in this worthwhile ministry. The families staying at the Ronald McDonald House really appreciate the donations they receive from us. If you are able to help, or want to learn more about what we make, please consider joining us at one of our meetings. We would also like to thank the congregation for the ongoing monetary support of this ministry.

- Marge Kobasa

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Women of the ELCA News

Welcome back everyone!
Hope your summer was nice!

Women of ELCA schedule for September:

Sept. 10 - 9:30 a.m. - Board Meeting - Library

Sept. 13 - 10:30 a.m. - Lutheran World Relief
Quilting - Parish Education Bldg.

Sept. 17 - 10:00 a.m. - Ronald McDonald
Quilting - Parlor

Sept. 23 - 7:30 p.m. - Sarah Circle - Parish
Education Bldg.

Sept. 24 - 9:30 a.m. - Esther Circle - Parlor

- Dee Bratz and the Executive Board

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Monthly Mailbag

Dear Saint Matthew Congregation,

Because you care, we have a donation of many blankets, quilts, pillows, and many tabs. This will certainly help our families. We are only able to care for our families so well because **you** care! Thank you for caring!

Patty Vespe, Manager
Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House

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Dear Friends at Saint Matthew Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous gift of quilts and new school kits for Lutheran World Relief's distribution overseas. These gifts of your hearts and hands are beautiful expressions of God's grace and love to people all around the world. Your care and compassion makes it possible for families and communities to keep themselves healthy, warm, educated, and employed.

This month, LWR staff are focused on the devastating typhoon that struck the Philippines on November 8. Thanks to your generosity, in addition to meeting immediate needs through shelter repair kits, cash-for-work and water filtration projects, LWR will also be distributing quilts, personal care kits, baby care kits, and school kits to 26,000 families to help them as they rebuild their lives.

On behalf of our neighbors in the Philippines and countless others in villages, schools, hospitals and refugee camps around the world, I extend deepest thanks for your contribution, and pray God's richest blessings on all of your ministries!

In Christ,
Melanie W. Gibbons
Quilt & Kit Ministry Manager Lutheran World Relief

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Dear Friends,

The season of Pentecost has come, and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia continues to experience the work of the Holy Spirit in the growth of our students. Summer is the time for students to begin their year-long congregational internships, to learn pastoral care through chaplaincy experiences at hospitals, to wait for calls and ordinations, and to prepare as new students begin their studies on campus. No matter what time of year, the Spirit is working at LTSP.

We thank you for your generous contribution to help support and fulfill the mission of LTSP to teach and send men and women out to spread the gospel as leaders of the church. Your donation of \$189.00 will go to our Leadership Fund which helps to supply financial support to our students.

Thank you for your continued commitment to your seminary. Your gift is just one of the many ways that we know the Spirit is alive at LTSP!

Peace,
Mrs. Kathleen Afflerbach, AIM
Director of Donor Services
LTSP

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To the Congregation of Saint Matthew, those on the Prayer Chain and the Altar Guild,

This is just a short note with a very big thank you to all for your prayers and concerns during my recent illness. As a result, I am much better and going back to work soon. The flowers from the altar were an extra surprise and beautiful - still looking good! They are a wonderful reminder of the power of prayer and the caring people at Saint Matthew. Thank you for all the get well cards - they really lifted my spirit. Thank you once again.

Sincerely,
Jean Coulson

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New Church Pictorial Directory

Finally! Saint Matthew is going to have a new pictorial directory! The last one was done about 12 years ago, so we are certainly past due! 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.

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.

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Dates: November 6, 7, 8, so mark your calendars now!
More information will be forthcoming.

- Cheryl Morrell

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Vital Statistics

25th Wedding

Anniversary: W. David and Kristen Colvell
September 23, 2014

Philip and Kathy Charamella
September 30, 2014

Address Change:

Edward Baer
Fair Acres
Bldg. 7NW, Rm. 109A
340 N. Middletown Rd.
Lima, PA 19037-0496

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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 in our armed forces.

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We are back and ready to resume bringing you news about the happenings in our congregation. Please help us by submitting items of interest to our members to Janice Gardner our Church Office Administrator.

Remember that deadline for submitting material is the 15th day of the previous month at noon, unless stated otherwise. We must adhere to this deadline in order to meet our publication schedule, and material that is submitted late will be held over to the next month. - C.E.A.

The Good Newsletter, a congregational newsletter, is published monthly, September through June by Saint Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church, 400 Lynbrooke Road, Springfield, Pennsylvania 19064-3599. Please direct all correspondence pertaining to this publication to the Editor, Dr. Carl E. Aronson, at the above address. The deadline for submitting copy is 12 noon on the 15th of each month.