



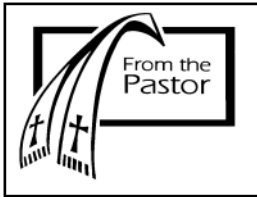
# The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of  
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church  
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Volume 76, Number 8

September 2024

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



## From Our Pastor

Connect

Care

eEquip

Cultivate

These are words that have reflected our priorities in ministry over the past several years. A brief synopsis of these words, and the significance they hold, is that we wish to:

**Connect** with God and with each other, through worship and fellowship

**Care** for the world and those in need in Jesus' name

**eEquip** our youth and their families for a life of faith in Christ

**Cultivate** a spirit of generosity and support of the Church and its mission

As we have been struggling, both as a nation and as a congregation, with the after-effects of the pandemic, we have noticed a decrease, or at least a radical difference in, how we make connections. We have witnessed an increased need to care for our neighbors, both those we know, and those we will never know, with the love and grace of Jesus. We have seen a significant decrease in participation of youth and younger families in those parts of faith that can give both strength and perspective for life during these divisive and scary times. And we have seen how important it can be for us to have a spirit of generosity, as we give of ourselves, and of our resources, to make a difference in the world with the love of Jesus.

Over the past year, our Christian Education Committee, along with our Sunday School teachers, have been working to address the third of these key priorities. **How can we eEquip our youth and their families for a life of faith?** How can we ensure that a true understanding of Jesus, and his love for us and all people, informs how we live our lives and navigate an increasingly scary world?

One way in which we do this is through education and worship. Intentionally teaching about Jesus by learning the Scriptures, learning that the Sacraments are the way in which Jesus comes to us and feeds us with himself, engaging in discussion on how the Bible applies to daily life in Confirmation classes are the traditional parts of how we equip youth and their families for a

life of faith. We have heard from the parents of our families with children that they would very much like to teach their children the faith; they would very much like to have Christ at the center of their family's life; they themselves would like to return to worship so *they* can be strengthened in their connection with Jesus. Yet, in this fast-paced and heavily scheduled world, with the number of things pulling for their attention (sports, dance, band, family obligations, and more), and the increasingly short availability of time in which to fit all these competing obligations, it becomes nearly impossible to engage in the traditional model of Sunday School and Church, which can take over two hours. For many of us who were raised in this regular pattern of attending, every week, both Sunday School and Worship, this may seem strange, and presume it is just a matter of re-aligning priorities. But this is too simplistic an assessment.

To meet both the desires and the needs of our Sunday School families, after significant deliberation, as well as conversation with other congregations, we are planning to try a different approach. **We are planning to offer "Worship with Sunday School."**

This is an attempt to help parents and children engage in both worshipping and learning about Jesus in a way that fits into the schedule of the world as it is now, not as it has been in the past. Worship (Connecting) and learning (eEquipping) are both important aspects of Christian life. And so this is not a plan to have Sunday School for the students, and worship for the parents, running separately but concurrently. This is a plan to incorporate both worship and learning in a way that can honor both disciplines, while fitting them into "an hour" (or close to it!).

Currently we have a Sunday School opening that lasts 10 or 15 minutes. The students then go to class for about 40 minutes. Then the kids go to sports commitments, or family obligations, or whatever the day brings. Most do not stay for worship. Neither do the parents.

The new plan is that instead of the Sunday School Opening, the students and their parents will come to the first part of the worship service - Confession, Opening Hymn, Prayer of the Day, and reading of the Gospel, which takes about 10 minutes.

After that, the students will go to class, while the adults who are not attending class stay for the rest of the service. During the period of the Readings, the Sermon, the Hymn of the Day, the Creed, the Prayer of the Church, and the Offering (which lasts about 35 to 40 minutes) the kids will be in their classes.

At the time we begin the Communion liturgy the students will return to receive communion, or a blessing, and end their day in

worship with their parents and the rest of the congregation. This last section of the worship service lasts between 10 and 15 minutes.

All told, the timing will be about an hour, rather than the 2 hours and 15 minutes it would be to come for Sunday School from 9 to 10, and worship from 10:15 to 11:15. This will also allow both parents and students to worship, and both to "learn," either in class or in the readings and the sermon.

We have determined the most effective way to accomplish this is to **move the 10:15 service to 9:30**. The second service will continue to be offered via Zoom as well as in person, just at an earlier time. The 8:00 service will continue without change.

The families with school-age children generally find 8:00 way too early to get everyone together and out the door. Beginning worship at 10:15 becomes too late to make the various other obligations they have on a weekend. Also, offering this option at 9:30 allows our Sunday School teachers to worship at 8:00, and still lead classes at 9:30, which is a 30-minute delay from 9:00, but not the hour and 15-minute delay if we were to wait until 10:15. By the way, we plan to continue an adult class during the 9:30 hour. Adults may choose to worship at 8:00 and attend class during the second service time, or they may go to the adult class when the younger students go to Sunday School after the opening portion of the liturgy.

The change is planned to take place September 8<sup>th</sup> with God's Work, Our Hands Day. Please pray for this venture, that it may be a blessing and opportunity to those of our members who have struggled to find a way to fit worship and learning about Jesus into their family life!

Pastor Karl M. Richard

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### Midweek Bible Study

**B**ible Study returns to Wednesdays on September 18<sup>th</sup>. After discussion with those who attended the evening session, it has been determined we will continue offering this class both at noon and at 8:00 p.m. Both classes will be held in the parlor and will be concurrently available by Zoom.

Where last session we struggled through the Book of Job, we hope this session will be a bit easier and more readily uplifting. We will be studying the Acts of the Apostles. As we read about what the Holy Spirit did through the followers of Jesus 2,000 years ago, we will consider where the Holy Spirit is working in and through the followers of Jesus today.

Pastor Karl M. Richard

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### Confirmation Class

**C**onfirmation Classes will resume for our 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m. in the youth room. This session will focus on the Lord's Prayer.

Pastor Karl M. Richard

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### News from Your Property Committee

**W**hat has been going on over the Summer from the Property Committee with our church?

Over the Summer many things were happening. We had the bushes trimmed and the flower beds weeded. Cheryl

and Steve spread Preen weed deterrent, trying to slow the growth of the weeds down, let us hope it works. Our generator had a problem and did not turn on when it was supposed to. The generator service company was called, and some adjustments were made, and a new battery was also installed. Several new lights were installed in our Education Wing and new switches were replaced. One of the two pumps that keep the elevator pit dry had failed and a new one was installed. Everything is working well with the pumps. Ted and a helper did all the floors in the Education Wing and Elbert Hall, scrubbed, waxed and polished. They also cleaned all the carpets in our church. Great job and thank you to Ted and associate.

We lost the roof of our tent during Hurricane Debby, although it was the second year, and it had several holes and tears at one corner. We had hoped it would last the season. Debby had other ideas. A new canvas has been ordered and will be installed soon. The painting was completed in room 4 of the Education Wing by several of our members. Thank you all, this was a very large undertaking.

Your Property Committee

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### What's New with our Roof Replacement

**A**s you all know, the members of our congregation have approved the replacement of our roof on our church. The company that won the bid was Vertex Roofing out of Virginia, although most of their commercial work is in Southeastern Pennsylvania and Delaware. The shingles that have been ordered are expected to arrive in September, which means our project should start mid-September.

We have had many meetings with the roofing contractor and our architect. Many questions were discussed. Some of these concerns were: is it ok to leave our tent up, little or no interruption to enter our building, and little confusion in entering and leaving the building for our nursery school. Debris will be cleaned up daily. All our leaks and other issues were discussed and will be managed.

Your Roof Committee

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### News from the Fellowship Committee

**A**s summer comes to a close, I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. Coffee hour will now take place after the 9:30 service. Christian Education will host coffee hour this month on Rally Day.

We are planning the following upcoming events in October. We will go to Linvilla Orchards hayride to the Witch's house and Trunk or Treat at the church. We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Barb McClintock

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### 100th Birthday

**O**ne of our members will be celebrating an important birthday in September. Jean Fisher will be 100 on September 17. If you would like to send her a birthday card, her address is:

Mrs. Jean Fisher  
400 Harwicke Road  
Springfield, PA 19064

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## Christian Education Update

**W**e are so excited to try something new this year for Sunday School. Please join us on September 8, 2024 at 9:30 (note the new time) in the sanctuary. We will all worship together. The Sunday School participants will go to their classrooms at a certain point during the service. For Rally Day, we will be making the personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. We have had such amazing support for the materials, we are now going to make 36 kits!

We are always looking for teachers to help in many different ways. If you are interested, please reach out to Julie.

Thank you for all your support with our Christian Education!

Julie Cirillo  
Christian Education Committee

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## Vacation Bible School

**O**ur Vacation Bible School was amazing this summer! We have so many people to thank for their time, energy and donations. A very special thank you to all of you! What a week we had--over 50 children learned about Jesus with about 30 helpers. We went under water this year with Scuba! Next year we are going to True North--trusting Jesus in a wild world. We will be going North from July 28 - August 1! Save the date!!

Julie Cirillo

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## Social Ministry

**T**hank you everyone for your generous donations of school supplies for the children of Faith Immanuel. They were delivered to the school before classes started.

We are planning on continuing with pajama gifts at Christmas time as well. Please watch the emails from Pastor as well as the newsletters for updates.

Again, thank you!

Cheryl Morrell

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## Children's Corner

*"Whoever comes to me will never go hungry and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."* John 6:35

**Dear Children:**

We all have had times when we were "starving," at least we thought so. As I write this piece, I just finished a lunch consisting of my favorite sandwich, chips, and a luscious mandarin orange—I then thought of those in our world, country, and county who have very little to eat. Although we "live in a land of plenty," I have always wondered what the hunger situation was in Delaware County, so I did a bit of research. Sadly, I found that almost 16% of children don't have enough to eat and over 51, 000 people are considered "food insecure." As you know, the congregants of Saint Matthew work tirelessly to support a food bank in Media along with other area churches having food cupboards at the ready. Maris Grove has food drives during the year to complement these programs. With the rise of food costs across the nation, hunger becomes a real threat to our citizens. How can we help? I tried to think of some ideas and perhaps you can also come up with some solutions:

pray—for good weather for the farmers—so they yield an abundant harvest

don't waste food—properly store leftovers

eat what Mom serves—try those Brussels sprouts

plant a vegetable garden of your own

help Mom with the cooking

have a grateful heart for each meal

Even though we think about food insecurity, what about "spiritual insecurity"? Reread the Bible verse at the top. If we believe in Jesus, we will always have many blessings. Saint Matthew says "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled." Those two verses tell us a lot about our Savior who loves and cares for us. He will feed us with his love and compassion and we will never be hungry. Think of times when you have been hungry for the love of Jesus—perhaps a friend has disappointed you, a bad grade on a test was a shock, a good friend or a relative became ill—in all of life's sad circumstances, we can go to Jesus and have a wonderful conversation. How wonderful is that??!!

**Dear Parents:**

I am sure that as you approach the check-out line at the grocery store, you have some angst because of the high prices. Perhaps you buy fewer snacks—that can be a good thing. This might be a teachable moment for your youngsters as you all pray for grateful hearts. Point out to your children that Jesus will always wrap us in His loving arms as we starve for conversation, love, companionship.

Sylvia Yost

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## October Newsletter Deadline

**A**rticles for the October newsletter are due in the church office by **12:00 noon on Friday, September 13.**

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## Welcome Church

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

Joan Krauter

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## Beds For Kids

**B**eds for Kids has received several boxes of books to be given to the children who are being given a new bed and all the bedding needed to end child bedlessness. We would like to deliver the books and other items soon. Should you have any of the needed items, please deliver them to the box in the hallway and we will take them to the warehouse. Thank you to all who support this project.

Nancy Regan

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## Food Collection

**T**he food drive will be held on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Our food collection in July was one of our best collections thanks to a large donation that was found outside of the entrance. We delivered 483 pounds of food to the Media Food Bank. Thank you to whoever donated all those items. In

August, we delivered another 225 pounds of food. Thank you to all who continue to support the food bank.

Nancy Regan

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## Gemma Services

This year the children of Vacation Bible School donated school supplies for the backpack project for the children served by Gemma Services. There was also a cash donation that was delivered to help complete the project.

This fall we will again be collecting for the Everything But The Bird project to provide food for a Thanksgiving meal to the families served by Gemma Services. More information will soon be available.

Nancy Regan

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## Women of the ELCA

Here is the schedule for September:

September 10	LWR Quilting	1:00 p.m.
September 15	Display LWR Quilts	9:30 a.m.
September 15	Blessing the LWR Quilts at both services, then pack up quilts after 9:30 service to be delivered	
September 17	LWR Quilting	1:00 p.m.
September 24	Circle Meeting	7:00 p.m.

Blessings,  
Carol Penjue

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## Men's Breakfast

We have scheduled the September Men's Breakfast for Saturday, September 21, 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 News

We are so excited to begin a new school year here at Saint Matthew Christian Nursery School. Our first week of school will be the week of September 9th. Our wonderful staff have been busy getting our school ready for our students and families. It will be a fabulous year filled with "friendship and learning!" We have limited availability in most of our programs. We are also looking to build our Substitute Teacher Assistant list. So, if you are interested in registering your child or interested in becoming part of our staff, please contact the office at 610-543-5589 or email us at [stmattcsns@gmail.com](mailto:stmattcsns@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you!

Warmly,  
Ana Fischer, Executive Director

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## Vital Statistics

### Deaths:

**Matthew Trautmann**  
Died July 1, 2024  
Funeral July 10, 2024

**David Krauter**  
Died July 8, 2024  
Funeral July 12, 2024

### Shirley Thorn

Died August 7, 2024

Funeral August 14, 2024

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## Monthly Mailbag

Dear Saint Matthew Community,

We are sincerely grateful for your generous donation of handbags, cards, and other items to the residents of Fair Acres. Your thoughtfulness brings joy and comfort to our community. Thank you for your support and kindness.



Warm regards,  
Susan P. Harrar, M. Ed., CTRS  
Director of Tax Dept./Volunteer Services  
Fair Acres Geriatric Center

To All our Saint Matthew Family,

Thank you for your prayers, your cards, your calls, your donations to the Roof Fund, trees planted and the love for Dave and us which has sustained us through this difficult time.

You are wonderful. We love you.

Yours in Christ,  
Joan and all the Krauter Family

Dear Friends at Saint Matthew,

Thank you for the cards and prayers that Lance received while he was in the hospital and following his toe surgery. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,  
Marie Miller

Dear Saint Matthew Friends,

We are very grateful for your friendship and generosity to Gemma Services! Thank you for your donation of \$115 and one box of assorted school supplies. These gifts will provide youth who participate in our programs with the supplies they need for a successful school year.

With the help of friends 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 challenges, 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. We will continue to share volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups as they arise.

Thank you for being part of the Gemma community. Your support truly matters! 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 want to learn more about volunteering, please contact Amanda at 610-825-4440, ext. 3307, or [Abryant@gemmaservices.org](mailto:Abryant@gemmaservices.org). You can learn more about all of Gemma's programs and current needs at any time at [www.gemmaservices.org](http://www.gemmaservices.org). On behalf of all of us at Gemma, thank you and best wishes.

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

Gemma Services

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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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Everyone in the community is invited to join us for

# “God’s work. Our hands.”

Saint Matthew Sunday School Rally Day

Kick off the 2024-2025 Sunday School year

God’s work, our hands will be making personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief.

***September 8, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.***

***We are trying something new!!***

Worship will start at 9:30 for everyone. The first Sunday (Rally Day) Sunday School students will get together during the service to make the personal care kits for those in our community. All following weeks students will go to their designated classrooms for Sunday School during this time.

If you would like to donate to help with the supplies,  
please look over our sign up genius

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B4DADAD22A13-50386547-personal#/>

More information on Rally Day and our church is available on our website.

[stmattspringfield.org](http://stmattspringfield.org)



**JOIN  
CUB SCOUTS!**



# Springfield Pack 503 Cub Scout Signup Day!

Boys and Girls, K - 5th Grade

Sunday, Sept 15<sup>th</sup>, 1-4 PM



St. Matthew Lutheran Church 400 Lynbrooke Road Springfield, PA

Questions? [Cubscout503@gmail.com](mailto:Cubscout503@gmail.com)

