



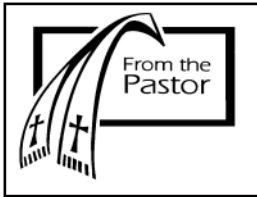
The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Volume 77, Number 8

September 2025

Internet Web Site: www.stmattspringfield.org



From Our Pastor

Connect

Care

eQuip

Cultivate

Jesus, when asked which was the greatest commandment, replied: “*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.*”³⁸ *This is the first and greatest commandment.*³⁹ *And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’*⁴⁰ *All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.*” (Matthew 22:37-39).

These two commandments are the basis of who we are as people of faith. They are also the basis of the four focus words we have as a congregation. As a reminder, the way we use these words is as follows:

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

Care for the world and those in need in Jesus’ name

eQuip 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

To love the Lord with all we are, we engage in worship. To love our neighbor with all we have, we care for those in need. To instill this in our families we teach and learn about the faith of the Church. To make all this happen, we respond with generosity. To aid us in Connecting with God through worship and eEquipping our youth and their families for a life of faith in Christ, we have spent the last year in a new venture we have called **“Worship With Sunday School.”**

A reminder of how this works:

Rather than having our families come early for worship at 8:00, and then stay for Sunday School at 9:00 (or come for Sunday School at 9:00 and then stay for worship at 10:15), we have invited our families to gather together for worship at 9:30 a.m.

Where there used to be a 10-minute opening for Sunday School, this opening is now the **“Gathering”** portion of the worship service: Confession, Opening Hymn, and Prayer of the Day. Then, as most of our classes work with the Gospel lesson of the

day, we read the Gospel first and then invite our Sunday School participants to head to class after its reading.

The parents and others who are not attending Sunday School then stay for the **“Word”** portion of the service, where they hear the Old Testament reading, the Psalm, and the Epistle reading, followed by its explanation in the Sermon.

After the Creed and the Prayer of the Church, the Sunday School youth return for the **“Meal”** (that is Communion) portion of the liturgy to either receive the Sacrament or a blessing.

We are then all together for the **“Sending”** portion of the service, which includes the final Prayer, Benediction, and Hymn.

In this format, the youth receive nearly as much education time as they previously had, allowing youth and adults each to learn at their own level during the “Word” portion of the service, while ensuring that youth and adults make worship of Jesus the primary focus of the day in a time span that meets the needs of this busy, sometimes too heavily scheduled world in which we live.

If you have not tried **“Worship With Sunday School,”** I enthusiastically invite you to do so. It has made a real difference for many of our families with school-aged children!

We do continue to offer our 8:00 a.m. service for those for whom the earlier hour is better, or for those who would like to retain the “traditional” pattern of attending both Worship AND Sunday School. Classes will continue to be offered for 3-year-olds through adults during the second service. The Adults meet in the library beginning at 9:30, rather than waiting for the opening portion of the service. Adults who are coming only to the 9:30 service may join the adult discussion after the “Gathering” portion of the service, and leave for the “Meal,” in the pattern of the Sunday School youth.

As we come to the end of our summer journeys, may you be blessed in the return to our life together as this family of faith we call Saint Matthew!

Pastor Karl M. Richard

* * * * *

Midweek Bible Study

Bible Study returns to Wednesdays on September 17th. At the time of this article, I am planning to continue offering this class both at noon and at 8:00 p.m. The 8:00 class is tentative; the noon class is definite. Both classes will be held in the parlor and will be concurrently available by Zoom.

At the end of last season several people had expressed curiosity over the Creeds of the Church, and why they profess what they

do about the faith. To this end we will be taking a look at these documents which are foundational to the understanding of what it is to be a Christian.

There are three creeds to which we adhere, and each has its own reason for having been written. They are the Apostles, the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds. Yet each of these has their foundation in statements of faith even older than they are, as all three are based in our understanding of Jesus from the Scriptures.

While these are foundational statements of faith, they are also sources of questioning, and at times division, within the body of Christ. In this semester we will explore the reasons for these Creeds: where they came from, why they were written, and why they are important for the Church today. We will also touch on an action in our ecumenical dialogue between the Lutheran and Orthodox communities intended to heal some historic division.

I hope you will join in the conversation!

Pastor Karl M. Richard

* * * * *

Christian Education Update

Thank you to everyone who helped make our True North VBS so unforgettable! We had an amazing week with crafts, music, games, and of course many yummy snacks! Thank you to everyone who helped make our week great! We already started to plan for next year. Save the date: July 27-31 for Vacation Bible School next year! We would love to see you there!

Next year's theme is *Rainforest Falls--Exploring the nature of the true God*.

September will start up our Sunday School. Our Rally Day will happen on September 7th. Our theme is God's Work, Our Hands. We will be making health kits for Lutheran World Relief. We are looking for help with the supplies. There is a sign up on the bulletin board and a sign up genius. Thank you for your support.

We are also always looking for a few good helpers with teaching Sunday School. If you are interested, please contact Julie Cirillo.

Julie Cirillo

Christian Education Committee

* * * * *

Calling All Crafters

Over the years, we have all enjoyed the lovely pinecone wreaths that adorn the windows in the back of our sanctuary. The years have taken their toll on our wreaths and it is time to create new wreaths for this coming Christmas season. I will gather all the needed supplies but am looking for some craft loving hands to help. Time commitment is a few hours at the church during a mutually convenient time for those interested. No crafting skill needed. Just a desire to share some fellowship and create beautiful decorations to adorn our worship space. Please reach out if you are interested in helping. Thanks!

Kathie Morgan

kathieleanor@gmail.com

* * * * *

News from Your Property Committee

Over the summer we were all remarkably busy and somewhat productive. With the Nursery School closing in June, Ted and his assistant moved the furniture and scrubbed, waxed and polished all the floors in the Education Wing, Elbert Hall, and our main hallway. In late June and early July, we had air conditioning problems with the units that cool the primary office and one of the two units that cool the sanctuary. Both units were repaired and are working fine. Just a note that all the units are now over fourteen years old.

In the spring not only did it bring flowers, it also brought birds. They found some spots to start their families in the church. When all the birds left their nest and flew away, we had Hoffman come out to fill all the outlets so the birds cannot come back next spring, we hope. Along with the birds returning this spring, we are having a bumper crop of weeds. We had our landscaper pull weeds twice, along with two of our ladies also trying to stay ahead of our weeds, but they keep on coming.

One thing we wanted to do this summer but were unable to do was repair the exit apron. It is marked for next summer. This fall we will be redesigning and planting bushes in front of the church—replacing the 4 large overgrown bushes that were removed last year and then replacing the bush that had died over this summer on the main walkway.

Joe Regan

* * * * *

News from the Fellowship Committee

I hope everyone enjoyed their summer. Fifteen of us enjoyed a beautiful evening at the Blue Rocks Game and they won. There will be a coffee hour on September 7th to kick off Rally Day hosted by Christian Education. We will also have a coffee hour on September 14th hosted by the Nursery Board to welcome the new Director Jenny. We are planning the following events in October: a hayride to the Witch's House at Linvilla Orchards on October 18th and Trunk or Treat on October 26th. More information will be posted.

Barb McClintock

* * * * *

Social Ministry

Social Ministry would like to thank our congregation once again for their continued generosity of donating school supplies for the children of Faith Immanuel. This year your gifts consisted of:

- 16 Backpacks
- 2 Lunchboxes
- 105 Spiral Notebooks
- 32 Composition Books
- 8 Binders
- 8 Loose Leaf Paper Packs
- 65 Pocket Folders
- 12 Pencil Boxes/Bags
- 38 Packages Pencils
- 20 Packages Pens
- 44 Boxes Colored Pencils
- 60 Boxes Crayons
- 24 Boxes Markers/Highlighters

13 Erasers
 16 Pencil Sharpeners
 14 Scissors
 35 Rulers
 85 Gluesticks
 6 Glue Bottles
 10 Pads Post-it-Notes
 2 Packages Index Cards

We will also continue to provide Christmas pajama gifts for these children. As in years past, a bulletin board will be in the hallway in November with gift tags for each child along with a sign up sheet for you to sign your name and phone number next to the child's name whom you have chosen.

More information will follow at a later date.

Cheryl Morrell

Children's Corner



Welcome Back to Sunday School!



From Your Children's Ministry at Saint Matthew

Hello Super Kids! 🙌
 We are SO excited to welcome you back to Sunday School! We've missed your smiling faces, big hugs, and fun questions — and we can't wait to learn and grow with you this year as we follow Jesus together! 🎉

✨ This year, we'll be digging into awesome Bible stories, doing cool crafts, singing our favorite songs, and learning how to be more like Jesus every day. ❤️

Here's what to look forward to:



Bible adventures



Creative crafts



Joyful praise and worship



Memory verses and fun games



Birthday shout-outs and special surprises!

Our first memory verse is:

"Let the little children come to me... for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." – Mark 10:14

Whether you're brand new or coming back again, there's a special place for YOU in our Sunday School family. Let's make this the BEST year yet — full of faith, fun, and friendship!

See you Sunday! 😊

Love,
 Your Sunday School Teachers &
 Leaders

October Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the October newsletter are due in the church office by **12:00 noon on Monday, September 15.**

Welcome Church

It doesn't feel like fall and winter are coming, but they are. Please remember the Welcome Church homeless. New socks, coffee and small toiletries are needed..

Thank you for your continued support of those in need.

Joan Krauter

Beds For Kids

We continue to collect items for The Beds for Kids Program. This program delivers new beds and necessary bedding items to children who do not have a safe place to sleep each night. We will take new or gently used single bed sheets, blankets, and comforters, new pillows, children's books, and new or gently used stuffed animals. There is a box under the table in the hallway for these items. Thank you to all who support this program.

Nancy Regan

Food Collection

Thank you to everyone who is so supportive of the monthly food collection. The month of August we were able to deliver 153 pounds of food items to the Media Food Bank. When we pull into the drop-off area the staff comes out with shopping carts to meet us to help us unload all we have in the car. They say that they are looking for us and all the wonderful items that we are bringing. Our next collection date is September 7. Thank you again for all your support.

Nancy Regan

Gemma Services

As we return to our monthly Circle meetings, we will begin preparing treat bags for the children in the residential treatment program at Gemma Services to enjoy. We will be assembling 58 small treat bags for the children. The ladies of Women of the ELCA will do this every month for the children.

Nancy Regan

Chester County Migrant Ministry

The ladies of the Women of the ELCA group assembled 8 men's and 8 women's health kits made with towels and all items wrapped up for the people who are being helped by the ministry in Kennett Square. Also 8 full sized and 8 trn bed blankets were delivered and along with 12 bags of donated beans and rice. The staff were very happy to receive these items and will be giving them to the people that they serve. The ladies of Women of the ELCA have supplied these items for several years according to the staff.

Nancy Regan and Penny Hermann

Women of the ELCA

September is here. Always seems to be the start of a new beginning in lots of ways. As schools begin and church activities restart, there is an excitement in the air.

One group I find fun and exciting to hang out with is the Women of the ELCA ladies. Their meetings are full of smiles and a willingness to help others. Our first meeting will be September 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor. Come and see what we are all about!

Blessings,
Carol Penjoke

* * * * *

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast will be starting up again on September 20 at 7:00 a.m. at the Court Diner in Media. Come and share Christian fellowship and stories about your summer vacation with your brothers in Christ!

John Stefl

* * * * *

Nursery School News

We are pleased to announce that Jennifer (Jenny) Redding has been hired as the Director of our Nursery School. After a comprehensive search process, we believe we have found an exceptional candidate to complement our talented and dedicated staff.

Jenny shares the following message with all of you:

"I'm thrilled to be the new Director at Saint Matthew Christian School, bringing my 25+ years of experience as an early childhood education teacher and director. With a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Eastern University, I'm passionate about creating a fun, faith-based environment that lives up to our school's motto: A Place for Friendship and Learning.

As a Springfield lifer and mom of six, I'm all about fostering creativity and connection through play-based learning in our preschool. When I'm not at school, you'll find me hanging with my family, cooking,

reading, or soaking up some sun at the Jersey Shore. I can't wait to work with everyone to make Saint Matthew's a place where our kids shine socially, academically, and spiritually!"

Jenny has begun working with our staff and together they are preparing for an exciting school year ahead. Jenny looks forward to meeting all our families and we hope that you will welcome her to our school community.

Before the above announcement concerning our new Nursery School Director went to print, the Board was also able to hire Dawn Vitanza-Baxter as our new Nursery School Administrative Assistant. Dawn also brings many years of experience working at several preschools and was responsible for smooth day-to-day functioning within the school, as well as with faculty and parents.

We truly feel blessed to have found two very talented candidates for these positions. Please join us in wishing them a successful school year.

Cheryl Morrell and
the Nursery School Board

* * * * *

Vital Statistics

New Address: Ubaid and Delyla Emannual
Gabriel, Abigail, Rachel
4759 MacGregor Drive
Schwenksville, PA 19473

* * * * *

Monthly Mailbag

Dear Saint Matthew Friends,

After Bill's surgery, we received a number of cards and baked goods from many of you. Also, I received emails and very kind words of concern and encouragement. Also, he has been using the Knee Scooter, property of Saint Matthew, thanks to Joe Regan. This has been a tremendous help to Bill. Most of all, I thank everyone for their prayers. We couldn't ask for better results in his healing and your prayers have certainly been a contribution to his healing.

Thank you and may you all be blessed for the kindness you have shown us.

Lynda Knaggs

* * * * *



Everyone in the community is invited to join us for

“God’s work. Our hands.”

Saint Matthew Sunday School Rally Day

Kick off the 2025-2026 Sunday School year

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

September 7, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

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, here is the link:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B4DADAD22A13-57886833-personal>.

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

stmattspringfield.org



**JOIN
CUB SCOUTS!**



Springfield Pack 503 Cub Scout Signup Day!

Boys and Girls, K - 5th Grade
Saturday, Sept. 13th, 1-4 PM



St. Matthew Lutheran Church 400 Lynbrooke Road Springfield, PA

Questions? Cubscout503@gmail.com

