



# The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of  
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church  
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Volume 78, Number 8

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



## From Our Pastor

Connect  
Care  
eQuip  
Cultivate

*"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" – Psalm 122:1*

Summer fades, and school begins again. It seems no matter how old I get there is something about September and "back-to-school" that always feels like the actual beginning of the year. It can be bitter-sweet, particularly if it has been a great summer. And yet, as the days grow shorter and the evenings get a little cooler, it feels as though the turn back to the routines of life makes sense.

Somehow, I always looked forward to returning to school – to my friends, the rhythm, the activities. There was always a sense of anticipation of what would come next. Even as I would never say so to my parents, I was glad when they said to me, let us return to school.

My hope is that as you return to school and the fall schedules and routines, you will also return to worship and Sunday School with the same anticipation and dedication. Coming together with your Church family and sharing stories of what you've done on your summer vacation is a great way to share the joy of the summer. And coming together to worship and learn about Jesus is an important part of the life of every Christian. Spending time with Christ is essentially in our name! I hope that you will be glad as we say, "Let us go to the House of the Lord!"

So, as we come to the fall, we begin our program year with "God's Work, Our Hands Day." We begin our new sessions of study in "Worship With Sunday School," where our younger members go for class during the readings, Sermon, and Creed, while our older teens and adults hear a message on the lessons for the day in worship. We begin Confirmation and Bible Study. We have Fellowship opportunities and service projects. We get back to the rhythm of life as the Body of Christ.

My hope is you, too, are anticipating what God will do in us and among us. And I trust I will see you in church on Sundays, but also on other days, as we continue to learn and grow into the people and the congregation Jesus wants us to be.

Pastor Karl M. Richard

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## Midweek Bible Study

Bible Study returns to Wednesdays on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. At the time of this article, I am planning to continue offering this class both at noon and at 7:30 p.m. Both classes will be held in the parlor and will be concurrently available by Zoom.

A survey was distributed to the usual attendees to determine what topic we will cover this fall. While not ready by this printing, the topic will be shared in worship and email announcements soon. I hope whatever the topic that you will join in the study and the conversation!

Pastor Karl M. Richard

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## Christian Education Update

WOW GOD!!! Thank you everyone for your support with our Vacation Bible School. We had so many helpers and people who donated snacks. THANK YOU!! A very special thank you to Kathie Morgan, Beth Hale and Kathy Kinder for all their help with the decorations. Our church really had a Rainforest feeling! Can't wait to see what we do next year!

We will have Rally Day this year on September 13 during the 9:30 service. Like many years in the past, we will be doing God's Work with OUR Hands. We will be doing the health kits for Lutheran World Relief. There is a sign up if you would like to help with the kit supplies. Thank you for all your support!

We are also always looking for teachers to help with our Sunday School. If you are interested, please see Julie.

Julie Cirillo

Christian Education Committee

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## News from Your Property Committee

Now that Fall is coming, we look back at what was accomplished over the Summer. Our normal routine services—pest control, elevator service, and fire alarm inspected. And mid-summer weeding of all flower beds.

Some of the bigger projects that were done: the old Knotty Pine Room (rm 5) was painted, the downstairs hallway was painted, and a new door to replace the old curtain was installed. The four main pillars in the front of the church were sanded and painted.

The main project over the summer was to repair our parking lot. This took over two weeks. They replaced over 90 blocks of concrete, they curbed concrete to replace the old wooden barrier, replaced the apron that was cracked and loose. All this work and we only had one Sunday that we could not use the parking lot.

Looking forward to Fall, with the start of Sunday school and Nursery School beginning, we are ready.

Joe Regan

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## Financial Update

Gracious God, we give thanks for Your continued care and provision. Guide us to be faithful stewards of the gifts entrusted to Saint Matthew and give us wisdom as we balance the needs of today with preparations for the future. Bless each person who supports our church through their time, talents and financial gifts. May the resources we share strengthen our ministries, care for our church home and allow us to continue serving others with generosity and love. Amen.

|               | <u>July 2026</u> | <u>Year to Date</u> |
|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Giving/Income | \$ 33,144.       | \$ 354,255.         |
| Expenses      | <u>44,281.</u>   | <u>332,140.</u>     |
| Plus/Minus    | (\$ 11,137.)     | \$ 22,115.          |

**Summary:** For the month of July, Saint Matthew's expenses exceeded income by approximately \$11,100. While the month ended with a deficit, our year-to-date financial position remains positive at approximately \$22,100. Year-to-date income is \$55,100 above budget and expenses are \$17,600 below budget. An important contributor to this positive position was the Nursery School profit-share payment received in June.

**Envelope/General Giving:** Worship giving continues to provide strong support for Saint Matthew's ministries. July worship giving totaled approximately \$24,700, which was about \$3,500 above budget for the month. Year-to-date worship giving is approximately \$35,800 above budget. Thank you to everyone who gives regularly and helps sustain the work of our church.

**Giving Opportunities:** Every gift to Saint Matthew helps support worship, ministry, outreach and the care of our church property. Members may give through weekly envelopes, online giving or special designated contributions. Those who are able may also consider supporting the Roof Fund, Parking Lot Project, memorial gifts, youth and family ministries or other designated funds. Your generosity allows Saint Matthew to respond to current needs while planning responsibly for the future.

**Roof Fund:** We are grateful to everyone who has contributed to this fund and helped Saint Matthew prepare for future roofing needs. These designated gifts remain set aside to protect and maintain our church building. Please be sure to continue to submit your pledges.

**Parking Lot Project:** This was an important improvement and represents a significant investment in the safety, accessibility and long-term care of our church property. Congregational gifts designated for the parking lot continue to be welcomed and appreciated. Every contribution helps reduce the amount that will need to be drawn from other church resources, including the Endowment Fund. Thank you for helping Saint Matthew care for our shared church home.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kevin Cunningham and  
Rebecca DeSantis

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## News from the Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee along with Christian Education will host a coffee hour on Rally Day, September 13<sup>th</sup>, after the second service. We are planning Trunk or Treat for Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, at 4 p.m.

Barb McClintock

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## Social Ministry

Wow! The generosity of our congregation never ceases to amaze me! Your gifts of school supplies for the children of Faith Immanuel are overwhelming. This year, we delivered 67 backpacks, 60 spiral notebooks, 17 composition books, 8 three ring binders, 15 packages of loose leaf paper, 54 two pocket folders, 3 packages of post-it notes, 6 packages of index cards, 43 glue sticks, 18 glue bottles, 39 rulers, 9 pencil boxes/pouches, 620 pencils, 104 pens, 28 packages of colored pencils, 71 boxes of crayons, 45 markers, 23 highlighters, 81 erasers, 24 pencil sharpeners, 6 scissors, and two lunch boxes! An absolutely incredible amount of school supplies! Social Ministry thanks all of you for your gifts. They will truly help the children of Faith Immanuel have a great start this school year.

*"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."*

Hebrews 13:16

Cheryl Morrell

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## Children's Corner Welcome Back to School

We hope you will all join us for Sunday School. We have Sunday School every Sunday during the 9:30 service.

**Title:** *Growing Together in God's Love*

As summer comes to an end, we're excited to welcome everyone back to Sunday School! This year we'll discover Bible stories, sing songs, make crafts, play games, and learn how Jesus loves us every day. Whether you're returning or joining us for the first time, there's a place for you in our church family.

**Bible Verse:** *"Let the little children come to me."* — Mark 10:14

September is a beautiful time to enjoy God's creation. As the seasons begin to change, we can see God's creativity in colorful leaves, cooler days, and the harvest. Encourage children to thank God for the beauty around them and to care for His creation.

#### **Family Activity:**

Take a nature walk and collect leaves or acorns. Talk about how every part of creation reminds us of God's love.

**Bible Verse:** *"God saw all that he had made and it was very good."* – Genesis 1:31

A new school year is a wonderful opportunity to share God's love through kindness. Smiling at a new classmate, helping a teacher, or including someone who feels left out are simple ways children can be the hands and feet of Jesus.

**Challenge:** Perform one act of kindness each day this week.

**Bible Verse:** *"Be kind and compassionate to one another."* — Ephesians 4:32

Julie Cirillo

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### **Men's Breakfast**

**T**he Men's Breakfast will be starting up again on September 19 at 7:00 a.m. at the Court Diner in Media. Join us and share your summer adventures.

John Stefl

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### **October Newsletter Deadline**

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

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### **Welcome Church**

**A**lthough it doesn't feel like fall or winter yet, the colder weather will come.

Please remember the homeless and Welcome Church as we donate socks, small toiletries and coffee.

Joan Krauter

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### **Food Collection**

**O**ur monthly food collection continues. We are so thankful for the continued support by all the Saint Matthew members who allow us to deliver a trunk full of items each month. When we pull in to deliver our many bags of food items, the staff comes out with a large shopping cart to help us unload and many times, we are able to fill the cart twice. The staff is always very grateful for the items we are able to deliver. Thank you to everyone who continues to support this program. Our next delivery date will be Sunday, September 6.

Nancy Regan

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### **Gemma Services**

**T**he Women's Circle will continue to support the children who live and attend school at Gemma Services. Each month at our meeting we are able to assemble 60 treat bags full of candy for the children to enjoy. We are told the children really enjoy them. We will be asking for nut-free wrapped candy after Halloween again this year.

Also we would like to do the Every Thing But The Bird collection for Thanksgiving that allows families to enjoy a holiday dinner. We will also be collecting toys for the children in the residential treatment program for a special Christmas for the children. We thank everyone who supports our work and the programs at Gemma.

Nancy Regan

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### **Saint Matthew Christian Nursery School A Place for Friendship and Learning Welcoming Children for a New School Year!**

**W**e are excited to open our doors and welcome children for the new school year beginning the week of September 14th!

Saint Matthew Christian Nursery School is a place for friendship and learning—a caring, faith-filled environment where little ones can grow, play, and discover God's love together. Whether your child is just starting or returning, we would be delighted to have them join us.

We currently have openings in all programs.

If you are interested or know a family looking for a nurturing preschool experience, please contact Jenny Redding at 610-543-5589.

We look forward to another wonderful year of friendship, learning, and growing together!

Jenny Redding  
Director

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### **Vital Statistics**

#### **Baptisms:**

Shana Guillermina Silva Matehu  
Born: November 12, 2015  
Baptized: June 28, 2026

Nicholas Portillo McHugh  
Born April 3, 2022  
Baptized August 9, 2026

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## Monthly Mailbag



Dear Penny and Members of Saint Matthew Lutheran Church,

Thank you for providing the health kits for men and women, blankets, rice and beans, socks, plus the amazing water bottles! They are 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.

A special thanks to Penny and Bill for dropping off these items!

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 Congregation,

Thank you so much for helping our Women of the ELCA Women's group with the addition of the water bottles for our health kits gathered and sent to Chester County Migrant Ministry. We collected 52 bottles! All of which will go a long way towards keeping the workers well hydrated during the hot summer and fall months. As always, when we ask, you come through with more than we could have imagined!

God's Blessings to you all,

Penny Hermann 😊

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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 2026-2027 Sunday School year**

God’s Work, Our Hands will be making personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief.

***September 13, 2026 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 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/5080B4DADAD22A13-65069592-personal>.

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

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