



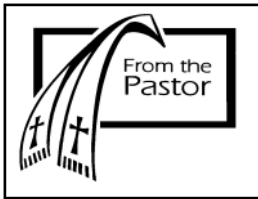
The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Volume 68, Number 7

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From Our Pastor

Connect
Care
eQuip
Cultivate

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10:24, 25

Every year pastors try to encourage the members of their congregations to not take a vacation from God. We encourage you to continue to worship; even as the weather is great for other things, do not forget to come give thanks to the One who gives us the summer. We encourage you to worship where you are when on vacation, allowing yourself to keep in the practice of worship and prayer, and experiencing what it is like to worship with other sisters and brothers in Christ. With these regular reminders for the summer months, allow me to give you a few other reasons to be encouraged to worship this summer. Especially with our congregational goal of Connecting with one another, coming together for worship and fellowship is key to our life at Saint Matthew.

The Vicar is coming!

Vicar Daniel Smith begins his year of serving and learning with us in July. His first Sunday with us will be July 17th. On that day we will have a rite of welcome and installation at both services, so that the entire congregation can affirm his presence with us to lead and serve among us. We will also have a reception following each service so that people can greet our Vicar and begin to get to know him. We are looking for all our members to come and be a part of this special service, and the beginning of a new chapter in the life of Saint Matthew and our intern.

Clown Troupe Coming

The King's Clown Troupe as Fools for Christ will be coming to Saint Matthew July 29th at 7 p.m. to present a program for the congregation and the community. The

King's Clown Troupe is a ministry of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Clifton Park, NY. Clown ministry is a very moving way of telling the story of the Gospel. It is not a circus show about juggling and big shoes and slapstick. It is about using the gifts, personalities and attributes one can bring when dressed in “clown garb,” which includes putting aside the ability to speak, so that people can hear the story in a whole new way. There are often light-hearted moments in a clown program, but there are also deep “aha!” moments. There is sometimes laughter, and sometimes deep emotion. There is sometimes “audience participation,” and times when the audience just observes. But throughout, the Troupe is helping us to feel and experience the presence of Christ.

The King's Clown Troupe as Fools for Christ reflects in its name a connection to the One who is ruler of the world, and a connection to serving our Lord Jesus in the way Paul speaks in 1st Corinthians, as “fools for Christ,” wanting to know nothing but Jesus, which the world sees as foolishness. The Troupe has been active for many decades now as a part of the Youth Ministry of Prince of Peace. The troupe often goes on tour during the summer months. The current configuration is a group of eight, five youth and three adults. We will be blessed to have them with us the evening of Friday, July 29th.

Hearing Devices

We have made many upgrades to our sound system in the church. Several people have commented that there is more clarity and it is easier to hear than it has been. This is good news, but there is also the reality that, as each person has their own hearing attributes and deficits, not everyone will hear everything clearly with just the sound system alone. Especially as we hit the summer months, and the air conditioning comes on, there will be times during the cycling of the system that the volume or the tone will not be as consistent as during the heating season.

One of the upgrades that has been made is a new set of hearing assistant devices. We used to have four devices, none of which worked consistently, and which were old enough technologically that they could not be repaired. We now have new devices, which are tied into

our new mixing board and sound system and which work significantly better to bring help to those who may need a little extra boost. Again, no piece of any sound system will work universally for all people. Still, we are very pleased to have these devices to help even more of our members get more out of the worship service.

With these events and improvements, I hope you will be encouraged to gather together. I look for you each week, not just when special events are coming. Yet I hope that these things will show you that much is happening in our congregation, and that you will want to Connect and be an active part of this community of faith, even in the summer!

See you in church!
Pr. Karl M. Richard

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Thank You, Dr. Aronson

Last month's newsletter was the final one to be edited by Dr. Carl Aronson. He has retired from the position of Newsletter Editor. We want to extend a huge "thank you" to Dr. Aronson for his dedicated, faithful service as Editor of our newsletter. He has served in this capacity since 1991 – 25 years of outstanding work! Every newsletter has been beautifully put together. Thank you, Dr. Aronson, for 25 wonderful years!

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Don't take a Vacation from God!

During the summer months we have a slower schedule, and many of the meetings and obligations we have diminish as school ends, and people begin to travel. In the church we slow things down as well. Sunday School disbands for the summer; the choir is off until the fall; many of our committees will not meet, or will not meet as often during June, July, and August.

But with all this slowing down, please remember the need for us to meet together; the need for us to gather in the house of the Lord is one thing that does not go away. While the choir may not be up front, they will be present in worship, leading the songs from the pews. And Jesus will still be present whenever we gather in his name to call on him in prayer, and lift his name in praise.

We will continue our regular schedule all summer long, with worship at 8:00 and 10:15 each Sunday morning. Come and join as family. Come and spend time with Jesus. As we take a vacation from our normal routines, don't take a vacation from God!

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Christian Education

We would like to thank everyone who helped to make our Christian Education program run smoothly this year. Certificates of appreciation were handed out on June 12. There are too many names to mention in this article, but please know that your dedication to this program is greatly appreciated.

The last day of Sunday School was June 12. Thanks to the Fellowship Committee for planning such a festive Luau Party for us to conclude the year.

We would like to remind you that Vacation Bible School is just around the corner. This year's theme is Cave Quest. The program will run from July 25 to July 29 beginning at 9:00 in the morning and ending at 11:30 AM. Registration forms are available on the table in the hallway. Please return completed forms to the church office. As always, many hands are needed to help make this program run smoothly. Adults are needed to assist in several areas. Please contact Julie Cirillo at manoalstgrade@hotmail.com for more details.

Finally, we have already started making plans for our Sunday School program in the fall. At this point in time, we have all our teachers in place, but we are always open to new faces. Please contact David Krauter or Carol Penjucke if you are able to substitute for a Sunday School class or have an interest in teaching a Sunday School class in the future.

Carol Penjucke

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Children's Corner

Dear Children,

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Where have we heard that line before?? Why, of course, each Sunday morning as we recite The Lord's Prayer right before Communion. Sometimes as we bow our heads and say this wonderful prayer, we may be thinking of Sunday dinner, company coming, or perhaps a celebration. Let's take a good look at this line about **forgiveness**. What does it mean, how can we forgive when someone does something mean to us, where do we "get" forgiveness?? All good questions that I have asked myself many times. Back in April, (while we were still celebrating the Easter season), two readings—one from the Book of Acts, and the other from the Gospel of Saint John—were all about **forgiveness**. I know that you are familiar with the story of Saul/Paul. Saul harbored much hate in his heart and was physically abusive to the followers of Jesus, but on the way to Damascus to bring further torment to those people who followed Christ, was converted and later became one of the greatest teachers proclaiming that Jesus was the Son of God. **Forgiveness!!** The second story is from John's Gospel and tells us how Peter, one of the

disciples, denied ever knowing Jesus—3 times—and although I am sure that Jesus was hurt, he forgave Peter and later on, Peter became the founder of what we know as the Christian Church!! **Forgiveness!!** There are so many accounts revealed in the Bible of God's grace that we can all be sure that God always loves us and forgives us our most terrible sins. "The unforgivable is forgiven." When we feel alone and sad because perhaps we have been sinful—remember that God's Grace covers us like a warm cuddly blanket and reminds us that "all is well, my little ones." God's love is freely given to us and we should remember to forgive others as well.

Dear Parents:

Forgiving others is one of life's most difficult decisions, but what a teachable moment for you and your child. Remind yourself how God has forgiven you and pray for a renewed Spirit. Perhaps these verses from scripture will help: Acts 9: 1-20 John 21: 1-19 Psalm 85:1-4 Proverbs 19:11.

Sylvia Yost

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A Father's Day Remembrance

It matters not how one prepares for such loss, it is always a profound wrench to the heart when the day comes that one's father is gone. Looking back to my own childhood, I keenly felt my father's death. There was no longer the source of center in the family unit, the strong hand of kindly guidance for a young boy was there no more. The voice which intoned the care and love to Mom, my little sister and me was stilled forever. The change I noticed most was not as much from the people in my life but rather from within myself.

Suddenly, it was me who as surviving son became the focus of the family name. Suddenly it was me for whom the future became an important aspect of living. Suddenly it was me who had the cares for the well-being of a Mom and sister. And suddenly, in a single stroke, there was the realization that whatever I wanted from life, I would have to earn it by myself. These fearsome thoughts of a 10 year old have lived with me all these years and have influenced my drive toward goals and accomplishments which were hardly even a dream back then.

Scarcely a day goes by without my missing Dad. Sometimes it is just a sense that he's only out of town for a while and other times it has been like a huge aching hole of loneliness. Those times were when I needed to make an important decision but there really was no one close with whom I could discuss the potential outcomes.

How often one looks to one's father for an encouraging word, a loving embrace, a smile of approval! Those things are what we treasure in our lives and which we will always remember. They are part of who we are. I remember playing tag, as a kid, around the church columns after Sunday services while Dad and Mom were chatting

with friends. There was this deep feeling of reassurance I felt that my Dad was the source of my identity, such powerful and significant feelings in a young boy!

I clearly recall the feelings I had when my own son was just a child. We were in the car and he reached forward from the back seat and held my shoulder in pure affection. None could doubt the love I hold for him in my heart. Here was the gesture from my son, Derek, which demonstrated his own feelings for me. A feeling of elation and humility swept over me, knowing he was touching his own identity and completing his circle of love.

A touching scene from a movie comes to mind, Kevin Costner's "Field of Dreams," in which the main character gets the chance to play ball with his father who had died when he was still a child. How simple are our needs. Just to share a moment with our Dad is made so precious now because it can't be so.

A song I've heard by Michael and the Mechanics called "The Living Years" touches my heart about saying and doing how you feel for your father while he is still living. How true that is! By extension, should we not say and do how we truly feel to all those living people around us now whom we love?

Life is teaching us all that we are dependent upon each other. Inter-dependency and interconnections can be seen everywhere in nature, all in delicate balance and harmony, each factor, plant, animal and mineral depending upon the other for a perfect environment in which to flourish. We too depend upon these and upon each other for our quality of life. "Love one another" said the Carpenter. We need to give that love, that compassion to heal our relationships and to grow in our own self-awareness.

With the passing of our loved ones we are reminded that they lived to give us life, nurturing and roots so we can flourish, learn our lessons and pass again the torch to our own youngsters. I believe the soul never dies, the personality continues on another level of existence, volunteering and accepting new challenges and new lessons for growth, love and understanding. This is where dear Dad lives now.

May peace be with us from the Holy Spirit and our fathers in Heaven.

Tony Webb

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First Thursday Friends

First Thursday Friends will gather on Thursday, July 7, at 11:30 a.m. at Anthony's, 4990 State Road, Drexel Hill (in the Drexeline Shopping Center.) For more information contact John Stefl.

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September Newsletter Deadline

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

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Social Ministry

Social Ministry is again collecting school supplies for the children who attend Faith Immanuel Lutheran Church. All types of school supplies are needed for children of elementary school to high school age. They will be delivered to the children the week of August 22. There is a bin in the hallway for your donations.

We also continue to collect non-perishable items for the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry. The children who receive free or reduced lunches at school are now home for the summer, so the need is even more critical during the summer months. If you are able to assist with packing food for clients at the Pantry, please see Rick Link or Joanne Castagna.

We wish you all a fun and safe summer!

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Monthly Mailbag



Dear Saint Matthew Friends:

You are the best! Thank you for the terrific tasty treats for the children of Silver Springs-Martin Luther School. They were an extra special treat for the boys and girls at their annual Memorial Day weekend BBQ!

We are so very grateful for your continued support of our ministry and friendship to the vulnerable children we serve. With the caring commitment of friends like Saint Matthew, we are able to bring hope and healing to the boys and girls in our care. On behalf of the children, thank you again!

Sincerely,
Amanda Bryant
Development Associate
Silver Springs-Martin Luther School

Dear Saint Matthew Friends,

Thank you so much for the pretty altar flowers, get well cards and prayers. It was so nice of Donna and Britten Winters to deliver the flowers.

Sincerely,
Sara Riegner

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Vital Statistics

Baptism: **Evelyn Rose Stotts**
Daughter of Quintin and Lindsay Stotts
Born July 30, 2015
Baptized May 22, 2016

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St Matthew Lutheran Church

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COME ENJOY LEMONADE AND SNACKS ON THE LAWN



JULY 10
9AM



St Matthew Lutheran Church

405 Lynbrooke Road, Springfield PA 19064
Telephone: 610 543-8700 Fax: 610 543-8704
office@stmattspringfield.org

Please help us Welcome

Vicar Daniel

Meet and Greet will begin

immediately after each service on

July 17, 2016

Coffee and Danishes will be served