



The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Volume 77 Number 7

July/August 2025

Internet Web Site: www.stmattspringfield.org



From Our Pastor

Connect
Care
eQuip
Cultivate

Things never stop in the Kingdom of God. That is also true for the work we do in this corner of the Kingdom we know as Saint Matthew. Our schedule changes, but the mission we have to Connect people with God and each other, Care for the world in Jesus' name, eQuip our youth and their families for a life of faith in Jesus, and Cultivate a spiritual sense of generosity continue throughout the summer months.

Connect: Of course we continue to worship every week. We worship Jesus because he is worthy of our love, devotion, and gratitude. While we strive to have worship meaningful for the people who come, it can be important to remember that the primary reason we come to worship is not for what we can get out of it, but what we can give to the One who has given his life for us.

As you may have heard or read already, we lost a second tent in a severe weather event, and we have decided, after losing two tents in four years, not to replace it with a third tent. Worship, therefore, will be in the sanctuary at both 8:00 and 9:30 a.m.

We also have occasional times for fellowship between the services. These will be held on the second Sunday in July and August—July 13th and August 10th.

Care: We continue to care for those in need with our First Sunday Food Drives. On July 6th and August 3rd we will receive your non-perishable food items to share through the work of the Media Food Pantry. And we are collecting school supplies to share with children who do not have them through our partnership with Faith Immanuel Lutheran Church in East Lansdowne. Our Women of the ELCA circle is also continuing to receive gifts for the Welcome Church, Beds for Kids, Fair Acres, and Chester County Migrant Ministry.

eQuip: While regular, weekly Sunday School and Bible Study take a break for the summer, we still have Vacation Bible School in the midpoint of the season. This year VBS will be held July 28th through August 1st, with the theme "True North." We have dozens of children attend Vacation Bible School each year, most of whom are not members of Saint Matthew. While we may not see them every week, getting them for five days to hear the story of Jesus and his love for us is a wonderful way to

cultivate seeds of faith in these children. To do so in a fun and interactive setting can often bear more fruit than we can imagine. Be sure to encourage the children in your family and your neighborhood to attend!

Cultivate: Our congregation has always been generous in times of need. This is reflected in the many gifts given in kind for the many programs sponsored by our Social Ministry and Women of the ELCA teams, and by the generous cash gifts for Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. It is also shown in the way that people "step up" when there is a particular concern with our facilities we need to address. One opportunity to stretch our spiritual generosity muscles is also in supporting our regular budget.

It is never quite as compelling to support the ongoing expenses of the church as it is to alleviate the concerns of those affected by a hurricane, but it is no less important to keep our congregation fiscally strong so that we can have a base from which we do our ministry. To let you know where we stand going into the summer, as of May 31 we were \$24,272 behind in income versus expenses. And in June we have had some rather expensive repairs to our air conditioning system that will set us back still further. While people travel for the summer, this is a time when regular offerings tend to also decrease. If you are able, please consider giving an extra gift to your church home to ensure we can have a strong summer, with less of a gap come the fall.

As you can see, things never stop in the Kingdom of God, as there are always people who need to hear and experience the love of God through Jesus Christ.

I am grateful for your partnership in this ministry!

Pastor Karl M. Richard

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Christian Education

A very special thank you to our teachers this school year. We had Jenna Cirillo, Barb McClintock and Jen Conrad with the preschool/kindergarten students. Kristen Plachuta was working with the lower elementary level students and Dave Russell was with the older elementary students. Kathy Kinder was our substitute teacher! Then we had Pastor Leslie and Miss Nikki working with the junior and senior high students. We are already getting ready for Rally Day in September!

If you are looking for something to do this summer, come join us at Vacation Bible School. It will be July 28th - August

1st every morning from 9:00 until 11:30. It is a great way to spend a week! If you are interested, there is a space for everyone. Please contact Julie Cirillo at manoa1stgrade@hotmail.com.

Julie Cirillo

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Financial Update

Dear Heavenly Father, we pray for the continued growth and vitality of our church community. May our congregation flourish as we unite in faith, demonstrating love and support for one another. We are grateful for the generosity of our members, whose gifts enable us to carry out our mission and reach those in need. Help us to maintain our spirit of unity in service, as we work together to make a positive impact in our community. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

	<u>April 2025</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Giving/Income	\$ 35,993.	\$ 196,403.
Expenses	<u>51,675.</u>	<u>210,444.</u>
Plus/Minus	(\$ 15,682.).	(\$ 14,041.)

Summary: Year to date, our financials reflect a total income of \$196,403 against expenses of \$210,444, leading to an overall negative balance of \$14,041. Comparing to Fiscal Year 2024, we are about the same as we were then.

Additional Cost to Budget: For property, we replaced the door on the side of the church, which was around \$3,400.

Envelope/General Giving: As we conclude this month, our church has experienced a giving/income of \$35,993, while our expenses totaled \$51,675, resulting in a deficit of \$15,682 for the month. While we are facing a shortfall, it's important to remember that these challenges can also be opportunities for growth and increased stewardship.

Giving Opportunities: Consistency in regular giving is essential for the support and growth of our church community. By pledging our gifts regularly, we create a stable foundation that allows us to plan for ministry programs and outreach initiatives. Each contribution, no matter the size, enables us to fulfill our mission. We encourage everyone to remain committed to consistent giving as we work together to advance our mission and support our community. Thank you for your continued generosity and support during these times.

Roof Fund Pledges: This is a friendly reminder to please continue sending in your pledges that were made for the Roof Fund. These funds are being used to replenish our endowment funds, allowing us to support our church's mission. Continuing to contribute to your pledge makes a difference and helps ensure a strong financial future for our community. Thank you for your continued support and commitment!

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Cunningham and
Rebecca DeSantis

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September Newsletter Deadline

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

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News from your Property Committee

Our tent was set up, and we were ready for our outside summer worship. A BIG thank you to Joe Regan, Steve Morrell, Ted Hidell, Craig Gardner, Kathy Kinder and Chris DeSantis for their hard work putting up the tent. This year it was long and hard—eight hours. Unfortunately, the storm on June 19 destroyed the tent. Many thanks to Joe and Nancy Regan and Chris and Rebecca DeSantis for taking down the broken pieces.

Over this past month, there have been several things that have been done. We have had the landscaper weed and trim our bushes around the church. The door just off the sacristy has been replaced and painted. The air conditioner in room five (knotty pine room) has been recharged and serviced. Finally, we had both toilets in Elbert Hall replaced, as well as the valve in the bathroom next to the Youth Room.

This Summer we are hoping to paint room five and stairway. This painting hopefully will be done by our congregation, thus saving several thousands of dollars. VBS will be the last week in July—much preparation is needed; and on both projects many volunteers are needed.

Joe Regan, Property

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Children's Corner



Jesus Is With Us Always!



Hello, friends!

Have you ever felt nervous before a test or scared during a thunderstorm? We all have times when we feel alone or afraid—but guess what? Jesus promises that we are *never* alone!

In Matthew 28:20, Jesus says, “**And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**” That means Jesus is with you when you're happy, when you're sad, and even when you're brushing your teeth or walking to school!

As Lutherans, we know that God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to be with us and to save us. Through Baptism, we become part of God's big family—the Church! And every time we come to worship, sing songs, or pray, we grow closer to God and each other.



Try This!

Sing the song “*Jesus Loves Me*” this week and remember that His love is forever!



Craft Idea:

Draw a picture of you and Jesus together. Where are you? What are you doing? Maybe you're playing in the park or helping someone in need!



Prayer Time:

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for loving me and never leaving me. Help me to remember that You are with me always, no matter what! Amen.

Stay joyful, keep praying, and remember:

You are a child of God—wonderfully made and deeply loved! ❤️

Sharon Gibson

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Beds for Kids

The people who work at Beds for Kids continue to be able to deliver new beds and bedding to children who are in need of a good place to sleep each night. We can help them by providing new pillows, new or gently used single bed sheet sets, blankets, and spreads or comforters. They will also take books for all ages. There is a box under the table in the hallway for all donations.

Nancy Regan

Food Collection

We will continue to collect food through the summer when children who are able to get free school lunches are now out of school. Please remember that lunch items will be needed through the summer. Thank you to all who support this program. We will deliver them on Sunday, July 6.

Nancy Regan

Gemma Services

Gemma Services has begun a major new project with the building of a new Martin Luther School on Butler Pike. This new building will allow more children to attend a school that will allow them to move at their own pace and be able to graduate from high school. There will be more information coming about this program and project.

Nancy Regan

Social Ministry

Social Ministry has begun accepting donations of any and all school supplies for the children of Faith Immanuel Lutheran Church. There is a pink bin in the hallway for you to place your gifts. We will deliver them during the second half of August.

Thank you, in advance, for your generosity!

Cheryl Morrell

Nursery School

Our nursery school has completed another successful school year! Graduation ceremonies were held on June 13, complete with caps, gowns, and diplomas. Saint Matthew is truly blessed to have such an exceptional, caring staff.

We also want to share that Ana Fischer has departed from our Nursery School and will be pursuing a new opportunity. We are grateful for her six years of service to our school, its staff, and, most importantly, the children and families we serve in the community.

We anticipate having a new Director in place by mid-August, and will update the congregation when we can.

Wishing all of you a safe and enjoyable summer!

Cheryl Morrell

Monthly Mailbag

Dear Saint Matthew Friends,

We are very grateful for your continued friendship and generosity to Gemma Services! Thank you once again for your donation of



sixty small treat bags and one bag of assorted candy for youth in residence at Gemma. As you know, your support helps Gemma continue to provide vital behavioral health, prevention, child welfare, and educational services (through Martin Luther School) for youth and families who are facing challenging times. Your friendship matters a great deal to us; thank you!

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. As always, 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 also continue to keep you up-to-date with any volunteer opportunities beyond all the ways you currently support us. You can learn more about all of Gemma's programs, latest happenings, and current support needs by visiting website www.gemmaservices.org.

Should you have any questions or wish to schedule a visit please contact me at 610-825-4440, ext. 3307, or Abryant@gemmaservices.org. On behalf of all at Gemma, thank you!

Sincerely,

Amanda Bryant

Director of Donor & Volunteer Engagement
Gemma Services

Dear Saint Matthew Family,

Thank you to our Saint Matthew Church Family for all the prayers, thoughts, phone calls, visits, and condolences concerning the death of Sylvia. We know she is in the hands of the Lord because of her strong faith, which she displayed daily in all her activities.

Sylvia missed being at Saint Matthew in person, but was grateful that she could zoom into the Sunday service and participate remotely. The service meant so much to her.

It has been incredible the outpouring of love for Sylvia from the members of Saint Matthew. Until her last couple of days on this earth, she would reminisce about all of you and pray for you and your families.

We love you all.

The Yost Family

Dear Pastor Karl, Faith Alive Band, and all of the Saint Matthew congregation,

Thank you so much for the beautiful funeral service for our Mother/Grandmother Carol Lynde. It was very comforting to be surrounded by our church family as we celebrated Carol's life. She loved Saint Matthew and spending time at worship and our many fellowship events. Your love, support, and compassion is helping us along this most difficult journey. We are also very grateful for the numerous donations that were made to our youth ministries. Carol loved our kids, and it is such a tribute to her legacy that in her memory so many have contributed to the activities that will continue to build a stronger faith foundation for our youth. God bless you all!!

Sincerely,

Nicole, Greg, Gregory, Abby and Ryan Smith

Vital Statistics

High School Graduate: Hannah Barber

Death:

Sylvia Yost
Died May 31, 2025
Funeral June 7, 2025

New Address:

Dave and Lydia Russell
548 Vernon Road
Springfield, PA 19064

Dear Families,

This summer, at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, we're planning an exciting Vacation Bible School adventure called True North. Every day there is a new bible story and a verse to go along with the lesson.

This fun-filled VBS week is for everyone between preschool to sixth grade. The fun begins Monday, July 28, and continues through August 1. The sessions run from 9:00-11:30 a.m. Please come Monday, July 28, at 8:45 a.m. Closing activities will be on Friday, August 1, at 11:15 a.m in the church with a snack on the lawn. Registration is going on now! For more information, contact Julie Cirillo at manoa1st-grade@hotmail.com or the church office at 610-543-8700. In order to register for VBS, please return the VBS registration to the church office or mail it to St. Matthew. Sign up today! We will have an iron-on decal for your child.

We can't wait to see you at VBS!





**Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Vacation Bible School Registration Form
July 28 – August 1, 2025
9:00-11:30 AM**

Classes available for students age 3 through Grade 6

Student's Name _____ Birth Date _____
Last school grade completed as of June, 2025 _____
Parent's Name _____
Home Address _____
Telephone _____ E-mail Address _____
Emergency Contact Person during week of VBS (name, phone number and relationship to child) _____

Known allergies or medical concerns _____
If student attends a church school, where _____
Parent's Church _____
Names and ages of brothers and sisters _____
Does your child have a friend coming to VBS? If yes please list first and last names _____

*****Please note all requests must be made by June 1, 2025**

We like to photograph the children of VBS to use for bulletin boards and a craft, if you would like your child to **NOT** be photographed please check here _____.

____ I am available to help with VBS everyday
____ I am available to help with VBS ____ Monday ____ Tuesday ____ Wednesday ____ Thursday ____ Friday
____ I am able to donate a snack. (We will let you know what to donate)

Payment in the amount of _____ made by _____ check (payable to St. Matthew Lutheran Church) _____ cash

\$20.00 for one child; \$30.00 for two children; family of 3 or more - \$35.00

****There will be CDs for an additional \$5.00, please include the \$5.00 in your registration.**

Return to: St. Matthew Lutheran Church - VBS
400 Lynbrooke Road
Springfield, PA 19064

For more information, contact Julie Cirillo at manoa1stgrade@hotmail.com or the Church Office (610-543-8700).





Can't wait to see you at
Vacation Bible School
July 28 - August 1

Vacation Bible School
July 28 - August 1
9:00 - 11:30 AM
Theme: True North

Registration forms
are in the church hallway
and on our website.