



From Our Pastor

Connect
Care
eQuip
Cultivate

“To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.” Eccl. 3:1

This familiar verse is followed by a series of opposite pairings – tearing and mending, gathering and casting away and the like. But using this verse just at its face value, we know that there is a continual unfolding of the seasons as we move through the days, weeks, and months that make up the years of our lives. And at this point in time, we have reached the season of summer.

Summer for many people is the best time of year. We still remember when we were children in school, and the way summer marked freedom from homework and studying and tests. We remember the way it felt like anything was possible in the weeks that spread out before us with set responsibilities replaced with an open schedule. This may have been short-lived if we were part of a family that pushed us to get summer jobs, but even then, we had the opportunity to make some money and experience the sense of pride that comes with having even modest resources to buy items we hoped to obtain. Many of us work hard at our jobs so that we can purchase or rent a spot at the Jersey shore for the summer, because we remember the feeling of being away from home and work, able to lay out on the beach, stroll the boardwalk, and let the world melt away. The summer season always seems too short, as the school year and the return to “normal” programming comes around before we are ready. But while we have these weeks, we hope to make the most of them!

In this time “away” we should also remember that it is God who gives us the seasons, and that in every season God is blessing us and calling us to live in love for him and the world he gives us. In the summer we have different opportunities to worship, learn, and serve, but we should not stop worshipping, learning, and serving. If we are away, we can worship at a local church, or we can join our Saint Matthew family in “Zurch” (Zoom Church). Our children will have the opportunity to learn in Vacation Bible School, and we as adults and older teens also have the opportunity to learn by helping to teach our children in Vacation Bible School. And, of course, there is always the opportunity to serve our neighbors whether it is summer or not, through ongoing gifts to the food pantry, our collection of school supplies (I know, too soon!) for the children in East Lansdowne and Gemma Services, and the countless ways in which we can share love and laughter with those we encounter wherever we roam this summer.

To everything there is a season, and in every season, God gives us the purpose of sharing love in Jesus’ name. May we find that such sharing makes this season even more joyful, even if it doesn’t make it any longer!

Blessed summer, my friends.

Pastor Karl M. Richard

Christian Education

We had a wonderful celebration at the end of the Sunday School year! Thank you to all who joined us! This year we are doing something new— Summer Camp. It will take place instead of Sunday School but at the same time. Children ages 2-8 are welcome to come to the nursery school room after the gospel for a little lesson on their level.

We are getting ready for RAINFOREST FALLS Vacation Bible School! It is July 27th -July 31st from 9:00-11:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join us! If you have any questions, please reach out to Julie Cirillo.

Julie Cirillo

Financial Update

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the continued blessings You provide to Saint Matthew Lutheran Church. We are grateful for the generosity, faithfulness, and care of our congregation, and for the many ways our members support the mission and ministry of our church. Help us use our resources wisely, support the needs of today, and prepare responsibly for the future. May our giving, planning, and service reflect our love for You and our commitment to the church community we share. Amen.

	<u>May 2026</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Giving/Income	\$ 33,085.	\$ 236,397.
Expenses	<u>45,933.</u>	<u>243,270.</u>
Plus/Minus	(\$ 12,848.)	(\$ 6,873.)

Summary: For the month of May, Saint Matthew’s expenses were higher than income, resulting in a monthly shortfall. Year to date, expenses are also slightly ahead of income. While this is something we continue to monitor carefully, we are encouraged by the continued generosity of our congregation and the steady support that helps sustain the church’s ministries.

As we move into the summer months, consistent giving remains especially important. Regular contributions help Saint Matthew

meet ongoing expenses, care for our church property, support worship and ministry, and plan responsibly for future needs.

Envelope/General Giving: May giving reflects the faithful support of our congregation. Worship giving continues to be a key source of support for Saint Matthew's ongoing operations and ministries. Each gift helps provide stability and allows the church to continue serving our members, families, and wider community.

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: Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Roof Fund and continues to honor their roof pledge. These contributions remain important as we work to replenish the endowment and support the long-term financial health of Saint Matthew. Continuing pledge payments help care for our church home while also protecting resources that support future needs.

Parking Lot Project: Project is under way and construction on the parking lot should begin the week of June 22. The project will be supported through a combination of designated parking lot gifts, designated nursery school funds, and endowment funds. Congregational donations toward this project are also welcome and appreciated. Any additional gifts received will help offset the amount needed from the endowment and support the responsible care of our church property.

Thank you for considering a gift toward this project as we continue working together to maintain and strengthen Saint Matthew for today and for the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Cunningham and
Rebecca DeSantis

Fellowship Update

We will be going to the Blue Rocks Baseball Game on July 24th. We will have coffee hour between the services on July 5th and August 2nd. If you are at the service on these dates, I hope you will join us for some fellowship and treats. I hope everyone enjoys their summer.

Barb McClintock

News from your Property Committee

We are happy to report that the tile in main hallway has been repaired, thank you Chris DeSantis for doing a particularly excellent job. The illegal trailer that was dumped in our parking lot has been removed. Between Springfield Police and U Haul, it was removed.

When you receive this newsletter, the parking lot project will be under way. During construction, the area will be closed to

parking and foot traffic, so attendees should park on the street and use the main entrance in June and July. In late July limited parking spaces for our services may resume (no overnight parking), but the Bennett Road entrance must be used. The Harwicke Road exit is not expected to reopen until late August.

The project will have many blocks of concrete replaced, curbing to replace the rotting wood, and all new asphalt. We will advise when walking, driving, and parking will be allowed.

June will bring repainting the front pillars that are chipped. These pillars are not only decorative but are also support pillars that hold up the front roof and must be protected from rot.

Along with the pillars, we will also have the knotty pine room repainted. The last time it was painted was when it was renovated around 2005.

When the September newsletter comes out, we are hopeful to list all updates and projects that were done over the summer.

Joe Regan

September Newsletter Deadline

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

Children's Corner

Growing in Faith This Summer

Summer often brings a different pace to our lives, but it is also a wonderful opportunity to continue growing in faith together. Whether you are traveling, spending time with family, or enjoying quieter days at home, we encourage you to keep Christ at the center of your summer.

Here are a few simple ways to nurture faith during July:

Daily Devotions - Set aside a few minutes each day for prayer and Scripture reading. Even a short devotional can help center your day on God's promises.

Family Faith Conversations - Talk together about where you have seen God's blessings and guidance. Share favorite Bible stories and pray for one another.

Worship Together - Regular worship remains an important way we receive God's Word and Sacraments and encourage one another in faith.

Serve Others - Look for opportunities to show Christ's love through acts of kindness, hospitality, and service within our congregation and community.

Looking Ahead - As summer continues, we are also preparing for our fall Christian Education programs, including Sunday School, Bible studies, confirmation classes, and family faith events. More information will be shared in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your continued support of Christian Education. May God bless you with a joyful, restful, and faith-filled July!

In Christ,

The Christian Education Team

Food Collection

We continue to support The Media Food Bank with so many wonderful donations thanks to the generous members at Saint Matthew. Each month we have been able to deliver a car full of bags of food and items for those in need. Since school is out for the summer, many of the children who receive breakfast and lunch through the school programs are now unable to have meals provided so there is a greater need. Thank you to all who support the program. We will continue to deliver food on the first Sunday of each month.

Nancy Regan

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Gemma Services

We continue to work with friends at Gemma Services to support the children in the programs that Gemma offers to the children in need of their special services. The ladies of Women of the ELCA assemble treat bags at each meeting filled with candy treats for the children to enjoy. We will also be collecting canned goods in the fall for the Everything but the Bird Program for Thanksgiving and The Christmas Gift of toys for the children in the residential treatment program. There will be a new school opening in September for the children to attend with added programs for the students at Gemma and students from other districts who attend the special services that are offered. Thank you to all who support our work.

Nancy Regan

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Social Ministry

This summer, beginning in July, we will again be collecting school supplies for the children of Faith Immanuel in East Landsdowne. Any and all items are welcome, and there is also a list of suggested items in the hallway. There will be a pink bin in the hallway for your gifts. We will deliver everything to the children in mid-August. Thank you, in advance, for your ongoing support of this ministry.

Cheryl Morrell

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Saint Matthew Christian Nursery School Summer Update

As another wonderful school year comes to a close, we would like to thank our church family for your continued support, prayers, and encouragement throughout the year. We are so grateful to be part of the ministry of Saint Matthew Lutheran Church and to have the opportunity to share God's love with so many young children and their families.

While the hallways may be a little quieter during the summer months, there is still plenty happening behind the scenes! Throughout the summer, our staff will be busy preparing for the 2026–2027 school year. We will be organizing classrooms, updating curriculum materials, completing maintenance

projects, preparing student records, and welcoming new families into our school community.

We are excited about the continued growth of our program and the addition of a new 5-Day Full-Day Pre-K classroom beginning this fall. It is always a blessing to see our school ministry reach more families in our community.

We are also still accepting registrations for the upcoming school year and have openings available in several of our programs. If you, a family member, friend, neighbor, or anyone you know is looking for a nurturing, faith-based preschool experience for their child, we would love to hear from them. Please help us spread the word about Saint Matthew Christian Nursery School and the wonderful opportunities we offer young children and their families.

As we prepare for another year of learning, friendship, and faith-filled experiences, we ask for your prayers for our students, families, teachers, and staff. May God continue to guide our work and bless all those who walk through our doors.

We hope everyone enjoys a safe, relaxing, and joyful summer. We look forward to welcoming our students back in September for another wonderful year at Saint Matthew Christian Nursery School—*A Place for Friendship and Learning*.

For enrollment information or to schedule a tour, please contact the nursery school office at **610-543-5589**.

Jenny Redding, Director

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Welcome Church

Please continue to remember the homeless. They continue to need toiletries, coffee and socks.

Joan Krauter

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Monthly Mailbag

Dear Saint Matthew Friends,

We are very grateful for your long-standing friendship and generosity to Gemma Services! We are grateful for your donation of 60 candy-filled treat bags for the youth in residence at Gemma. You bring so much joy to the children, and they will certainly enjoy these during their summer break! Your support helps Gemma continue to provide vital behavioral health, prevention, and child welfare services through our Martin Luther School for youth and families who are facing challenging times. You and your friendship matter 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 Joan,

I wanted to extend my heartfelt thanks for the generous collection of items you shared from Saint Matthew Lutheran Church. The toiletries, cards, calendars and other thoughtful contributions are truly appreciated and will be very helpful in meeting ongoing needs.

It’s always meaningful to receive such a variety of useful and carefully gathered items. Your kindness, along with the continued support from your church community, brings both comfort and encouragement. These gestures make a genuine difference and are received with gratitude.

Please be sure to pass along our sincere thanks to everyone who helped make this donation possible.

With warm thanks,
Susan Harrar
Director of TAS and Volunteer Services
Fair Acres Geriatric Center

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Vital Statistics

**50th Wedding
Anniversary:**

Stephen and Karen Hackler
July 31, 2026

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Vacation Bible School

July 27 - 31

9:00 - 11:30 AM

**Theme: Rainforest Falls:
Exploring the Nature of God**

Registration forms
are in the church hallway,
on our website,
and enclosed with this newsletter.

