



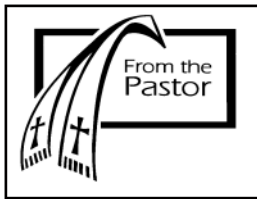
The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Volume 70, Number 2

February 2018

Internet Web Site: www.stmattspringfield.org



From Our Pastor

Connect
Care
Equip
Cultivate

"How do I love thee? Let me count the ways." – Elizabeth Barrett Browning

What do Saint Valentine and Ash Wednesday have in common? Seemingly nothing. Except that this year Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday fall on the same date. The reason for this overlap has nothing in particular to do with the tradition of the saint, and everything to do with the moveable nature of Lent and Easter. Easter is set as the first Sunday following the first full moon that follows the vernal equinox, or the first day of Spring. It follows this pattern to place Easter close to the traditional date of Passover, which by Jewish religious tradition is based on a lunar rather than solar calendar. As a result, Easter is a "moveable feast," and Lent begins 40 days (not counting Sundays) prior to Easter. This year that means Ash Wednesday falls on February 14th, or Saint Valentine's Day.

Not much is reliably known about Saint Valentine, other than he was executed for his faith in Jesus on this day in 269. Tradition says he was a priest who was imprisoned for performing Christian marriages, and for aiding Christians that were being persecuted by Emperor Claudius II. Claudius became enraged when Valentine tried to convince the Emperor of the truth of the Gospel, and had Valentine executed outside the gates of Rome.

Ash Wednesday, as the beginning of Lent, starts a season of reflection on the sinfulness of the world, and the need of the world to have the salvation brought by Jesus through his execution outside Jerusalem. Lent has historically been a season of preparation of persons for Baptism into the faith at the Easter Vigil. In Baptism we are joined to the death, and the resurrection, of Jesus. We are made a part of the family of God, and promised all the blessings of God that come from being a part of God's family. These blessings are what Valentine wanted to share with those around him, even the Emperor. And his commitment to the covenant God made with him in baptism was so strong he would not renounce it, even in the face of certain death.

Perhaps there is some connection between Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday after all. The love Valentine had for the Lord, established in his baptism, caused him to work for the sake of Christians in persecution, to witness to the Emperor, and to remain faithful even to the point of his death in this world. His story reveals the darkness of the sin of this world, sin overcome through the death and resurrection of Jesus. And as we come to Ash Wednesday we are reminded that the love of God that was present for Valentine is present for us, taking away the darkness of our sin, and calling us to engage in prayer, repentance, and acts of love toward the people of the world for the sake of Jesus Christ, who gave his life for our sake, and for the sake of the world. With this year's combination of Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday, perhaps the lines from the poem above can be a reminder to us to count the ways in which we love Jesus for all the ways in which his love has enveloped us.

Happy Valentine's Day, and a blessed Lent be yours this year.

Pr. Karl M. Richard

The Vicar's View: A New and Ever-Abiding Hope

A couple of weeks ago, I saw the newest installment of the Star Wars series in the theaters. It was definitely on the long side as far as movies go, but it managed to hold my attention the entire time. Part of that, I'm sure, was because of the almost constant action scenes. But those action scenes were paired with a kind of emotional rollercoaster that made the movie even more captivating. For a while, you would think all hope was lost for the rebels, then the hope would build, and then the rebels' plan would be foiled, and hope would again seem like just a pipe dream. That cycle of suspense repeated itself several times during the course of the film. Like most good epic movies, *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* ends with hope. The battle between good and evil, between hope and despair, hasn't yet been completely won. There will, no doubt, be losses and upsets in Episode 9 when it comes out in a couple of years. But we can be assured that, in the end, hope and goodness will ultimately win out.

The events of our lives and of this world can seem a bit like a rollercoaster too, can't they? We go through periods

of happiness and sadness, hope and despair, joy and sorrow, health and illness. We have people added into our lives through birth and new relationships, and we lose people through death or strained relationships or geographical distance. And the world seems to go through even more dramatic cycles, as we hear about all sorts of tragedies and upsets, positive and negative, that occur all around the world. We can truly wonder sometimes, as I did occasionally in the theater a couple weeks ago, how it can be that good will eventually win out, how it can be that we have reason to hope.

That is where grasping onto Jesus and the promises God has made to us through his life, death, and resurrection are key. It is Jesus who is our new hope, our only sure hope. It is Jesus who won the battle over sin and death two thousand years ago, and who will consummate that victory when he returns to restore all things. If we are to truly live with any hope in this world, Jesus' victory can't be like a story that we hear and then let fade out of our minds, as the newest Star Wars movie will inevitably fade out of mine. God's promise to be present with us in all of our ups-and-downs can't be something that we regard as a pipe dream. Rather, the story of Jesus and the promises God has made to us have to become a central part of who we are and how we live each day. We have to grasp firmly onto the hope that Jesus' resurrection has given us, in the midst of events in our lives and in this world that make us despair.

Grasping onto God's promises is rarely easy. But that's why we have each other in this community of faith to uphold and assure us. That's why we come to worship, to hear once again the story of Jesus Christ and his love and to praise God for it. That's why we gather around the altar for the Lord's Supper, to taste God's promises to love us and be with us. Our lives and the events of this world may not always fill us with hope right away, but we can continue to hold fast to the truth that, through Jesus Christ, God has given us every reason to hope. "For in this hope were we saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes in what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, then we wait for it with patience" (Rom. 8:24-25). Help us, Lord, to live lives of Christ-centered hope, and to share that hope with others. Amen.

Vicar Dan Smith

* * * * *

Highlighting our Social Ministry Partners: Silver Springs-Martin Luther School (Part 2)

In November, Vicar Dan spoke with Amanda Bryant, the Development Officer of Silver Springs-Martin Luther School. Silver Springs is one of the social ministry partners that we at Saint Matthew are most involved with. The following is a paraphrase of the conversation Vicar Dan and Amanda had about the school and its ministry, its joys and challenges, and Saint Matthew's involvement with it. This is part 2 of that interview. (Check out the January newsletter if you missed the first part!)

Vicar Dan: Now, where does funding come from for Silver Springs-Martin Luther School?

Amanda: It depends on the program. The school has Department of Education funding, and the school district of each student who is bussed in pays for the education of that child. The community-based program and residential program are funded by Medicaid and private insurance dollars. We also fundraise, write grants, and have amazing congregational, individual, and business supporters. Our annual event "Chefs for Silver Springs" is our main big fundraiser. We had 400 guests this year, have a silent and live auction, along with a dinner cooked by well-known restaurant chefs.

Vicar Dan: Has Silver Springs maintained any part of its identity or heritage as a Lutheran ministry?

Amanda: Absolutely. A lot of our biggest supporters are Lutheran congregations in SEPA synod. Not all the kids we serve are Christian, but we always offer to have kids brought to one of two Lutheran churches in the area. And those churches are always very welcoming for the kids. Another part of maintaining our Lutheran heritage was having Sister Sally for religious instruction for interested kids, as well as having Vicar Micah Krey available to the kids as a chaplain and friend. If any of the kids were interested in being baptized, one of them would facilitate that. We also require in our organization's bylaws that a percentage of the Silver Springs board is Lutheran.

Vicar Dan: What are some of the joys and challenges you've had at Silver Springs?

Amanda: The kids are a huge source of joy and incredible to work around. I'm guaranteed to get a hug every day. I love opening my office window and hearing them at recess, knowing that they are able to find things to be joyful about, and just be kids.

Some of the hard parts are carrying the knowledge of some of these kids' stories. I have to read about their trauma and share it with others as part of grant writing and fundraising appeals. To read the specifics of their stories is sometimes really, really hard. You just wish they didn't have to go through some of those things, or that there was something you could do to make it all better.

Vicar Dan: I can imagine that would be really tough. Have the contributions and volunteering from Saint Matthew and other Lutheran congregations helped Silver Springs and its students? If so, how?

Amanda: One hundred percent, definitely! And Saint Matthew, I can't say enough about you folks. We have a lot of congregational supporters, but you guys are amazing. You have a core group that will come to volunteer at the drop of a hat. We've really appreciated, for example, that people from Saint Matthew come every year to wrap Christmas gifts for the kids. I don't think I've ever had as good of a time wrapping presents as I do with your folks. I wouldn't be able to survive the month of December without them. This year, I think they wrapped five gifts and a book for around 70 kids, and were done with it by the afternoon.

And in terms of contributions, there was this one instance a few years ago where we realized it would be really helpful for kids to have wireless bluetooth headphones. But we called Saint Matthew too late for it to be on the list of Christmas gifts we put together. I was talking to Nancy Regan, and said, "Hey, Nancy, I know this is a long shot, but here's this need we have." I knew that your congregation is really generous, but I was still surprised at how

quickly Nancy replied. We got 25-30 sets of headphones from the congregation soon after I talked to her.

Other congregations have helped out a ton, too, for example by buying our children's gospel choir new robes. The response from congregations is just always so tremendous. Churches must feel really connected to the ministry here. I am always thankful for the willingness they have to partner with us and care for the children we serve.

Vicar Dan: That's wonderful! And I definitely get the sense from a lot of parishioners at Saint Matthew that they really value our church's partnership with you, and love spending time at Silver Springs. So, what are your hopes for the future of Silver Springs? Do you see any role for Lutheran congregations and agencies in that future?

Amanda: Our hope overwhelmingly is for us to be able to provide high quality services for the children and families who need us. In order for us to continue to do that, we really need congregations like Saint Matthew and other partners to continue to be involved, whether through donations, volunteering, or just learning about Silver Springs and talking about it. I don't think we could do the work we do without the congregations. It's really a fun part of my job to talk to churches and people about our work and the people we serve.

Vicar Dan: What would you recommend to someone from Saint Matthew if they want to learn more or get more involved in Silver Springs-Martin Luther School?

Amanda: The best thing that I would suggest to everybody is to come visit and to see the kids and where we work, to visualize our ministry in action. You can also volunteer for one of our events. And there's always the website if you want to get a feel for our ministry.

Vicar Dan: Well, I think that's it. Thank you so much, Amanda, for your time in talking to me and for everything you do at Silver Springs.

Amanda: Thank you, too, and thank you to Saint Matthew for your commitment to our ministry. It really means a lot to us.

* * * * *

Christian Education Updates

We're off to a good start with Christian Education for the year 2018! After the hustle and bustle of getting ready for Christmas and the Christmas pageant, as well as a break from classes on the last Sunday in December, we're getting back into the regular rhythm of meeting to learn about God and the Bible, deepen our relationships with each other, and have fun. In early January, the midweek adult classes started a new multimedia course, developed by Dr. David Lose, on Jesus' crucifixion, death, and resurrection. That course will end by Ash Wednesday, but we will continue to offer other educational opportunities as Lent begins! In addition to classes, students will be involved in the annual Souper Bowl of Caring food drive, and will have crafts available for them to bring home and make during the season of Lent.

God's Blessings,
Vicar Dan Smith

* * * * *

Evangelism

Over the past two months, I realized that I, and maybe many other people, may not really know what Evangelism really is. Don't worry, you won't have to stand at the pulpit or your desk at work and preach the Gospel. My initial definition was to live a life that is an example of a good Christian and live the Gospel. That way I am not preachy to people and will not risk being the "Bible Thumper" in the office.

I recently found this excerpt from the "ELCA Board Reviews Evangelism" article: *The "working definition" of evangelism is the "activity of the individual Christian and of the church to share with other people the good news of God's love, grace and power as revealed in Jesus Christ, so that these others may be drawn into the community of Jesus to share a new life with and from God."* The major difference between my definition in the quote is "to share". With my definition, I am hoping someone takes notice. I have to make an effort to be noticed and share with others that the reason I help others is because that is what Christ taught us.

#Practical Tip: Wear your nametag from the moment you walk in the church to the moment you leave. This helps visitors identify members and makes for a more welcoming atmosphere. All of us have forgotten someone's name and have the inner dialogue as they approach "Oh no! I forget his/her name! Is he/she really going to walk up to me?" Then you sheepishly apologize and ask for their name. Not only will wearing your nametag eliminate that awkwardness, but you will help to draw and welcome others into our church community.

Mike Lavery

* * * * *

Children's Corner

Dear Children,

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." Hebrews 12:1

This verse from Hebrews has always been one of my favorites. I like to sit in my recliner and visualize a huge stadium on a bright sunny day and I am running some kind of a race. The "cloud of witnesses" are all those people, now "gone," who have influenced my life—my parents, a wonderful aunt, Don's parents, Mrs. Hahn (my Sunday School teacher), Miss Allen (my rather crusty biology teacher), Pastor Elbert, and of course, Francis Stenz (a wonderful man who loved to sing.) As I am "running the race," I look up and think about these people who are cheering me on—waving pom poms, jumping up and down, yelling loudly for me to "keep on going." What am I doing in this race? What is the reward? I like to think that this race is one of faith. Our journey of faith begins at birth and continues on until death and as we journey over this road, we experience a few bumps along the way. Betrayal by a close friend, loss of a pet or loved one, failure of an important course, a serious illness, losing a game—all of these and more, are things that hinder and entangle our faith. The writer of this book (perhaps

Apollos) is pointing out that we must persevere and not lose heart as our “prize” is living with God forever.

I remember one cold winter night when I was a teenager and I came downstairs about 4:00 in the morning. Now, that was when Dad got up to go to work. Although I always knew that Dad believed in God and attended church every Sunday, I never saw him actively “preach” religion to my brother and I. So, when I saw him kneel by the couch with his hands folded, I went over and asked him if he was OK. He said, “Sylvia, I pray like this every morning before I go to work— first, I thank God for all His blessings, then I ask Him to heal people who are sick, and the most important thing I ask for is for a stronger **faith**. God never guarantees us a life of riches and good health—so we need a faith that we can hang onto. Believe in God at all costs!!!” I have never forgotten that advice and it sure worked for Dad.

Dear Parents,

A dictionary will help your youngster with words like witness, hinder, persevere, and faith. I had this particular passage read at my dad’s funeral and often wonder who might be in the stadium cheering for me as I run the race of life. Who might be in your stadium? How would you describe “the prize”?

Sylvia Yost

* * * * *

Men’s Breakfast

The February Men’s Breakfast will be held on Saturday, February 17, at 7:15 a.m. at The Court Diner, 140 E. Baltimore Ave., Media, PA 19063. All men are invited to join us for morning devotions, a great speaker, an excellent breakfast and good fellowship. Please come and enjoy an excellent way to start the day.

* * * * *

Nursery School

The children and staff are back in full swing. Our mid-year teacher conferences will take place January 22-25. The teachers and parents of our 2 and 3 day children will meet to discuss their child’s development and placement in our school for the 2018-2019 school year and our 5 day children for entry into Kindergarten.

We will begin to discuss and do activities for Groundhog Day, Valentine’s Day and Clifford the Big Red Dog’s Birthday. The children will also learn about some of our presidents such as George Washington and Abraham Lincoln for Presidents’ Day. We will be discussing Dental Health Week this month as well. We will be continuing alphabet recognition, printing and coloring. We will also be starting our “Paper People” for the spring 2018 Art Show.

Our registration for 2018-2019 has already begun. Our 2 day program classes are booking up quickly and our in-house placement of our children will begin after conferences. Our 5 day children will move on to Kindergarten. We are so proud of all of the children and how they have grown. A big thank you to our wonderful staff that have worked so hard and given so much to the future of our children. Anyone interested in having their child attend our school, please call Linda Maylie at 610-543-5589.

Linda M. Maylie, Director

* * * * *

Monthly Financial Update

When we practice stewardship we are making the sign of the cross. God makes the first vertical line DOWN; we follow by moving IN to the center and then OUT to our neighbors on either side both near and far. We form a cross with our lives and through our faith we are marked with the cross of Christ forever.

*Excerpt from ELCA,
Stewards of God’s Love*



	<u>December 2017</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Giving/Income	\$ 52,908.13	\$ 472,059.10
Expenses	<u>41,846.58</u>	<u>523,444.62</u>
Plus/Minus	\$ 11,061.55	\$ (51,385.52)

Summary: We did finish the year with a strong December where we wound up in the positive in the amount of just over \$11,000. For the year however, we were in the negative in the amount of \$51,400, which was \$10,400 higher than our budgeted loss of \$41,000. The main driver for the negative was that from an envelope giving standpoint we only received 91.6% of the estimated amount that we used to budget, which is approximately \$33,000 less. From an expense standpoint we actually did better than the budgeted amount by approximately \$17,700. As we head into 2018 the proposed budget that will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting will have a negative deficit of \$60,500. As a Church family we will need to pray and reflect on 2018 and how we can do all that we can do to continue to support our ministry.

Giving Opportunities: Several opportunities for extra giving for this month include:

- New Paschal Candle \$200.
- Two New Tall Candles for Altar \$100.
- Support for Snow Removal \$400 (We spent \$416 in December)

If you can help sponsor some or all of any of the above items, please place an envelope in the offering plate or in the office noting the reason.

* * * * *

Online Giving Opportunities

Mike Lavery and Gary Gordon have started to research different options that Saint Matthew may begin to utilize to accept online giving. Research shows that many from younger generations don’t usually carry cash or checks. We have listed below some information from a recent article from the ELCA on some of the benefits and advantages of online giving. If you would be interested in assisting with this project, please let Mike or Gary know.

Why offer online giving? As more and more members use computers, tablets and smartphones to help organize their daily lives, many congregations offer online giving — credit card payments or withdrawals from checking/savings accounts — as a convenient stewardship option. Accepting credit card payments for event registrations or special fundraising is also becoming more commonplace. Advantages of online giving include:

- Automatic recurring donations minimize seasonal slumps in giving
- Reduces time spent tallying donations and preparing deposits
- Reduces handling of checks and cash in the church office
- Reduces use of natural resources consumed in donation envelopes and checks
- Making a donation online may be more convenient for a congregation visitor.

* * * * *

Waleet Dad!

These were the words I remember my little sister Janette used when she asked our Dad for a glass of water in the morning before getting up to start the day. He was so caring for his young daughter and it showed clearly every day. Another of my cherished memories is the feeling of his hands on my head when he washed my hair over the bathroom sink. As I remember it today, it felt like “the laying on of hands” from the New Testament.

We had moved to the Air Force base near Auckland where Dad was the Commanding Officer and, for a kid like me, it was a wonderment. The base was shared with the civilian airlines with National and International itineraries. I remember awakening to the sound of the DC-3 engines as the aircraft warmed up in the early mornings. The same sound I remembered when my friends and I tumbled in the propeller wind caused by the Catalinas in Fiji. I soon learned that both planes had the same Pratt and Whitney radial engines, so that explained the sound.

Dad had a “Batman” assigned to him to care for the proper uniform each day. Sergeant Wiseman, a kind and gentle soul, would shine the buttons on the tunics and kept Dad’s shoes polished for all the events which were essential duties of the Commanding Officer. “Mr. Wiseman” we called him, and he soon became one of our family, sharing cups of tea with us in the mornings.

Our new school was Hobsonville Elementary School and we rode each day on the air force bus to attend classes and we made new friends within a short time. One new friend I found there was a young lad named David. He was mildly dysfunctional and fidgeted when he spoke and would often cough to clear his throat. We called him “Detective West” and marveled at the detailed knowledge that he brought to our conversations. Although he could not join us for outdoor games, his influence intellectually gave me new direction to the way I think. “There is more in this world to discover, Tony.” he said.

One school holiday little Janette and I were sent alone on the plane to Gisborne to visit Grandmom Matey. It was a lovely clear day and we arrived on schedule after one stop on the way. Holding hands, we walked into the terminal expecting to see Uncle Colin who was to meet us there. He never showed up! We waited as the people left the building and we went outside to see the last car leave as we were standing there alone. I was concerned for our predicament when a taxi arrived from out of the blue. The driver had no passengers and I asked him if he could take us home to Grandmom’s house.

“Where does she live, son?” he asked, “and what is her name?” I looked at him trying to remember Grandmom’s place. . . “It’s on Kahutia Street, sir” I said, not knowing the number. “We call her Matey,” and I added in a flash of memory, “Matey Morse!” He looked at us with a smile—“I know her house. We call her ‘Dolly’ Morse. I can take you there young man. Hop in!” he said kindly with a smile. When we arrived at Matey’s house, I was so relieved that she was ready and waiting for her two itinerant grandkids and also had some cash for the kind cab driver. I felt grateful because I had no money in my pocket to pay the man. We found out later that Dad was furious at Uncle Colin for the stranding we experienced that day.

Not long afterwards, Matey came to stay with us and my bedroom furniture was moved outside into the army hut in the back yard. This became my own little world as I listened to owls and crickets during the night. An owl in New Zealand is called a “morepark”—that’s the sound of their nocturnal call. I would often visit my new school friends who lived on each side of our property. I built stiles over the fences in the back yard so we could stop by to see each other without having to walk out to the street line. There were many pranks and adventures to come . . . Oh boy!

Such memories these are. They reflect God’s love and tenderness for us in our young lives—no matter what pranks and intentions we may have produced. My heart is filled with gratitude for his love and protection.

May we all dwell in his holy earth as brothers and sisters.

Tony Webb

* * * * *

First Thursday Friends

First Thursday Friends will gather on Thursday, February 1, at 11:30 a.m. at Tom Jones Restaurant, 4417 Edgmont Avenue, Brookhaven. For more information contact John Stefl.

* * * * *

Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the March newsletter are due in the church office by **noon on Thursday, February 15.**

* * * * *

Women of the ELCA

Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

All women of Saint Matthew are invited to join us at our activities for the month.

Ladies, won’t you join us in the activities for this month:

February 10—LWR Quilting—Parish Ed Building at 10:00 a.m.

February 14—WELCA Board—Library at 9:30 a.m.

February 21—Ronald McDonald Quilting—Parlor at 10:00 a.m.

February 27—Esther Circle—Parish Ed Building at 10:00 a.m.

February 27—Sarah Circle—Parlor at 7:00 p.m.

Won't you come and enjoy the fellowship we share as we strive to help others.

We continue to collect items for the Welcome Church: foot powder, deodorant, small packs of tissues, reading glasses, drawing pads, pens, colored pencils, cookies, small toiletries, hot cups, yarn, and crochet hooks.

Joan Krauter, President

* * * * *

Monthly Mailbag



Dear Saint Matthew Friends,

Thank you so very much for the lovely poinsettia you sent to me for Christmas. We were not able to attend the evening Christmas Eve service, but we appreciate your thoughtfulness in remembering us.

Britten and Donna Winters

Dear Pastor Richard,

It was so nice receiving the beautiful poinsettia at Christmas which was delivered by Diane Billick.

Also, I would like to let you know how much I appreciate the quarterly communion services you and the ladies share with us here at Lima Estates. God bless you.

Arlene DePugh

Dear Pastor Richard (and congregation):

On behalf of the client families and the volunteers of Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry, we want to thank all of you for your great generosity towards the Pantry. Your donations last year totaled 3,583.7 pounds of food which included frozen food *plus* dishes, pots and pans, and kitchen items. Your ongoing generosity is so thoughtful, and needed.

We are also so appreciative for the volunteers that come to help with the box packing on the first and third Thursday night of each month. Thank you also to Dave Krauter for delivering the donations each week.

In operation since late August 2001, the Pantry is staffed completely by volunteers. In addition to food, we also provide a range of other programs and services, including school supplies, pet food, personal care items, and winter coats.

Each time we are open, new families come to us who have been forced to ask for help as they can no longer afford even the most basic necessities. What this means is a constant influx of new families to Loaves and Fishes.

As food prices and the cost of living continue to grow, so will our pantry as we do our best to meet expanding need. Your continued support is deeply appreciated for helping us meet our clients' needs throughout the year. Thank you for seeing their need and being so generous in helping them. What you have done has had a profound effect upon our client's lives.

Your thoughtfulness and generosity for our client families means a great deal. May all of you be blessed as you have continued to bless us. We are deeply grateful. We wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

Blessings,
Joanne Castagna, Director
Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry

Dear Family of Saint Matthew,

Thank you for your very generous Christmas gift. Once again you overwhelm me with your generosity, not just to the ministry, but to me personally. Your gift came at a perfect time as we have been going through the steps for Leigh's semester abroad in France. Beyond that, I was able to use your gift to support several causes in ministry, including the work of the Synod, the Seminary, and Colleges of the Lutheran Church. Thank you again for your care and concern for me, and for my family!

Pr. Karl

Dear Friends at Saint Matthew,

A big thank you to all of you for the Christmas cards, gifts, and goodies, as well as for the generous congregational gift! Much of that congregational gift has gone to purchasing books for my upcoming semester at seminary, particularly towards two classes: one I'll be taking on the spiritual writings and practices of ancient Christian saints and mystics, and a course on mental health and illness. It was a real blessing to travel through Advent and Christmas with you all this December. God bless you in this new year that God has given us!

Sincerely,
Vicar Daniel Smith

Dear Saint Matthew Congregation,

Many thanks to my church family for the Christmas wishes, home baked goods, and the gift from the congregation. They are all much appreciated. It is such a blessing to be a part of this wonderful congregation, especially during the Christmas season. Best wishes for a spiritual-filled 2018!

With love,
Pat McHugh

Dear Members of the Church,

As always, it is a pleasure working here. It is surprising how quickly the past year went by. I'd like to thank everyone for their cards and gifts and I look forward to another year with you.

Sincerely,
Ted Hidell

Dear Saint Matthew family,

Thank you very much for the wonderful gift you gave me over the holidays. Your generosity has deeply touched me. I am truly blessed to have you all in my life. Thank you again.

Best regards,
Greg Smith

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the very generous Christmas gifts and cards. They are all very much appreciated. It is truly a blessing to be a member of the congregation and staff of Saint Matthew—you all make it a pleasure to be here. May 2018 be a year filled with God's blessings for each of you.

Love,
Janice Gardner

Dear Saint Matthew,

Thank you to all of our friends at Saint Matthew for the wonderful and generous collection of gifts for the children served by Silver Springs—Martin Luther School. The boys and girls were thrilled to receive games, Barbie dolls, action figures, toy cars, Lego sets, pajamas, games, fleece blankets, and so much more this Christmas.

We especially appreciate the **amazing** number of wireless headphones you donated for the children. You selected a great assortment of colors and nearly all of them are already in use! Much like the Dream Lites, the headphones will be used daily by the children as they heal from past traumas.

Thank you also to the terrific group of wrappers that helped to wrap the children's gifts on Wednesday, December 6. You are astounding in your ability to wrap anything set before you and I think you set a new speed record by wrapping all of the gifts before 1 PM!

We are so very grateful for your ongoing support of our ministry. As you know, for many of our boys and girls this is the first time they will experience an abundant and festive Christmas. Through the help of caring friends like the congregation at Saint Matthew, we are able to provide a joyful holiday full of wonderful memories for the children in our care. Thank you for helping us to make Christmas special for our boys and girls!

You are all truly the best! Thank you for everything you do for the children at Christmas and throughout the year!

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

Dear Saint Matthew Congregation,

Thank you for generous in-kind donation to the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House. We rely on in-kind gifts such as yours to create a community of comfort and hope for the thousands of families with seriously ill children that we serve each year through our two Ronald McDonald Houses, two Ronald McDonald Family Rooms, Hospitality Kiosk, and Ronald McDonald Camp. Thank you for your donation of blankets, quilts, pillows and soda tabs.

Lisa Rosenblat
Ronald McDonald House

* * * * *

Vital Statistics

New Members: Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Applegate (Stephanie)
231 E. Woodland Ave.
Springfield, PA 19064

Ms. Harriet Bradway
10 N. Scott Ave.
Glenolden, PA 19036

Ms. Kathy Kelly
36 Greenhill Rd.
Springfield, PA 19064

Mr. Erik Larsen
404 Melvin Dr.
Brookhaven, PA 19015

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Rostovskis (Tara)
207 Bennett Rd.
Springfield, PA 19064

Ms. Heidi Streich
Ms. Sharon McKee
490 Beatty Rd.
Springfield, PA 19064

Births: **Siena Grace Rostovskis**
Born November 28, 2017

Liam Daniel Applegate
Born January 5, 2018

Baptism: **Annamarie Rose Kinder**
Born: August 27, 2009
Baptized: January 14, 2018

Death: We were sorry to learn that former member Sieg Selbach died on August 19, 2017 following a 4-year battle with cancer.

50th Wedding Anniversary **Joe and Nancy Regan**
February 10, 2018

New address: **Donald Mowbray**
179 Eden View Rd.
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

* * * * *

Worship Responsibilities

Altar Guild	Coordinator: Jeff Wesley
Feb. 4	Dawn Liscom, Beth Terry
Feb. 11	Chris DiSanto, Pat McHugh
Feb. 14	Barbara Kinsey, Cheryl Morrell Pat McHugh
Feb. 18	Beth Camagna, Margie Larkin
Feb. 21	Pat McHugh
Feb. 25	Barbara Kinsey, Diane Frattini
Feb. 28	Pat McHugh

Worship Assistants	Coordinator: John Kampmeyer
Feb. 4	8:00 a.m. Vicar Daniel Smith 10:15 a.m. Vicar Daniel Smith
Feb. 11	8:00 a.m. Kathie Morgan 10:15 a.m. Jeff Wesley
Feb. 18	8:00 a.m. Joanne Castagna 10:15 a.m. (No assistant needed)
Feb. 25	8:00 a.m. Maureen McCleary 10:15 a.m. Fran Gordon

Acolytes	Coordinator: Dawn von Berg
Feb. 4	8:00 a.m. Ethan Scott 10:15 a.m. Patti Wesley Crucifer: Madison Wesley
Feb. 11	8:00 a.m. Gavin von Berg 10:15 a.m. Briana Burdette Crucifer: Rebecca Engberg
Feb. 14	7:00 p.m. Alexa von Berg

Feb. 18	8:00 a.m.	Cole Bennett
	10:15 a.m.	Ethan Kraft
Feb. 25	8:00 a.m.	Jacob Scott
	10:15 a.m.	Madison Wesley
	Crucifer:	Patti Wesley
Communion Servers		Coordinator: Joan Krauter
Feb. 4	8:00 a.m.	Steve and Cheryl Morrell
		Kim Cobb
	10:15 a.m.	Judy Hendrickson
		Gail Hendrickson
		Bea Toomey
Feb. 11	8:00 a.m.	Bill and Marge Kobasa
		Barbara Hewitt
	10:15 a.m.	Tony Webb, Carol-Jo Eick
		Natalie Berry
Feb. 14	7:00 p.m.	Dave and Joan Krauter
Feb. 18	8:00 a.m.	Kevin and Karen McCormick
		Doug Bratz
	10:15 a.m.	Meredith Harris, Dan Lazaro
		Dawn Liscom, Jeff Wesley
Feb. 25	8:00 a.m.	Barbara Kinsey, Diane Frattini
		Vicar Daniel Smith
	10:15 a.m.	John and Dotty Engelbrecht
		Vicar Daniel Smith

Lectors		Coordinator: Jeff Wesley
Feb. 4	10:15 a.m.	Maureen McCleary
Feb. 11	10:15 a.m.	Carol Parsons
Feb. 14	7:00 p.m.	Barbara Kinsey
Feb. 18	10:15 a.m.	Vicar Daniel Smith
Feb. 25	10:15 a.m.	Frankie Savage
Sunday Nursery		Coordinator: Janice Gardner
Feb. 4	10:15 a.m.	Kathy Kinder, Nicole Smith
Feb. 11	10:15 a.m.	Sue and Brian Barber
Feb. 18	10:15 a.m.	Mike and Melissa Lavery
Feb. 25	10:15 a.m.	Diana and Pat Dolan
Greeters		Coordinator: Nicole Smith
Feb. 4	8:00 a.m.	Diane Frattini, Barbara Kinsey
	10:15 a.m.	Gail Hendrickson
		Marion Hessenauer
Feb. 11	8:00 a.m.	Nancy Regan
		Kathy and Anna Kinder
	10:15 a.m.	Phil and Sue Kline
Feb. 18	8:00 a.m.	Chris and Kristen Rohrer
	10:15 a.m.	Paula Toland, Carol Mueller
Feb. 25	8:00 a.m.	Matthew and Christine Scott
	10:15 a.m.	Joelle Link, Linda Shipley

* * * * *



Coffee Connection

Sunday

February 11, 2018

Join us for food, fellowship, and fun

Refreshments and treats will be served in the parlor after each service

If you would like to donate a treat, there is a signup sheet outside of the office. All contributions are greatly appreciated.

Saint Matthew Lutheran Church is proud to partner with the American Red Cross and will host a blood drive on February 8, 2018, from 4-9 p.m.

- Every 60 seconds, 44 people in America are assisted by the American Red Cross.
- 15,500 people every day receive lifesaving Red Cross health and safety training.
- 1,000 times a day the Red Cross provides services to military members, their families and veterans.
- 190 times a day Red Cross workers help families affected by a home fire or disaster.
- The Red Cross must collect 14,000 units of blood each day.
- The blood collected by the Red Cross helps millions of patients in over 2,400 hospitals across the country.
- 80 percent of blood donations are given at blood drives are hosted by generous sponsoring organizations like ours.

Please join us in support of the Red Cross and our community on Thursday, February 8. Registration is currently open. You can register online at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> or sign up in the church hallway. If you can't donate, please consider joining the volunteer team or help spread the word by promoting our drive on social media and around Springfield. Please see Nicole Smith for flyers.

Thank you in advance for your support in making the Saint Matthew Blood Drive such a success. Let's make an impact on **February 8** and add it to our list of caring for our community. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Nicole or leave a message at the church office.