



# The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of  
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church  
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Volume 76, Number 4

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

April 2024



## From Our Pastor

Connect  
Care  
eQuip  
Cultivate

*Now is the acceptable time. Now is the Day of Salvation.*  
2 Corinthians 6:2

Dear Family of Faith,  
As we move from one season to another, we rejoice as Winter turns to Spring and darkness turns to light. As we move from Lent into Easter, we move from a time of solemnity to a time of joy. As we move from Holy Week to Eastertide, we move from death to life. In this liminal space we sense a movement, we sense a change, we sense, more than we can describe, the Presence that is God, and the movement of God's Holy Spirit.

In this time, a colleague of mine has written a beautiful poem to express some of that sense as we move forward in the grace and peace of Christ. Pastor Daniel Spigelmyer, formerly of Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, and currently serving in Massachusetts, wrote this poem for his celebration of the Easter Vigil. He has given permission for it to be shared throughout the Church:

**N**ight  
This is  
the

*This is the night where shadows wane,  
Mid whispered prayers with hearts aflame.  
From depths of sorrow, we seek release  
To thrive our souls and find our peace.*

*This is the night of hope's embrace,  
Where death's dark hold gives way to grace.  
In the marriage 'twixt heaven and earth,  
New life springs forth, a wondrous birth.*

*This is the night of triumph won,  
Defeat erased, sin's battle done.  
With faith our shield, we stand tall,  
Shirking doubts, answering God's call.*

*This is the night where love prevails  
In whispered vows and heartfelt tales.  
From darkness to dawn, we rise above  
With promised mercy, hope, and love.*

*This is the night of sacred fire,  
Igniting hearts with divine desire.  
With the Spirit's new birth pang groans,  
We find strength to face our unknowns.*

*This is the night! Our hopes ignite,  
In awe and wonder, pure delight.  
For 'tis the night of new beginning  
With hope and joy forever spinning.*

The Rev'd Daniel W. Spigelmyer, Jr. © 2024

May you sense the movement of the Spirit as you, too, are brought to new life in this, the day of salvation.

Pastor Karl M. Richard

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## Christian Education

Thank you to everyone who helped with the egg hunt! Wow that was a lot of children! Thank you for helping with all the candy donations. You are all amazing!

We are working on getting ready for Vacations Bible School, if you are interested in helping please let Julie know at [manoalstgrade@hotmail.com](mailto:manoalstgrade@hotmail.com).

Julie Cirillo

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## Men's Breakfast

We have scheduled the April Men's Breakfast for Saturday, April 20, at 7 a.m. at the Court Diner in Media. It's a great way to start the day!

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## Fellowship Committee

We had a wonderful attendance at the Easter Egg Hunt with over 100 children attending. The children enjoyed making a craft, enjoying a snack and hunting for eggs. Thank you to everyone who helped make

this event a success. We needed extra candy this year. Many members of the congregation enjoyed breakfast on Easter Sunday with fellowship and good food. Thank you to everyone who made food and helped with the breakfast.

We would like the congregation to join us in a service project for the Darby Creek Watershed Cleanup at Springfield Swim Club/Indian Rock Park on Saturday, April 20th, 9 AM-12 PM. If you are interested, please sign up at [dcva.org](http://dcva.org). There is a flyer on the bulletin board. Any questions, see Barb McClintock or Nicole Smith.

We are also planning on attending the Faith and Family Day at the Blue Rocks Game on Sunday, July 14th. The game begins at 1:05. There will be more information to come about tickets.

Barb McClintock

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## News from the Property Committee

This winter although very mild, saw five plowing or salting events. This hit us hard on our snow removal budget. Our circulating pump is repaired and working well. Both circulator pumps are working as they should. During this past month we had several thousand visitors come into our Educational Kitchen. Unfortunately, these visitors are from a termite family and caused damage to the wood frame. We have sprayed, put bait traps around the whole building, and as per Hoffman Exterminating, I am pleased to say it looks like all unwanted visitors have moved out.

This Spring we will be asking for help on several Saturdays to paint and clean out some old stuff. And of course, we will be putting up our outside tent for summer worship. Please look for the sign-up sheets coming soon.

Joe Regan

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## Gemma Services

The ladies of the Women of the ELCA group assembled 60 small treat bags for the children in the residential treatment program. The bags were filled with several small candy treats for the children to enjoy. The candy continues to come from the Halloween collection that the members support.

Nancy Regan

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## Food Collection for Media Food Bank

As we continue to do, there were several items delivered to the Media Food Bank. As fast as we deliver items, they are given out to the residents of Delaware County.

We will continue to collect, and we deliver items again on April 7. Please continue to support this program. Items may be placed in the soup can in the hallway.

Thank you for your continued support.

Nancy Regan

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## Children's Corner

Dear Children,  
Well, it has certainly been an interesting winter—plenty of cloudy days, misty skies, a few snowflakes that you could catch on your tongue, and some bitter cold winds. When I was your age, it seems that our winters were usually snowy, icy and cold

with blustery winds that came off the Great Lakes. It was a wonderful time for kids (not people who had to drive to work) as we had times of ice skating and sledding. However, we NEVER had a day off school to enjoy these activities. Many times we were a bit late as the school buses needed time in the morning to install chains on their tires. Times have changed and so has the climate; now the winters seem a bit warmer and somewhat dreary. We now are in the wonderful month of April and as you have experienced, our Heavenly Father, is always continuing with the wheel of the seasons. SPRING is almost here and God is giving us new life and rebirth. We can look out our living room window and find lots of symbols of new life—little bunnies chomping on lettuce leaves (so carefully planted in the gardens)—a new litter of kittens that are exploring the small yards—for the discerning ear, birdsong from birds arriving from the South, a cozy warming sun—bright green shoots of grass—and bulb-generated flowers. Wild flowers have always been my favorite and the following verse from Luke describes the glory of watching God's creation: "Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet, I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory was dressed like one of these." I think I will challenge you to take some time and sit quietly on your porch, backyard, or bedroom—look out and find some harbingers of God's promise.

## Dear Parents,

For a wonderful review of God's promise, the Bible offers meaningful verses of God's goodness as He brings a warm Spring into our lives. Try reading these verses: Deut. 11:14; Isaiah 61:11. After months of cold, snowy, rainy weather, God promises us NEW life. I think Spring is symbolic of our life after discovering how Christ makes all things NEW.

Sylvia Yost

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## Women of the ELCA

As I write this newsletter article, I am hoping everyone is enjoying the warmer weather and the longer days of sunlight. Spring has sprung!

On April 7, Women of the ELCA will be hosting Women's Sunday. This year our speaker is Lorraine Martinez from Chester County Migrant Ministry. She will speak at both services. Our group has been donating blankets and health kits to this ministry for years. Please come and hear about this ministry and how you can help. We will also host a coffee hour that day.

On June 1 there will be a Southeast Pennsylvania event for Women of the ELCA at Trinity Lansdale. All women are invited to attend. There is a cost to attend. We are asking our Women of the ELCA members to pay \$15 and our treasury will match that amount. Please see the information on the hallway table to register. This event is a great way to meet other women in our Synod and to view Women of the ELCA on a larger, broader scale. We thank Marjorie Aronson for offering to be our voting member for this event.

## Upcoming dates

April 2	LWR quilting	1:00 p.m.
April 7	Women's Sunday, speaker Lorraine Martinez from Chester County Migrant Ministry. She will speak at both services. Coffee hour.	
April 9	LWR quilting	1:00 p.m.
April 16	LWR quilting	1:00 p.m.

April 23	Board meeting	6:15 p.m.
	Circle meeting	7:00 p.m.
April 30	LWR quilting	1:00 p.m.
	Blessings, Carol Penjuke	
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**Newsletter Deadline**

Articles for the May newsletter are due in the church office by **noon on Monday, April 15.**  
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**Nursery School**

Spring has sprung at our Nursery School, and we are in full bloom! We are looking forward to the warmer weather and the increased opportunities for outdoor experiences for our students. We will be hosting our first Scholastic Book Fair the week of April 15th with a special Community Night on Thursday, April 18th. Please go to <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/stmatthewchnurs>, our fair's website, for more details. Registration for the 2024 - 2025 School Year is ongoing. We continue to offer programs for 2-, 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds. Classes are filling up fast! Please fill out a Pre-Registration Form at <https://www.stmattscns.org/pre-registrationform> or contact the office at 610-543-5589 if you are interested in registering your child for the fall. Also, please remember to "like" us on Facebook and see the hard work of the staff and students! Happy Easter and Happy Spring!

Warmly,  
Ana Fischer, Executive Director  
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**Vital Statistics**

**Funeral:** **Jim Snyder**  
Died February 19,  
2024  
Funeral March 9,  
2024



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**Monthly Mailbag**

Beloved Women of Saint Matthew,  
Thank you for your ongoing support and care for the most vulnerable folks on the street. The Welcome Church could not exist without the ongoing compassion and love that you have shown for our congregation. We treasure you!

Pastor Violet Little

Dear Saint Matthew Lutheran Church,  
I hope this message finds you well. On behalf of the residents and staff at Fair Acres, I wanted to extend our deepest gratitude for your incredibly generous donation of calendars, greeting cards, lap robes, costume jewelry, and more.

Your thoughtfulness and generosity have touched the hearts of everyone here. The items you've donated will bring immense joy and comfort to our residents, enhancing their daily lives in meaningful ways. Your kindness truly makes a difference, and we are incredibly grateful for your support.

Thank you for your compassion and for brightening the days of the residents at Fair Acres. Your generosity is deeply appreciated and will not be forgotten.

With sincere appreciation,  
Sue Harrar, Director of Volunteer Services  
Fair Acres Geriatric Center

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we begin a new year, I find myself thinking of the time more than 22 years ago when our church had the idea of beginning a small food pantry to help people who came to us in need of food. Little did we know what that little pantry would become over time and how many people we would help. None of this would be possible without the support of so many individuals and groups—churches, schools, Rotary, boy scouts, mail carriers, organizations, businesses, etc.—all of whom provide monetary and in-kind donations, as well as their time and effort.

Your generous donation of 381 pounds of pasta in 2023 has helped make it possible for us to provide nutritious food to each family based on the number of people in it. We are most grateful for your continuing kindness and concern for the community. May God bless you in the new year.

Yours in Christ  
Lana Lindenmuth  
Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry

Dear Terrific Saint Matthew Friends,

We are very grateful for Saint Matthew's continued friendship and generosity to Gemma Services! Thank you for your donation of 60 treat bags for the children and youth participating in our Residential Program. Your support will help 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 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. We would be happy to welcome any members of Saint Matthew to visit one of Gemma's three locations to see firsthand the programs you are helping us to provide. You can learn more about all of Gemma's programs, latest happenings, and current support needs by visiting [www.gemmaservices.org](http://www.gemmaservices.org).

On behalf of all at Gemma, thank you!

Sincerely,  
Amanda Bryant  
Senior Development Officer  
Gemma Services

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**Worship Responsibilities**

We will not schedule these responsibilities at this time. We will ask people to serve each week as needed.

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