



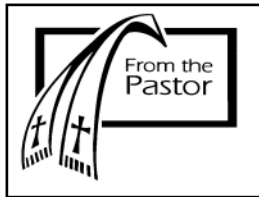
# The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of  
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church  
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Volume 75, Number 1

January 2023

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



## From Our Pastor

Connect  
Care  
eEquip  
Cultivate

How do you measure a year?

The song “Seasons of Love” from the musical “Rent” asks this question, with the recognition that 525,600 minutes is not sufficient to summarize all a year encompasses. It is too limiting to speak of a year simply in terms of seconds, minutes, and hours. It is too simplistic to refer to a year as one more trip around the sun. A year needs to be measured by all the events that happen in that trip, in those seconds, and minutes, and hours. Or, as in this song from Rent, measured in love.

There is so much that has happened in 2022. There has been a coming to terms, of sorts, with Covid-19 – not gone, but being managed. There has been a year of war in Ukraine. There has been the global effect this war has had on the economy, as the world has limited Russia’s exporting oil to fund this war, and Russia has blocked the sending of grain and farm produce from Ukraine to Europe and beyond. Both actions have put inflationary pressures on the global system.

Hate crimes against persons who are LGBTQIA, anti-Semitism, and anti-Muslim violence are on the rise. Anti-Asian, anti-choice, anti-marriage equality, anti-, anti-, anti-. The level of suspicion and derision has increased exponentially over the past year. With all that has happened, can we measure 2022 in love?

Into such a world as this came Jesus, the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Beloved. He came to be a light in the midst of the darkness. He came to bring hope to those who are oppressed and despairing. He came to measure our lives not in where we have fallen short, but in the immeasurable depth and breadth of love – God’s love – which is given that we might know, and be known, in love.

*<sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. – John 3:16, 17*

Jesus came to give, and to receive, love. Jesus came to show us the way of love, and call us to love one another, as he has loved us.

It is through living with each other in the seconds and minutes and hours of life that love makes its mark. It is in bearing each other up in the pain, as well as celebrating with each other in the joys, that love grows. It is how a year matters. It is how a life matters. So, as

we come to the end of one year, let us look back and see what love we were permitted to give, and to receive. And as we begin the next year, let us never tire of loving, and seeking times when we can offer love. In so doing, we experience the fullness of life. In so doing, we see the presence of God. In so doing, we measure a year in that which is most important.

We measure it in love.

Pastor Karl M. Richard

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## Bible Study

We will resume our bible study in January, looking at the Gospel of Matthew. A central piece of this Gospel is the Sermon on the Mount, chapters 5 – 7. We will explore this “sermon” to see how it is the core of Matthew’s proclamation of the love of God in Jesus, and how we can view the rest of the Gospel in its light.

Class will be in person in the parlor, and available on Zoom at the same time. We begin Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, at noon. Please join us as we study and learn together.

Pastor Karl M. Richard

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## Worship and Music Notes

It has been a joy to plan our Advent and Christmas season with a blend of long-established and newer traditions as we follow the theme “We’re Back!” From families lighting the candles on the Advent Wreath, to the choir and instrumentalists practicing, to the Hanging of the Greens decorating both inside and outside the church property following a shared meal, to the Faith Alive Band leading Christmas caroling, to three Christmas Eve and one Christmas morning service.

Continued thank you to our dedicated musicians who lift up our worship with their music. Continued thank you to the expanding group of volunteers who add their presence and lend their voices to our Sunday morning services as greeters, ushers, worship assistants, readers, and communion assistants. Continued thank you to the dedicated group of Sunday morning volunteers who assist in Altar Guild duties as our worship space is prepared and cleaned up for each service. We can always use more volunteers – if you are interested, please see me.

And a continued thank you to you who fill our pews and our “zurch” with your Sunday morning presence. Worshiping together as a family of God is the reason we do this. Wishing you and your family a blessed and joyous New Year!

Pat McHugh

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## Lutheran Settlement House

On February 5, 2023 David Chiles, Executive Director of Lutheran Settlement House, will join us for a coffee hour at 9:00 a.m. and the 10:15 a.m. service to share all the wonderful things the settlement house does for the community.

Please join us for this meet and greet and learn about the ways you can get involved. Sponsored by the Social Ministry Committee. Any questions—contact Paula Estornell at pme259@verizon.net.

Paula Estornell

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## Christian Education Updates

We have Sunday School for everyone at 9:00 every Sunday. The children start in the church and the adult class is in the library. Come join us. All are welcome. We have classes from preschool until adult. If you have any questions, please reach out to Julie at manoa1stgrade@hotmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE:  
STELLAR SHINE JESUS' LIGHT!



This is our Vacation Bible School theme.

We are going to space!

Please save the dates July 31- August 4.

All are welcome to come.

Please reach out to Julie for questions at [manoa1stgrade@hotmail.com](mailto:manoa1stgrade@hotmail.com).

Julie Cirillo

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## Annual Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2023, in Elbert Hall. There will be a lunch following the 10:15 service, and the meeting will begin at 12:30.

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## Souper Bowl of Caring Save the Date and Box Donation

Believe it or not, the Souper Bowl of Caring is just around the corner, on February 11. After Christmas, we will put out sign-up sheets for distributing fliers on February 4 and picking up donations on February 11, and for counting, packing, and delivery to Loaves and Fishes. We plan to return to the pre-pandemic format of counting and packing everything on February 11, and welcome helping hands that day. In the meantime, if you have empty *boxes* that you can contribute, please drop them off inside the entrance to the church near the old office.

Sharon McKee

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## Young Adults Group

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, we enjoyed looking at Rose Tree Christmas Lights followed by hot chocolate and devotions at Lisa Thompson's home.

Young Adults Sunday School to start January 8<sup>th</sup> during Sunday School Hour to discuss a variety of topics including ELCA Social Statements, bible studies, and devotions.

January event(s) to be determined. Please look for event announcements from Pastor's emails and weekly bulletins.

For any questions, reach out to Lisa Thompson at lba0417@gmail.com.

Lisa Thompson

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## Financial Update

*Thank you, Lord, for your new beginnings and unwavering provision. We trust that your peace will watch over us as we step into a new beginning. This year, let us rely on the riches of your love and grace to provide for our physical, emotional and spiritual needs. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

	November 2022	Year to Date
Giving/Income	\$ 42,305.00	\$434,089.00
Expenses	<u>39,478.00</u>	<u>473,151.00</u>
Plus/Minus	\$ 2,827.00	(\$ 39,062.00)

**Summary:** We had a good November finishing in the positive in the amount of \$2,827. YTD we are in the negative for \$39,100. (Budgeted loss for the year is \$38,000). Envelope giving was strong for the month at \$33,400 with several families able to make additional gifts. Thanks to all for your continued support for the ministry of Saint Matthew!

**Giving Opportunities:** Throughout the year we are blessed with several devotional booklets and materials for the Lent and Advent seasons as well as the Christ in Our Home devotions all year. The cost for this is about \$100 per month. Would you be willing to support some or all of this cost with a special donation?

Finance Committee

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## Notes from Your Property Committee

Famco annual maintenance is scheduled for December 27<sup>th</sup>. Early in November we had a problem with the second floor Ed. Wing thermostat. Oliver was called and a new thermostat was installed.

Furniture has been purchased for our new prayer room. We now have a small couch and four comfortable chairs. The computer will be moved very soon and the desk relocated. The new prayer room should be available very soon.

Update on the new youth room: one of the desks was given away, the other will be broken apart and put in the trash. The painting prep has started.

Electric problem with emergency lights continues. We have awarded Electric Direct to repair and replace the fixtures and emergency lights throughout the building. This should be done before the end of this year.

We are still looking for help in running wires to complete the hook up of our extra monitors throughout the building.

The problem with the projector over the pulpit has been repaired thanks to Dave Russell.

Joe Regan

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## Youth Group Night

Join us January 1st at 5 p.m. for our youth group New Year's Celebration. Bring a game to play with your friends. Kids of all ages are welcome. Pizza will be provided. You can drop

off or stay for the fun. The party continues all night. We will be sleeping over. If you would like to stay for the sleepover, bring a sleeping bag and a mat/air mattress. Please RSVP on the sign-up sheet outside the office or on the link provided in Pastor's weekly email. Any questions, please reach out to Julie Cirillo at [manoalstgrade@hotmail.com](mailto:manoalstgrade@hotmail.com) or Nicole Smith at [nicolesmith6907@hotmail.com](mailto:nicolesmith6907@hotmail.com).

Nicole Smith

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## Food Collection Report

**T**hanks to the amazing generosity of the people of Saint Matthew, we were able to deliver a car full of cans and boxes to the Media Food Bank on December 4th. We know our food gifts will help the families who depend on the food bank to feed their families this holiday season. We will be collecting food on January 9<sup>th</sup> due to the New Year's Holiday from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. or please use the "soup can" to drop off your donations. Thank you again for the support.

Nancy Regan

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## Children's Corner

**D**ear Children,  
Some time during this Epiphany Season, you will probably be singing, "We Three Kings of Orient Are." I have always been entranced by the haunting melody and the remarkable story of these travelers. Moving from a child to an adult, each year, I have learned some amazing facts about these Wise Men and the Star of Bethlehem. I have been delving into some information about this wonderful period of time and I will share some interesting facts with you—however, keep in mind that science will probably never know the exact truth. So—as you read, please understand as science becomes more definitive, more facts will appear, or maybe change. I think I have always assumed that there were THREE Wise Men (or Kings/ Magi) because of the Three gifts. There may be more kings, maybe less. Looking at your hymnal, you will see their names Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar; and they did come from the East—probably Iran, India and Arabia. They were indeed men of distinction and were astrologists, and for years had been reading the Old Testament and watching the Heavens for signs of the coming of the Christ Child. This Christmas song needs all verses to be sung as each verse makes up a wonderful story: the GOLD reminds us of divinity--God in the Flesh, also gold stands for royalty; FRANKINCENSE is a fragrant spice symbolizing His willingness to be a sacrifice; and MYRRH is also a spice, but it tells us of bitterness and suffering.

As a child, I thought that the Three Kings traveled from the East and arrived a day or so after the Christ Child was born—if I would have REALLY thought about it, I would have placed their arrival months or even years after the birth considering the distance from the EAST to Bethlehem which is 800-900 miles and also traveling by camel would be slow. Some historians place the arrival in a house somewhere. Did you ever look up in the starry sky at night after Christmas and try to imagine A Star of Bethlehem? What would make it so bright? Scientists say perhaps a super nova, a comet, solar fire, or maybe an alignment of Venus and Jupiter!! Anyway, I wanted you to have more information than I did—perhaps you can find out

more from your science teacher, science magazines, or the internet.

**Dear Parents,**

The Book of Matthew is a great story and may answer some questions about this miraculous birth. The Old Testament will tell of the prophecies that were helpful to the Three Kings—Daniel 9:24-27; Isaiah 9:6; and Micah 5:2. Read them as a family and be sure to discuss how each of the Wise Men must have felt as they obeyed God's Word. You might want to find out if this star has ever appeared in our time. Did you ever wonder if you had lived at this time, would you have made this arduous journey to see the Christ Child?

*"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." Exodus 20:8*

Sylvia Yost

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## Men's Breakfast

**W**e have scheduled the January Men's Breakfast for Saturday, January 21, at 7 a.m. at the Court Diner in Media. It's a great way to start the day!

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## Nursery School

**H**appy New Year! Our students and staff return to school on January 3rd. We are excited to explore all that winter has to offer! We will continue to accept new enrollment for the current school year through February 28th. We are holding a Registration Night on Wednesday, February 15th, for the 2023-2024 School Year. Please contact the office if you are interested in registering your child. Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2023!

Warmly,

Ana Fischer, Executive Director

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## February Newsletter Deadline

**A**rticles for the February newsletter are due in the church office by **noon on Friday, January 13.**

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## Social Ministry

**T**he Social Ministry Committee once again wishes to thank all of the members of our congregation who so generously supported our project of Christmas gifts for the children of Faith Immanuel Lutheran Church. The gifts were delivered in plenty of time for them to be distributed at their Christmas party.

We wish all of you many blessings in 2023!

Cheryl Morrell

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## Gemma Services Christmas Gifts

**T**hank to all who donated so many wonderful gifts to the children in the residential treatment program at Gemma Services formerly Silver Springs. This year we collected the following items:

- Nike socks 20 pairs
- 4 remote control cars
- 2 games
- 12 sketch books
- 5 Lego sets
- 19 Barbie dolls

4 Barbie doll outfits  
 4 Crayola Art Sets  
 11 Gel pen sets  
 6 Rubik's Cubes  
 2 little Barbie dolls  
 4 Colored pencil sets  
 3 Toothbrushes with toothpaste  
 18 Squishmallows

We know all these wonderful gifts will go a long way to make this Christmas very special to the children.

Nancy Regan  
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## Gemma Christmas Wrapping

On December 14<sup>th</sup> nine ladies traveled to Gemma Services to wrap Christmas gifts for the children. We were able to wrap 374 gifts for the 50 children in the residential treatment Program. Thank you to Marjorie Aronson, Joanne Castagna, Barbara Doyle, Fran Gordon, Barbara Kinsey, Marge Kobasa, Joan Krauter, and Carol Mueller for the morning we spent with paper of all colors and lots of tape that got all those gifts wrapped for the children that will spend Christmas at Gemma.

Nancy Regan  
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## Deliveries of Donations

Delivered jewelry, calendars, greeting cards and lap robes to Fair Acres.

Tabs were taken to Ronald McDonald House.

The Welcome Church can use coffee, toiletries and gloves, especially large ones for men.

Joan Krauter  
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## Women of the ELCA

Happy New Year! I hope you and your loved ones had a blessed Christmas filled with peace and joy!

On December 3, we had a delicious breakfast in Elbert Hall. The entire congregation was invited. About 25 people attended. We were treated to a moving presentation by Lorraine Martinez from Chester County Migrant Ministry in Kennett Square. The highlight of the morning was when she blessed the blankets that we were donating to them. We learned so much about this ministry and we were also fortunate to hear a lovely testament to our Lord Jesus. Thank you to all the people who donated food and helped to set up and clean up from this event. It was a delightful and meaningful morning.

On December 14, several ladies went to Gemma Services in Plymouth Meeting to wrap presents for the children. I understand that 300 presents were wrapped. Good job, gals.

Our LWR quilting group will start again on Tuesday nights beginning January 3, weather permitting. At our first gathering we will cut batting.

Please consider coming out for a Circle meeting. All women are invited to attend. We enjoy each other's company, have a devotion, and do some type of service project. Your presence is always welcome. Our activities usually take place in the parlor.

Calendar for January, 2023:

Jan. 3	LWR quilting	7:00 p.m.
Jan. 10	LWR Quilting	7:00 p.m.

Jan. 17	LWR Quilting	7:00 p.m.
Jan. 24	Board Meeting	5:45 p.m.
Jan. 24	Circle Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Jan. 31	LWR Quilting	7:00 p.m.

Blessings,  
 Carol Penjucke  
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## Monthly Mailbag



Dear Ms. Krauter,

We would like to express our gratitude and say thank you for the calendars, robes, and paper you contributed to Fair Acres Geriatric Center. This contribution allows for us to provide a higher level of service to our residents. From Fair Acres we want to say thank you, and we hope you have a great holiday season!

Sincerely,  
 Sue Harrar, Director of Volunteer Services  
 Fair Acres Geriatric Center

Dear Women of the ELCA and Joan:

Thanks for another great donation from your group. We appreciate all of your support over the years that I have been in this job. You have outdone yourself. It has always been my pleasure to interact with you and thank you for your continued support.

May God continue to bless you for your good work here; and on behalf of our residents, we say thank you for caring.

Sincerely,  
 Cheryl Everngham, Director of Volunteers  
 Fair Acres Geriatric Center

Dear Saint Matthew Lutheran Church Women of the ELCA,

Thank you for supporting the ministries of Women of the ELCA with your recent gift of \$96.00. Your faithful generosity makes a real difference. Thank you.

Even in unsettling times, Women of the ELCA in all its expressions—congregational and special units, synodical women's organizations, the churchwide women's organization—is still at work with life-changing ministry. We might be engaging in ministry and action in different ways for a while, but that's what we do—because that's who we are: a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. And we've committed ourselves to promoting healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world. Your giving helps make that happen. Thank you.

Thank you for your generosity. Together, thanks to your support, we'll get through this. Thank you. For regular updates on our ever-growing work together, please see our website, [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org). Your giving really does make a difference. Thank you.

With gratitude,  
 Linda P. Bushkofsky, Executive Director  
 Women of the ELCA

Dear Patti and Women of Saint Matthew Lutheran Church,

Thank you for providing the new health kits for our immigrant families here in Chester County, as well as the 6 blankets! They will be very much appreciated. It is a tangible way of letting them know that they are not alone—that there is someone who cares about their needs as they begin to settle in. Thank you for your dedicated time and effort in supporting us.

May the Presence, Protection and Power of our Lord and Savior continue to be with you all as your testimony of love for God reaches those in need.

Respectfully,  
Lorraine Armstrong Martinez and  
Melissa Haught  
Chester County Migrant Ministry

Dear Saint Matthew Friends,

Many of you know that my father, Chet Goscicki, passed away on November 4th. I have received calls and beautiful cards from so many of you. Thank you for extending your messages of comfort during this very difficult time. I felt blessed by every single gesture. God Bless you and your family in this new year.

Lynda and Bill Knaggs

Dear Ms. Krauter,

We would like to express our gratitude and say thank you to Saint Matthew Lutheran Church for the lap robes, greeting cards, calendars, and costume jewelry you contributed to Fair Acres Geriatric Center. These contributions allow for us to provide a higher level of service to our residents. From Fair Acres we want to say thank you and we hope you have a great holiday season!

Sincerely,  
Sue Harra, Director of Volunteer Services  
Fair Acres Geriatric Center

Dear Joan,

Thank you for helping to provide so many items that are actually needed by our folks, right now! For example, there were several pairs of gloves in a box! And a box full of toiletries, when we are actually starting to run low on toiletries, is very helpful! Thank you for all of the very nice surprises!

Sincerely,  
The Rev. Schaunel Steinnagel  
The Welcome Church

Dear Saint Matthew Friends,

We are very grateful for your continued friendship and generosity to Gemma Services (formed by the merger of Silver Springs-Martin Luther School and the Village)! Thank you for your donation of bags of sweet treats, extra candy and cute notebooks for the children in our Residential Program. Your support helps us continue to provide vital behavioral health, prevention, child welfare, and educational services for at-risk youth and families and truly matters!

With the help of friends like Saint Matthew, Gemma is continuing to provide crucial programs for vulnerable youth and families who are struggling. Our dedicated teams are working tirelessly to help youth and families to heal from traumas, manage mental health challenges, and navigate these challenging times. As you may know, when the pandemic began, we shifted to provide many of our services remotely via Telehealth and online platforms. We have now transitioned many programs back to in-person with enhanced virus protection and prevention protocols, while we continue to provide services virtually as needed.

We are especially grateful for your ongoing partnership during these recent times of unprecedented challenge for those we serve, for our communities, and for our organization. Should you have any questions, please contact me. On behalf of all at Gemma, thank you!

Sincerely,  
Amanda Bryant, Sr. Development Officer  
Gemma Services

Dear Friends,

We would like to thank our church family for the prayers and cards Lance received. Also, our thanks to Pastor Richard for his visit to the hospital before Lance's surgery on Tuesday. He is home now and we are hopeful for a full recovery to his leg and foot.

Blessings to you all,  
Lance and Marie

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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.

# Youth New Year's Celebration



**Sunday, January 1**  
**Beginning at 5 p.m.**

Bring a game to play with your friends.

Kids of all ages are welcome.

Pizza will be provided.

You can drop off or stay for the fun.

The party continues all night. We will be sleeping over. If you would like to stay for the sleepover, bring a sleeping bag and a mat/air mattress.

Any questions please reach out to Julie Cirillo at [manoa1stgrade@hotmail.com](mailto:manoa1stgrade@hotmail.com) or Nicole Smith at [nicolesmith6907@hotmail.com](mailto:nicolesmith6907@hotmail.com).