



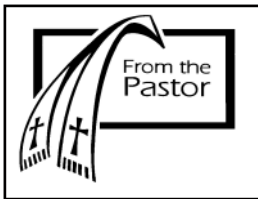
# The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of  
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church  
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Volume 75, Number 3

March 2023

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



## From Our Pastor

Connect

Care

eQuip

Cultivate

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent, which extends for forty days (not including Sundays) and ends with the celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Day. In the history of the Church the Lenten season has been more somber, more reflective, quieter than other seasons. It has marked the journey of Jesus to the Cross. It has been a time of reflection on our human condition that caused Jesus to come and make this journey. It has also been a time of preparation and education for people learning about the faith and deciding to become a part of the Church.

During Lent the Church has often had "extra" events to assist people in this period of intentional reflection. It has included special services, like those of Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. It may include a three day Easter Vigil, where worship and prayer continues through the hours from Jesus' crucifixion to his resurrection. It might include special devotional books to help focus our hearts and minds on Jesus in a particular way. It has often been marked with disciplines of prayer and fasting to deepen our understanding of our need for God, and the needs of the world. This is a more penitential time, as we confess our lack of love for God and neighbor, and the brokenness that Jesus comes to heal. In Lent we stop singing "Alleluia," and hear the words "return to the Lord your God."

Lent has been a time when we put off special celebrations, such as weddings or baptisms. Such joyous events seem incongruous to such a penitential season. We have traditionally waited until Easter to mark such times and events.

These have been traditions of the Christian Church for a long time, and one may wonder if any of this matters anymore? Does marking the time and season, and changing our focus and behavior for a time, have any place in today's society? Do people still need this? When you look around you tend to see people moving about from thing to thing, with no time to slow down, no time to pause. In our 24 hour news cycles the pain and brokenness of the world cries out with ever-increasing vividness. When and where can we rest and take stock of it all? Lent helps make room for deep self-reflection and consideration of where God might be speaking, calling us to live differently, to do better than we are. We need this time, we need this season, as much as Christian people ever have.

This Lent we have different ways to pause and reflect, study and grow in our understanding of Jesus, and our understanding of ourselves as Jesus' people. You should have received one of two devotional books in the mail. One is geared particularly to families with children. The other is based on the familiar hymn "Amazing Grace." These have been provided to you to give you a structure for reflection, in small, bite-sized segments, so that you can consider who you are, and to Whom you belong.

We are also beginning a new Bible Study. This class was requested by our newly forming Young Adults Group. They have expressed interest in studying the Bible, but noon on Wednesdays does not work for them when they have to work during the day. To make room for them to study we will have a class at 8:00 p.m. While we wish to make space in particular for those in their 20s and 30s to be able to attend and discuss, it is not meant to exclude those who may not fit into that age group. This will take the place of a midweek worship service during this season. For those for whom 8:00 is rather late, we will resume our noon class after Easter. We will be looking at some basic, but often misunderstood concepts of the Bible: *What is it to say "This is the word of the Lord?" What does it mean to say the Bible is our norm for life and faith? What does it mean to say the Bible is the inspired Word of God? How did the Bible come to be? Who wrote it? Is it true? How can a book of ancient stories have any meaning for today?* These, and other questions, will be at the heart of this discussion over the next several weeks, beginning Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Lent is a time for reflection, self-examination, confession, and preparation. This comes through worship, study, and prayer. While the world may not find it worth the energy to stop and listen, the faithful do. May you be blessed in this Lenten season, as you continue your journey with Jesus.

Pr. Karl M. Richard

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## Worship and Music Notes

Thank you to Bill and Lynda Knaggs for sponsoring, cooking, and hosting our pancake breakfast on Sunday, February 19th. (And thanks to the kitchen elves as well!) It was great to come together as a church family to enjoy a meal together and spend time together over coffee and delicious food.

Our Lenten journey has begun. Hopefully you are using the devotional booklet mailed to you in February for thoughtful and spiritual direction during this time.

As we move forward throughout Lent, there are going to be

some opportunities for helping. Altar Guild will be doing some spring cleaning with help needed in polishing brass, washing hurricane lamps, and washing and ironing linens. No set time established yet but hoping most can be done prior to Holy Week. If you are interested/available in helping out, please let me know. Also please let me know if anyone has a gently used iron (and/or ironing board) not being used that you are willing to donate to Altar Guild.

We will again be asking for lily donations in the amount of \$12 to decorate our sanctuary for Easter. Watch for the sign up sheet or let the church office know. Help will also be needed in setting up the lily crosses.

Pat McHugh

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## Christian Education Updates

**W**e have Sunday School every Sunday for all ages. Please come join us! We start in the church and then break out into our grade levels. The adult class meets in the library.

**SAVE THE DATE!** Our VBS is going to be July 31- August 4th! It will be 9-11:30 every day! All are welcome. Please contact Julie with any questions.

Julie Cirillo

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## Young Adults Group

**J**oin us on March 4th at 7:00 p.m. at Lisa & Tony Thompson's house to watch a movie and have a discussion about the movie. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Contact Lisa Thompson at LBA0417@gmail.com for details.

We had our first Sunday School meeting in January and have decided to meet during the Sunday School hour every 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month in the Prayer Room.

We assisted with the Souper Bowl of Caring by assisting to pass out flyers and food pick up.

The Young Adults are interested in an evening Bible Study, so we have spoken to Pastor Richard and have agreed upon Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. Start date is March 1.

The Young Adults Group is open to any 20 – 40 year old that wants to connect with other Young Adults.

Contact Lisa Thompson at LBA0417@gmail.com with any questions.

March Events:

- March 4th – Movie & Discussion at Lisa & Tony Thompson's home
- March 12th – Sunday School
- March 26th – Sunday School

Lisa Thompson

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## News From Your Property Committee

**O**ur electricians have finished the lights in Elbert Hall. The old exit lights that remained on have been discontinued and ten new exits lights have been installed in Elbert Hall and other hallways near the sanctuary. What we thought was a bad stove was incorrect. The stoves

are fine and in good working order. The problem was again, run-off water that through the years has leaked into the conduit pipes that the wires ran through to the junction box and was shorting out. New wires were run; and the stove, refrigerator, and other outlets are now safe.

While the electricians were here, we had them fix the three-way light switch in the Education Wing rear stairway. Also had them reinstall and replace eight emergency exit signs throughout the Education Wing.

While reviewing our budget, for dollars spent in January 2022 to January 2023, our usage was almost the same as last year, but our dollars spent was up almost thirteen percent.

At our monthly meeting we approved the purchase of a new tent for outdoor use this spring, summer and fall. This will replace our current one that has many holes and very weak roof seams.

Joe Regan

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## Beds for Kids

**T**he Ladies of Women of the ELCA are continuing to collect items for Beds for Kids to provide all the needed items to get children the sleep they need to thrive. Each needy child will receive a new bed frame and new mattress, a set of sheets, a blanket, a new pillow, a toothbrush, several books, and a stuffed animal.

Their priority items are new standard pillows, new twin-size sheet sets, new twin blankets and comforters. They also accept gently used twin-size sheet sets, gently used blankets and comforters, new and gently used children's books, gently used stuffed animals, and new dental supply items.

Donations may be placed under the table in the hallway. Thank you for any donations.

Nancy Regan

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## Food Drive

**W**e collected several bags of food for the Media Food Pantry on February 5 that was delivered that afternoon. Thank you to all who donated before the Souper Bowl to help keep the shelves stocked.

Our next collection date will be March 5. Food may be placed in the large soup can in the hall or dropped off on the 5th between 12-1. Thank you for the continued support of this program.

Nancy Regan

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## Social Ministry

**T**hank you to everyone who attended the coffee hour we hosted to listen to David Chiles, Director of the Lutheran Settlement House in Germantown. He presented a very informative program about all of the wonderful work they do. The Social Ministry Committee will now be exploring ways we might be able to get involved with their mission of helping others. Please watch the newsletter for updates.

Cheryl Morrell

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## Children's Corner

*"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy".*

*Exodus 20: 8*

## Dear Children,

Well, the New Year is here and I was wondering if you made any New Year's Resolutions??? Please forgive my boastful writing, but last year I made one and I did manage to keep it beyond the second week of January. I probably could be considered to be somewhat compulsive as I do like routine, plus my resolve to set aside a daily time to "talk with God" just seems to warm my heart and look at things with a "new eye." What I am doing is actually making a "little Sabbath" during the day. Sabbath is a "religious observance and abstinence from work kept by Jewish people on Saturday and Christian people on Sunday. Growing up in the 40s, stores were closed and most of the kids didn't go to the movies on Sunday—instead we went to Sunday School, church, and visited people who were ill. As I became an adult, much of that changed and after church and Sunday dinner, people shopped, attended the movies, etc. The Ten Commandments asks us to "Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy"—so just how do we do that??

I am presently attending a wonderful Bible Study and this semester we are studying The Sabbath and how to keep it holy and I would like to share it with you. If you read the first chapter of Genesis, it is pretty clear that after God created, the sky, the oceans, the plants, animals, and Adam and Eve; then God RESTED. I don't think it means that God wants us to nap all day, instead He wants us to connect with Him in some way—but how??? I think we can connect with Him through living with God's word through our community and His creation. Our study group thought of several ways that we can celebrate Sabbath—working at a food bank, reading to a group of small children, working on a Scout project, taking a nature walk, planting seeds, helping a friend in need, and reading a devotional book. I even tried little daily Sabbaths—I have a quiet place in our sunroom and a very comfortable chair where I read several poems/stories/prayers (I use the little devotional book that Pastor leaves out on the table) followed by my prayer list that comes over our prayer chain. This probably takes about 20 minutes and after I "talk" to God, I am ready to face the day. I think of this time as "God's Gift" to me and I always feel that this "little Sabbath" refreshes my soul.

## Dear Parents,

My father always had a little Sabbath and his happened every morning around 4:00 before he went to work. He once told me that the most important things in the world were faith, family, and friends—the most important was FAITH. Although you don't need any devotional books, I find them helpful. God just wants to hear your voice—connect with Him—His heart is open 24/7. It might be challenging to set a time for all your family, but it is important that your children know that you are celebrating a "little Sabbath."

Sylvia Yost

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## Nursery School

Our students are getting excited as Spring approaches and they get to "wake up" the sleeping teddy bears in their classrooms. We are looking forward to exploring spring and all the changes it brings. We have opened our enrollment for the 2023-2024 School Year and registration is ongoing. We continue to offer programs for 2, 3, 4 and 5 year olds. Classes are filling up fast! If anyone is interested in

registering, please call the office at 610-543-5589 or go to our website [www.stmattsens.org/pre-registrationform](http://www.stmattsens.org/pre-registrationform) to fill out the Pre-Registration form on the page. We hope that if March comes in like a lion, it goes out like a lamb!

Warmly,  
Ana Fischer, Executive Director  
610-543-5589

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## Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the April newsletter are due by **noon** on **Wednesday, March 15.**

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## Women of the ELCA

Everyone—all ages—are invited to attend **The Witty Ben Franklin** (Robert DeVitis) on March 14 at 7:00 p.m. in Elbert Hall. This 45-minute presentation will include some facts about Ben Franklin never heard before. Starting at 6:00 p.m. we will serve some colonial style desserts. Please come and enjoy the fun. There will be a free-will offering collected to benefit Lutheran Disaster Relief.

Meetings for the month of March:

March 7	LWR	7:00 p.m.—Parlor
March 14	The Witty Ben Franklin	
	6:00 p.m. Desserts—Elbert Hall	
	7:00 p.m. Presentation—Elbert Hall	
March 21	LWR	7:00 p.m.—Parlor
March 28	Board Meeting	5:45 p.m.—Parlor
	Circle	7:00 p.m.—Parlor

All women of the church are invited to join us for our meetings and activities. We would enjoy having you.

Blessings,  
Carol Penjuke

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## Monthly Mailbag



Dear Lutheran Church Women of Saint Matthew,

We have received and thank you for your generous donation of \$50 that will help us continue to provide vital behavioral health, prevention, child welfare and educational services for at-risk youth and families. Your support truly matters! 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)!

With the help of friends like all of you, Gemma is providing crucial services for more than 4,000 youth and families each year. Our dedicated teams help children, teens, and their families to heal from traumas, manage mental health challenges and navigate difficult times. As you know, when the pandemic began, we shifted to provide many of our services remotely via Telehealth and online platforms. We have now transitioned many services back to in-person with enhanced virus protection and prevention protocols, while we continue to provide services virtually as needed. Now that we are able to have in-person visitors once again, we would love to welcome you to tour any of our three locations.

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. On behalf

of all at Gemma, thank you and best wishes.

Sincerely,  
Lynn Unipam, MSW, CFRE  
Chief Development Officer  
Gemma Services

Dear Friends at Saint Matthew,

Thank you very much for your congregation's contribution of \$100 in support of our ministry in 2022. Chester County Migrant Ministry is a non-profit Christian ministry serving the community in Chester County and the surrounding area. We share the love of Jesus by offering assistance with immigration procedures, English tutoring, citizenship classes, a Christmas for Migrants program, blankets, coats, health kits, donated furniture and appliances, distribution of food baskets and other services. We could not carry on our work serving the spiritual and physical needs of the poorest members of our community without partners like you.

We are always looking for prayer, financial support and volunteers in any capacity to help us serve our neighbors in need. May God bless you for your generosity in helping us.

Dios les bendiga (God bless you)  
Jeff Hellrung, Treasurer  
Chester County Migrant Ministry

Dear Lutheran Church Women of Saint Matthew,

Greetings from United Lutheran Seminary. Thank you for your recent gift of \$25.00 to the United Lutheran Seminary Fund. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and partnership accompanying us as we live out our United Lutheran Seminary mission of Unifying, Learning and Serving as a welcoming and diverse learning community equipping people to proclaim the living Gospel for a changing church and world.

We find ourselves hopeful as indeed we trust in God's promise of life abundant and heed the Lord's call to service. This service for many in our community is foundational in the baptizing and teaching in Jesus' name. The opportunity to serve is due in large part to the continuing support and generosity of donors like you, who walk with us to equip students as leaders.

Your ongoing support for theological education and prayers are a blessing to our students and a foundation for the future of nimble leaders in our evolving church. Please let us know if our team can support you in any way by reaching out to us at [advancement@uls.edu](mailto:advancement@uls.edu). We look forward to connecting with you this year in person and/or virtually.

Yours faithfully,  
Mr. Conor Brooks, CFRE, Vice President  
for Institutional Advancement  
United Lutheran Seminary

Dear Joanne and Lutheran Church Women of Saint Matthew,

Thank you for being a hero in the KenCrest story. Your conation of \$25.00 helps rewrite the story of people in the KenCrest family. At KenCrest, we take pride in being "unique." With more than 12,500 individuals in Pennsylvania, Delaware and Connecticut utilizing our services, there's no shortage of stories of people finding ways to live their best, most meaningful lives. Your support ensures each individual has the opportunity to author their own unique story. You

have recognized the critical need KenCrest fills in your community, and your investment adds a new chapter to our story of exploring possibilities, mobilizing resources and empowering dream.

We are grateful to have supporters like you who will help us care and boldly advocate for those in our community. Thank you for your generosity, and for being a part of the KenCrest Family.

With gratitude,  
Russ Stewart, Director of Development  
KenCrest

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are at the end of another year, and we are seeing progress toward "normal" times. I'm not sure anyone really knows what that is anymore, but at least things have improved somewhat. What hasn't improved is the number of families that are still struggling to meet their basic needs—shelter, heat and food. We changed to a full choice pantry in May, which means that our families shop as they might in a grocery store. This enables them to choose the kinds of food that they actually use. Because of the variety of foods that we try to provide, it is very difficult to keep our shelves stocked.

Your generous donation of \$522.50 and 8566.2 pounds of food from the Souper Bowl of Caring in 2022 has helped make it possible for us to provide nutritious food to each family based on the number of people in it, and also allows us to have milk, eggs, meat and some produce available as well. We are most grateful for your continuing kindness and concern for the community. Hopefully this Souper Bowl of Caring will be the best ever with the Eagles playing in the game. May God bless you in the new year.

Yours in Christ,  
Lana Lindenmuth, Financial Director  
Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry

Dear Pastor Richard,

We have received and thank you for your generous donation of \$500 that will help us continue to provide vital behavioral health, prevention, child welfare and educational services for at-risk youth and families. Your support truly matters! 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)!

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. On behalf of all at Gemma, thank you and best wishes.

Sincerely,  
Kristen E. Gay, Ph.D., President & CEO  
Lynn Unipam, MSW, CFRE  
Chief 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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# The Witty Ben Franklin



Enjoy a 45-minute presentation by Robert DeVitis impersonating Ben Franklin. He'll share some facts never heard before! All ages welcome. Invite a friend.

Saint Matthew Lutheran Church  
400 Lynbrooke Rd  
Springfield, PA 19064

March 14, 2023 at 7:00 PM  
Elbert Hall

Enjoy some colonial style desserts starting at 6:00 PM.

Sponsored by the Women of ELCA

A free-will offering will be collected benefiting  
**Lutheran Disaster Relief**



# **St. Matthew Easter Egg Hunt**



**March 31<sup>st</sup> 6:30-8:00 pm**

**Join us for a fun night of hunting for Easter eggs  
Light refreshments  
Bring a basket and a flashlight**



**RSVP by March 23, 2023  
Please sign up in the church hallway  
or the link.**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C44AFAD2DA0FD0-stmatt3>