



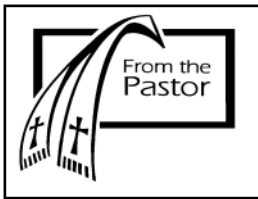
The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Volume 75, Number 5

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From Our Pastor

Connect
Care
Equip
Cultivate

Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire – Text: attr. Rhabanus Maurus, 776-856; tr. John Cosin, 1594-1672

- 1 *Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
 and lighten with celestial fire;
 thou the anointing Spirit art,
 who dost thy sev'nfold gifts impart.*
- 4 *Teach us to know the Father, Son,
 and thee, of both, to be but one;
 that through the ages all along
 thy praise may be our endless song!*

Most Lutherans do not spend a great deal of time considering the Holy Spirit. We focus, rightly, on Jesus as the savior of the world. We know about God the Father, the Creator of heaven and earth. But we are not sure what to do about the Holy Spirit. It is confusing enough to try to understand the relationship between the Father and the Son. How can Jesus be fully human, and fully divine, all at the same time? Then to throw a third “person” into the mix is more than we can handle. To try to figure out what the role or purpose of the Holy Spirit is, almost by definition, nebulous.

And yet, it is the Spirit of God that moved over the waters in creation. It is the Spirit of God that causes life to occur in the creatures God has made. It is the Spirit we call on when we have a baptism, asking the newly baptized to be filled with and guided by this Spirit.

“Pour out upon _____ the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.”

It is the Spirit, according to Paul in the 8th chapter of his letter to the Romans, that intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. For Martin Luther, without the Spirit it is impossible to have faith that Jesus is the Son of God and savior of the world. As he says in his explanation to the 3rd article of the Creed,

“I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in

the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith. Daily in this Christian church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins—mine and those of all believers. On the last day the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.”

For many others in this world, the idea of “spirit” may not be as foreign. How often do we hear it said “I am spiritual, but not religious?” My praise of this stance is that it shows an openness to that which is above and beyond. My concern with this stance is that it can be a self-serving way of finding oneself, and not of connecting with the One by whose Spirit the world and all that is in it has been formed, and in which, if we live and move, can revive our faltering spirits in a way we can never do for ourselves.

And so, as we approach the Day of Pentecost, when we celebrate the sending of the Holy Spirit to the disciples, which is sent so that, by God’s Spirit, *we* are sent into a world in need of God, it is my prayer that we allow ourselves to dwell with, and dwell in, the Spirit. Let us sit still, and let us be filled, with whatever it is the Spirit wants to give us: wisdom, understanding, power, might, knowledge, fear of the Lord, love, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faith and faithfulness, gentleness, or self-control. But most especially, I pray the Spirit helps us to know the Father and the Son, and to find joy in God’s presence.

Come, Holy Spirit, Come.
Pastor Karl M. Richard

Christian Education Updates

We have six young members who received their first communion on Easter Sunday. Congratulations to all of them and their families. We have Sunday School for all ages every week in between the services. Please join us in the church for our opening.

SAVE THE DATE! We will be having Vacation Bible School on July 31- August 4. All are welcome. We are in need of helpers. If you could help all week or even for a day or two, we want you! Please reach out to Julie Cirillo manoalstgrade@hotmail.com.

On Friday night, March 31, we had an amazing turnout for our egg hunt! A very special thank you to all who donated candy to make our hunt the best! Also, a special thank you

to anyone who helped with our event!! We stuffed over 1,000 eggs!!

Julie Cirillo

Ascension Day Service

The Delaware County Synod will observe **Ascension Day**, May 18, at 7 p.m. at Saint Timothy's Lutheran Church, 535 Lamp Post Lane, Aston. The service will be preceded by "light bites" and the gathered choir will practice at 6:00.

Natalie Rees Berry

Geraniums

Once again we will be decorating our altar on Pentecost Sunday (May 28th) with red geraniums. The geraniums will then be planted around the property to be shared with the community throughout the summer as a sign of God's spirit among us. We are requesting a donation of \$7 per geranium for those wishing to make a dedication. A sign-up sheet is in the church hallway or you can call the office.

Pat McHugh

Roof Fund

The renovation work of the church will continue with the installation (hopefully) of a new roof! Envelopes have been put in the pews which replace the Capital Campaign envelopes. Please feel free to use them to contribute towards this very necessary renovation! Thank you!

Stewardship Committee.

Social Ministry

As we told everyone last month, Social Ministry is going to be providing Comfort Kits to the Lutheran Settlement House in Philadelphia. If you would like to contribute to this project, the easel is in the hallway with tags of needed items to complete the kits. There will be a box in the hallway for your gifts. If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Liscom or Marge Kobasa.

Cheryl Morrell

Property Update

The Property Budget was reviewed. As we discussed last month, there was a discrepancy with the water bill in that there was a large amount that was billed to Saint Matthew. We reported that there was credit to be given in next month's bill. This was incorrect. We were billed in the early months at the minimum amount and then for water usage in last month's bill. Our regular bill will now be approximately \$300 to \$400 dollars a month, which is higher than we budgeted for in the 2023 budget.

The light over the pulpit has been repaired and another exit light was added to the Sanctuary. Now all exits are illuminated in the event of an emergency. The lights in the Education Wing that were coming on without being turned on, and the rear stairway light that was not working have been repaired. Also, three additional exit emergency lights were installed.

We are still waiting for parts to fix the air handler in Elbert

Hall. The door between the main hallway and the Education Wing is broken. A temporary repair was made, and a new door has been ordered.

Kurtz Landscaping has weeded and mulched our gardens around the Church. A Ring Bell and cameras have been added around the Education building for added safety for the staff and children of Saint Matthew Nursery School. In the coming weeks our tent will be put up in time for the Nursery School's Art Show and for outside worship, weather permitting.

Joe Regan

Fellowship News

We had a successful Easter Egg Hunt with over 150 people attending. The children enjoyed crafts, games, a bounce house, snacks, as well as hunting for eggs. Many people enjoyed the fellowship of the Easter Breakfast. I would like to thank everyone who contributed food and their time to these events to make them successful.

We are planning a trip to see the Blue Rocks Baseball game on Sunday, May 28th. This is their Faith and Family Event with fireworks after the game. The game starts at 6:35 pm and tickets are \$16 each. There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway. We are also looking into attending the Miracle of Christmas at Sight and Sound Theater the week after Christmas. Anyone with ideas for fellowship events, please talk to someone on the committee.

Barbara McClintock

Financial Update

The Finance Committee met on Wednesday, April 12, 2023. Gary Gordon presented the March financial numbers. The giving income for March was \$32,629 and the expenses were \$44,494. The revenue for March was lower than the revenue for February but we are maintaining our budget level for the year. Please remember to be generous with your giving and support of your church as we continue to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

Kevin Cunningham

Women of the ELCA

Thank you to everyone who helped make Women's Sunday so special! We thank Amanda Bryant for her informative talk. We are proud of our connection with Gemma Services and our ability to help out in small ways.

We have been averaging 18-20 ladies at our monthly meetings. Come see what all the excitement is about!

Our last meeting for the season will be on May 23. We will have a potluck dinner beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Elbert Hall. At that meeting we will assemble health kits for Chester County Migrant Ministry and candy favors for Gemma. Please consider joining in the joy of helping others.

May's Events;

May 2	LWR Quilts	7:00 p.m.	Parlor
May 9	LWR Quilts	7:00 p.m.	Parlor
May 16	LWR Quilts	7:00 p.m.	Parlor
May 23	Sarah Circle	6:00 p.m.	Elbert Hall
May 30	LWR Quilts	7:00 p.m.	Parlor

Blessings,
Carol Penjuke

Men's Breakfast

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

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Children's Corner

*"I don't like that man. I must get to know him better."
Abraham Lincoln*

Dear Children,

You must be wondering why a quote from Abraham Lincoln is at the top of the page instead of a Bible Verse??!! Well, Abraham Lincoln is one of my favorite historical figures and I have always admired his grit, honesty, intelligence, and leadership—soooo—as I was reading about him and came across this quote, I felt that it was worth a few thoughts. God asks all of us to love one another and we would agree that it is easy to love people who are kind and agreeable—but what about those folks who are downright nasty and not very lovable? My thoughts went right back to when I was your age and attended several functions at church. In my mind's eye, I can still see Miss Jack who was indeed a formidable lady who had no tolerance for youngsters and she often sat behind my friends and me in church. Although we tried to smile at her, we also did a lot of giggling during the service and she would throw a menacing glare at us. After church, she would drive down to our produce farm and rudely command my brother and I to procure the freshest of vegetables. We kids would always complain to Dad about her and instead of agreeing with us, he had us give her an extra ear of corn, a tomato, a pepper—all at no charge. As we questioned Dad about his generosity we found out a bit about her very sad life and of course, we changed our attitude. Instead of giggling during the service, we would try to greet her with a smile and ask about her week. Eventually, she also became rather friendly and she had a lovely smile.

Fast forward about 60 years—Maris Grove is a wonderful retirement community and full of friendly people; however, with over 1700 residents, one is bound to find some people who do not try to be friendly and their attitude is abrupt. It is challenging to work around this, but Jesus would want us to do our best to bring that "lost sheep" into the fold. Smiles are contagious, cookies are nice as well as a friendly note, a helping hand can be a way to connect, and so can prayer. See what you can accomplish. Remember that God always loves you even when you may be difficult. God forgives; be brave and take that extra step. God uses broken people to better His world,

Dear Parents,

The concept of loving the unlovable can be challenging, but it comes to ALL of us. The following Bible verses may help:
1 Corinthians 13 Matthew 5:48 Romans 8:26

Sylvia Yost

* * * * *

Nursery School

Here at our Nursery School we are gearing up for our Spring Art Show on Monday, May 15! Also we will be learning about Pond Life, making special gifts for Mother's Day and will begin preparing for our graduation and recognition ceremonies in June. We continue to enroll for the

2023-2024 School Year. If you are interested in registering your child, please contact the office at 610-543-5589 and/or visit our website at www.stmattscnss.org/admissions for more information.

Happy Spring!

Warmly,
Ana Fischer, Executive Director

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Newsletter Deadline

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

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Vital Statistics

First Communion:

Evie Applegate
Maddie Applegate
Annabella Bahnsen
Schaeffer Bartlett
Gabriel Emannual
Anneliese Malehorn
April 9, 2023

Baptisms:

Shane Simon Foster
Son of Dana and Katie Foster
Born December 2, 2022
Baptized April 16, 2023

Nolan Russell Metzler
Son of Robert and Alison Metzler
Born May 20, 2022
Baptized April 16, 2023

60th Wedding Anniversary:

John and Sally Kampmeyer
May 25, 2023

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Monthly Mailbag

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 generous donation of two months of treat bags, two fleece blankets, a bag of treat-filled Easter eggs, and extra candy for the boys and girls we serve in our Residential Treatment Program. The children will be thrilled with these wonderful surprises!

With the help of friends like you, 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 partnership during these

continued times of challenge for those we serve and for our communities. On behalf of all at Gemma, thank you and best wishes.

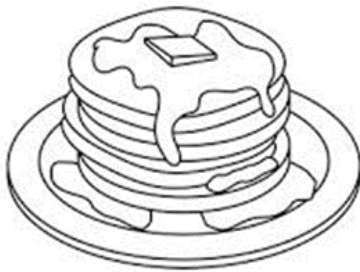
Sincerely,
Amanda Bryant
Senior Development Officer
Gemma Services

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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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Boy Scout Troop 503 Pancake Breakfast

**Saturday, May 6, 2023
8:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

St. Matthew Lutheran Church – Elbert Hall

*Enjoy a breakfast including Pancakes, Sausage,
Coffee, Tea and Juice*

Adults - \$10

Children (ages 11 and under) - \$7

For more information or tickets, contact:

Sloanehouston@gmail.com

610-350-7930



**Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Vacation Bible School Registration Form
July 31- August 4, 2023
9:00-11:30 AM**

Classes available for students age 4 through Grade 7

Student's Name _____ Birth Date _____

Last school grade completed as of June, 2023 _____

Parent's Name _____

Home Address _____

Telephone _____ E-mail Address _____

Emergency Contact Person during week of VBS (name, phone number and relationship to child) _____

Known allergies or medical concerns _____

If student attends a church school, where _____

Parent's Church _____

Names and ages of brothers and sisters _____

Does your child have a friend coming to VBS? If yes please list first and last names _____

*****Please note all requests must be made by June 18, 2023.**

We like to photograph the children of VBS to use for bulletin boards and a craft, if you would like your child to **NOT** be photographed please check here _____.

___ I am available to help with VBS everyday

___ I am available to help with VBS ___ Monday ___ Tuesday ___ Wednesday ___ Thursday ___ Friday

___ I am able to donate a snack. (We will let you know what to donate)

Payment in the amount of _____ made by _____ check (payable to St. Matthew Lutheran Church)
_____ cash

\$20.00 for one child; \$30.00 for two children; family of 3 or more - \$35.00

**There will be CDs for an additional \$5.00, please include the \$5.00 in your registration.

Return to: St. Matthew Lutheran Church - VBS
400 Lynbrooke Road
Springfield, PA 19064

For more information, contact Julie Cirillo at manoalstgrade@hotmail.com or the Church Office (610-543-8700).



Dear Families,

This summer, at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, we're planning an exciting Vacation Bible School adventure called Stellar. Every day there is a new bible story and a verse to go along with the lesson.

This fun-filled VBS week is for everyone between preschool to seventh grade. The fun begins July 31 and continues through August 4. The sessions run from 9:00-11:30 am. Please come Monday, July 31 at 8:45 am. Closing activities will be on Friday, August 4 at 11:15 am in the church with a snack on the lawn. Registration is going on now! For more information, contact Julie Cirillo at manoa1stgrade@hotmail.com or the church office at 610-543-8700. In order to register for VBS, please return the VBS registration to the church office or mail it to St. Matthew. Sign up today! If you register by June 18, your child will get a free iron-on decal.

We can't wait to see you at VBS!

