



The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Springfield, Pennsylvania

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Internet Web Site: www.stmattspringfield.org



From Our Pastor

Connect
Care
Equip
Cultivate

May is a month of remembrances. Mother's Day is the second Sunday of May. Memorial Day was traditionally celebrated on May 30th but is now placed on the last Monday of May. And this year, we have Pentecost on May 19th. While Mother's Day and Memorial Day are deeply emotional events for many, the Day we celebrate in the Church is the Day of Pentecost. This is not to say we do not love our moms, or love our nation, or are grateful for those who "gave the last full measure of devotion" to the United States of America. But these celebrations take a back seat to the celebration of Pentecost.

When we gather as the Church, we gather around the Word of God, and in particular, we gather around Jesus, the living Word of God. Even on Mother's Day and Memorial Day, the Church keeps its focus on God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As such, we include our moms and the fallen in our prayers on those weekends, but we sing, praise, and pray to Jesus in our worship, because Jesus is the object of our worship.

Pentecost is perhaps the least well-known of the three remembrances we mark this month, as it is a celebration only people of faith note. It is also the least known of the three main festivals in the Church Year, even for people of faith. Everyone is familiar with the first two festivals: Christmas and Easter. But it is a bit less certain if people know Pentecost as the third major festival of the Church Year. My shorthand definition for the three major festivals of the Church is this: at Christmas, we celebrate the love of God the Father who sends Jesus, the Word made Flesh, to the world. At Easter we celebrate the love of God the Son, as Jesus dies, and then rises from the dead, to bring life and salvation to all who will trust in him. And at Pentecost, we celebrate the love of God the Holy Spirit, who gifted the disciples then, and now, with the ability to believe, and speak, of the acts of God in Jesus' death and resurrection.

Pentecost, which is originally a Jewish festival, comes 50 days after Easter, and is sometimes called the "birthday of the Church." It is called this because Pentecost is the day the Spirit of God descended on the first disciples and filled them with power and ability to proclaim the Good News of Jesus to all whom they met. As Jesus returned to the right hand of God, the

Holy Spirit descended to empower the Church as the presence of God when the physical presence of Jesus was no longer. From that day Peter and the others went out and spoke with courage and clarity about what God has done to bring salvation to the world through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And the Church continues to this day because of the work of the Holy Spirit.

Every congregation is founded because of the work and movement of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit speaks in and through the faithful to inspire acts of love, care for the hungry and the lost, and proclamation that it is in Jesus that we can be made whole. This is why we both remember and celebrate this festival. Without the Holy Spirit, we would not be the family of faith, and we would not be part of the salvation story of Jesus in this world.

Martin Luther, in his explanation to the third article of the Apostles' Creed, writes,

"I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true."

And so, this May we give thanks for our mothers. We remember those who gave their lives for our country. But most of all, we remember and give thanks to God that God's own Spirit is moving in and among us to bring the good news of salvation to the world.

Happy Pentecost. Thanks be to God.

Pastor Karl M. Richard

Christian Education Updates

Everyone is welcome to join us every Sunday starting at 9 in the church. We have Sunday School for all ages. We have some amazing teachers in our Sunday School. If you are interested in being a teacher or even just to fill in some weeks, please contact Julie Cirillo.

Save the date! July 8-12 we are diving into SCUBA! This year for Vacation Bible School we will be diving into God's

word. There is a place for everyone. If you are interested in being a helper, please reach out to Julie at manoalstgrade@hotmail.com. The program runs from 9:00-11:30 a.m. every day that week. There are classes for preschool children up to fifth grade.

Julie Cirillo

Ascension Day Service

The Delaware County Synod will observe **Ascension Day**, Thursday, May 9, at 7 p.m. at Saint Mark's Lutheran Church, 436 N. Oak Avenue, Clifton Heights. The service will be preceded by refreshments and fellowship at 6:00.

Geraniums

Once again we will be decorating our altar on Pentecost Sunday (May 19th) 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

Beds for Kids

We continue to collect bedding items for Beds For Kids. The items will be combined with a new mattress and frame for children who do not have a bed for themselves to sleep in. We are collecting new or gently used single bed sheet sets, blankets, quilts or bedspreads, new pillows, children's books, and gently used stuffed animals. There is a box under the table in the hallway marked One House At A Time for these items. Thank you to all who support this program.

Nancy Regan

Gemma Services

This month we delivered 60 treat bags filled with candy treats in time for Easter for the children in the residential treatment program. We did receive bags of candy to use that were not used for the Egg Hunt at Saint Matthew.

Nancy Regan

Food Drive

Thank you to everyone who donated so many items to our monthly food collection. We had the back of the car full of so many items that it required a couple of shopping carts to deliver the food to the Media Food Bank. I was also given an updated list of items that are always needed; copies are on the table in the hallway. We thank everyone who continues to support the pantry. Our next date is May 5th.

Nancy Regan

News from Your Property Committee

This past month we finished repairing the damage done by our unwanted termite visitors. We also have had several return trips from our exterminator, so they are

continuing with spraying and removing the few confused termites that appeared. Our grounds are being well cared for by our new landscaper. We will be putting up our tent in the next few weeks. Please look for the date, all HELP is greatly appreciated.

A special thank you to our members and the ladies of Women of the ELCA for the donations last month to our roof fund. We had an increase over last month by over \$10,000.00. We will be having meetings with the engineer and roofers over the next two months. Hopefully, they will be able to give all of us an update in June.

Joe Regan

Fellowship News

The Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a coffee hour "Muffins with Mom" on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12. Bring your mom and enjoy some delicious muffins.

Barbara McClintock

Women of the ELCA

As I write this newsletter article, the birds are chirping loudly outside! Spring has finally sprung.

Thank you to everyone who helped with Women's Sunday. Lorraine Martinez from Chester County Migrant Ministry was our speaker. She did a great job telling us about that organization. We gave her six blankets to take with her which she beautifully blessed in the parlor. Pastor Leslie Richard officiated the services for us. We appreciated her help and leadership on this day. And finally thank you to all the ladies who helped with the coffee hour!

May will be our final meeting of the year. We plan on having an Ice Cream Sundae event at that time. Hope everyone can join us.

Our LWR quilters have been busy getting about 6 quilts a month tied. Have you noticed the quilts in the hallway? Thanks to Joe Regan for figuring out a way to hang them for us to enjoy before they are sent to Lutheran World Relief. Dawn Liscom was the designer and sewer of these beautiful quilts.

This month's schedule:

May 7	LWR Quilts	1:00 p.m.
May 14	LWR Quilts	1:00 p.m.
May 21	LWR Quilts	1:00 p.m.
May 28	Board	6:15 p.m.
	Circle	7:00 p.m.

Blessings,
Carol Penjuke

Men's Breakfast

We have scheduled the May Men's Breakfast for Saturday, May 18, at 7 a.m. at the Court Diner in Media. It's a great way to start the day!

Children's Corner

Dear Children,

"Dear Lord, please give me patience and I WANT IT NOW!" How many times have we said this as we struggle with one of life's difficulties? I know that growing up in today's world can sometimes be rather challenging as we navigate school bullies, weather problems, financial issues, dreaded tests, popularity, etc. Often it is difficult to decide whether to remain silent or to abruptly speak out and possibly incur someone's

wrath. Maintaining self-control can be difficult, but in the long run, seeing another’s point of view can be a lesson learned. Social media can be enlightening, but also very controversial, and we need to be aware of conversation that is hurtful to others. A good question might be - “What does the Bible say about patience?” The book of Colossians tells us to “Clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and PATIENCE.” Remember that God is patient with us as we continue to behave badly. God says “Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, and be constant in prayer.” As I look back on my childhood Sunday School days, I think of those Bible characters who waited for God to deliver them from their tragedies. Let’s play the matching game—draw a line from the person’s name to his challenge in life:

Job	lacked patience
Abraham and Sarah	waited 40 years in the desert
Moses	was rich and the devil destroyed everything
Saul	waited 15 years to become king
David	trusted God who finally gave them a son

Dear Parents,

I am sure that being a parent in these times can be frustrating, so I have included a few Bible verses for you to read and contemplate: 1 Peter 3:20; Genesis 20-21; Colossians 3:12-13. All of us are at one time struggling to be patient during some trying circumstances and we often think that perhaps God has forgotten us. Rest assured that our loving Lord always keeps us in the palm of His hand and we must trust in Him. Check out the Bible verses above and find the stories of Job, Moses, Paul, and others who had an unflinching trust in God.

Sylvia Yost

Nursery School

I want to thank all who visited our Book Fair last month. Your support of our Nursery School is greatly appreciated! We are now gearing up for our Spring Art Show! We would like to invite the Saint Matthew Lutheran Church community to stop by on **Thursday, May 16th, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** and check out our “*Around the World*” exhibits. We are also beginning to prepare for our graduation and moving up ceremonies in June. 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! You can register online at <https://www.stmattsens.org/registration-forms-1> or contact the office at 610-543-5589 for registration information. Also, please remember to “like” us on Facebook and see the hard work of the staff and students! We would like to thank all our veterans for their service to our country and wish everyone a happy and safe Memorial Day!

Warmly,
Ana Fischer, Executive Director

Newsletter Deadline

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

Vital Statistics

First Communion:

Grace Aloj
Riley Dolan
Ryan Godfrey
Kendall McCallum
March 31, 2024

Fiona Caruso
April 7, 2024

60th Wedding Anniversary:

Ernie and Judy Telgheider
May 30, 2024

Death:

Britten Winters
April 24, 2024

College

Graduates:

Jake Baumann
Jenna Cirillo
Abby Kiely
Nora Larkin
Elizabeth Turner

High School

Graduates:

Abigail Baumann
Jackson Bennett
Samantha DeSantis
Emma Kiely
Jake O’Brien
Adam Plachuta
Patricia Wesley

Monthly Mailbag



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I can’t believe how fast the new year is going. It is already the beginning of March and I’m still working on getting the last of my thank you letters in the mail. In checking my records, I realized I had not sent you a letter for last year. I apologize for being rather late in getting it out, but I certainly didn’t want to miss thanking you for your very generous donation of \$537 in 2023. You have been a tremendous support to the pantry for many years and are part of the reason we have been a success in helping those in need.

We truly appreciate your continued support. God bless you and keep you safe 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 treat bags and extra treats for the youth in residence at Gemma. Your support will help Gemma continue to provide vital behavioral health, prevention, child welfare, and education 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 all of 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 of our friends from Saint Matthew to visit one of Gemma's three locations to see firsthand the programs you are helping us to provide. Should you be interested in exploring volunteer opportunities for individuals or groups, please let us know. You can learn more about all of Gemma's programs, latest happenings, and current support needs by visiting www.gemmaservices.org.

On behalf of all at Gemma, thank you!

Sincerely,
Amanda Bryant, Senior Development Officer
Gemma Services

Dear Saint Matthew Lutheran Church,

I am writing to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your recent donation of lap blankets, greeting cards, devotionals, puzzle

books and other thoughtful items to the residents of Fair Acres. Your generosity and kindness have truly made a difference in the lives of those we serve.

The lap blankets will be a source of comfort during chilly evenings, while the greeting cards spread smiles and happiness throughout our community. The devotionals will give spiritual nourishment, and the puzzle books offer hours of engaging entertainment and mental stimulation.

Once again, thank you for your generous donation. Your support means the world to us, and we are immensely grateful for your kindness and generosity.

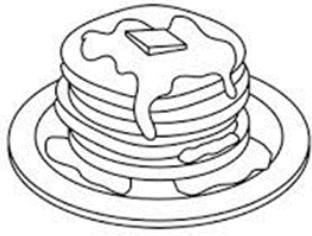
With sincere appreciation,
Susan Harrar
Director of TAS & Volunteer Services
Fair Acres

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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 4, 2024
8:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

St. Matthew Lutheran Church – Elbert Hall

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

Advance Tickets: Adults - \$10
Children (ages 11 and under) - \$7

Tickets at the Door: Adults—\$12
Children (ages 11 and under) - \$9

For more information or tickets, contact:
Sloanehouston@gmail.com
610-350-7930



**Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Vacation Bible School Registration Form
July 8 - July 12, 2024
9:00-11:30 AM**

Classes available for students age 4 through Grade 6

Student's Name _____ Birth Date _____

Last school grade completed as of June, 2024 _____

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 1, 2024**

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 Scuba. 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 sixth grade. The fun begins July 8 and continues through July 12. The sessions run from 9:00-11:30 am. Please come Monday, July 8, at 8:45 am. Closing activities will be on Friday, July 12 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 manoalstgrade@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! We will have an iron-on decal for your child.

We can't wait to see you at VBS!

