



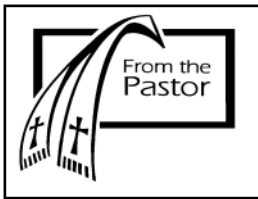
The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Volume 77, Number 5

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Internet Web Site: www.stmattspringfield.org



From Our Pastor

Connect
Care
eQuip
Cultivate

²² *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
²³ they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.* – Lamentations 3:22-23

May can be an awkward month for the church. It is a month for remembering, as we remember moms on Mother's Day, and soldiers who died in service on Memorial Day, but neither of those are specifically Christian holidays. Sometimes Pentecost will fall in May, depending on when Easter Sunday falls. (This year Pentecost, which will be the day of Confirmation for our youth, falls on June 8th.) In this time, we do not have Advent leading to Christmas, or Lent leading to Easter. May instead is a month when most of the programming for the year is winding down since congregations, in practice, work on a school calendar more than a yearly calendar. And so, when we get to May, many people in a congregation are focused on the ending of school, graduation celebrations, and the coming of summer vacations, whether planned time away or simply time off from the regular schedule of school and work. What often happens, though, is also a winding down in participation in worship and faith life.

Yet, the love of the Lord never fails, and the desire of God to gather with his people never ends. Nor does the chance for us to gather with God and each other or our need to serve our neighbors come to an end. We still have Sunday School and Bible Study. We still have the opportunity to worship Jesus. We still have fellowship events planned. We still need to pray for and support each other in times of ill health or other life struggles. We still see the needs of our community and our world and have a calling from Jesus to help.

The verse from Lamentations you see above is the basis of the song, "Great is Thy Faithfulness." It is a song of how in all times, and all seasons, God is faithful to us. As we move past Easter Sunday, though never past the Easter celebration, may we be faithful to the God who is always so faithful to us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Pastor Karl M. Richard

Christian Education Updates

A very special thank you to everyone who helped with the Easter Egg Hunt! We had donations of candy, egg stuffers and hunt helpers. We had a very well attended event.

As we are getting closer to the summer, we are getting ready for True North. Our VBS will be July 28th - August 1st. It is from 9:00-11:30. It is a great way to spend the week with your church family. Please see Julie if you are interested.

Julie Cirillo

Ascension Day Service

The Delaware County Synod will observe **Ascension Day**, Thursday, May 29, at 7 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, 7240 Walnut Street, Upper Darby. The service will be preceded by refreshments and fellowship at 6:00.

Financial Update

Dear Heavenly Father, We thank You for the blessings and resources You have provided to our church community. As we review our financial report, we seek Your guidance and wisdom. Help us be good stewards of these gifts and unite us in our mission to serve with love and outreach. We trust in Your provision and ask for strength as we navigate challenges together. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

	<u>Feb. 2025</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Giving/Income	\$ 45,994.	\$ 111,377.
Expenses	<u>58,894.</u>	<u>115,090.</u>
Plus/Minus	\$ (12,900.)	\$ (3,713.)

Summary: As we review our financial performance for this past month, we want to express our deep gratitude for your continued support. Our total giving and income amounted to \$45,994 while our expenses were almost \$59,000. This resulted in a negative balance of \$12,900 for the month.

Envelope/General Giving: We concluded February with contributions just under \$46,000, exceeding the budgeted amount of \$38,760 for the month. Year to date we are just over \$111,377.

Giving Opportunities: Your contributions are vital for our church to thrive, and each gift plays a crucial role in our

community efforts. Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers as we navigate our fiscal year together.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Cunningham and
Rebecca DeSantis

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Social Ministry

Many, many thanks to everyone for your generous support for the Welcome Church! We collected a large amount of cereal bars for the people who attend those worship services to enjoy with their coffee.

In early July, we will once again be collecting school supplies for the children of Faith Immanuel Lutheran Church. Happy Mother's Day to the women of our church!

Cheryl Morrell

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Chester County Migrant Ministry Program

The ladies of the Women of the ELCA group support the Chester County Migrant Ministry with health kits and blankets along with a collection of bags of dried beans and rice. There is a box under the table in the hallway should anyone wish to support this project.

Nancy Regan

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Gemma Services

The ladies of the Women of the ELCA group continue to support the youth in the residential program with small candy treat bags monthly. This month the remaining candy filled eggs were delivered for the children to have their own egg hunt too.

Nancy Regan

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Food Collection

Thank you to all who continue to support the food collection at Saint Matthew. Last month we had so many bags of food we were able to fill two shopping carts full of so many items to feed so many needy families. When we delivered the food, the staff told us that they had served 103 families that day. On Palm Sunday we delivered a ham that was donated, and the staff were pleased to take it and find a family to enjoy it. Our next collection will be on May 4. Thank you to all who continue to support this program.

Nancy Regan

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Welcome Church

Through the spring and summer, please remember the homeless with coffee and toiletries.

Joan Krauter

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News from Your Property Committee

Outside our Church the flower beds have been weeded, mulched and they are ready for Spring. The bushes are awakening after their winter's rest and they are ready for Spring too. The grass is starting to grow. We have

had our first Spring fertilizer applied to our lawn.

On the inside of our Church, we have replaced the broken Lectern microphone, with a new and shorter one. We have also replaced one of the pew monitors with a larger one.

One of the problems that happen over the winter is our exiting apron has cracked in several places and will need to be replaced. This will happen over the summer months, and it will be closed to traffic for about six weeks.

With Spring and Summer approaching we will be putting up our tent for outside worship. We will be asking for volunteers in the extremely near future.

Joe Regan

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Fellowship News

The Fellowship Committee would like to thank everyone who made the Easter Egg Hunt a success. Even though it was raining and it was held indoors, we had over 100 children and parents. Thank you to everyone who donated candy, stuffed eggs, helped set up, served refreshments, put out eggs, and helped clean up. The event would not have been a success without you.

We are planning a night at the Blue Rocks game on Saturday, August 2nd. The game starts at 6:05 p.m. The price will be \$16 if we have 20 people. Please sign up if you are interested. Money will be due to Barb McClintock by July 6th.

Barbara McClintock

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Men's Breakfast

We have scheduled the May Men's Breakfast for Saturday, May 17, 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

Spring is a beautiful time to observe everything our God has made. *"These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens."* Genesis 2:4 KJV

Enjoy Nature Together Take a walk in a park or playground in your neighborhood. Do you see bees or other pollinators in the vegetation? Can you spot any flowers? Notice any areas where pollinators seem to be most active.

My Project: Library Card Holder When I bring this project home, we can:

- Notice how I decorated the holder.
- Talk about libraries and using library cards to check out books.
- Pretend to check out a book using the created library card.

Support Your Child's Love of Literacy Open your child's eyes to the world of books. Visit the library or bookmobile in your community. Attend a story hour or puppet show. Browse through the local bookstore. Check with your library to see if they have a summer reading program. Sign up your child and then check out some fun books together.

My Project: Bees' Hive When I bring this project home, we can:

- Talk about how the hive was decorated and how the bees were made.

- Find a book about bees and see if a picture of a hive is shown.

Sharon Gibson

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Nursery School

Here at our Nursery School we are gearing up for our Spring Art Show! We would like to invite the Saint Matthew Lutheran Church community to stop by on Thursday, May 15th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and check out our “Storybook Land” exhibits. We are also beginning to prepare for our graduation and moving up ceremonies in June. Registration for the 2025 - 2026 School Year is ongoing. We continue to offer programs for 2-, 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds. Classes are filling up fast! To schedule a tour and/ or to register go to <https://www.stmattscns.org/registration-forms-1> or contact the office at 610-543-5589. Please share this information with your family, friends and neighbors. Don't forget to follow and like us on Facebook and Instagram to 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

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Newsletter Deadline

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

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Vital Statistics

First Communion:

Sabina Bahnsen
Annaliese Dukes
Jocelyn McCallum
Abby Smith
Ryan Smith
April 20, 2025

Baptisms:

Annalise Harper Caesar
Daughter of Vincent and Elyse Caesar
Born January 2, 2025
Baptized March 30, 2025

Maggie Mae Larkin
Daughter of Patrick and Courtney Larkin
Born December 5, 2024
Baptized March 30, 2025

College

Graduates: **Nora Larkin**—Master’s Degree
Robbie O’Brien

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Monthly Mailbag



Dear Saint Matthew Friends,

We are very grateful for your continued friendship and generosity to Gemma Services! Thank you once again for your donation of 60 treat bags for the youth in residence at Gemma. As you know, your support helps 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 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. We will also continue to keep you up-to-date with any volunteer opportunities beyond all the ways you currently support us. 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,
Director of Donor & Volunteer Engagement
Gemma Services

Dear Barbara and the Lutheran Church Women of Saint Matthew,

Thank you for supporting Lutheran Settlement House and the children, adults, and families we serve. Your gift of \$25 spreads hope and joy, and helps our clients find safety, compassion, and healing. Your commitment makes a difference in people’s lives, people like Devon.

Devon came to Lutheran Settlement House after leaving an abusive relationship. She was new to the city and looking for a community to help her heal from the abuse and chart a new course for her future. “I knew I needed to get my mental health in order to catapult forward.” And catapult forward, she did. With support from her counselor and case manager, within a few months, Devon repaired her credit, created a resume, and found safe housing.

After Devon had a place to call home, she was able to focus on other goals, including her career. “I found that the people who helped me throughout my journey were the people I really wanted to be like. Because who I am today, I’m very, very proud of.”

Today, Devon is a children’s health case manager and member of Lutheran Settlement House’s Survivors Network where she uses her experience to educate healthcare providers, researchers, and students about domestic violence.

Helping people define their future is at the heart of our work. As a donor, you remind our clients that in the most vulnerable moments of their lives, they are not alone. Thank you for being there for Lutheran Settlement House; we are honored to have you as part of our family.

Sincerely,
David Chiles, Executive Director
Lutheran Settlement House

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