



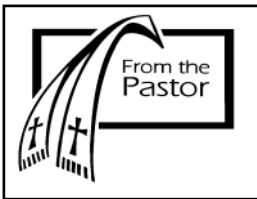
The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Volume 74, Number 10

November 2022

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From Our Pastor

Connect
Care
eQuip
Cultivate

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing!

November is a busy month in the Church year. It begins with All Saints Sunday, where we remember those saints who have died in the past year, and give thanks for those new saints who were baptized in the past year. Later in the month we have Christ the King Sunday, marking the end of the Church year, then Thanksgiving Day, a national holiday with religious overtones, and finally the First Sunday in Advent as a new liturgical calendar begins. This month surely keeps our altar team busy, as the colors of the paraments change every week! Each of these special events gives us an opportunity to gather as a family of faith, and an opportunity to reach out as a faith community to our neighborhood. One way we will reach out to our neighbors will be to, as we did last year, convert the tent into the "All Saints Chapel." This was a wonderful way to allow the community to remember their beloved departed, as people wrote the names of their loved ones on a piece of cloth and fastened it to a lattice hung for this purpose. Prayers and reflections were available all week, and names were added daily to the frame. It was very moving to then have a brief service of remembrance on the evening of All Saints Sunday, at which we prayed for the families of those remembered on the strips of cloth. Our members are welcome to add names as well, even as we remember the members of Saint Matthew who have passed in our Sunday morning worship services.

We will also have an opportunity to invite the community to worship with us as we host the Community Thanksgiving service. As usual, this service will be held on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving Day at 7:00 p.m. We are looking forward to having a choir made up of members of each of the Springfield congregations, as well as the opportunity to worship across denominational lines, giving thanks to the one Lord and savior of us all. Please mark the date and join with us as we welcome our sisters and brothers in Christ from across the township.

Unbelievably we are approaching Advent already! As we get ready for a new church year, we are bringing back a favorite liturgy, the Holden Village evening prayer service. We have not used this for several years, in part because our desire for midweek worship seemed to have faded. Still, we like this service very much, and are trying to find new and renewed ways to bring people into the presence of God. And so, we will offer this additional opportunity to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord Jesus among us on

Wednesday evenings during Advent. If you know this service, you are familiar with its beauty. If you are not familiar with it, plan to come and experience this form of Evening Prayer. Make it a part of your Advent to carve out time for prayer and reflection in a calming space and worship service.

November is a busy month, but it is a wonderful time for worship and fellowship. May you feel the blessing of God in your families, in our congregation, and in our community as together we give thanks and praise to Jesus all month long!

Pastor Karl M. Richard

News from the Worship and Music Committee

Opportunities to Serve:

Choir: Choir practice has started on Saturday mornings at 10:00. Right now we are practicing every week as we work on getting our voices back. The choir will be singing at the 10:15 service on the first Sunday of the month starting in November. All singers are welcome! If you are interested in joining us even occasionally and can't commit to regular rehearsals, please let me know.

Saturday/Sunday volunteers: We are actively recruiting to increase our ranks of weekend helpers. For each service as well as for the upcoming holiday services we need greeters, ushers, worship and communion assistants, readers, Altar guild. Opportunities for all ages; for a small time commitment you can be a more active part of your church family. For more information contact Pat McHugh or the church office.

Upcoming Events:

The evening of November 1st through Sunday evening, November 6th, the All Saints Chapel will return in our courtyard under the tent. The chapel is open to the community to pause in a time of reflection and remembrance of loved ones. Last year we had over 75 people from Saint Matthew and from the community take the time to visit the chapel and over 100 names were written on muslin strips that were tied to the lattice board. Please note that while we may most keenly feel the loss of those recently gone, this is also a place to remember loved ones from the past. There are others like me who do not have a local gravesite to visit, but can place a remembrance on our lattice board. The week will culminate in a candlelit service under the tent at 6:00 p.m. on the evening of November 6th.

On Sunday morning, November 6th, we will honor the lives of our departed saints as well as our newly baptized specifically

from our Saint. Matthew family whose names will be read at both services. In addition, as part of both services, members of the congregation will be invited to light a candle for those they wish to honor and remember.

On Wednesday, November 23rd, on Thanksgiving Eve, at 7:00 p.m. we will host the Springfield Ministerium Thanksgiving service. This is a long-time tradition in Springfield to bring together the community in Thanksgiving and fellowship. The offering collected that evening will go towards the work of the Springfield Ministerium.

Sunday, November 27th, is the first Sunday in Advent as we celebrate the beginning of a new church year and light the first candle in our wreath. Stay tuned for our Advent and Christmas schedules.

Blessings,
Pat McHugh

Thanksgiving Turkeys

If you receive a free turkey that you will not be using for Thanksgiving and would like to donate it, please let us know. All turkeys received will go to needy families.

Financial Update

If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.

	<u>September 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Giving/Income	\$ 30,192.47	\$359,555.34
Expenses	43,217.18	395,684.64
Plus/Minus	(\$ 13,024.71)	(\$ 36,129.30)

Summary: For the month of September we were in the negative in the amount of \$13,000. while YTD we are in the negative in the amount of \$36,100. (Budgeted loss for the year is \$38,000). From a budget standpoint we are behind in envelope giving by about \$12,700 for the year. If you are behind on your giving and have the opportunity to catch up or to make extra donations, that would be greatly appreciated. Let's keep up with increased giving over the last quarter of the year.

Birds in the Belfry! Giving Opportunity: Did you know that as part of our renovations we discovered that birds had found an entry point near the front of the Church and were using the rafters as their own Bed and Breakfast? We unfortunately needed to use the exterminator to get rid of our feathered friends as well as all that they left behind. The access point has now been covered up as well. The cost for this last month was \$2,500, which is an unexpected hit to our repair budget. Would you be able to help by offsetting this cost by paying some or all of this expense?

Finance Committee

News from Your Property Committee

We reviewed our current budget, and we are above our estimate budget, but all expenses were very necessary. We were called by Famco with trouble codes for two of the fire alarm sensors. Famco came, serviced the sensors, and reported that they will need to be replaced, due to the age of the detectors. John Kampmeyer and Joe Regan will be meeting with Famco to discuss the updating of the system.

The garden in the front of the church has been weeded. Still waiting for our Girl Scout to start the painting of our youth room for her Gold Award project.

Tommy's Electric was in on October 3rd to fix the bulb over the pulpit. One of the drivers that work this light has failed and will be replaced.

Preparations for the Synod meeting in our church on October 24th are under way.

Joe Regan

Christian Education Update

A very special thank you to all our amazing Sunday School teachers. Please join us every Sunday at 9:00 in the church. There is a class for everyone! We are also looking for some substitutes. If you are interested, please contact Julie Cirillo.

Thank you to everyone who attended the fall festival. We had an amazing turnout and so many yummy treats were donated. Everything was delicious and it was so nice to catch up with everyone. We can't wait to see everyone again at our next event.

Julie Cirillo

November Youth Activities

Join us November 18th at 6 p.m. for a Sunday school sleep over. We will be making our own pizza for dinner and packaging the cookie and brownie jars for our fundraiser for the Tuscarora youth trip. In addition to these activities, we will be talking about hunger and ways we can help those in need. All children are asked to bring non-perishable food items to be donated to the Scouting for Food event that will start in the morning when we wake up. More information and sign-up sheets will be sent out over the next few weeks.

Nicole Smith

Stewardship Campaign To Begin Soon – We're Back!

We will begin our 2022 Stewardship Campaign in early November and are looking for a great response from the Church. As we are coming out of Covid we are looking to get back to some normalcy. In previous recent years before Covid we averaged between 110 and 120 pledges for the Church. Last year we had a total of 63. Our goal this year is to increase this back to our previous levels and to also encourage giving. We need your pledges to plan the budget. Watch for your pledge card in the mail soon.

Fran Gordon, Council Vice President

Young Adults Group Interest Meeting

Are you a Young Adult between the ages of 20 and 40 wanting to participate in fellowship with other Young Adults? Come join the Young Adults Interest Meeting on Thursday, November 17, at 7:30 p.m. in the Parlor. Looking to explore topics to discuss, plan activities, and explore other interests that everyone would like to participate in with other Young Adults. Would love to have you come join us for fellowship and discussion! If you have any questions, please reach out to me at lba0417@gmail.com.

Lisa Thompson

Children's Corner

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35

Dear Children,

Every time I think of the month of November, the words bountiful, harvest, thankful, and generosity come to mind. I remember as a young bride, my mother-in-law loved to go to any of the plentiful Farmers' Markets in the Lancaster area. She loved looking over and purchasing wonderful-looking fruits and vegetables. Upon arriving home she thought about which items she would can, freeze or make into jam. She often gave the jam away. Looking back on my teenage years, one of my favorite memories was helping Dad on our property; he had a large produce farm as a hobby. He grew corn, blueberries, squash, strawberries, tomatoes, peppers, and a few potatoes, etc. People from town came to buy these luscious items and John and I had fun helping with the selling—we got to meet people and chat. As each season began, Dad would say, "Now kids, if you see a family with lots of kids arriving in a car that has seen better days, do NOT charge them the full price."

One of Dad's stories that I always like to share is that on Sunday mornings before church, he would load a wheelbarrow with a nice variety of produce complete with the prices and a box with change. When we came home from church, the wheelbarrow was always empty and Dad had more money than was warranted. That produce patch was a glimmer of light and a parcel of fun as we went through the garden and popped a sweet pea, a handful of blueberries, a ripe tomato, a stalk of asparagus in our mouths. For neighbors, parishioners, and those traveling through the area—the Williams Produce represented a moment of reprieve as good conversation mixed with a basket of strawberries was the event of the day.

Dad was always so pleased that the veggies and fruit grew so well because the soil, known as "hard pan" made his work quite challenging as he did not use chemical fertilizer. Dad was one of the first believers in Climate Change and he fertilized with old rotten fruit and veggies that the local stores were happy to give to Dad—he plowed it under to nourish the soil. He seemed to operate this Patch by rather old-fashioned methods—using the sky for signs of rain, experimentation with plowing, and rotating the various crops. Dad's interest for saving Planet Earth and sharing his bountiful harvest with others were two great gifts he gave John and me.

Dear Parents,

Although it is not the time to PLANT a garden, it is time to PLAN a garden. A few strawberry plants will make a "ho-hum" breakfast into a taster's delight. Science lessons abound as you check the weather and organize your work so that you are protecting the planet. Sharing your garden should be the high point.

Sylvia Yost

Gemma Services Halloween Candy Collection

As we have done for so many years in the past, we will be collecting all leftover or unwanted candy from Halloween to share with the children in the residential treatment program at Gemma Services formerly known as Silver Springs. The Women of the ELCA will make small treat bags with several small candy bars for the children to enjoy.

This year we will have a collection box in the hallway and we will collect the candy on Sunday, November 6, along with our

monthly food pantry collection Sunday.

Nancy Regan

Monthly Food Collections

We are continuing to collect food for the Media Food Bank, as we know there continues to be a great need for supplies at all food banks to help those who are struggling to get food to their families. We appreciate all the donated food, and we look forward to seeing you on Sunday, November 6th, between 12-1 p.m. Donations may also be placed in the large soup bin in the hallway outside the office. Thank you for your continued support.

Nancy Regan

Gemma Services Report

Christmas will soon be here, and the children of Gemma Services will be looking for Christmas gifts. As we have done for many years, we have a list of the items that we can help supply to make the children's Christmas a special one. The following items can be purchased and placed unwrapped in the box marked Gemma Services in the hallway before December 4th.

- Crayola art sets
- Sketchbooks (non-spiral bound)
- Remote control cars/vehicles
- Lego sets
- Gel pen sets (with 25+ pens)
- Squish mallow stuffed animals (small and medium sizes)
- Nike athletic socks (adult sizes for boys and girls)
- Rubik's cubes
- Snap together car model kits (please none that require glue or paint)
- Barbie Dolls (especially non-Caucasian dolls)

Thank you for your support of this project that we have been a part of for so many years.

Nancy Regan

"Everything But the Turkey" Collection

Thank you to everyone who donated food and gift cards to the Gemma Services "Everything but the Turkey" food collection. We do not have a total number as this is being written but we will be delivering several bags of food to be given to families who are involved with the Gemma Services program who will now be able to celebrate a delicious Thanksgiving dinner thanks to our efforts.

Nancy Regan

Social Ministry

On November 20, if not before, the Bulletin Board will be completed for the Christmas pajama gifts for the children of Faith Immanuel.

Just as in previous years, when you take a tag, please sign your name and phone number next to the name of the child on the list. Please place your WRAPPED gift WITH THE TAG ATTACHED in the Library by DECEMBER 12. Due to when

Christmas falls this year, the party at Faith Immanuel will be earlier this year and we must complete the delivery earlier. For some of these children, this is the only gift they receive at Christmas. If you would like to add a book or small toy with the pajamas, it is greatly appreciated.

Please contact me or any member of Social Ministry if you have questions.

We wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving with family and friends.

Cheryl Morrell

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December Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the December newsletter are due in the church office by **noon on Tuesday, November 15.**

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Nursery School

We had a wonderful time at our Halloween Parades and classroom celebrations! We are looking forward to the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. We have much to be thankful for this season!

The Nursery School has some employment opportunities at this time. If you are interested in working with us and would like more information, please contact the Nursery School's Office at 610-543-5589, email us at stmattscns@gmail.com or visit our website at www.stmattscns.org/jobs.

If you would like to enroll your child in one of our programs, please contact the office or visit our website as well. We look forward to hearing from you! Happy Thanksgiving!

Warmly,
Ana Fischer, Executive Director

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Women of the ELCA

November is a time of the year we think about our blessings. I am grateful for the women who support our Women of the ELCA group. Their enthusiasm for helping others is contagious!

Our first meeting of the year began with a pot luck dinner on September 27. The food was great and the conversation was lively! It was so nice to reconnect after the summer months.

We elected to donate \$100 to Beds for Kids to help them purchase a van so they can make the necessary deliveries to help kids who need beds and the other necessities to help them have a good night's sleep. We assembled candy favors for Gemma, too.

We decided to support Gemma Services again with their "Everything But The Turkey" event. We pledged to fill 5 reusable shopping bags with nonperishable foods, gift certificates, and cooking items that would help a family enjoy a Thanksgiving meal. We hope that the congregation will help us with this endeavor.

Hostesses signed up to serve light refreshments for various meetings. Ladies also signed up to lead devotions at our monthly meetings.

In October our LWR group started up in full swing again. If you can tie a knot, please join us. We meet in the Parlor on most Tuesday nights. See the schedule below.

At our October meeting, we assembled candy favors for Gemma and tied a fleece blanket.

Looking into the future, we are planning on having a breakfast on December 3, 2022. Our guest speaker will be Lorraine Martinez from Chester County Migrant Ministry.

Please join us for any of the meetings listed below:

Nov. 1	LWR Quilting	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 8	LWR Quilting	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 15	Board Meeting	6:00 p.m.
	Circle Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 29	LWR Quilting	7:00 p.m.

Wishing everyone a blessed Thanksgiving,

Carol Penjuck

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Vital Statistics

New Address: **Eric Niesen**
241 W. 3rd Ave.
#2
Conshohocken, PA 19428-1839

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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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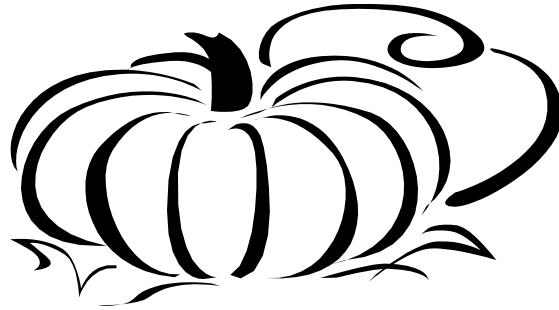


The youth of Saint Matthew will be selling mason jar mixes. They are wonderful Christmas gifts. The proceeds will benefit the youth of Saint Matthew.

The jars will be available for purchase starting at the end of November.

Any questions, please contact Julie Cirillo manoa1stgrade@hotmail.com

Please share your
HALLOWEEN CANDY
with the children of
Silver Springs Martin Luther School.



The candy will be collected through Sunday,
November 6th, 2022.
Thank you!