



The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Springfield, Pennsylvania

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From Our Pastor

Connect
Care
Equip
Cultivate

“Semper Reformanda” – Always Reforming

October is the month in which we remember the Reformation. October 31, 1517, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther posted 95 theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, where he was a professor of the Bible. His desire was to engage in dialogue about the practices of the Church of his day, and how those practices may need to be reformed in light of Scripture. In this case, Luther was challenging the practice of Indulgences, in which one could make an offering to the Church to gain God’s indulgence for sins one had committed. Or one could offer gifts on behalf of a departed loved one to shorten their time in purgatory. Luther’s reading, writing, and preaching on this and other issues challenged the church, and many reforms were made. One such reform was a recognition that it is through faith in Jesus that we are saved, and not by our works or financial gifts. Another was that human traditions cannot outweigh God’s Word.

This reforming movement continued for years after Luther’s day, and the very idea of re-formation became a staple of what became the “Protestant” wing of the Church. In 1647 Jodocus van Lodenstein, a minister in the Reformed Church in the Netherlands wrote a devotional book in which he used the phrase *semper reformanda*, always reforming. He advocated that the Church was always in need of reform to ensure it stayed true to the message of the Gospel, and not allow traditions to become a hindrance to the truth of God’s Word.

Today, when we have such division, this call to be reformed by the Word of God is important. As we look for such re-formation, we need to begin with ourselves before calling for the reformation of others. We need to put in the work of reflection and self-examination, of confession and seeking forgiveness for those places where we have fallen short and done harm to others. And we need to do this in light of what the Word of God, the Gospel of Jesus, actually says, not what we sometimes pretend it says.

We are quick to determine that “the Gospel Truth” is a set of moral commands that we need to follow, and that we need to compel others to follow. While Jesus does want us to “be good,” following an even stricter code of conduct is not

what Jesus called us to do. Instead, he called us to have an attitude of love, of care, of generosity, for those around us. Think of it in this way: Jesus wants us to be good people, to be good to each other, not to be people who are just good at following the rules. Think of the story of the Good Samaritan. Think of Jesus healing people, even though it was the Sabbath. Think of Jesus offering forgiveness and new life to the criminal on the cross.

When we come to Jesus, the living Word of God, with openness and sincerity, our hearts can be opened, our minds can be opened, our understanding can be deepened. We can be reformed. When we are reformed into a better reflection of Jesus’ love for us, the world is impacted by how we live. When the world is impacted by our renewed sense of love and concern, the world itself can be reformed.

Semper Reformanda – Always reforming. It is a call for the church. It is a call to all of us who love Jesus. It is an opportunity for the world to experience the love, grace, and mercy of God, and live in the joy of the Kingdom.

Being reformed with you,
Pastor Karl M. Richard

News from the Property Committee

We reviewed the budget as of June 2022. Not having all the financial information, it is very difficult to see what our status is for the year. Hopefully we will have the numbers soon to see where we are, so we can go forward on some needed repairs.

There was discussion on the electrical problem in Elbert Hall and what we are going to do. Several ideas were discussed. We have two problems. One, the emergency lighting is now on all the time, which works off many 24 volts rectifiers. The rectifiers have failed and are now in the on position. To fix this problem emergency lights will be installed at all exits in Elbert Hall and the stairways. These will be like the ones we have done in the Education Wing and the Sanctuary. The second problem is the wiring to lights—two of the lights have melted and are not working. These lights will be replaced and new wiring to all fixtures will be done. We are waiting on an estimate from Tommy’s Electric.

Permission was granted for one of our Girl Scouts to paint the new youth room, as her Gold Award project. We will remove the rest of the filing cabinets and patch the walls.

We discussed ongoing weeding of the gardens. We will be budgeting for weeding to be done throughout the growing

seasons next year.

All holes where the birds were getting into the building have been closed. Come next spring we should not have birds in our building. We have also noticed the front of the church is spotted with bird droppings; this will have to be power washed in the spring.

We will have our annual fire alarm inspection and testing in November. This will be done when the Nursery Children are not in the building.

Property Committee

Financial Update

	<u>August 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Giving/Income	\$ 37,187.95	\$291,671.07
Expenses	<u>37,148.87</u>	<u>352,467.46</u>
Plus/Minus	\$ 39.08	(\$ 60,796.39)

Summary: Thanks to all for a great response in August as we finished the month with a slight positive of \$39. Our previous two months of envelope giving were worrisome as we received \$17,500 and \$15,600 respectively. In August however, our envelope giving was \$29,300. For the year we are in the red by \$60,800. (Our budget for the year is for a deficit of \$38,000). Let's keep up with our increased giving over the last quarter of the year!

Giving Opportunities: Here are a few ways that you can continue to help us with our budget – listed below are several items that have been paid in the last few months – would you be able to reimburse some or any of these costs?

- Sound System Repairs \$320.
- Lawn Maintenance and Fertilizing \$620.
- Altar Candles \$170.
- Copyright Licenses \$564.

Finance Committee

Christian Education Update

Rally Day was amazing!! We had over twenty children during our Sunday School Hour. We decorated 24 bags for the Chester County Migrant Workers. The colors and designs on the bags were marvelous! A few special thank yous to our incredible teachers. After the service, we had lunch together. The family of Saint Matthew made 24 bags with all the personal care items! A very special thank you to ALL of you for your donations! We could not have done all the bags without your help!

Please join us during the Sunday School Hour; we have classes for all. We also have a need for substitutes. If you are interested, please reach out to Julie Cirillo.

Again thank you for all your generosity towards our Rally Day project!

Julie Cirillo

Fall Festival

We are working on having a **Fall Festival** on Friday, October 14, from 6-8 p.m. Everyone is invited! We will be using our fire pits to make our hot dogs and s'mores. More information is coming!

Julie Cirillo

Children's Corner

"Look at the birds of the air, they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not more valuable than they?" Mathew 6: 26

Dear Children,

Having lived in the country for a large part of my life, I was used to animals and I developed a great fondness for them. We had chickens, dogs, cats, and most of our friends would walk to the bus stop with a dog or cat trailing behind. Although I am not a fan of large birds, I have always loved to watch the small birds gather at birdfeeders—fluttering their brightly colored wings and chirping softly.

A few mornings back, I came into our sunroom and saw what looked like a mound stuck to our window, so I stealthily crept towards the window and saw a beautiful golden finch. Of course, as soon as he eyed me, he quickly took flight. I was so delighted seeing this little fellow that I grabbed my iPhone to find information about this species of bird. Upon looking for information, I found out that this superb-looking little fellow is associated with celebration and JOY; and one can think of them as harbingers of good things to come. They are the state bird of New Jersey, and most can be seen all year round. I have learned through my own observation that these little birds are very common in North America. I often walk in the morning across part of our campus in our climate-controlled glass-encased walkways, and I stop and look over the tree line and see these delightful birds flitting among the branches. Sometimes I can find someone to "birdwatch" with me.

As I think about the scripture above, and watch these little birds, I try to shed all my worries and appreciate God's hand in my life. When problems arise, Mr. Yost always says, "Matthew 6:26"—in other words DON'T WORRY!!!! Always a good reminder to put my worries aside and appreciate God's grace. The famous ornithologist Roger Peterson noticed that the goldfinch has a distinctive light-hearted and cheerful personality. SO—when you see one of these little yellow birds—think happy thoughts and thank your Heavenly Father for His goodness.

Dear Parents,

When we lived in Springfield, we purchased a birdfeeder to accommodate small birds and we enjoyed many hours of watching and learning about these colorful creatures. My daughter-in-law provided us with a bird book so we could identify them. Of course, the challenge came when large birds and squirrels came to partake of lunch. While birds are often mentioned in the Bible, it might be fun to find other animals mentioned in scripture. I have often wondered if cats are mentioned—any word on that, Pastor???

Sylvia Yost

Food Collection Report

As we have for the last two years, our food collection continued on God's Work Our Hands Sunday. We had a car full of items. When Joe and Dave Krauter went to drop off the food, they found the church locked. I did reach out to the director and was told that they had closed in August. After some searching and conversations with some members, we found the Media Food Bank. All the items were delivered there on Wednesday. We also found that they collect baby food and baby items. As of now we will continue to collect for the Media Food Bank. We will collect food as usual on Sunday, October 2.

Nancy Regan

Welcome Church

Colder weather will be coming so once again we would like to collect socks and gloves for The Welcome Church.

Also, any small toiletries can be used.

Joan Krauter

Gemma Services Halloween Candy Collection

As we have done for so many years in the past, we will be collecting any and 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 ladies of 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 also collect the candy on Sunday, November 6, along with our monthly food pantry collection Sunday.

Nancy Regan

Gemma Services Open House

Gemma Services will be holding an Open House on Tuesday, October 18, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. This is an opportunity to learn more about Gemma's programs, the children and families they serve, and enjoy a tour of the campus. The address is:

Gemma Services
Harrison Centre Library
512 W. Township Line Rd.
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

Please RSVP by October 11 to info@gemmaservices.org or 610-825-4440, Extension 3206.

Nancy Regan

Social Ministry

Our committee will once again be coordinating the Christmas Pajama Gifts project for the children of Faith Immanuel Lutheran Church. As in past years, there will be a bulletin board in the hallway before Thanksgiving with gift tags with the name and other information for each child, as well as a sign-up sheet. Our congregation has always been very enthusiastic while supporting this endeavor, and we truly appreciate your generosity. If you have any questions, please contact me, Dawn Liscom, Marge Kobasa or Gina Milana.

Cheryl Morrell

Women of the ELCA

Wow, how did October get here so quickly? Last month our first meeting of the season began with a Potluck dinner. Fun seeing so many people after the summer months. Good food and conversation was had by all. We also assembled candy favors for the children at Silver Springs.

Schedule for October:

Oct. 5	LWR Quilts	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 12	LWR Quilts	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 19	LWR Quilts	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 26	Board meeting	at 6:00 p.m.
	Circle meeting	at 7:00 p.m.

All women of the church are welcome to attend! Hope to see you soon.

Blessings,
Carol Penjoke

Men's Breakfast

We have scheduled the Men's Breakfast for Saturday, October 15, at 7 a.m. at the Court Diner in Media. All must wear a mask. It's a great way to start the day!

Nursery School

The school year has begun here at our Nursery School. We are so thrilled with the new Terrific Twos and Full Day Programs we are offering this year! If you are interested in enrolling your child, please contact the Nursery School's office at 610-543-5589 or visit our website www.stmattscns.org. We are looking forward to an exciting 2022-2023 school year!

Ana Fischer
Executive Director

November Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the November newsletter are due in the church office by **noon on Friday, October 14.**

Vital Statistics

New Address: Wayne and Beth Terry
428 Ferry Street
Danville, PA 17821-1537

50th Wedding Anniversary: Craig and Janice Gardner
October 21, 2022

Monthly Mailbag



Dear Pastor Karl and My Saint Matthew Family,

I want to thank all of you for the prayers, cards, phone calls and texts following my recent back surgery. I feel so blessed to have so many people checking in on me and praying for me. I know I certainly felt the prayers the day of surgery!

The surgeon cleared me for driving and I will be starting PT sessions soon. Physical therapy will keep me busy! Hopefully my leg and foot will get stronger so that walking is easier.

Blessings,
Carol Penjoke

Dear Saint Matthew Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$135.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response. As a church, we believe that God's grace is freely given to us. This brings us peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives. Through your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response, you are sharing this amazing grace with others. You are helping people near and far feel the transformational power of God's love.

Your Spirit-filled generosity is helping families and communities reeling from disasters here in the United States

and around the world. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God is shining through you.

With you in the Spirit,
Daniel Rift, Director
Mission Funding
ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran
Disaster Response

Dear Julie and Sunday School Students,

Thank you for providing the 24 health kits, plus extra items for our immigrant families here in Chester County! It is a tangible way of letting them know that they are not alone—

that there is someone who cares about their needs. They will be touched by your thoughtfulness and creativity!

May the Presence, Protection and Power of our Lord and Savior continue to be with you all as your testimony of love for God reaches those in need.

Respectfully,
Lorraine E. Armstrong
Melissa Haught
Chester County Migrant Ministry

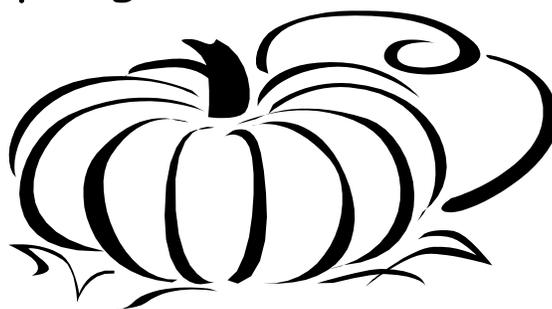
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Worship Responsibilities

We will not schedule these responsibilities at this time. We will ask people to serve each week as needed.

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



The candy will be collected
through November 6th, 2022.

