



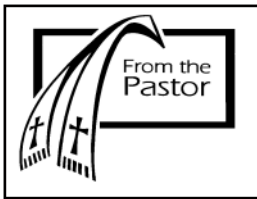
The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Volume 74, Number 8

September 2022

Internet Web Site: www.stmattspringfield.org



From Our Pastor

Connect
Care
eQuip
Cultivate

Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation.
– 2 Corinthians 6:2b

It has been a slow process as we pull out of our pandemic bubble. We have been back to in-person worship for more than a year, but there are many of our members we have still not seen return.

It can be difficult to set a new pattern, and even more difficult to break one. Over the past three years we have had a new pattern thrust upon us. This new pattern had been one of not gathering together, where before the pandemic we did. We have had Zoom as an option, which has, and continues to, work well for some folks, allowing those with physical concerns, or who are at a distance, to participate. For others Zoom was not helpful, either because of technical problems or because they found it difficult to feel included (“It just isn’t the same!”). For still others, viewing the service later has been a blessing, as one can watch on one’s own schedule, but the gathering with the family of faith is missing.

As we begin to return from the summer break in this time when Covid-19 is not gone, but we have decided we must live with it, I encourage you to make a new pattern. Let us resolve to come together to worship Jesus, be a support to each other, and share in outreach to our community as the family of faith and people of the Lord.

Rally Day, or “God’s Work, Our Hands” day, is the second Sunday of September, which this year happens to be the 11th. We are making this day a chance to both re-gather, and to be of service to those who need a hand. We will have worship, as we have been doing, at 8:00 in the “Tent of Meeting.” At 9:00 we will have a program to open Sunday School, where we will learn about Chester County Migrant Ministry, an organization our Women of the ELCA group has been supporting for many years. We will then have a project for the classes to do as they meet their teachers and their fellow students. The project will be to decorate bags in which we will place items for the Migrant Ministry program. We are then asking the students and teachers to attend the 10:15 service, where we will install our teachers for the year.

Following the 10:15 service we will have a picnic in the tent, along with care package work stations. These stations will prepare items that will go into the bags for Chester County Migrant Ministry. A sign-up genius has gone out to ask your help in donating the materials we will be working with on that day, and to sign up for the picnic as well.

We have been away from each other for too long. It is time to come together. It is time to reconnect with Jesus and with one another. Whenever we are gathered in Jesus’ name, he promises to be with us. Whenever we call on him in worship and prayer, Jesus is present. Let us not neglect to meet together. Let us use this time as a chance to reset our pattern as a community, as the family we are at Saint Matthew.

As Saint Paul writes: *Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation!*

Pastor Karl M. Richard

* * * * *

Bible Study

Our study together will resume on Wednesday, September 14th at noon. We will look at the controversial and misunderstood book of the Revelation to John. While written with mystical imagery, this book is a very practical, down-to-earth explanation of the presence of God, and a call to remain faithful in times of struggle and fear. Join us in exploring the message contained in the imagery and see how this book from long ago can speak to the Church of today.

Pastor Karl M. Richard

* * * * *

Thanks for blessings received

In the words of Saint Paul, *“I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.”* – Philippians 1:3-5

I want to thank you all once again for the wonderful celebration you held for the 35th anniversary of my ordination this summer. You were so very generous to me as you remembered this milestone in my ministry. Of these 35 years, I am so pleased that nearly 15 of them have been here at Saint Matthew with all of you.

You showered me with gifts: a very touching series of prayers offered for me and my family as part of the Prayer of the Church, a beautiful new Alb to wear for worship has been

ordered and will come "soon," a monogrammed garment bag to use when I take the Alb to other places for worship, a very elegant Bulova watch, and, in addition to all this, an incredibly generous cash gift as well. Your generosity amazes me. Your partnership in this ministry we share inspires me. Hence my love of Paul's words, as I use them for you!

I am fortunate to have such faithful and caring friends with whom to do the work of Jesus in this place. May God bless you richly, as you have richly blessed me, my family, and this community!

Pastor Karl M. Richard

News from the Property Committee

Following is an update of what the Property Committee has done for our Church over the summer. The old office behind the Sanctuary has been repurposed to a counting room, with old finance storage and archive storage. The front room has been updated to a room for our older youth. Older children will meet in this area during Sunday School and other youth activities.

Two of the doors of the Education Wing had to be repaired. We replaced the old air conditioner (around 1980 vintage) in the new Finance office (also known as Vicar's office.)

Our normal semiannual maintenance service for our air conditioning and heating system was performed and, as normal, all filters were replaced. All fire extinguishers were serviced and updated for another year. We have had our annual termite inspection with no evidence of termites. All floors in the Education Wing and Elbert Hall were scrubbed and waxed.

More new lights were installed in Elbert Hall with 7 done and 29 more to go. Five new lights were installed in the Choir Room with three more to be done. New projector bulbs were installed in our two sanctuary projectors.

Property Committee

News from Worship and Music

Sunday, September 11, is Rally Day, the start of our fall programming. The word rally means to gather, to reassemble, to unite, to come together, to reconvene, and to revive. In traditional Lutheran fashion, Rally Day includes the first day of Sunday School, a couple of service projects to involve the whole congregation, and this year we are including another Lutheran tradition, the sharing of a meal after the 10:15 service. On that day will be our monthly food collection for Saint Mark's food bank, and we are gathering supplies to make up health kits for the Chester County Migrant Ministry. We will also have some fun activities for children and adults. Watch for more information and plan to rally with us that day.

Pat McHugh

Social Ministry

A big thank you to all of our members who, once again, so generously responded to our request for donations of school supplies for the children of Faith Immanuel. A special thank you, too, to Julie Cirillo, who also supported this endeavor with gifts from VBS. Everything was delivered to Faith

Immanuel in mid-August, before the children returned to school.

We will again be sponsoring the Christmas pajama gifts for the Faith Immanuel children in December. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Please contact me, or any member of our committee, if you would like to join us.

Cheryl Morrell

June and July 2022 Financial Update

	<u>June 2022</u>	<u>July 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Giving/Income	\$25,996	\$26,075	\$254,483
Expenses	<u>48,163</u>	<u>39,043</u>	<u>315,319</u>
Plus/Minus	(\$22,167)	(\$12,968)	(\$ 60,836)

We had two consecutive bad months in June and July being in the red \$22K and \$13K respectively. While envelope giving is generally lower during the summer months, the last two months have seen successive low envelope giving that is historically much lower than normal. Here are some details on that information:

- Our budgeted total giving/income relies 68% from envelope giving. For the 2022 budget we anticipate envelope giving of \$337,500 as compared to total giving income of \$495,800.

- Envelope giving only in June and July was \$17,500 and \$15,600.

- Over the last 10 years we have only had 9 months where envelope giving was less than \$20K. This has happened most recently 3 times in 2019, twice in 2020 and once in 2021.

- The \$15,600 envelope giving for July is the lowest envelope giving ever, going back over those 10 years.

- We always need to keep in mind that the budget that was passed for 2022 includes a negative of \$38K for the year (higher expenses compared to total giving/income).

- YTD on the budget we are behind on our total Income/Giving by \$12,800 and over on Total Expenses by \$2,600 putting us behind budget by \$15,400.

Where do we go from here? We ask your help in catching up on any giving that may be behind or any extra giving that you may be able to give for the continued ministry of Saint Matthew. As always, your contributions can be made in person in the church office (or black mail slot) or in the collection plate, via mail to our address at 400 Lynbrooke Road, Springfield, PA 19064 or by going to our website (stmattspringfield.org) and then clicking on the green GIVE button via credit/debit or from a bank account. If you have any questions regarding this financial information, please reach out to Gary Gordon, Treasurer, at ggordo222@gmail.com.

Dave Krauter,

Finance Committee Chairperson

Gary Gordon, Treasurer

Christian Education Updates

Vacation Bible School was amazing! A very special thank you to ALL the wonderful volunteers who spent time at our VBS! Also thank you to all of you who donated

snacks! You were all so generous with your snack donations. We had about 50 children learn about Jesus and about 25 adult leaders. Get ready—next year we are going to space!!—Stellar, Shine Jesus' Light!

RALLY DAY! - Please join us on September 11 to celebrate the beginning of Sunday School for the school year 2022-2023! We will start in the church at 9:00 a.m. We will meet our teachers for the school year. After the 10:15 service, we will have lunch and work on community service projects.

We are in need of a few Sunday School teachers for this school year. If you are interested in helping, please let me know. We could also use some substitute teachers.

Julie Cirillo
Christian Education Committee

* * * * *

Children's Corner

Dear Children:

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace"
Romans 15:13

Many years ago, when I was about your age, the Baptist Churches in northwestern Pennsylvania operated a summer camp for kids. My parents sent me for several years and it was a rewarding part of my life. The camp was located on Lake Erie and we were housed in an old lodge which was quite rustic. Our meals were plain, but nourishing; and we enjoyed many campfires, Bible stories, and a very exhilarating swim in the freezing waters of Lake Erie. One of the most memorable events was held at 7:00 p.m. in a beautiful wooded area and we heard the call to vespers. As the campfire was being lit, we all settled down and lifted our little voices towards heaven with rousing songs praising God for His goodness. One of the songs that I remember was "Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down in my Heart" with several ensuing verses. What a wonderful way to end a glorious day at Camp Judson!!! (I recently looked up Camp Judson and apparently it is still going strong.) Hooray!!! This thought made me wonder about "things" that bring all of us JOY. For me—my husband, Don; the birth of our boys; meeting a new friend and reconnecting with an old friend; our son, Jon, coming home from Iraq; the birth of our 4 grandchildren; etc. What things bring you JOY??? Now moving on, perhaps you might want to think how you can bring JOY to God and to others.

- Follow God's laws
- Take time to have a conversation with Him
- Give generously of your time and talent to spread the message of Christ's love
- Invite a friend to a play date
- Always remember to be kind
- "Stick" to what is right

Dear Parents:

About three years ago, I started my day and ended it with thanking God for three things that made me joyful. It wasn't hard to come up with these thankful prayers—a beautiful sunny day—rain that nourished our earth—a delicious meal—hearing from our family, etc.—even a short line at the supermarket. God gives us many ways to express JOY!

Sylvia Yost

* * * * *

September Food Collection

First, thank you to all who helped fill the car full of food items for last month's food collection. We delivered the food to Saint Mark's, and it has gone out to families in need.

This month we will move our collection to the second week in September, the 11th, to coincide with Rally Day for Sunday School. As we remember two years ago, we began the collection as a "God's Work, Our Hands" project. Over the past two years, with the support of the families of Saint Matthew and also some neighbors we have been able to provide a car full of food items every month to the food pantry at Saint Mark's in Broomall. Thank you to everyone who continues to support this ongoing ministry. Looking forward to seeing everyone on September 11th.

Nancy Regan

* * * * *

Women of the ELCA

Our first Women of the ELCA circle meeting will be on Tuesday, September 27. We will have a potluck dinner beginning at 6:00 p.m. The Board will provide main dishes and we are asking circle members to provide a side dish, salad, or dessert. There is no need to sign up for what you want to bring. If you cannot make the potluck dinner, please join us for our business and service portion of the meeting which will start at 7:00 p.m. All women are invited to attend. We hope to hold this event in Elbert Hall.

Other dates to remember in September:

September 6	LWR Quilting	7:00 p.m. Parlor
September 13	LWR Quilting	7:00 p.m. Parlor
September 14	Board Meeting	9:30 a.m. Parlor
September 20	LWR Quilting	7:00 p.m. Parlor
September 27	Circle Meeting	6:00 p.m. Elbert Hall

Blessings,
Carol Penjoke

* * * * *

Welcome Church and Fair Acres

Welcome Church—We delivered snack bags which had been collected at the Women of the ELCA synodical gathering.

Fair Acres—We delivered purses, costume jewelry, calendars, note paper and greeting cards.

We continue to collect snacks and small toiletries for the Welcome Church and articles for Fair Acres.

Joan Krauter

* * * * *

Men's Breakfast

We have scheduled the September Men's Breakfast for Saturday, September 17, at 7 a.m. at the Court Diner in Media. It's a great way to start the day!

* * * * *

October Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the October newsletter are due in the church office by **12:00 noon** on **Thursday, September 15.**

* * * * *

Monthly Mailbag

Dear Saint Matthew Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$910.00 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,
The Rev. Daniel Rift, Director
Mission Funding, ELCA World
Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response

* * * * *

Vital Statistics

Deaths:

Stanley Stolar
Died June 20, 2022
Funeral August 13, 2022

Donna Winters
Died July 21, 2022
Funeral August 27, 2022

Baptisms:

Gabriel Salmon Emannual
Son of Ubaid and Delyla Emannual
Born July 26, 2012
Baptized June 26, 2022

Abigail Grace Emannual
Daughter of Ubaid and Delyla Emannual
Born December 19, 2021
Baptized June 26, 2022

Colin Andrew McGlaughlin
Born March 2, 2022
Baptized August 6, 2022

New Address:

Joseph and Nancy Regan
535 Gradyville Road
V-183
Newtown Square, PA 19073
484-840-8926

Joy Grace
17 Rolling Glenn Lane
Downingtown, PA 19335

* * * * *

Worship Responsibilities

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

* * * * *

Come to Family Board Game Night



**Wednesday, Sept. 14
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Elbert Hall**

**Refreshments Needed:
Bottles of Water, Lemonade,
Wrapped Individual Snacks**

**Sign up in the church hallway
or call 610-543-8700.**

**Everyone in the community is invited to join us for
“God’s work. Our hands.”**

A dedicated day of service for our community.

Saint Matthew Sunday School Rally Day

Help us kick off the 2022-2023 Sunday School year
with caring for those in our community.

September 11, 2022

All are welcome to join us at worship and to help with our service projects.
There are also spots still available for Sunday School and Adult Bible Study.

There will be several different service projects to help out with this year.
More information on Rally Day and our church is available on our website.

stmattspringfield.org

400 Lynbrooke Road, Springfield, PA

RALLY DAY SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m. — Worship Service

9:00 a.m. — Sunday School

**10:15 a.m. — Worship Service followed by
Rally Day Lunch Celebration and Community Service Projects**

