



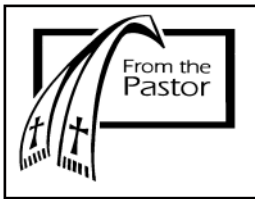
The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Volume 75, Number 8

September 2023

Internet Web Site: www.stmattspringfield.org



From Our Pastor

Connect
Care
eQuip
Cultivate

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

*to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper;
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word
and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?*

Each person responds:

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

These are words from the rite of the Affirmation of Baptism. This rite is used for confirmation, for reception of new members, and at any time that the people of God are gathered to remember their baptism and recommit to the covenant God established with us in that first holy sacrament. These words are a repetition and reminder of the vows parents make on behalf of their children in the Sacrament of Baptism, which the confirmand, or new member, or renewing member, affirm as what they intend to do as they live in relationship with God and with neighbor in the love of Jesus. In the Sacrament of Baptism, parents make promises to God that they will raise their children in such a way that they can grow into the relationship God has established with their child, connecting with them through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

RELATIONSHIP is the key word here. We enter into a relationship with God, through Jesus, when we are washed in the water and sealed by the Word of God. God makes a promise to walk with us always, being our God, as we are his people. Baptism is not a magic spell to ward off evil. It is the starting point of a life-long relationship. As such, we need to take this word "relationship" seriously. Relationships do not happen in an instant. They do not grow to fullness overnight. They are not able to withstand all struggles and tribulations, nor be the support we need in struggle and tribulation, without investment.

Think of your own family, or your own marriage. We grow in our understanding of each other. We grow in our appreciation of each other. We grow in knowing how and when to speak, and when to keep silent; when to encourage, and when to leave alone.

Even for those who have experienced "love at first sight," the ability to fully know the other takes time, takes patience, takes commitment. We should expect no less of a relationship with God. This is why, at Baptism, parents are presented with this charge:

As you bring your children to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

*to live with them among God's faithful people,
bring them to the word of God and the holy supper;
teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten
Commandments,*

*place in their hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture them in faith and prayer;*

SO THAT [emphasis added] your children may learn to trust God,

*proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.*

Do you promise to help your children grow in the Christian faith and life?

We need to invest in any relationship for it to grow and flourish. As we come to the Fall, we begin again our investment to grow in faith and grace. We do not expect families to do this on their own. We, as a family of faith, provide help as together we learn and grow, question and develop, our understanding of who God is, how we have become part of God's family, and what difference that makes for us, and for the world.

Please be sure to join us as we begin this new program year. Sunday School, Confirmation class, Youth events, Fellowship opportunities, Service projects, and yes, Worshipping Jesus, are all ways we fulfill the vows we made to our children at their baptism, and vows we affirmed in our confirmation. But this is not about meeting an obligation, any more than investing in our marriages or our family relationships should be. This is about continuing to grow closer to Jesus, who loves us so much that he gave his life that we might live, with him, forever in the kingdom of God. This is about investing in the faith we publicly profess, and in which we live.

Pastor Karl M. Richard

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Bible Study

This fall we begin our midweek Bible Study on Wednesday, September 13th. We will have 2 sessions, one at noon, and one at 8:00 p.m. Both will be held in the parlor and will be available by Zoom. The letter to the Galatians is a

challenging writing. It is definitely not the most gentle of Paul's letters. Yet it forms much of the foundational understanding of what "grace" is, and how we as Christians should live in it, rather than in the law. Join us as we explore this book of grace, which does not, at times, seem very gracious.

Pastor Karl M. Richard

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News from Your Property Committee

Completed Work at Saint Matthew:

Over the summer we had the door between the Education Wing and main hallway to Church replaced. It was falling apart. We continued with the rewiring on the first and second floor of the Education Wing. There are old 24-volt systems which are decaying and being replaced.

Our generator has had the semi-annual inspection and is in good working order.

The dehumidifier system in Elbert Hall was repaired with new pulleys and motor. The air conditioner outside the nursery office leaked and was repaired.

Vacation Bible School was well attended, with many of our audio-visual equipment items put into use.

Weeding and trimming is ongoing; some has been done by a few. Much more to be done. We could really use help with the weeding, trimming and/or clean up. If interested, please see any member of the Property Committee.

Opportunities For You to Help with Unanticipated Repair Work that Has to be Done:

There are many ways to help your Church with one-time repairs:

1/ Our Elevator has problems with the door opening and closing and phone communication. The Elevator door eye that allows the door to close when nothing is in its path is not working and must be replaced. The phone in the car must be updated so it will work with the phone system—Verizon's new lines. This will cost us approximately \$8,000.00.

2/ Our Chandeliers need a way to be lowered and raised. The old way was we lowered the chandeliers with a hand winch; one of the three winches is broken and does not work. We need to replace these winches with electric ones. Just to note the last time we cleaned the chandelier was fall of 2019. This will cost us approximately \$6,000.00.

3/ Repair one of the outside spigots (old style) that the Nursery Schools uses. It is in the front of the Nursery room. This will require re-piping a new water line and new spigot. This will cost us approximately \$2,000.00.

4/ Finishing up the rewiring on the second floor of the Education Wing. Changing from old 24 volt system to the standard 110 volt system. This will cost us approximately \$2,500.00.

Joe Regan
Property Committee

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News from Worship/Music Committee

Starting on the 4th Sunday of September, we will bring back the monthly Healing Service at both services. Both communion and healing will be offered on the floor to avoid the need to navigate the steps to the altar.

The adult choir will sing on the first Sunday of each month at the 10:15 service (starting in October) and the praise band will sing on the 2nd and 5th Sundays of the month. Rehearsals will be scheduled on the Saturday before; I plan to have choir rehearsals once (at most twice) per month. Will advise as to the first rehearsal time/date.

Will be reaching out to our youth instrumentalists as we would love to have you share your talents in a prelude or offering. Could be a solo, or duet of something you have worked on in lessons or in an ensemble.

We have not resumed a weekly Altar flower delivery as the cost has significantly increased. Mostly we have been using live plants. On a handful of special occasions, people have sponsored flower arrangements. For anyone who wishes to sponsor flowers for a Sunday, please reach out to me.

Save the date – On Sunday, October 1st, the Worship/Music Committee is sponsoring the fellowship event between services and I hear pancakes may be involved!

Pat McHugh

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Social Ministry

Once again, the Social Ministry Committee would like to thank all of our members who so generously donated school supplies for the children of Faith Immanuel. They were delivered in time for the children to begin their school year.

We will again be coordinating the pajama Christmas gifts for the children of Faith Immanuel later this year. Information will be forthcoming in later newsletters and emails.

Cheryl Morrell

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Vacation Bible School

Thank you to everyone who helped make STELLAR amazing!! What a week we had—about 60 children and 25 adult volunteers. We sang and danced to music, used our imagination, ran around at games, ate yummy snacks, made crafts, and even had some bible stories. It really was a wonderful week learning about Jesus! Thank you all for your prayers and support! Also a very special thank you to all who donated snacks! The children loved all the snacks, especially the goldfish! This year we also collected school supplies for Gemma Services. We were able to purchase four backpacks and fill them with supplies from the donations the families of Vacation Bible School contributed.

Next year for Vacation Bible School we are going underwater. Our theme is "Scuba diving into friendship with God!"

Julie Cirillo

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Christian Education Update

Please join us for Rally Day on September 10 at 9:00. All are welcome! We have classes for ages 3 to adults. On Rally Day we will be doing God's Work, Our Hands! If you are interested in helping our Sunday School, please contact Julie at manoalstgrade@hotmail.com or 610-608-3603. We are in need of teachers and substitute teachers. For Rally Day we are going to use our hands to make personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. We are looking for donations for the kits. We are

collecting Light Weight Bath Towels (dark color – between 20” x 40” and 27” x 52”), Bath Size Bars of Soap, Adult Size Toothbrushes, Sturdy Combs and Metal Nail Clippers. Please bring your donations to church by September 3. If you would like to help, here is the link. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B4DADAD22A13-rally1>
Thank you for your support.

Julie Cirillo
Christian Education Committee

Children’s Corner

Dear Children:

“Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love.” Ephesians 4:2

I have to admit that patience is not one of the virtues that I possess, although as I have aged and have more time, I am somewhat better. As I reflect back on my school days, I am sure that I was a rather impatient child. Events that would make me “squirrely” were waiting for the cold days of winter to become the sunny days of summer, hoping for Mom’s apple pie to cool so I could have a slice, anxiety over my math test, etc. I am sure that each of you has had this feeling of being unsettled. Looking over my past and present anxieties, made me wonder about God’s patience in dealing with his people over time. As I took a look through the Bible, I came across a few examples of God’s abundant patience – His patience with leading the people to the Promised Land as they continually strayed off the righteous path. They grumbled and doubted, but God heard their pleas and answered their prayers. Christ’s patience as he was led from Palm Sunday, through the trial, the Crucifixion, and finally the Resurrection!! God continues to be patient with us as He leads us when we take a “wrong turn” and sets us on the path of righteousness. I have started to think about ways to deal with impatience and came up with a few—prayer as a starter, writing down my blessings, calling a friend who is having difficulty, deep breathing exercises, music of your choice, working on a hobby, to name a few. The following are Biblical sources for reference: Psalm 37:7; Galatians 5:22; Romans 2:4.

So—the next time you are waiting for that special phone call, for football tryouts, for all that exercise to pay off, think of how God is patient with our lives. As the Psalmist said, “I WAITED PATIENTLY FOR THE LORD AND HE HEARD MY CRY.”

I can’t end this piece without telling you about a wonderful tale of canine patience. Many years ago, Mr. Yost and I were traveling in Scotland. As we toured the historical city of Edinburgh, we were regaled with the story of “Grey Friar’s Bobby.” Bobby was an adorable little Skye terrier and the owner was John who was a night watchman working for the city. Bobby and John were inseparable for many years and the little dog demonstrated an unusual bond with his owner. John died and with mournful sadness, Bobby guarded his master’s grave DAILY for 14 years in the graveyard of Greyfriars Kirk yard. Bobby then passed away and their graves are side by side as the little terrier is still watching after his beloved John.

Dear Parents:

Anyone who has been a parent certainly can identify with “patience” or lack of it. Homework, eating habits, friends,

driving and who gets the car, questions of faith—just to mention a few of the worries that contribute to “gray hair.” Perhaps Psalm 37:7 will give you a taste of perspective —“Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.”

Sylvia Yost

October Newsletter Deadline

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

Beds For Kids

We have been collecting items for Beds For Kids for several years. The program provides a new twin bed and bedding to children in need. We have received a donation of several children’s books that we would like to deliver with some of the other needed items. Should anyone be interested in donating we are looking for new pillows, new twin sheet sets, blankets and comforters. Also, they will accept new or used children’s books, stuffed animals, gently used sheet sets, gently used blankets and comforters, new dental supplies, and hand sanitizer.

We hope to deliver all the items in late October. Any questions please reach out to me, Nancy Regan.

Nancy Regan

Food Collection

Because the need for food continues in our area, we will continue our monthly food collection. We will be collecting on Sunday, September 3, from 11:00 to 12:00. Donations may also be dropped off in the large soup can in the hallway. Last month we delivered several bags of food to the Media Food Bank. Thank you for your support.

Nancy Regan

Welcome Church

Although this warm weather makes it difficult to think about cold weather, fall and winter are coming. The homeless will need socks and gloves to keep them warm. Please bring these things to the church along with coffee and toiletries.

Joan Krauter

Women of the ELCA

Hooray! September is here and the Women of the ELCA will start up their activities again. Join us for our first Circle meeting on September 26, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor. We will discuss upcoming projects and events in addition to having a devotion, some snacks, assembling treat bags for Gemma and good fellowship. Hope you can attend.

Our Lutheran World Relief quilting group will start up again on September 19, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor. Over the summer several tops and backs were assembled and will be ready to tie. We always welcome new friends to help tie these quilts. It only takes us about an hour to do two quilts. No experience is necessary. We will be happy to show you how. The conversation is fun and we feel so good in our

ability to help others.

Important September dates:

9/19	LWR Quilts	7:00 p.m.	Parlor
9/26	Board Meeting	5:45 p.m.	Parlor
	Circle meeting	7:00 p.m.	Parlor

Blessings,
Carol Penjoke

Men's Breakfast

We have scheduled the September Men's Breakfast for Saturday, September 16, at 7 a.m. at the Court Diner in Media. It's a great way to start the day!

Nursery School News

We are so excited to begin a new school year here at Saint Matthew Christian Nursery School. Our first week of school will be the week of September 11th. Our wonderful staff have been busy getting our school ready for our students and families. It will be a fabulous year filled with "friendship and learning!" We have limited availability in most of our programs. We are also looking to build our Substitute Teacher Assistant list. So, if you are interested in registering your child or interested in becoming part of our staff, please contact the office at 610-543-5589 or email us at stmattscns@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

Warmly,
Ana Fischer, Executive Director

Monthly Mailbag

Dear Saint Matthew Family,



Words cannot express how much you all mean to me. I am truly blessed to have you all in my life. My family and I appreciate everything—from all the hugs and prayers to reaching out to my family. Mom-Mom was so happy for Anna and I for being part of a church family. She sure did love everyone. She was very special to us. Every time I would take her for a walk around the block, we would stop in the parking lot. Mom-Mom would say to me how much Saint Matthew meant to us. She was really glad to know how much we love being here. Thank you again.

All our love,
Kathleen and Anna Kinder, Mom and Dad

Dear Pastor Richard,

We have received and thank you for the congregation's generous contribution of \$255 that will help us continue to provide vital behavioral health, prevention, child welfare, and educational services for youth and families who are facing extreme challenges. Your support truly matters! We are very grateful for your continued friendship and generosity to Gemma Services (formed by the merger of Silver Springs-Martin Luther School and the Village)!

With the help of friends like all of you, Gemma is providing crucial services for more than 3,000 youth and families each year. Our dedicated teams help children, teens and their families to heal from traumas, manage mental health challenges, and navigate difficult times. As you know, when the pandemic began, we shifted to provide many of our services remotely via Telehealth and online platforms. We have now transitioned many services back to in-person with enhanced virus protection and prevention protocols, while we continue to provide services virtually as needed. Now that we are able to have in-person visitors once again, we would love to welcome you to tour any of our three locations.

We are especially grateful for your ongoing partnership during these continued times of challenge for those we serve and for our communities. On behalf of all at Gemma, thank you and best wishes.

Sincerely,
Lynn Unipan, Chief Development Officer
Amanda Bryant, Sr. Development Officer
Gemma Services

Vital Statistics

Deaths:

David Toland
Died June 22, 2023
Funeral June 29, 2023

Dale Singley
Died July 15, 2023
Private Funeral Service

Marriage:

Stephen McGowan & Sarah Kensinger
July 8, 2023

Worship Responsibilities

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

Everyone in the community is invited to join us for

"God's Work, Our Hands."

Saint Matthew Sunday School Rally Day

Help us kick off the 2023-2024 Sunday School year with caring for those in our community.

September 10, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

All are welcome to join us at worship and to help with our service project.

We will meet in the church at 9:00 a.m.

There are classes for 3 year olds through adults.

God's Work, Our Hands will be making personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief.

If you would like to donate to help with the supplies, please look over our sign up genius <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B4DADAD22A13-rally1>

More information on Rally Day and our church is available on our website.

stmattspringfield.org



God's Work ~ Our Hands

**JOIN
CUB SCOUTS!**



Springfield Pack 503 Cub Scout Signup Day!

Boys and Girls, K - 5th Grade

Sunday, Sept 17th, 1-4 PM



St. Matthew Lutheran Church 400 Lynbrooke Road Springfield, PA

Questions? Cubscout503@gmail.com

