



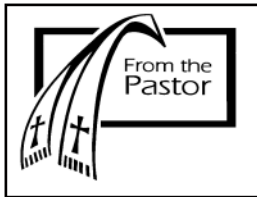
The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Volume 74, Number 7

July/August 2022

Internet Web Site: www.stmattspringfield.org



From Our Pastor

Connect
Care
eQuip
Cultivate

"The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in, from this day forth, and forevermore." – Psalm 121:8

July and August are times of movement for many of us. We go down the shore, we go up the mountains, we head out to Six Flags or the Great Wolf Lodge. We try to fit as much vacation time in as we can, because summer seems to go so quickly. This may feel even more important this year, as the coronavirus has become more manageable. Now even children can get the vaccine, and as adults receive all available boosters, the level of protection is strong, and the effects of Covid-19 if it is caught are much less severe. The chances of a fully vaccinated and boosted person dying, or ending up in the hospital, is significantly reduced. Treatments for those who catch the virus are also improving. All this allows us to feel more free to roam about the country.

Of course, the risks are not zero. The virus continues to mutate and spread. It is good to be cautious when among large groups of people, particularly inside, but in crowded outdoor spaces as well. Get your children vaccinated. Receive the boosters if you have not. Wear a mask if you feel uncertain, or if you are around others who may have had exposure. If you have symptoms, or have been in close contact, get tested. You all know the drill by now. But let's continue to be mindful as we go out and come in this summer!

I want to encourage you to remember your "coming in" as well as your "going out." It is great to go out and enjoy the beauty of creation, time with family, and new experiences. But it is important to be sure to ground yourself in the love and strength of the Lord as well, so "coming in" to the House of the Lord (or the Tent of Meeting!) is an important piece of life as a person of faith. We are so blessed to have the Tent for 8:00 worship each Sunday, weather permitting. We have also been lucky that the weather has been good most weeks! And we still have Zoom available if you happen to be away and want to worship with your home congregation while "going out."

In addition to worship, here are some other ways to gather with Jesus and your Saint Matthew family in your coming in:

- We will have 2 fellowship events each month of the summer: July 10 and July 31, August 14 and 28. These

will be held between the services in the Tent, weather permitting, or inside if the weather is bad.

- We will have Vacation Bible School the week of August 1 – 5. Since it worked so very well last summer, we will be making use of the Tent of Meeting for this program again this year. Registrations are being received now. Check the website (www.stmattspringfield.org) or pick up a paper form when you come to worship.

I realize that everything has been disrupted by two and a half years of Covid, but I continue to look forward to welcoming more and more of you back to worship. Zoom has been a blessing for many, but others have been waiting for us to get back to in-person worship and congregational life. Since we have re-entered the building many have returned, but others have not yet found their way back to corporate worship. It is my prayer that your coming in becomes as much a part of your life as your going out.

I continue to be grateful for the way in which so many of you also continue to support your church home with your financial gifts. Whether we are at home or away the costs of our congregation continue. As you are aware, the more we use the building, the more the costs are for our church home. Please remember to send your support so that we can continue to meet our obligations as a community of faith.

In all things we give thanks to the Lord Jesus, who keeps us united, keeps us from all harm, and blesses us with his love. May you sense the presence of the Lord in your going out and your coming in, from this day forth, and forevermore!

Pastor Karl M. Richard

Worship and Music Notes

Hoping you and yours have plans to enjoy the summer months, whether it involves a vacation or a staycation, a day trip or two, some porch sitting, or leisurely walks around the neighborhood. Wherever and however you spend your summer, remember to set aside time for daily prayer and weekly worship. Through July and August we will continue our summer worship schedule with services to be held at 8:00 a.m. outside in the tent (in the event weather doesn't cooperate that service will be moved inside). The 10:15 a.m. service will be held in the sanctuary, and you can also attend through Zoom. The Zoom invitation goes out via email on Sunday morning. If you are not receiving it, or don't have access to email, let me know and I will call you with the information.

On July 10th, July 31st, August 14th, and August 28th we are scheduling social time with light refreshments between the services. I'm looking for some host/hostess help with these events to help set up and serve; please let me know if you can help at one of these events.

Pat McHugh

A Note of Thanks

Mr. Dave Krauter has decided, after several decades as chair of the Finance Committee, to step away from this leadership position. We have been blessed by his love of the Church, and his faithful leadership in this critical area. Dave has worked many hours to ensure we are using the resources entrusted to us for ministry in the most effective and faithful way possible. It is nearly impossible to express enough gratitude for the wise counsel and many hours he has provided, but we are grateful just the same. Well done, good and faithful servant of Jesus!

Pastor Karl M. Richard

Vacation Bible School

We'd like to remind you that our Vacation Bible School "Monumental" is coming soon. The program will run from August 1 to 5, from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. Registration forms are available on the table in the hallway and outside the courtyard entrance. Completed forms may be placed in the black mail slot by the courtyard entrance. As always, many hands are needed to help make this program run smoothly. Adults are needed to assist in several areas. For more details, please contact Julie Cirillo at manoa1stgrade@hotmail.com.

September Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the September newsletter are due in the church office by **12:00 p.m. on Monday, August 15.**

Financial Update

*If you look at the world, you'll be distressed
If you look within, you'll be depressed
If you look at God you'll be at rest.* Corrie Ten Boom

	<u>May 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Giving/Income	\$ 38,347.78	\$202,411.43
Expenses	<u>37,287.48</u>	<u>228,112.81</u>
Plus/Minus	\$ 1,060.30	(\$ 25,701.38)

Summary: For May we were to the positive by \$1,060 thanks to a 5-Sunday month and low repair costs as compared to previous months. For the year we are in the red by \$25,700. (Our budget for the year is for a deficit of \$38,000).

Giving Opportunities: Historically the summer months show less giving than compared to the balance of the year. However the work of the Church still goes on daily. If you will be away for a time, please take advantage of the giving button on our website or mail your offering to the office. If you have been unable to make an offering or a pledge for 2022, here is a perfect opportunity to make or begin your support. Enjoy the summer and the season that God has made for us.

Finance Committee

Lutheran World Relief Quilts

The Women of Saint Matthew have spent hours creating and assembling quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

These quilts were displayed throughout the church and blessed on Sunday, June 19th. Thanks to the many members who stayed after the 10:15 service to help pack the quilts for transport to the LWR warehouse in New Windsor Maryland. On Monday, the 20th, the quilts were all loaded and driven to the warehouse. There the staff assisted us in unpacking the cases we were delivering. The staff were glad to receive all fifty-seven quilts as they have not received many quilt donations.

Nancy Regan

Children's Corner

Dear Children,

Forty years ago we joined Saint Matthew Lutheran Church as new members, and we noticed the practice of "Passing of the Peace." Although we were unfamiliar with this portion of the service, the smiles and gentle words of greeting were pleasant to us. I have always wondered about the origin of this greeting, so I did some research and found out about its beginnings. Early in the Hebrew culture, the word "shalom" was used as a greeting. Traveling back to the early Christian Era, Jesus first used these words after his resurrection when He entered a room full of his disciples who had been in hiding since the crucifixion and He said "Peace be with you." After He said this, He showed them his hands and feet. They were overjoyed. (John 20:19) Later on, these words were often used as a greeting—the response usually is "And also with you" (later changed to "and with your spirit").

I think all of us can name some synonyms for PEACE—calmness, nonviolence, stillness. In the light of the last few weeks with gun violence in our cities and the sadness of the people of Ukraine, words of peace and kindness have a whole new meaning. Every week our chapel here at Maris Grove offers a quiet time of gentle music and a few words about peace and I want to share them with you.

"O Lord, God of Life, as you care for all creation, give us your peace. May our security come not from weapons, but from respect. May our strength not come from violence, but from love. May our own wealth come not from money, but from sharing. May our path be not one of ambition, but of justice. May our victory not be one of revenge, but of forgiveness. Unarmed and confident, help us to defend the dignity of all creation. Sharing, today and always the bread of solidarity and peace. AMEN." Bishop Eaton

Since the troubles in our world seem quite far away, you may be wondering: "What can I do?" I have noticed on the nightly news that many young children have banded together with others to help those less fortunate with food banks, fund raisers, toy collections, park clean-ups, etc. I think the youngsters of Saint Matthew do many worthwhile services to help out and encourage peace. Keep up the good work!! You have wonderful adult leaders who work very hard teaching the work of Jesus.

Dear Parents,

Since PEACE begins at home, it would be a grand idea to promote a peaceful environment at home, at school, in the neighborhood. We all have been "on edge" the past few years due to the pandemic and ways of smoothing out the "rough edges" are always accepted. Ideas: praying together, giving someone a peace offering, walking with a friend, listening to some calming

music—can you think of other things?

Sylvia Yost

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Property Progress

The work on the Youth Room is moving forward. Painting of the room will be started in the near future. Our goal is to have the Youth Room ready for the fall when the youth will be back.

The garden in the front of the church has been completed. This project was funded by generous monetary gifts from members of the congregation in memory of Fred Trabant.

Extensive weeding has been done around the church properties at our expense. Property is always looking for volunteers who would be interested to continue with the ongoing weeding. Work done by volunteers saves money that can be used for other projects.

The toilet in the men's room was repaired. The water faucets in the men's and women's rooms were also repaired. It is important that the water be turned off after using the sinks.

The plastic covering the window well on the side of the church was done by the Cub Scouts. Weeding along the fence by the shed and cutting weeds along the sidewalks were also done by the Cub Scouts. Good Job, Guys!

Some roof repair was done. This is a continuing issue that will be ongoing until we do the entire roof of the Sanctuary.

The tent was set up and will be used for Sunday services as well as other functions.

Some additional work on the doors of the Education Wing will be done. Replacing the window unit in the Finance Office will also be done.

The lighting in the main hallway will be updated.

The Property Committee would like to thank all the volunteer workers for their contribution (both time and money) that they provide. If you have any interest in helping, please let one of the Property members know. Every bit helps in maintaining GOD'S HOUSE looking good and providing a beautiful place to worship.

Bill Kobasa

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Food Collection

We continue to collect food for Saint Mark's Food Pantry. Every month we are able to deliver a car packed full of food that the pantry will make available to families who are food insecure. We will be collecting on the first Sunday in July, the 3rd, and the first Sunday in August, the 7th, from 12 to 1 p. m.

Food may also be placed in the large soup can barrel in the hallway by the office at any time. Thanks to everyone who has supported the project.

Nancy Regan

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Social Ministry

Social Ministry will again begin collecting school supplies in July for children of all ages...elementary school through high school. There will be a bin in the hallway for your gifts. If you prefer, you may also bring them to the church during

the drive-thru food drive from 12-1 during July and August.

Have a safe, enjoyable summer!

Cheryl Morrell

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Women of the ELCA

Our last Circle meeting for the season was on May 24. Seventeen ladies were in attendance! Health kits were assembled for Chester County Migrant Ministries and candy favors were put together for Gemma Services. Thanks to Patti Stefl for coordinating the health kit project. Lots of good conversation and comradery was had by all.

On June 4, Saint Matthew hosted the Southeast Pennsylvania Synod Women of the ELCA Convention. Many of the details for this event were planned by their board under the leadership of Linda Garcia. Fifteen women from Saint Matthew attended. They helped set up snacks, bag lunches, and tie a Lutheran World Relief Quilt. In addition, members served as parliamentarian, back-up secretary, photographer, Zoom host, and did whatever was necessary to help this event go smoothly. Some highlights of the day were a meaningful devotion by Pastor Karl Richard and an uplifting message from Bishop Patricia Davenport. Pastor Violet Little and Pastor Shaunel Steinnagel shared information about how The Welcome Church started and other ministries that have grown out of this church—Women of the Well and Sanctuary Village. Half of the offerings collected at this event were donated to The Welcome Church. In addition, attendees donated pre-packaged snacks which were assembled into quart bags, each bag contained an assortment of 5 snacks. Hundreds of bags were assembled and donated to The Welcome Church for distribution. A special thank you to Ted Hidell for setting up the space and Joe Regan for taking care of the technical aspects of the event. And finally, congratulations to Joy Grace who was elected as the Vice-President of the SEPA Synod Women of the ELCA.

On June 8, our Board met at the home of Carol Penjucke for a breakfast and planning session. All members of the Board have agreed to serve another year: Carol Penjucke, President; Joan Krauter, Vice-President; Joanne Castagna, Treasurer; Nancy Regan, Liaison to Gemma; and Marie Miller, Circle Leader. The budget and a tentative calendar for the 2022-2023 year was set.

On June 19, we blessed the Lutheran World Relief quilts. Thanks to Nancy and Joe Regan for delivering them. This group will start meeting again in September to start tying more quilt tops.

As a group, we are proud of all that we have done this year to spread God's love and care for others. Please check out the bulletin board outside of the church office which lists all of the ministries we support.

Hope your summer is relaxing and refreshing.

Blessings,
Carol Penjucke

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Monthly Mailbag

Dear Saint Matthew Friends,

We are very thankful for your ongoing support of Gemma Services (formed by the merger of Silver Springs-Martin Luther School and the Village)! We have received and greatly appreciate your wonderful donation of a fleece blanket and treat



bags with sweet treats for the boys and girls in our Residential Treatment Program. Their excitement for the special candy surprise was evident from their huge smiles.

We are especially grateful for your partnership at this time of unprecedented challenge for our children and families, our communities, and our organization. Should you have any questions, please contact me. On behalf of all at Gemma, thank you and best wishes.

Sincerely,
Lynn Unipan, Chief Development Officer
Gemma Services

Dear Saint Matthew Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$1,715.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response. Your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA are bringing hope to your neighbors around the world. Your Spirit-filled generosity is helping families and communities reeling from disasters. 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.

You are creating new beginnings. Thank you for sharing the hope of new life and the fullness of Christ's joy.

In Christ,
The Rev. Robin K. Brown
Director, Congregational Generosity
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

To our Saint Matthew Church Family,

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all of you for your thoughts, concerns and prayers during Mark's illness and his final journey. He is at peace now—no more pain and suffering, no more waiting to meet our Lord. He is with him now and for that we are most grateful. Yes, we miss him and we always will; but the love, warm memories and the gratitude for the many, many family gatherings that we all shared together bring us peace and consolation. They will live in our hearts forever.

The outpouring of love and support from our church family and friends in the community is much appreciated. It is a comfort to know you care and we are grateful for your friendship. Remember, our Lord is with us always.

Blessings and Love,
Dee Bratz and Family
Doug, Keith and Wendy

Dear Saint Matthew Lutheran Church Women of the ELCA,

Thank you for supporting the ministries of Women of the ELCA with your recent gift of \$50.00. Your faithful generosity makes a real difference. Thank you.

Even in unsettling times, Women of the ELCA in all its expressions—congregational and special units, synodical women's organizations, the churchwide women's organization—is still at work with life-changing ministry. We might be engaging in ministry and action in different ways for a while, but that's what we do—because that's who we are: a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. And we've committed ourselves to promoting healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world. Your giving helps make that happen. Thank you.

Thank you for your generosity. Together, thanks to your support, we'll get through this. Thank you. For regular updates on

our ever-growing work together, please see our website, www.womenoftheelca.org. Your giving really does make a difference. Thank you.

With gratitude,
Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director
Women of the ELCA

Dear Saint Matthew Friends,

You are terrific! We are very thankful for your faithful support of Gemma Services and the children we serve! We have received and greatly appreciate your wonderful donation of treat bags and a collection of extra candies for the boys and girls in our Residential Treatment Program. The treat bags will be included in a bag of summer fun they will receive on the last day of school to kick off summer break. The children will be very excited for the tasty surprise!

We are especially grateful for your partnership at this time of unprecedented challenge. On behalf of all at Gemma, thank you and best wishes.

Sincerely,
Lynn Unipan, Chief Development Officer
Gemma Services

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Krauter,

Greetings to you in the name of the risen Christ—the one who brings us peace and new life, abundantly. I'm writing to you today with an invitation, but first I want to tell you a bit about an ELCA congregation whose work inspires me. The Welcome Church primarily serves people experiencing homelessness in Philadelphia, and takes seriously the call to serve our neighbors and share the good news that we are all freed in Christ.

Founded by the Rev. Violet Little, the Welcome Church is one of many congregations in the ELCA that take great care when listening to their communities. "In many ways, the Welcome Church is a place to plant seeds," says Rev. Little. "When someone brings an idea, it is checked out by the community before it is pursued."

In response to food-access issues brought to light by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Welcome Church started the Welcome Bread program in partnership with Episcopal, United Methodist and Presbyterian clergy in the area. Community members made sandwiches to distribute safely to those in need. This ministry grew so much that it's now a separate nonprofit organization. In January 2022 the ministry celebrated having handed out more than 200,000 sandwiches.

The work of the Welcome Church is supported by gifts to ELCA Where Needed Most, which also help the ELCA share the gospel through starting new ministries, sending missionaries, training leaders, engaging youth and young adults, and more.

Together we can continue to find new ways to reach more people with the message that the grace of God and the love of Christ are given for all. Will you give a gift today?

Recently, the Welcome Church has expanded even more. Conversations with women staying in shelters revealed something that may be surprising for those who haven't experienced homelessness: they craved silence. Shelters are noisy, collective spaces without much privacy to be alone with one's thoughts. In response to this need, the Welcome Church established a monthly meeting where participants could sit in silence for 30 minutes. Following the quiet reflection, they share

experiences over a light meal prepared by members of another local church. The evening concludes with a healing, community-building art project led by an art therapist and Welcome Church member.

Another new idea may go even further in transforming the lives of community members. A friend of the Welcome Church read an article about “tiny houses”—small, simple homes measuring about 400 square feet—and brought the idea of a tiny-house community to the Welcome Church staff. As with all ideas, the staff discussed tiny houses with the community to determine whether the idea matched a true need. The support was resounding.

Initially, city officials had doubts about resources and logistics. But the Welcome Church didn’t give up. After extensive conversations with community members, local clergy and local government offices, a proposal was created for 12 tiny houses that would serve a vulnerable population experiencing homelessness in the city—adults 65 years and older with mental or physical disabilities. The Welcome Church helped establish a nonprofit 501(c)3 called Sanctuary Village and continued the hard work of convincing city officials and raising money.

With support from the city in the form of funding and loans, the project is now underway and the first residents should be able to move in this fall. City officials told Rev. Little the Welcome Church’s outstanding reputation in helping people find permanent housing led to its selection for the project.

The example of the Welcome Church inspires me and illustrates the love of Christ at work in the world. But this is only one of many such ministries throughout the ELCA. When congregations listen intently to their communities, look out for community needs and make space for the Holy Spirit to move, the work often expands beyond our wildest expectations.

Your gift to ELCA Where Needed Most today helps the Welcome Church and other ministries like it to meet the needs of their communities, all in Christ’s name. Thank you for your continuing support.

With gratitude,
Rachel Wind
Executive for Philanthropy
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dear Joanne 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 on their journey towards safety and stability. Your commitment makes a difference in people’s lives, people like Nicole and her family, and we are honored to have you in our family of supporters.

Nicole came to Jane Addams Place unsure of what to do next. A single mother, she had recently been evicted with her three young sons, the youngest being one month old at the time. She felt alone and afraid, but determined to make sure her sons felt loved and had access to resources to ensure their future would be bright.

Nicole found all of this at Jane Addams Place. Our staff enrolled her children in homework assistance and early

intervention programs, while Nicole had access to trauma therapy, and job and housing search support. “The staff is great. They really care about us,” reflects Nicole, who now lives in a home of her own and her children are thriving. Nicole is working towards her dream of owning her own business.

Giving people strength is at the core of what we do. As a donor, you remind our clients that in the most vulnerable times of their lives, they are not alone. Thank you for being there for Lutheran Settlement House and for all those we serve together.

Sincerely,
David Chiles, Executive Director
Lutheran Settlement House

Dear Lutheran Church Women at Saint Matthew,

Amount Received: \$25.00
Gift purpose: United Lutheran Seminary Fund

Greetings from United Lutheran Seminary. Indeed, we do give thanks for each of you and include you in our prayers. It has been two years since all of our lives were turned upside down by the pandemic. These two years have taught us to not take anything for granted, and that includes you, a faithful supporter of United Lutheran Seminary.

Our United Lutheran Seminary community is gathering thoughtfully with the knowledge we need to remain responsive as the situation warrants. Dr. Erwin recently shared the following reflection with a small gathering of bishops from Regions 7 and 8: “We are blessed even in our challenges, by the fact that our work in preparing leaders for the church is so richly supported by the church and its current leaders. We are also blessed to have work that is tremendously important now, in this age of anxiety and uncertainty. I continue to be grateful for you, our friends, and for your prayers for me and for ULS.”

We are grateful for your partnership and accompaniment on the journey as we live out our mission to equip students as leaders to proclaim the living Gospel for a changing church and world. We look forward to the opportunity to gather with you in person or by Zoom in the coming year.

Yours faithfully,
Mr. Conor Brooks, CFRE
Vice President for Institutional Advancement
United Lutheran Seminary

Vital Statistics

Confirmands: **Braydon Dolan**
Gabriel Perlingiero
Luke Plachuta

Death: **Stanley Stolar**
Died June 20, 2022

Worship Responsibilities

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

American Red Cross Blood Drive
Tuesday, July 26
2-7 PM in Elbert Hall



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Vacation Bible School
August 1—5
9:00 - 11:30 AM
Theme: Monumental

Registration forms
are in the church hallway
and outside
the courtyard entrance.