



The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Springfield, Pennsylvania

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Internet Web Site: www.stmattspringfield.org



From Our Pastor

Connect
Care
eEquip
Cultivate

These are words that have reflected our priorities in ministry over the past several years. They are, in some ways, an expansion of our signature phrase, “Connecting People, Changing Lives,” which we, as a community of faith, see happening through Jesus Christ. It has been a while since I have spoken of them, yet I see evidence that these words still reflect who we are, and what we strive to do for the Lord.

Connect refers to our desire to connect in two directions: connect with God through worship, and connect with each other in fellowship. The ways in which our Fellowship Team has worked over the past couple of years to re-engage opportunities to make connections with each other has been wonderful. From regular coffee hours, to an excursion to Sight and Sound for the Christmas program, to a trip to the Blue Rocks baseball game, we have been working to get re-acquainted after the pandemic kept us separated. And of course, our Worship Team continues to set times for us to connect with God each Sunday, by means of our midweek Lenten series this past spring, and the various devotional books and materials we distribute to help us be grounded in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

Care refers to our need to care for others in Jesus’ name. It is a strong aspect of our life as a congregation, as our Social Ministry Team and our Women of the ELCA circle continue to offer opportunities for us to give a hand to others who are in need. Pajamas, Christmas gifts, Halloween candy, Beds for Kids, One House at a Time, Chester County Migrant Ministries, and Lutheran World Relief quilts are just a few of the many ways in which we care in Jesus’ name. It has also been exciting to see our Sunday School students catch the desire to care for others through their gifts to the ELCA Good Gifts program, providing needed farm animals to communities where food and resources are scarce, and the UNICEF’s KIND program (Kids In Need of Desks), by which they have provided desks for students in Malawi, one of the poorest countries in Africa, and also provided a scholarship for a girl to attend school, where the money is usually used for the boys’ education.

eEquip is our desire to help our children, youth, and their families deepen their relationship with Jesus. As noted above,

this year we have had an active Sunday School, learning about caring through sharing. Vacation Bible School is taking place this month, offering our children, and the children of the community, an opportunity to sing, dance, craft, and learn about Jesus. We also have 8 youth in our Confirmation program, and 3 Senior High youth are attending the triennial Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer.

Cultivate is our ongoing effort to inspire generosity when it comes to our time, talent, and in particular, our treasure. What we do with our money is an indication of what we feel is important. Our support for capital projects has been tremendous. Our giving to special concerns like Lutheran Disaster Response and the Media Food Bank has been inspiring. Our giving to the work of the congregation has historically been strong, even as we are a bit behind at this point in time. Cultivation is something that takes time, but over time, bears much fruit. So it is with our cultivation of a spirit of generosity for the Church and its mission. Seed begun today will produce much as we move into the future.

There are many other ways in which we are “Connecting People, Changing Lives,” through Jesus Christ. Yet there is more we can do in each of these areas. The way we do this is together. As a family of faith, we all play a role in living out our calling to be the Body of Christ. I invite you to recommit to these areas of ministry. Join in an aspect of ministry you may not have supported before. Consider whether there is a way that you see that we can Connect, Care, eEquip, or Cultivate as the people of Jesus at Saint Matthew which we may not be doing yet. Take this summer to reflect on how we can deepen even further the good work Christ has begun in us.

I am grateful for your partnership in this ministry!

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.

Pat McHugh

Vacation Bible School

All are welcome for Vacation Bible School! Join us for the best week of the summer—it will be SCUBA! Our VBS is July 8-12 from 9:00-11:30 a.m. We need many hands to make this week the best week for our children to learn about Jesus! If you can help for the week or even a day, please contact Julie 610-608-3603 or manoa1stgrade@hotmail.com.

Julie Cirillo

September Newsletter Deadline

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

Children's Corner

"Friends help each other." Proverbs 17:17

Dear Children,
When I think of summer, my fondest days were consumed with outings with friends—neighborhood friends, camp friends, church friends, and my parents' friends who had children my age. There were corn roasts, picnics, song fests, bicycle riding, swim parties—always accompanied by swarms of kids. Since TV was not available, we went around the neighborhood and gathered up kids to play softball, cards, and have picnics. Much of this went away as I grew older and moved away from our small town. However, I have tried to maintain the various relationships along the way. One interesting one for me happened two years ago. One night as I did my usual nightly walk down our hall (in Maris Grove), I noticed that some empty boxes were outside someone's door. I knew that they were new neighbors, so I stopped to talk with them. As it turns out, they had moved from Monroeville where Mr. Yost and I lived for many years. As our conversation continued, I found out that the man had been a Methodist pastor in our hometown of Bradford. He knew many of our childhood friends who had not left the area and he connected me with a good friend of yesteryear. When I called her (after 60 plus years), imagine her excitement of hearing a voice from the past!! We have since kept the conversation going and have been able to share both the good and the bad part of life.

A loving friendship is structured to help out during times of trouble and of great joy. Mr. Yost's mother used to say that a good friend will laugh with you during the good times and cry with you during the sad ones. A true friend will always love you even when you may be rather unlovable; she will encourage you, and lead you down a path of honesty and good works. I found a great quote for friendship—"Friendship is the golden thread that ties the heart of all the world."

Dear Parents,

Because our world is so chaotic on many different levels, I wanted to think back on my friendships over the years and try to find out what made them so special. Some of the terms I found were—love, loyalty, kindness, honesty, strength. One

more quote—"True friends are hard to find, difficult to leave, and impossible to forget."

Sylvia Yost

News from your Property Committee

This month we updated our video system with new fiber optic wires replacing the twenty-year-old cat5 wiring. A big thanks to Greg Smith for crawling around in the attic of the sanctuary. The outside sign was fixed and now is working. The stairway light that goes down to the basement under the Education Wing that was broken has been replaced.

Our first work detail of 2024 was to clean out unwanted stuff from the stage area and other areas in the church. This was a huge success, one full 20-yard dumpster filled to the brim. Our next work detail will be on July 13th. We will be painting rooms in our Education Wing.

We raised our tent on May 29th thanks to many hands. Thank you all who helped. Our outdoor 8:00 service is now under our tent. Please join us.

Our trees and bushes have been trimmed and pruned and a lot of weeds have been removed thanks to our landscaper.

Hope to see you on July 13th. Look for the signup sheet in the hallway.

Joe Regan, Property

Beds for Kids

Thank you to everyone who donated several boxes of used books to Beds For Kids. Also thank you for the sheet sets. We will continue to collect all the necessary bedding items, new or used, to help reduce child bedlessness.

Nancy Regan

Food Collection

Thank you to everyone who continues to donate to our monthly food collections. We were able to deliver a car full of food items again to the Media Food Bank. They are always glad to see us and come out to our car to help us unload all the items we have for them. Our next collection will be Sunday, July 7.

Nancy Regan

Gemma Services

Gemma Services received 60 treat bags filled with candy for the residential treatment program children to enjoy. Also, we donated a small bag of assorted candy treats that was remaining from our Halloween collection. We will start anew in the fall. We appreciate all the nut-free candy donations.

Nancy Regan

Social Ministry

Social Ministry will once again be collecting donations of school supplies for the children of Faith Immanuel Lutheran Church until mid-August. All school supplies are welcome. There is a bin in the hallway for your gifts. Thank you, in advance, for your continued support of this project.

Cheryl Morrell

Nursery School

Another school year has come to an end! We have seen the Lord's faithfulness and goodness to our school, and for that we are so thankful! It was a wonderful year here at Saint Matthew Christian Nursery School filled with friendship and learning. Our students did a fabulous job at our graduation and moving up ceremonies. We are so proud of them! As always, when a year ends, another begins. We continue to accept registrations for the 2024-2025 School Year that begins in the Fall. If you are interested in registering your child, please contact the office at 610-543-5589 or email us at stmattcsns@gmail.com. Have a great Summer!

Ana Fischer, Executive Director

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Monthly Mailbag



Dear Patti and Members of Saint Matthew,

Thank you for providing the 5 health kits for men and the 11 health kits for women. It is a tangible way of letting them know that they are not alone—that there is someone who cares about their needs as they begin to settle in. Thank you for your dedicated time and effort in supporting us.

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 Martinez
Melissa Haught
Chester County Migrant Ministry

Dear Nancy,

We are very grateful for Saint Matthew's continued friendship and generosity to Gemma Services! Thank you for your donation of sixty treat bags and extra candies for youth in our Residential Treatment Program. The kids are going to love the treats, especially as the end of the school year approaches! Your support will help Gemma continue to provide vital behavioral health, prevention, child welfare, and educational services (through Martin Luther School) for youth and families who are facing challenging times. Your friendship matters a great deal to us; thank you!

With the help of friends like all of you, Gemma is able to accompany more than 3,000 youth and families each year as they face life's challenges, heal from traumas, manage mental health challenges, learn new skills, and work to reach their individual goals. We would be happy to welcome any Saint Matthew friends to visit one of Gemma's three locations to see firsthand the programs you are helping us to provide. As you know, more about all of Gemma's programs, latest happenings, and current support needs can be found on our website www.gemmaservices.org.

On behalf of all at Gemma, thank you! You are all the very best friends to Gemma and "our" kids!

Sincerely,
Amanda Bryant, Senior Development Officer
Gemma Services

Dear Saint Matthew Women of the ELCA,

Thank you for supporting Katie's Fund with your gift of \$50.00. Your gift makes a real difference in women's lives. Thank you.

Recently, thanks to you and other generous people like you throughout our church, Katie's Fund supported the making of a powerful two-part documentary on how people of faith respond to the problems of immigrants and refugees in this country. This film, "Brightness of Noon: The Intersect of Faith, Immigration and Refugees," reminds us that what Martin Luther said about faith—it's a living, daring confidence in God's grace—is still true in our world today. And that living, daring faith changes hearts and lives.

This is just one example of the global education, living theology and leadership development that your giving to Katie's Fund supports. As Katie's Fund continues to grow, thanks to you, those opportunities for sharing our living, daring faith will continue to grow—far into the future.

Your dedication and faithful support make this possible, and much more. Thank you. To learn more about our work together, please visit www.womenoftheelca.org.

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

Dear Lutheran Church Women of Saint Matthew,

Greetings from United Lutheran Seminary. Thank you for your recent gift of \$50. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and partnership accompanying us as we live out our United Lutheran Seminary mission of Unifying, Learning, and Serving as a welcoming and diverse learning community equipping people to proclaim the living Gospel for a changing church and world.

We find ourselves hopeful as indeed we trust in God's promise of life abundant and heed the Lord's call to service. This service for many in our community is foundational in the baptizing and teaching in Jesus' name. The opportunity to serve is due in large part to the continuing support and generosity of donors, like you, who walk with us to equip students as leaders.

Your ongoing support for theological education and prayers are a blessing to our students and a foundation for the future of nimble leaders in our evolving church. Please let us know if our team can support you in any way by reaching out to us at advancement@uls.edu. We look forward to connecting with you this year in person and/or virtually.

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

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 \$90.00. 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 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 find safety, compassion, and healing. Your commitment makes a difference in people's lives, people like Devon.

Devon came to Lutheran Settlement House after leaving an abusive relationship. She was new to the city and looking for a community to help her heal from the abuse and chart a new course for her future. "I knew I needed to get my mental health in order to catapult forward." And catapult forward, she did. With support from her counselor and case manager, within a few months, Devon repaired her credit, created a resume, and found safe housing.

After Devon had a place to call home, she was able to focus on other goals, including her career. "I found that the people who helped me throughout my journey were the people I really wanted to be like. Because who I am today, I'm very, very proud of." Today, Devon is a children's health case manager and member of Lutheran Settlement House's Survivors Network where she uses her experience to educate healthcare providers, researchers, and students about domestic violence.

Helping people define their future is at the heart of our work. As a donor, you remind our clients that in the most vulnerable moments of their lives, they are not alone. Thank you for being there for Lutheran Settlement House; we are honored to have you as part of our family.

Sincerely,
David Chiles, Executive Director
Lutheran Settlement House

Dear Joanne,

Whenever I hear a child laugh, see them smile, or hear about moments of joy for a family who has been struggling, I think about the journey they have each taken to reach that point. I am reminded of our "WHY" at Gemma—"Because You Matter"—and the many ways that our dedicated staff accompany youth and families to make sure they know how much they truly do matter.

Donations from friends like you enable Gemma to walk beside them along the way to their brighter future. For many of the children, teens, and families who come to Gemma, their path to joyful moments may be long and full of complex challenges.

Imagine:

- **You are 10 years old** and have experienced abuse and then must go to live in a foster home, then another, and another—all because you "act out" how angry and scared you are.
- **You are 7 years old**, and you are sent to our Martin Luther School because you were trying to run away from school or were fighting, and how you must feel about leaving your friends.

- **Or you are 12** and come to Gemma's Residential Treatment Program, your third, and you still want to hurt yourself.
- **You are a parent** with a 5-year-old whose behaviors are out of control, and you feel desperate and don't know what to do.
- **Or you are a teenager** who recently saw your friend get shot. You are scared to go to school, and you are having nightmares. So, you come to Gemma's Outpatient Program to talk with a therapist for the first time, but you don't know what to expect.

You might be feeling ashamed; possibly angry, sad, and scared. Perhaps, you feel invisible and all alone—like you don't matter. THEN—someone at Gemma says to you, "I understand. I'm here. I've got you."

That's exactly what we want each family, child, and teenager to feel—that they matter, and they are not alone. Gemma is here to accompany them on their journey for as long as it is helpful.

Your support is instrumental in enabling Gemma to assist more than 3,000 youth and families annually as they face extremely difficult times. As we near the end of our fiscal year on June 30, we hope you will consider making a charitable gift to support Gemma's programs and the youth and families we accompany every day. If you have already made a gift this year, thank you. Your friendship matters. You are helping make it possible for Gemma to say to children and families, like those described above, "We understand, and we've got you." Together, we are working to create a world where every person knows they matter, and they are not alone. Gemma is here for them because you are here with us.

Most sincerely,
Kristen E. M. Gay, Ph.D.
President and CEO
Gemma Services

Dear Women of the ELCA Friends,

Thank you for your note and gift. It was very nice of you, and I appreciate it very much.

Ted Hidell

Vital Statistics

Death:

Britten Winters
Died April 24, 2024
Funeral June 28, 2024

New Address:

John and Sally Kampmeyer
Lima Estates
411 N. Middletown Road
Apt. F-208
Media, PA 19063

65th Wedding Anniversary:

Lance and Marie Miller
August 29, 2024

Worship Responsibilities

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

Vacation Bible School

July 8 - 12

9:00 - 11:30 AM

Theme: SCUBA

Registration forms
are in the church hallway
and on our website.