



THE WORD

May 2019

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church
700 Pleasure Road, Lancaster PA 17601
(717) 394-9607 www.stmatthewelc.com

Pastor Robin Fero

Pastor's Message

Christ is alive! Happy Easter to you, St. Matthew family!

God has been so faithful to us over this last year. We called upon him to strengthen us during that long desert walk in the weeks of Lent. True to his word, God made a way through that desert, walked into Jerusalem with us, died, was buried, and rose to new life. Christ Jesus calls us to brand new life, much as he has called us all along the journey. Welcome to a brand-new day! God is alive!

Indeed, God has been faithful to us as we have been called to worship God at St. Matthew and called to love and serve our neighbors. What a joy it is has been over Lent and Easter to see St. Matthew family actively participating in worship and sharing the love of Christ, which comes from the Lord's Table.

As we studied hospitality during Lent, I was Holy-Spirit surprised that much of what we are gifted with at the "little church with a big heart" is the hospitality that we extend to all we encounter, whether they are new or familiar to us.

St. Matthew family take care of each other on a regular basis; offering rides to appointments or worship services; signing cards at church for those who cannot attend; warmly greeting each other as we enter the worship space; filling in at the last minute for those who cannot fulfill worship assignments; pitching in and helping to set up for or clean up after events. These are just a few examples of how this family serves.

This family continues to grow in God's resurrection life, as we take holy risks. By the way, "St. Matthew family" that I often refer to consists of not only active members, but also those who may only attend periodically; those who enter our doors because of participation in an outside group, such as Bridge Buddies; and those who are no longer able to attend worship because of mobility

issues. If you are reading this publication, you are a part of the "St. Matthew family".

This family was so blessed by its willingness to host two outside groups during our April 3rd Wednesday Lenten Table evening. We fed the Soccer Shots and the MT Democratic Committee that night. Then we wrote personal notes on post cards to invite more of the community to the Holy Week services.

Our musicians are taking holy risks in trying new music and ways to sing and play God's praises, under the leadership of Sue Feldmann and Ann Hossler.

Members of our family are taking holy risks in inviting friends and loved ones to church; in reading Prayers of the People in worship; in preparing for and serving the monthly Community Meal at Zion in East Petersburg; and in introducing others to new ministry.

When we open our hearts to God, God fills us and opens our lives to serve others. Thank you, family, for opening your lives to Christ's resurrection power.

There are a couple of new projects that have birthed at St. Matthew. I'd like to introduce you to them briefly and point you to those who are spearheading the work. Susan Feldmann has volunteered to be St. Matthew's camp liaison. Her official title is CampPerson, and you will be hearing from her about exciting opportunities to support the Lutheran Camping Corporation. Rev. David Ritteroperty Committee, will be heading a task force that will be designing new outside signage for our building. Steve Feldmann is putting together a task force to develop a new child protection policy for St. Matthew.

God bless this family as we live out our baptismal vocation throughout this new Easter SeasonPentecost. Know that God is with you. Christ is Alive! *Pastor Fero*

Lutheran Camping...For Kids & Adults!

It may be that some folks think of "Church Camp" as something that is just for kids, but at our Lutheran Camps, Nawakwa (Arendsville, Pa) and Kirchenwald (Lebanon, Pa) there is something for people of all ages!

As St. Matthew's designated CampPerson (yes, that's how the camps, write it out...as all one word), I would like to highlight some of the opportunities that our Lutheran Camps offer. The Camps offer year round programs. Both Camps are known for their summer camping programs for children and youth from grades K-12. While "classic camp" offers a variety of experiences, there are also specialty camp weeks, a few of which are kayak, arts & crafts & photography, beach, equestrian, nature detectives, music, water and high adventure. All camping experiences are "within the framework" rears and fun fundraising events, like Camping Night at the Harrisburg Senators and the Annual Golf Tournament that benefit the Campership Fund...and more!

Beginning May 1st, please take a moment to check out the fliers and camp brochures on the center bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. You may also contact Susan Feldmann for additional camping information.

Choir News

Our Chancel Choir and Bell Choirs have been busy rehearsing and sharing beautiful music in worship to the Glory of God through Lent, Holy Week and on Easter Sunday. Thank you, Choirs!!

The Chancel Choir will continue to rehearse through May and early June before taking a summer break for rest and renewal. During the months of May and June, two of our faithful choir singers will be away, Arlene Volk and Peg Sampson. Please consider offering your gift of music to come and sing with the choir for May and early June while Arlene and Peg are away. We practice together to learn our parts and YOU are always welcome! (Steve would welcome additional men as well!) Most of our remaining rehearsals are Thursday evenings from 7-8:15 pm. Please see Sue Feldmann for a schedule.

There's Something New at St. Matthew!

As the weather gets warmer, take a stroll out back at St. Matthew to the Church Park to see "something" new! It's our Welcome and Invitation Board on the back of the shed!

The new outdoor bulletin board will serve to let our neighborhood friends and all who pass by that they are WELCOME to enjoy St. Matthew at the Church Park as well as the outdoor library and the picnic area. The bulletin board on the shed will also be used as a central

outdoor location to invite all who come to the Church Park to worship services and events inside St. Matthew. While our bulletin board is yet another way to invite and welcome folks to St. Matthew, remember...personal invitation and relationship are the best ways to share God's love whether or not our Church Park friends ever come inside. Our gift is in sharing that love. So, be sure to say hello, share your name and welcome our Church Park visitors personally when you see them here!

Book Club News for May



Our book for May is "Riding the Bus with My Sister" by Rachel Simon.

Rachel Simon's sister Beth is a spirited woman who lives intensely and often joyfully, despite her intellectual disability. Beth spends her days riding the buses in the city of Reading, Pa. The drivers, a lively group, are her mentors; her fellow passengers are her community. One day, Beth asked Rachel to accompany her on the buses for an entire year; the book is the chronicle of that remarkable time. Rachel, a writer and college teacher whose hyper busy life camouflaged her emotional isolation, had much to learn in her sister's extraordinary world. Here are life lessons from which every reader can profit: how to live in the moment, how to pay attention to what really matters, how to change, how to love, and how to slow down and enjoy the ride.

This heartwarming book takes the reader on an inspirational journey, at once unique and universal. Please join us on May 21 at 1:30 - 3:30 in the library. All are welcome! *Arlene Volk*

Extending Hospitality

In His earthly ministry, Jesus spent a lot of His time out on the street and in the world being what He talked about in the synagogue—He showed the generous presence and love of God in all He said and did.

In like manner, we are learning and risking to go out in love and hospitality to our neighbors, inviting them to worship together with us, especially during Holy Week.

Among the 175 invitations offered was a woman who called St. Matthew to THANK US for the outreach. Although she already has a church home, we thanked her for her Christian encouragement—which we all need to do—and we invited her to consider St. Matthew her “home away from home” so if she couldn’t make her own congregation’s worship or events, she could still participate with us.

Another man whom we greeted on the street received his invitation as a warm and genuine gift for which he was grateful.

What God will do with these invitations and encounters, we don’t know, but seeds of loving hospitality have been planted as our Lord would have us do and we have grown and been blessed in the process. Please pray for our neighbors. Please pray for ways each of us can be generously and lovingly hospitable to those around us each day.

Special thanks to Linda McIntyre, John Matussek, Steve Sellers, Michelle Strohm, Steve Strohm, Brenda Ritterpusch, David Ritterpusch, and Pastor Fero for their ministry in the neighborhood. Please prayerfully consider serving in this ministry yourself and in Arlene Volk’s absence, please see Brenda Ritterpusch or Pastor Fero for more details. *Brenda Ritterpusch*

St. Matthew Seniors

The St. Matthew Seniors have rescheduled our lunch at "Gracie's on Main" for Tuesday, May 7th at 1:30 P.M. to accommodate our Better Bones/Better Balance attendees who may wish to join us. Please look for the sign-up sheet in the foyer.

On Tuesday, June 4th, we are traveling across town to Wegmans. Several of us have not yet been there, so we are going to see what everyone is raving about. We'll carpool from the church at 1:30 P.M., following Better Bones/Better Balance. Circle your calendar and come along for a fun afternoon. *Kay Gontner*

Saturday After Worship Dinner

On the first Saturday of each month members of the St. Matthew family gather for a meal at a local restaurant. on Saturday, May 4, we will dine at Knight and Day Diner, 3140 Lititz Pike. Join us! *Dan Mink*

Game Day

We want you to join us for Game Day, May 11th,, in Fellowship Hall from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. it’s a lot of fun and I heard there is a jigsaw puzzle contest that day!???!
Janet Baker

Anniversaries

Brad & Sheila Charles 5/2

Paul & Betty Sheaffer 5/10

Paul & Donna Kilgore 5/17

Steve & Sue Feldmann 5/28

Birthdays

Robert Martin 5/1

Mary Margaret Ruth 5/9

Charlene Regar 5/15

Cynthia Longenecker 5/22

Robert Wimer 5/5

Jordan Zimmerman 5/14

Lunda Shaub 5/19

Linda Tice 5/24

Address Change

Robert & Linda Martin's New Address:
4702 E. Main St.
Belleville, Pa 17004

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]

Psalm 30

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

Staff

The Rev. Robin Fero, Pastor

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- sffeldmann@comcast.net

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Officers

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- (717) 293-3289 & (717) 606-6418
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John Volk, Treasurer

- (717) 449-6918
- John.volk@gmail.com

Church Council

Brenda Stauffer Steve Feldmann

Barbara Elsen Phyllis Wimer

Jen Piersol Ray Shaub

Patricia Smith Arlene Volk

Phyllis Wright Pastor Fero

St. Matthew

May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 12:00 pm Brown Bag & Bible 5:00 pm Soccer Shots* 6:00 pm M.T. Democratic Committee*	2 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	3	4 9:00 am Lydia's Closet Distribution 5:00 pm WORSHIP 6:00 pm After Worship Dinner
5 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am WORSHIP	6	7 8:30 am Bridge Buddies* 1:30 pm St. Matthew Seniors	8 12:00 pm Brown Bag & Bible 5:00 pm Soccer Shots*	9	10	11 10:00 am Chancel Choir 2:00 pm Game Day 5:00 pm WORSHIP
12 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am WORSHIP	13	14 8:30 am Bridge Buddies* 7:00 pm Church Council	15 12:00 pm Brown Bag & Bible 5:00 pm Soccer Shots*	16 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	17	18 1:00 pm Quilting Workshop 5:00 pm WORSHIP
19 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am WORSHIP 11:30 am Evangelism Meeting	20 5:00 pm Community Meal	21 1:30 pm Primary Election Bank Club	22 12:00 pm Brown Bag & Bible	23 12:00 pm Better Bones Better Balance at St. Matthew	24	25 5:00 pm WORSHIP
26 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am WORSHIP	27	28 8:30 am Bridge Buddies* 12:00 pm Better Bones Better Balance at St. Matthew 6:30 pm Lydia's Closet Prep.	29 12:00 pm Brown Bag & Bible	30 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	31	

St. Matthew

June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am WORSHIP	3	4 8:30 am Bridge Buddies* 12:00 pm Better Bones Better Balance at Grandview 1:30 pm St. Matthew Seniors	5 12:00 pm Brown Bag & Bible 6:00 pm M.T. Democratic Committee*	6 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	7	1 9:00 am Lydia's Closet Distribution 5:00 pm WORSHIP 6:00 pm After Worship Dinner
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May Worship Schedule

Altar Care: Kay Gontner & Barb Elsen

CMIC : Ray Shaub
Greeter: Bernice Scheetz
Ushers: Ray & Lunda Shaub
Reader: Bradley Charles
Assisting Minister: Bradley Charles
Counters: Barb Elsen & Bradley Charles

May 5th Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 9:1-6
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

CMIC: Barb Elsen
Greeter: Janet Baker
Ushers: Brenda Stauffer & Pat Smith
Reader: Peg Sampson
Assisting Minister: Barb Elsen
Counters: Barb Elsen & Carol Rothweiler

May 12th Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

CMIC: Phyllis Wright
Greeter: Phyllis Wright
Ushers: Ray & Lunda Shaub
Reader: Linda Tice
Assisting Minister: Barb Emmerich
Counters: Brenda Stauffer & Linda Tice

May 19th Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

CMIC: Phyllis Wimer
Greeter: Carolyn Rothweiler
Ushers: Nealy & Pam Frye
Reader: Phyllis Wimer
Assisting Minister: Barb Elsen
Counters: Rick Regar & Wayne McKinley

May 26th Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10, 22--22:5
John 14:23-29

Thank you to all for your service!

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
700 Pleasure Road
Lancaster, PA 17601**

(Return Service Requested)

The Little Church with the Big Heart

