

Saint Matthew Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Messenger

Mission Statement:

Saint Matthew Lutheran Church is a community of disciples reaching out through Christ in loving worship, witness and service. August 2016 Vol. 5 Issue 7

A publication for your information.

SUNDAYS IN AUGUST



12th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30am Communion

Communion with Taizé Music 5:30pm



13th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30am Communion

Blessing of College Students

5:30pm Communion with Taizé Music



14th Sunday after Pentecost

SMLC Hosts Interfaith Hospitality Network Sunday Undies Collection (See pg. 9)

9:30am Communion

Reception to Welcome Vicar Nelson

10:45am Sunday School Teacher's Meeting

5:30pm Communion with Taizé Music



15th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30am Communion; Cake Reception

Happy 50th Birthday Pastor Wengert!

5:30pm Communion with Taizé Music



Help Fill Pastor's Bucket List:

Write your idea on a card and drop it in the bucket \wedge (in the fover) of what Pastor might consider in preparing her bucket list as she turns 50 yrs. old!



This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person questions, complexities and all.

Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

Highlights in August

Blessing of College Students

August 14, 9:30am

Welcome!

Vicar John & Emma Nelson

Commissioning Service August 21, 9:30am

Sunday School Teachers Orientation Meeting

August 21, 10:45am

SMLC Hosts Interfaith Hospitality

Overnight and Dinner Hosts are needed August 21-28

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Articles for August newsletter Due Aug. 15, 2016



Dear St. Matthew,

Please make sure to thank folks on the Property Team if you see them - they spent many hours cleaning, painting, re-carpeting, renovating and preparing the church apartment (behind the 7-11) for Vicar John & Emma Nelson. It came out beautifully!

—Pastor Wengert



Baptisms:

6/12 John Patrick Cassel

Funerals:

6/25 Dorthea Jensen
(Dorward/Carlson)
7/2 Nance Carlson
7/9 Kathryn Morris
7/29 Ronald Grayson

Marriages:

7/1 Jennifer Widin & Ernest Convington

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Typically, a pastor doesn't advise parishioners on how to behave as citizens, and not because of separation of church & state. After all, our vocation as citizen is a calling from *God* - if we understand that God created this world and works through imperfect governments to create order & restrain evil. Rather, pastors typically don't advise parishioners because of complexity in the world and the fact that there are many different perspectives and choices to be made in how to govern well.

However, given the destructive climate of polarization in our land, I feel called to beseech the Lord's flock at St. Matthew – whether donkey or elephant – to consider exposing yourself to and trying to *understand* people who do not share your perspective. I mean REALLY trying to understand people, rather than developing arguments in your head while the other is talking – which I am also guilty of doing!

I'm *seriously* troubled by the levels of certitude & self-righteousness I hear in conversations. Everyone seems to know what's horribly wrong about the other, without admitting the flaws and ambiguities of one's own ideals or party. Worst of all – and what makes me heartsick – is how gleefully we demonize and ridicule the other. Such de-humanizing of fellow citizens leads at best to considering each another enemies, and in its worst forms has led to national atrocities such as the Holocaust.

I encourage citizens to read good research & reporting that challenges one's perspectives, and most importantly to take seriously one another's different concerns – we are not enemies but fellow citizens! The difficulty in doing so is leaving the security of certitude and allowing room for ambiguity and uncertainty. My experience is that our world *is* complex and ambiguous. Looking back over the decades of the 20th century, when we thought we'd found a wonderful solution to a societal concern, we learned later that it wasn't, or we discovered that even though a law/decision had *some* helpful outcomes, it also created other unimagined issues.

My pastor, the Rev. Franklin Drewes Fry, coined the term "**RBG**" as a way to help Christians make confident decisions.

- We can approach decisions REVERENTLY (with prayer, with a sense of being in the presence of God, and also trusting that God very much cares about the outcome).
- We use our **BEST** skills (reason, thorough research, conversation, etc...)
- But in the end, our decision is really a **GUESS**. Why? Because we live in a broken world, filled with sinful people like us, and we have a narrow vision of our own experience and era; that is, nobody knows the mind of Almighty God.

(Continued on pg. 3)

PASTOR'S MESSAGE (continued)

Even so, we can make decisions with a sense of confidence that God calls us as citizen to serve the neighbor. When we discern over time that certain intentions or decisions were wrongheaded (*when*, not if), there will be a gathering of fellow sinners that Sunday at which to hear that God forgives us.

...Because, as my pastor also used to say, "The only absolute in this world is the Absolution."

—Pastor Ingrid Wengert

¹Absolution = Proclamation of God's unconditional forgiveness of our sins, as in "...therefore, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins."

WELCOME NEW COUNCIL

JACK HORTON, President

Jack officially became a Lutheran in 1962 at Our Savior Lutheran Church (Haddonfield). He transferred to Bethany Lutheran (Palmyra) in 1968 and became a member of the Church Council in 1970. He chaired the Social Ministry and Worship Committees over a 17-year tour. The Social Ministry Committee, he chaired, initiated the provision of rent-free space to the Head Start program in Palmyra. While chairing the Worship Committee they facilitated implementation of the new Green Book Hymnal. In 1991 he transferred to SMLC and became active in Congregation Council serving in various committees as well as Vice President of the Council. Following a six-year term he left Council and served in various capacities such as an usher and communion assistant. Starting in 2006 he has served 3 terms on Council. Among his favorite activities: working on the Pictorial Directory, heading up the fundraiser known as "Dancing Clergy of South Jersey," and chairing Phase 1 of our current Capital Campaign. Jack resides in Mt Laurel with his wife, Lorraine.

MICHAEL KRUSE, Vice President

Michael Kruse grew up in a Swedish Lutheran Church in Worthington, MN. He attended Concordia College in Morehead, MN graduating with a degree in Business Administration and minors in Computer Science and German. He has been employed by Campbell Soup Company for 32 years, and began his career in Worthington, MN, transferred to Maxton, NC and relocated to Cherry Hill in 1996. Michael and Laura joined SMLC in May, 2014 and Mike has been a member of the Adult Choir for the past two years. They actively participate by bringing meals to the homeless families as part of the Interfaith Hospitality Network. Prior to their move to SMLC, they worshipped, raised and educated their children in the Catholic tradition. Their three grown children delight in the far reaches of the US, living in Seattle, San Diego and San Antonio.

(Continued on pg. 4)

6/5/16-6/5/17 Council Officers

President:

Jack Horton

VP & Mutual Ministry:

Chair: Mike Kruse

Secretary:

Lorraine Horton

Treasurer:

Tom Cassel

Council Members

Evangelism:

Pam Bowen

Fellowship & Parish Life:

Brandie Plasket

Property:

Brian Sena

Social Concerns:

Barry Grahn

Spiritual Life:

OPEN

Stewardship:

OPEN

Worship & Music:

Peter Jensen

Youth & Family:

Dennis Lawrence

Youth Rep.:

Victoria Thomas

Youth Rep. (Alternate)

Jeffery Blanford

Chairpersons

Constitution: Max Frable

Facilities Planning:

Rene Cherson

Steering Committee on Accessibility:

Dick Graybill

Memorial: Bill Acheson

Nominating: Pastor Wengert

Property: Brian Schultz

WELCOME NEW COUNCIL (continued)

After he and Laura were married they moved back to their hometown and Mike returned to his active roots in his home church holding many leadership positions. Mike participated in the Worship and Music, Finance, Stewardship and Personnel committees. Mike served three years on the church council two of which he served as council secretary. Mike worked on a number of church related issues with ELCA's first Bishop Herbert Chilstrom. Mike is a strong believer in a church community and believes it is important for a local congregation to support and participate in the broader ELCA church. Mike trusts that his leadership experience would of service and he would be honored to serve on the Church Council.

PAM BOWEN, Evangelism

Pam has been a member of St Matthew since 1996. She has three children and three grandchildren and has been retired for the last four years. Prior to joining SMLC she was an active member of Temple Lutheran (Pennsauken) serving as an usher, altar guild member, WELCA member and a VBS teacher. Since joining SMLC she has been a Sunday School and VBS teacher, a confirmation mentor, and the greeter coordinator for several years. Pam has been a long-time member of the Evangelism Ministry and is currently serving as chair of the Ministry.

VICTORIA THOMAS, Youth Representative

My name is Victoria Thomas. I am a junior in high school and 16 years old. I've been a member of St. Matthew my entire life. I've

volunteered as a Sunday school aide for 3 years and have volunteered as an aide for VBS. This past year I've had amazing opportunities to get involved in the church. Last summer, I went with the youth group to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit. I attended Senior High Week at Camp Cross Roads and have been accepted to their Leader in Training program this summer. I was one of the two youth representatives at the ELCA Youth Summit in Nebraska and I went to the Synod Youth Assembly. Additionally, I have worked on an lgbt+faith youth event with the Synod and I attended the Synod Assembly this past May. At all of these events I've had the fantastic honor to participate in conversations with other youths in the ELCA. We've discussed what we can bring back to our home congregations and I believe a way for me to do this is to be on St. Matthew's Council as the vouth representative. I feel it is very important that youths are involved and visible in in the church more than just in the Youth Group.

JEFFERY BLANFORD, Alternate Youth Representative

Hello my name is Jeffery Blanford. You may know me as Susan Hawbecker's grandson or you may know me from around church in general. I have been a member of St. Matthew since the 3rd grade and was confirmed this past October. Since my confirmation, I helped as a Sunday school assistant and I am currently active in the youth group. I would love to be substitute youth representative on Council this year because I believe that the youth have many great ideas to share.

MEMORIAL FUND SCHOLARSHIPS

The recipients who received \$900 each were: **Lindsay Barger,** who will be attending

Pennsylvania State University **Christopher Grahn,** who will be attending

Muhlenberg College.

—Bill Acheson, chair



YOUTH & FAMILY

Sunday School Teachers Orientation Meeting Sunday, Aug. 21, 10:45am

A friendly reminder—we are having our annual Sunday school teacher orientation Aug. 21—immediately after the Sunday worship service (approx. 10:45ish) in the Library. We'll be welcoming new teachers, reviewing policies and practices and discussing our new music instruction opportunities—as well as answering your questions. And we are returning to the Spark Classroom GREEN curricula for the fall term (all grades except 7th & 8th). We look forward to seeing you there.

Sunday School Correction to the Annual Report

My apology; I've discovered I made an error in providing the average Sunday school attendance figure in the June 5, 2016 Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting Report, Pg 5. I gave the monthly average for April (28) instead of the monthly average through April—which actually is 33—and is only down by two from the previous year.

In an environment where every other week is now considered "regular" church attendance, and Sunday school programs across the country are closing - having that many children attend Sunday school is a reflection of the excellent job rendered by our faithful teachers. We thank God for them!

God's peace, —Bill Lawrence

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Confirmation Resumes Wednesday, Sept. 21, 6pm



Vacation Bible School Summary

Our VBS was a huge success!!!!! Average of 20 children learned that God cares, provides, loves and forgives us. Children also enjoyed storytelling, music crafts and games. We thank the children and families for attending VBS and their generous donations. About \$100 was collected for Camp Crossroads and 3 shelves full of food for Bridge of Peace food pantry. I applaud our VBS leaders and volunteers: pastor, church staff, VBS leaders, volunteers, decorators and bakers. I humbly thank you for the gifts of appreciation and applause given me at the closing ceremony. I thank and applaud you for your witness as very dedicated and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ. Until VBS 2017...God's Peace be with you!

—Lisa Merrill, Coordinator



To St. Matthew Sunday School & Adult Forum Members:

Thanks so much for the Sunday School Mission Support donation to Hopeworks! This contribution helps to provide important tech training and academic support to Camden youth who are ready to take steps and create a sustainable future. With so many different worthy endeavors, it is deeply meaningful that you have chosen to support our works. We cannot build a healing community without you. Thanks for making it possible.

> — Dan Rhoton Hopeworks N' Camden



Dear SMLC Youth Group,

Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$166. You are indeed a friend of Cross Roads and we are deeply grateful to you. Your gift enables Cross Roads to keep camp affordable for young people who otherwise would not have been able to afford the lifechanging experience. We hope that you continue to keep our ministry in your heart and prayers.

—Anthony Briggs, Executive Director

St. Matt Readers

Recommended book (by Imams and Christian theologians) to learn about Islam:

No god but God (Updated Edition): The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam by Reza Aslan

Monday, September 26 7:30pm

Also - if you're interested in this, you might be interested in the adult forum on 9/18 with Dr. David Grafton with information on Muslims in America and Muslim responses to ISIS.



Quilters

9:30am TBA

Crocheters/ Knitters

Sat., Sept. 10 & 24 9:30am

MEND ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Save-the-Date

MEND's

2016 Wings and Things... The Heat is On...

Affordable housing is a constant need!

Friday, October 7, 2016

Doors open at 6:00 PM • Dinner 7:30 PM

The Lenola Firehouse Venue

229 North Lenola Road, Moorestown, NJ 08057

Whistler's Inn • Wing King • Georgetti's

A casual evening starting with our featured appetizers:

Wings & Tenders

complimented by a large array of hors d'oeuvres and completed with a buffet dinner that includes Filet Mignon and Salmon

Evening Highlights

Dancing • Comedy • Chinese Auction • Caricatures

"Everyone deserves a decent, safe and affordable place to call HOME"

Boyce Adams, Founder

VICAR JOHN NELSON UP CLOSE & PERSONAL

My name is John Nelson and I graduated from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia on May 17, 2016. I am originally from Redwood Falls, Minnesota which is a small town in the Southwest corner of Minnesota, but I relocated to Philadelphia over three years ago to attend seminary. I obtained my undergraduate degree in biology from Saint John's University, which is a small Catholic school located in Collegevile, MN. Saint John's is known for two things, our perennial national championship football team and the Benedictine Monastery located on campus. It was here at Saint John's that I began to discern a call to a vocation within the church. Following my graduation in 2011, I entered the Saint John's School of Theology, a small seminary attached to my undergraduate institution. I received my Master of Arts in Scripture from Saint John's in 2013. Following my graduation, I wanted to continue my theological education and headed east to the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia to obtain my Master of Sacred Theology degree en route to a Ph.D. It was here that I made my first connection with Saint Matthew in that I was lucky to participate in the last three courses taught by Dr. Timothy Wengert. I came to Philadelphia with the express interest of studying under Dr. Wengert, a scholar whom I admire greatly. During my STM coursework with Dr. Wengert, I determined that I wanted to pursue a vocation in parish ministry.

Prior to my time at LTSP, I had wanted my church vocation to be as a professor, a goal which I still hope to accomplish. For the last year, I have been pursuing concurrent studies within the STM and M.Div. degrees respectively.

What drew me to Saint Matthew is the commitment to traditional Lutheran worship, but also the desire to try new things. My seminary career has allowed me to work for several different denominations with several different forms of worship. While these travels have stretched my understanding of what constitutes worship, it has made me appreciate the beauty of the Lutheran liturgy. Having experienced a few worship services at Saint Matthew I am thrilled by the possibility of working with a community that is so committed to Lutheran worship. In talking with Pastor Wengert, I am excited to work with a congregation that is so committed to learning. Hearing from Pastor Wengert about the different adult studies that occur, the huge amount of confirmation students, and the other faith based projects occurring in the church creates a feeling of excitement in me. As a person that has a great love of teaching, the possibility of working in a parish that has a thirst for learning is a great blessing. I have spent my time in seminary looking at the ways in which Lutheran theology translates into the 21st century and I hope to be able to share my passion and my knowledge with Saint Matthew.

> —Blessings, John Nelson

P.S. John & Emma will be married Saturday, August 6, in Indiana.



TREASURER'S UPDATE

Actual Envelope Receipts Received total \$188,025

Budgeted \$204,380 Difference (16,356)

We are 8% below the budget's balance.



Moorestown Food Pantry

(Live Civilly/Moorestown Ministerium)

Next time you are food shopping, remember to pick up an item to donate!

- Jars of Jelly
- Canned Fruit

Please place items in the shopping cart in the foyer. Food can be delivered Mon.— Thurs. 9-2pm; Sun. 9:30-Noon.



For Monetary Donations:

Make check payable to St. Matthew Church with "Moorestown Food Pantry" in the memo

For Youth Volunteers

contact: Kahra Buss 856.313.9853

For Adult Volunteers

contact: Brian & Cara Lowy flyerzfanz@aol.com



SOCIAL CONCERNS

SMLC to Host Interfaith Hospitality Network

A community response to the homeless.

August 21-28

SMLC hosts **Interfaith Hospitality Network**, please sign up to be an overnight or dinner host. For more info, contact Barry Grahn, bgrahn1@comcast.net. —*Barry Grahn*

Live Civilly/Moorestown Ministerium Food Pantry

Summer is clearly here—the heat, the humidity and the glorious sunshine! For some people, the heat and humidity bring a worry about whether they can afford to use their air conditioner and stay safe and healthy. The pantry food eases the worry a bit and enables them to use more of their money to help with their electric bill. We have been blessed this summer with continuing donations and we are able to bridge the gap. Thank you—you make it possible.

—Connie O'Brien, Pantry Coordinator

Lunch Bunch ~ Thurs., August 11, 7pm

A ministry that provides a full lunch, once a month, to the New Visions Homeless Day Shelter, Camden, NJ

Please drop-off your baked goods using a disposable paper plate.

—Bill Lawrence

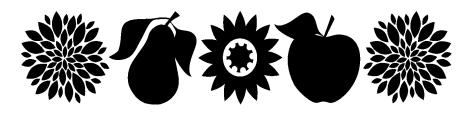
Lutheran Crossings

Keep your donations coming! The items you donate are being sorted and priced so that in September, when sales resume, we will have new stock for our monthly sales table. Jewelry, wallets and purses sell well, as do small decorative and household items.

Every dollar we make is deposited into the Auxiliary treasury. The money is used to take residents to lunch once a month, provide birthday and holiday parties, and help residents in many different ways. We greatly appreciate your support.

Lorraine Horton- 856-780-5202

*—Lorraine Horton*Dave Frech -609-320-5244



BRIDGE OF PEACE

Back by Popular Demand: "SUNDAY UNDIES"

Many impoverished children and teens go without under garments or have hand-me-downs. Some save their one best pair for church and doctor visits nicknamed their "Sunday Undies." What a treat for them to have a best pair to wear every day of the week. The campaign "SUNDAY UNDIES" will provide newly purchased items and be distributed at Bridge of Peace for children ages 3 years – 18 years.



Beginning August 21, please select a gift tag from the BOP bulletin board located in the foyer next to the mailboxes. Each tag has a gender and size. Place donations, with the gift tag securely attached, in the bin provided under the BOP bulletin board **no later than Sept. 18th.** Some suggestions:

MALE ITEMS: briefs, boxers, and boxer briefs, under shirts/ athletic t-shirts and winter thermals

<u>FEMALE ITEMS</u>: panties/briefs, boy-shorts, play shorts, camisoles, sports bras and winter thermals.

Also a need for bras: when you see a sale or a clearance item please purchase and donate; it will be a perfect fit for a young lady in need.

Monetary donations are also accepted; checks payable to St. Matthew with "Sunday Undies" in the memo. For more info, contact Lisa Merrill.

Camden Food Pantry (Bridge of Peace)

In addition to the usual non-perishable food items the Bridge of Peace is in great need for adult and child size diapers and feminine products. These items are quite costly and this need is a genuine reality facing those who come weekly to their food pantry. Please consider adding these items to your shopping list each trip. Also, clipping coupons for these items and place them in the envelope provided on the bulletin board.

Thank You!



The SMLC Social Concerns provided a VBS pizza party for 25 children, 5 counselors and 10 volunteers. Also thank you to the SMLC congregation for donating water, juice and cereal bars during VBS week at Bridge of Peace.

—Lisa Merrill Bridge of Peace Communicator

Camden Food Pantry

(Bridge of Peace)

Next time you are food shopping, remember to pick up a food item to donate!

The food pantry needs:

- Canned meats
- Canned fruit
- Canned tomatoes

NOTE: Please check expiration dates

Please place items under mailboxes in foyer. Food can be delivered Mon.-Thurs. 9-2pm; Sun., 9:30-Noon

SIGN UP TO DELIVER FOOD!

A sign-up sheet for those interested in delivering food to BOP will be posted shortly. A new delivery rotation schedule will be created soon and if you would like to be part of this great ministry please sign up!

For Monetary Donations:

Make check payable to St. Matthew Church with "Camden Food Pantry"



BRIDGE OF PEACE (continued)

Dear Bishop Bartholomew,

Last week we had an amazing week of Vacation Bible School/Camp thanks to the generous grant from the NJ Synod and Cross Roads. I know that the fiscal management team is meeting today and I don't know if they are responsible for allocating this grant money but would extend to them my thanks for the wonderful work they do and their generosity. To those who make these grants available let me describe last week to you.

The staff from Cross Roads was amazing: Kyle, Emma Lee, Deborah, and Matt. We served 21 youth and had 14 adults helping every day; 18 of the children we served are described as being learning challenged; 7 are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders; and 6 of them are diagnosed with ADD/ADHD. Most would never be able to afford to go to Cross Roads and many could not function in that environment. So with your generosity, camp was brought to them. This year, two of our children with social challenges and autism spectrum disorders are now ready to attend Cross Roads with grants provided by the camp. This is due to all the work of so many.

One of our youth volunteers, **Ella Peterson from St. Matthew**, shared her experience on her blog which deeply moved our members. (Ella Peterson's blog is posted on our website: http://stmatthew-lutheran.org/ella).

In the area of mission partnerships, we had special needs teachers from Our Savior (Haddonfield) and St. Paul's (Collingswood). Meals were provided by St. Matthew (Moorestown); Our Savior (Haddonfield); Lord of Life (Tabernacle); St. Paul's (Collingswood); and Bridge of Peace (Camden). Housing was provided by St. Marks (Oaklyn). This was a team effort by the people of God in the NJ Synod. In addition, on Thursday we traveled with 110 people to Belleplain State Park Lake with the Newton Creek Civic Association. All of us are exhausted but on Sunday claimed that we saw the Kingdom of God come near last week. The children and youth helped me with my sermon and knew every story and how God loves them and has changed their lives. Adults talked about it being a week of miracles and wonder. We thank you and all the churches, disciples and people who made this week possible.

In God's Amazing Grace, Pastor Giselle



The HMS SeaBots get Third Place

(Congratulations to Anthony Cariello's Achievement as an 8th grader from Harrington Middle School, Mt. Laurel and a member at St. Matthew)



The HMS SeaBots MATE Ranger team competed in the MATE International Competition and brought home the bronze with third place! The HMS SeaBots are located at Harrington Middle School as a team of 8th graders who made an underwater ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle). After the experience, all of the members were inspired to take on Engineering as a career when the grow up. The MATE International Competition was an

event where mainly high schools and colleges made underwaters ROVs and tried to sell them to NASA, by putting them through rigorous tasks that were meant to replicate real world problems and showing off their abilities. This International Competition was held at Houston, TX in the Johnson's Space Center's Buoyancy Lab. The teams also had to make a poster display and presentation, explaining about how their ROV was the most suitable for the challenges at hand. To get into the International Competition, you first had to win your Regional competition. There are multiple Regional Competitions throughout the world. Each Regional Competition had the same exact expectations as the International Competition. Usually at the Regional Competitions only colleges and high schools win , but in the New Jersey Regional Competition at Villanova, one Middle School team rose above the rest, the HMS SeaBots. Just winning the Regional Competition was a huge success, and getting third in the International competition proved that they should not be judged, no matter their age or grade.

REMEMBERING THREE SPECIAL LADIES

During the month of June I attended three funeral/memorial services in three consecutive days —each of them for a wonderful lady who had a relationship with Saint Matthew Church. They were the wives of our former Pastor, Property Manager and Treasurer.

-Rozella Bower

Dorthea Lund Jensen

(April 23, 1927-June 15, 2016)

Dot was the wife of The Rev. Herluf M. Jensen, pastor of our congregation from September 1968 until he was elected President (later Bishop) of the New Jersey Synod in the spring of 1978. She was born and raised in California where her family grew grapes for raisins. She attended Grand View College, a Lutheran College in Des Moines, IA where she met the man who became her husband.

Dot and Herluf and their five young children (Tezanne, Lance, Cynthia, Peter and Roslind - all with her maiden name, Lund, as their middle name) settled into a large Victorian house three doors from the church when he became our pastor. Dot began helping in the church nursery and in the kitchen as well as participating in other activities. After her children were older, she became part of the excellent "crew" that assembled the monthly Messenger. She showed many kindnesses to people in need, which sometimes included housing them. A great pleasure in her life was gardening and she created beautiful garden areas behind their home which she shared with others. Cynthia once asked her mother how much time she spent in the garden and her reply was, "as much time as I have." After his retirement, Pastor Jensen joined in her gardening interest. They sometimes held garden parties as fund raisers for the Good Samaritan Center and Camden Lutheran churches.

Dot was also a gracious hostess as she and her husband welcomed friends, congregation members and others into their home on many occasions. I remember enjoying delicious food, especially Christmas "goodies" and homemade egg nog. Two of my favorite cookie recipes are from her. At one time in her life, she said she wanted to marry a rich farmer,

not a poor preacher, but she was a wonderful helpmate to that "poor preacher" during their 62 years of marriage until his death in 2010. When he retired he gave her a certificate of appreciation for all the support she had been in so many ways as well as being "the love of my life".

When Pastor Jensen was elected Bishop of the New Jersey Synod, we were happy they decided to remain in their home in Moorestown. We did not see much of him because of his very busy schedule but we enjoyed seeing Dot in worship and at other times. In recent years, as her health declined, she was able to stay in her home because of the care of her son, Peter, for six years. She enjoyed visits from friends in the congregation as well as receiving communion from Pastor Wengert and the Eucharistic Ministers.

Dot's funeral service was held on Saturday, June 18 in Saint Matthew Church. Because Pastor Wengert was in Germany at the time of her death, the service was led by The Rev. Dallas Dorward; The Rev. Dr. J. Bert Carlson delivered the sermon. Loving tributes were given by both Cynthia and Peter who remembered the uniqueness of their parents and appreciated how much the congregation had meant to them as a community. The six children of daughter Roslind and her husband Rob Ossi sang beautifully as their loving gift to their grandmother. Dot, 88, was buried beside her husband in St. Paul's Lutheran Church cemetery in Hainesport.

My family enjoyed having the Jensens as guests in our home on several occasions and they visited us when my husband died, bringing a beautiful azalea plant which still blooms in my yard. It is now a loving memory of their lives and their friendship. I am thankful to have known them and for the many ways they enriched my life.

(Continued on pg. 12)

REMEMBERING THREE SPECIAL LADIES

Eleanore Polsky Leavenworth

When Eleanore Polsky, a wonderful Jewish lady, married our church Property Manager, George Leavenworth, in September 1990, with Pastor Gordon Huff officiating at the Pennsauken Country Club; it was a happy occasion for family and friends. They met at H.O.P.E., the grief support group for recently widowed persons, meeting in our church. She became a group leader and enjoyed the lasting friendships of people she learned to know there. She also became part of our faith community in many ways as she attended activities and events, including worship, and developed friendships with our members. After George's death in 2000, she continued to support some of our social ministry projects such as The Lunch Bunch.

Ellie was a warm and loving person, blending her family of two sons, their spouses and two step grandsons with George's three children, spouses and grandchildren. A daughter-in-law once described her as a "mover and a shaker" and she got George to do things he would never have done without her, including a trip to Israel. I treasure a beautiful Jerusalem cross they brought me from that Holy City. She loved people and ignored their faults, always showing interest in what they were doing. She also loved animals, travel and the arts, especially theater and ballet. Her death came at the age of 92.

Attending a Jewish Memorial Service on Sunday afternoon (June 19) was something I had never done before but what a joy it was to listen to the lovely tributes to her from a kind and caring Rabbi and five family members and friends. They spoke of her very positive outlook on life and making the best of often difficult situations, including her declining health as she grew older. They also spoke of one of her favorites, Frank Sinatra, and quoted from his song, "I've lived a life that's full, I traveled each and ev'ry highway, And more, much more than this, I did it my way." Indeed she did and I am happy I knew her.

Doris Holmes

(November 16, 1921-June 14, 2016)

Doris's service was on June 20 at Inglesby/Givnish Funeral Home in Maple Shade after her death at the age of 94. She was a long time member of Saint Matthew Church. She led the Altar Guild for many years and meticulously cared for all things related to her responsibility. While working in the church office, I observed how willing and conscientious she was in seeing that all was in readiness for a worship service or wedding or funeral.

Doris's husband Ross was our church treasurer for years and they were quite a team as she assisted him in sometimes counting the offerings, bringing checks to the church office, getting necessary documents signed, etc. Occasionally she would bring her cute little dog as well.

Doris was also involved in community activities through the Women's Club of Moorestown. She was an avid tennis player, even into her 80's until she broke her hip. She really missed that and sometimes played a Wii game of tennis at Lutheran Crossings, but she laughingly said it wasn't the same!

Doris and Ross were kind and generous to their son Tom, daughter-in-law Valerie and grandchildren Lindsey and Jennifer. The last year or so of her life was at Lutheran Crossings where she developed a group of friends who enjoyed participating in activities there.

She was a dear lady whose faith sustained and strengthened her. Whenever I took communion to her at her home or at Lutheran Crossings, we enjoyed talking about old times and I felt better for having been with her. She maintained a keen interest in what was happening at Saint Matthew, where she had devoted so much of her time and energy.



IN MEMORIAM

Nancé Louise Willis Carlson

(January 12, 1938—June 26, 2016)

The Data: Nancé was born in Savannah, Ohio, and raised in Ashland, Ohio. She attended Wittenberg University and Boston University. (Her master's thesis at Boston was on 'Soviet Propaganda and Psychological Warfare.' We joked that it was her preparation for the parish; sometimes we weren't joking).

She was preparing for ministry at the Lutheran World Federation radio station in Ethiopia at the School of Missions, LCA, when the country went boom as did those plans. Instead, she and Bert were married in August 1962. We delight in our family: sons, Tyler, Kurt (Jeannie Carlson) and Josh (Chrissy Kohlhepp), and grandchildren, J. Emily, Chase, Ashton and Adilyn Carlson. She is also mourned by our English bulldog, Sir Winston, Nance's constant and beloved companion.

The Extra-data: Nancé could never be confined to data. She was simply the most creative person I have ever met, and she used that creativity constantly. Active in singing, and occasionally acting, she directed drama groups in every parish we served with productions from *Our Town* and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* to many productions she adapted. (Give her a book and she would adapt it as a play.) In Collingswood she worked with teen players, but in Whiting adapted many of the teen works for seniors. In between, she simply loved opening doors for so many people to ventures they never dreamed they could do.

Few things gave her greater joy than gardening. She had inherited both a green thumb and a love for growing things from her father, and never stopped gardening. Her last week saw her in the garden: sitting on her chair weeding and, of course, giving specific directions to those she enlisted, generally Ty. On her death she left detailed instructions (with a chart) on how to finish the work she had done on the backyard; and, yes, that work has now been done.

In business, she founded Montage Marketing and Productions, Inc. in 1981, and also that same year began Full Circle Marketing Ventures with our son, Ty. Over four decades she did extensive work with both the Builders League of South Jersey and the New Jersey Builders Association. Nancé was one of the first two women named to the *New Jersey Builders Hall of Fame*, and worked with numerous projects throughout the state, including several decades of leadership of the annual Atlantic Builders Convention.

Nancé's creativity and drive touched so many lives through so many avenues. Words so appropriate here, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

— J. Bert Carlson

Ronald J. Grayson

(November 7, 1934-July 25, 2016)

Ronald J. Grayson most recently of Leisuretown, formerly Mt. Laurel, NJ, also formerly of Cliffside Park, NJ where he served as a Councilman. He received his bachelor's degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University, Class of 1956, where he majored in economics and minored in chemistry and was a member of the Epsilon Nu Delta Fraternity. Ron worked the majority of his career at the McCormick & Company as Sales Executive. Husband of 59 years of Jeanne (nee Schurig). Father of Carlye Schumm, Ronald Grayson Jr. and the late Robin Lynne Lutz. Grandfather of Joseph E. Lutz, III, Matthew Lutz, Ariana Lutz and Douglas Balliet.





Prayers

Convalescing/Other:

- Grace Barone
- ♦ Tyler Carlson
- Mary Cross
- John Fisher
- Florence Fogel
- Mike Hoffman
- ♦ Karen Koch
- ♦ Gerry Nice
- Nina Thomas
- Olivia Thomas

Homebound:

- Nancy Beth Abele
- Evelvn Frintner
- Betty Kelley
- Dot Koch
- Lynn Krudewig
- Lois Lukasik
- John Parkin
- ♦ Janet Paul
- Alexis Schoenhofer
- Walter Trebing
- Goldie Wadleigh

Serving in Military:

- Angelo Bledsoe
- Rosemarie Blesdsoe
- Beth Eilers
- Carson Griffis
- Danny Merrill
- Janal Thomas

Partners in Ministry:

- Bridge of Peace www.bridgeofpeace.com
- Stephen Deal ELCA Missionary-Costa Rica

SPIRITUAL LIFE

All Are Welcome!

⇒ Monday Morning Bible Study, 10:30am in Shockey Lounge

We will "be there" **August 15, 22 and 29**, at least a few of us who want to get-together and talk and see where the Spirit leads. One of the outcomes should be a choice of the Bible book that we use to kick-off the year with our Open Bible Study. That's what we're calling ourselves when we get rolling in our normal mode of reading pretty-much though a book in the Bible, with discussion of larger meaning of what it says for our understanding of God and for our lives. We recognize limits in our ability to pin that down: "God is bigger," ... but its illuminating to wrestle with the text ... and we're the better-off for it ... and God promises his Spirit's help.

The Open Bible Study restarts the **Monday, Sept. 12th.** It is open to ALL ... male/female (could use a few more of the latter) ... young/old (in the last two years, we've ranged from people in their early-20's to late-80's.) ... learned/learning (we are all both ... Luther described himself as a "beggar" in this situation ... a "worm" in others...."Humility counts.". ... we read, share ideas based on the text and what they might mean for our lives. We aspire to receive what the Spirit offers through each participant and to realize that we are the Body of Christ, together.

So, come, read, have some coffee and talk (or not), listen, critique, offer alternatives, see examples of God's teaching in our lives!

—Wayne Becker

⇒ Mark Your Calendar!
 Thursday Evening Bible Study
 September 8, 15, 22, 29
 7:30pm in Shockey Lounge



Stephen Ministry



Stephen ministers work closely with Pastor Wengert bringing God's love to those in need. If you or someone you know would benefit from the comfort and support provided by a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Wengert. Stephen ministers are looking forward to working with new care receivers.

—Joy Wadleigh

PROPERTY



A new grill was purchased to replace an old one that was no longer functioning; it was used for picnics in June. A contract was awarded to replace the main heating system for the church using funds from the Capital Campaign. The work will be completed by Sep-MUKNING tember. A section of wood in the sanctuary was replaced due to termite damage. A contractor repaired

the room divider in the nursery. New carpeting was installed in the nursery (104-106) and in a classroom (112-113) using budgeted funds for Property.

Major work in May to July was devoted to refurbishing the church apartment for use by the vicar who will start on August 15th. The old carpeting was removed and new carpeting was installed. Steve Cathcart used a spray painter to paint the entire apartment except for the kitchen and bathroom; those rooms were also painted. A new vanity, toilet, faucet and other fixtures were installed in the bathroom. Stainless steel hoses were installed on the washer/drver. The washer/drver, which is very old, was found to be serviceable at present. The cost of these renovations was less than \$3,000. Rental of an apartment for the vicar would be at least \$1,000 per month for 9 months.

—-Brian Schultz, chair

TROOP 42



Troop 42, family and friends put on their bathing suits, their suntan lotion and did a little white water rafting on the Lehigh River at Jim Thorpe, PA. This has become a Troop 42 tradition. The goal this year was for no one to fall out of the raft and I'm sorry to

say, the river won once again. Parent and scouts both fell in the water again this year. And if the goal was not to get wet, then don't go rafting with the Troop. Water was flying all around. If you weren't getting sprayed by water guns or cannons, then you were getting a bucket of water thrown in your direction. No one came back dry. Laughing and smiles were apparent all day long! A great time was had by all—another successful whitewater outing!

The Troop is going to Resica Falls Scout Reservation for Summer Camp. The scouts will earn merit badges and rank advancement along with going on High Adventure trips that will test their boating and hiking skills. If you have always wanted to brave the Leigh River and raft down Class II and Class III rapids, please check us out. We meet Tuesday nights in the Teen Den7- 8:30 PM starting in September. If you have any questions, please contact the troop at bsatroop42mtlaurel@gmail.com

—Pete Mirabella, Scoutmaster



Lourdes Health System

29th Annual Ethics Conference

Pain Management and the **Opioid Epidemic**

Thursday, Sept. 29, 9am-1pm

\$35 Registration Fee \$25 Students and Senior Citizens

Featuring: Alexis LaPietra, DO Rebecca Alfaro, MSW Donald K. Hallcom, PhD

Including Panel Members: Herbert C. Conaway, Jr. MD John Pellican, MBA Alfred D. Sacchetti, MD, Sara Wallach, MD

Facilitated by: William K. Pierce RN, BSN, CCRN, RRT, MBA/HCM

ELCA MALARIA CAMPAIGN REPORT

Together, we have made a great impact.

The ELCA joined the global effort in the fight against malaria by initiating the ELCA Malaria Campaign with a goal of raising \$15 Million in five years. The church met this challenge with creativity, engagement, generosity and fundraising success, reaching \$15.45 million in 2015. Thank you!

In Africa, malaria programs grew from the strong foundations of existing relationships and health ministries. Standing together with our companions and partners in 14 African countries, the ELCA Malaria Campaign empowered communities to lay the foundation for a healthier future. Our Lutheran companions and partners now have strong networks of trained leaders and volunteers, communities are educated in prevention and control of malaria and families have improved livelihoods.

Expanding to Madagascar!

Thanks to your generosity, malaria work with the Malagasy Lutheran Church is underway— expanding our work to 14 countries.

Together, we have achieved things we could never do alone.

ELCA members, hand-in-hand with our Lutheran sisters and brothers in Africa, have contributed—and will continue to contribute—to the global movement against malaria. The work to address malaria in Africa and around the world will continue through gifts to ELCA World Hunger.

- ⇒ Distributed 60,000 Nets
- ⇒ Financially empowered 14,000 households
- ⇒ Tested 200,000 people and if positive, treated them
- ⇒ Trained 12,000 in prevention and treatment
- ⇒ Educated more than 2 Million people
- ⇒ Provided 32,000 pregnant women prevention medication

"There are many people today who cannot understand what love is, because there is so much that is hindering them from seeing that love. And the mission that we, and the ELCA, must embark on is to remove those obstacles that hinder people from seeing the love of Christ. Malaria is one of them, HIV and AIDS is another. Poverty is the root of all these hindrances. As we continue our work, we can be assured that Christ will be with us, because this is the mission that Christ sent us to do."

JOB POSTING

Seeking Director of Youth/Family Faith Life

Lutheran Church of Our Savior (Haddonfield) has created a part-time (20 hours/wk) position to oversee and expand their faith formation and youth ministries. A background in education is preferred. Candidate is expected to strengthen family faith formation and life with in the congregation as well as expand into the community at-large and support current programs, including Sunday School, Confirmation, and Youth Ministry. Candidate must be available to attend weekly meetings as scheduled, and will be charged with leading the coordination of Senior High Youth ministry and support Pastor and the Christian Education committee with various programs (i.e. VBS, Lenten Mid-week forums, etc.). Candidate should possess strong organizational and managerial skills, communicate effectively with others and recognize the values of Christian faith. Resumes can be emailed to lcossandy@gmail.com by 8/15/16.

CONGREGATION CORNER

Dearest SMLC Family:

My brother Marc's (54) fatal accident is a devastating blow to all that knew him. He is survived by his wife of 34 years, two "twenty-something" sons and my parents - among many others who loved him dearly. Thank you for all of your prayers, cards and hugs that are providing much needed comfort in this very difficult time. Although our grief is profound, such outpouring of support is making this tragedy less overwhelming.

—Max, Jana, Katelyn & Nathan Frable

Dear Pastor Wengert:

Thank you for being there for mom in her final days and for her final day. Your actions on her behalf proved to me just how much you thought of her. It was a very generous gesture. Mom loved her church. It means a lot to me that the people at her church though so much of her.

The family of Helen Hopkins deeply appreciates and gratefully acknowledges your kind expression of sympathy.

—John Hopkins

Dear St. Matthew Lutheran Church:

Thank you for the opportunity to worship with you all. It was an honor to be able to thank you for your support of The Rev. Stephen Deal and to share information about other ministries happening around the world. The ELCA is active an engaged in dynamic work around the world, and we thank you for walking with us in living out Christ's mission.

> -Andrew Steele, Director Global Mission Sponsorship

Birth Announcements:

- Katy (Maguaran) & Chris, a daughter, Genevieve 7/1
- 7/19 Bob & Erica Nikoo, a daughter, Soraya

Congratulations to our "Summer" Newlyweds:

- 6/18 Elizabeth Waxman & Alan Nick
- 6/24 Cassie Armstead-Williams & Cleo Carter
- 7/1 Jennifer Widin & Ernest Convington
- Tommy & Tori Cassel 7/16
- Alexandra Villani & Jerry Kelly 8/6
- Whitney Jackson & Joe Ribic 8/6
- Vicar John & Emma Nelson 8/6





- 1 Rev. Peggy Marks
- 1 Drew Milstead
- 2 Ursula Evans
- 2 Michael Campbell
- 3 Flise Korman
- 3 Jana Frable
- 3 Thomas Kline
- 5 Karla Peterson 5 Grace Frerking
- 5 Kate Rauscher
- 5 Samantha Abele 5 Jayden Randolph
- 6 Brady Mokoid
- 6 David Barone
- 7 Dana Jacoby
- 7 Adriana Uhlig
- 8 Marian Duda
- 8 Lucas Malatack
- 9 Lily Otis
- 10 Randy Zellner 10 Connor Oakley
- 11 John Parkin
- 11 Kylee Miller
- 11 Bill Byrne
- 13 Brenton Steiner
- 14 Jackie Sweet IV
- 15 Linda Kastner
- 16 Edward Hammond
- 16 Mike Milstead
- 16 John Nelson 16 Carol Cathcart
- 17 Louis Mazzola
- 18 Ryder Whipple
- 19 Steven Maryanski
- 20 Jean Schoenberger
- 21 Joyce Hagen
- 22 Robert DePersia
- 22 Beth Eilers
- 22 Lauren Every-Clayton
- 22 Oliver English
- 22 Jennifer Buyser
- 22 Kurt Schroeder
- 24 JoAnn Lawrence
- 24 Pam Bowen
- 24 Kim Villani
- 26 Dave Rulon
- 26 Diane Gadomski
- 27 Michael Krosnodomskie
- 28 Frank Schwarz
- 28 Bruce Clark
- 29 Natalie Hornyak
- 29 W. Doug Lohr, Jr.
- 29 Matthew Grahn
- 29 Marinela Abele
- 31 Ruth Fausak
- 31 Rev. Ingrid Wengert

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS - AUGUST 2016

DATE	TIME &	ACOLYTE	CRUCIFER	PRESENTATION OF GIFTS	*ASST. MIN.	GREETER	HEALING	READER	USHER	ALTAR GUILD
Aug. 7	9:30 AM	Grace Arcaro	N/A	N/A	*Sue Kuhn Carol Cathcart Doreen Lawrence	Virg	Dave Frech	Duane Gustad	Otto Team	Kuhn Team
	5:30PM				Civitellas					Civitellas
Aug. 14	9:30AM	Caroline Reppert	N/A	N/A	*Mike Rieker Alice Graybill Dick Graybill	Jadyn Diepold	Karen Widin	Rob Kastner	Hammond Team	Roberts Team
	5:30PM				Civitellas					Civitellas
Aug. 21	9:30AM	James Cherubino	N/A	N/A	*Mae Trebing Cookie Davis Walt Davis	Ray & Sue Kuhn	Joy Wadleigh	Diane Gadomski	Lange Team	Meany Team
	5:30PM				Civitellas					Civitellas
Aug. 28	9:30AM	Kyle McDevitt	N/A	N/A	*Karen Widin Ray Fausak Ruth Fausak	Kathy Grahn	Sue Kuhn	Kim Morris-Flores	Schultz Team	Lawrence Team
	5:30PM		N/A		Civitellas					Civitellas
	2									

10am - Recovery Inc. 12pm - Food Pantry 5pm - Food Pantry 7pm - Ministry Night 7:30pm - O/A (L) 7 7 7 7 30pm - O/A (L)	9am - Property Com.	г Р			- Dan
10am - Recovery Inc. 12pm - Food Pantry 5pm - Food Pantry 7pm - Ministry Night 7:30pm - O/A (L) 10am - Recovery Inc. 7:30pm - O/A (L)		J			-
ω	- Property Com.		J		و
ω	- 413000	10am - O/A (LB)	7:30pm - HOPE	Office Closed	10:30am - 11th Step
8		10am - Staff Mtg. (C)			12pm - New Life AA (FH)
ω					
8					
ω					
	6	10	11	12	13
	9am - Property Com.	10am - O/A (LB)	7 pm - Lunch Bunch	Office Closed	10:30am - 11th Step
mu2	1pm - Alanon	7 pm - Executive Comm.	7:30pm - HOPE		12pm - New Life AA (FH)
	7pm - Stephen Ministry				
14	16	71	18	61	20
Newsletter Info Due 9am	9am - Property Com.	10am - O/A (LB)	7:30pm - HOPE	Office Closed	10:30am - 11th Step
10am - Recovery Inc.	1pm - Alanon				12pm - New Life AA (FH)
10:30am - Bible Study					
12pm - Food Pantry					
5pm - Food Pantry					
6:30pm - Council Fel.					
7 pm - Cong. Council					
7:30pm - O/A (L)					
22	23	24	25	56	27
SMLC Hosts Interfaith Hospitality Network					
10am - Recovery Inc.	9am - Property Com.	10am - O/A (LB)	7:30pm - HOPE	Office Closed	10:30am - 11th Step
10:30am - Bible Study 1pm	1pm - Alanon				12pm - New Life AA (FH)
7:30pm - O/A (L) 7pm	7pm - Stephen Ministry				
28	30	31	_	2	e
10:30am - Bible Study 1pm 7:30pm - O/A (L)	9am - Property Com. 1pm - Alanon	10am - O/A (LB)			

SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER









16th Sunday after Pentecost

(Last Sunday for Summer Worship) 9:30am Communion (No Taize Service)

Back to School Sunday

8:30 & 11am Communion

Blessing of the Backpackers and All Teachers; including Sunday School Teachers

9:45am Sunday School & Adult Forum

18th Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 & 11am Communion 9:45am Sunday School

Adult Forum with Dr. David Grafton

"Muslims in America"

19th Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 & 11am Communion

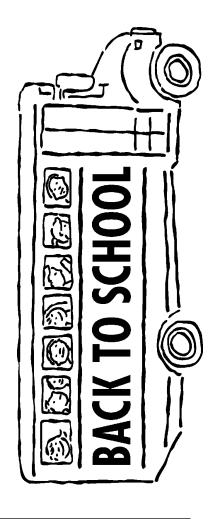
Presentation of Bibles to 3-yr. olds

9:45am Sunday School & Adult Forum

More Highlights in September:

Thurs., 9/8, 7:30PM Evening Bible Study Begins Mon., 9/12, 10:30AM Open Bible Study

/12, 10:30AM Open Bible Study 7:30PM Ministry Night



YOU SHOP, AMAZON DONATES

If you are an Amazon.com shopper, **Saint Matthew Lutheran Church**, Moorestown, NJ participates in the Amazon Smile program. Amazon will donate .05% of your eligible purchase to Saint Matthew. Sign-up and shop while "giving" to Saint Matthew Lutheran Church at smile.amazon.com. Thank you for your support!

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Ingrid Wengert

Vicar: John Nelson

Cantor: David D. Harp

daveharp@comcast.net 🕿 856.397.6680

Nursery Attendant: Shirley Schmidt



Scan to

Donate

HOW TO GIVE

Did you know there are a number of ways to give to Saint Matthew Lutheran Church electronically? Donate online now by scanning the barcode to the left using a QR reader app on your phone or tablet. Or visit our website to learn more and explore other options.

stmatthew-lutheran.org/donate



About the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with 3.9 million members in 9,500

congregations across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of "God's work. Our Hands," the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA's roots are in the writings of the German church reformer, Martin Luther.