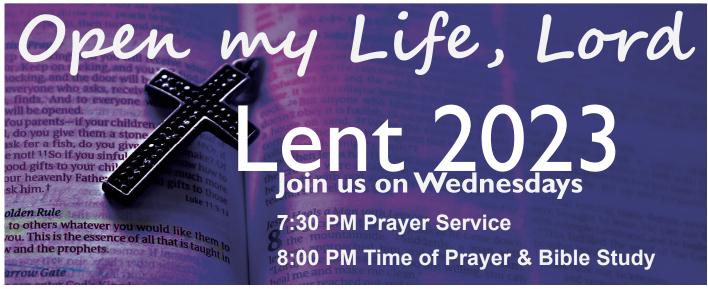


# The Messenger

#### **Mission Statement:**

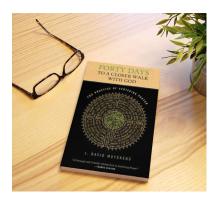
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church is a community of disciples reaching out through Christ in loving worship, witness and service.

March 2023 Vol. 12 Issue 3 A publication for your information.



March 1 Open My Eyes, Lord - Acts 26:4-18 March 8 Open My Hands, Lord - Mark 6:1-5 Open My Ears, Lord - Matthew 13:10-17 March 15 March 22 Open My Heart, Lord - Acts 16:11-15 March 29 Open My Life, Lord - Galatians 2:15-21

Time of centering prayer and discussion in person and Zoom. See e-blasts for Zoom link.



Purchase the book at www.upperroom.com.

#### Forty Days

During Lent, Pastor Eric will be working through the book Forty Days to a Closer Walk with God by J. David Muyskens. The book has a daily practice of contemplative prayer. He invites everyone to join him in reading the book. Each week of Lent, following the midweek worship service, there will be a time to share centering prayer experiences and pray together. It will begin around 8 p.m. in the church library and on Zoom.

#### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- Council Update
- **Announcements**
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- Remembering an Old Friend
- Christian Learning Formation
- Adult Forum—March schedule **Order Easter Flowers**
- 15 Honors, Thank You, & Misc



#### March 5

First Reading: Gen 2:15-17
Psalm 121
Second Reading: Rom 4:1-5,
Gospel Matt John 3:1-17

#### March 12

First Reading: Exod 17: 1-7
Psalm 95
Second Reading: Rom 5:1-11

Second Reading: Rom 5:1-11 Gospel John 4:5-42

#### March 19

Psalm 23 Second Reading: Eph 5:8-14

First Reading: 1 Sam 16: 1-13

Gospel John 9:1-41

#### March 26

First Reading: Ezek 37: 1-14 Psalm 130

Second Reading: Rom 8:6-11 Gospel John 11:1-45

# April 2 Palm Sunday

First Reading: Isa 50:4-9a

Psalm 31: 9-16

Second Reading: Phil 2:5-11 Gospel Matt 26:14-27:66

#### Curious about further study?

Contact Wayne Becker for more information.

#### **COUNCIL UPDATE**

Dear Fellow Members of Saint Matthew:

Church Council is the elected governance body that keeps St. Matthew Lutheran moving and operational. Here are some decisions and discussion points from our most recent Council Meeting on February 23.

- 1) We have convened an Office Audit Committee, (John O'Meara, Karen Widin, Ethan Geehr, Denise Cole, Tom Campbell (ex officio) and Pastor Eric (ex officio)) to focus on revising and simplifying operational processes and reducing costs. We anticipate releasing a full report in mid-March. It will include, among many other things, a discussion about changing the official church office hours.
- The Facilities Ministry has asked the Council to review the Emergency Evacuation plan, which we have done. There will be minor modifications made and can be provided to you upon request.
- 3) The Council is determining the process, in partnership with the Worship Committee, to gather feedback for the Fall Worship Schedule. There will be multiple opportunities for you to participate in these discussions during Adult Forums and other ministry discussions. Watch this space!
- 4) Last year we welcomed Mary VanOsten as our Church Administrator. Mary's done a yeoman's job learning the new processes and procedures, which are currently under review (see item 1). She's put in a lot of overtime to get her feet beneath her. Based upon that, Council has agreed to her request for five days of compensation time in lieu of payment. This is a one-time approval, which will not increase her yearly paid vacation time.
- 5) Since we have only Mary in the office, we have determined that it would be beneficial to have volunteers helping in the office for limited hours (~ 2 hours at a time), especially with answering phones. Please contact the church office, or me to volunteer. You may find my contact information it the church directory. If you have other talents you would like to share, especially with copy-editing, we welcome your proactive assistance with some of our regular publications.

A full copy of the February minutes will be posted in the narthex.

Peace and God's Blessings,

Denise Cole

Vice President, SMLC Church Council

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Voting Members for Synod Events**

The New Jersey Synod Assembly will be on Saturday, May 13 at Grounds for Sculpture. Prior to that, the Delaware District, of which we are a part, will have its meeting at 3:00 on Sunday, March 12 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Magnolia. If you are interested in being a voting member at either or both of these events, please contact a member of the congregational council or the office for more information.

#### **Lent Devotional Booklets**

This year our Lenten devotional booklets will be focused on the hymn "Amazing Grace." We have two different booklets available: one aimed at adults and another aimed at children. Pick up a copy of one of them in the narthex and spent your season of Lent meditating on the message of that great hymn.

#### **Bible Day**

On Sunday, March 26 we will be distributing children's story bibles to children baptized in the past two years. If your child was baptized since the beginning of the pandemic and you would like to receive a children's story bible, please RSVP to Costantino at <a href="mailto:families@stmatthew-lutheran.org">families@stmatthew-lutheran.org</a> so that we can be sure to have one for you. We will also be distributing young reader bibles to our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders that day.

#### **Playground Play Time**

Attention parents! We will again be gathering at Fullerton Park on Zelley Ave. Sunday March 26 at 2:00. It is a time to enjoy being together in a non-judgmental group, allowing parents and children to have enjoyable time together. All are welcome, including people of all faith commitments. In case of bad weather, the alternate site is the St. Matthew gym. For more info, contact Costantino at <a href="mailto:families@stmatthew-lutheran.org">families@stmatthew-lutheran.org</a>

#### Experience The Small Catechism—Part 2

Come and explore how Luther's small Catechism can be used to grow your faith daily. The event is hosted by the NJ Diakonia Steering Committee on Saturday March 18 from 9:30—3:30 p.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 300 Union Ave., Somerville, NJ.

There will be three breakout sessions on Holy Communion, Ten Commandments & Daily Prayer & The Household Chart. Your \$35 donation includes lunch & a copy of the book "By Heart, Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism". The key note speaker is Rev. Timothy J. Wengert, an ELCA pastor and professor emeritus of Reformation History at the United Lutheran Seminary . To register please contact Ellen Lindemann at ellen.lindemann@raritanval.edu

#### Sept. 2022—June 2023 Council Officers

**President:** 

Tom Campbell, Jr.

**Vice President** 

Denise Cole

**Secretary:** 

John O'Meara

Treasurer:

Tom Cassel

#### **Council Members**

#### Christian Learning &

Formation:

Melissa Fickes-Feeney

Evangelism:

Marian Duda, Heather Learch

Fellowship &

#### **Congregation Care:**

Rev. Peggy Marks

Karen Widin

**Property:** 

Charlie Lange

**Social Ministry:** 

**Beth Eilers** 

Stewardship: OPEN

Worship:

Chris Cassel

Youth Reps.:

**OPEN** 

#### **Ministry Committees**

**Accessibility Steering:** 

Rene Cherson

**Constitution:** OPEN

**Evangelism** 

Kimmie Smith

#### **Facilities Planning:**

Dave Barger

Financial:

Tom Cassel

. om Gasser

**Memorial Fund:** 

Brian Slaugh

**Mutual Ministry:** 

Denise Cole

#### **Reopening Committee:**

John O'Meara



- 3 Craig Schoenberger
- 3 Grace Buss
- 5 Joseph Buss, Sr.
- 9 Gerry Nice
- 9 George Boehmler
- 11 Janice Sweeten
- 11 Joseph Feliciano
- 16 Marsha Magauran
- 16 Christopher Grahn
- 16 Jackie Sweet
- 17 Aaron Blanford
- 17 Julie Every-Clayton
- 19 Sandra Waxman
- 19 Taylor Nieto
- 21 Doreen Lawrence
- 22 Robert Grassie
- 22 Christopher Giberson
- 24 Colleen Oakley
- 25 Paul Loftness, Jr.
- 25 Kristine Butler
- 25 Kaiden Potere
- 25 Lily Daniel
- 27 Caitlin MacFarland
- 27 Joyce Valore
- 28 Katelyn Frable
- 28 Freeman Horner
- 28 Nathan Frable
- 31 Christopher Clayton

#### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

#### Pastor Eric J. Trozzo

This year March falls entirely in the heart of Lent. Ash Wednesday and the first Sunday were in February; Palm/ Passion Sunday is the first week of April. That means that the central Lent Sundays fall in March. These are the weeks where we have made it past the initial energy of the beginning, but have not yet gotten to the growing excitement of Holy Week. These are the weeks of keeping up the disciplines of Lent without the added boost of special events to give encouragement. It is a time of practicing and building up our spiritual sensibilities, even when the reason for doing so can seem a bit distant.

In this way, it reminds me of one of the other things most associated with March – Spring Training. Baseball players are in Florida and Arizona, practicing and playing exhibition games. At one time players needed to get themselves into shape, but contemporary athletes stay in shape year-round. Instead, Spring Training is a time to get timing down, work on smaller details of game play, and be in some game situations. Yet the goal – the regular season and more ultimately the playoffs – are a long way off. The work done in Spring Training – defensive alignments, smoothing out mechanics – might not seem all that important. Yet those little things inevitably do make a difference at a key point down the road.

I'm not sure we can make a direct comparison of spiritual life and a baseball season, as life does not have the clear cut rhythm of a baseball season, but there is something to the sense that the small acts of spiritual discipline that we do in the heart of Lent do in fact shape our spiritual health throughout the year. The extra few minutes now in the normal times do allow us to more fully enter the good news of Easter come April and to live our lives as disciples throughout the year.



#### March Mentality Shift - Everything needs to be done perfectly

God is more interested in us being faithful than in us being perfect. This is a core message that is particularly worth reminding ourselves of during Lent. In Lent we reflect on the ways that we are broken by sin and separated from God's ways, yet it is also a time to recognize that God's desire for us is not truly about perfectly following a set of rules. God's desire for us to put our trust in God. When our trust is in God, we will act in faith. There will be imperfections and mistakes, and our trust will waiver. Yet, God is faithful to us and so continually inspires trusting faith from us in return. That trust is what matters, not whether we have perfectly adhered to a particular interpretation of a set of commandments. Letting go of striving for perfection frees us to enjoy God's gracious love for us and enables us to put our trust in God rather than ourselves. This is the good news of the gospel!

This is true of our personal daily life, but it is also true of our life as a community of faith. Every meeting, class, gathering, and worship service we have is full of imperfections. There will be mistakes, confusion, and uncertainty. Something will go wrong, something will be misspoken, something will be misprinted. That is to be expected. It is not what truly matters. We do not need to have everything perfectly, following a rigid set of rules. What matters is whether we are acting faithfully. Are we putting our trust in God while we are in worship or whatever other activity we are doing? Certainly the hope is that whatever imperfection arises does not lessen our trust in God, but what would actually rise to that level? Especially in worship, many people are nervous that they may do something incorrectly or are concerned about things being done differently than their preferred understanding. That is nearly always more about us as humans than about God's concerns. God's concern is not with outward actions, it is about our inward trust. Worship is not a time to strive for perfection, it is a time to revel in God's grace and love. Outward actions are aides to guide our hearts towards being open to receive the Holy Spirit in faith that we may recognize God's gracious love in faith. Faithful worship is not the same thing as a perfectly executed worship service. Letting go of a need for perfection allows us to be open to faithfully worshiping God and taking joy in God's grace.



# Happy Birthday to you!

- 1 Joe Buss, Jr.
- 4 Toni Hopkins
- 5 Florence Fogel
- 8 Dawn Scheipe
- 8 Stefanie Schwarz
- 9 Anita Harris
- 10 Wyatt Kelly
- 12 Anne MacFarland
- 12 Giovanni Saura
- 13 Cara Lowy
- 13 Susan Hawbecker
- 15 Taylor Buran
- 18 Kyle Schoenberger
- 19 Johanna Flothmeier
- 19 John Cassel
- 20 Mary Keifer
- 20 Lilianna Saura
- 23 Wayne Danver
- 24 Noah Breitenfeld
- 27 Rose Ann Civitella
- 28 Caroline Scheipe
- 28 Marie Vogel

#### **GREEN TEAM**

#### A Call to Serve our Ministry

We need your help!!



Team at St. Matthew, we spring: hope that we have helped demonstrate the many joyous ways that our congregation can fulfill our calling to become better • stewards of God's creation. However, we are at "mission-critical" point in our ministry, where we

simply do not have enough hands to help plan You do not need to be an expert in order to

If you have a passion for nature and our environment, please consider giving a very small portion of your time and talents to help us further our mission "to reveal the connection of our congregation and community to God's presence in the natural world, by fostering a culture of environmental reflection, engagement and stewardship."

As we approach the 6<sup>th</sup> Specifically, we are looking for a few volanniversary of the Green unteers to help organize two events this

- The annual congregational Earth Day celebration that will be held this year on Sunday, April 23.
- A late spring/early summer gleaning event with our local mission partner NJ Farmers Against Hunger.

and organize the events that, we believe, en- help us with these events! If you have the inrich our church life through service of God in terest and a few minutes to spare, please contact me (brianlestini@yahoo.com), and we can discuss specifically what's needed. Our current team of four will be forever grateful!



#### MEMORIAL FUND APPLICATIONS OPEN

Members of the Congregation may submit recommendations to the trustees of the Memorial Fund for distribution of funds to any of these categories:

- \* An overseas mission or charity
- \* A domestic mission or charity
- \* A congregational program not fundable through the current expense budget.

Forms for the requests are available on the bulletin board in the narthex or by contacting the office at stmatthew@stmatthew-lutheran.org.

The deadline is April 15, 2023.

For more information, contact Kate Rauscher, chair.



#### **STEPHEN MINISTRY**

#### **Best wishes to Peggy Marks!**

The Stephen Ministry Team reluctantly accepted Peggy Mark's decision to resign as a Stephen Leader effective last December. Peggy has devoted many years to the Stephen Ministries, St. Louis program, from her early years as a new pastor in a large Pennsylvania church, to more recently, as a member of Saint Matthew Church. Her wisdom, as a leader of monthly Continuing Education sessions, will be missed by all of us. I will particularly miss her ideas and support as the Stephen Leader Team has managed the program in our church.



Thank you, Peggy, for your dedication, insights, and enthusiasm for Saint Matthew's Stephen Ministry.

#### Why Is Stephen Ministry Important To Our Church?

Stephen Ministry offers face to face, confidential discussion opportunities to any adult with concerns weighing on his/her mind. It is a chance to vent feelings and get perspective in a private conversation. When meeting for an hour each week for as long - or short - as needed, a member can be reassured that the Stephen Minister is well-trained, not judgemental, and supervised by fellow ministers and leaders to give the most worthwhile caregiving.

How often does one have the absolute attention of another adult for 60 minutes each week?

If you would like to know more about Stephen Ministry and how it works, please let Pastor Trozzo, Sue Kuhn, or Trish Myers know.

Sue Kuhn, Stephen Leader

#### MARCH WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### Date Virtual Assistant

- 5 Mike Reiker
- 12 Harrison Kutalek
- 19 Dante Trozzo
- 26 John O'Meara

#### **Assisting Minister**

- Peter Jensen,Carol Cathcart, Kim Villani
- 12 Brian Slaugh, MikeBarbaccio, Sandy Meany
- 19 Ethan Geehr, Dave Lukridge, Debbie Lukridge
- 26 Jana Frable, Dennis
  Lawrence, Doreen Lawrence

#### Reader

- 5 Brian Schultz
- 12 Pam Bowen
- 19 John Terpak
- 26 Joel Boehmler

#### **Usher**

- 05 Otto Team
- 12 Lange Team
- 19 Schultz Team
- 26 Duda Team

#### **Greeter**

- 5 Barbara Good
- 12 John O'Meara
- 19 JoAnn Lawrence
- 26 Ursula Evans

#### **Need to Double Check?**

The schedule is our website www.stmatthew-lutheran.org The Worship Assistants link is on the right sidebar.

# \*

#### **FELLOWSHIP & CONGREGATIONAL CARE**

#### **Update of Congregational Care Zoom meetings**

One of the helpful activities we used to do was fill out Time and Talent forms and names were given to the various ministry teams so we could reach out to them. We are looking into doing that again but in the meantime we have an area of need.

Karen and Peggy have had four zoom meetings with members to talk about various areas of Congregational Care in order to discern what is needed and or wanted. We have several areas we are



working on but right now what would be of great help would be a list of folks willing to provide meals (homemade/store bought) for members having health issues, death, etc If you are willing to do this please send an email to Peggy at, <a href="mailto:Peggy marks@comcast.net">Peggy marks@comcast.net</a> or to Karen, (see church directory) so we can create a list of folks to call. Thank you so much

# PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH

#### Sunday April 2, 2023

We are so excited to have a breakfast once again in Fellowship Hall during the Easter Season. The big change is that we are having it on Palm Sunday which is so much easier for all our dedicated cooks and servers and musicians. We are so blessed that Kim and Joe Villani have agreed to lead this wonderful and tasty event. There will be more details coming in e-blasts and on the bulletin board.

The third annual Saint Matthew Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday April 8<sup>th.</sup> This is a fun event for children ages 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Pastor Eric will be reading the Easter Story to the children from a very special Bible called *The Rhyme Story Bible* followed by the Egg Hunt in the Picnic Grove. There will be hot coffee and tea for the adults! You would love to help?! Wonderful! Please contact Peggy Marks to volunteer or if you have any questions



#### Remembering an Old Friend

Rozella Bower

When my youngest daughter began first grade in 1981, I started working in the church office with Arthetta "Archie" Brown. We worked together more than 11 years of her 26 year "reign".

Those years were a happy time in my life and I have wonderful memories. When I learned of her passing on January 25 at the age of 91, my mind was filled with many of those happy times. She had a great sense of humor and we laughed a lot as we worked very hard typing on our IBM Selectrics, making copies on a messy mime-



ograph machine, a primitive copier and hand staplers. When Pastor Uehling wanted us to switch to computers, we were annoyed and fearful. However, we soon "mastered" those Radio Shack computers and decided they were much better than the typewriter with the "bouncing ball".

Archie was hired by Pastor Ed Ehlers, who once said it was the best thing he ever did for Saint Matthew. She also worked with Pastors Herluf Jensen, Carl Uehling and Gordon Huff. She liked to say, "I trained two bishops" because both Pastors Ehlers and Jensen were elected presidents (later known as bishops) of the NJ Synod. I became the Office Manager when she retired in 1993 and I knew she had also trained me to be a church secretary.

Archie was much loved by the congregation. She and her husband Russell, who were life-long Methodists, often attended activities in our church, including a trip for the Appalachian Service Project with a group from Saint Matthew. At her funeral there were loving tributes from family and a few of her many friends. One of my favorite stories was of how she and Russ would go to a Hallmark store for special days and holidays. Each would pick a card for the other, exchange cards, read them, often through tears, return them to the rack and leave the store without buying anything! Incidentally, they had celebrated their 71<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary shortly before Russ died in late 2020. They had been an example for family and friends of a warm and loving relationship.

Archie and I had so much fun performing humorous skits for church events, which we called "AB and RB in the Office". We poked fun at pastors and others and usually included a phone call, using an old toy telephone, from someone wanting to schedule a wedding. We would tell the person the pastor would not be available, but we could perform it for them. We had as much fun writing them as we did acting them. We ended each performance by singing "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine" and included actions to add interest to the text.

We kept in touch after her retirement and I often remembered her many kindnesses, especially at the time of my husband's death. Her first Christmas gift to me was a trifle bowl, which I have used every Christmas since to make trifle with Ellen Woolston's delicious English recipe.

Archie would occasionally say, "I want to be buried in my winter coat". I thought of that as I attended her funeral service on February 3, a blustery bitter cold winter day. What I saw was a lace shawl around her shoulders. I am sure that when she was welcomed in the loving arms of God, there was no need for a winter coat.

As I write this article on February 21, I remember it would have been her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

Rest in peace, my old friend. I will remember and I will miss you

# **Saint Matthew Lutheran Church Presents** Family Friday March 24 **@6pm** All are COME JOIN US TO SEE DISNEY'S LUCA 318 CHESTER AVE, MOORESTOWN, NJ 08057 FAMILIES@STMATTHEW-MORE INFO EMAIL: LUTHERAN.ORG

# Popcorn and Crafts will also be available

Parents of school aged children do not have to stay.

#### **CHRISTIAN LEARNING FORMATION**









ary! We learned two very important bible stories. The first was Daniel and Friends Eating veggies!

The other story was of Jesus feeding 5,000 with 5 fish and 2 loaves of bread! In order to show how we can Live the Love, our Chefs created Blessing Bags . Inside each decorated bag, chefs added fruit cups, crackers, cereal bars, tuna fish, and a bottle of water. We made over 30 bags! The bags were then distributed to those in need in Philadelphia by

Our Chefs were busy in January and Febru- Costatino, and in Trenton by Ms.Melissa.

Please join us on Sunday March 26, for Bible Sunday. Pastor will be giving out engraved the Good Stuff! As you can see in the picture, bibles to 3rd graders plus children's story bithe chefs did a wonderful job creating comic bles to those baptized during the pandemic strips of Daniel and his friends eating their (the tradition of giving it on the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the baptism has been broken, so trying to restart it). Please reach out to Costatino if you would like your child to receive a Bible.

> Sincerely, Melissa Feeney, CLF Chairperson

#### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to Ryan and Derek Coceano on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America.

The Coceano's were honored in a church-wide ceremony Sunday Feb 26. For their projects, Ryan constructed the compost bins located in the rear of the church property and Derek constructed our outdoor worship area and altar.





# **Blood Drive St. Matthew Lutheran Church**

Library 318 Chester Avenue Moorestown, NJ 08057

Friday, March 17, 2023 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

For an appointment please contact Denise (678) 654-9819 Or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: SMLCM



Come give in March and get a \$10 Visa Prepaid Card by email. PLUS, get a chance to win a \$3,000 Visa Prepaid Card to help with gas or grocery expenses! You could be one of five lucky winners. Lend an arm; we'll lend a hand. Terms apply: rcblood.org/help.



#### Donate blood during #RedCrossMonth!

Visit redcrossblood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS or download the Blood Donor App to schedule an appointment.

#### ADULT FORUM

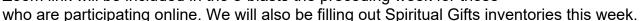


Adult Forum Schedule - 9:15 Sunday mornings

**March 5** Women's History Month: Hildegard of Bingen. Learn about this medieval visionary mystic, theologian, and pioneering composer. We will watch a video and have time for discussion.

**March 12 Eagle Scout Project**: Thomas Van Osten – Come hear about this Eagle Scout project to digitize some of St. Matthew's key records, and hear about some of the ways that you can support it.

March 19 Worship times and styles feedback – This will be an opportunity to discuss what the Sunday morning worship schedule should look like next fall. It is a time for both sharing thoughts but also listening, as wise decisions come from dialogue and hearing a variety of perspectives. This Adult Forum will be held in the sanctuary. A Zoom link will be included in the e-blasts the preceding week for those



**March 26** Worship times and styles feedback – This will be an opportunity to discuss what the Sunday morning worship schedule should look like next fall. It is a time for both sharing thoughts, but also listening, as wise decisions come from dialogue and hearing a variety of perspectives. This Adult Forum will be held in the library. We will also be filling out Spiritual Gifts inventories this week.



#### **ORDER YOUR EASTER FLOWERS**

We will again be ordering sanctuary flowers, for Easter, from Bart's Flowers in Delran. They truly add to the joy of the day and are a wonderful way to honor a loved one or friend.

Additionally, they can be planted in your garden to bring you a beautiful suprise next spring. Remember to take them home right after the service to be enjoyed and then planted.

# Please submit check, payable to St. Matthew Lutheran Church with order form; (mail to the Church Office). NOTE: Last day to order is March 28, 2023. Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_ Indicate the number of plants you wish to order: Tulip \$10\_\_\_\_\_ Daffodil \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ Lily \$10\_\_\_\_ In Thanksgiving for: In Honor of: In Memory of:

**ORDER YOUR EASTER FLOWERS** 







# open House



Saturday, March 25th, 2023

() 9:30AM - 11:30AM

0

318 Chester Ave, Moorestown, NJ 08057

#### THE BASICS

Structured Playgroup for children & parents/caregivers
Ages 12 months (as of 10/1/23) to 5 years old
September 2023 through June 2024
2.5 hour classes, one to two days per week
\$225 is the tuition for the first child for the entire year

#### **PLAYGROUP**

Structured and fun playgroup with the same group of friends each week.

Children are placed in classes based on close age ranges.

Take turns with the other parents in your playgroup to bring snack, plan a craft and pick a book to read during Circle Time related to the theme of the week!

Curriculum, craft supplies, books, toys, and gym equipment are provided.

Enjoy special field trips, in-house events, and playdate pop-ups throughout the year!

 $\bowtie$  familycircleplaygroup@yahoo.com  $\bigoplus$  familycircleplaygroup.com

#### **HONORS, THANK YOU NOTES & MISC**



#### **CONGRATULATIONS KAHRA BUSS**

Perkins Center for the Arts' Executive Director Kahra Buss has been named one of 2023's "Top CEOs" by South Jersey Biz Magazine.

In its January "Top CEOs and CFOs" issue, South Jersey Biz wrote:

"Buss possesses experience in public policy, private industry and government service, culminating in a 25-year career in nonprofit administration. In 2018, Buss became Perkins' executive director; since then, her list of accomplishments includes spearheading an infrastructural redesign of the organization, strengthening its financial foundation for the long term and facilitating an expansion of programs. Buss distills her leadership approach to two primary concepts: nurturing relationships and adopting a growth mindset.

Read the whole story online:

https://patch.com/new-jersey/moorestown/perkins-center-leader-named-top-ceo-business-magazine-nodx-20230216

#### **LOST AND FOUND**

Have you seen – A burgundy winter coat with a checked plaid lining. A member's coat went missing from the coat rack recently.

Are you missing – two light jackets and a Cub Scout cap are hanging on the coat rack near the library.

#### THANK YOU NOTES

#### **Catholic Charities**

On behalf of Providence House Domestic Violence Services, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your generous \$1000 donation. With more than 150 adults and children currently receiving services through our various programs, the need is critical. Your donation will go toward programs such as emergency shelter, counseling, legal advocacy and creative arts therapy for survivors and their families. It helps us to continue to provide a save haven for individuals and families in crisis.

#### Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge

Thank you for your contribution of \$150. Know that you are supporting the busiest Wildlife Rehabilitation Hospital in the tri-state region. Donations are absolutely critical to our success since we don't receive government funding. Your support will help maintain and grow Cedar Run's capacity as a high-impact resource for the community and our mission to preserve New Jersey's wildlife and habitats through education, conservation and rehabilitation.



		700	
March 1	3:30 p.m. GSA Troop 24796 (FH)	March 17	1-8 PM Red Cross Blood Drive
	7 p.m. BSA Troop 42 (Teen)	March 20	12-2, 5-7 Food Pantry Open
	7:30 PM Worship Prayer Service		7 PM Cong Council Meeting (Z)
	8:15 Time of Prayer & Bible Study	March 22	3:30 p.m. GSA Troop 24796 (FH)
March 2	1-3, 7-9 PM HOPE		7 PM Boy Scouts (Teen)
	6:30 PM GSA 27049		7:30 PM Worship Prayer Service
	7:15 PM Confirmation Class		8:15 Time of Prayer & Bible Study
March 6	12-2, 5-7 PM Food Pantry Open	March 23	7:15 PM Confirmation Class
	7 PM Ministry Night (Z)	March 29	3:30 p.m. GSA Troop 24796 (FH)
March 7	7 PM DEI AntiRacism (Z)		7 PM Boy Scouts (Teen)
March 8	9 AM Evangelism (Z)		7:30 PM Worship Prayer Service
	3:30 p.m. GSA Troop 24796 (FH)		8:15 Time of Prayer & Bible Study
	7 PM Boy Scouts (Teen)	March 30	6:30 PM GSA Troop 27049
	7:30 PM Worship Prayer Service		Regularly Scheduled
	8:15 Time of Prayer & Bible Study	Weekdays	FCP 9:15—3 PM (Edu Wing)
March 9	1-3, 7-9 PM HOPE	Monday	MMBSF 10:30 AM (Z)
	7 PM Lunch Bunch (Teen)		OA 7 PM (Library)
	7:15 PM Confirmation Class	Tuesday	Property Team 9 AM
March 13 1 PM Stephen Ministry (Lib)		Wednesday	OA 10 AM (Library
5 PM Executive Committee		Thursday	Tea & Talk 10:30 AM (Z)
March 14 6PM GSA Troop 20002			H.O.P.E. 1 PM, 7 PM (Lounge)
March 15 3:30 p.m. GSA Troop 24796 (FH) 7:30 PM Worship Prayer Service		Friday	Fogging 3 p.m. (masks required)
		Saturday	11 a.m. Meditation -11 <sup>th</sup> Step
8:15 Time of Prayer & Bible Study		•	12 p.m. New Life AA (FH)
March 16	· ·	Stay updated www.stmatthew-lutheran.org	
7:15PM Confirmation Class		Stay apaated www.sunaturew-idureran.org	

#### **CHURCH STAFF**

#### Pastor:

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#### **Administrative Assistant**

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Cantor: David D. Harp

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Sexton:

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#### **Family Ministries Coordinator**

Sostantino Spinosa 

□ Costantino Spinosa

families@stmatthew-lutheran.org

#### **HOW TO GIVE**

Did you know there are a number of ways to give to Saint Matthew Lutheran Church electronically? Visit our website or scan the QR code to explore your options.

www.stmatthew-lutheran.org





#### **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:**

The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with nearly 3.5 million members in more than 9,100 worshipping communities 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.