



The Messenger

Mission Statement:

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

November 2024

Vol. 13 Issue 9

A publication for your information.

Live the Love



St Matthew Lutheran Church held a groundbreaking on Sunday October 27 for its newest building addition, which will provide additional storage spaces for those preparing for services, and accessible family bathrooms adjacent to the church sanctuary on the same floor as several meeting rooms. The project is expected to be completed by the spring. Pictured (above from left) are Rev Eric J. Trozzo; Building Supervisor Max Frable; Property Chair Steve Cathcart; Church Council President Heather Lerch; and Architect David Barger. After a brief

prayer service by Pastor Trozzo, members of the congregation and visitors also had an opportunity to ceremonially shovel.

The new addition will provide St. Matthew with accessible family bathrooms adjacent to the church sanctuary on the same floor as several meeting rooms. The addition will also provide space for the those preparing the church for services. The project is expected to be completed in the spring.

See more photos on 2

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ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT UPDATE



Tom Cassel

The 5-Year Capital Appeal for St. Matthew's Accessibility Project has been tremendously successful in raising \$423,210 for this important project. This generous giving by some 58 members of our Congregation covers 95% of the Project's estimated cost, and greatly reduces the amount of the construction loan needed to proceed with the Project. Compared to previous capital appeals for facility improvements at St. Matthew, the amount raised for this Appeal more than doubles that of our prior appeal just a decade ago. The Construction Contract with M. Wilkinson Construction Company of Maple Shade was signed on September 26th. The arduous task of securing building permits is progressing and construction is expected to begin within a few weeks!

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 8:30 AM Worship with spoken liturgy
- 9:15 AM Adult Forum
- 9:30 Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Worship
- 11:30 AM Fellowship

OFFICE HOURS

Weekdays 9 a.m.—2 p.m.
856-235-2055

www.stmatthew-lutheran.org

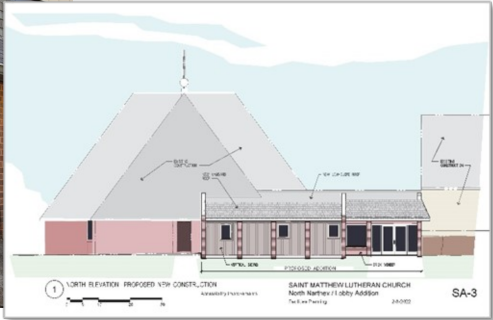
If you receive the voicemail when calling the office please leave a message. Calls will be returned promptly.

WORSHIP ONLINE

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THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Join us for the



New Jersey Farmers Against Hunger Annual Thanksgiving Packing Event



Every year, Farmers Against Hunger volunteers come together to pack upwards of 3,000 bags of mixed fall produce for a special Thanksgiving distribution.

*The bags are delivered to families in need across NJ just in time for the holiday, including our mission partner **Bridge of Peace Church in Camden, NJ***



***Friday, November 22nd
5 to 7:30 pm***

Join us for a pizza party afterwards!

*Land Stewardship Center at Laurel Run Park
173 Creek Road, Delran NJ 08075*

Please RSVP to: brianlestini@yahoo.com

There will be appropriate social distancing. If you prefer to wear a mask, PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN. Also, we recommend wearing warm layers and gloves because we may be packing outside, and please bring a reusable water bottle.



GREEN TEAM

It's hard to believe another fall season is upon us, and with its arrival we were excited to once again invite you to join St. Matthew Lutheran Church and our local mission partner, New Jersey Farmers Against Hunger, for the annual Thanksgiving Packing Event, which will be held on *Friday, November 22nd from 5-7:30 p.m.* (for those coming from work and school the start time is flexible, please try to arrive by 5:30 pm).

We will be packing farm-fresh produce for distribution to local families in need for the holiday, including the Bridge of Peace Church in Camden, NJ. This is a great service project for all ages, including families, seniors, those in need of com-

munity service hours, and confirm-ands/mentors.

Since the event will be held on Friday evening, we also invite all volunteers to stay for a pizza party afterwards. We recommend wearing warm layers and gloves because we will be packing outside, and please consider bringing a reusable beverage container.

Space is limited. Please rsvp to brianlestini@yahoo.com by November 10. Please include the names of participating and a contact number in case of any last-minute changes.

With all of your generous help we are hoping to get the momentum going this year on our annual Thanksgiving bag donation drive to help the Bridge of Peace Food Pantry in Camden.

If you are not able to shop for the listed items but still wish to participate, we will graciously accept monetary donations and get the shopping done for you. We also need reusable shopping bags for distribution of donations.

If you have any questions please contact Meghan Campbell.

Deadline: Nov 22

Delivery: Nov 23



Benefitting Bridge of Peace Food Pantry, Camden, NJ

For each basket we're collecting:

- \$25 Walmart gift card (for the turkey or other groceries)
- Boxed dry stuffing mix
- Boxed dry mashed potato mix
- 1lb bag of white rice
- Large can of sweet potatoes
- Turkey gravy (dry mix or canned)
- Cans of cranberry sauce
- Cans of peas
- Cans of corn
- Dinner mints
- Heat-N-Serve rolls.

Also, we're collecting reuseable grocery bags.

**Drop off groceries by
Friday Nov. 22.**

Food will be delivered
Saturday Nov. 23.

If you cannot grocery shop, but would like to participate, donations to the church for gift cards are accepted.

Contact: [Meghan Campbell](mailto:Meghan.Campbell@stmatthewlutheran.org)

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 318 Chester Ave Moorestown
856-235-2055



2024—2025 Council Officers

President
Heather Lerch

Vice President
Ethan Geehr

Secretary
Doreen Lawrence

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Tom Cassel

Memorial Fund

Kate Rauscher

Mutual Ministry

Ethan Geehr

MEND

Joel Boehmler



FROM PASTOR ERIC



Pastor Eric J. Trozzo

Patricia Myers	Nov 01
Joel Boehmler	Nov 01
Bradley Cassel	Nov 01
Benjamin Campbell	Nov 01
Grace Campbell	Nov 01
Richard Graybill	Nov 02
Robert Kerr	Nov 04
Valerie Armstead	Nov 04
Nancy Nieto	Nov 04
Heshim Thomas	Nov 04
Eloise Williams	Nov 07
Annie Nanko	Nov 07
Trish Radey	Nov 08
Brian Sena Sr	Nov 11
Karen Koch	Nov 12
Alexandra Kelly	Nov 13
Alice Graybill	Nov 14
Dennis Lawrence	Nov 16
Samantha Bansky	Nov 17
Lauren Holston	Nov 18
William Rulon	Nov 19
Nathaniel Milstead	Nov 19
Patricia Hall	Nov 20
Leisel Bower	Nov 20
Ray Civitella	Nov 21
Katie O'Connor	Nov 21
Carol Feliciano	Nov 23
Harrison Kutalek	Nov 23
Savannah Raue	Nov 23
Barbara Duffy	Nov 27
Meghan Campbell	Nov 27
Olivia Schwarz	Nov 27
Paul Otto	Nov 28
Thomas Bowen	Nov 28
David Peterson	Nov 30

As we enter November, much of the area around us is experiencing significant drought conditions. It has been very dry, with some areas nearby receiving virtually no rain since mid-August. Many plants are struggling and farms are certainly concerned about their usual preparations for the late harvest and winter cover crops. At the same time, we have some of the most beautiful and sustained fall foliage I can remember. Every day on my drive to church I have several moments of being astounded by the beauty of the many colored leaves. It is a gorgeous time, and it is a dangerously dry time. Both things are true.

Having faith that God is in the midst of the world and at work in it is to trust that reality has many layers. These layers may seem contradictory, but several different things can be true at once. God is present and yet the world is imperfect. God is one and at the same time loves the diversity of the world. We are sinners and we are saints. To see God at work in the world is to see multiple stories as simultaneously true reflections of a reality that is both a wonderful blessing and broken by sin. This is one of the truths that we are reminded of on All Saints Day on Nov. 1: all of us in Christ are saints because through him God makes us holy, while at the same time all of us are sinners who have brokenness in our lives. We are simultaneously saint and sinner. Both are true.

Early in November we will have an election. I have no idea what will come from it or what the results might end up being. One thing about the way American elections are run and politics are covered by the media is that there is a tendency to reduce things to a single story. The idea of two quite different aspects of reality both being true gets lost too easily. What I know as we head into this election is that the United States is a large and diverse country with many different stories and layers of reality. Some of them might seem conflicting but are simultaneously true. There is beauty and there are dangerously dry aspects that co-exist in the same spaces at the same time. Being aware of these layers can help us connect with one another more effectively and be more empathetic with one another, no matter what the single story we hear might be. Whatever happens, there are dangerous tendencies within our world AND God is at work bringing love and creative resolution. Both of these things are true. The world is God's good creation and it is broken. We are saints and we are sinners. Human society is beautiful and inflicts suffering. In faith, we can recognize in all of this that God is actively present and empowering us to work to witness to the many ways that divine love brings creative transformation to the world in its multiple stories, bringing life out of death and hope out of despair.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Contemplative Prayer

Join in time to learn more about contemplative prayer and experience being open to receiving God in a few moments of stillness. Pastor Eric leads a monthly contemplative prayer group the 3rd Wednesday of each month. It is held in the church library and can also be accessed by Zoom. This month it will be on Nov. 20 at 3 PM. The zoom link will be in the Sunday bulletin the weekend prior and in our Tuesday e-blast.

Non-Activity Night

Schedule some sabbath time into your busy schedule. Plan to come to the Non-Activity Night on Nov. 25 from 6:30-8:00. There are no plans, just time to talk, read, do a puzzle, or other quiet non-electronic activity. If you cannot stay for the whole time, that is fine. Join as you are able.

Confirmation Class

The confirmation class for November is on Sunday, Nov. 17 from 4:00-6:00. Middle school youth are encouraged to attend.

November Adult Forum Schedule

The Adult Forum is held from 9:15-10:15 on Sunday mornings in the church library and can be accessed through Zoom. All are welcome to join as you are able. The Zoom link is included in the Friday e-blast or you can contact the office.

Nov. 3 – Bible Study on the book of Ruth. This is the fourth and final week of this study. Those who have not attended previously are welcome to join.

Nov. 10 – Funeral Pre-Planning. No matter what age you are, it is helpful to have advanced planning for your funeral on file at the church. It allows your wishes to be heard. Join Pastor Eric to understand what is included in planning a funeral and have the opportunity to consider what you might want. You will be able to turn your plan in to the office to be kept on file.

Nov. 17 – Legacy Letters. Legacy letters are a way to share parts of your life story and the values and life lessons you'd like to preserve for future generations. These letters can be used with your legal documents, estate planning or to help organize the future of your charitable giving. They can be shared with loved ones now, once recorded or written, or distributed after you pass away. Join Mary vanOsten to learn about how to write these letters.

Nov. 24 - TBD



FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

Looking for faith-based activities for your young children? We distribute a children's bulletin each Friday in our eblast. If you need a few activities to do at home or while traveling over the holidays, we can send you several weeks of Children's Bulletins and activity sheets. Contact the office.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Minister of Music

Dr. Sarah England Baab

This month we welcome our new Minister of Music Dr. Sarah England Baab, who has diverse experience in music education and a passion for using music to connect people with one another and the Lord. She is a historical musicologist specializing in American music.

Sarah earned her bachelor's degree in Music Performance from West Chester University; and her master's degree from the University of Maryland College Park. She spent years in a diverse number of settings, working with students of all ages, teaching private piano and voice lessons. As well, she's taught courses in music at University of Maryland College Park, University of Maryland Baltimore College, and Towson University and is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Rowan University and the University of Delaware. Prior to joining St Matthew, she served as Music Director at Kemble Memorial United Methodist Church in Woodbury, which she joined some six years ago as the church was preparing for its 130th anniversary celebration.

She is a member of the American Musicological Society; the Society of American Music; and the Society of Ethnomusicology.

In pursuing her Doctorate degree at the University of Maryland, Sarah conducted research focusing on the intersections of race, gender, and politics in popular music of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Her doctorate dissertation explored the life and works of Golden Age songwriter Harold Arlen as a lens through which to better understand complex narratives surrounding Tin Pan Alley and race.



Arlen (1905-1986) was the beloved American songwriter best known for composing the songs for "*The Wizard of Oz*", "*Get Happy*", and "*Stormy Weather*". In 1944 he and E.Y. Harberg composed the Broadway musical "*Bloomer Girl*", based on an unpublished play by writer Daniel Lewis James and his wife Lilith. The play centers around the time of the American Civil War and focuses on the highly independent daughter of a hoop skirt manufacturer, Evelina Applegate, who defies her father's orders in favor of the more comfortable bloomers (i.e. pants) advocated by her aunt Dolly, who was herself inspired by women's rights advocate Amelia Bloomer.

Sarah is currently building off her graduate work and writing more about the *Bloomer Girl*.

"In society at the time, women were wearing these gigantic hoops. The musical was performed on the eve of World War II, so there was a lot of political commentary, because the musical was set in the 1800s," Sarah said.

Her writing discusses the connection between that particular musical and the legacy of the minstrel show. *Bloomer Girl* includes a scene with a performance of Uncle Tom's cabin and there is a musical setting of it in *The King and I*. "So I actually just wrote about both of those musical settings and how they relate to the minstrel show setting."

Continue on pg 8



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Originally, Sarah planned to study chant in graduate school. She was interested in the medieval period, and had hoped to do work in French material and in works done at the turn of the 20th century. She chose the University of Maryland because of two professors who have unique expertise in chant.

“One of things about the University of Maryland at College Park is you have access to so many great American music archives, because of your proximity to Washington DC. Because I had so much access to many great archive materials, in particular the Library of Congress. A faculty member suggested I look for bodies of work available locally. This member said, ‘There are so many good resources in American music. Would you like to do a master’s project that has something to do with American music?’ “

“I started to look within American music. I always loved *The Wizard of Oz* and had recently picked up a biography on Harold Arlen and was reading more about *Bloomer Girl*. I thought it was such a provocative, progressive work for the time. His musical style was so interesting, because it was so disparate from what other people were writing at the time. His voice is very different from, say, Rogers and Hammerstein, for example. So, I got into American music incidentally. Then it became my passion.”

In continuing her work, Sarah spends time in American musical theater and conducts research at the Library of Congress; New York Public Library Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives; and Yale University Archives.

“As a music historian, one of the things that is of interest to me is the way our worship practices have changed with regard to music over time,” Sarah said. “Over time and, of course, as the church has proliferated down into many different denominations you see different approaches to worship and how they all speak to the moment in time. It interests me. I think having the historic purview of how music has been

used in worship in so many historic settings historically forms how I approach and select music for worship.”

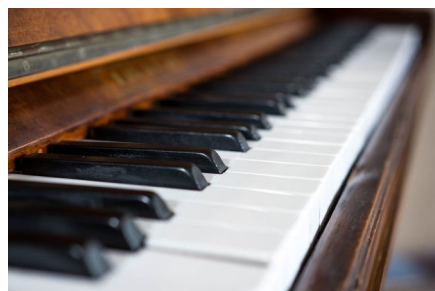
Sarah began her life in music in the church.

“I was singing at home, and in the choir at school. I was very upset, because it was the only class I was getting a B grade in, because I was not singing out. My parents were frustrated, because I was singing so much at home. They had a Charlotte Church CD at the time that I loved. She was my idol. My parents put me in the church choir to encourage me to sing more. I grew up being the only kid in our church choir. Our church did not have a children’s choir. So, I started singing with the adults.

“It was just amazing. I feel like the ladies of the church choir encouraged me and took care of me. Our music director was fabulous. Because I lived in northern New Jersey we had musicians come out from New York. For a while we had some section leaders who came from The Julliard School. So I got to work with really great musicians at the church.”

As a teenager Sarah participated in a pilgrimage to Europe where she sang at the Vatican, Notre Dame, and in several places in Germany while attending a World Youth Day event. “I got to sing in all these different places and I felt like the church choir and singing to God opened me up.”

Sarah lives in Cherry Hill with her husband and four children. She is a published author, loves cooking and art, particularly Impressionist painters.





Thanksgiving Greetings from CLF!

The Christian Learning and Formation Ministry is excited of our plans for the upcoming month!

Confirmation classes will be held 4:00-6:00 p.m. on November 17th and December 15th.

In Adult Forum, presentations are planned on funeral preplanning Nov 10 and legacy letters on Nov 17.

Our Christmas Pageant will be here before we know it! We want parents and children to be part of the planning process. If your child(ren) would like to be a part of the presentation this year, or you have any ideas for this presentation. please contact Costantino Spinosa: families@stmatthew-lutheran.org

Also on the horizon is our commitment to the Oaks Integrated Care Holiday Gift drive. For the past few years, our Sunday School students have decorated the wishlist tree tags, and we always have a great time doing so! This year, we will decorate the tags in the Sunday School hour on November 17th.

We have been enjoying this years' Sunday School theme Knights of the North Castle. Each Sunday, teachers work with our kiddos to "take up the gauntlet" and accept the challenge to "armor up" and be strong by remaining with God and sharing God's love to the world! In October, we focused on the "Belt of Truth", and in November, we will focus on the "Breastplate of Justice".

CLF would like to remind everyone that this year, the Sunday School offerings will be allocated to supporting the creation of a *Little Library Book Exchange* on SMLC property for the community to enjoy. The kiddos were very excited about supporting this project, and we encourage parents and kiddos alike to bring in your change to fill our change jug!

FCC is planning an Advent Family Night for December 8th. Be on the look out for more information. We hope to see our families there!

May God Bless you and your family,

Melissa Feeney

CLF Chairperson





FELLOWSHIP & CONGREGATIONAL CARE



Submitted by Karen Widin and Peggy Marks



Notes from FCC for November

Looking back for a moment:

On Saturday October 19th 54 hungry folks descended on the *Best of the Wurst* Restaurant in Riverside for an evening of yummy German food and music. Enjoy the terrific pictures that Mary VanOsten took for us. Hope even more will come next year!



Looking forward now:

Advent Family Craft Night

Sunday December 8th from 4-6 we will be having a fun afternoon of making Advent/Christmas crafts in the Fellowship Hall. Along with some yummy snacks and music we will create gifts to give or to keep!! Need something special for a friend or family member—we have that for you. Cost will be a free will offering. plates of Christmas cookies welcomed with open arms.

There will be samples out in the Narthex by mid-November. For any questions please ask Peggy Marks or Jana Frable

Little info on a current activities:

The Needlers—aka the knitting and crochet groups meets on the third Wednesday of the month in the Shockey Lounge at 10:00 to chat and knit and crochet! Right now we are working on hats and scarfs for Christmas gifts for the Seafarers International. Celeste Chamberlain has patterns available for you!!

Tea and Talk:

This is a zoom gathering that was started by Karen Widin in the beginning of COVID to provide a means for folks to get together safely and chat and drink tea if they wanted. We meet every Thursday at 10:30a.m. and stop at 11:30 a.m.



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS MINISTRY

A new ministry is being formed to send greeting cards to members for their birthday. Led by Marian Duda and Andrew Delany, the ministry will initially send out cards to members over 60 years of age. For years, Delany has managed a similar ministry at another church and is well organized.

How you can participate

If you'd like to join this ministry, you can help us in several ways. We're looking for people who would love to send out cards. A few minutes of our time will have a positive impact on others. With more participation we can mail out more cards, thus extending the intentions of love and connectiveness within the membership, just as The Caring Board does.



Do you have spare birthday cards, blank cards, or card-size envelopes you'd like to downsize, such as those packs that come in fundraising mailers? Are you a scrapbooker, artist or photographer, who can lend your talents to this group? This is a good ministry to utilize your creative talents in ways to serve. Cards can be dropped over in the narthex.

For questions, please contact Andrew Delany or Marian Duda.



POINSETTIA SALES

2 OPTIONS FOR YOUR HOLIDAYS

St. Matthew Lutheran Church Flower Sale For the sanctuary

Our St. Matthew Lutheran Church flower sale will get underway by mid-month to allow members to order flowers to beautify the sanctuary at Christmas. As well, you dedications will be printed in the Christmas Bulletins. The plants, provided by Huffman Farms & Greenhouses, cost \$18 each. The deadline is Dec 15. See order forms in the narthex and links in the e-blasts.

BSA Troop 42's Winter Flower Sale Returns

The church-sponsored Boy Scout troop, Troop 42, is once again hosting its winter flower sale, which will be delivered to your home. Items being sold include poinsettias and wreaths. [Using the online ordering link, https://bitly/troop42winter](https://bitly/troop42winter), is the best way to ensure your order is accounted for. The deadline to order is Sunday, November 17. Delivery is expected on or around Saturday, December 7. Payment can be made upon ordering (if ordering in person) or at time of delivery, either by cash or check made out to Troop 42. The scouts plan to have a table set up to order after the 10:30 a.m. worship service this month. Order forms are on the table in the narthex.



Contact [Harrison Kutalek](#) with questions or assistance ordering.



SUNDAYS
8:30 AM Worship
with spoken liturgy
9:15 AM Adult Forum
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship
11:30 AM Fellowship

Worship Assistant Schedules - Are available on our website & copies are by the church office door.

Readings - Monthly readings are available each week in the Taking Faith Home & Friday's e-blast.



Regularly Scheduled Events

Check out our online calendar for additional meeting dates and times. Other meeting announcements and dates are also included in our weekly e-blasts:

<https://stmatthew-lutheran.org/calendar/>
(right column)

Weekdays	9:15—3 PM FCP (Edu)
Monday	10:30 AM MMBSF (Z) 7 PM OA (Library)
Tuesday	9 AM Property Team 9 AM
Wednesday	10 AM OA (Library)
Thursday	10:30 AM Tea & Talk (Z) 1 PM & 7 PM H.O.P.E.
Saturday	11 AM Meditation -11 th Step 12 PM New Life AA (FH)

HURRICANES HIT THE SOUTHEAST

All gifts matched up to \$125,000

Your gifts will rush 2X the relief to families in the path of Hurricanes Milton and Helene.

lwr.org/hurricane-match

Thank you for sharing God's love with your neighbors when and where they need it most.



CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Eric Trozzo 856.235.2055 Ext. 2
 pastor@stmatthew-lutheran.org

Administrative Assistant

Mary VanOsten 856.235.2055 Ext. 1
 stmatthew@stmatthew-lutheran.org

Minister of Music: Dr Sarah England Baab

music@stmatthewlutheran.org

Sexton:

Dave Rulon 856.235.2055 Ext. 1

Family Ministries Coordinator

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.