

**Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Vacation Bible School**

Discovery Canyon

July 12 - 16

6:00 - 8:30 pm

Ages Pre-K to 4th Grade

(grade in school in September)

**Come join us for a week of
Gully Games, Cavern Crafts, Shadow Science
Sagebrush Storytelling and Red Rock Rhythm**

Bring a friend and plan on having a great time!

**Registration forms available in the church office
or on-line at**

<http://toolkit.thevbsplace.org/SaintMatthewMoorestownNJ>

**For more information, contact the Church Office
856-235-2055, Ext. 1**

CAPITAL APPEAL UPDATE

June 30th marks the end of the first year of Saint Matthew's 3-year Capital Appeal. Of \$161,000 pledged to the Appeal by our members, \$57,260 (about 35%) had been given by the end of May 2009. These funds have allowed us to:

- Pay off the 2007 Current & Benevolence ("C&B") budget deficit (\$9,963);
- Supplement last year's 2008 C&B budget (\$13,627);
- Make on-going monthly payments on the church property mortgage (\$1,600/mo);
- Make installment payments on our \$18,000 pledge to the building campaign of the Lutheran Theological Seminary of Philadelphia;
- Make installment payments on the new telephone system in the church office (\$5,366 of the \$9,742 total cost had been paid by the end of May) and
- Make on-going monthly donations to support our sister congregation, Bridge of Peace, in Camden (\$500/month).

Included as a non-discretionary item in the Capital Appeal is replacement of the roof over the oldest section of our Church building (the "gym"). The Property Committee has recently requested bid proposals for this work from local roofing contractors. The work is planned for later this summer or fall and is expected to cost about \$15,000. As of the end of May, there was a surplus of \$5,404 in the Capital Appeal account, i.e., about one-third of the amount needed to fund the upcoming roof repairs.

In July all members who have pledged to the Capital Appeal will be sent pledge status reports which will show amounts given to the Appeal during its first year. If you pledged to the Appeal, please check to see if your giving is up to date. If you have not yet pledged to the Appeal, it is never too late to do so. Pledge cards are available from Kim Bohley in the church office. The Appeal runs through June 2011. When including donations in your offering envelope, remember to write the amount separately on the "Capital Appeal" line.

Don't forget to keep your financial contributions up to date during the summer. The church does not go on vacation!

Council Corner: Presidential Ponderings

By Max Frable AIA, President (retired???)

“Summer time, and the livin’ is easy...”
Gone Fishin’ (for a new “Vishin”)

Normally, I used this space as a conduit from congregational leaders to highlight key events and emphasize news that is noteworthy. With the sun setting on my tenure as your president, however, I’d like to muse nostalgically this time. (Thank you for your patience as I ramble.)

Lookin’ Back:

Four years ago, shortly after hurricane Katrina, this newly-minted vice president was asked to fill in for the absent president and lead a (one) Council meeting. Don Wright had been called – literally and spiritually – by his employer to coordinate distribution and installation of temporary housing (the infamous FEMA trailers) for thousands of Gulf residents displaced by that devastating storm. While not a permanent assignment, it quickly became clear he would be there for a long time. “We still miss you Don!” (And you still owe me “one” – but who’s keeping score?)

As I mentioned in my final *Report of the Congregation Council* for the recent semi-annual congregation meeting, I feel quite privileged to have had a front-row seat for what I consider to have been a **substantial transition over the last half-decade**. Please allow me to list some evidence...

- We celebrated his retirement with our previous pastor.
- We carefully conducted a **call process** which included honest and thorough introspection and evaluation of the congregation’s attributes and needs; our **Mission Statement** resulted from that.
- We called our **new Pastor**. Praise be to God for Ingrid! We hired a **new Cantor** who has advanced our tradition of superior music and worship leadership and continues to expand our repertoire. “We love you, Dave.” (despite being a Broncos fan)
- We created the beautiful **Garden of Remembrance**, which is used for so much more than a final resting place.
- We shifted our **Stewardship focus** from budget-driven fund raising to faith-based, first-fruits, percentage giving – both individually and corporately. (Nearly one quarter of all of SMLC’s receipts is distributed as benevolence to serve our community and beyond.)
- We deepened the mutually-beneficial friendship with our sister congregation, **Bridge of Peace** in Camden. We’ve embarked on a comprehensive 3-year capital campaign - during tough economic times- that has proved to be a challenge for which we are ready and which reflects our priorities.
- Our physical **campus** (buildings and grounds) seems to be experiencing unprecedented volume of use between Sundays. (Although this occasionally results in scheduling headaches, it is a joy to know our facilities are not sitting empty most of the week!)

Perhaps less obviously, there has also been transition “behind the scenes” regarding the **Council** and related **administrative** topics.

- The **Executive Committee** has been rejuvenated and is now an effective and integral component of congregational leadership. It meets monthly to generate the agenda for council meetings. Custom workshops for the council and the congregation are planned and led by the Executive Committee based on identified needs and new directions.

- **Council meetings** are much more efficient. Having previously extended past 11 pm on a regular basis, they now usually end before 9:30 pm – while still conducting all necessary business between devotions and prayer.
- A new Bylaw created the **Liaison** option, which gives congregation leaders the flexibility to accept a council position without requiring them to also be responsible for chairing a Ministry. (Half of council members currently employ this option, which has proved to be an effective alternative and ensures the highest quality of leadership.)
- Council membership is very **diverse**. Some measure their SMLC membership in months; others in decades. Some have been Lutherans their entire life; many have experienced other denominations; and some have only recently become active in the church. It truly is a blessing to have such a mixture of perspectives and fresh viewpoints.
- Council has begun selecting an annual **Special Emphasis** which provides a theme for the year shared amongst staff, ministry teams, pastor and the congregation. (last year: *Witness*; next year: *Grace*)
- Our staff, which too often is taken for granted, seems to appreciate the re-energized **Mutual Ministry** efforts as well as the focus on multi-directional support (Council-Staff-Congregation). The vice president's primary responsibility now is to chair the MM team, which has strengthened staff's connection to council. ("Kudos, Faith.")
- On a personal note, I have enjoyed our discussions during Executive Committee and Council meetings. As most of you know, I often try to inject a bit of levity...sometimes to break the tension, but mostly just because I like to laugh. Thank you for tolerating my sense of humor.

Lookin' Ahead: Fishin' for a new "Vishin"

Since I would argue it is beneficial (even essential) to stretch our comfort zone by welcoming new opportunities and challenges, I'm pleased to share with you **an exciting new project**. Your council has recently completed the first phase of a *Visioning* process which has identified some new challenges for this congregation.

Led by **Jerry Nugent**, the CEO & President of LSM/NJ (Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ), we have met on five different occasions and devoted more than twelve hours to intense discussions ranging from the history of SMLC, special attributes of SMLC, and aspects we'd like to change (both positive and negative).

Special note: This effort was assisted greatly by and relied heavily upon the results of previous workshops (including the one led by Nancé Carlson a couple years ago) as well as the congregation profile generated during the recent Call process.

The results of these efforts are...

- commitment by Council to continue this *Visioning* process by encouraging the congregation, staff and ministry teams to join the effort
- identification of key attributes and targeting a few for change
- a list of challenges for SMLC called "Strategic Directives" (see next page for details)

A Few Challenges for the Congregation of Saint Matthew is a description of where we are and where we'd like to be in 3-5 years, regarding the first three attributes targeted for change. This list is certainly not meant to be comprehensive, nor is it intended to insinuate these aspects are the most important or only areas that deserve our attention. It is simply a few challenges on which the congregation is encouraged to focus during the coming years.

What's the next step?

Well, I thought I'd be able to hang up the *Gone Fishin'* sign as soon as my replacement was elected. ("Best wishes, Bill Acheson.") Turns out there are *other fish to fry*. During the June meeting, Council invited me to head-up this *Visioning* effort, and I accepted their challenge. Thankfully, Jerry Nugent has offered to continue sharing his special talent by assisting us through subsequent phases. It is not clear exactly what the process will be or where it will lead, but we do know it will require cooperative effort from all. I welcome all comments, questions, suggestions, and – especially – volunteers. With that in mind I envision a small, diverse group of people especially interested in developing creative ways to meet these challenges. **If you fit that description, please let me know.** (I already have a couple names.) We will work closely with council, staff and all ministry teams to develop specific goals for each Strategic Directive. All I can promise is that it will not be boring.

A Few Challenges for the Congregation of Saint Matthew (as proposed by Council in June 2009)

Strategic Directives: 2009-2014

1. WORSHIP

Current Situation: Although many believe high-quality worship services are one of this congregation's key attributes, many in the SMLC community do not seem to value regular worship as an essential component of life. We acknowledge "times have changed" dramatically since SMLC was founded nearly 60 years ago; one example of today's new reality is the quantity and variety of all activities that compete for our time, including the time we devote to sharing Word and Sacrament.

Situation in 3-5 years: The congregation will have a more thorough comprehension of the Lutheran traditions, purposes and benefits of regular worship, which will be a significant element in each of our lives.

2. GRACE-CENTERED GOSPEL (Lutheran Identity)

Current Situation: What does it mean to be Lutheran? Some may understand; many may not. How do we share the unique Lutheran (grace-centered) perspective of the Good News if we do not have a firm appreciation of it ourselves?

Situation in 3-5 years: The congregation will better understand the distinction of a grace-centered gospel that is at the heart of Lutheran identity.

3. SERVICE & ADVOCACY

Current Situation: SMLC does a good job of supporting numerous service activities, and we place a high value on service. We also react generously to spontaneous critical needs, but we could be more proactive, have broader congregational participation and be more involved in advocacy.

Situation in 3-5 years: The congregation will participate more broadly (both members and activities). We will seek-out the needs of our neighbors, our region, our country, and our world...and address them through advocacy and service as appropriate.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS ELECTED

At the semi-annual meeting held on May 31, the congregation unanimously elected six members to the Congregation Council. New to the council are **Mike Barbaccio**, **Bill Grosspeter**, **Nancy Nugent** and **Brian Slaugh**. Incumbents re-elected are **Chris Cassel** and **Jack Horton**. Brief biographical information follows.

Mike Barbaccio, a Maple Shade native, lives in Moorestown with his wife Nancy and joined Saint Matthew Church in 2006. He is a graduate of Camden Catholic High School and has an electronics certificate from Lincoln Tech. He has been employed by L-3 Communications in Camden for the past 30 years, holding various positions from cleaner to his current position as Quality Control Engineer. (Most people would know this company as the old RCA.) He has been active on the Evangelism Ministry where he helped with the KYW advertising campaign last December; the Kiddie Carnival in 2008 and the Saint Matthew booth at the recent Moorestown Day. He is an avid Phillies and Eagles fan and enjoys music.

Bill Grosspeter was born and raised in Staten Island, NY and attended Port Richmond High School. After serving in the U.S. Navy, he began his career in international banking in 1963 at the Chase Manhattan Bank in New York. In 1967 he was hired by Philadelphia National Bank (Corestates First Union and Wachovia) until he retired in 2004. While working for PNB he received an Associate Degree in Business from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He and his wife Laurie were married in 1989 and had been active at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Haddonfield and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Hainesport before joining Saint Matthew Church in 2008. He believes that joining Saint Matthew was the best move he ever made because "our church practices what it preaches. It is a warm, welcoming and friendly place to be."

Nancy Nugent is a native of central California and attended Seattle Pacific University in Seattle, WA where she met her husband Jerry. They were married shortly after their junior year. She received a BA in Speech/Elementary Education and eventually, an MS in Speech Pathology. She and Jerry have moved many times during the years - from Seattle to Denver, then Chicago (where Jerry received his Master of Divinity degree), Iowa (Jerry's first pastorate), California, Minnesota, South Dakota and most recently to New Jersey. During those years they had two children, Emily and Adam (both now grown and living in different states). Nancy worked as an administrative secretary, a church secretary and a church financial secretary. She also helped as a volunteer in beginning a church nursery, helping in choir musicals, leading a musical worship team, helping with VBS, teaching Sunday school, helping with a midweek children's night and serving as chairman of a Christian Education Commission. She feels that God led them to New Jersey and to her husband's position as President/CEO of Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey. She says she is "willing to help in any way I can." They live in Lumberton, began attending Saint Matthew last year and became official members earlier this year.

Brian Slaugh is completing a term vacated by his son Ben who will be going off to college this fall. He is a native of Lancaster, PA where his home church was also named Saint Matthew. He came to New Jersey in 1982 to pursue a master's degree in city and regional planning after which he worked for a number of municipalities and consultants. He is currently a partner in Clarke Caton Hintz, a Trenton based planning and architecture firm, perhaps best known in these parts for designing the Riversharks' stadium in Camden. He transferred to Saint Matthew in 1989 from University Lutheran Church in Philadelphia. He has previously served on the Congregation

Council, taught Sunday school for ten years, has been an usher and was on the Long Range Planning Committee. He is a communion assistant and a reader in worship services. He says he is the unofficial liaison with Bridge of Peace Community Church in Camden where his wife, The Rev. Giselle Coutinho, is the pastor. In addition to their son Ben, they have a daughter Adrielle who is a student at Pratt Institute. He lives in Moorestown where he says he “indulges in house projects and reading.”

Jack Horton transferred to Saint Matthew in 1991 from Bethany Lutheran Church, Palmyra, where he had been a member for twenty-three years and had served on the church council for thirteen years. At Saint Matthew he has been a volunteer on a counting team and the Christian Education Ministry. He is a reader and a communion assistant and assists in auditing the financial records. He was on the Congregation Council for four years and was Vice President (when the Pastor was President) for two of those years. He has just completed a three-year term on the council, serving as chair of the Evangelism Ministry. He graduated from BCC and Cabrini College and was a production supervisor at OKIDATA in Mt. Laurel. He married Lorraine Whitman in 2006 and they live in Mt Laurel. He is active in ballroom dancing and can be seen on a television commercial for Deborah Hospital.

Christine Cassel “grew up” in the Lutheran church, (daughter of a Lutheran pastor), attended Gettysburg College and has been a member of Saint Matthew Church for more than twenty years. She received a Master’s degree from Shippensburg University and a Reading Certification from Rider University. She is an adjunct at Rider where she teaches college reading and tutors in the Student Success Center. She served on the church staff from 1991 until 1998 as Director of Christian Education. She has volunteered in many capacities, including Sunday school teacher and director, confirmation mentor and as a member of the Garden of Remembrance Committee. She is currently on the Altar Guild and has just completed a three-year term on the council as chair of the Worship and Music Ministry. Chris is an active member of the Moorestown Garden Club and sings in the West Jersey Master Chorale. She and her husband Tom (our church treasurer) live in Moorestown a couple blocks from the church. They have three sons, Joe, Brad and Tommy.

Appointed to the council were **Gianna Rosati**, Youth Representative and **David Naylor**, Alternate Youth Representative. Information about them will be in a later *Messenger*.

Much appreciation goes to **Barry Grahn** and who completed their terms on the council. They have worked faithfully to accomplish many things to help Saint Matthew Church. Nina will continue to serve as Director of the Sunday Church School. We also appreciate the efforts of **Ray Kuhn** who has been the Financial Secretary for many years. Additional thanks to youth on council, **Ben Slauch** and **Olivia Thomas** who will be going off to college this fall.

Special thanks also to **Max Frable** for serving as President for four years and for leading the congregation into some new ventures in faith. His “swan song” can be found elsewhere in this *Messenger*. He will continue on the council in a new capacity as chair of Vision-Strategic Directives.

Other business at the meeting included the presentation of reports from the church staff and the various ministries in the congregation. Extra copies of the reports are available in the church office.

Parson To Person

On Your Mark, Get Set...Come! Evangelism 101

How Does Evangelism Happen?

This is my fifth and final article in the series about evangelism. The first articles dealt with what evangelism *is* with help from the gospel of Mark (On Your Mark); *why* evangelism happens and why the Lutheran understanding of it is different than the U.S. “neo-evangelical” understanding (Get Set); and now we come to the question “*how* does evangelism happen? (Come!)”

When seeking obvious evangelism examples, images may come to mind of people with tracts going door to door, or one person asking another “are you saved?” Anything less assertive is considered, by some Christians, to be luke-warm. However, those images come out of the American, Reformed tradition, and carry the understanding of salvation that places our acceptance, action (e.g., if you say a particular statement, you will be saved), or belief as the lynchpin. The way to do evangelism in this tradition, is to get somebody to accept, say something, or believe so that they can be saved. Ironically, this has the same question at heart as medieval Roman Catholicism in that the question becomes what “state” you’re in – a state of grace/salvation or a state of sin/condemnation.

The Lutheran tradition, on the other hand, carries the understanding that God’s salvation is completely free, not based on what we do, say or accept. God’s salvation in Christ comes through the external means of grace. That is, salvation comes through the Word (Christ, scripture and words preached, spoken and sung based on scripture) and the Sacraments (those things Christ commanded us to do that have earthly elements and promises attached to them). The question here is “How much does God love and forgive us?” We are never in a “state” of salvation – we always experience life as sinner *and* saint, believer *and* unbeliever.

We share our faith, not to save people (only God holds that job!), not with the goal of converting them, or getting them to believe something. Rather, we are, as D. T. Niles put it, “One beggar telling another beggar where to get food.” This means that if somebody “has ears” (Jesus words for people who need to hear something), we can share our words about God with them, but that won’t be enough (unless we plan to be their personal Christian life coach), so we point them to scripture, but that won’t be enough because much of it is very difficult to interpret without help and experience, and so, we do those two things and then point them to the assembly of believers – to whom Christ has promised to come to forgive, heal, and give salvation through the Word and Sacraments.

In the end, evangelism points to the community of believers, and it’s really as simple as Philip’s words to Nathanael “Come and see.”

Pastor Wert

. . . from the Parish Coordinator

“Taking AIM” at hunger ~ Wrap-Up

I thought it might be worthwhile to briefly review what we’ve learned in the last few months regarding this chronic situation and the opportunities which present themselves to us:

The Lunch Bunch, (a ministry that provides a full lunch, once a month, to the homeless patrons of the New Visions Center in Camden, NJ) is still a much needed and viable ministry. Thanks be to God for the 50+ OWLS and their generous financial donation – and to all who assist in any way with this ministry.

We’re reminded of the food collection shelves in our narthex, which support our sister congregation, Bridge of Peace, Camden with their food pantry. Many of you have begun the weekly habit of bringing a few items of non-perishable food as you come for worship. Even one small box or can makes a difference. Because of the Holy Spirit’s encouragement, we’ve been able to increase the number of food deliveries to B.O.P. AND, now that summer is here the need for food is that much greater due to the absence of school food programs. Thanks be to God for your generosity.

We learned the many and unique ways the ELCA World Hunger Appeal uses your donated quarters: one or two quarters provides food for babies; four quarters gives daily bread to an orphan; forty quarters allows for the planting of soil-saving trees; and four hundred quarters enables students in Mozambique to plant and tend cashew trees in their school garden.

And let us not forget Angel Food Ministries, where one can purchase a medium-sized box of fresh and frozen food, enough to feed an average family of four for a week for \$30.00, which would usually cost an average \$60.00 or more in the retail market.

As I write this, my mind wanders to the TV commercials which illustrate those desperately hungry children in countries far away...and I’m jolted back to the reality that people are hungry right here in our own communities and neighborhoods. As we contemplate and plan our summer getaways and vacations...the cruel reality remains - HUNGER NEVER TAKES A VACATION. Please prayerfully consider how you, with God’s help, can make a difference in this ever constant battle against hunger.

God’s peace to you,

W. A. Lawrence, Parish Coordinator

New Members Classes Scheduled in July

Classes for those wishing to become members of Saint Matthew Church are scheduled for July 5, 12, 19 and 26 immediately following the 9:30 Service. The classes of July 12 - “Worship in the ELW” - and July 19 - “Lutheran Theology” are open to anyone in the congregation and to visitors. New members will be received at the worship service on July 26.

The office will be closed on Friday, July 3, for the Independence Day holiday. Have a safe and happy 4th of July!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

The following youth in our congregation graduated from local high schools in June. We congratulate them and wish them well as they continue on their journey.

Moorestown High School

Alexandra Borris

Michael Gadomski (with Highest Honors)

Kendall Jackson (with High Honors)

Tyler Lukridge

Benjamin Slaugh

Rachael Steele

Alexandra Villani

Delran High School

Tom Grieco

Rancocas Valley High School

Olivia Thomas

Additional congratulations to **Michael Gadomski** and **Kendall Jackson** who were named Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars. This award was named for the seventeenth President of Rutgers who was deeply committed to the central role of undergraduate education within a research university, the university's responsibility to encourage participation in public service and to the value of merit-based scholarships to recognize, support and promote academic excellence.

Michael Gadomski also received a PACE scholarship. **Alexandra Villani** received a Moorestown High School Alumni Scholarship and a Business Achievement Award.

If we have missed a graduate, please notify the church office.

Scholarships Presented from the Memorial Fund

On Sunday, June 14, scholarships totaling \$2400 from the Saint Matthew Memorial Fund were presented to the following eleven of our Saint Matthew youth.

Shane Clark, sophomore in Environmental Science at BCC.

Bill Killion, junior in Political Science at American University

Charles Lange, senior in Political Science at St. Mary's College

Kenny Palmer, senior in Mechanical Engineering at Drexel

Andrew Steele, senior in Sociology at Wittenburg College

Rachael Steele, freshman in Liberal Arts at Mitchell College

Victoria Steele, senior in Psychology at McDaniel College

Olivia Thomas, freshman in International Relations at Fairleigh Dickinson

Kirsten VanFossen, sophomore in Engineering at Harvard

Alexandra Villani, freshman in International Business at Elon University

Serafina Zeringo, sophomore in Secondary Education at Boston College

Congratulations to all of these students. We wish them well as they continue their studies.

Other Memorial Fund Distributions

Designated gifts from 2008 income distributions were given by the Trustees of the Memorial Fund in accordance with Fund by-laws.

| | |
|--|--------|
| Stephen Deal - ELCA missionary support | \$2500 |
| IHN - for linens, blankets and van expense | 400 |
| MEND - Creed Apartments for painting | 1000 |
| Saint Matthew Property Ministry | 500 |
| Reinvestment in the Memorial Fund (25%) | 2300 |

Youth Travel to New Orleans

Six youth and three adult leaders will be going from Saint Matthew Church to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 19-26. "Jesus, Justice, Jazz" is the theme of the gathering, which draws from the rich faith history, diverse cultures and the arts of New Orleans. They will spend the first half of the week at the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) and the second half at the national convention. They will spend their days in worship, service and fellowship with 36,000 other Lutheran high school youth. They ask for our prayers as they travel there and return. Those going are **Ben Slaugh, Samantha Bancroft, Olivia Thomas, David Naylor, Alex Flores, Tyler Schwarz, Kim & Lloyd Flores and Lee Zandstra.**

Many thanks to the entire congregation for your support in the fundraising efforts. They are still \$2000 short of their goal. Anyone wishing to make a financial donation, contact the church office, the Pastor or Lee Zandstra, Youth Group Leader. They are looking forward to sharing their experiences with the congregation when they return.

Appalachia Servant Trip in July

Eight members and friends of Saint Matthew Church will travel to Mullens, West Virginia in Wyoming County July 25 - August 1 to help build and repair homes of people in the Appalachia region who do not have the means or the ability to do this kind of work. Please keep these people and the ASP mission in your prayers: **Joel Boehmler, Jacob Brodie, Ron Brodie, Rodger Cram, Katiana Cruz, Madison Galvin, Bill Lawrence and Matt Lewis.**

Help Needed

. . .for Vacation Bible School

Help is needed in various ways for the Vacation Bible School at Saint Matthew Church July 12 - July 16, 6:00 - 8:30 pm.

T-shirts: Donations of old used T-shirts (any color, shape or size) for a craft. They can be stained or even have holes in them because they will be cut into strips. Leave them in the basket in the church narthex.

Snacks: The following items are needed for snacks for the week of VBS: juice boxes, red Jello cups, Vanilla Wafers, pretzels, individual pies (i.e., Little Debbie), and popcorn (cheese, butter or caramel). Please do not bring snacks containing nuts because of allergies. For information, contact **Nancy Nieto** or **Jennifer Reppert**.

Volunteers: People are needed to help each evening. Give your name, phone number or e-mail to **Nina Thomas** or **Jennifer Reppert**.

. . . for Interfaith Hospitality Network

Saint Matthew will host guests from the Interfaith Hospitality Network July 5 - 12. The families arrive for dinner and leave after breakfast each day. Help is needed for cooking dinner each evening and eating with families; greeting and chatting with the families; staying overnight; playing with the children or helping with homework (if they are in summer school); driving the van to/from the IHN Center in Mt Laurel; and shopping for supplies. Sign up on the IHN board in the church narthex. Monetary contributions are also needed, which can be included in your regular offering envelope and marked for IHN or in a special envelope.

Around the Parish

CROP Walk Report

Thank you to all who walked and/or pledged. In spite of the committee getting a late start due to Holy Week and Easter, the Broad Street Run on the same day and the pouring rain on May 3, the CROP Walk was a success. With only seven walkers, Saint Matthew raised \$936. Yea, team!! The town total was \$12,799.

Juice Cans Needed

The Altar Guild is in need of 46 ounce juice cans for giving altar flowers to those who donated
or to homebound people. Bring them to the church office.

Calendar for 2009 - 2010

The calendar of church activities should be ready the week of July 5 for posting activities for the next program year. If a ministry, committee, or person wishes to schedule a planned activity, it must be included on the church calendar by August 9. During this past year there were several

conflicts with activities because people did not check the church calendar. In the future, anyone wishing to schedule an activity/event after the calendar deadline needs to complete a request form or send an e-mail to the church office to confirm the date before it can be publicized.

Lyra Returns

If you attended the concert of the Russian choral group, “Lyra” last September, you know it was outstanding. The group has been invited back on Sunday, September 20, 2009 for a concert in the church sanctuary. Tell your family and friends that it will be a wonderful evening. More information will follow in the “What’s Happening” sheet and the September *Messenger*.

New Nursery Crib

Thanks to Jim & Carolyn CuvIELLO for the donation of a new crib for the church nursery.

Camden Kids Picnic

Saint Matthew will host a picnic for the children of Christus Lutheran Church in Camden on Friday, August 7, at 10:00 am in the grove behind the church. It is a great time of picnic fun and they love coming here as much as we love having them. Lots of help will be needed - people to grill hotdogs, make cookies, help with crafts and games and other things. There will be a sign up sheet on the church bulletin board. Contact **Mae Trebing**.

Lunch Bunch

(a ministry providing a monthly lunch to homeless patrons of New Visions Center in Camden)

Summer Lunch Bunch dates are Thursday evenings, July 9 and August 13 at 7:00 in the Teen Den. Don’t forget baked goods on a disposable plate or container and leave them on the desk outside the office. Also needed are donations of peanut butter, jam, fold-lock sandwich baggies and yellow mustard.

My recovery from knee replacement surgery was made much easier by the thoughts, prayers, cards and food from so many of you. I had known for fifteen years that I would eventually need this surgery and I am thankful for God’s healing grace and for such a caring pastor and people in this congregation as well as for my wonderful family and friends. It is good to be back at work and well on the road to full recovery. **Rozella Bower**

PROPERTY MINISTRY

The Tuesday Morning Maintenance Group refinished the church sign adjacent to the Garden of Remembrance. Some low-growing shrubs located in front of the sign were transplanted to the north side of the church to provide better visibility of the sign. The annual fire inspection by the Township of Moorestown was completed following the semi-annual servicing of the church fire protection system. Three new toilets have been purchased with funds provided by the Saint Matthew Memorial Fund. They have been installed in the restrooms on the lower floor of the education wing - two in the ladies’ room and one in the men’s room. Replacement of six other toilets in the church is planned during the next two years, assuming funding is provided. A

support system for curtain rods was installed on the stage in Fellowship Hall as requested by St. Matt Players. Black curtains provided by Nancé Carlson were hung from the curtain rods.

Quality Elevator has fabricated and installed a new set of contacts internal to the motor for the elevator.

Written proposals have been received for replacing the gymnasium roof. The contract will be awarded by the end of June, with the work scheduled for August 2009 using funds from the Capital Campaign.

Preliminary plans have been developed by **Max Frable** to add additional handicapped parking spaces across from the main church entrance. The plans calls for three additional spaces where the current staff parking exists. Staff parking will be moved to the current visitor's parking slots during the week, with visitor parking remaining for Sundays. The goal is to have these parking lot changes completed by September.

Annual carpet and pew cleaning will be scheduled in August.

Brian Schultz, Property Chair

Note: The annual Maintenance Group luncheon was held Tuesday, May 19, at Tarantella's restaurant in Marlton. For that occasion, **Pastor Wengert** wrote the following poem:

*If only more people knew
All the work that our Tuesday men do,
They'd be thanking our Lord
for we could not afford
the labor of this motley crew.*

*Brian, who sees all is right,
watches over the property's plight.
He doles out the work
and you better not shirk,
or you'll find yourself changing the light.*

*Paul, Duane, Bob, Ray and Bud,
Neil, Skip, Bud and Carl (who's no dud),
They put ON quite a show,
Work their tails OFF, don't you know.
Oh, don't forget Gideon, who now helps out God.*

*If only more people knew
All the work that our Tuesday men do,
They'd be thanking our Lord
for we could not afford
the labor of this faithful crew.*

Pastor Ingrid Wengert

Word from the Deng Family

Several years ago through Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey, this congregation supported the Deng Family, refugees from the Sudan, as they settled into the United States. Dr. Elise Korman recently received a letter from Chol, the eldest son who graduated from a high school in Des Moines, IA and has been accepted into a college. Excerpts from the letter are printed below. In addition, Chol asked for financial help from the congregation for college expenses. Dr. Korman called and talked with Chol and made four suggestions for obtaining funds:

- 1- further application for scholarships (he has some financial aid already)
- 2- a part-time job on campus and full time employment in the summer
- 3- student loans, which is what most students get in the U.S.
- 4- request a donation from his local congregation (Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness)

There are six other children in the Deng family. Daughter Nyabang, the eldest child, has received her GDA and is applying to colleges. Adair will graduate from high school next year and Musa, in two years. Nyalobi, the baby, is a real chatterbox; Daniel continues with sign language and other family members are learning as well; and Ayoub, the youngest boy is progressing well in school. The family now speaks English at home.

Dear Dr. Korman,

This is Chol Deng. How are you doing? I hope you are doing well. My parents and I are doing great. So I'm just writing this letter to hear how people are doing in Moorestown, our neighbors and people in your church.

It has been two years since my parents moved from Moorestown, NJ to Des Moines, Iowa. Moorestown was a great place to live. I really liked it but wasn't much opportunity for me to go to school there. I have graduated now from Abraham Lincoln High School. My goal is to attend William Penn University in August of this year. I will be attending William Penn for four years. But like you already know, my parents are still struggling with finding a good job. My father is the lone worker to serve the family now. My mother was working too but she lost her job. She is looking for another job now.

But jobs are getting hard to find because of economic problems. I know that the economy is getting worse. Many individuals are losing their jobs and homes. It's even reached the middle class, too... I am working in a part-time job. I also volunteer at Iowa Lutheran Hospital. My job is to help patients and work with the patients' charts. It is a fun job to do and I'm looking forward to a full-time job so I could pay for my expenses...

We already know you have helped us a lot when we came to the United States.

Sincerely, Chol D. Deng

(Editor's note: It is obvious that Dr. Korman and the many members and friends of Saint Matthew Church gave the Deng Family a good start during their first year in this country. We are thankful they have continued to progress in a community where there are other Sudanese people.)

SUMMER MIDWEEK SERVICES
HOLY COMMUNION
THURSDAYS, JULY 2 ~ AUGUST 30
7:00 PM

JULY CALENDAR

Every week

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Sundays | 9:30 am | Holy Communion |
| Tuesdays | 9:00 am | Maintenance Group |
| Thursdays | 7:00 pm | Summer Midweek Service |

Other activities

| | | |
|---|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Sunday, July 5 - Sunday, July 12 | | Host IHN |
| Sundays, July 5, 12, 19 & 26 | 10:45 am | New Members' Classes |
| Thursday, July 9 | 7:00 pm | Lunch Bunch |
| | 7:00 pm | Stephen Ministry |
| Sunday - Thursday, July 12 - 16 | 6:00 pm | Vacation Bible School |
| Saturday, July 25 - Saturday, August 2 | | ASP Trip |
| Sunday, July 26 | 9:30 am | New members received |

Note:

The church office will be closed Friday, July 3

There will be no Ministry Night, Executive Committee or Congregation Council in July.

AUGUST CALENDAR

Every week

| | | |
|-----------|---------|------------------------|
| Sundays | 9:30 am | Holy Communion |
| Tuesdays | 9:00 am | Maintenance Group |
| Thursdays | 7:00 pm | Summer Midweek Service |

Other activities

| | | |
|----------------------|----------|----------------------|
| Monday, August 3 | 7:00 pm | Ministry Night |
| Friday, August 7 | 10:00 am | Camden Kids Picnic |
| Monday, August 10 | 7:00 pm | Executive Committee |
| Wednesday, August 12 | | Messenger Deadline |
| Thursday, August 13 | 7:00 pm | Lunch Bunch |
| | 7:00 pm | Stephen Ministry |
| Monday, August 17 | 6:30 pm | Council Fellowship |
| Monday, August 17 | 7:00 pm | Congregation Council |

RALLY DAY

Sunday, September 13, 2009

Holy Communion at 8:30 & 11:00 am
Sunday Church School at 9:45 am

Thank you . . .

Thank you so much for the donation towards by Lesotho trip! Especially during rough times like these, any donation would have been nice. But your gift was above and beyond anything I could imagine. Thank you so very much and I would be delighted to present my trip to the Adult Forum or anywhere else. God bless, Andrew Steele

(The proceeds from our Mother's Day Flower Sale were given to Andrew for his mission trip.)

We are saving a seat for you!

So please, SAVE - THE - DATE for

***MEND'S
40th Anniversary
Celebration***

**November 21, 2009
6:00 pm until 11:00 pm**

*Open Bar, Hors d'oeuvres, Raffle, Silent Auction,
Musical Entertainment by Jump City Jazz Orchestra*

**The Mansion on Main Street
Plaza 3000, Voorhees, NJ**

**Sponsorship and Ad Opportunities Available
Call 9856) 722-7070 ext. 19
For more details and ticket information**

This is a wonderful opportunity for people to enjoy an evening which includes dinner and dancing while supporting a faith based organization. For forty years Moorestown Ecumenical Neighborhood Development has been providing low income housing in Moorestown and other areas. If you attended last year, come again. Invite your friends.

George Boehmler

Prayer Request

Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson invites us to join with disciples across the ELCA in *50 Days of Prayer* leading up to the 2009 Church wide Assembly, August 17 - 23 in Minneapolis. More information available on www.elca.org.

Congregation Council Elects Officers

At the Congregation Council meeting on Monday, June 15, **Bill Acheson** was elected President for 2009-2010. Other officers elected were **Faith Steinfort**, Vice President; **Rene Cherson**, Secretary; and **Bill Grosspeter**, Financial Secretary. These four people are on the Executive Committee, along with **Tom Cassel**, Treasurer; **Pastor Wengert** and **Bill Lawrence**.

Community News

Bridge of Peace, Camden

Twelve of their members attended the NJ Synod Assembly in June. Two of them were youth and one of the youth, Natalia Rodriguez, will represent youth on the NJ Synod Council.

Special Needs Recreation Program

A program for Moorestown children with multiple disabilities is available Monday, July 6 through Friday, July 31, 12:30 to 3:30 pm at the Upper Elementary School. Children must be 5 years old by October 1, 2008 up to incoming 3rd Grade. The cost is \$35.00 per child. More information is available by calling the sponsor of the program, Moorestown Department of Parks and Recreation, 235-6344.

Lutheran Care at Moorestown

Thanks to everyone who worked at the fair for Lutheran Care at Moorestown. We sold many beautiful plants and delicious funnel cakes. Special thanks to **Doris & Neil Gilmour** who traveled from Pennsylvania with the funnel cake batter and to **George Boehmler** for his outstanding houseplants. Your interest and help was very much appreciated. *Jan Miller*

A thank you note was also received from Alice Denlen, organist at St. Luke's Chapel of Lutheran Care at Moorestown for help from our congregation for Holy Week and Easter. Pastor Dallas Dorward preached Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday; the Maintenance Group stripped the palms; and Pastor Wengert coordinated much of the week's services

Employment Ministry

Rock Ministries at the First Presbyterian Church, Moorestown, is a faith based program for those seeking help with career management. Those unemployed meet every Tuesday, 9 to 11 am. More information or to schedule a private session is available by calling Ann McBride at the First Presbyterian Church office, 235-1688.

Recognition for Former Member

Susan Merrill, a former member of our congregation, was recently recognized by Thomas Paine Elementary School in Cherry Hill where she has been the school nurse for many years. A few months ago one of the students was not feeling well and Susan realized there was no lung activity on one side. The family physician suggested waiting a couple days and checking again; however, Susan felt this was not a good idea and recommended the family seek additional help. The girl was diagnosed with a tumor which was blocking her windpipe and had they waited a couple days she would have died. The school named a day in Susan's honor with much "fanfare" and the event was noted in a piece on the Channel 6 news at 6:00 pm with the comment that school nurses often go unnoticed for all they do. We commend Susan for her perception and for this much deserved honor.