



ST. MATTHEW TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

The RAINBOW of Grace

CELEBRATING STEWARDSHIP 2025-2026



Jennifer Nilsen Photography

A Letter From Pastor Gary

BY REV. GARY C. LECROY, D. MIN.

This week, a new family to our congregation mentioned that they like the way we include our young ones in the liturgy, especially bringing the offering to the altar. It is one of my favorite parts as well. There is more however to this tradition than meets the eye.

What they bring to the Altar is our treasure, the gifts of bread and vine, and the gift of ourselves. It is a reminder that we as a congregation are surrendering our treasure, our goods and ourselves to the very God who supplies these things to us.

Kids, who do not make money, show the importance of everyone in the ministries of our church. They may not make money, but they have a sense of belonging and purpose in our worship.

The monetary gifts which they bring reminds us that money is not the only gift. The bread and wine which they also bring forward will become a miracle. In this act these ordinary elements become Jesus, and the promises of Jesus become fully with us at that moment and in that place. Even more meaningful to me is that children have hands-on participation in this miracle of love. All that we offer God becomes a miracle.

Participating in miracles is the heart of good stewardship. Our congregation feeds the poor, houses the homeless, welcomes the outsider and stranger, gives a voice to those

with no voice, comforts those who mourn and yearn for meaning, marries couples, buries our loved ones, gives our community a place to grow in recovery, and celebrates the arts. All these things we share provides a place for these things to happen.

Continuing the growth that we are making in our parish, the Stewardship Committee is encouraging those who have not yet pledged to please consider doing so. Remember, pledging is a prayer that one will be able to give a desired amount. Pledging is a statement of hope about the future of our congregation and each of our personal finances. Giving (tithing) is sharing our blessings.

As always, I am deeply honored to be a part of this ministry.

Peace,
The Rev. Dr. Gary C. LeCroy

Stewardship & Pledging

BY TERRI MATTEO,
COMMITTEE LEAD

When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth. Genesis 9:16

The Rainbow of Grace at SMT is the theme for this year's Stewardship Program. Appropriately, rainbows symbolize hope, promise, and new beginnings. I am in awe when the beauty of a rainbow appears in the sky...the remarkable sight always stops me in my tracks and reminds me of the promise of love and forgiveness in our world. I can remember with clarity the many breathtaking rainbows that I have witnessed.

Each year we have the opportunity to dedicate ourselves anew to the meaningful work that is done at St. Matthew Trinity. Each one of us can reimagine how we can allocate our finite amount of time, share our unique talents, and distribute our financial resources to benefit the community at SMT and the mission of our church.

Each color of the rainbow is said to highlight distinct characteristics of the human experience. The Committee felt that this was a wonderful invitation for members to focus on where they might be inspired to give of their time, talent, and money in the coming year.

The beautiful combination of all of these character traits lends to The Rainbow of Grace at SMT. We sincerely invite you to add your time, talent, and resources to the mission of SMT.

There is a place for you!

RED: passion and vitality

If those are your strengths, there is room for you on the Social Justice Committee, headed by Leslie Neve.

ORANGE: endurance and perseverance

Our Property Committee, led by Mark Singleton, could use your talents as we take responsibility for maintaining our entire block in Hoboken that includes our sanctuary, parish hall, parsonage, church office, garages, Counseling office, SMT Center, gardens, and six affordable apartments.

YELLOW: happiness and cheer

Our Hospitality Committee practices radical hospitality as we welcome all to share time together partaking in the sharing of tasty treats, welcoming everyone for fellowship with good food.

GREEN: growth and renewal

As you might have surmised, the Stewardship Committee encourages the sharing of your time, talent, and resources that allows our church community to renew our commitments each year and grow so that we can serve our neighbors. Terri Matteo is the lead for this Committee and welcomes all people to join our efforts, pledge/promise for 2026, and help our community grow.

BLUE: calm and serenity

These can definitely be found in our Worship & Music experiences each week. Pastor Gary and Matt Hummel work together to deliver meaningful worship services that teach, inspire, and offer meaningful spiritual experiences.

INDIGO: awareness and intuition

These skills are directly called upon in our Communication Committee that keeps the message of SMT reaching out to the community through social media, weekly newsletters, our website, and more, led skillfully by Courtney Kochuba.

VIOLET: imagination and creativity

This is exemplified every week in the Youth & Family Committee. Sarah Reever-Pickerel heads up this busy committee and always welcomes more hands on deck.

Breakdown of Pledges for 2025

\$ monthly	# of giving units	% of giving units	% of \$ pledged
0 - 40	2	6.25%	.3%
41 - 80	3	9.40%	1.3%
81 - 120	5	15.60%	4.0%
121 - 200	6	18.80%	9.0%
201 - 250	2	6.25%	4.0%
251 - 350	3	9.40%	7.5%
351 - 450	1	3.10%	3.4%
451 - 550	3	9.40%	13.0%
700 - 800	3	9.40%	19.8%
801 - 1000	3	9.40%	25.2%
1400- 1500	1	3.10%	12.5%
Total	32	100%	100%

Totals Pledged for 2025:

General Giving	\$131,334
LTM	\$7,314
World Hunger	\$2,200
Special Projects	\$1,150
Total Pledged	\$141,998



You don't always have to know what to do.

You have to allow yourself to ask for guidance from God, do your best and let your gifts do their work. Because each and every one of us has talent to help this church-- us--be the best we can be.

I encourage you to pray about it and give of your time, talent, and treasure, what you feel is right. Because this place is special.

DAN S.,
SMT MEMBER

Lunchtime Ministry

BY STANLEY "SPIKE" ENZWEILER,
LTM PROGRAM MANAGER

It's been another great year at LTM, with between 80 and 100 guests served every day, new outreach partnerships, and more delicious meals than I can count. Our volunteers continue to do an incredible job preparing food, keeping our space clean and organized, and providing our guests with compassionate service. I could go on all day about the great stuff that's been going on at LTM. However, despite all that, there's an undercurrent of uncertainty. Government actions have

already affected our bulk food orders as well as some of our outreach partnerships. And cuts to benefits and housing will make what is already a bad situation for America's poor even worse. No matter what goes on, LTM provides folks with welcome, safety, and community. For folks to have a stable place when everything else is failing them matters more than I can put into words. Often a guest will come to me with some story about how their partner or parent or a social service has abandoned them. I don't like giving advice and I'm not much good at sounding inspirational. What I do tell them is: "We're not going anywhere." LTM is not going anywhere. Thank you for helping us to keep going.



An Enduring Light: SMT and the Hoboken Shelter's 24/7 Commitment

BY DAN PICKEREL

The Hoboken Shelter's mission of compassion, forged in 1982, shines brighter than ever. St. Matthew Trinity Lutheran Church, a founding congregation of the Hoboken Shelter, remains committed as the need for safe haven deepens in our city.

Spike Enzweiler, who runs Lunch Time Ministry at SMT, is also a case manager at the Shelter. Additionally, Pastor Gary, Mark Singleton (former Shelter president), Carlos Maymi, and Dan Pickerel from our congregation are board members.

The Hoboken Shelter, which provides beds for 50 guests nightly, is now operating 24 hours a day, a necessary transition to shield our city's most vulnerable neighbors from uncertainty. The Shelter offers more than a bed; it's a vital hub providing social services, serving 500 meals daily, and offering 1,000 showers weekly. So far this year, the Shelter has helped more than 140 guests transition off the street and is on track to house a record number of guests.

This year, we celebrate a monumental milestone: Mark Singleton's 40th year of volunteering. As a co-founder of "The Chicken People," Mark's unwavering dedication to cooking and serving monthly chicken dinners is a powerful, four-decade testament to our community's enduring heart. Your stewardship fortifies this critical mission, ensuring that a safe, stable, and supportive environment endures for those who need it most.



**Watch
"The Chicken People"
40th anniversary
celebration video!**



ST. MATTHEW TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

8TH AND HUDSON | HOBOKEN, NJ

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@stmatthewtrinity



INCLUDE ME!

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Online Pledge Card

Share your gifts and
add to the rainbow of
St. Matthew Trinity.

*Peace is within these walls,
but more so, it's within these
people and the good we do
here at SMT.*

*When considering your
2026 pledge, think about
[how] each of us here makes
up St. Matthew's rainbow,
adding to its vibrancy and
contributing to a larger,
brighter vision that brings
joy and peace to so many.*

COURTNEY,
SMT MEMBER



Building Tradition

**This year's congregational
Stewardship project is creating
a new set of "Chrismen" ornaments
for the SMT sanctuary Christmas tree.
In this labor of love, all ages
can add to the beauty
and tradition of SMT!**



Learn more about the
Lutheran tradition
of making Chrismen!