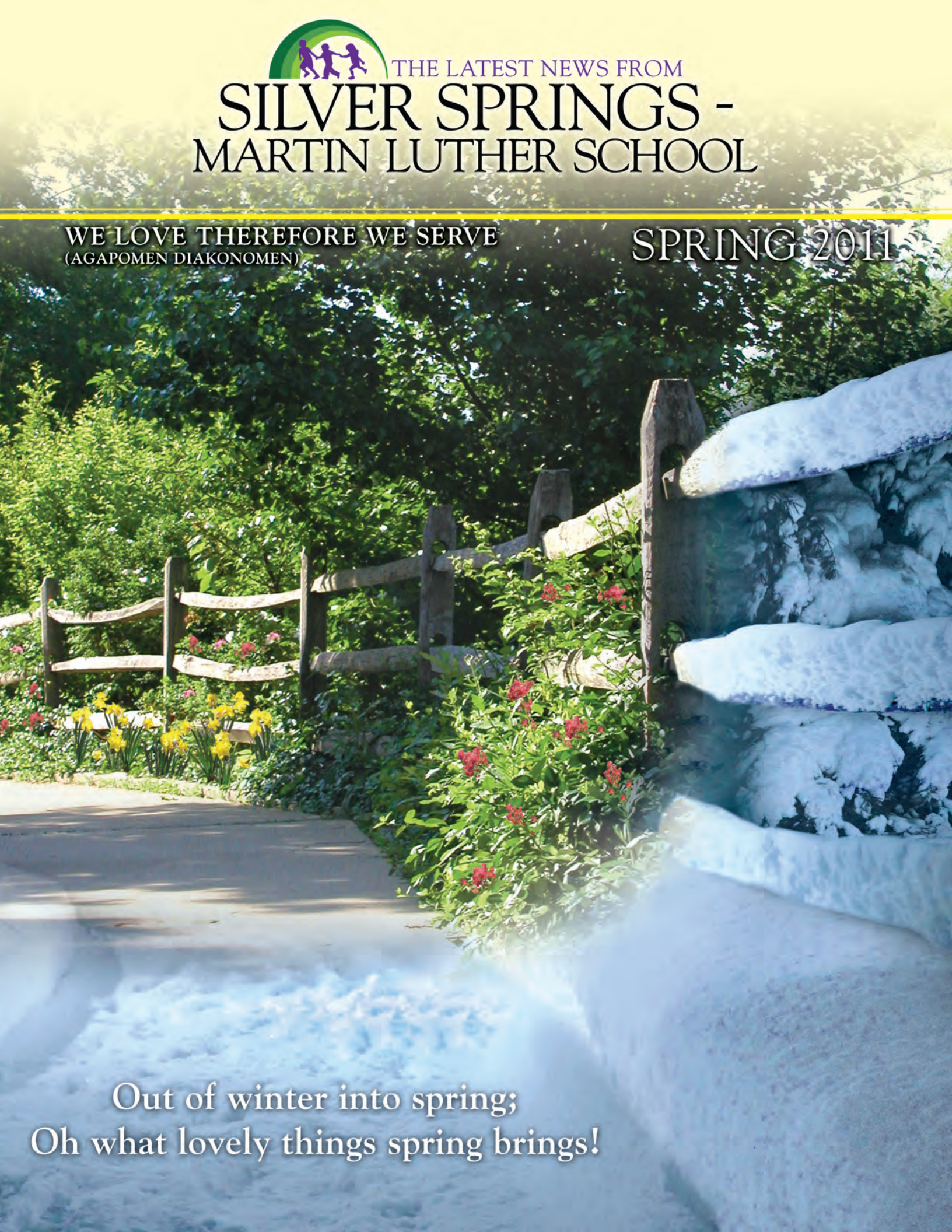




THE LATEST NEWS FROM
**SILVER SPRINGS -
MARTIN LUTHER SCHOOL**

WE LOVE THEREFORE WE SERVE
(AGAPOMEN DIAKONOMEN)

SPRING 2011



Out of winter into spring;
Oh what lovely things spring brings!

President's Message

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As snow covered walkways have melted into spring paths, the walk has become less treacherous than in recent months. We hope for an easier way ahead for the children and families we serve; sometimes it is. Other times, obstacles such as poverty, unemployment, and mental illness block their paths and we try to help them maneuver around these barriers.

Similarly, we hope for an easier time ahead for nonprofit organizations such as Silver Springs. Reimbursements for the services we provide have been frozen, or do not keep pace with the rising costs of providing these services. Looming State and Federal budget cuts portend more difficult times ahead for all organizations that provide services to the needy.

We are more grateful than ever to have friends like you — congregations, foundations, businesses, individuals — who walk with us along the paths to each child's brighter future. You make it possible for us to help.

Thank you,



Ruth W. Bartelt, President/CEO



AGAPOMEN DIAKONOMEN

“WE LOVE THEREFORE WE SERVE”

Silver Springs - Martin Luther School is a Social Ministry Organization affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and its Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod. This periodic newsletter is published to provide staff, families and friends with news and information about Silver Springs - Martin Luther School and its mission. Please direct inquiries or comments about the newsletter to Lynn Unipan, 512 West Township Line Road, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462-1001; Tel: (610) 825-4440, ext. 206; Fax: (610) 825-3839; e-mail: lunipan@silver-springs.org.

Visit us on the web at www.silver-springs.org

A mosaic of public and private funding makes possible these services to children and families. Silver Springs receives funding through managed care organizations, the Commonwealth and the federal governments. Non-allowable and capital expenses are funded by individuals, businesses, groups, congregations, corporations, foundations, other friends, Lutheran Home at Germantown Foundation, and Silver Springs - Martin Luther School. Funding is received from Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties (and other counties), the Pennsylvania Department of Education, local school districts, the City of Philadelphia Department of Human Services; a partnership in serving children and families in need.

Fervent Love is an Action

Benevolent care is fervent love in action. It is hands-on help for children and families in crisis or need. In recent months, your fervent love has provided:

- Shoes, socks, warm coats and boots for children
- Furniture to fill an apartment destroyed by fire
- Birthday and Christmas gifts
- Oil to fill tanks so families have heat
- Holiday meals for families to create a celebration
- Beds for little boys returning home



Thank you!

Transform the Life of a Child for Years to Come!

You can help to secure a bright future for Silver Springs – Martin Luther School and the children it will serve. Years down the road, your thoughtful planning and generosity will provide a sanctuary, treatment and education for children in need.

Ways to help:

- Name Silver Springs as a beneficiary in your will
- Name Silver Springs as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy or retirement plan (e.g. 5% beneficiary)
- Make a gift that guarantees you income for life and also benefits Silver Springs (a charitable gift annuity)

To discuss how you can create a legacy of love and benevolent care at Silver Springs, with potential tax benefits for you and your family, please contact Joan Plump at (610) 825-4440 EXT 318 or jplump@silver-springs.org.

Volunteer Spotlight

There is a lively twinkle in the eyes of long-time volunteer Elsie Mack that hints at the energy and enthusiasm behind her quiet exterior. Always a diligent worker, Elsie cheerfully takes a break to explain how she began volunteering at Silver Springs – Martin Luther School and why she still does.



Elsie came to Silver Springs in 1998 through RSVP, the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Montgomery County. She had decided, shortly after retiring, that she would volunteer “to stay busy and to help someone.” Elsie chose to volunteer at Silver Springs because we needed help with office work, which she enjoyed and in which she was experienced — very experienced! Elsie had handled paper work for years in small businesses and also, during her 17 years at the Voter Registration Office at the Montgomery County Courthouse, had computerized all of the voting records.

Elsie has helped with clerical and fiscal work at Silver Springs for 13 years, taking only short breaks for vacation.

A widow for 29 years and a cancer survivor for 39, Elsie has two grown children, five grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren and considers herself “very fortunate.” She beams when she talks about her family and notes that she had “great parents” and “could not have better children.”

Described by a co-worker as “a jewel,” Elsie still likes volunteering at Silver Springs. She continues to enjoy the office work and being busy helping others. Following Elsie’s lead, we consider ourselves “very fortunate” to have her partnership in the work of Silver Springs!

A Path to Calm for Luther School Students

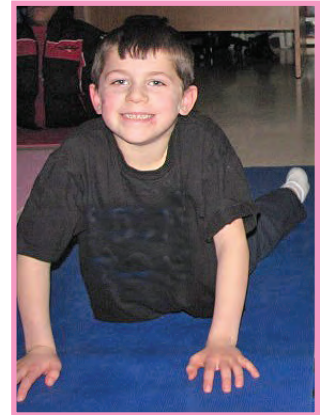
"Good job, now reach and stretch your arms wide and fly like an airplane," instructs Kyla Mathews, volunteer at Luther School as she guides a class through yoga exercises one Monday afternoon. The students have taken their shoes off and laid out their mats. "It's a relaxing break in their day," says teacher Karen Rudy.

Mathews, a recent college graduate pursuing a Master's degree in Dance Movement Therapy and Counseling, began volunteering at Luther School last fall and leads students through stretching and breathing exercises. As they arch their backs like cats, close their eyes and reach their faces toward the ceiling, Mathews encourages them to use their



imagination, asking, "Can you feel the sun?" All the while, Mathews reminds them to "do your best" and "breathe slowly."

Mathews explains that she likes to see the children reach for a goal in their yoga practice. "When they are able to reach a yoga position they previously hadn't wanted to try or were unable to do, they smile and say, 'I can do it!' I love to see them so pleased with themselves!"



Teacher Stephanie Weitzman also views the experience as helpful to the children beyond the 45-minute yoga lessons. "It's a great transition to our afternoon which is academic," she says. "I think the exercises and movement help to calm them and get them ready for the rest of their day."

Mathews recently began working as a full-time Classroom Assistant at Luther School. Welcome!

Hopping Down the Path... to Australia!

The path connecting Martin Luther School to Australia was shortened recently when Wildlife Encounters rolled up to the Harrison gym with a truckload of Outback animals. The students applauded after classroom assistant Marquita Clements bravely touched the tip of the crocodile's nose and wondered aloud about kangaroo Jack's soft fur.



The Road to TECHNOLOGICAL Classrooms at Martin Luther School

Interactive whiteboards are moving into classrooms in many local school districts as they present infinite opportunities for students to engage fully in learning. Martin Luther School dreams of having a SmartBoard for each of our 20 Kindergarten through 8th Grade classrooms. If you are interested in helping to make our dream come true, please contact Kristen Gay, Ph.D., Development Director at (610) 825-4440, EXT 314 or kgay@silver-springs.org. Thank you!





A Road to Peace...

Luther School students and teachers held posters high and marched along the sidewalks and roads of Silver Springs to show their commitment to the Purple Hands Pledge: *"I will not use my hands or my words for hurting myself or others."*



Far along the path to a fantastic future!



Teanna was a little girl, just eight years old, when she entered the Silver Springs Community Based Program. Now she is a young woman, thriving, working hard and having fun in her freshman year at Immaculata University. In 2009, in recognition of her community service and generosity, Teanna received the Union League of Philadelphia's Good Citizenship Award. Silver

Springs recently was thrilled to welcome Teanna as a volunteer in Martin Luther School. We are so proud of Teanna as she heads into a bright future. You go, girl!

Note

from an alumnae...

"Hi. I used to live at Silver springs and I must say it was the best time I ever had. I loved it there – everything from Sister Sally to all of your wonderful staff.

Before I came to Silver Springs I never felt safe. You ... showed me that not all adults hurt children and that it was okay to trust again. I use the tools I learned there with my children everyday. Thank you and your family for making me feel safe and loved. When I was at Silver Springs I felt like Peter Pan, I never wanted to grow up. Thank you so very much."

– *Tiara*

A Familiar Road: Did you Know?

We marvel at the road that Silver Springs has traveled from 1859 when Elizabeth Schaeffer, the wife of a Lutheran pastor, founded the children's program as an orphanage in Germantown, Philadelphia. Since moving to Plymouth Meeting in 1972, Silver Springs – Martin Luther School has continued providing services to children and families, but did you know that we also still use offices on the former campus of Lutheran Home at Germantown (LHG)?

The Community Based Program, which oversees Foster Family Care and other services to children and their families in community settings, has offices in Weiss Cottage, a beautiful stone building on the former LHG campus. Weiss Cottage also served as the parsonage and Harrison home for 43 years.

Though the road between Germantown and Plymouth Meeting is six miles long, it is a familiar one that has been well traveled for years by many who extend their love to others in need.



Silver Springs Community Based Programs provide:

- Help for a young boy who gets aggressive when frustrated with his siblings
- Collaboration with the school to help a young child manage her behavior so she does not get suspended
- Support for a frightened young girl, who has experienced past abuse, as she adjusts to a new foster home



Many thanks...

...to a local family foundation for a generous and timely contribution that helped us purchase a new truck and snow plow before the snow arrived;

...to the Silver Springs maintenance department for keeping the campus safe and passable during the cold, snowy winter months;

...to the grounds crew for tending to the property and gardens to make way for eagerly anticipated renewed growth this spring!



Happy 152nd Birthday to Silver Springs!

Happy 152nd Birthday to Silver Springs! On Friday, March 11, 2011, the anniversary of our founding on March 12, 1859, Silver Springs held the annual Founders Day birthday lunch for children, staff members and volunteers to celebrate the founding of the Children's Program. Whether engaged in coloring while waiting for the program to start, visiting with staff members or a co-worker, or relishing a raffle win, all enjoyed a delicious hoagie lunch and lots of fun!



You've Got Mail!

Silver Springs will be sending periodic emails to share news and upcoming events. Do you want to join the email list?



If so, please write to info@silver-springs.org.

Thank you!



Recognition Day June 2, 2011

Please join us on Thursday, June 2nd at 6:00 PM to celebrate the contributions of the many members of the Silver Springs family. We picnic to music and greet old friends and make new ones...

Please RSVP to
Joan Piasecki at
610/825-4440 EXT 209.

Thank you

to those whose gifts totaled \$1,859 or more during our 150th Anniversary Fund Celebration. We will be recognizing your generosity and partnership on a plaque to be unveiled at Recognition Day on June 2, 2011.

Thank you for your commitment to walk with us into the next 150 years of serving children and families!

Silver Springs – Martin Luther School



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**Chef Guillermo Tellez,
Square 1682**

Save the Date

WHEN: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2011

WHERE: PHILADELPHIA MARRIOTT WEST,
WEST CONSHOHOCKEN

WHAT: *CHEFS FOR SILVER SPRINGS –
a fun and festive event*

Chef Guillermo Tellez, Executive Chef at Square 1682 in Philadelphia, will headline *Chefs for Silver Springs 2011*, to be held on November 18, 2011 from 6 PM to 10 PM at the Marriott West in

Conshohocken, PA. Masterful in the kitchen, Chef Tellez has an impeccable 20-year restaurant resume. At Square 1682, Tellez's traditional style of cooking is informed by modern technique and infused with creative flavor combinations from his wide-ranging culinary ventures. The evening will highlight a silent auction as well. Please join us for what promises to be another celebration of good food, good friends and good fun – all in support of the children's programs of Silver Springs!

If interested in sponsorship opportunities, or donating to the silent auction, please contact Joan Plump, Development Officer, at 610/825-4440, ext. 318 or JPlump@silver-springs.org.



Chefs
for Silver Springs