



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Around the Church

July 27, 2025



ASK, SEARCH, KNOCK

Today's readings incorporate several themes: negotiation, commands, persistence, and expectation. And surrounding all these themes is a bigger theme: boldness. Abraham is bold in

speaking with God, so bold in fact that he not only negotiates with the Almighty, the Almighty willingly grants his request. Abraham had no fear in speaking in such a way to God, because he knew that God was listening and appreciating his concern.

The disciples, too, speak with boldness. They don't ask Jesus to teach them how to pray, they *tell* him to teach them how to pray. Their imperative sets up a pattern of imperatives as Jesus teaches them the prayer that has been prayed unceasingly in the church ever since. These themes continue in boldness as persistence is encouraged, even to the extent of being able to ask, search, and knock, knowing that the Lord says we will receive the Holy Spirit. This is perhaps the deepest promise when it comes to prayer. Sometimes it feels like God doesn't answer our prayers or we don't get what we ask for—but Jesus promises the Holy Spirit itself.

And God wants to answer our prayers and give us what we need. We are to ask in boldness, which comes from being "rooted and built up in [Christ]" (Col. 2:7). Strengthened in worship and by God's Word, we are filled with God's Spirit to speak boldly and to be persistent in our prayers, and to be ready to receive the things for which we ask. The question becomes, then, what is it we want and need?

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Reflections adapted from Sundays and Seasons.com.*



SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP

We have changed our Sunday Evening Worship services to the first and third Sundays of the month. **Our August services will be held on August 3**

and 17 at 6:30pm. Sunday Evening Worship services are great for those with busy schedules! Hope to see you next time!



This Sunday's Altar Flowers are provided by Jim and Louise Rutledge, in celebration on their Wedding Anniversary! The Sign Up Genius for the remainder of July and August is posted in the online ATC and church website!



DEEP DIVE INTO THEOLOGY, **JULY 27**

Today's Topic:

What Does it Mean to be Saved?

You are invited to join a discussion group that is different from a bible or book study. For more information, contact skip.craft@verizon.net
We'll meet after the service TODAY, Sunday, July 27 in the lounge. All are welcome.



HELP IS NEEDED NOW! **RISE AGAINST HUNGER MEAL** **PACKAGING EVENT, OCT. 19**

St. Matthew's and St. Paul's are hosting a Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event on Sunday, October 19 in the St. Matthew's CLC. According to our liaisons at Rise Against Hunger, our packaging event is the second largest community event in our region. Last

year, over 360 volunteers came together to package more than 60,000 meals that we purchased. We have purchased and packaged more than 150,000 meals over the past 3 years! While we will kick off planning for the 2025 event around Labor Day, we need 3-4 people to help send emails to local businesses and groups to find co-sponsors for the event (seeking financial contributions and also groups of people interested in packaging meals). We also need help in applying for grants from local grocery stores, insurance companies and banks. We have all the form emails and attachments to easily copy and paste to assist in this task, and the involvement is on your own time and schedule. Many hands make light work! We appreciate any assistance in combatting food insecurity. Please contact Troy Sisum at (610) 724-7357 or tdsisum1@yahoo.com if you are available to help. He will coordinate with interested individuals to help get started.



SAVE THE DATE: ST. MATTHEW'S YARD SALE, SEPT. 6

Come sell and shop at the St. Matthew's Yard Sale on Saturday, Sept. 6 from 8:00-11:00am. Rain Date: Sept. 13.

Do you have home decor, games, craft supplies, records, jewelry, clothes, tools, etc collecting dust? Time to clean out your basement! **Space/Table fees are \$15.00.** Would you like to donate items without selling? Please contact Desiree Lee (contact info is below) for coordination.

Donated items will have a special area at the sale. Donated proceeds and table fees will be given to benefit the Chester County Food Bank. To rent a space/table or to donate items for the sale, please contact Desiree Lee at 610-425-0484 or DAL2123@yahoo.com. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated.

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church 2025 Golf Event

Drive Out Hunger.

~ Proceeds Benefit ~
Grace Crossing Community Food Pantry
Chester County Food Bank,
Coatesville Youth and Women's Alliance

Raffle Prizes, Mulligans, Hole Sponsors, Fun, Food, and Music!

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| Kimberton Golf Club \$125 Per Golfer—Includes a BBQ Lunch \$20 Lunch Only—Children under 10 Eat Free! | September 18, 2025 7:00 am Registration 8:00 am Shot Gun Live Music |
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Scan to Sign Up!

Questions? Contact Patrick Miller, 610-291-3002 or pjmill98@yahoo.com

REGISTRATION IS OPEN: 2ND ANNUAL DRIVE OUT HUNGER, SEPT. 18!

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! Thursday, September 18 at Kimberton Golf Club.

Cost is \$125 per golfer (including BBQ lunch), or \$20 just for lunch. Children under 10 eat free.

To register:

Step 1: To register to Golf or for just the lunch, please fill out the Google form (in the online ATC and Church website) and hit "Submit."

Step 2: To pay for your registration, go the giving page at the St. Matthew's Church website, go here: <https://stmatthews-church.org/give>

Once you're there, click "Give Online Now," select "Golf Event Fundraiser" from the drop-down menu, and pay.

If you have any questions, contact Patrick Miller: pjmill98@yahoo.com or 610-291-3002.



GEMMA SERVICES SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION, NOW-JULY 31

Thanks to all who have participated in our school supply collection to benefit GEMMA Services. This is the last call for items! Please drop off before Thursday, July 31! Supplies can

be dropped off in the back of the Narthex, the CLC or in the bin on the Church Office porch.

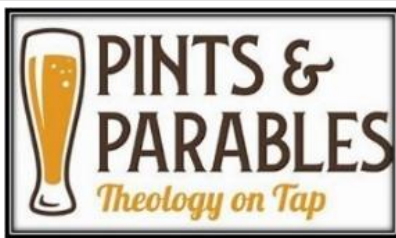
Items requested for each backpack include:

- New Backpack
- 4 Pocket Folders
- 3 Composition or Spiral Notebooks
- 1 Box of Pencils
- 2 Erasers
- 2 Glue Sticks
- 1 Box Colored Pencils or Markers
- 1 Box of Crayons



COFFEE & CHRIST, AUG. 2

Join us for coffee and good conversation at our next session of Coffee & Christ, **Saturday, August 2 at 8:30am at Starbucks in Chester Springs!**



PINTS AND PARABLES, AUG. 4

Come join us for stimulating conversation & fellowship, in a laid-back relaxing atmosphere on **Monday, August 4, 7:00pm, Liberty Union in Chester Springs.**



MISSION IN:
NEXT MEETING AUG. 10 &
PRAYER SQUARES NEEDED!

The next Mission In meeting will be Sunday, August 10 at 10:45am in the CLC.

For anyone who likes to crochet, Mission In needs prayer squares to send to members needing encouragement. Prayer squares can be dropped off

in the basket in the CLC near the bulletin boards. Thank you in advance!

The Mission In team is asking for your help. If you know of someone in the congregation who is in need of support, please let us know. Maybe we can offer a card, a phone call, a visit, a dessert, or a meal. You can reach a Mission In member by contacting the church office.



ST. MARY'S MEAL DELIVERY
NEXT MEAL, AUG. 24

Thank you to those who signed up for the July meal that is being delivered today. Our August meal will be delivered on August 24. **The August sign up is now posted in the online ATC and the church website.**

St. Matthew's will be providing a meal for 15 people the 4th Sunday of the month. **Based on the Board of Health regulations - they can only accept prepared food from grocery stores/restaurants.** We will continue to have signs up for 2 entrees, side, veggie, salad, dessert and delivery. **ALL items must be purchased from a grocery store/restaurant. Ex. Rotisserie chickens, bags of salad, frozen veggies/fresh veggies, cookies/cakes from the bakery.**

If you have any questions, contact Mindy Elmer at mlong1011@comcast.net or 484-319-8998.



MEN'S BREAKFAST: SEPT. 20

There will be no Men's Breakfast in August.

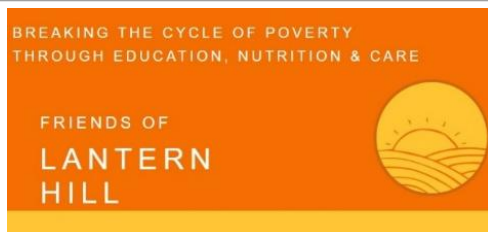
Please plan on bringing something to cook and share with the group on **Saturday, September 20** Food prep begins at 8:00am with breakfast starting at 8:30am. Please contact Tim Guyer at ttguyer@gmail.com with questions.



COMMUNITY GARDEN: HARVESTING UPDATE!

Our summer growing season is off to a fantastic start! We have already started to harvest some of our earliest summer vegetables including zucchini and yellow squash, cucumbers, beets and banana peppers. **We have donated 429 pounds of veggies to the Chester County Food Bank so far this season.** Even if you are not renting one of our 16 beds, we would love to have some new faces join us in helping plant, maintain, and harvest the vegetables we grow in the five dedicated food bank beds. No experience is necessary! Also if you have gardens at home or belong to a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and have extra vegetables that you would like to donate we would be happy to help coordinate.

If you are interested in helping in the garden or want to donate your extra vegetables, please contact Meghan Comegys (megcomegys@gmail.com or 484-684-3109), Desiree Lee (dal2123@yahoo.com or 610-425-0484) or Jim Rutledge (jirutman2005@yahoo.com or 484-459-3255).



TRIP INTEREST FORM

We are seeking families and individuals of all ages who want to attend a culture-rich trip to Lantern Hill, outside of Ensenada, Mexico the week of June 21-27, 2026. We will have an informational meeting once we get a sense of who is interested. Lantern Hill is relational and our eyes will be opened as we live, play, work, and interact with the students and staff. The nature of the trip and service we contribute is personalized to our group. There is a cost of the trip that covers airfare, room and board. We will discuss more details at the meeting. Prepare to be changed and led by God. **The form can be found in the online ATC and on the church website.**

From the Chester County Food Bank's Community Kitchen

SIMPLE SUPPERS

Feel good meals for you & the community

Delicious and nutritious frozen meals that are made from scratch in the Chester County Food Bank's licensed retail commercial kitchen. Prepared by professional chefs, the seasonal menu offers convenient "heat & eat" suppers for **only \$6** for you to enjoy at home. **Proceeds from your purchase allow us to provide meals for those struggling with food insecurity in our community.**

SIMPLE SUPPERS TO BENEFIT CHESTER COUNTY FOOD BANK

Looking for an easier way to enjoy dinner? Try **Simple Suppers**-delicious, nutritious, and affordable frozen meals made from scratch in the Chester County Food Bank's licensed commercial kitchen. **Prepared by professional chefs, these seasonal "heat & eat" meals are only \$6 each.**

Check the online ATC and our church website for more information about the program and a link to order. All orders support CCFB's mission!