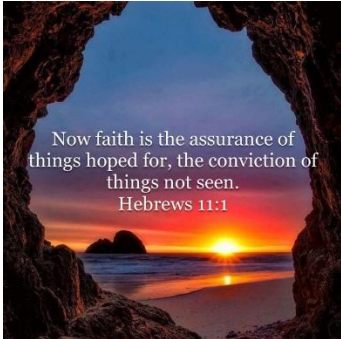




# St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

## Around the Church

### August 10, 2025



#### **FAITH!**

"Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). This is from our second scripture reading this Sunday. Faith is an awesome thing! Faith is also kind of difficult to talk about... How do you define

it? Is it simply "trust," is it the same as "belief"? I've heard lots of stories about "faith" over the years. Martin Luther was at his most eloquent talking about faith: "O it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith... Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that the believer would stake their life on it a thousand times. This knowledge of and confidence in God's grace makes people glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and with all creatures!" (Preface to Romans, 1521). He's right of course, but I've also encountered lots of folks who hear that and think, "I don't have faith..." or "I don't have enough faith." Or, *if* I had *more* faith, then this bad thing wouldn't have happened... or, I would be able to move past it easier... I've met people who said they didn't have faith but wrestled with God more than most. That to me is faith.

The words we use can also be misleading sometimes. In the ancient languages, you always had faith *in something*, there was never just "faith." And because faith always had an object—someone or something—it was never "blind." In other words, before I followed someone I'd need to find out if they are trustworthy. Is that white water rafting guide experienced? Did my child's doctor actually graduate from medical school? When *someone I trust* shares a "faith story" about how God helped them—I believe them.

It's one thing to know *about* God—have "beliefs"—it's another thing to *trust* God and God's promises. This is where learning about God matters. I've run into a lot of people who don't trust God (believe in God)—because their "beliefs about God" are in error. In other words, they tell me about the God they do not believe in, and I'm like, I don't believe in that kind of God either!

And if you've read this far, you can probably tell that it is very easy to overthink faith. It's very simple: if God calls will you follow?

Peace,  
Pr. Christian



#### **SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP**

We have changed our Sunday Evening Worship services to the first and third Sundays of the month. **Our next August service will be held on August 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 Sue and Don Hummerston in honor of our Church Family!**

**The Sign Up Genius for the remainder of July and August is posted in the online ATC and church website!**



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

**The next Mission In meeting will be TODAY, 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. MATT'S SPONSORED RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE, SEPT. 2**

St. Matthew's and the American Red Cross are hosting our annual Blood Drive on Tuesday, September 2 from 2:00-7:00pm in the CLC. Come to give blood and you could receive an exclusive Peanuts x Red Cross shirt, while supplies last!

To sign up, call 1-800-733-2767, or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter "St. Matts Lutheran Church."

Links and QR codes to register and for the RapidPass can be found on our church website, and are linked in the online ATC. The QR code to register is located below!

If you have any questions, contact Meghan Comegys, [megcomegys@gmail.com](mailto:megcomegys@gmail.com), 484-684-3109.



## **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](mailto: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!**

**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



Questions? Contact Patrick Miller, 610-291-3002 or [pjm1198@yahoo.com](mailto:pjm1198@yahoo.com)

## **2<sup>ND</sup> 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: [pjm1198@yahoo.com](mailto:pjm1198@yahoo.com) or 610-291-3002.



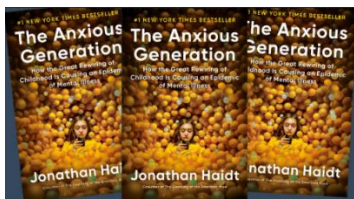
## **HELP IS NEEDED NOW! RISE AGAINST HUNGER MEAL PACKAGING EVENT, OCT. 19**

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.

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.

Please contact Troy Sisum at (610) 724-7357 or [tdsisum1@yahoo.com](mailto:tdsisum1@yahoo.com) if you are available to help.





## **"THE ANXIOUS GENERATION" BOOK GROUP, STARTS SEPT. 14**

This fall, our St. Matthew's/St. Paul's Family Ministry Team is offering a group book study around the New York Times bestseller "The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness," written by social psychologist Jonathan Haidt. This compelling book discusses the impacts that smartphones, social media, and other societal trends have had on our youth, and offers practical (but counter-cultural) ideas on how to establish important boundaries for younger children and adolescents. **We are particularly encouraging parents with young kids to join us, so that you can think about these things *before* you experience the pressure to get a smartphone for your child.** Our get-togethers will be held once a month on the second Sunday from 5:00-6:00pm, alternating between churches. The first gathering will be an information and introductory session on Sunday, September 14 in the Fellowship Hall at St. Paul's; childcare will be provided. Copies of the book will be available for purchase at a reduced cost or can be bought at Barnes & Noble, Amazon.com, or other major book sellers.

If you are interested in attending the September 14 informational session, please find the Sign Up link in the online ATC and church website, so that we make sure to have adequate childcare in place. If you have any questions, contact Craig Miller at [craigyouthmin@gmail.com](mailto:craigyouthmin@gmail.com), or 484-320-0785.



## **YOUTH NEWS**

**WE'RE HAVING A POOL PARTY!** On Sunday, August 24, all youth going into 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades are invited to join us for a pool party from 1:00-3:30pm at the Hummerstons' home in Downingtown (contact the office if you need the address). Bring a munchie or dessert to share with the group; drinks and pizza will be provided. **Sign up in the online ATC to save your spot!**

**OUR SECOND ANNUAL YOUTH KICKOFF LOCK-IN** will be held Saturday evening, September 6-Sunday morning, September 7 at St. Paul's! All 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders (including friends) are invited to spend an overnight in the church building playing games, doing activities, eating food, and just generally getting to know more about each other. The event starts at 6:00pm

Saturday evening and ends with us leading worship at St. Paul's on Sunday morning, where our ASP participants will share stories from their trip to West Virginia this summer. Come late or leave early if you need to (with parental permission). **Sign up in the online ATC to avoid missing out on the excitement!**

**HIGH SCHOOL OASIS RESUMES ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14** from 6:30-8:00pm in the St. Paul's Youth Room. Come welcome our rising 9th graders to this opportunity to relax, chill out, and decompress from the stresses of school, activities, and other pressures of life. No heavy discussions or deep Bible studies; just a chance to breathe. Advance sign-up isn't required, either; just show up! As with most of our youth events, friends are welcome, too.

## **YOUTH EVENTS COMING IN SEPTEMBER -**

**OCTOBER:** Watch for information on a ropes course/teambuilding event, a canoe trip, a fall festival, and more!



St. Mary's  
Franciscan Shelter  
For Homeless Families

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

**The kitchen at St. Mary's Homeless Shelter in Phoenixville is now fully licensed allowing them to offer more flexible options in the meals we prepare for them.**

**You can choose one of these options when you sign up to provide a meal:**

- Provide groceries for their kitchen team to prepare dinner. Plan a meal for 15 people, including a main dish, a vegetable or salad and a dessert. Groceries can be dropped off the day before or by 2:30 pm on the day of the meal.
- Deliver a ready-to-eat meal (frozen or fresh) from a grocery store or pizza parlor.
- Donate a \$40 grocery gift card to ACME, Giant, Redners or Costco so they can purchase the ingredients to prepare that evening's meal.
- Become a guest chef/baker and prepare your favorite meal or baked treat in their kitchen.

**More information is on our Church website, and the sign up for the next meal on August 24 is in the online ATC.**



## **DEEP DIVE INTO** **THEOLOGY,** **AUG. 24**

**This month's topic: Original Sin.**

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](mailto:skip.craft@verizon.net) **We'll meet after the service Sunday, August 24 in the lounge.** All are welcome.



## **IAC MEAL FOR ST. MARY'S, AUG. 29**

St. Matthew's will provide dinner for the 15 residents at St. Mary's Homeless Shelter (Phoenixville) on Friday, August 29, as part of the Interfaith Action Community's

meal week. We'll need:

- 3 volunteers to donate \$16 each (checks payable to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, memo: St. Mary's pizza)
- 1 bagged salad (store-bought)
- 1 dessert (store-bought)

To help, contact Louise Rutledge at [larutledge51@gmail.com](mailto:larutledge51@gmail.com). All items must be dropped off at the church office by 1:00pm on Friday, August 29.



## **HARI OM MANDIR INTERFAITH NITE, SEPT. 4**

The Interfaith Action Community cordially invites you to the annual Hindu festival of Ganesh on **Thursday, September 4 from 6:15-8:00pm.**

Join us as we celebrate the Hindu festival of Ganesh Utsav in all its vibrancy, learn about its significance, partake in cultural traditions, enjoy the beautiful musical integration of multiple faiths and indulge in delicious, authentic festive foods!

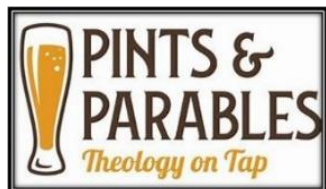
More info at: [www.hariomganeshutsav.org](http://www.hariomganeshutsav.org)



## **COFFEE & CHRIST, SEPT. 6**

Join us for coffee and good conversation at our next session of Coffee &

Christ, **Saturday, September 6 at 8:30am at Starbucks in Chester Springs!**



## **PINTS AND PARABLES, SEPT. 8**

Come join us for stimulating conversation &

fellowship, in a laid-back relaxing atmosphere on **Monday, September 8, 7:00pm, Liberty Union in Chester Springs.**



## **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 [ttguy@gmail.com](mailto:ttguy@gmail.com) with questions.

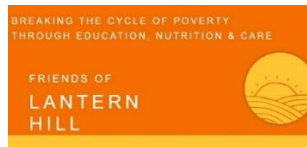


## **COMMUNITY GARDEN: HARVESTING UPDATE!**

Our summer growing season is now in full swing! We have been busy harvesting cucumbers, zucchini, yellow squash, banana peppers, bell peppers, green beans, tomatillos, and several varieties of tomatoes. **We have donated a total of 595 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](mailto:megcomegys@gmail.com) or 484-684-3109), Desiree Lee ([dal2123@yahoo.com](mailto:dal2123@yahoo.com) or 610-425-0484) or Jim Rutledge ([jrutman2005@yahoo.com](mailto:jrutman2005@yahoo.com) or 484-459-3255).



## **MEXICO TRIP INTEREST MEETING, SEPT. 21**

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 interest meeting on September 21 at 10:45am in the CLC.

The interest form can be found in the online ATC and on the church website.