



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Around the Church

August 24, 2025



THE BETTER PART

This Sunday's worship flow will be different than what we usually do. Call it a "contemplative" style. Instead of three scripture readings and a sermon, the middle part of the service will be a time to think, pray, listen, relax—without any other demands, than to "just be." I will admit that sometimes church isn't a "break" from all the pressures of the world. Sometimes the readings I preach on are challenging or difficult, and even though we need to be challenged, I then think sometimes church just needs to be a break from all that. So this Sunday, there will be time to reflect on the readings in silence. And if your mind wanders (I know mine will), that's fine. Sometimes we need to listen to God in a different way—not from someone else—but in the quiet of our hearts.

The Gospel reading for Sunday, Luke 10:38-42, is the story about Jesus visiting the sisters Mary and Martha. Martha is busy being the good host, but Mary isn't helping, just sitting at Jesus' feet listening. When Martha appeals to Jesus to ask Mary to help, he gently chides her. "Martha, Martha, you are distracted by many things..." That's us. "How are you doing?" "Good, but I'm so busy!" Sound familiar? There's very little "peace" in the world. Our world and lives are constantly moving from one thing to another it seems. Last Sunday, Jesus said he didn't come to bring peace; this Sunday he says to Martha that "Mary has chosen the better part, which will never be taken away."

Mary is resting, sitting at Jesus' feet, listening, just being with him. Away from the distractions of everything she is "supposed to do" to be a good host. Jesus is placing no demands on Mary. He's giving her his time, care, and attention. Pure Gift! And she just listens, taking in the gift she'll never lose.

Peace,
Pr. Christian



SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP

We have changed our Sunday Evening Worship services to the first and third Sundays of the month. Our

September services will be held on Sept. 7 and 21 at 6:30pm. Sunday Evening Worship services are great for those with busy schedules! Hope to see you next time!



PRAYER CORNER

Our beloved church member, Eurla Frederick, lost her son, Kent...who died suddenly, but very peacefully, in Greece a little over a week ago.

If you would like to send her a card, her address is:

Eurla Frederick

Spring Mill Retirement Community

Room 311

3000 Balfour Circle

Phoenixville, PA 19460

Kyle Dewees passed away on Wednesday, August 20, on his 40th birthday. We send our prayers and condolences to Kyle's parents, Sandy and Donald, his wife, Sara, and to the whole Dewees family.



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 **We'll meet after the service TODAY, Sunday, August 24 in the lounge.** All are welcome.



OUTREACH MEETING, AUG. 31

Please join us for our rescheduled August Outreach Team meeting on Sunday, August 31 at 10:45am in the CLC. Please spread the word. Hope to see you there.



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 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 above!

If you have any questions, contact Meghan Comegys, megcomegys@gmail.com, 484-684-3109.



ST. MATTHEW'S YARD SALE SEPT. 6: UPDATED TIME & HELP NEEDED!

Come sell and shop at the St. Matthew's Yard Sale on Saturday, Sept. 6 from 8:00am-12:00pm. 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.

Church members and members of the public are invited 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! We need people for set up tables, put out items, collect money, and clean up. Any amount of time you can offer would be greatly appreciated.



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:

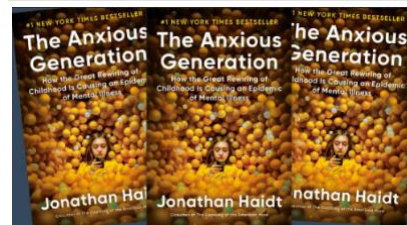
Step 1: To register to Golf or for just the lunch, please fill out the Google form (in the online ATC and Church website) and hit "Submit."

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.



September 14th
Anxious Generation Signup

"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 or scan the QR code, so that we make sure to have adequate childcare in place. If you have any questions, contact Craig Miller at craigyouthmin@gmail.com, or 484-320-0785.



YOUTH NEWS

WE'RE HAVING A POOL PARTY! Today, Sunday, August 24, all youth going into 6th-12th 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 or scan the QR code to save your spot!**



August 24th
Pool Party Signup



September 6th-7th
Kickoff Lock-In Signup

OUR SECOND ANNUAL YOUTH KICKOFF LOCK-IN will be held Saturday evening, September 6-Sunday morning, September 7 at St. Paul's! All 6th-12th 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 or scan the QR code 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.



September 27th
Good Works Workday Signup

OUR NEXT GOOD WORKS YOUTH WORK DAY is scheduled for Saturday, September 27 from 8:15am-3:45pm (meet at the Good Works warehouse in Coatesville). Come spend the day helping fix up

homes for families who don't have the means to do it themselves. Anyone in eighth through twelfth grade is welcome to join us, including friends. **Sign up on the online ATC or church website, or scan the QR code by September 15 to participate!**



September 28th
Canoe Trip Signup

THE 6TH-12TH GRADE YOUTH ARE GOING CANOEING on the Brandywine on Sunday, September 28th! Meet at St. Paul's at noon to carpool to Northbrook Canoe Company, where we will spend a leisurely afternoon drifting down the river! Family cost is \$25 for one youth, or \$40 for two or more youth from the same household. Sign up in the online ATC or church website, or scan the QR code to reserve your paddle:

THE FALL 2025 YOUTH CALENDAR IS NOW AVAILABLE on the Youth page of the church website. Events, dates, times, locations, and signup links may be found on the calendar; check it out to see what's happening for our Middle School (6th-8th grade) and High School (9th-12th grade) youth! Unless otherwise indicated, friends are *always* welcome to participate!



HARI OM MANDIR INTERFAITH NITE, SEPT. 4

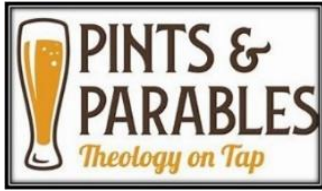
The Interfaith Action Community cordially invites you to the annual Hindu festival of Ganesh on Thursday, September 4 from 6:15-8:00pm. Join us as we celebrate the Hindu festival of Ganesh Utsav in all its vibrancy, learn about its significance, partake in cultural traditions, enjoy the beautiful musical integration of multiple faiths and indulge in delicious, authentic festive foods!
More info at: www.hariomganeshutsav.org



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.



MISSION IN:

NEXT MEETING SEPT. 14 & PRAYER SQUARES NEEDED!

The next Mission In meeting will be Sunday, Sept. 14 at 10:45am in the CLC.

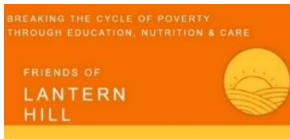
The Mission In team is asking for your help. If you know of someone in the congregation who is in need of support, please let us know. Maybe we can offer a card, a phone call, a visit, a dessert, or a meal. You can reach a Mission In member by contacting the church office.



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.



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.



St. Mary's
Franciscan Shelter
for Homeless Families

ST. MARY'S MEAL DELIVERY NEXT MEAL, SEPT. 28

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 Sept. 28 is in the online ATC.

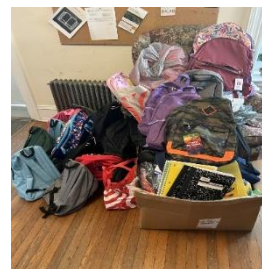


COMMUNITY GARDEN: HARVESTING UPDATE!

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 844 pounds of veggies to the Chester County Food Bank so far this season.

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 (jrutman2005@yahoo.com or 484-459-3255).



SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION: THANK YOU!

We did it again, St. Matthew's! A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our school supply collection for GEMMA Services. We collected 41 backpacks and extra supplies for the children they serve, so they can have a productive school year. GEMMA Services also sent us a thank you letter with gratitude for everyone's generosity. "Your donation helps students know they matter, thank you!"