



# St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

## Around the Church

### September 7, 2025



#### **TEENAGERS!**

Have you ever had a teenager tell you they hate you? Were you a teenager telling your parents you hated them? When my kids (sort of) said that, I had to learn to take it in stride. I realized that what they were doing is what all of us need to do at some point, and that is define ourselves as separate and different from “mom and dad” and what they want for us. So, when mom wanted me to be preppy in Junior High, I had to figure out how to “rebel” somehow. When my son Eric only wanted to wear black t-shirts, it was his way of wanting to be himself and not what I wanted him to be. (Even though it bugged the heck out of me...).

Jesus in the Gospel reading this Sunday says, “Unless you hate (!) father and mother you cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:25). That’s strong language! I think his bigger point is that *his call* will mean defining ourselves in relation to him *more than* our families. My parents were skeptical of me going to seminary, but I did not “hate them” in order to follow that call. I DID have to “separate” myself from what they wanted. It was very hard. I knew there would be conflict, tension, disappointment, and misunderstanding—basically a “cross” to bear. But those things *were going to happen* when me following Christ’s call—when my “discipleship”—became my own. Especially when I went to Boston on internship, fell in love with a Yankee, and then moved to Michigan for my first call. However, all that did NOT mean I cut myself off from my family! It is hard to be your “own person” and connected to family at the same time.

Jesus is inviting us into a kind of life that only he can offer. Freedom and forgiveness, love and second chances rooted in God’s amazing grace, is incomparable. It’s resurrection! Jesus reminds us, however, that it comes with a cross, and asks if we are willing to carry it. He did.

**Peace,**  
**Pr. Christian**

**SPECIAL NOTE:** There will be a Luncheon held in memory of Kyle Dewees TODAY, Sunday, September 7 from 1:00-4:00pm in the CLC. All church members are invited to attend to support the Dewees family.



#### **CHURCH PICNIC, SEPT. 14**

We can't wait to see everyone at the 2025 St. Matthew's Church Picnic on Sunday, September 14 from 11:00am-1:30pm!

Food, Beverages, and Music to be provided -- fun guaranteed! Let's kickoff the fall season reconnecting with St. Matthew's friends and family.

**We request your RSVP (the link can be found in the online ATC and on the church website under Events),** and please also indicate if you are able to provide a dessert, side dish, help set up before, or clean up after.

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

### **2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL DRIVE OUT HUNGER,** **SEPT. 18: REGISTER TO GOLF** **AND/OR ENTER TO WIN!**

**REGISTRATION IS STILL 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.

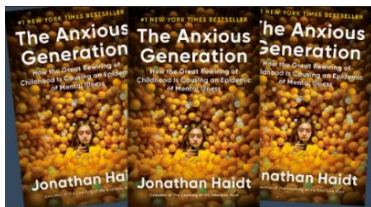
If you have any questions, contact Patrick Miller: [pjmill98@yahoo.com](mailto:pjmill98@yahoo.com) or 610-291-3002.

### SILENT AUCTION

**Exciting news!** We will have a silent auction for a Tour and Tasting of Pennsylvania Distilling in Malvern. This is a 3-hour event for 6 people. **To enter to win, check for a link in the online ATC or the Golf page on the church website.**

### RAFFLE BASKETS SEPT. 7 & 14

**CALLING ALL GOLFERS AND NON-GOLFERS ALIKE! Bring your cash and enter for a chance to win one of our 11 Drive Out Hunger raffle baskets TODAY, Sunday, September 7 and next Sunday, September 14.** The baskets include many great items, including gift cards to local restaurants and businesses. Baskets will be on display in the narthex both before and after the service this Sunday and next Sunday. **Tickets are \$10 a piece or 3 tickets for \$20.** This is a great way to support our fundraising efforts for the Chester County Food Bank, Grace Crossing Food Pantry, and the Coatesville Youth and Women's Alliance Food Pantry even if you are not able to attend the outing on September 18. **The raffle will be drawn at the outing and you will be notified if you have won even if you are not in attendance that day.**



September 14<sup>th</sup>  
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. **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.**

**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](mailto:craigyouthmin@gmail.com), or 484-320-0785.**

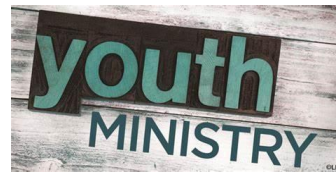


### **RISE AGAINST HUNGER MEAL PACKAGING EVENT, OCT. 19:** **REGISTER NOW!**

**The annual Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event will be held on Sunday, October 19.** According to our liaisons at Rise Against Hunger, our packaging event is the second largest community event in our region. **Like last year, our goal is to recruit volunteers and fundraise to purchase 60,000 meals that we will package on that day for the benefit of Rise Against Hunger.**

To date, we have raised approximately \$8,000 of the \$24,100 needed to purchase the meals we will package. We are looking for individuals who are interested in volunteering, fundraising, and contributing to the event. **Also, if you are interested in helping to organize and plan this event, please reach out to Troy and Diana Sisum ([tdsisum1@yahoo.com](mailto:tdsisum1@yahoo.com)) or Kathy Meltzer ([kmeltzer@comcast.net](mailto:kmeltzer@comcast.net)).**

**To register, click the link in the online ATC or on our Church website.**



### **YOUTH NEWS**

**HIGH SCHOOL OASIS RESUMES ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 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 27<sup>th</sup>  
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!**

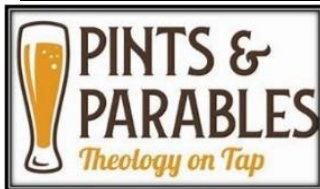


September 28<sup>th</sup>  
Canoe Trip Signup

**THE 6<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE YOUTH ARE GOING CANOEING** on the Brandywine on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>! 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 (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade) and High School (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) youth! Unless otherwise indicated, friends are *always* welcome to participate!

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

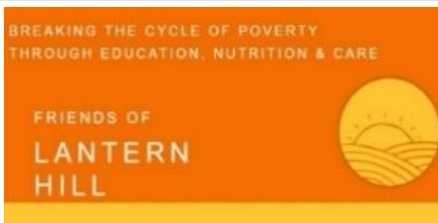


Come join us for stimulating conversation & fellowship, in a laid-back relaxing atmosphere on **Monday, September 8, 7:00pm**, Liberty Union in Chester Springs.



### **MEN'S BREAKFAST: SEPT. 20**

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](mailto: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.**



### **TWO MORE BAND-B-QUES!** **OCT. 1 & NOV. 5**

Do you love music? Singing? Playing? Wanna be in a band?! **This year, we will be hosting THREE Band-B-Ques, on the first Wednesday of the next three months: September 3, October 1, and November 5. Join us for food at 6:00pm, and then we'll move to the Sanctuary to make some music at 7:00pm.**

All are welcome: All skill levels, all musical styles, and all commitment levels! For more information, contact Music Director Daniel Bower at [worship@stmatthews-church.org](mailto:worship@stmatthews-church.org).

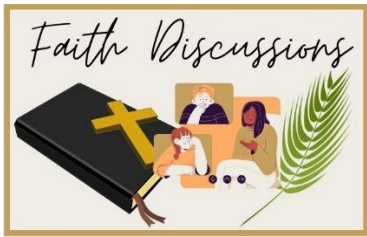


### **COFFEE & CHRIST,** **OCT. 4**

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

**Saturday, October 4 at 8:30am at Starbucks in Chester Springs!**





## **FAITH DISCUSSIONS, OCT. 7**

The Faith Discussions Group will resume meetings on Tuesday, October 7 at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. We will be discussing the wisdom of the desert fathers and mothers. This group of early Christians fled to the desert where they emphasized lifestyle practice as an alternative to empire and its economy. Hope to see you there!



## **ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL FALL CHILDREN'S CONSIGNMENT SALE, OCT. 10-11**

Save the Date and Spread the Word!  
Children's Consignment Sale  
Benefitting St. Matthew's School  
New Sellers Always Welcome!

**Friday, October 10:**

Special Parent/Church Shopping Day  
9:00am-12:00pm

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: 5:30pm-7:30pm**

**Saturday, October 11:**

**50% OFF SALE! 8:00am-10:00am**

If you would like to consign or volunteer to help, contact Chrissy Guyer at [stmatssale@gmail.com](mailto:stmatssale@gmail.com).



## **MISSION IN: NEXT MEETING OCT. 12**

The next Mission In meeting will be Sunday, October 12 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.



## **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 1003 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](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).



## **BLOOD DRIVE: THANK YOU!**

Our annual Red Cross blood drive was a success! 45 total units were collected including 6 Power Red donations (12 units). These units may go on to help up to 135 patients in need. Many thanks to those who came out to donate!



## **MONEY MATTERS & STEWARDSHIP FOR TEENS AT MESSIAH LUTHERAN, SEPT. 25**

Join us on Thursday, September 25, from 6:30-8:00pm for an enlightening event on Money Matters and Stewardship for Teens. This session, sponsored by Thrivent, is hosted by Messiah Lutheran Church, 46 West Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335. Open to all teens and their parents—invite a friend! For more info, contact Bob McGonigle at 610-986-2638 or [bobmcgonigle167@gmail.com](mailto:bobmcgonigle167@gmail.com)