



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Around the Church

September 21, 2025



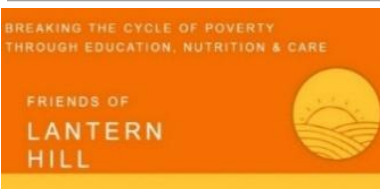
SHREWD AS CROOKS

"Be wise as serpents and innocent as doves" (Matthew 10:16). That is one of those paradoxical statements of Jesus that seems to make sense but then often leaves me scratching my head. Jesus doesn't quite say that in this Sunday's gospel reading, but comes really close (Luke 16:1-13). He tells a parable about a terrible account manager who is squandering his boss' money. His boss, who is angry, demands an audit, and the manager knows he's going to lose his job. So, what does he do? He *defrauds* his boss (!) by decreasing on the books what the boss' debtors owe him... so that the debtors will "welcome" the bad account manager *after he's been fired*. Then Jesus PRAISES this crook for being shrewd! How am I supposed to preach on that??

The rest of the reading is straight-forward. You can't serve two masters—God and money. That's true. So be *shrewd* with your money; make friends with your wealth by giving it away. And in the context of the larger Gospel, give it away to the poor—the people who can't pay you back in any way, so they may welcome you into God's eternal home.

You can't serve two masters. Who do you serve? I think a lot of us serve ourselves. And we support people who'll serve us and our self-interests. And, I think, we're very shrewd when it comes to all that. There are a lot of challenges in our world, challenges that I believe the Gospel can address. Are we as shrewd when it comes to addressing them, to advancing Christ's Kingdom? The crooked manager won friends by "forgiving debts." Funny how that's the wording of the King James Version of the Lord's Prayer—"Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" (Matt. 6:12).

Peace,
Pr. Christian



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 TODAY, September 21 at 10:45am in the CLC.

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



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, 96 volunteers have signed up (32% of the 300 volunteers we need), and we raised \$10,364.75 (we still need to raise \$13,364.75 to meet our goal of purchasing 60,000 meals to be packaged on Oct. 19). 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) or Kathy Meltzer (kmeltzer@comcast.net).**

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



DEEP DIVE INTO THEOLOGY, SEPT. 28

This month's topic: **Blessed Are The Peacemakers**
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 on Sunday, September 28 in the lounge. All are welcome.



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

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?! **We will be hosting two more Band-B-Ques, on the first Wednesday of the month: 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.



THE STABLES FAMILY NIGHT OUT, **OCT. 3 DINE & DONATE FOR** **ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL**

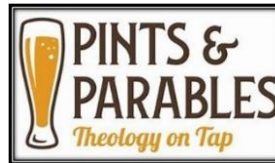
Join the St. Matthew's School community for our first Dine and Donate of the school year. **The Stables in Chester Springs will host a St. Matthew's Family**

Night Out on October 3, starting at 5:00pm. Tables will be reserved in the family section, and 10% of the night's sales will go back to the school. In the event of rain, the event will be moved inside. You can also purchase Stables Raffle Basket tickets for \$5.00 each. **If you dine with the family, or take food away, just mention you are there with St. Matthew's Dine & Donate so we receive credit!**



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!**



PINTS AND **PARABLES, OCT. 6**

Come join us for stimulating conversation & fellowship, in a laid-back relaxing atmosphere on **Monday, October 6, 7:00pm, Liberty Union in Chester Springs.**



NEW SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP **MEETING, OCT. 5**

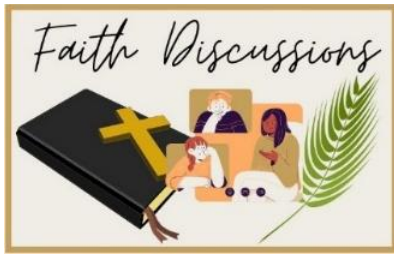
In the Gospel of Matthew (22:37-40), Jesus tells us to love God and to love our neighbor. He then says *everything hangs on these two commandments. Everything.* The mandate is straightforward: **SHINE THE LIGHT!**

In our world today...

- Immigrants and refugees are being treated in inhumane ways
- Increasingly, the marginalized (i.e. LGBTQ+) are being singled out and left behind
- Healthcare and food service programs are being cut
- Women's rights are slowly being chipped away...

These are just a few ways we are failing to deliver on Jesus' mandate proclaimed during the Sermon on the Mount. They run counter to what is expected of us as Christians.

We will be meeting on October 5 at 10:45am in the CLC, to discuss how we might respond to the current challenges in ways consistent with our calling as Christians. If you have questions, reach out to Mary Kwiatkowski (marykkwiatkowski@gmail.com), Jeff Foltz (autooutlook@icloud.com), or Drew Ortyen (andrew.ortyn@nimble-leader.com)



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

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.



YOUTH NEWS

HIGH SCHOOL OASIS RESUMES TODAY, 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 28th
Canoe Trip Signup

THE 6TH-12TH GRADE YOUTH ARE GOING CANOEING on the Brandywine on Sunday, September 28! 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. 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!



MISSION IN

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.



MEN'S BREAKFAST: OCT. 18

Please plan on bringing something to cook and share with the group on **Saturday, October 18** Food prep begins at 8:00am with breakfast starting at 8:30am. Please contact Tim Guyer at ttguyer@gmail.com with questions.



St. Matthew's Community Garden

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 1125 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).

TRUNK OR TREAT: OCT. 25

Please join us for our second annual Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, October 25 from 3:00-5:00pm on the church grounds! Admission is free.

We will be needing trunkers and volunteers for stations.

Check this week's online ATC for the link to sign up!



YARD SALE: THANK YOU!

Our Yard Sale on September 6 was a great success. After expenses for signs, we made \$583.00 for the Chester County Food Bank. Thank you to the Yard Sale Committee, to everyone who helped that day and also to everyone who gave us donations to sell. The remaining donated items went to the Vietnam Veterans of America. It was a really nice way to interact with the community, while benefiting the Food Bank and our veterans.

Check out our church website and our Facebook group to view more photos from the day!