



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Around the Church

October 12, 2025



THANK YOU!

I will admit I am terrible at writing thank you notes. Maybe it was because my mom never 'forced' my sister and I to do that as children... Stephanie and I, however, made our kids do that growing up, but I don't know if it made them "thank you" writers, though. This Sunday's Gospel reading from Luke 17:11-19 hinges on gratitude and giving thanks and praise to Jesus. He heals ten lepers, but only one comes back to thank and praise him. "Were not ten healed? Where are the other nine?" Jesus asks, with I imagine a hint of frustration. Then he says the important thing: "Rise, go on your way, your faith has made you well." Some translations have, "saved you." The interesting thing was that all of them were healed... but the one who returned was *made whole*.

The word most often translated "saved" in the New Testament can also mean "healed" or "made whole." What is it about gratitude and thankfulness that "makes us *whole*," that "saves us"? I think it comes with humility and acknowledgement of a *gift*. "Faith" in the leper's case wasn't a big mental exercise or risk of daring or a leap. It was simply saying, "Yes! This is what Christ did for me!" He *received* something that he couldn't get on his own. The gratitude simply shows that he doesn't see himself as "entitled"—and that's humility. Humility turns most everything into a gift, and gone is the struggle to earn or "be good enough" or worthy or deserving. And that is freeing. Christ relates to him as the giver of all good gifts. Being "whole" or "saved" begins and ends in *relationship* to God, and the leper by coming back and thanking Jesus relates to him as the One who can do what'll he never be able to do himself. That's faith and salvation—and that's being *whole*.

I am in a unique position in that the "success" of my "job"—St. Matthew's ministry—begins and ends with *y'all's faith* and the ways in which God works through you. I am incredibly grateful for you! I have to remind myself to "get out of the way" and let God be God in you. That doesn't mean I "do nothing," but faith, I believe, begins with gratitude. Thank you!

Peace,
Pr. Christian



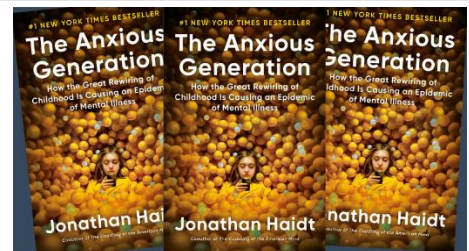
RISE AGAINST HUNGER MEAL PACKAGING EVENT, OCT. 19: REGISTER NOW!

The annual Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event will be held on Sunday, October 19.

As of press time on October 10, we currently have 261 volunteers and need another 40 people to help package the 60,000 meals. To date we have raised \$23,744 (we only need another \$360 to reach our goal!!)

Please reach out to Troy and Diana Sisum (tdsisum1@yahoo.com) or Kathy Meltzer (kmeltzer@comcast.net) with any questions. Click the link below to register to volunteer!

To register, click the link in the online ATC or on our Church website, or scan the QR code above.



THE ANXIOUS GENERATION BOOK GROUP: NEXT MEETING OCT. 12

PARENTS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN - IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN "THE ANXIOUS GENERATION" BOOK GROUP. We will meet every second Sunday of the month from 3:00pm-4:30pm over the next 5-6 months, alternating between churches. Child care will be provided, too. Here's the anticipated schedule:

- **October 12 at St. Matthew's – Book Introduction and Part 1, A Tidal Wave**
- November 9 at St. Paul's – Part 2, The Backstory: The Decline of the Play-Based Childhood
- December 14 at St. Matthew's – Part 3, The Great Rewiring: The Rise of the Phone-Based Childhood
- January 11 at St. Paul's – "Buffer" session, additional time for discussion of Parts 2 & 3

- February 8 at St. Matthew's – Part 4, Collective Action for Healthier Childhood
- March 8 at St. Paul's (if needed) – Where Do We Go From Here?

Copies of the book may be obtained from the church office for a \$10 donation, or can be purchased through any major bookseller. **If you would like to join us on October 12, please sign up in the online ATC so that we make sure that we have adequate childcare in place. If you have any questions, contact Craig Miller: craigyouthmin@gmail.com, or 484-320-0785.**



MISSION IN: NEXT MEETING OCT. 12

The next Mission In meeting will be TODAY, 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.



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 are still in need of volunteers to help with craft activities, face painting, and inflatables supervision, as well as more trunkers!

Check this week's online ATC for the link to sign up! Trunkers: Please make sure you have enough candy for the Treaters! We are also collecting extra candy in the bin in the Narthex!



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.



FAITH DISCUSSIONS, OCT. 21

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 21 at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary.

If you would like to purchase one of the books we are using for discussion, the title is *The Way of the Heart: The Spirituality of the Desert Fathers and Mothers* by Henri Nouwen. We are reading the first section on solitude for this next session and reading the book before each session is optional. Hope to see you on October 21!



YOUTH NEWS

THE NEXT HIGH SCHOOL OASIS GATHERING will be next Sunday, October 12 from 6:30-8:00pm at St. Matthew's; if the weather cooperates, we'll be at the outdoor fire pit. All 9th-12th graders are welcome to come and 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!

HELP WITH RISE AGAINST HUNGER! On Sunday, October 19, we would like to have our 6th-12th grade youth show up in force for the 1:00pm-3:00pm shift at St. Matthew's! Bring your family and friends along too, if you can. If you show up in the downstairs lounge at 12:15pm, there will be pizza and beverages available before our shift begins. Even if you can't do the 1:00pm time slot, you still have opportunities to serve from 11:00am-1:00pm, or 3:00pm-5:00pm. Sign up in the online ATC or church website to participate!

**HERE IS A LOT OF YOUTH STUFF HAPPENING ON
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25:**

OUR NEXT GOOD WORKS YOUTH WORK DAY is scheduled for Saturday, October 25 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 in the online ATC or church website to participate **by Monday, October 13.**

OR...

HELP WITH ST. MATTHEW'S TRUNK OR TREAT from 2:30-5:00pm. Anyone in 6th-12th grade is invited to help with setup, then be stationed at one of our youth "trunks" to help hand out candy to our neighborhood guests! Sign up in the online ATC or church website to participate. Then afterward, stay for...

YOUTH MOVIE NIGHT AT ST. MATTHEW'S! Come from 5:00-7:30pm for food and movie fun for all 6th-12th graders. Even if you can't help with Good Works or the Trunk or Treat, you're still welcome to come. No signup needed; just bring a lawn chair or blanket!

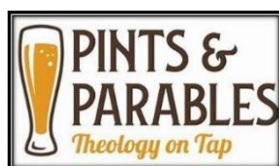
THE FALL 2025 YOUTH CALENDAR IS AVAILABLE on the Youth page of the church website. Events, dates, times, locations, and signup links may be found on the calendar; check it out to see what's happening for our Middle School (6th-8th grade) and High School (9th-12th grade) youth! Unless otherwise indicated,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

A YOUTH E-GAMES DAY AT UPLINK STUDIOS will happen on Sunday, November 9 from 1:00-3:00pm. Come join us at Uplink Studios in Glenmoore (near the corner of Routes 401 and 100) for an afternoon of competitive gaming AND teamwork! Family cost is \$20 for one youth participant, or \$35 for two or more participants from the same household. Sign up in the online ATC or church website to reserve your console.

COFFEE & CHRIST, NOV. 1



Join us for coffee and good conversation at our next session of Coffee & Christ, **Saturday, November 1 at 8:30am at Starbucks in Chester Springs!**



**PINTS AND
PARABLES, NOV. 3**

Come join us for stimulating conversation & fellowship, in a laid-back relaxing atmosphere on **Monday, October 6,**

7:00pm, Liberty Union in Chester Springs.



FINAL BAND-B-QUE NOV. 5

Do you love music? Singing? Playing? Wanna be in a band?! **We will be hosting one more Band-B-Que, on Wednesday, 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.

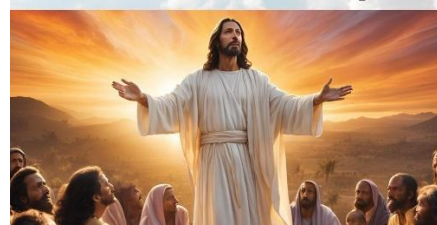


**HONEY
SUNDAY,
NOV. 2**

**HONEY SUNDAY IS
COMING!**

On Sunday, November 2, our youth will have a table outside of the sanctuary after worship to take honey orders and accept donations. This honey is produced by the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch organization, which provides residential, educational, and support services for at-risk youth and their families in North Dakota. Proceeds benefit this organization, as well as our own St. Matthew's/St. Paul's youth ministry.

Social Justice Group



**SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP:
POLL FOR NEXT MEETING**

Thanks to everyone who attended the Social Justice Group (SJG) meeting on Sunday, October 5. We had a great turnout!

Per our discussion, everyone who provides Jeff Foltz (autooutlook@icloud.com) with their email address will receive an email poll with three potential dates so we can schedule our SJG Planning & Action session.

If you missed the October 5 kick-off meeting, but you would like to learn more about the Social Justice Group, feel free to reach out to Mary Kwiatkowski (marykkwiatkowski@gmail.com), Jeff Foltz (autooutlook@icloud.com), or Drew Ortyń (andrew.ortyn@nimble-leader.com).



COMMUNITY GARDEN: **HARVESTING UPDATE!**

We had a fantastic summer growing season in the garden and to date have donated **1325 pounds** of veggies to the Chester County Food Bank. We recently transitioned to growing our fall vegetables including several types of lettuce, turnips, radishes, and kale.

Thanks to all our gardeners for your efforts in maintaining the garden and for your generous donations to the food bank! **If you are interested in helping in the garden or want to donate your extra vegetables, please contact Meghan Comegys (megcomegys@gmail.com/484-684-3109), Desiree Lee (dal2123@yahoo.com/610-425-0484) or Jim Rutledge (jirutman2005@yahoo.com/484-459-3255).**



DRIVE OUT HUNGER: **GRACE CROSSING CHECK** **PRESENTATION**

Our St. Matthew's representatives have presented the \$3,000 check to Grace Crossing Food Pantry. To check out the photo, and to see all Drive Out Hunger check presentations and the sponsors, check it out on our church website, www.stmatthews-church.org.