



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Around the Church

October 26, 2025



EVANGELICAL REFORMATION!!

This Sunday, Lutheran churches the world over will celebrate the reforming movement initiated by Martin Luther (1483 – 1546), a German monk and priest. On October 31, 1517, he nailed to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg “95 Theses” on church reform. At the time, Luther saw himself as a good Catholic trying to call the church—root and branch—back

to the Gospel. For Luther, the BIG issue was how we are in a right relationship with God. Did that *begin* with us? With how “good” we were, with how many good deeds we did, and were they enough to earn or merit God’s grace and forgiveness? Simply put, the church in Luther’s day, said, “Yes. It IS up to you!” This led to widespread abuses in late medieval society and especially the church.

Luther beat himself up in the monastery trying to be righteous before God until one day, the Gospel of God’s grace in and through Jesus Christ hit him like a ton of bricks. His experience in the monastery made him very spiritually perceptive and he realized his efforts were a form of “works righteousness”—that *my works determine* my relationship with God.

Do you notice how there’s NO mention of Christ or what Christ has done in “works righteousness”? Luther’s calls for reform were a call to the *Gospel*, the good news that our standing before God begins (and ends) with *Jesus Christ*, and his death and resurrection *for us*. “Righteousness” instead is God’s love, mercy, forgiveness, given to us freely on account of Christ! This was VERY different from the reigning theology of the late-medieval church. Luther called his reform “evangelical” after the Greek word for “good news.” Resistance to his message followed, the church split, and as they say, the rest is history.

The message of “works righteousness” is still out in our culture and society. So many voices say our worth is up to us and not established or rooted in God’s love. So many voices say “righteousness” means control—of our world, ourselves, and others, and not *receiving the gifts* God has given us. May we Lutherans continue to be “evangelical” messengers of God’s Good News!

Peace,
Pr. Christian



PASSING OF NOREEN CRAFT

The St. Matthew's Community is mourning the loss of one of our very active church members, Noreen Craft.

Noreen passed away on Saturday, October 11. We will host the **Celebration of Her Life on Saturday, November 1, at 11:00am in the Sanctuary.**

Our prayerful condolences go to her husband, Skip, and her children and grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, Noreen’s family invites donations to **St. Matthew’s Congregation Cares Ministry**, which supports members facing financial hardship. Checks may be made payable to St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church, with “Congregation Cares” in the memo line.

OUR GIFTS TOGETHER: PLEASE FILL OUT OUR SURVEY!



Please scan this QR code from your mobile device to open a survey about what gifts and skills that you would like to share with your **St. Matthew’s family**. You can also go to the link below to access the survey.

Additionally, it will be posted in the *Around the Church* email newsletter and around campus.

<https://forms.gle/PC66D8dp7Qpnus4t8>



HONEY SUNDAY, NOV. 2

HONEY SUNDAY IS NEXT WEEK! 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. Enjoy some sweetness while you support two good causes!



SCHOOL DINE AND DONATE **AT CARMINE'S OCT. 28**

Carmine's Restaurant has **FINALLY** re-opened after the fire that occurred in the Spring. Let's show them some love on Tuesday, October 28 from 4:00-8:00pm. Eat in or take out!! **You MUST bring a paper copy of the flyer with you.** You can find the flyer enclosed in this newsletter, or print one out from the online ATC or church website!

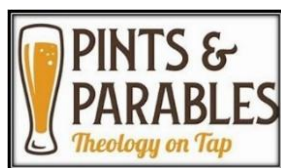


Q3 GIVING **STATEMENTS** **ARE ON THE** **WAY!**

We have mailed all
Third Quarter Giving

Statements as of press time, and we've e-mailed them to everyone on the e-mail list. **If you see any errors or issues, or have any questions, please contact Sara in the office so we can look into it for you.**

Please also contact Sara if you would like to join the e-mail Statement List and save the church some postage! srichardson@stmatthews.church.org



PINTS AND **PARABLES, NOV. 3**

Come join us for stimulating conversation & fellowship, in a laid-back relaxing atmosphere on **Monday, November 3,**

7:00pm, Liberty Union in Chester Springs.



FINAL BAND-B-QUE NOV. 5

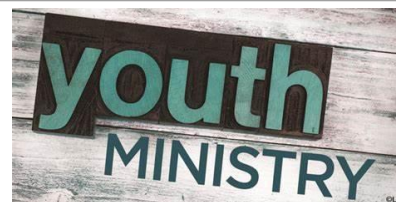
Do you love music? Singing? Playing? Wanna be in a band?! **We will be hosting one more Band-B-Que, on Wednesday, November 5. Join us for food at 6:00pm, and then we'll move to the Sanctuary to make some music at 7:00pm.**

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.



ASP 2026: LEADERS NEEDED!

ADULT LEADERS NEEDED FOR NEXT SUMMER'S APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT WORK WEEK! As we get ready for our July 11-18, 2026 work week in Central Appalachia, we need to get our adult leaders in place in order to determine how many youth we can accommodate. We need a **MINIMUM** of four male and four female leaders to take all of the youth who are likely to participate this year. **If you are interested in helping, please contact Craig Miller at craigyouthmin@gmail.com, or 484-320-0785, by November 30.**



YOUTH NEWS

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...

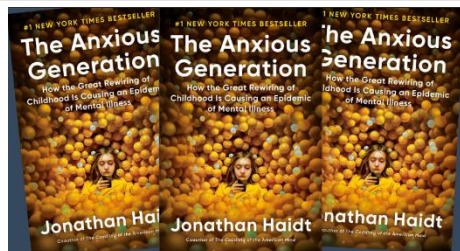
YOUTH MOVIE NIGHT AT ST. MATTHEW'S! Come from 5:00-7:30pm for food and movie fun for all 6th-12th graders. Even if you can't help with Good Works or the Trunk or Treat, you're still welcome to come. No signup needed; just bring a lawn chair or blanket!

THE NEXT HIGH SCHOOL OASIS GATHERING will be Sunday, November 2 from 6:30-8:00pm at St. Paul'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!

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.

A MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH MANIA! COOKOUT is coming up on Sunday, November 16 from 3:00- 4:30pm at the St. Matthew's firepit. Come roast some hot dogs, make s'mores, play games, and enjoy an afternoon of fun! (If it rains, we'll have indoor fun, games, and food

instead.) All sixth through eight graders are invited to come, including friends! Sign up on the online ATC to reserve your marshmallow stick!



ANXIOUS GENERATION BOOK GROUP, NEXT MEETING NOV. 9

OUR NEXT "THE ANXIOUS GENERATION" BOOK STUDY will be on Sunday, November 9, from 3:00-4:30pm at St. Paul's. Parents with children in preschool-5th grade are welcome to join us as we talk about issues around children and social media. This month's conversation will focus on the second section of the book, The Backstory: Decline of the Play-Based Childhood.



MISSION IN: NEXT MEETING NOV. 9

The next Mission In meeting will be Sunday, November 9 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: NOV. 15

Please plan on bringing something to cook and share with the group on **Saturday, November 15**. Food prep begins at 8:00am with breakfast starting at 8:30am. Please contact Tim Guyer at ttguyer@gmail.com with questions.

COFFEE & CHRIST, NOV. 22



Join us for coffee and good conversation at our next session of Coffee & Christ, **Saturday, November 22** at 8:30am at Starbucks in Chester Springs!

INTERFAITH/MINISTERIUM THANKSGIVING SERVICE, NOV. 23

The Interfaith Action Community and the Exton/Lionville Ministerium invite you to the third annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 23 at 7:00pm at the Hari Om Yoga Center at 348 Boot Road, Downingtown.



Presented by the
Interfaith Action Community
of Chester County and the
Exton/Lionville Ministerium



COMMUNITY GARDEN: HARVESTING UPDATE!

We will be completing our final harvesting for the fall growing season within the next couple of weeks. To date we have donated **1485 pounds** of veggies to the Chester County Food Bank. Last year we ended the season with 1330 pounds donated so we were successful at surpassing our goal this year. Thanks to all of 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 (jrutman2005@yahoo.com/484-459-3255).**

RISE AGAINST HUNGER:

THANK YOU!

What an amazing day we had last Sunday! Thanks to our efforts, we far exceeded both of our goals with money raised, volunteers, and meals packaged. We had 385 volunteers (128% over goal) package over 62,500 meals and raised \$26,463.37 (110% of our goal!)

We especially would like to thank our sponsors, whose generosity allowed us to grow our event in wonderful ways. Please patronize these businesses for their efforts to feed the children who are most in need in our world!

 THANK YOU to our generous 2025 sponsors!	
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 ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH Joyful service in God's world	 DEVINE TIMONEY LAW GROUP The Nolte Family The Sisum Family  St. Paul's Lutheran Church
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CALL FOR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS!

We are in need of more Worship Assistants in all areas: Audio/Visual Assistants, Greeters, Altar Assistants, Lectors, Communion Assistants, Fellowship Providers and Youth Acolytes.

The need is greater now, especially as we approach the Holiday season.

If you are interested in any of the positions available, please contact Sara Richardson in the office: srichardson@stmatthews-church.org. Scheduling is flexible and training will be provided!