



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Around the Church

November 9, 2025



NO SHAVE NOVEMBER

I'm not usually a 'bandwagon' person, but just the other day my son Eric asked me if I was going to do "no shave November." I thought about it for two seconds and said, "Probably not. My beard is almost all grey, and it makes me look old." Then he made fun of me for about five minutes for being old and bald. We then talked about when and how it started (neither of us really knew). But I thought about it more after he left. I don't like shaving, and yes, having a beard does make me look a *lot* older. (Yes, I can be vain about certain things...).

"No shave November" became a "thing" in the 2000s. It started as a cancer awareness campaign and fundraiser. The idea is that the money that would be spent on "grooming" would go to a cause. I don't spend *any money* on grooming, and my thinning hair only gets cut once every 5-6 weeks at Supercuts. But then I thought, what if I grew my beard out and then turned it into a fundraiser, where the kids (little kids up to the high schoolers) can "shave my beard" however they want at the end of the month? A fu-manchu, lamb chops, an Amish cut, leave a soul-patch, or dye it some color(s)...?

Then, just this week we were approached by the Owen J. Roberts School District about helping them with their holiday appeal. They are looking to provide gift cards for groceries and winter essentials for over 50 needy families identified by the District. We will purchase the gift cards with funds we raise, and we will deliver them to the OJR District Office. We're also raising money to provide some of the meal items for the **Thanksgiving Meal at the Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion in Philly**. All this seems especially timely given the disruption with SNAP payments because of the government shutdown.

What if I put a jar out in the entryway...? Could you say no to a second grader asking for money to do something embarrassing with Pr. Christian's beard? I think we'll set a "goal"—don't know what that'll be yet—and sometime in December, I'll get shaved. **Guys—any of you want to participate? (Please, embarrassment loves company.)** This could be fun and for a good cause. What's better than that?

Peace,
Pr. Christian

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>



THANKSGIVING DAY MEAL **DISTRIBUTION AT HOLY** **COMMUNION CHURCH, NOV. 27**

For nearly 20 years, St. Matthew's has teamed up with the Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion at 21st and Chestnut Streets in Philadelphia to help prepare and deliver turkey dinners to over 250 people.

Many of the meals will go to those who live outdoors, and this is a wonderful way for us to share God's love with those less fortunate.

Check this week's online ATC and the church website for the Sign-Up Genius to volunteer. There are two main roles: preparing meals in the Hall and being a driver to deliver hot meals to the streets. Please invite your family and friends to share in this morning of service.

A friend of St. Matthew's has covered the cost of the turkeys for the last 20 years, and we are responsible to provide the sides, beverages and paper products. **Our target goal is \$1,000.**

To contribute online, go to: <https://stmatthews-church.org/give#> Click "Give Online Now" and then select "Thanksgiving" from the drop-down menu on the next screen that appears. You can also write a check to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, and in the memo line, write "Thanksgiving."

If you have any questions, please reach out to Patrick Miller (pjmill98@yahoo.com) or Troy and Diana Sisum, (tdsisum1@yahoo.com).



COLLECTION FOR HATS, GLOVES, SCARVES & SOCKS

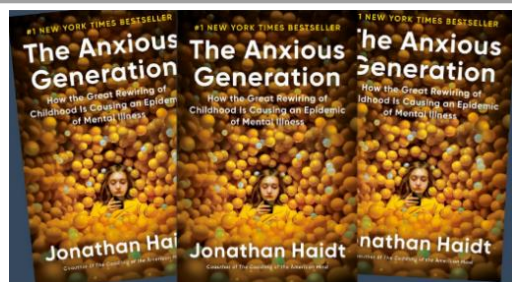
If you are unable to volunteer on Thanksgiving Day, but would still like to help, we will also be collecting new socks and new or gently used gloves, hats and scarves to bring to those who need them. You may drop off donations to the bins around campus or drop them off to the Church Office during business hours.



MISSION IN: NEXT MEETING NOV. 9

The next Mission In meeting will be TODAY, 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.



ANXIOUS GENERATION BOOK GROUP, NEXT MEETING NOV. 9

OUR NEXT "THE ANXIOUS GENERATION" BOOK STUDY will be TODAY, 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.



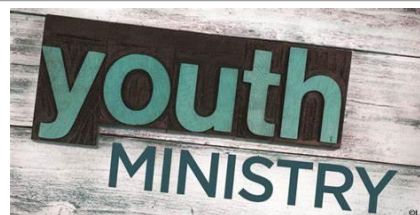
ASP 2026: LEADERS NEEDED!

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.**



CONGREGATION CARES DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF NOREEN CRAFT

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.



YOUTH NEWS

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.

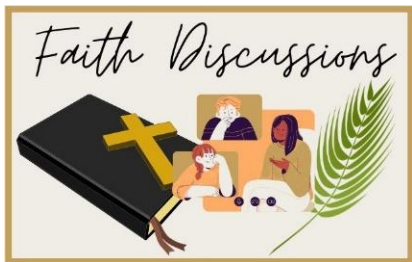
LOOKING FOR SOME CREATIVE YOUTH! We need help making posters and other advertising materials for two youth fundraisers coming up in November and December. Come contribute your talents to our effort on Sunday, November 9 from 6:30-8:00pm in St. Paul's Youth Room.

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 6th-8th graders are invited to come, including friends! Sign up on the online ATC to reserve your marshmallow stick!

OUR NEXT GOOD WORKS YOUTH WORK DAY is scheduled for Saturday, November 22 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 8th-12th grade is welcome to join us, including friends. **Sign up in the online ATC by Monday, November 10 to participate.**

THE ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL OASIS 'FRIENDSGIVING' GATHERING will be held on Sunday, November 23 from 6:00-8:30pm at the Sanders' home. Come celebrate and give thanks for the faith friendships you have developed through our congregations! ALL 9th-12th Graders are invited to come. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. Sign up information is coming soon!

IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR OUR ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL TRIP TO ELMWOOD PARK ZOO hosting students from Gemma Services for their "Wild Lights" holiday display! On Sunday, December 7, 9th-12th graders are invited to help make the Christmas season a bit brighter for some elementary-aged kids who are in challenging family situations. Meet at St. Matthew's at 4:15pm to carpool to Elmwood Park Zoo, and meet the Gemma Services group at 5:00pm. Walk with them through the zoo's light show and animal exhibits, and share some Christmas love with kids who could use some extra happiness in their lives. **The cost will be \$10 per person; if you wish to chip in additional money to help cover admission for our guests, you are welcome to do that as well. Sign up in the online ATC take part.**



FAITH DISCUSSIONS, NOV. 18

Our next Faith Discussions meeting will be on **Tuesday, November 18 at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary.** We will complete our discussion of the desert fathers and mothers with the chapter on prayer in *The Way of the Heart: The Spirituality of the Desert Fathers and Mothers* by Henri Nouwen. Please share ideas for our next study which will begin on December 2. See you there!



MEN'S BREAKFAST: NOV. 22

Please plan on bringing something to cook and share with the group on **Saturday, November 22.** 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!** on **Monday, December 1, 7:00pm, Liberty Union in Chester Springs.**



ST. MARY'S MEAL DELIVERY **NEXT MEAL, NOV. 23**

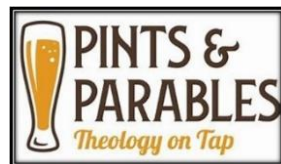
You can choose one of these options when you sign up to provide a meal:

- 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 November 23 in the online ATC.

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.



PINTS AND **PARABLES, DEC. 1**

Come join us for stimulating conversation & fellowship, in a laid-back relaxing atmosphere



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 **1520 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).**



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!



NEW CHURCH LIGHTING SYSTEM

"The light shines in the darkness,

and the darkness did not overtake it." -John 1:5

With our profound thanks, we received an extremely generous donation from the Chad Byers family (whose children are alumni of St. Matthew's Preschool & Kindergarten) for the brand-new lighting system of the Church Sanctuary. The lights were installed this week. We hope our St. Matthew's family and our surrounding Chester Springs community will appreciate this warm, inviting illumination of our church for years to come.