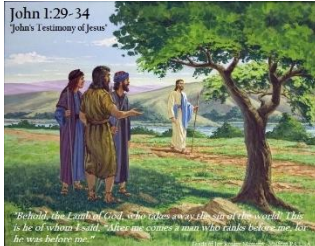




St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Around the Church

January 18, 2026



SEEING AND TELLING

(adapted from *Sundays & Seasons*)

The time after Epiphany—the Wise Men's visit and Jesus' baptism—is the church's time to invite us to come and see

who this one born in a manger will be, and to discover what this one born to a young woman might mean for us and for the world. This Sunday's gospel tells us that Jesus is the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world," "the Son of God," and "the Messiah" (John 1:29-42). These titles show us that the coming of Jesus has meaning not just for those who follow him, but for all people and all the world. In the gospel, neither John the Baptist nor Andrew can contain their testimony about who Jesus is. They have had an encounter with Christ that has had such an impact on their lives that they cannot help but tell others about it. John tells his disciples and everyone else within earshot about Jesus. Andrew runs to find his brother, Peter, and brings him to Jesus so that Peter might have the same life-changing encounter he himself has experienced.

We are invited to "come and see" who Jesus is. We are reminded that God's forgiveness and love proclaimed in Jesus Christ is meant to be good news for us and for all people. As we encounter Christ, our lives are changed. Like John the Baptist and Andrew in today's gospel, we are called to share with others who we have seen Jesus to be.

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ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: JAN. 25

Please join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting next Sunday, January 25, after the 9:30am service in the Sanctuary. This is an

opportunity to reflect on the past year, and plan for the upcoming year.

We will:

- hear updates from ministry leaders,
- present the 2025 financials
- offer the 2026 budget for approval
- elect new members to council.

We look forward to seeing you there. For more information, please contact Council President Doug Dittlo (dougditillo@gmail.com).

Electronic or print copies of the annual report may be requested by contacting the church office beginning Monday, January 26. (office@stmatthews-church.org)



OUTREACH MEETING

JAN. 18

Please join us for our first meeting of 2026 TODAY, Sunday, January 18 at 10:45am in the CLC. All are welcome to attend!



TRIP TO LANTERN HILL MEETING JAN. 29

We're going! Follow the Light to Lantern Hill on our mission week July 20-26 (may be flexed by a day on either end due to travel needs).

A Zoom meeting on Thursday, January 29 at 7:00pm will discuss travel plans, expectations, and possibly feature a visit with the founder of Lantern Hill. Attend this meeting even if you just think you want to go! We will obtain commitments to travel by the end of February.

For more information, please contact Stephanie McMullan (mcmullanfour@verizon.net) or Jen Williams (jenwilliamsrp@gmail.com)



MISSION IN:

REQUEST FOR PRAYER SQUARES

The Mission In team is looking for people who knit or crochet who would be willing to make prayer squares. The squares could be 2"x2" up to 4"x4" in any color. Mission In will be attaching a sentiment and giving these to members who might need a lift and/or are on the Prayer List. Please say a prayer over the square prior to donating it. There will be a collection box in the lobby of the CLC. Thank you for your help!



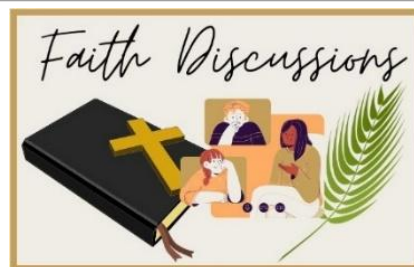
YOUTH NEWS

DON'T MISS OUR YOUTH EVENT AT TOPGOLF IN KING OF PRUSSIA on Sunday, January 25 from 12 Noon-3:00pm! Spend a couple of fun hours showing off your golf swing (or developing one), eating, and having fun with friends! ALL youth in grades 6-12 are invited to participate, including friends. The household cost will be \$20 for one participant, or \$35 for two or more participants from the same household. Sign up is in the online ATC, don't throw away your shot!

REGISTER NOW FOR THE TUSCARORA LUTHERAN YOUTH RETREAT! This annual synod-wide youth event will take place Friday evening through Sunday afternoon, March 20-22. ALL 6th-12th graders are encouraged to participate, and friends are welcome to join us, too! The cost is \$175 per person; scholarships are available. The sign up link is on the online ATC and church website, **the registration deadline is Sunday, February 1.**

THE NEXT HIGH SCHOOL OASIS 'BIBLE DIVE' will be on Sunday, February 1 from 6:30-8:00pm at St. Paul's (note the change in date!) Our first session involved a really good discussion around baptism and the Holy Spirit. Come spend some time relaxing from the stresses from life and resting

in God's Good News! Open to all 9th-12th graders, including friends. No sign up necessary; just show up.



FAITH DISCUSSIONS, JAN. 20

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 20 at 7:00pm in the Lounge. We are continuing our discussion of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, and will be discussing Matthew 6:5-18. All are welcome...hope to see you there!



MEN'S BREAKFAST, JAN. 24

Please plan on bringing something to cook and share with the group on **Saturday, January 24. Please note the change in date!** Food prep begins at 8:00am with breakfast starting at 8:30am. Please contact Tim Guyer at ttguyer@gmail.com with questions.



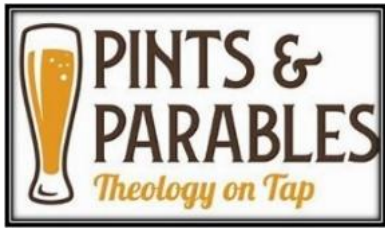
ST. MARY'S MEAL DELIVERY **NEXT MEAL, JAN. 25**

You can choose from a few options when you sign up to provide a meal, two are listed below:

-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.

More information is on our Church website, and the sign up for the next meal on January 25 is in the online ATC.



PINTS AND PARABLES, FEB. 2
NOW AT MAGERKS!

Come join us for stimulating conversation & fellowship, in a laid-back relaxing atmosphere on **Monday, February 2, 7:00pm**. We will meet at **MaGerks, 174 Eagleview Blvd. in Lionville.**



COFFEE & CHRIST, FEB. 7

Join us for coffee and good conversation at our next session of Coffee & Christ, **Saturday, February 7 at 8:30am** at Starbucks in Chester Springs!

ASP **Appalachia**
SERVICE PROJECT®
YOUTH REGISTRATION FOR
APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT
IS NOW OPEN!

Current 7th-12th graders are able to participate in this annual trip to Central Appalachia to help make homes safer, warmer, and drier for families in need. This year's ASP trip will be July 11-18, 2026 (Saturday through Saturday), with three prep sessions happening Sundays April 19, May 3, and May 31.

To register, go to ASP's registration portal at <https://apps.skycog.com/reg/APPSESV/SignIn.asp> (link is in the online ATC and church website) and do the following:

1. Log in to your ASP account. (If you have never attended ASP before, you will need to create a new account in the participant's name, not the parent's.)
2. Enter 16866 for the group number, to find our trip.
3. Complete the registration, release, and medical forms online.

The cost per participant will be \$400; youth will have the opportunity to earn money toward their trip

by helping with fundraisers in late winter and spring. This trip has filled up for the past three years, so don't wait too long if you want to come with us this summer!

Questions? Contact Craig Miller at craigyouthmin@gmail.com, or by text or phone at 484-320-0785.



RENT A GARDEN SPACE IN 2026!

Interested in renting a growing space in our thriving community garden? We have one raised garden bed available for rent for the upcoming 2026 growing season. The cost to rent the bed for a single season (April-November) is \$50. With our well-maintained garden space and drip watering system, you do not have to be an experienced gardener to enjoy growing your own veggies. If you or anyone you might know from the community is interested, please contact Meghan Comegys at megcomegys@gmail.com or 484-684-3109. We would love to have new faces join our existing team of gardeners!



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. Now is a great opportunity to join us in the new year!

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!

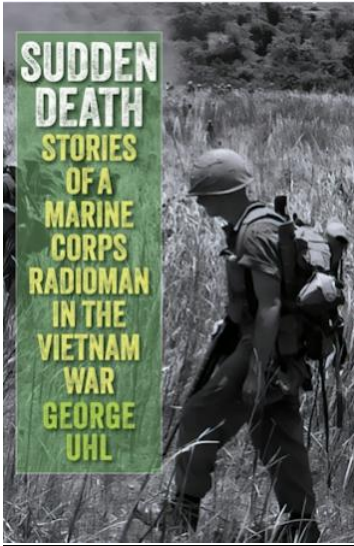
OUR GIFTS TOGETHER:
PLEASE FILL OUT OUR SURVEY!



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>



ST. MATTHEW'S MEMBERS
HIGHLIGHT

George Uhl, a former active member of St. Matthew's who relocated to North Wales, PA to be closer to family, **has recently published a book entitled *Sudden Death: Stories of a Marine Corps Radioman in the Vietnam War***. The book is available on Amazon and through the publisher's website, the link is located in this week's online ATC, and posted on our church website. We congratulate George on this meaningful accomplishment, and thank him for sharing his story.