



# St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

## Around the Church

### February 8, 2026



#### **Y'ALL ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**

"Y'all are the light of the world..."  
(Matthew 5:14). "Let y'all's light so shine before others..." (vs.

16 (yes, the Greek is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> person plural!)). These words of Jesus set the tone for this Sunday, and it's a wonderful theme! In the darkness of the news and current events, it's a welcome word that unfortunately gets missed in all the other noise. It is hard for me to not get caught up in negativity. Our reading from Isaiah 58 this Sunday is a good prophetic reminder: "If you remove the yoke from among you, *the pointing of the finger*, the speaking of evil, <sup>10</sup> if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, *then your light shall rise in the darkness*" (vs. 9-10). I see the polarization in our country and listen for the "light" in the common values that hold us together—which we'll never hear if we keep "pointing the finger" blaming the other. And then I look at what all goes on at St. Matthew's, and if I'm not careful will miss all the light shining through y'all.

For example: A group of women last weekend gathered for a workshop led by Braver Angels, a volunteer-led organization working to promote dialogue. The topic was "de-polarizing within." Expect to hear more in the near future about how more of us can do that... Grace Crossing Food Pantry will sponsor next Sunday's coffee fellowship. Chris Marziale will give a presentation on their ministry and thank us for our support of them. This Sunday, we'll unveil the Lantern Hill banner and kick off a fundraising effort for this summer's mission trip to Mexico. The banner was made by the Piecemakers (formerly the Chatty Country Quilters). We also just had Pre-School Sunday—giving thanks for all it does for the community and the families it serves. And those are just a few things, literally, right off the top of my head....

ALL of this is inspired and made possible by Christ's Spirit within us. I absolutely refuse to fall prey to cynicism and the "counter-arguments" that

point out all the problems that remain. Pointing the finger doesn't solve a problem; it just points it out. Only God's goodness can solve our problems, and *believing Jesus* when he says, "Y'all are the light of the world."

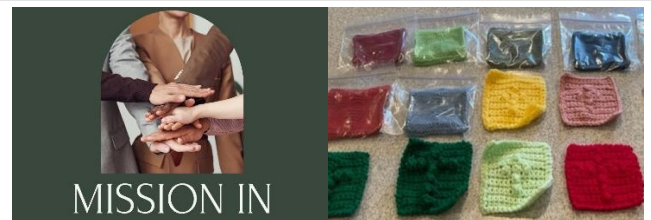
**Peace,  
Pr. Christian**



#### **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES, FEB. 18**

Lent is coming! **We will have two services on Ash Wednesday, February 18...**a short, late morning service at 11:30am, and a full worship service at 7:00pm.

**We will need Worship Assistants at each service. If you can fill in a role for either service, please sign up in the link posted in the online ATC and church website.**



#### **MISSION IN: NEXT MEETING FEB. 8**

The next Mission In meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 8 at 10:45am** in the CLC. The Mission In team is looking for people who **knit or crochet who would be willing to make prayer squares**. The squares can 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!



## **OUTREACH LENTEN COLLECTIONS FOR GRACE CROSSING AND CYWA**

The Outreach Team is sponsoring this year's Lenten Collections, to benefit Grace Crossing Food Pantry and the Food Pantry Van for the Community Youth and Women's Association (CYWA). The collections will run through Sunday, March 22. You can place food items in the bins inside of the Narthex before Sunday Worship, in the CLC, or in the bin on the Church Office porch.

To give financially, go to [www.stmatthews-church.org/give](http://www.stmatthews-church.org/give) select "Give Online Now," and in the drop-down menu on the next screen, select "Outreach." You can also drop any donations in the collection in an envelope marked for Grace Crossing or the CYWA.

### **Grace Crossing's most needed items include:**

- Large Sweet Potatoes (40 oz., only need 9)
- Canned Pineapple (sliced only, need 26)
- Canned Green Beans
- Canned Mixed Vegetables (any brand is fine)
- Canned Pears
- Boxed Mac and Cheese
- Cookies (VARIETIES OTHER THAN CHOCOLATE...NO CHOCOLATE CHIP)
- Cereal (other than Cheerios or cornflakes - they receive these from Food Bank)
- Jelly (strawberry and grape, glass jars OK)
- Salad dressing of any flavor

*Items will be used as sides for Grace Crossing's Easter Meal.*

The CYWA Food Pantry Van picks up donated food every day from our partners, such as Wegmans, Giant, Acme, Walmart, and several others to provide food for over 500 families a month, delivering about 1 million pounds of food a year to the most needy.

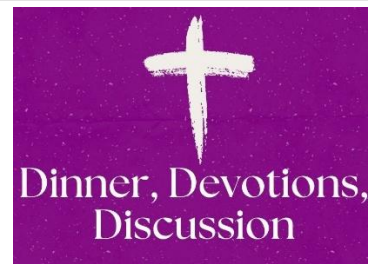
The operation of the van costs CYWA about \$10,000 annually, and the cost of gas alone is about \$4,000 of that total. Please consider a monetary donation or a donation of gas gift cards to help offset the gas costs.



## **SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER FOR YOUTH MINISTRY, MAR. 6**

THE ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER AND YOUTH FUNDRAISER will be held on Friday evening, March 6 at St. Matthew's! As in past years, there will be two seatings, one at 5:30pm and one at 7:00pm. Unlike past years, tickets will not be sold, but a freewill offering will be collected to benefit the St. Matthew's/St. Paul's youth ministry; suggested donations are \$10 per adult and \$5 per child 12 and under, or \$30 per family. **To reserve your seats, go to the link in the online ATC or church website.**

**LOOKING FOR SPAGHETTI DINNER FOOD DONATIONS!** We are looking for people to donate food and supplies for our March 6th Spaghetti Dinner. Donations should be dropped off at St. Paul's by Thursday, March 5 or at St. Matthew's by noon Friday, March 6. **Sign up link is in the online ATC or church website.**

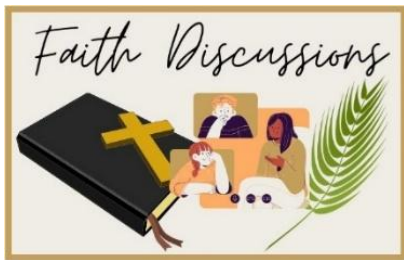


## **LENTEN DINNER, DEVOTIONS, DISCUSSION BEGINS FEB. 25**

We will be offering "Dinner, Devotions, Discussion" every Wednesday evening during Lent, starting Wednesday, February 25 and running through March 25, in the CLC from 6:00pm-7:15pm.

It's a great opportunity to get together, reflect on the meaning of the Lenten season with fellow church members, and share a meal! All are welcome!

If you would like to contribute to the meals, please sign up on the link posted in the online ATC or the church website.



### **FAITH DISCUSSIONS, FEB. 17**

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 3 at 7:00pm in the Lounge. We are continuing our study of the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 7:1-12. All are welcome...hope to see you there!



### **FAMILY TRIP TO MIDDLE CREEK, FEB. 21**

BACK THIS YEAR! OUR FAMILY TRIP TO MIDDLE CREEK WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA will take place on Saturday, February 21. Meet at St. Matthew's at 7:30am to travel to Middle Creek (about an hour's drive), or meet us there at the Willow Point Trail parking lot (off Kleinfeltersville Road) for some hiking and exploration. Hopefully we'll get to see some of the amazing snow goose migration that takes place through the area. Bring snacks and water; hot dogs and hot chocolate will be provided. **Sign up in the online ATC to join us! Snow date will be Saturday, February 28.**



### **MEN'S BREAKFAST, FEB. 21**

Please plan on bringing something to cook and share with the group on **Saturday, February 21**. Food prep begins at 8:00am with breakfast starting at 8:30am. Please contact Tim Guyer at [ttguyer@gmail.com](mailto:ttguyer@gmail.com) with questions.



### **ST. MARY'S MEAL DELIVERY NEXT MEAL, FEB. 22**

*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 February 22 is in the online ATC.**

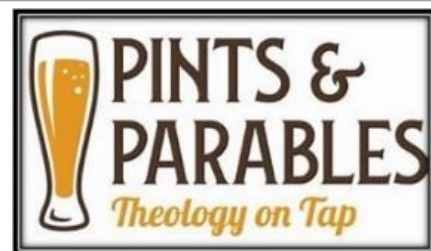


### **ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL WINTER CARNIVAL, FEB. 28**

Join us for the annual St. Matthew's School Winter Carnival on Saturday, February 28 from **10:00am-1:00pm!**

This is the perfect event for the age 7-and-under crowd! Three hours full of fun! Games, Crafts, Face Painting, Balloon Magician, Raffle Baskets, Dance Room with great music. Lunch will be served from 11:00am-1:00pm.

**The entry fee is \$10.00 per child and it includes all activities! Hope to see you there!**



### **PINTS AND PARABLES, MAR. 2 NOW AT MAGERKS!**

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





### **COFFEE & CHRIST, MAR. 7**

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

---



### **YOUTH NEWS**

#### **AN OUTDOOR ADVENTURE**

**OPPORTUNITY! 6th-12th GRADE YOUTH** are invited to participate in our trip to Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area on **Saturday, February 21 (snow date February 28)**. Meet at St. Matthew's at 7:30am to carpool to Middle Creek and spend the day hiking, exploring, and hopefully seeing some of the amazing snow goose migration. Bring snacks and water; hot dogs and hot chocolate will be provided. Sign up is on the online ATC.

#### **COME JOIN OUR RESCHEDULED YOUTH EVENT AT TOPGOLF IN KING OF PRUSSIA on Sunday, February 22 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 is \$20 for one participant, or \$35 for two or more participants from the same household. **Sign up in the online ATC; don't throw away your shot!**

**THE NEXT GOOD WORKS YOUTH WORK DAY is Saturday, February 28 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 by Monday, February 16 to participate!**

**ATTENTION ALL YOUTH AND PARENTS: HELP NEEDED FOR THE SPAGHETTI DINNER AND FUNDRAISER!** We need 6th-12th graders, along with their parents, to come out and be part of the youth ministry's biggest fundraising event of the year. **We're looking for people to help with setup, decoration, cooking, and serving on Friday evening, March 6. Sign up in the online ATC to help out.**

**OUR HIGH SCHOOL OASIS GROUP** meets again on **Sunday, March 8 from 6:30-8:00pm at St. Matthew's, in the downstairs lounge.** We will continue our Bible Dive series with a focus on the history of the early Christian church, from Acts up through the first three hundred years. Our first two Bible Dive sessions have had some really deep, thoughtful discussion and reflections; come and see what this is all about. All 9th-12th graders are welcome to attend, including friends. No advance signup necessary; just show up!

---



### **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.skycoq.com/reg/APPSERV/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](mailto:craigyouthmin@gmail.com), or by text or phone at 484-320-0785.**