



# St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

## Around the Church

### February 22, 2026

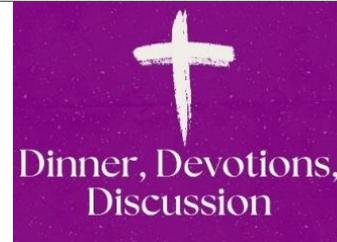


#### **THE DEVIL MADE ME DO IT**

There's not a lot of good news in this Sunday's scripture readings. At least, not without wrestling first with all the bad news. Lent started with Ash Wednesday this week and the first Sunday is traditionally about Jesus' temptation by the devil in the wilderness for 40 days (Matthew 4:1-11). Paired with that story is the temptation of Adam and Eve by the serpent in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7). There is a lot of deception in that story. For instance, the serpent says if they eat the forbidden fruit, "You will be like God," but Gen. 1:26-27 says that humanity is *already like God*, made in God's image. The serpent tricks them, and it's been history ever since. Just look at current events. The devil tries to trick Jesus with temptations we all fall prey to. And that's the bad news. We all fall prey to deception and temptation.

The good news—if you want to call it that—is to repent. Repent of our hard-heartedness, false belief that "we are God," repent of our self-righteousness, and the sins that harm others. The good news is that Jesus Christ didn't succumb to those sins. God *undid in him* what the "Adam and Eve in all of us" does. God condemned sin in Jesus' cross and conquered the fruits of sin in his resurrection. The Good News is that Christ promises forgiveness to a contrite heart and that the peace we have with God is freely offered because of Christ. We can't fix all of our mistakes (that doesn't obviously stop us from trying!), and so, thank God for God's grace given to us—as a GIFT, freely (Romans 5:12-19).

Peace,  
Pr. Christian



#### **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.



#### **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!**



## **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.*

***They will also need reusable/recyclable (non-paper bags) for transport.***

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.

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.**



## **MATCHING CAMPAIGN FOR LANTERN HILL TRIP**

We have a group from St. Matthew's who will volunteer at Lantern Hill in July 2026, and would love your help to kickstart our mission! Donations will be matched! You can donate 3 different ways: **Please add Lantern Hill as your memo line for each payment option: Checks (written to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church), through Tithe.ly online payment on the church website, or by sending a Venmo to Stephanie McMullan: @Stephanie-McMullan1**

**Help us lay a path forward for Lantern Hill!**



**Outreach Team:** Meets TODAY, February 22 at 10:45...please note we will be meeting in the Lounge.

**Pints & Parables:** Monday, March 2, 7:00pm at MaGerks in Lionville. Come join us for stimulating conversation & fellowship, in a laid-back relaxing atmosphere.

**Faith Discussions:** Tuesday, March 3 at 7:00pm in the Lounge. We will be discussing Matthew 7:7-29.

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

**Men's Breakfast:** Saturday, March 21. Please bring something to cook and share. Food prep begins at 8:00am with breakfast starting at 8:30am. Questions? Tim Guyer: ttguyer@gmail.com



**Lecture Series:**

Faith Traditions and Beliefs: The Beginning of Life and Birth

**INTERFAITH LECTURE: BUDDHIST FAITH TRADITIONS, MAR. 12**

The Chester County Interfaith Action Community cordially invites you to the next event in our lecture series:

**“Buddhist Faith Traditions and Beliefs re: the Beginning of Life and Birth”**

by Venerable Amy Miller

March 12, 2026, 7:00-8:30 pm (lecture and fellowship)

St. Francis-in-Field Episcopal Church  
689 Sugartown Rd. Malvern, PA 19335

Please check the online ATC and church website for more information!



**FAMILY TRIP TO MIDDLE CREEK, POSTPONED UNTIL MAR. 14**

**BACK THIS YEAR! OUR FAMILY TRIP TO MIDDLE CREEK WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA will take place on Saturday, March 14.** 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!**



St. Mary's  
Franciscan Shelter  
For Homeless Families

**ST. MARY'S MEAL DELIVERY NEXT MEAL, MAR. 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 March 22 is in the online ATC.**



**YOUTH NEWS**

**AN OUTDOOR ADVENTURE OPPORTUNITY! 6th-12th GRADE YOUTH are invited to participate in our trip to Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area POSTPONED UNTIL MARCH 14!** 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.**

**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. Come and see what this is all about. All 9th-12th graders are welcome to attend, including friends. No advance sign up necessary; just show up!

### **Congregation**



**Cares**

church members who are facing financial hardship. Checks may be made payable to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, with "Congregation Cares" in the memo line.

Special envelopes to contribute in the collection are in the pews, or you can also donate online by going to [www.stmatthews-church.org/give](http://www.stmatthews-church.org/give) and select "Congregation Cares."

### **CONGREGATION CARES DONATIONS**

We invite donations at any time to St. Matthew's Congregation Cares Ministry, which supports



### **MISSION IN: TAKE A PRAYER SQUARE!**

The Mission In team invites anyone who is interested to take a prayer square and/or a

prayer card for themselves, or to give to a friend. They are located in a basket on the Outreach table in the CLC lobby.



## **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-Saturday), with three prep sessions happening Sundays April 19, May 3, and May 31. A link to registration information is on the church website and in the online ATC.

Questions? Contact Craig Miller at [craigyouthmin@gmail.com](mailto:craigyouthmin@gmail.com), or by text or phone at 484-320-0785.



### **ELDER FRAUD SEMINAR, FEB. 26**

This important Elder Fraud Seminar (for those aged 50 or older) will be taking place next Thursday, February 26 at 6:00pm at Upland Farm (301 Pottstown Pike in Chester Springs). You DO NOT have to live in Upper Uwchlan Township to participate. The seminar will be presented by the Upper Uwchlan Police Department along with the FBI's Philadelphia Office.

**The seminar is free! Please pass this onto the parents and grandparents and/or other important seniors in your life! Please pre-register for the seminar by emailing Jami Martin at [jmartin@upperuwchlan-pa.gov](mailto:jmartin@upperuwchlan-pa.gov) or calling 610-458-5862 between 8am-4pm. Class size is limited to 100 people.**