



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Around the Church

March 8, 2026



LIVING WATER

This past Wednesday during the mid-week Lent "Dinner, Discussion, and Devotions," we had a great conversation about "water"—the spiritual kind

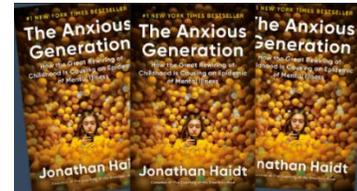
that keeps you going, that refreshes you. In the John 4 gospel reading for this week, Jesus talks to a Samaritan woman at the village well about "living water." One of my questions on Wednesday night was, "What is your 'living water'?" After we sipped on that for a bit (pardon the pun!) the sharing ranged from nature, community, solitude, etc. I especially loved the community part. There we were *in community* sharing our "living water" with each other. For me, that's a big part of my "living water." (That, and solitude.) One of the coolest things for me in ministry is seeing people share in the Spirit. I can't control it, and sometimes it's even hard to prepare the environment for it, but when it happens it restores my faith. I've usually always liked people, even though I much prefer to be in the background, I've never been a talker or liked being the center of attention. That's the introvert in me.

The other cool part about community and the gospel reading from John 4 is that Jesus knows the deep part of the woman at the well ("Come see a man that told me all I ever did!" 4:29). That "deep" part is that she's had five husbands and her current one is not her husband. Reading between the lines—a Samaritan, and a woman—it would be easy to pass moral judgment on her. The disciples come back after looking for lunch and wonder too... The beautiful part is that Jesus doesn't pass judgment. He offers her his "living water." I think that a part of that "living water" is the fact that he *doesn't judge her*. Interestingly enough, she goes back to her village (community!) and shares her encounter with Jesus.

I see so much judgment and the alienation it produces in our society. I think people are "thirsting" for community—community that is accepting, in which someone can have a place. That won't judge you in your vulnerabilities or pain or weaknesses. Where we can encounter

Jesus who knows our "deep parts" and offers us his "living water." I call that place the church.

Peace,
Pr. Christian



TODAY! AN IMPORTANT EVENT FOR PARENTS WITH YOUNGER CHILDREN

TODAY, Sunday, March 8 from 3:00-4:30pm at St. Paul's, there will be a follow-up discussion to our study of Jonathan Haidt's "The Anxious Generation," which highlights the dangers of social media for children and teens. Erin Arizzi-Shores from West Chester Unplugged will join us to talk about community efforts that are already underway to support parents seeking to push back against our culture's obsession with smartphones and "always-on" connectivity. All parents are invited to join us, whether you have read Haidt's book or not. Childcare will be provided. **Please sign up in the online ATC so we have an adequate amount of childcare help!**



Mission In: TODAY, Sunday, March 8 at 10:45am in the CLC. All are welcome!

Faith Discussions: Tuesday, March 17 at 7:00pm in the Lounge. We will be finishing our discussion of the Sermon on the Mount and discussing Matthew 7: 21-29.

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

Coffee & Christ: Saturday, April 4 at 8:30am at Starbucks in Chester Springs. Join us for coffee and good conversation at our next session.

Pints & Parables: Monday, April 6, 7:00pm at MaGerks in Lionville.

ST. MATTHEW'S
Children's Consignment Sale

Shop gently loved preschool & children's clothing, shoes, toys, and more - all at great prices for growing kids!

Community Shopping
Friday, March 13
5:30 - 7:30 PM

50% OFF SALE
March 14
8:00 - 10:00 AM

Location: St. Matthew's Church
2440 Conestoga Road
Chester Springs, PA 19425

★ Shop • Save • Support Our School ★



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!

Please check out Stephanie McMullan's updates (like the photo above) in the church's Facebook group!



OUTREACH LENTEN COLLECTIONS FOR GRACE CROSSING AND 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 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.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please do not donate "double" boxes of cereal and/or cookies as they cannot be divided properly during distribution.

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.



SAVE THE DATE: BLUE JEAN SATURDAY, APR. 11

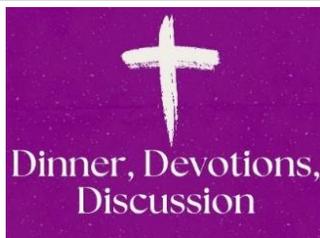
Spring is coming...really, it is...and we are planning our Blue Jean Saturday clean-up on April 11 from 9:00am-1:00pm. This will make sure that our campus is looking its best after a very rough winter. We will need several volunteers...all you'll need to do is bring yourself, your family or friends, and a pair of gloves. We will have tools for weeding and moving mulch.

The sign up link is located in the online ATC and church website. Please contact Patrick Miller with any questions: pjmill98@yahoo.com



SAVE THE DATE: CLEAN OUT AROUND CAMPUS, APR. 18

We are in need of many volunteers to assist with the clean out of the CLC closets, the garage and the basement. Please join us on Saturday, April 18 starting at 9:00am. Many hands make lighter work! For more information, contact Sue Hummerston: hummerstonsue@gmail.com



DINNER, DEVOTIONS, DISCUSSION EVERY WEDNESDAY IN LENT

We will be offering "Dinner, Devotions, Discussion" every Wednesday evening during Lent, 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.



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.



Interfaith Action Community, Chester County, PA

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

LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN - OUR FAMILY TRIP TO MIDDLE CREEK WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA has been rescheduled for 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. Bring snacks and water; hot dogs and hot chocolate will be provided. Sign up in the online ATC to join us!



**...ARE BACK,
WITH A TWIST!**

This year, we have a competition not only between Pastor Christian and Pastor

Stuart, but also between two youth from our congregations! John Lueders from St. Matthew's is facing off against Zack Heath from St. Paul's. Beginning next Sunday, four jars will be in the Narthex with the participants' names on them. On April 12, whichever pastor AND youth have the highest amounts in their containers will take part in a slightly embarrassing stunt. As an added bonus, if \$1,000 is raised between both congregations, our Youth Director, Craig Miller, will be involved as well!



**EASTER EGG
HUNT, APR. 4**

ST. MATTHEW'S ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT will be held Saturday, April 4 beginning at 10:00am at

St. Matthew's. All kids from toddlers-5th grade are welcome to come participate in the egg hunt and other Easter-related activities. If you know you are coming, sign up in the online ATC to help us with planning the event!

OUR EASTER EGG HUNTS ARE COMING, AND WE NEED CANDY! Last year we filled 2,000 eggs for our two congregational egg hunts. Please donate bags of **individually-wrapped** candies by dropping them off in the bin on the office porch at St. Matthew's, or in the collection boxes in either airlock at St. Paul's by Sunday morning, March 15.

YOUTH NEWS



OUR HIGH SCHOOL OASIS GROUP meets again TONIGHT 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!

RESCHEDULED: AN OUTDOOR ADVENTURE OPPORTUNITY! 6th-12th GRADE YOUTH are invited to participate in our trip to Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area on Saturday, 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 in the online ATC to join us.

COME JOIN OUR RE-RESCHEDULED YOUTH EVENT AT TOPGOLF IN KING OF PRUSSIA on Sunday, March 15 from 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!

CALLING ALL YOUTH - HELP NEEDED WITH OUR EASTER EGG HUNTS! We need 6th-12th graders who can help hide eggs and run events for both congregations' Easter family events. Helpers are needed on Saturday, March 28 from 3:00-7:30pm at St. Paul's, and on Saturday, April 4 from 8:30am-11:00am at St. Matthew's. **Sign up for one, or sign up for both in the online ATC - the more help we get, the better the events will be for our younger kids!**

WE NEED YOUTH AT GOOD WORKS ON MARCH 28! Help move supplies, tools, and other equipment from their current West Chester/Exton warehouse to other storage. Come for the whole day (8:30am-4:00pm) or just half of the day (morning or afternoon); lunch is provided for anyone who can stay the whole time. Sign up in the online ATC by Tuesday, March 17 to be part of our work crew.

WAITLIST FOR THIS SUMMER'S APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT WORK WEEK - Our trip is currently full, but if you were thinking about going and haven't registered yet, please notify Craig Miller at craigyouthmin@gmail.com. If we get four more interested youth and young adults we will try and add a fourth work crew.