



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Around the Church

March 15, 2026



BLIND, BUT NOW SEE

"I can see clearly now the rain is gone... It's gonna be a bright, bright, sun-shiny day!"—Johnny Nash. What a great song! As I thought about this week's ATC article and this Sunday's gospel that tune popped into my head. And thank God for the internet, because I didn't know who sang it, but sure enough, type in a few lyrics and there it is. And given the weather lately, it's nice that the rain is gone (for now). I don't know about you, but that stretch of cold weather and clouds was starting to get to me.

The Gospel this Sunday is from John 9. It's a long story where Jesus heals a man who had been born blind. After he receives his sight, Jesus goes away and the man gets into debates with the Pharisees about Jesus and his power to heal. Themes of "seeing" and "not seeing" run throughout the text. Parts of it seem complicated but the fact is we use "seeing" as a metaphor all the time. Have you ever had something happen where you "suddenly see" the truth of a matter for what it is? Whether good or bad? We don't often see ourselves accurately—or others for that matter. That means we need a little humility and realize we can be "blind," and therefore, shouldn't judge so quickly. It also means that God "sees" the good and the beautiful in us and others when we can't see it ourselves. That's a wonderful thing! That's grace!

Jesus restores "sight" and does so in unexpected ways. The Pharisees refused to believe what they were "seeing" because they were "blinded" by their own prejudices. Jesus didn't "fit" what they expected the Messiah to "look like." The good news is that Jesus is still opening the eyes of us who've been "blind" since birth—that's grace!—so we can see ourselves, others, and HIM clearly, in the light of his merciful, refreshing, love.

Peace,
Pr. Christian



HOLY WEEK 2026 SCHEDULE

Please join us to remember the sacrifice and rejoice in the resurrection of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, during our Holy Week Worship Services:

Palm Sunday, March 29:

Service at 9:30am

Maundy Thursday, April 2:

Service at 7:00pm

Good Friday, April 3:

Service at 7:00pm

Easter Sunday, April 5:

Services at 7:30am and 9:30am



DISCOVERING ST. MATTHEW'S, **FIRST MEETING MAR. 22**

We are excited to offer a three-part class for anyone who may be new or would simply like to learn more about St. Matthew's and our Lutheran faith. Whether you are new to our congregation or have been worshipping with us for some time, this is a wonderful opportunity to connect, ask questions, and grow.

Each session will be led by Pastor Christian McMullan, include members from the Congregational Council, feature leaders who will share about the ministries of St. Matthew's, and provide time for Q&A in an informal setting. **All sessions will be held in the Lounge following the Sunday morning service.**

Session #1 on March 22 will include introductions, time with church leaders, and a look at the history and mission of St. Matthew's. If you have any questions about this program, please contact the church office: office@stmatthews-church.org

Calling ALL Singers!!

every race, creed, religion, team...



Operation 'If Enough'



OPERATION "IF ENOUGH" **SONG RECORDING, MAR. 24**

Do you sing? You are cordially invited to join us for an evening of singing to record a song and video, to spread awareness and love to neighbors and friends in dire need at this time. No skill or experience required. ALL are welcome. Please join us.

Operation 'If Enough' is a community effort to bring relief and resources to friends and neighbors directly affected by I.C.E. arrests. Families across Chester County & beyond have lost breadwinners now detained in facilities with no contact with their families. Many of these people are hardworking fathers with no criminal record or background. These families need help. Proceeds of Operation 'If Enough' will go to benefit them. Please share. Thank you for your support.

If you have any questions, please contact Daniel S. Bower, Music Director at 610-451-0104 or moonlightforestmusic@gmail.com



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

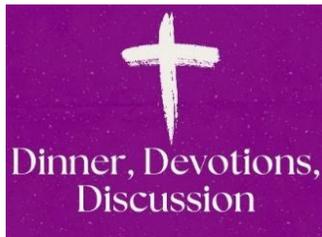
Items will be used as sides for Grace Crossing's Easter Meal.

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.



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.



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.



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.



SAVE THE DATE: BLUE JEAN SATURDAY AND CLEAN OUT AROUND CAMPUS, APR. 18

Spring is coming...really, it is...and we are planning our Blue Jean Saturday clean-up has been **RESCHEDULED** to April 18 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 is yourself, your family or friends, and a pair of gloves. We will have tools for weeding and moving mulch. **Please sign up in the online ATC!** Please contact Patrick Miller with any questions: pjmill98@yahoo.com

This will now be combined with the Clean Out Around Campus!

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 the same date, Saturday, April 18 starting at 9:00am. Many hands make lighter work! For more information, contact Sue Hummerston: hummerstonsue@gmail.com



...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!



YOUTH NEWS

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!

WE NEED HELP STUFFING EASTER EGGS THIS EVENING! From 5:00-7:00(ish)pm THIS EVENING, Sunday, March 15, all 6th-12th graders are invited to come to St. Matthew's and help put candy in eggs to get ready for our Easter Egg hunts coming up in the next few weeks. Come for as long as you can; no signup needed. Pizza and drinks will be provided for dinner.

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.