



# St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

## Around the Church

### May 3, 2026



#### **ON THE TRAIL**

What's the difference between a map and a guide? And by map, I'm thinking a trail map, a detailed one, the kind from the National Geological Survey. The

guide is the person who'll get you to where you're going on the trail. In both instances, you're going from point A to point B and hopefully enjoying it all!

#### **Pros & Cons: MAP**

You can take it with you all the time. It fits in your pocket.

It could have errors. Or not be up-to-date. It shows you where other trails are, and streams, and mountains...

It doesn't show you the scenery or tell you there's an awesome tree growing out of a boulder coming up.

You can use it at your leisure and it doesn't talk back to you.

You have to educate yourself on what all the symbols and lines mean.

You can still get lost, even with a map.

The routes to the destination are limited and you can only use one.

#### **Pros & Cons: GUIDE**

They *know* what they're doing.

You might get into awkward conversations about politics, religion, or the Phillies.

They cost a *lot* more than a map.

They *know* where all the cool stuff is... and might take you "off the beaten path" to see the cool stuff.

The guide won't necessarily fit your *idea* of a guide, that is, a middle-aged guy with a beard wearing lots of flannel. Could be a young woman!

They come with a wealth of *other knowledge* about the woods. How to find wild berries, the names of all the trees, how to skin a deer. They might take you on a path where you thought you didn't want to go, but *you have to follow them anyway*.

The guide has guided lots of other people on lots of other trails you'll know nothing about. But might tell you about.

Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6). He's not a map. He's a Person, a guide. He's not even our *idea* of him as a person or guide. In this Sunday's Gospel from John 14, the disciples ask him "the way to where he's going." He doesn't give them a map or directions. He gives them (and us) HIMSELF. "*I am* the way, the truth, and the life..."

**Peace,**  
**Pr. Christian**

P.S. If you're not a hiker... Think: the difference between a map of Amsterdam or a tour guide in Amsterdam. Or if you're a golfer, a book about a course, your range finder, etc... or a fore caddie.



#### **BAPTISM OF** **COLE EDWARDS BOWES**

We will celebrate the Baptism of Cole Edwards Bowes TODAY, May 3, at the 9:30am Worship Service. We warmly welcome him into our Church. May the Lord bless him and the Bowes family throughout the years to come. Congratulations!



## **DISCOVERING ST. MATTHEW'S, LAST SESSION TODAY, MAY 3**

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 #3 on May 3 will focus on living out your faith at St. Matthew's — an overview of membership, spiritual growth opportunities (worship, small groups, Bible study), serving opportunities, and how to get connected.**

If you have any questions about this program, please contact the church office:  
[office@stmatthews-church.org](mailto:office@stmatthews-church.org)



**Pints & Parables: Monday, May 4, 7:00pm at MaGerks in Lionville.** Come join us for stimulating conversation & fellowship, in a laid-back relaxing atmosphere.

**Faith Discussions: Tuesday, May 5 at 7:00pm in the Lounge.** We will be discussing pages 49-65 in *The Freedom of a Christian* by Martin Luther.

**Men's Breakfast: Saturday, May 16.** Please bring something to cook and share. Food prep begins at 8:00am with breakfast starting at

8:30am. Questions? E-mail Tim Guyer:  
[ttguyer@gmail.com](mailto:ttguyer@gmail.com)

**Mission In: Sunday, May 17 at 10:45am in the CLC.** All are welcome!

**Coffee & Christ: Saturday, June 6, 8:30am at Starbucks in Chester Springs.** Join us for coffee and good conversation at our next session!



## **EXTON-LIONVILLE MINISTERIUM HYGIENE KIT PROJECT, MAY 16**

The churches of the Exton-Lionville Ministerium are very excited to offer this cooperative event to bless our community! We are collecting funds which will purchase hygiene kit supplies in bulk. Those in need are not able to purchase hygiene products with Food Stamps, so this collection will fill that gap. We will be purchasing toothbrushes and toothpaste, washcloths, travel shampoo, lotion, deodorant, nail clippers, soap, combs and bags to put them in. You can make a donation at [www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/5CTTHDSGJMPNS](http://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/5CTTHDSGJMPNS), or scan the QR code (Each kit costs about \$5, link is also in the online ATC).

**We will gather on Saturday, May 16 from 10:00am-Noon at Exton UMC to organize and assemble the kits which will be distributed to numerous local ministries.** We will be supporting the Honeybrook Food Pantry, Better Tomorrows, St. Agnes Day Room, The Care Center Foundation, The Lord's Pantry and others as we have ability!

**To volunteer to assemble the kits, please click on the link located on the church website (under Events) or in the online ATC!**



**ENVELOPE FUNDRAISER FOR ASP**

THE 'ENVELOPE' FUNDRAISER FOR APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT is up on the youth bulletin board in the CLC. You are invited to choose an envelope from the board to help purchase needed food and supplies, or to sponsor a youth for this summer's work week in Central Appalachia. Simply return the envelope with the indicated amount and card inside filled out. Completed envelopes can be placed in the church offering or turned in to the church office.



**ST. MARY'S MEAL:  
NEXT MEAL MAY 24**

The May Meal will be delivered on Sunday, May 24. Please sign up in the online ATC. There are many options to provide a meal for at least 15 people residing at the shelter. These include providing groceries for their kitchen team to prepare, deliver ready-to-eat items, donate a grocery gift card, or use their kitchen to become a guest chef/baker for parts of the meal. Full details with the requirements are listed on the church website and on the Sign-Up Genius. If you have any questions, please contact Mindy Elmer: [mlong1011@comcast.net](mailto:mlong1011@comcast.net)



**YOUTH CAR WASH  
RESCHEDULED TO MAY 31**

OUR ANNUAL YOUTH CAR WASH FUNDRAISER has been rescheduled for Sunday morning, May 31 from 8:00-11:00am

(weather permitting). Drop your car off before worship, and our team will return it to you with a sparkling clean exterior when you come out afterward! No charge, but donations are gratefully accepted.



**YOUNG FAMILIES END-OF-YEAR  
PICNIC, MAY 31**

SAVE THE DATE - THE SECOND ANNUAL YOUNG FAMILIES END-OF-YEAR PICNIC will be held on Sunday, May 31 from 12:30pm-3:00(ish), location TBA. Burgers, hot dogs, and drinks will be provided, with participating families asked to bring a side dish, snack, or dessert to share with the group. Save the date on your calendar now!



**YOUTH NEWS**

APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT PREP SESSION #2 will take place on Sunday, May 3 from 4:00-5:30 pm at St. Paul's. All those who have signed up for our ASP week in July are asked to come to meet the rest of the group and begin making plans for our upcoming trip!

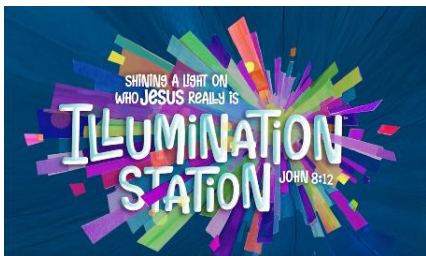
THIS JUST IN!!! Appalachia Service Project has put out a plea for more work crews to come this summer, particularly during our July 12-18 work week. So we are re-opening registration to any youth (current 7th through 12th graders) and young adults (18-24, out of high school) who are interested in joining us. We need at least four more people to form another crew. If you are interested, please contact Craig Miller as soon as possible

at [craigyouthmin@gmail.com](mailto:craigyouthmin@gmail.com), or 484-320-0785! He can also share more details and answer any questions you may have.

**NEXT GOOD WORKS YOUTH WORK DAY** will be Saturday, May 16 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 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade is welcome to join us, including friends. **Sign up in the online ATC by Wednesday, May 6 to participate!**

**OUR HIGH SCHOOL OASIS GROUP** meets one more time before summer on Sunday, May 17 from 6:30-8:00pm at St. Matthew's, either at the fire pit (weather permitting) or in the downstairs lounge. We will continue our Bible Dive series and also take some time to send off our graduating seniors. All ninth through twelfth graders are welcome to attend, including friends. No advance signup necessary; just show up!

**YOUTH AND PARENT HELP IS NEEDED WITH OUR RESCHEDULED CAR WASH FUNDRAISERS!** We are holding car washes on Saturday morning, May 30 at St. Paul's, and on Sunday morning, May 31 at St. Matthew's. All 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders are encouraged to participate in one or both events to raise money for the youth ministry. Parents are needed to help move cars around. Sign ups are located in the online ATC.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026:**  
**CAMPER & VOLUNTEER**  
**REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN!**

Registration is now open for Illumination Station: Vacation Bible School 2026. It will be held at St. Paul's from July 27-31 from 9:00am-12:00pm each day. There will be an Ice Cream Social on Sunday, July 26 at

6:00pm, and a closing show on Friday, July 31 at 12:00pm.

**We welcome campers from age 4 (by 1/1/2026)-age 11 (if you completed 5th grade in the 2025-26 school year). Fees are \$15 per child/\$10 for siblings/\$30 for family.** Financial assistance is available by contacting Pastor Christian. **Space is limited, please register by July 6.** Registration forms can be found on the church website (under Events), or in the online ATC.

**We need lots of volunteers to make Illumination Station a success! Volunteer registration forms are also available on the church website or in the online ATC.** Volunteers must have Youth Protection Policy training and clearances. We are also accepting youth volunteers who have completed 5th grade in 2025-26 and older.