



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Around the Church

May 24, 2026



COME HOLY SPIRIT!

For the last few years I have been fascinated with an idea called “resonance.” It’s that feeling where something bigger than you

(God, the universe...) “hums” inside of you—resonates—or something strikes you and you’re aware of that “bigger thing” that you can’t explain or control or manufacture. That bigger thing that is life-giving. That idea is not new to me, but I encountered that way of talking about it a few years ago. Y’all know I’m a reader and when I read about this idea, I thought “of course!” I fell in love with the church’s theologies of the Holy Spirit, because I believe *it’s the Holy Spirit* that is underneath those experiences. I have been blessed and privileged to have gotten into a LOT of conversations over the years with people about their “spirituality,” and what I have heard is “resonance,” and the Holy Spirit.

Resonance doesn’t always happen individually. It can also happen in community. And of course, the Spirit isn’t just the “Spirit and me.” It’s the Spirit of the post-Resurrection Living Christ! And this Sunday which is Pentecost is all about how the Spirit was poured out on the disciples when they were praying together, waiting for “What’s next?” after Jesus’ ascension into heaven (Acts 2). Paul talks about that *same* Spirit that moves believers to say, “Jesus is Lord!” (I Corinthians 12:3), giving us *spiritual gifts* for the sake of others. WE make up the Body of Christ, and it’s the Holy Spirit that makes us that. WE are Christ’s Body, hands and feet, and ears, and even the pinky toe. And WE can experience “resonance”—the Holy Spirit ‘humming’ inside of us—when we use our gifts, with others, for the sake of others. For example, I have heard volunteers describe that feeling at Grace Crossing, at the Coatesville Youth & Women’s Alliance.

Those are positive experiences that I believe we are all looking for in our society. The beautiful thing about the Holy Spirit is that it is with us *even when we’re not “feeling it.”* That’s a faith conviction—that God the Spirit is present *with me and in me* when I cry out in prayer, in anguish. Resonance is not the sum total of my spirituality, but it is a vital part; the promise of the Spirit is the foundation.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Pr. Christian



THANK YOU FOR OUR GERANIUMS!

Special thanks to our church members who donated toward our Geranium plants for the altar this Pentecost!

Sandy Elkins

in memory of Connie Sembello

Randy & Kathryn Endsley

in memory of loved ones

Sue & Don Hummerston

in memory of our parents

Bob & Harriet Johnston

in memory of Belle and Harry Palmer

Bernie & Mary Ellen Roth

in memory of our parents

Jim & Louise Rutledge

in memory of our parents



OFFICES CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY

We prayerfully remember all our service members who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. We continue to pray for the safety of those who still serve, and for the well-being of all our Veterans.

Our church and school offices will be closed on Monday, May 25 to observe the holiday. We will reopen with our normal business hours on Tuesday, May 26.



HAVE A NEW (OR SOON-TO-BE) GRADUATE?

We will recognize our St. Matthew's Graduates on Sunday, May 31 at the 9:30am worship service. All those graduating from high school, college, grad school or technical school this Spring are invited to join us to celebrate with your congregational family! Even if you can't be there, please send your graduate's information (name, school, degree received, and future plans) to Sara Richardson in the church office, srichardson@stmatthews-church.org. *Please send us your information by next Wednesday, May 27.*



Outreach: TODAY, Sunday, May 24 at 10:45am in the CLC. We will discuss Project If/Enough, Lantern Hill, the Garden beds for the Chester County Food Bank, planning for Summer and Fall, and communication ideas. All are welcome!

Pints & Parables: Monday, June 1, 7:00pm at MaGerks in Lionville. Come join us for stimulating conversation & fellowship, in a laid-back relaxing atmosphere.

Faith Discussions: Tuesday, June 2 at 7:00pm in the Lounge. We will be discussing pages 65-79 in *The Freedom of a Christian*.

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

Mission In: Sunday, June 14 at 10:45am in the CLC. All are welcome!

Men's Breakfast: Saturday, June 20. 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



IF YOU HAVE TAKEN A FUNDRAISER ENVELOPE OFF OF THE YOUTH BULLETIN BOARD, please return it with the indicated amount and card inside filled out by Sunday, May 31.

Completed envelopes can be placed in the church offering or turned in to the church office.



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

OUR SECOND ANNUAL YOUNG FAMILIES END-OF-YEAR PICNIC will be held on Sunday, May 31 from 12:30pm- 3:00pm(ish) at Warwick County Park, Pavilion #3. Burgers, hot dogs, and drinks will be

provided...bring a side dish, snack, or dessert to share with the group! All families with kids in preschool-5th grade are invited; older and younger siblings are welcome to come, too! Sign up in the online ATC to let us know you are coming! Questions? Contact Craig Miller at craigyouthmin@gmail.com, or 484-320-0785.

IAC UNITY SHABBAT MAY 29 & RABBI RETIREMENT MAY 30

The Interfaith Action Community of Chester County cordially invites you to the 8th Annual Unity Shabbat at Beth Israel Congregation of Chester Springs on May 29 at 7:00pm.

You are also cordially invited to "A Night of Gratitude and Laughter" celebrating the retirement of Rabbi Jon Cutler on May 30 at 7:00pm at Beth Israel. Please see the images for more information.


 Interfaith Action Community, Chester County, PA
 Beth Israel Congregation of Chester County
 Hosts:
 8th Annual
UNITY SHABBAT
 SALAAM PACEM SHAANTI PEACE SHALOM
 Unify the voices of people of faith
 Everyone Welcome!
MAY 29th, 2026
 Friday Evening Service
 7:00 PM
 including the Beth Israel Choir
 385 Pottstown Pike, Chester Springs, PA
 This service will also be live streaming @
<https://www.facebook.com/BethIsraelofCC/>
 Bring a canned or boxed food good for
 Donation to the Chester County Foodbank
www.bethisraelpa.org

Rooted in Community:
A Weekend of Celebration and Thanks
 Celebrating the Retirement of
Rabbi Jon Cutler

Unity Shabbat Friday, May 29, 2026, 7:00 pm Kiddush Following Service Beth Israel will be hosting our annual Interfaith Action Community Shabbat Service! Clergy from Interfaith congregations will be joining us for a special Unity Shabbat!	Z'dor Vador Service Saturday, May 30, 2026, 9:30 am Kiddush Following Service Join us as we celebrate all of the b'nai mitzvah students who have studied with Rabbi Jon over the past 11 years and honor congregational members with Torah readings.	A Night of Gratitude and Laughter Saturday, May 30, 2026, 7:00 pm \$36 Member \$54 Non-Members <small>Prices increase May 11 - RSVP today!</small> Enjoy a delicious dinner while we schmooze and share stories about Rabbi Jon as we celebrate his retirement from Beth Israel!
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 www.bethisraelpa.org biccacct@gmail.com
 by May 11th 610-458-8550



Braver Angels

SAVE THE DATE: BRAVER ANGELS WORKSHOP, JUNE 18

Please save the date for a Braver Angels workshop on Thursday evening, June 18 in the CLC. More info coming soon! Braver Angels is a volunteer-led organization whose stated purpose is to foster healthy, civic dialogue. If you have any questions about this program, please contact the church office: office@stmatthews-church.org



COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

Our 2026 growing season is well underway! Our spring vegetables this year include cherry belle radishes, French breakfast radishes, salad turnips, beets, romaine lettuce, red leaf lettuce, butterhead lettuce, arugula lettuce and collards. So far, we have harvested **211 pounds** that we have donated to the Chester County Food Bank. Even if you are not renting one of our 16 beds, we would love to have some new faces join us in helping plant, maintain, and harvest the vegetables we grow in the five dedicated food bank beds. No experience is necessary!

If you are interested in helping in the garden, please contact Meghan Comegys (megcomegys@gmail.com or 484-684-3109), Desiree Lee (dal2123@yahoo.com or 610-425-0484) or Jim Rutledge (jrutman2005@yahoo.com or 484-459-3255).



**ST. MARY'S MEAL:
NEXT MEAL JUNE 28**

Thank you to everyone who signed up to provide our May meal. The next delivery will be on June 28, and the sign up is now in the online ATC.

There are many options to provide a meal for at least 15 people residing at the shelter, including 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



YOUTH NEWS

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 6th-12th 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.

**GRAND OPENING OF THE
FELLOWSHIP TRAIL, JUNE 17**

On Wednesday, June 17 (rain date June 18) take the short trek along the trail with local historians, township officials and community members, then enjoy complementary refreshments.

Trail grand opening starts at 6:00pm for pedestrians/dog walkers/bike riders from Vineyard Church and Weatherstone, down to Evans Park. **This trail runs alongside St. Matthew's and our cemetery.**

Starting at 7:00pm, there will be a commemoration of the trail's creators, including our long-standing St. Matthew's church member Davey Waters and her sister Melanie McCartney, with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

There will be raffles following the ribbon cutting. **A link with more information can be found on the online ATC and church website!**



**FELLOWSHIP TRAIL
GRAND OPENING**

Celebrating community connections and the volunteers who made them a reality!

Wednesday, June 17 (rain date, June 18)

6 PM – Trail Grand Opening pedestrian/dog walk/bike ride from Vineyard Church and Weatherstone down to Evans Park.

6:30 PM – At the Evans Park gazebo, enjoy free ice cream courtesy of the Pigeon Creek Farm/4-H Club + Wawa Pretzels, along with fresh petunia giveaways from the WVT Environmental Advisory Council (all while supplies last).

7 PM – Commemoration of the trail's creators. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with guests of honor, Davida Waters & Melanie McCartney.

7:15 PM – Raffle drawings

Take the short trek along the trail with local historians, township officials and community members, then enjoy complimentary refreshments, as we celebrate this important link between townships and points beyond!

