



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Around the Church

June 7, 2026



BREAD • WINE WATER 101

WATER, BREAD, WINE 101

When we Lutherans talk about the “sacraments” we’re very specific about certain things—namely Baptism and Holy Communion. We call them “means of grace.” And we only have two (versus the Roman Catholic Church which has seven sacraments). For us Lutherans, a “sacrament” is something that is commanded or instituted by Christ that we are “to do.” For Baptism, Jesus on Easter said, “Go, make disciples baptizing them...” (Matthew 28:19). He didn’t tell us to think about it, that it’s optional; he said do it. With Holy Communion, Jesus took bread the night he was betrayed and said, “Take and eat... do this in remembrance of me” (1 Corinthians 11:24-25). Jesus gave lots of commands, but these were attached to physical, tangible, material objects: water, bread, wine. And a *word of promise* is also attached—a word of Good News, the Gospel! For Baptism, it washes away sin, brings the Holy Spirit, joins us to Jesus’ death and resurrection. For Holy Communion the promise is for the forgiveness of sins. That’s a sacrament: Christ’s command, something tangible, and a promise of grace and love.

By means of the sacraments—Baptism and Holy Communion—the Holy Spirit works faith when and where she wills. In other words, we Lutherans believe that the Holy Spirit uses words and things to communicate God’s love and grace—by means of water, bread, wine, and God’s word of promise and love. Of course, the Spirit can and does use more than those, but these are commanded by Christ, and specific promises are attached to them. So we do them.

This Sunday is First Communion Sunday; we’ll also have three baptisms. I love the fact that our sacraments are “tangible words,” that we can literally touch, smell, and

eat. Bread and water by themselves are just bread and water; but God’s Word attached to them!—a word of *grace and love*—that’s something special.

**Peace,
Pr. Christian**



WEDDING AND BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS

Yesterday, Saturday, June 6, we celebrated the wedding of church member Callista Winstead and William Cypress here at St. Matthew's. We wish you all the very best for a long and happy marriage. God Bless You, Callista and Will!

And TODAY, Sunday, June 7, we will celebrate the Baptisms of William Cypress, and his and Callista's young sons Beckham Emmett Cypress and Brooks Wayne Cypress during the 9:30am Worship Service. We warmly welcome them into our Church.

May the Lord bless the Winstead and Cypress families throughout the years to come!



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our warm congratulations to Emily Preston and Gracie Ana Tullio, who are receiving their First Holy Communion at the 9:30am Worship Service TODAY, Sunday, June 7! May God continue to bless you and your families in the years ahead!

YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING

YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY TRAININGS

YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY TRAINING for adults who work with youth and children in our congregation will be offered on multiple occasions in the coming weeks. If you have not received training in our Youth Protection Policy within the past five years and plan to help with ASP, Vacation Bible School, or any other upcoming events that involve children and youth, please plan to attend one of these trainings:

**Sunday, June 14 10:45-11:45am
at St. Matthew's**

**Tuesday, June 16 7:00-8:00pm
online/Zoom**

**Thursday, June 18 7:00-8:00pm
online/Zoom**

**Sunday, June 21 10:45-11:45am
at St. Paul's**

You only need to attend one of these sessions, as they are all the same presentation. Sign up in the online ATC to participate!



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!

Faith Discussions: Tuesday, June 16 at 7:00pm in the Lounge.

Men's Breakfast: Saturday, June 27. 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

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



Braver Angels

SAVE THE DATE: BRAVER ANGELS WORKSHOP, JUNE 18

Please save the date for a Braver Angels workshop on Thursday evening, June 18 from 7:00-8:30pm in the CLC. 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
Please find the registration link in the online ATC or on the church website under Events.

Skills for Disagreeing Better

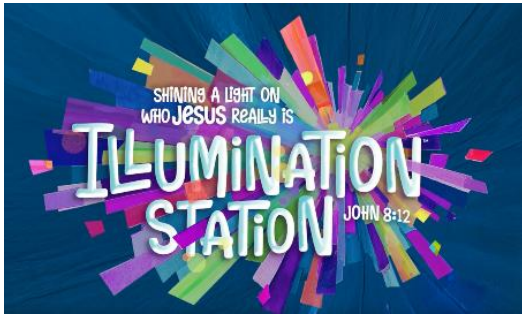
Summary: The Skills for Disagreeing Better workshop helps participants understand the values and concerns of those who differ from them politically and teaches essential skills for communicating across differences and finding common ground.

Goals:

- Grow understanding of the values and concerns of people who differ from you politically
- Learn skills for listening in a way the other person feels heard
- Learn skills for sharing viewpoints in a way the other person might hear even if they disagree

Who Can Attend: This workshop is open to everyone.

What to Expect: You will learn about the values and concerns of the other political side and practice skills for communicating more effectively in the presence of disagreement.



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.



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 240 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
Franciscan Shelter
For Homeless Families

ST. MARY'S MEAL:
NEXT MEAL JUNE 28

The next meal 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



SUNDAY
EVENING
WORSHIP
JUNE 7 & 21
AT 6:30PM

Sunday Evening Worship services are great for those with busy schedules, especially during the summer! Hope to see you next time!

**Save the Date for the 2026
Drive Out Hunger Golf Outing:
Thursday, Sept. 17!
More info to come!**

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church 2026 Golf event

Drive Out Hunger.

~ Proceeds Benefit ~
Grace Crossing Community Food Pantry
West Chester Food Cupboard,
Coatesville Youth and Women's alliance

**Raffle Prizes, Mulligans, Hole Sponsors,
Fun, Food, and Music!**

Kimberton Golf Club

\$125 Per Golfer— includes
a BBQ Lunch

\$20 Lunch Only— Children
under 10 at Free!

September 17, 2026

7:00 am Registration
8:00 am Shot Gun

Live Music



Scan to
Sign Up!



Questions? Contact Patrick Miller, 610-291-3002 or pjmill98@yahoo.com

**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.

The trail's 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!

