



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Around the Church

June 14, 2026



Olè, Olè, Olè!!

This Sunday's Gospel reading is Jesus sending out his disciples into the mission field. The reason?

Because he looks at the crowds, looks at all the people he encounters, and "he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" (Matthew 9:36). And then failing English class, Jesus mixes metaphors and tells the disciples that "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few" (vs. 37). In danger of failing English too, I'm going to mix metaphors and apply all this to the World Cup. As a soccer fan who hasn't followed it in a long time (long story), I imagine the crowds trying to get tickets, trying to navigate the brackets, getting torn in different directions because of the politics and drama, being like "sheep without a shepherd." What is a soccer fan to do??

Well, the harvest is plentiful—people just waiting for something or someone to crystallize all these big moments into an event, a happening, a movement, to focus it all into a coherent whole, to fill or satisfy the "what's missing" I sense in our society. Will the US team play well together? Will a tiny nation become the Cinderella of the tournament? Will tickets *suddenly become available at rational prices*?! One can hope and pray.

WE have a mission from God to step into the breach. To provide some "shepherding" and bring in GOD's harvest that GOD has *already* made ready. How? By naming and claiming what is inside of you for the sake of sharing it with others, moved by compassion. Sharing the new life that God spoke into being in your heart. For me that was years ago, and it was another scripture reading that we'll hear on Sunday, Romans 5:1-8: "Therefore, since our relationship with

God is made whole through faith, we have peace with God... suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope..." What will you share with those you encounter who are "harassed and helpless"? I never scored a goal where I didn't receive a pass from someone else first.

Peace,
Pr. Christian



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!



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.

Coffee & Christ: Saturday, July 11, 8:30am at Starbucks in Chester Springs. Join us for coffee and good conversation at our next session!



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.



St. Mary's
Franciscan Shelter
for Homeless Families

HELP NEEDED TO PROVIDE IAC MEAL FOR ST. MARY'S, JULY 1

St. Matthew's will provide dinner for the 15 residents at St. Mary's Homeless Shelter (Phoenixville) on Wednesday, July 1, as part of the Interfaith Action Community's meal week.

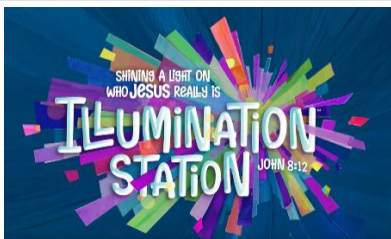
We need:

- 3 volunteers to donate \$16 each (checks payable to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, memo: St. Mary's pizza, or www.stmatthews-church.org/give, select "Interfaith Action St. Mary's Meal")
- 1 bagged salad (store-bought)
- 1 dessert (store-bought)

To help, contact Louise Rutledge at larutledge51@gmail.com or (484) 459-3389. All items must be dropped off at the church office by 1:00 pm on Wednesday, July 1. Thank you for your support!

**ASP: CARE PACKAGE GOODIES
NEEDED BY JULY 8**

WE ARE LOOKING FOR CARE PACKAGE GOODIES TO SEND TO OUR ASP TEAM WHILE THEY ARE AWAY IN WV! Items can be cookies, brownies, hard candy, Tastykakes, simple dollar-store puzzles and games, etc. Donations must be received by Wednesday, July 8 and can be left on the office porch at St. Matthew's or in the airlock at St. Paul's. Questions? Contact Craig Miller at craigyouthmin@gmail.com.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026:
REGISTER BY JULY 6!**

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 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: m1ong1011@comcast.net



Give blood.
Help save lives.



**SUMMER RED CROSS
BLOOD DRIVE, JULY 14**

We will host a Red Cross Blood Drive this summer, on Tuesday, July 14 from 1:00-6:00pm in the CLC. To register to give blood, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go to RedCrossBlood.org. The direct link to sign up in on our website and in the online ATC. Search "19425" and scroll down to the St. Matthew's drive.

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

Register now by going to www.stmatthews-church.org/give and select "Golf Outing Fundraiser" from the dropdown menu. \$125 per golfer, or \$20 if you're having lunch only!

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!