



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Around the Church

June 21, 2026



SUMMERTIME

Ah yes, it's Summertime. For me at least a lot of stuff was completed in the

last month—Confirmation, Pentecost, First Communion, a wedding, some baptisms, a funeral, and another baptism this Sunday. On the personal front, we had our anniversary (27 yrs), I got a back injection, and I helped my son Eric and his family move back to Phoenixville. Elliot, my grandson, is 1.5 miles away now!! Ahh, now I can rest a little.

In the life of the church things slow down as well, but don't mention that to Craig Miller, our Youth director, he's up to his ears planning the Appalachia Service Project trip and looking ahead to the Fall already. In the last 3 years, St. Matt's average worship attendance is up about 20%—from 75ish to 100ish—during the program year (Sept. – May). The kicker is that the number of volunteers has stayed about the same. We do have some new people (Thank you!!) , but we could use more.

Sooooo... why not use the summertime to "test the waters"?? Volunteer to read a scripture reading, help set up the altar with bread and wine, make happen a Summer "Sunday school" during the summer, help Patrick Miller organize the Golf Outing, attend an Outreach Meeting, get Youth Protection Policy training so we have a deeper bench of volunteers for youth activities (Craig will love you for it)...The beauty of helping out, even on a one-time or occasional basis, is you get to know people. The vast majority of people really are *good people!* St. Matt's is a "No judgment" zone; I know it can be tough meeting new people. Please let me or Sara know if there's something you might be willing to do (she'll love you for it). I would like to ask all of you

personally what might interest you, but time and the introvert in me hasn't done that yet.

It's summertime. Test the waters! Come out to something other than worship (worship is good by itself too), and if Sun. morning doesn't work because you're out of town, check out the Evening Service (1st and 3rd Sun., 6:30pm). As Uncle Sam says, "We need you."

Peace,
Pr. Christian



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

We wish all the fathers, expecting fathers, grandfathers, stepfathers, Godfathers, and father figures in the St. Matthew's community a very Happy Father's Day! We also prayerfully remember our fathers who are no longer with us, and all who are trying to become fathers. May God bless you all!



BAPTISM OF **RHYS HUNTER SILKNITTER**

We will celebrate the Baptism of Rhys Hunter Silkmitter, TODAY, June 21, at the 9:30am Worship Service. We warmly welcome him into our Church. May the Lord bless him and the Silkmitter-Orlowsky family throughout the years to come. Congratulations!



OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE:
NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 28

To celebrate the arrival of Summer, and weather permitting, we will be having our 9:30am Sunday morning Worship outdoors next Sunday, June 28, at the circle, or behind the CLC! We will have some seating available, but if you're able, please bring chairs or blankets to sit on during the service.

**YOUTH PROTECTION
TRAINING**

YOUTH PROTECTION
POLICY TRAINING: LAST SESSION
TODAY AT ST. PAUL'S

YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY TRAINING for adults who work with youth and children in our congregation will be offered for the last time, TODAY, June 21. 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 this training:

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

Contact Craig Miller ASAP if you'd like to participate in today's session: 484-320-0785.



MORE WORSHIP ASSISTANTS ARE
NEEDED THIS SUMMER!

As Pastor Christian noted in his *Words From Our Pastor* article this week, we are in great need of more worship assistants this Summer. Our current, very faithful group of assistants will be taking some time off for vacations. It's a great time to try something out to help in the life of the church.

We need more lectors, communion assistants, altar assistants, greeters, Audio/Visual assistants (both for the slides and for streaming), youth acolytes, and families to provide Fellowship after Worship. Training will be provided, and scheduling is flexible!

Please contact Sara Richardson in the church office ASAP if you are interested in giving anything a try!

srichardson@stmatthews-church.org, 610-458-5675 (9:00am-1:00pm M-F)



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!



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:

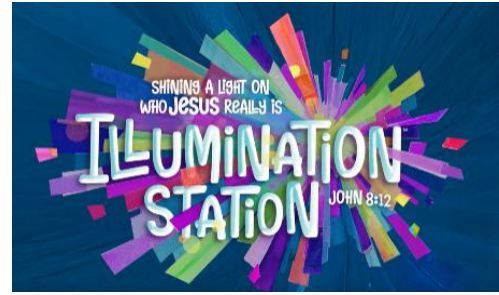
- **3 volunteers to donate \$16 each (checks payable to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, memo: St. Mary's pizza, or www.stmatthews-church.org/give, select "Interfaith Action St. Mary's Meal")**
- **1 bagged salad (store-bought)**
- **1 dessert (store-bought)**

To help, contact Louise Rutledge at larutledge51@gmail.com or (484) 459-3389. **All items must be dropped off at the church office by 1:00pm 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.



St. Mary's
Franciscan Shelter
for Homeless Families

ST. MARY'S MEAL: NEXT MEAL JUNE 28

The next meal delivery to St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter 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



**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.



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).

**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



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