



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Around the Church

July 12, 2026



WELCOME!

This Sunday we will worship with our siblings in Christ from St. Paul's Lutheran in Lionville. I don't know how far back the relationship goes, but I'm sure there's probably a

connection in the early-mid 1800s. In the 21st century the only thing that separates us, other than history, is suburban traffic. (I hate suburban traffic, by the way. Can I get an 'Amen!') St. Paul's is having their parking lot dug up and repaved this week and can't be driven on for a few days, so they will worship with us in our space. So, come on out, St. Matthew's community, and give them a warm welcome!

As fellow Lutherans separated by a dozen annoying traffic lights we have shared ministry over the years. Our Youth Ministry is shared; Craig Miller is paid by both congregations. The Youth of both churches—most of whom can't drive—share the same hallways in school, so a shared Youth ministry is a no-brainer. Pr. Stuart Luce from St. Paul's and I meet regularly. We do Vacation Bible School together. The Appalachia Service Project trip is a joint mission. You get the drift. There has been a LOT of angst over the last 20 years or so about the decline of traditional churchgoing, and that was before cultural and political polarization that has made things worse. Past history might separate us, but current circumstances should bring us together more. When I did interim ministry several years ago, a lot of effort went into helping churches support each other, share ministers, etc. with very little success, sadly.

So, this opportunity to worship together is a God thing that can remind us that our unity in Christ transcends the separation of history and travel time. In Philippians 2, Paul reminds us to "be of one mind... have the same mind

as Christ" (Phil. 2:2-5). The keyword there is "humility". We are also reminded this Sunday that we have the same *mission*—"to sow the seed" of God's Word (Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23). The Gospel is the Parable of the Sower who indiscriminately throws seed on different kinds of soil with different results. We have no control over *how* people will respond to the Word—that's in God's hiddenness—but that doesn't change our responsibility or the fact we have overlapping mission *fields*.

What seeds will be sown this Sunday?
What fruits will grow out of it?

Peace,
Pr. Christian

SUNDAY WORSHIP WITH **ST. PAUL'S, TODAY, JULY 12**

St. Matthew's warmly welcomes the congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Lionville to our Morning Worship **TODAY, Sunday, July 12!** Pastor Paul Townsend and Pastor Stuart Luce will co-lead the service, and we will host a special Fellowship for St. Paul's members after the service in the CLC. We appreciate the opportunity to celebrate our special connection to St. Paul's and with their church members!



Altar Flowers
Today's Altar Flowers are provided by
Sue and Don Hummerston,
"In honor of our friends at St. Paul's!"
The July-August Altar Flowers Sign Up
Genius is posted in this week's online ATC!



PRAYERS FOR OUR ASP

PARTICIPANTS!

PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER OUR 25 YOUTH AND ADULTS who are on their way to Greenbrier County, WV on Sunday, July 12. They will be spending this week helping to make homes warmer, safer, and drier through Appalachia Service Project. They will share their experiences on Sunday, July 19 at St. Paul's morning worship, and on Sunday morning, September 20 at St. Matthew's. Thank you for all of your support in making this experience possible for our youth!



OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE: **SUNDAY, JULY 19**

To celebrate Summer, and weather permitting, we will be having our 9:30am Morning Worship outdoors next Sunday, July 19, next to the Community Garden. We will have some seating available, but if you're able, please bring chairs or blankets to sit on during the service.

We will also bless the St. Matthew's Community Garden during this service.



Give blood.
Help save lives.



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

IMPORTANT REMINDER: We need more blood donors for our Summer Blood Drive on Tuesday, July 14. If we do not get enough sign-ups, the Red Cross may

cancel this drive! Please tell your friends and family and help save lives!

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.



Men's Breakfast: Saturday, July 18. 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

Coffee & Christ: Saturday, August 1, 8:30am at Starbucks in Chester Springs. Join us for coffee and good conversation at our next session!

Pints & Parables: Monday, August 3, 7:00pm at MaGerks in Lionville. Come join us for stimulating conversation & fellowship, in a laid-back relaxing atmosphere.

Mission In: We are taking a break in July, see you August 9 at 10:45am

Faith Discussions: We are taking a break for the Summer, see you at our first Fall meeting on September 1 at 7:00pm



St. Mary's
Franciscan Shelter
For Homeless Families

ST. MARY'S MEAL: **NEXT MEAL JULY 26**

The next meal delivery to St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter will be on July 26, 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



COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

Our summer growing season is off to a great start! This year's veggies include several varieties of tomatoes, tomatillos, bell peppers, banana peppers, summer squash, gordini lettuce, pole beans, bush beans and cucumbers. We are also growing some herbs including papalo (a heat tolerant herb that can be used like cilantro), basil, chives and parsley. So far, we have harvested **254 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).



MORE WORSHIP ASSISTANTS ARE NEEDED THIS SUMMER!

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)



EARLY ATC DEADLINES FOR JULY AND AUGUST

Our Church Admin will be taking some time off over the summer, and we will have the following early deadlines for the Around the Church print newsletters:

July 19 and July 26:

Wednesday, July 15 9:30am

August 2 and August 9:

Wednesday, July 29 9:30am

*If you have any questions, please contact Sara at srichardson@stmatthews-church.org
Thank you for your cooperation!*

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!
ANNUAL DRIVE OUT HUNGER
GOLF OUTING: SEPT. 17

This year's proceeds will benefit Grace Crossing Food Pantry, the West Chester Food Cupboard, and the Coatesville Youth and Women's Alliance.

Registration is now open!

Check out our new registration link that
makes signing up easier than ever!

<https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/11321685>

(You can also find this link in this week's online
ATC and on a button on the front page of the
church website!)

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