



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Around the Church

August 16, 2026



YOU'RE NOT ALONE

In this Sunday's Gospel reading from Matthew, a Canaanite woman (a non-Jew)

desperately seeks healing from Jesus for her daughter, who she says is tormented by a demon. Whether it is truly demonic possession or what we now know as mental illness, it still does not seem to be a physical ailment but more one that is emotional and spiritual in nature. If I try to put myself in this mother's situation, I can only begin to imagine the anguish and despair that she must be experiencing. She can't help her daughter; it seems no one can. It's not hard to imagine that she feels totally alone in her situation, with little hope, with no one to help her.

This Sunday in worship we will hear Alyssa Sanders share her story. Alyssa is a youth ministry 'alum' who is going into her sophomore year at the University of Delaware. While in high school, she was a Peer Ministry Leader for St. Matthew's and St. Paul's, regularly participated in OASIS and other youth activities, and attended the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. As a sophomore, she stepped up to restart St. Paul's Sunday School coming out of the pandemic when no one else responded to the need. She also served a term as the youth representative on St. Paul's council. The story that she will tell is one that is not uncommon among youth, but it's also familiar to most adults (though perhaps in somewhat different forms). The feeling of being frighteningly alone is probably one that most of us have had at one time or another throughout our lives. Alyssa's message will remind us of the truth that lies beyond that feeling, and how she herself discovered that truth.

-Craig Miller



RISE AGAINST HUNGER KICK-OFF PLANNING MEETING, AUG. 17

Please join us as we kick off the planning phase for our annual Rise Against Hunger event!

The kick-off call will be held on Microsoft Teams on Monday, August 17 at 7:00pm, if you are interested in getting involved on the administrative side of planning. Please contact Troy Sisum for the link to the meeting, tdsisum1@yahoo.com

This year's event will be held on Sunday, October 25 from 11:00-5:00pm in the CLC. Last year, 385 volunteers packaged 62,500 meals...and hopefully, we can beat that again this year!

If you are interested in helping to fundraise or help in the planning of the event from behind the scenes, please contact Troy Sisum at tdsisum1@yahoo.com.

Event registration link (with a QR code) will be coming soon!

CHURCH PICNIC: SAVE THE DATE FOR SEPT. 13

Please join us for our annual church picnic on Sunday, September 13, immediately following the Morning Worship Service. A Sign-Up Genius is posted on the church website, ATC, and the Facebook page! Come out to have some good food, fun and fellowship with our congregation!





FOOD AND HYGIENE DRIVE **NOW-AUG. 31**

St. Matthew's Outreach Team is supporting two local high school seniors, Christine Wills (Downingtown East) and Diya Kondoor (Downingtown STEM Academy), who have organized a Food and Hygiene Drive to benefit Caring for Friends!

They need the following items:

- Canned goods with pull tabs
- Trail mix
- Granola bars
- Shampoo and soap
- First Aid supplies
- Toothbrushes and Toothpaste

You can also scan the QR code to provide something on their Amazon wish list.

Please ensure that toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste) are travel size, as Caring for Friends can more easily distribute them to the people they serve.

A collection bin is currently on the church office porch, and will also be in the CLC.

For more information, contact Christine at christinemwills21@gmail.com or Diya at diya.kondoor@gmail.com



St. Mary's
Franciscan Shelter
For Homeless Families

ST. MARY'S **MEAL:** **NEXT MEAL** **AUG. 23**

The next meal delivery to St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter will be on **Sunday, August 23**, 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



Outreach: Please join us for the next Outreach meeting on **Sunday, August 23 at 10:45am in the CLC.** We will be discussing current and upcoming projects! Contact Kathy Meltzer with questions: kmeltzer@comcast.net

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

Coffee & Christ: Saturday, September 5 8:30am at Starbucks in Chester Springs.

Pints & Parables: Monday, September 14, 7:00pm at MaGerks in Lionville. Come join us for stimulating conversation & fellowship, in a laid-back relaxing atmosphere.

Men's Breakfast: We are taking a break in August, we'll see you on Saturday, September 19!

Mission In: Next meeting Sunday, September 20 at 10:45am in the CLC. Hope to see you there!

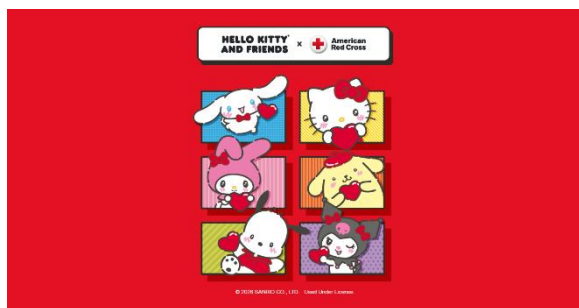


St. Mary's
Franciscan Shelter
For Homeless Families

IAC ST. MARY'S MEAL, AUG. 25

St. Matthew's will provide dinner for 15 residents at St. Mary's Homeless Shelter (Phoenixville) on Tuesday, August 25, as part of the Interfaith Action Community's week of meals.

We would like to prepare a home cooked meal in St. Mary's fully licensed kitchen on August 25. We will need a team of chefs/bakers to prepare 2 entrees, a vegetable, a salad, and a dessert. St. Mary's has 2 ovens for the team to use. Please contact Louise Rutledge at larutledge51@gmail.com or 484-459-3389 if you would like to prepare part of the meal.



NEXT BLOOD DRIVE: SEPT. 8

Great news...if you gave blood at our last drive on July 14 (whole blood, not PowerRed), in most cases, you will be eligible to donate at our next Blood Drive on Sept. 8!

We will sponsor the next Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, September 8 (the day after Labor Day) 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.

Those who participate in this drive will receive a Hello Kitty collectible while supplies last!

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

DRIVE OUT HUNGER: 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 ~

GraceCrossing 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 eat 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



YOUTH NEWS

THE FALL 2026 YOUTH EVENTS

SCHEDULE IS UP and available for viewing on the church website, or by clicking on this QR code. All events are updated in real time, so this is where to find the most current information and links to event signups!

OUR OFFICIAL FALL KICKOFF LOCK-IN will be held Saturday evening, Sept. 19-Sunday morning, Sept. 20 at St. Matthew's. We will spend the overnight "locked in" at the church, and lead the 9:30am worship for St. Matthew's on Sunday. More details and signup info are in the online ATC.

GOOD WORKS YOUTH WORK DAYS will start up again on Saturday, September 26 from 8:15am to 3:45pm. Spend a Saturday helping make repairs to homes for people in need in our area. All 7th-12th graders are welcome to join us; if you're thinking about participating in Appalachia Service Project next summer, this is a great way to get some idea of what that ministry is all about! Sign up by Wednesday, Sept. 16 to participate, link is posted in the online ATC.

SUMMER 2027 YOUTH TRIP INFO SESSIONS (yes, already) - There are TWO big trips in the works for our youth next summer: The triennial (every-three-year) ELCA Youth Gathering June 28-July 2 in Minneapolis, MN; and our annual Appalachia Service Project Work Week July 17-24. All 7th-12th graders, and their parents, are encouraged to attend one of two information sessions to learn more about these opportunities:

- **St. Paul's Fellowship Hall on Sunday, September 13 from Noon-1:00pm; or**
- **St. Matthew's CLC on Sunday, September 13 from 4:00-5:00pm.**

Registration for both of these trips open in October, so we will need to get our groups assembled soon!

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH PEER MINISTRY RETREAT - If you are in 9th-12th grade and interested in being trained as a Peer Ministry Leader, reserve the weekend of November 13-15 on your calendar to attend a special retreat in Bethany Beach, DE. More information coming in early September!



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 **594 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! ***Also if you have gardens at home or belong to a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and have extra vegetables that you would like to donate we would be happy to help coordinate.***

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).