



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Around the Church

September 6, 2026



BACK TO SCHOOL

A couple of weeks ago, I shared a "spiritual gifts assessment." I included it as a part of my

sermon. I wanted to get us to think about how we can get involved. What are those things that come "naturally" to us—not talents necessarily—but those things that we want to do, skills we can use, even personality traits that benefit others? God has given us "spiritual gifts" to benefit the Body of Christ. The Body of Christ is simply the "church," our faith community. We don't need to overthink it. It's like a soccer team—everyone has a part, a place, everyone *belongs*, has something to contribute. No position is more important than another. Our culture, however, emphasizes the "star," the flashy *individual*. But when I coached soccer I would tell the kids that some of the best players in the world played defense (Franz Beckenbauer) or could make a pass no one else could (Ryan Giggs).

The other thing about "spiritual gifts" is that we often have to *learn* how to use them. Our culture isn't always helpful in this. Because God gives us these gifts to be *used with others and for others*... well, how do I do that? There's the learning! We learn how to get along with others (and include others), learn how to do a shared task, *learn* who the God is that has *moved us* to use these gifts, and learn how God is using us for a bigger purpose. It's like God has a BIG purpose and has included *us* in that by giving us a purpose that is unique to us—complete with gifts that are "spiritual" and can be used for "spiritual" ends.

In my opinion, it all begins by getting to know each other, and getting our feet wet, taking that first step to do something. There are plenty of opportunities to do that this Fall. Think of it as "back to school." There is the "extra-curricular" stuff—like volunteering to help with the worship livestream... and the Bible *study* or faith discussion

that broadens our minds. I encourage y'all to take advantage of them!

Peace,
Pr. Christian

The links to both the ELCA Spiritual Gifts Assessment and Our Gifts Together are posted on this week's online ATC and the church website.



ST. MATTHEW'S SPONSORED 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. Search "19425" and scroll down to the St. Matthew's drive. **The direct link to sign up in on our website and in the online ATC.**

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

OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT: MOANA, SEPT. 11

Please join us for our end-of-

Summer Outdoor Movie Night on the church grounds, on Friday, Sept. 11 starting at 7:30pm. Popcorn and movie snacks will be provided, just bring your own blankets and chairs!

If you have any questions, please contact the church office: office@stmatthews-church.org.





RSVP FOR THE CHURCH PICNIC: **SEPT. 13**

We are delighted to host the annual St. Matthew's Church

Picnic on Sunday, September 13 following the morning worship service. Coffee and Pastries will be available between 10:30–11:00 AM.

Food, beverages, and music to be provided.

We request your RSVP, so we can plan for an appropriate amount of food. Please also indicate if you can provide a dessert, side dish, help set up before, or clean up after.

FUN IS GUARANTEED! Let's kickoff the fall season reconnecting with St. Matthew's friends and family.

The RSVP link is now posted in the online ATC, church website and Facebook page.

Contact Jennifer Burgess with any questions (484.744.1630, jnnfrbrgss@yahoo.com)

A poster for the Hari Om Ganesh Utsav Interfaith Nite. At the top, it says "Hari Om Mandir and The Interfaith Action Community present". Below that is a white dove with a green olive branch and the text "BETTER TOGETHER". The main title is "Hari Om Ganesh Utsav Interfaith Nite". The text below reads: "Join us as we celebrate the Hindu festival of Ganesh Utsav in all its vibrancy, learn about its significance, partake in cultural traditions, enjoy the beautiful musical integration of multiple faiths and indulge in delicious, authentic festive foods!". The date and time are "THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 6:15- 8:00 PM". The location is "Hari Om Mandir 348 Boot Road, Downingtown, 19335". The website is "hariomganeshutsav.org". The contact information is "Contact: hariomganeshutsav@gmail.com".

IAC HARI OM GANESH FESTIVAL, **SEPT. 17**

The Interfaith Action Community cordially invites you to the Hari Om Ganesh Festival on Thursday, September 17, at 6:15-8:00 pm at Hari Om Yoga Center at 348 Boot Road, Downingtown, PA.

Join us for an evening of music, food and fellowship. The festival has always been a wonderful platform bringing together music from diverse faith traditions and cultures!

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 still 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!)

RAFFLE DRAWING NOW OPEN!

For the next two weeks in the Narthex, 18 raffle baskets will be on display.

Tickets will be on sale in person beginning this weekend, and through a Google Form which is now in the online ATC and on a button on the front page of the Church website. Price for raffle tickets is one (1) ticket for \$10 and four 4 tickets for \$20.

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 eat 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



**RISE AGAINST
HUNGER OCT. 25,
REGISTER NOW!**

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!

The registration link is now live, and posted in the online ATC and on the church website!

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.



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

Faith Discussions: Next meeting in the Lounge on Tuesday, Sept. 15. We will continue the discussion on the First Book of Sirach, Chapters 2-4:6, all are welcome!

Men's Breakfast: Saturday, September 19. 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

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

Coffee & Christ: Saturday, October 3, 8:30am at Starbucks in Chester Springs.



St. Mary's
Franciscan Shelter
for Homeless Families

**ST. MARY'S MEAL:
NEXT MEAL
SEPT. 27**

The next meal delivery to St. Mary's

Franciscan Shelter will be on Sunday, September 27, and the sign up is now in the online ATC.

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



SAVE THE DATE, SPREAD THE WORD!
**ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL
CHILDREN'S CONSIGNMENT SALE,
OCT. 16 & 17**

The Fall Children's Consignment Sale, benefiting St. Matthew's School, will take place on Friday and Saturday, October 16 and 17. New sellers are always welcome!

Friday, October 16:

9:00am-3:00pm SPECIAL PARENT AND CHURCH SHOPPING DAY

5:30pm-7:30pm OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Saturday, October 17:

8:00 am – 10:00 am ***50% OFF SALE***

If you would like to consign or volunteer to help, contact Chrissy Guyer at stmatssale@gmail.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 **825 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).



REJOICING SPIRITS PRESENTATION ON TANZANIA AT ST. PAUL'S SEPT. 13

Please join St. Paul's members

Tammy Swink and Susan Crawford Romano for a presentation on their invitation to launch Rejoicing Spirits in Tanzania, with pizza dinner at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Lionville on Sunday, September 13. The presentation will begin at 5:00pm, immediately following the monthly Rejoicing Spirits worship service at 4:00pm.

The sign-up link is located on the online ATC, the church website under "News" and on the church Facebook page. Please register so they can plan for your attendance and make sure they have plenty of pizza!

In addition to sharing the story of the Rejoicing Spirits launch in Tanzania, two members of the Mosaic International team will share more about their partnership with Building a Caring Community. ***The full article about their experience and about the Rejoicing Spirits program is now posted on the church website and linked in this week's online ATC!***



LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSURE

The Church and School offices will be closed on Monday, September 7 to observe the Labor Day Holiday. We will reopen on Tuesday, September 8. Have a fun and safe holiday weekend!