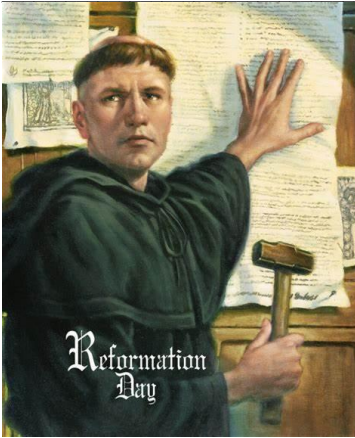




St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Around the Church

October 25, 2026



KNOW GOD, KNOW OURSELVES

(Reflection from *Sundays & Seasons*)

This is a Sunday packed with beautiful images, deep-seeded ideas, and a rich history. For life-long Lutherans, these things can provoke a sense of pride in our

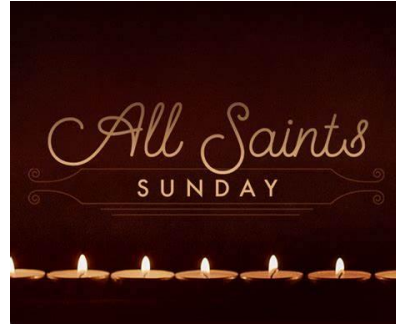
denomination, but Reformation Sunday is not "Lutheran Pride Day." Instead, it is a day focused on knowing God truthfully and, in light of God's unbelievable grace, understanding who we are as people of faith and children of God.

Martin Luther (1483-1546) spent a great deal of time trying to know who God was and to find ways of expressing what he came to know and believe so that others would know God too. He used coarse language, drank beer, and wrote hymns using tunes people knew and recognized. When he wrote his Small Catechism he used language his small son could understand. He even translated the Bible into the language people spoke. Truth about God and our faith, as complex as it is, should be something we can grasp and wrestle with.

Reformation Sunday is certainly a festival day where we celebrate and remember our history, but it should also be a day to reexamine our faith. Part of that is recognizing the truth about our inadequacies, our failings, and our sinfulness. God's Law is like a mirror in a room with intense fluorescent lights; it shows us who we are with every flaw and wrinkle. But God doesn't look at us in that mirror. The truth about God brings us new knowledge about ourselves. God's grace, the Gospel, shines a new light on us, forgiving and forgetting our iniquities and sins.

The message of Reformation Sunday is God's love for us. It is a love that frees us and redefines us as people of God and as members of the whole body of Christ. In God's eyes, we are beautiful.

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Reflections adapted from *Sundays and Seasons.com*.



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

All Saints Sunday will be celebrated on November 1! In preparation for worship, please send us the names of your friends or family members

whom you'd like us to pray for during the Worship service.

Please e-mail Sara in the office at srichardson@stmatthews-church.org or call 610-458-5675 during business hours, or leave us a voicemail by Friday, October 30 at 1:00pm. Their names will be read during the Prayers of the People.

It is one of the most moving Sundays of the church year. It is that day in our worship life where we remember all those who have died in the past year. As a part of worship, you'll also have an opportunity to light a candle taper during the celebration of Holy Communion. When you come forward to receive the sacrament, you can take an unlit taper, light it, and place it upright in a "sandbox" where they will remain lit for the rest of the service. The ancient church believed that "communion" isn't just with God in Christ through the Spirit, but it is also a "communion" with all those who have gone before us. Let us give thanks for the faith of our forebears and entrust to God our memories and love for them.



We warmly congratulate one of St. Matthew's newest church members, Scott McPherson, who married Alexandra Grillo last Saturday, October 17, here at the church. Pastor Christian officiated the service. St. Matthew's sends you both our prayerful best wishes for a long and happy life together!

RISE AGAINST HUNGER IS TODAY: **THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!**

We are so excited to host the annual Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event today, October 25 from 11:00am-5:00pm in the CLC. We have well exceeded our fundraising goals, and we will be packaging **82,225 meals**. We would like to sincerely thank these businesses and individual families for helping to make this the second-largest event in our region.



Thank you to our
generous 2026
sponsors!

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St. Paul's Lutheran Church



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THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE FOR **GRACE CROSSING NOW-NOV. 15**

Grace Crossing Food Pantry will receive some items from the Chester County Food Bank this year for their Thanksgiving meal distribution. We are asking for assistance in providing the remaining items as follows:

- Yams (40 oz. size): 50 cans
 - Boxed Stuffing (Turkey flavor only): 24 boxes
 - Turkey Gravy: 24 cans/jars
- Cookies (any variety): 50 packages
 - Reusable bags

We will need these items no later than Sunday, November 15 as the distribution of the meals will take place on Thursday, November 19. Collection bins will be in the church Narthex, CLC and the office porch for drop off.

***Please note that Grace Crossing will not be receiving any items from the Chester County Food Bank for their Christmas meal distribution. Keep your eyes peeled for a new, more extensive list of items we will be asking for assistance in providing for the Christmas meals in mid-November.*



DISCOVERING ST. MATTHEW'S: **CONTINUES NOV. 1**

We are excited to offer a three-part class for anyone who may be new or would simply like to learn more about St. Matthew's and our Lutheran faith. Whether you are new to our congregation or have been worshipping with us for some time, this is a wonderful opportunity to connect, ask questions, and grow.

Each session will be led by Pastor Christian and include members from the Congregational Council and feature leaders who will share about the ministries of St. Matthew's. Plenty of time will be provided for Q&A in an informal setting. **All sessions will be held in the Christian Life Center (CLC) following Sunday service and will last about an hour.**

Childcare will be provided if you have young kids.

Nov. 1: Session #2 will include introductions and time with church leaders, and a look at the history and mission of St. Matthew's.

For the complete session schedule, please visit our church website under "Events."

If you have any questions about this program, please contact the church office: office@stmatthews-church.org or Pr. Christian: cmcmullan71@gmail.com



SIGN UP NOW FOR THE ELCA YOUTH GATHERING IN SUMMER 2027

ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT ATTENDING THE ELCA YOUTH GATHERING NEXT SUMMER? All current 8th-12th graders are invited to take part in a once-every-three-year experience that brings together 16,000+ high school youth from Lutheran churches across the United States, to spend five days together around the theme of "Imagine More." In 2027, the Gathering will be held from June 28-July 2 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. **Interested? Registration opens in mid-October and we need to have our group together by mid-November, so let our Youth Director, Craig Miller, know as soon as possible to be included on our roster.**

Questions? Contact Craig at craigyouthmin@gmail.com, or 484-320-0785.

YOUTH NEWS



RISE AGAINST HUNGER IS TODAY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, and once again we're going to have a special "youth shift" from 1:00-3:00pm at St. Matthew's. Bring your family and friends! As a special treat, pizza will be provided at noon in St. Matthew's downstairs lounge for youth and their families. Even if you can't make the 1:00 shift, you can still help out at either the 11:00am or 3:00pm times. Scan the QR code in the RAH article or find the link in the online ATC to participate in a really fun event that helps feed the world.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW FOR NEXT SUMMER'S APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT WORK WEEK! We will again be sending work crews to Central Appalachia to make homes safer, warmer, and drier for families in need of some help. Our trip will be Saturday, July 17-Saturday,

July 24, 2027. Youth who are currently in 7th-12th grades are eligible to participate. The cost per person is \$400 with scholarships available for those who need financial assistance; fundraising events throughout the year will also provide opportunities for families to reduce their out-of-pocket costs. **To sign up, go to the ASP Online Registration Portal (located in the online ATC and church website) and enter "17700" as the group number to select our trip; if you have not participated in ASP before, you will need to create a new account in the participant's name. You will also need to pay a \$150 non-refundable deposit by December 1.** Questions about ASP? Contact Craig Miller at craigyouthmin@gmail.com, or 484-320-0785. This is an experience not to be missed!



Pints & Parables: Monday, November 2, 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 Sanctuary on Tuesday, November 3 at 7:00pm, all are welcome! We will be discussing our new study.

Coffee & Christ: Saturday, November 7, 8:30am at Starbucks in Chester Springs.

Mission In: Next meeting Sunday, November 8 at 10:45am in the CLC. Hope to see you there!

Men's Breakfast: Saturday, November 21. 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



COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

The garden is starting to wind down for the season, but we still have some fall veggies growing including kale, romaine lettuce, beets, and radishes. So far, we have harvested **1162 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).



HELP THE HOMELESS:

DONATE SOCKS NOW-OCT. 31!

We are collecting new adult male socks during "Socktober." The collected items will be distributed to the homeless and less fortunate. We hope to reach over 750 people, so we will need LOTS of socks!

This movement began with one boy who you may know as the "Kid President." (Google him!) Collection bins are in the CLC lobby and the church office porch. Thanks for your support!



ST. MARY'S MEAL:

NEXT MEAL, NOV. 22

Thanks to all who contributed to the October meal, which will be

delivered to St. Mary's today!

The next meal delivery to St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter will be on Sunday, November 22, 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



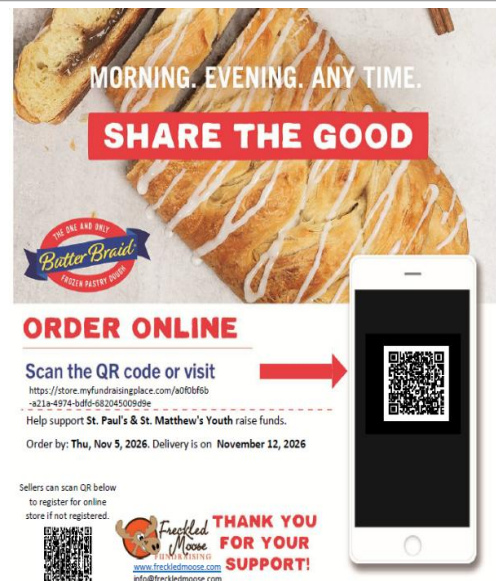
CHECK OUR LOST & FOUND BIN!

Now that we're getting into the cooler weather months, please check the Lost and Found bin, located on the table in the back of the Narthex. We have several items in there, including water bottles, glasses, books, clothing, keys *and even a phone!* Let's reunite some of the items back to their owners! If you have any questions about lost and/or found items, please contact Sara in the church office: srichardson@stmatthews-church.org

IAC THANKSGIVING SERVICE,

NOV. 22

The Interfaith Action Community of Chester County and the Exton-Lionville Ministerium cordially invite you to an Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Service.



BUTTER BRAIDS YOUTH

FUNDRAISER THROUGH NOV. 5

Our youth ministry will be holding a Freckled Moose Butter Braids fundraiser now through November 5, with proceeds benefitting our Youth Gathering and Appalachia Service Project trips this coming summer. Butter Braids are frozen pastries that can be stored and brought out to serve on special occasions, or whenever the mood hits you! *Find the link to order in the online ATC or the church website under "Events."* *Print order forms are also available on the church website!*