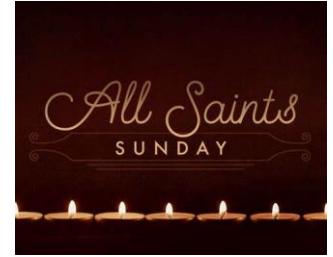




St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Around the Church November 1, 2026



ALL THE SAINTS

All Saints Sunday is this Sunday. It's the Sunday in the church year when we remember the "saints," our friends and loved ones who've died in the past year

by ritually saying their names and ringing a bell during worship (by the way, if there is someone you want remembered, please let me know before worship begins). Two years ago, at about this time, right before the Presidential election my All Saints reflections asked the question: "would the saints—those who've gone before us—give us advice on who to vote for?" What a difference two years makes! All Saints just happens to be right before Election Day, and those questions don't go away. But in the last two years, I've done a lot of listening, reading, and thinking about why people have different political views than me. The worrisome thing about all this is how easily our faith can become entangled with big political issues.

The Gospel reading for this Sunday are the Beatitudes, a series of counter-cultural statements: "Blessed are the poor in spirit... the meek... the mourning... the peacemakers... the merciful... etc." (Matthew 5:1-12). Too often they get read as a moralistic list of what we are supposed to do or become, or a progressive program describing God's Kingdom for the poor and oppressed. But they aren't conditional statements (*if* you are meek...), nor are they imperatives (a *to-do* list). Jesus says them as statements of fact rooted in a future promise. *When* will those promises be fulfilled? Not this Tuesday. *How* are those promises fulfilled? The Beatitudes are an "Easter" text (the *entire* New Testament, by the way, is a post-Easter text!). When? In God's time. How? Through the power Christ's *resurrection*. The Beatitudes are also a common funeral text because of the future-directed promise. Every funeral is a celebration of the promise (and comfort) of Easter. What would our "saints" tell us? Whatever it would be will be from that place of fulfillment.

This election has been fed by urgent rhetoric from all sides, but the rhetoric of the Easter texts this Sunday is rooted in the future promises of resurrection. Because we have those promises, we are blessed *now*. "Beloved, we are God's children *now*; what we *will be* has not yet been revealed... when Christ is revealed [in our resurrection], we will be like him, for we will see him as he is" (1 John 3:2).

Peace,
Pr. Christian



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. Look out for a new, more extensive list of items we will be asking for assistance in providing for the Christmas meals in mid-November.*



WARM CLOTHING DRIVE NOW THROUGH NOV. 22

We are collecting new and gently used Hats, Gloves, and Scarves for homeless and less fortunate adults in Center City Philadelphia. They will be delivered with a hot meal on Thanksgiving morning near the Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion. **Please drop off items in the collection boxes located in the Narthex, CLC lobby, or on the church office porch by Sunday, November 22.**



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

YOUTH NEWS



REGISTER FOR NEXT SUMMER'S ELCA YOUTH GATHERING BY THIS SUNDAY! If you are planning to come with us to Minneapolis June 28-July 3, 2027, you must complete a registration form and turn it in with a \$175 non-refundable deposit by the end of the day **TODAY, November 1**. Questions? Contact Craig Miller at 484-320-0785, or craigyouthmin@gmail.com.

OUR NEXT HIGH SCHOOL OASIS GATHERING is this Sunday, November 1 from 6:30-8:00pm in the upstairs Youth Room at St. Paul's. This time, OASIS will be another "Deep Dive" with conversation around a deeper topic or Bible passage. (There will still be sharing of highs and lows, and of course food.) All 9th-12th graders are invited to join us. Advance sign up is not necessary; just show up!

THE NEXT GOOD WORKS YOUTH WORKDAY will be **Saturday, November 21 from 8:15am-3:45pm**. All 10th-12th graders are welcome to join us for the day to help make homes safer, warmer, and drier for area families in need. Sign up Wednesday, November 11, the link is in this week's online ATC.

OUR ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH 'FRIENDSGIVING' will take place on **Sunday evening, November 22**. Signup info is coming soon, but all 9th-12th graders are encouraged to save the date now!

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 finish our discussion of Sirach, reading chapter 51. We've decided to discuss the Magnificat of Mary for the remaining Tuesdays in 2026. We will start discussing the Book of Job in 2027.

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: tguyer@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 **1172 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).



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, contact Mindy Elmer: mlong1011@comcast.net



ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL WISH LIST

The school staff has put together an Amazon Wish List of commonly ordered items to help keep their overall costs down. If you would like to choose an item to purchase, the staff would greatly appreciate it! Find the link in this week's online ATC.

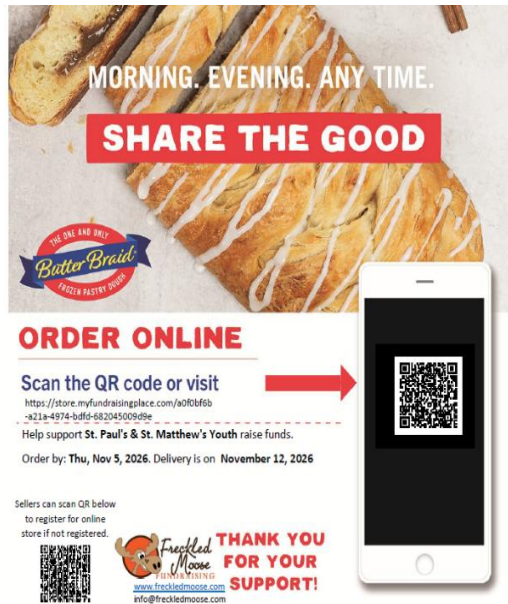
IAC THANKSGIVING SERVICE, NOV. 22

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



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



MORNING. EVENING. ANY TIME.

SHARE THE GOOD

THE ONE AND ONLY
Butter Braids
FROZEN PASTRY DONUTS

ORDER ONLINE

Scan the QR code or visit
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 Help support St. Paul's & St. Matthew's Youth raise funds.
 Order by: Thu, Nov 5, 2026. Delivery is on November 12, 2026

Sellers can scan QR below
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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!***



PA UNPLUGGED presents
GREATER PHILADELPHIA
**ALTERNATIVE
DEVICE FAIR**

Get Smart with
"Dumb" Tech

NOV. 8
2026
2:00-5:00 PM

right off major routes in
CHESTER COUNTY
 Oscar Lasko PARC Building,
 One Scouting Way, Exton, PA

SPEND AN HOUR or AN AFTERNOON

Pre-register
www.freckledmoose.com
 for extra chances to win great raffle prizes.

GREATER PHILADELPHIA ALTERNATIVE DEVICE FAIR, NOV. 8 GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR FAMILIES on Sunday, Nov. 8 at the Chester County Council of Scouting America in Exton!

Whether you're interested in looking at smartphone alternatives (including landlines, watches and phones) OR learning more about the broader movement for slower tech, this *free* event has something for you! Spend an hour or an entire afternoon. All are welcome!

Confirmed vendors include: Ooma My Phone; Pinwheel; Purple Computer; Tether; Dumb.co, Ring Ring Club, Waffle Kids, and more!

Speaker sessions:

- 2:30 -- Jill Anderson: Parenting in a 'Digital Age:' How Devices are Changing Family Dynamics
- 4:00 -- Lila DiMasi & Kelly Flynn: Cell Phone Bans and Self Control: Findings from 100,000 Educators

We'll have games and crafts with supervision to keep kids entertained on-site while you explore and learn. Find the link to register on this week's online ATC.



DRIVE OUT HUNGER CHECK PRESENTATIONS

We're very happy to report that all profits from our Drive Out Hunger Golf Outing have been distributed to the West Chester Food Cupboard, the CYWA and to Grace Crossing Food Pantry. Thanks once again to everyone who participated to make this year's event the best ever! ***See all photos on the church website and in our Facebook group!***



TRUNK OR TREAT: THANK YOU!

Trunk or Treat 2026 was a success! The children enjoyed the Petting Zoo, the Train ride around the cemetery, and the DJ who provided Halloween music and games. Thank you to all the trunkers who provided the treats and the awesome trunk decorations.

Thank you to the committee who helped to organize the event: Louise Rutledge, Diana Sisum, Eva Tietjen, and Shaelyn Binstein. Thank you to our volunteer, Meghan Comegys who helped load the children onto the train.

See more photos posted in our Facebook group!