St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
Around the Church
November 8, 2026



KEEP AWAKE, LOOK BUSY

Just like a lot of others, I'm glad the election is over. I'm also glad that the Democrats won as overwhelmingly as they did—but not just for the reasons you might think! I find it encouraging for a lot of reasons. First, I feel that because a lot of the races were not close there will be less partisanship and polarization, compared to an almost evenly divided country. I feel like a lot of the political rhetoric the last few years has been driven by a harmful "all-or-nothing" mentality. Because the country has been *so evenly divided*—especially over culture war issues—it seemed to me that each side would "fight like hell" and demonize the other to get just one more person on their side, as opposed to seeking solutions that are *common to everyone*. In other words, to make a comparison, I feel like this election has created a different atmosphere than the one that resulted in Jan. 6, 2021 (which was horrible in my mind). My hope is that with such an overwhelming result for one side everything won't be SO politically charged (I also blame the media for a lot of that).

Meanwhile, the Holy Spirit is not idle. I know for some that might seem hard to believe, but if there's one thing God demands of us is that we wait. And so the question then becomes, "Are you ready?" It really is that simple. This Sunday, Jesus tells a parable about 10 bridesmaids (Matthew 25:1-13) waiting for the Groom who is delayed. He shows up at *midnight*! Five have extra oil for their lamps, the other five don't. Five go in to the party, the other five go looking for extra oil and are left out. It's not their fault the Groom was delayed, but oh well. Are you ready?

What does it mean to be ready?? THAT's a hard question to answer because it is such a BIG question. And there are a lot of different responses to it. Has American politics grabbed our attention to the point where we aren't attentive to the Groom's arrival, to what the Holy Spirit is doing *now* in our midst? That question can be answered a lot of different ways too. Speaking personally, I am glad and hopeful that "politics" won't be so consuming of our attention, and we can get back to making our selves "ready," keeping awake, and waiting…

Peace,
Pr. Christian



SHARING THANKSGIVING AT HOLY COMMUNION, NOV. 26

For nearly 20 years, St. Matthew's has teamed up with Holy Communion Church at 21st and Chestnut Streets in Philadelphia to help prepare and deliver turkey dinners to 250 people on Thanksgiving Day. Many of the meals will go to those who live outdoors, and this is a wonderful way for us to share God's love with those less fortunate.

The Sign-Up Genius to volunteer is posted in the online ATC. There are two main roles: preparing meals in the LCHC Hall, and being a driver to deliver hot meals to the streets. Please invite your family and friends to share in this morning of service.

A friend of St. Matthew's has covered the cost of the turkeys for the last 20 years. **We would like to provide the sides, beverages and paper products. Our target goal is $1,000.**

To make an electronic gift through the St. Matthew's website, go to https://stmatthews-church.org/give# Click "Give Online Now" and then select "Thanksgiving" from the drop-down menu on the next screen that appears. You can also write a check to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, and in the memo line, write "Thanksgiving."

If you have any questions, please reach out to Bob McDevitt at roberthmcdevitt@icloud.com



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.**



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**

To ensure we have enough of each item, please sign up on the link located in this week's online ATC.

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.*



THANK YOU FROM THE OUTREACH TEAM

Thank you to everyone who supported our recent Outreach ministry efforts for Rise Against Hunger (RAH) and Socktober.

As you may have heard, approximately 400 volunteers packaged almost 83,000 meals for RAH on Sunday, October 25! So many members donated their time and/or money to make this event such a success. We will soon find out where our meals will be sent.

During the month of October, we collected over 600 pairs of socks, past our goal of 500! These socks will be donated to people in Philadelphia during our Thanksgiving ministry with the Lutheran Church of Holy Communion, as well as veterans at the VA Hospital in Coatesville.

We are grateful for the kind and generous community of faith we have at St. Matthew's!



BRING YOUR NATIVITY SCENES TO DISPLAY FOR ADVENT

As we await and prepare for the birth of the Christ child, please consider sharing your favorite Nativity set, if you have one. You are invited to place yours in a windowsill in the Sanctuary as early as November 22, where it will remain throughout Advent and Christmas. Please feel free to add a prayer that reflects this year's Advent theme of Hope. If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Sue Hummerston (hummerstonsue@gmail.com)



ORDERING POINSETTIAS FOR THIS ADVENT SEASON

You are invited to share in the beauty of the Advent and Christmas Eve services by purchasing red poinsettias.

Forms will be in the pews next week and can be found now in the online ATC and church website. Place the form in the offering plate, or send it to the Church Office with a check payable to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. The poinsettias are $10.00 each.

This year's ordering deadline will be Sunday, December 6.



DISCOVERING ST. MATTHEW'S: CONTINUES NOV. 15

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 worshiping 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. 15: Session #3 will focus on living out your faith at St. Matthew's — an overview of membership, spiritual growth opportunities (worship, small groups, Bible study), serving opportunities, and how to get connected.
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



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!



Mission In: Next meeting TODAY, Sunday, November 8 at 10:45am in the CLC. Hope to see you there!
Faith Discussions: Next meeting in the Sanctuary on Tuesday, November 17 at 7:00pm, all are welcome! 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.
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
Coffee & Christ: Saturday, December 5, 8:30am at Starbucks in Chester Springs.
Pints & Parables: Monday, December 7, 7:00pm at MaGerks in Lionville. Come join us for stimulating conversation & fellowship, in a laid-back relaxing atmosphere.



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 **1225 pounds** that we have donated to the Chester County Food Bank.
If you are interested in helping in the garden, contact Meghan Comegys **megcomegys@gmail.com**, Desiree Lee **dal2123@yahoo.com** or Jim Rutledge **jrutman2005@yahoo.com**

St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter For Homeless Families

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

IAC LECTURE: WELCOMING THE STRANGER IN JEWISH FAITH TRADITIONS, NOV. 18

This lecture at Beth Israel Congregation on Wednesday, November 18 at 7:00pm is the first in a series presented by faith communities within the Interfaith Action Community, on the topic of Welcoming the Stranger. Hope to see you there!



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.





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.



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.