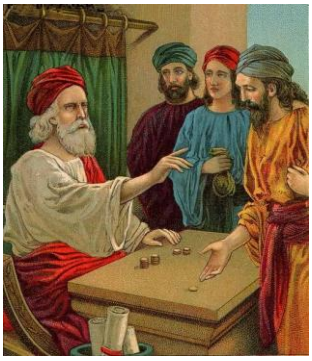
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
Around the Church
November 15, 2026



A MILLION DOLLARS

What would you do if someone suddenly gave you a million dollars and asked you to do something—anything—with it? Would you know what to do with it?? There's no catch. But to be clear, the money isn't *yours*, but you do get to use it however you want, knowing that the person who gave it to you will (eventually) come back and want to know what you did with it. Would you be excited? Would you be scared?

That's the premise of this Sunday's Gospel reading (Matthew 25:14-30). Jesus tells a parable about a Master who goes on a long journey and entrusts his servants with his property. He gives them each a "lifetime" of money in the form of "talents." A talent back then was a block of silver that equaled 10-15 YEARS wages for a day laborer. In other words, a LOT of money. Two did something with it and made more money for the master; one dug a hole in the ground and buried it.

The parable is not difficult to understand. We're given a life. What do you do with it? What *motivates you* to do something with it or not? There's risk involved. The servant who buries it was *afraid* of the Master. He was afraid of "losing" money. He was afraid of loss, and therefore, afraid of taking risks. (I get that. I'm not a big risk taker myself.) And it meant he missed out on the "joy of the master."

Do we *trust God* enough to take risks with what God has given us? God has given us our lives and everything in it. The only judgment in the parable is doing nothing with it. What if the two servants who made more money *lost money*—they tried different things and none of them worked out. Do you think God the Master would be mad? I don't think so. Why? Because they believed (had faith) that the Master loved them enough that they could take risks. They trusted the Master, and that *trust* is the highest form of honor and relationship between the servant and the Master. I believe God knows that. God wants our faithful risks—because God loves us and it means we trust that love.

So what will you do with your million dollars?

Peace,
Pr. Christian



FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR HEATHER TRACY

August 9, 1979 – November 8, 2026

Heather's funeral service will be held at St. Matthew's on Sunday, November 22. Visitation will be held from 12 Noon-2:00pm, with the service immediately following. After the service, food and fellowship will be offered in the CLC.

In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection, please keep the Robinson family (Donna Robinson is Heather's mother) and Heather's friends and loved ones in your prayers. Funeral arrangements are being handled by the Cattermole-Klotzbach Funeral Home, you can find Heather's obituary on their website or in this week's online ATC.



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-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 ENDS TODAY, NOV. 15

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our collection so far. As of press time, we still need the following items:
-Yams (40oz cans): 31 cans
-Turkey Gravy (Turkey flavored, please): 10 cans/jars
-Cookies: 28 packages
Today is the last day we will collect these items!
We also need an unlimited amount of sturdy reusable shopping bags (heavier plastic or canvas-type bags that you would use in a department store or grocery store).

DISCOVERING ST. MATTHEW'S: LAST SESSION, TODAY, 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. **The session will be held in the Christian Life Center (CLC) following today's 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 Pr. Christian: cmcmullan71@gmail.com



OFFERING COUNTERS NEEDED!

We are in great need of more offering counters to join our current loyal and dedicated group of people! It only requires 1-2 hours of your time once or twice a month. Two counters must be present in the church office to count and deposit the Sunday offerings every two weeks. **Scheduling is flexible! Please reach out to Sara Richardson in the office if you're interested in joining the team: srichardson@stmatthews-church.org, or 610-458-5675.**

Christmas is Coming!



TOY DRIVE FOR MARTIN LUTHER SCHOOL, NOW-DEC. 6

For over two decades, the generous folks of St. Matthew's congregation have made the lives of resident children at the Martin Luther School a bit brighter at Christmas. **This year we have a Wish List for 50 children. Please use the Sign-Up Genius located in this week's online ATC and on the church website, and select your gift and provide your name and e-mail. We have included the Gender and Age along with the Wish Gift.**
All unwrapped gifts should be returned to the church office on or before Sunday, December 6, 2026. After hours, gifts can be left in the bin on the church office porch. Toys can also be left in the CLC lobby by the small Christmas Tree during worship service hours.
The school is also in great need of gift certificates (Amazon, Giant, Target, Walmart, Visa, and ShopRite - $25 Increments). The school will help distribute to those in the community in need and can be left at the church office. Any cash donations can be made to Gemma Services.
Please contact Kristen Delin or Brian Delin with any questions at bdelin@verizon.net or 610-585-0335 or 610-952-4906.
To find out more about the Martin Luther School at Gemma Services, it is posted on the church website.



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)



ORDER POINSETTIAS BY DEC. 6

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



Faith Discussions: Next meeting in the Sanctuary on Tuesday, November 17 at 7:00pm, all are welcome! We will begin our discussion on the Magnificat of Mary, Luke 1:46-55.
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
Outreach: The Outreach team plans to meet Sunday, November 29, after the 9:30am worship service in the CLC. Please feel free to join us as we discuss ways to support our community in 2027. Feel free to contact Kathy Meltzer at kmeltzer@comcast.net with any questions, suggestions, or concerns.
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.
Mission In: Next meeting Sunday, December 13 at 10:45am in the CLC. Hope to see you there!



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 **1230 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: NOV. 22

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

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IAC LECTURE: WELCOMING THE STRANGER, 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 on Sunday, November 22 at 7:00pm at the Foundation for Islamic Education.



YOUTH NEWS



OUR ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH 'FRIENDSGIVING' will take place on Sunday, November 22 from 6:00-8:30pm at the Sanders' home. All 9th-12th graders are welcome to join us for an evening of food, friendship, and giving thanks. Attendees are encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert to share with the group. Sign up here to let us know you're coming (and what you'll be bringing) in the online ATC.

THE NEXT HIGH SCHOOL OASIS "DEEP DIVE" will be Sunday, November 29 from 6:30-8:00pm at St. Matthew's. We will continue our conversation around the sacraments, looking at Holy Communion this time. All 9th-12th graders are invited to join us. No signup is necessary; just show up!

OUR ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL TRIP TO ELMWOOD PARK ZOO with the students from Martin Luther School/Gemma Services is coming up on Sunday, December 6, from 4:15-8:30pm. Meet at St. Matthew's at 4:15pm to carpool to Elmwood Park Zoo, where we will meet the kids and host them on a tour of the zoo's "Wild Lights" holiday display. Cost is $10 per person; if you would like to help cover the costs for our guests, feel free to bring more! Sign up in the online ATC to help bring smiles to the faces of some kids who need an extra helping of love.

THE YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTIES are coming up in mid-December! Youth in 6th-8th grade will have their party on Saturday, December 19 from 4:00-5:30pm, and the high school youth will have their gathering on Sunday, December 20th from 6:00-8:00pm, both at Pastor Stuart's house. Sign-ups are coming shortly!

PRIORITY REGISTRATION FOR THE ELCA YOUTH GATHERING HAS CLOSED, BUT... It's not too late to sign up to go to Minneapolis next summer! (You're just going to pay more money.) If you are currently in 8th-12th grade and would like to join our "Gathering Group" going to the Gathering June 28-July 2, contact Craig Miller for a registration worksheet and more information on how to sign up.

Peer Ministry

Please keep in prayer our 13 high school youth and adults who are participating in the Peer Ministry Leadership Retreat this weekend in Bethany Beach, DE, as well as the other 30 youth and adults from five other SEPA Synod congregations who will be joining us!