

Newsletter Fall, 2016

BELLRINGER



September 18th (following worship)

Fun for all ages! Bring a friend!



Beginning on Sunday night, October 2nd at 5:30 pm, we will be offering a Sunday night worship service each week. This service looks like our Sunday morning offerings with communion, a sermon and many songs that are familiar. Like last year, we are looking for people to be active participants in the worship service (greeters, ushers, readers). If you are interested in being part of this service, let one of the Pastors know. After worship on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month we will enjoy a wonderful meal in the Christian Life Center. See you on Sunday night!



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
2440 Conestoga Road
Chester Springs, PA 19425
P-610-458-5675
Fax-610-458-2473
www.stmatthews-church.org

2016 Council

Eric Ramsey-President
Louise Rutledge-VP
Ralf Weiser-Secretary
Ed Mourar-Treasurer
Drew Aramany
James Davis
Colleen DeBerardinis
Sue Giacomponello
John Lueders
Jeanne Maugle

Ministry Team Leaders

Sue Hummerston-
Mission In
James Davis-Property
Anita Uhl-Outreach
John Lueders-Technology

Church Office

Rev. Tina Mackie
Rev. Thaddeus Book
David Mackie-Music Director
Sandy Elkins-School Director
Sheila Lanzalotto-Director of
Youth Ministry
Audrey Subhan-Church Adm.
Kyle Dewees-Sexton

welcome to
youth
news

Hello everyone. As most of you know by now, I am the new Joint Director of Youth Ministry at St Paul's and St Matthew's. I have been on the job for a month now and I am very excited to be in this role and to start making a bigger difference in the life of our Youth. The kids all seem excited to have the opportunity to make new friends and to expand their numbers. I know many of them have heard a call to serve and to be disciples and this year will give them many opportunities to do so.

If you have not yet responded to my introductory email (s), please try to send in the requested information as soon as possible so that my contact lists will be more complete. I have received many responses and well wishes, which are a blessing. I am looking forward to getting to meet the kids and parents that I do not yet know and to getting to know those I have already met, a little better.

Please join our Facebook group St Matthew's/St Paul's Youth Group and follow us on Twitter and Instagram at smspyouth. We will be posting pictures, schedules, reminders, inspirational quotes, scripture verses, etc., in the upcoming weeks. Some pictures and videos of the St Matthew's Middle School Mission Trip, St Paul's High School Mission Trip, Middle School Kick-off party and St Paul's VBS have already been posted. Check them out and feel free to add more!

Our Youth calendars are filling up and I am looking forward to getting things started. We will have monthly activities for the Kindergarten through 5th grade children and our first such event is planned for September 25th 1-3 pm (mini golf at Rossi's). Our 6th-8th grade youth started things off on August 28th with a Kick-Off Swim Party 4-6 pm, and the 9th-12th grade youth will have a Kick-Off Party on September 18th 4-6 pm at Hickory Park. High school youth will be meeting on the first and third Sunday nights starting October 2nd. Confirmation will be starting soon as well.

Full year calendars are now available, but here are some highlights:

We will have a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on November 11th at St Matthew's and a Chili Cook-Off fundraiser on January 20th at St Paul's. Please plan to support both activities as the proceeds will benefit the youth programs at both churches. These fundraisers will help defer some of the cost for retreats and mission trips for the 6th-12th grade. The spring will feature a car wash fundraiser at each of the churches as well.

The 6th-8th grade and the 9th-12th grade groups will be having separate fall retreats in October, but will attend a joint retreat in March. The 9th-12th grade will go to Eastern Shores, VA for a mission trip 6/18-6/23/17, and 6th-8th grade youth will have an overnight mission trip to Washington DC 7/16-7/20/17. We will also do three days of local service with the 6th-8th grade in late June. *Sign-Up Genius* invites were sent out for these events so please respond as soon as possible.

We will also have a day of service on November 5th (high school only), Christmas caroling, 30 Hour Famine Lock-In and Helping Hands Day. Other service activities will be planned as well as other fun activities.

I will need a lot of volunteers for events big and small. So please let me know when you are available. I am looking forward to this next chapter in my life and am very excited to have answered God's call. These kids are such a joy and blessing!

God's peace,

Sheila Lanzalotto aka "Mrs L"

how you can help



There are many volunteer jobs, big and small, that are needed this year in order to have a successful joint Youth program. Please send me an email and let me know how you can help (jointdirectorofyouthministry@gmail.com). Here are some possible ways to contribute:

- Be the second adult at Sunday night Youth group (1st and 3rd Sundays from 6:45-8:15)
- Help with set up/clean-up for Sunday night dinners (1st and 3rd Sundays from 6:15-6:45)
- Provide snacks for Sunday night Youth group (1st and 3rd Sundays from 6:45-8:15)
- Offer to drive/chaperone for an event/activity
- Lead an activity/session at a retreat or mission trip
- Provide snacks for an event/activity
- Handle paperwork requirements for off-site event (s)
- Take pictures at an event (s) and post them on the bulletin boards at both churches
- Help plan an event/activity
- Help organize a service project
- Join my "team" to help organize monthly events for youth K-5th grade
- Here are some fall events/activities for which we need help (drivers/chaperones, etc.):

Kick-off Party (9th-12th) 9/18

Rally Day (6th-12th) 9/25

Retreat (6th-8th) 10/8-9

Retreat (9th-12th) 10/21-23

Good Works Service Day (9th-12th) 11/5

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser (6th-12th) 11/11 - also need help planning/organizing

Christmas Caroling/Pizza (6th-12th) 12/11 - also need help planning/organizing

pARTicipate!



pARTicipate!

I read about this great image recently. There was a guy named Bob who was sitting around on New Year's Day with his three kids and they were all bored to tears. Bob thought it was a crime that anyone was bored on New Year's Day so he came up with an idea. After thinking about what his family could do that sounded exciting, they agreed that a parade sounded interesting. So Bob family's decided to have a parade on their street. They went house to house telling the neighbors they were going to have a parade. And the neighbors indulged the kids by telling them they would watch. But there was a catch. The family decided that no one could watch the parade. The only way you could watch the parade was to be in the parade. You had to participate in order to see the parade.

And so a few neighbors joined in. The small parade marched to the end of the street and had a cookout. Almost ten years later, the New Year's parade is a tradition. Hundreds of people join in, still nobody can watch unless they are in the parade and the day has not been boring since. Not only has it not been boring for the family, but it hasn't been boring for hundreds of neighbors as well.

People in the neighborhood know each other better because of the parade. The parade has allowed the people the chance to get to spend time with one another enjoying the presence of other people in the parade.

That is a great image for us here at St. Matthew's. This faith community is a place where everyone has the opportunity to participate and nobody stands on the sidelines. A place where we are all enhanced because of the gifts that we share with one another. A place where we get to know one another better because of time spent with one another.

As we begin the programming year, there are many opportunities to become a part of the parade. Whether you have been a part of the parade for 50 years or just a month or two, jump into the parade and participate. Your God given gifts will enhance this community and make our parade even more festive and enjoyable. So join us on Sunday mornings and look through this newsletter and find ways to join the parade. The parade is better when you are involved!

God's peace,

Pastor Thadd

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

We are so glad you are here! If you like what you see, please consider joining St. Matthew's. Want to know more? On October 16th and 23rd, we will have two one-hour classes that will begin after the 10:30 worship service. Please make plans to join us for both of these classes that will last from 11:45-12:45. Come and meet Pastor Thadd, find out what Christians believe, what Lutherans believe, what it means to be a part of St. Matthew's, and most importantly how you can become a part of it all! To register call the church office at 610-458-5675. If you have any questions about the class or joining St. Matthew's send Pastor Thadd an email at tbook@stmatthews-church.org



St. Matthews Outreach Ministries *Serving God's People*

Thank You!! Your time and gifts changed lives.

Manatawny Manor MUSIC & MEMORY Program

Our Music & Memory program continues to be a special gift to residents of Manatawny Manor. Suggestions for events include children performing their musical, children's choir, praise team or the women's choir, youth group playing games with the residents, or church members putting together an ice cream social for the memory care residents. We have a small group of people who have made a longer term commitment (6 months or a year) to volunteer in the Memory Care unit on a regular basis (once a month or possibly once a week). For those interested in being a part of this ministry **please contact Mary Kwiatkowski at marykwiatkowski@comcast.net**.

Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation

Thank you for the amazing response to our summer Hunger Doesn't Take A Vacation Food Bank collection. The window sills of the sanctuary were filled with your offerings and with the help of our St. Matthews grocery store attendant, Laura Book, we were able to purchase food every Sunday in the Narthex. What a great idea! Thanks to Laura and to all who signed up to deliver our collections to the Food Bank! We will continue to provide food for purchase and collect food for The Lord's Pantry at our St. Matthews Food Pantry in the Christian Life Center lobby.



Thank you to everyone who donated shoes for Soles4Souls and participated in our God's Work, Our Hands Day shoe packing event on 9/11! In partnership with St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lionville, we collected 30+ bags of shoes. If you forgot your shoes, there is still time. Leave your donation in the lobby of the Christian Life Center.
www.sole4souls.org

GARDEN OF EATIN'

Our gardeners worked hard at planting, weeding, and harvesting organic vegetables for the Food Bank. Donations of kale, lettuce, herbs, Swiss chard, collard greens, mustard greens, and spring onions fill plates with healthy food for our neighbors who might otherwise go without. Thank you for all of your hard work!



We collected 39 units of blood at the annual Red Cross blood drive on September 6th. Thank you to all blood donors and volunteers who helped us exceed our goal.

Thanks for stepping up to make a difference! Your help is always needed. For more information please contact a member of the Outreach Ministries Committee. Brochures are available on the outreach table in the lobby of the Christian Life Center.

*Blessings,
Anita Bailey, Outreach Ministry Chair*