



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Around the Church

February 23, 2025



THE GOLDEN RULE

Ever notice how some of the most beautiful passages in the Bible are also some of the hardest?? For example—I'm paraphrasing— "Don't worry about tomorrow, what you'll eat, what you'll wear... Consider the birds of the air... the lilies of the field... God provides for them and God knows you need these things. Seek first the kingdom of God... So therefore, sell what you have..." (Luke 12:22-34; Matt. 6:25-34). That text was the Gospel at our wedding. It is beautiful! But there have been times in our life where it's been very hard to believe or live out. Do I really believe God will provide if I trust him? What about...?

This Sunday's Gospel is also beautiful but hard. "Do to others as you would have them do to you" Luke 6:31. I think pretty much *everyone* knows that text—and would agree with it! But what about the *context*? Do you want your enemies to forgive you when you're not repentant? We pray in the Lord's Prayer that God would "forgive us just like we forgive others." So, this Sunday Jesus also says, "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you..." (6:27, 35). Yes. Jesus says *that*. He says it *twice* in case we want to argue with him. The fact that it comes from *Jesus* keeps it from being soul-crushing. That's the context for the Golden Rule. It's a beautiful sentiment. But it's not just a sentiment—it's a promise and a command.

And that's not all. The second time he says to love our enemies, expecting nothing in return, he follows it up with: "...for the Most High is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" 6:35-36. Really!? God is *kind* to the ungrateful and wicked?! Yes. That's what the text says. One ancient tradition includes the phrase that God "despairs of no one." That includes our enemies. That includes us. In Christ's resurrection God was reconciling the *whole world* to God's Self—even unrepentant sinners. So do good.

Peace,
Pr. Christian



ASH WEDNESDAY IS MAR. 5

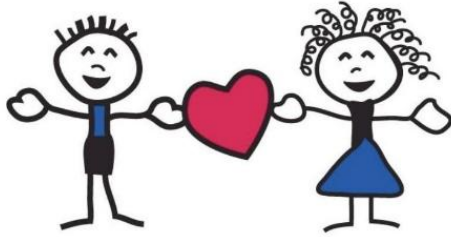
Lent and Easter are around the corner! **We will have two services on Ash Wednesday, March 5...a short, late morning service at 11:30am, and a full worship service at 7:00pm.** If you have any transportation needs, we will be organizing rides to and from the services (more info to come!) **We will also be offering "Dinner, Devotions, Discussion" every Thursday evening during Lent in the CLC.** Stay tuned for a sign-up genius to help set up, bring part of the meal, and/or clean up!



SPAGHETTI DINNER: MAR. 7

THE ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER AND YOUTH FUNDRAISER will be held on Friday evening, March 7 at St. Matthew's! As in past years, there will be two seatings, 5:30pm and 7:00pm. Unlike past years, tickets will not be sold but a freewill offering will be collected to benefit the St. Matthew's/St. Paul's youth ministry; suggested donations are \$10 per adult and \$5 per child 12 and under, or \$30 per family. To reserve your seats, the sign up is in the online ATC.

Donations Needed for Spaghetti Dinner: We are looking for people to donate food and supplies for the Spaghetti Dinner. Donations should be dropped off at St. Paul's by Thursday, March 6 or at St. Matthew's by noon Friday, March 7. Sign up is in the online ATC.



TWO ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL
DINE & DONATES:
FEB. 27 & MAR. 11

There will be TWO Dine & Donate opportunities coming up to support St. Matthew's School!

Carmine's Parkside Pizzeria: Dine in on Thursday, February 27 from 5:00-7:00pm, and 15% of sales will be donated to St. Matthew's! Carmine's is located at 180 Little Conestoga Rd. in Chester Springs.

Liberty Union: Dine in or take out on Tuesday, March 11 from 4:00pm-9:00pm, mention to your server that you are a part of the fundraiser, and 15% will be donated to St. Matthew's. This is only valid at the Chester Springs location, 325 Simpson Drive, and not valid on any online orders, discounts and/or coupons.

Thank you, as always, for supporting St. Matthew's School!



SOUPER BOWL: THANK YOU!

A huge "THANK YOU!" to everyone at St. Matthew's who contributed to this year's Souper Bowl of Caring! We donated 330 lbs. of food to the Chester County Food Bank. Thank you for feeding the hungry in our community!



COFFEE & CHRIST, MAR. 1

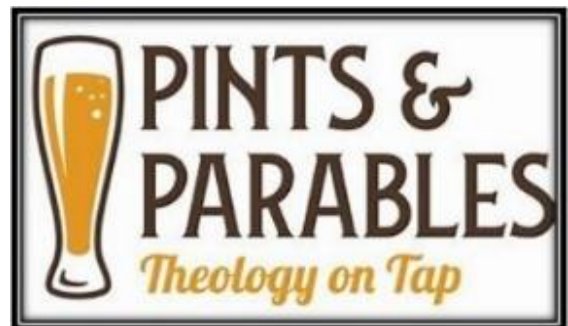
Join us for coffee and good conversation at our next session of Coffee & Christ, Saturday, March 1 at 8:30am at Starbucks in Chester Springs!



FAMILY MINISTRY:
ACTIVITY DAY, MAR. 2

OUR NEXT ACTIVITY DAY FOR YOUNGER FAMILIES will be held from 3:00-4:30pm on Sunday afternoon, March 2 at St.

Paul's! Families who have children from preschool-5th grade are invited to join us for some active games, craft activities, and food; younger and older siblings are welcome, too! If you know you will be there, please sign up on the online ATC to help with planning!



PINTS AND PARABLES, MAR. 3:

Come join us for stimulating conversation & fellowship, in a laid-back relaxing atmosphere on Monday, March 3, 7:00pm, Liberty Union in Chester Springs.



FAITH DISCUSSIONS, MAR. 4

The Faith Discussion Group will meet in the Sanctuary at 7:00pm on Tuesday, March 4. We will continue our discussion on the book, *The Sin of Certainty* by Peter Enns. Hope to see you there!



ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL WINTER CARNIVAL, MAR. 8

Please join us on Saturday, March 8, from 10:00am-1:00pm for our Winter Carnival! We will have games, crafts, face painting, a balloon magician, a bake sale, raffle baskets, a dance room and lunch from 11:00am-1:00pm. Tickets are \$10 per child, and it will cover all activities.

Volunteers Needed: We will be looking for volunteers to help during the carnival to help with all the activities. Please consider helping...sign-ups will be emailed to all.



MISSION IN: NEXT MEETING MAR. 9

The next Mission In meeting will be Sunday, March 9 at 10:45am in the CLC.

The Mission In team is asking for your help. If you know of someone in the congregation who is in need of support, please let us know. Maybe we can offer a card, a phone call, a visit, a dessert, or a meal. You can reach a Mission In member by contacting the church office.



MEN'S BREAKFAST: SATURDAY, MAR. 15

Please plan on bringing something to cook and share with the group. Food prep begins at 8:00am with breakfast starting at 8:30am. Please contact Tim Guyer at ttguyer@gmail.com with questions.



YOUTH NEWS

ATTENTION ALL YOUTH: HELP NEEDED FOR THE SPAGHETTI DINNER AND FUNDRAISER! We need 6th-12th graders (and parents) to come out and be part of the youth ministry's biggest fundraising event of the year. **We're looking for people to help with setup, decoration, cooking, and serving on Friday evening, March 7. Sign up is in the online ATC!**

OUR YOUTH E-GAMING GROUP for 6th-12th graders will meet again on Sunday, February 23 from 1:00-3:00pm at Uplink Studios in Glenmoore. Come spend some time honing and showing off your skills, and also taking part in some cooperative online play! Family cost is \$20 for one youth participant, or \$35 for two or more youth participants from the same household. Sign up is in the online ATC to reserve your console.

OUR NEXT HIGH SCHOOL 'OASIS' GET-TOGETHER will be Sunday, February 23 from 6:30-8:00pm at St. Paul's. Come relax and unwind from the stress of school, activities, jobs, and anything else. No heavy topics or deep Bible studies; just an opportunity to "be." No advanced sign-up necessary; just show up! Open to all 9th-12th graders, including friends.

SIXTH, SEVENTH, AND EIGHTH GRADERS! Our Middle School MANIA! group meets again on Sunday, March 16 from 1:00-2:30pm at St. Matthew's. The theme will be "Messy!" Come enjoy food, games, activities, and lots of fun around this topic! (Wait - are we allowed to have fun during Lent? I'll look into that on March 17.) Sign up in the online ATC!



St. Mary's
Franciscan Shelter
For Homeless Families

ST. MARY'S SHELTER

NEXT MEAL PREP, MAR. 23

Our next meal will be delivered on Sunday, March 23! The March sign-up is live now in the online ATC! Questions? Contact Mindy at mlong1011@comcast.net or 484-319-8998.

SPRING CHILDREN'S CONSIGNMENT SALE, MAR. 28-29

Our Spring sale is right around the corner!
To register as a seller, e-mail
stmatssale@gmail.com

ST. MATTHEWS ANNUAL
CHILDREN'S CONSIGNMENT
SALE
MARCH 28TH & 29TH
NEW SELLER REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!
EMAIL STMATSSALE@GMAIL.COM
2440 CONESTOGA ROAD
CHESTER SPRINGS, PA 19425



COMMUNITY GARDEN: JOIN US!

Spring will be here before we know it and the Garden Committee is already preparing for another successful growing season in our Community Garden. Last year we grew, harvested, and donated **over 1,300 pounds** of fresh vegetables to the Chester County Food Bank! The garden is in great shape following our complete renovation last season. This year we are dedicating five of our sixteen beds solely to growing for the food bank. Even if you are not renting a bed, we would love to have some new faces join us in helping plant, maintain and harvest the vegetables for the food bank. No experience is necessary! Our growing season is generally from April-October.

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) Hope you will join us this year!



CLEAN DRINKING WATER FOR LANTERN HILL

I am just one person, how can I help? This is a question we hear often. **Did you know that if you could give \$1.00 a day, you can supply the students and staff with clean drinking water for one day at Lantern Hill/Linterna del camino?** Just \$1.00 provides one day of clean water for 100 people! We need monthly donors to assist with the day-to-day operations at Lantern Hill.

To donate, or to become a monthly donor, please go to the link below (can also be found in the online ATC):

<https://www.friendsoflanternhill.org/support-us>

Lantern Hill is the school in Mexico that Jen Williams & Stephanie McMullan visited in January. You will hear more from them in the weeks to come!