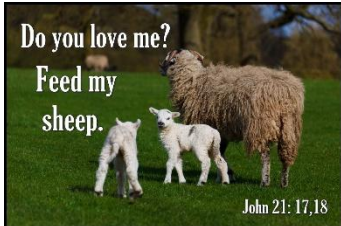




St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Around the Church

Sunday, May 4, 2025



FEED MY SHEEP

There's something sad about this Sunday's Gospel. It is after Easter, but Jesus makes another resurrection appearance; this time, to several of the disciples by the Sea of Galilee (John 21:1-19).

The sad part to me is that Peter goes back to fishing. It's not explicit, but I get the feeling that *after having seen the Risen Lord!* he's going back to the "same-old same-old." There's nothing wrong with fishing. It can be really relaxing. And you can feed yourself and feed others. But Jesus appears to them and he commands Peter to "Feed my sheep" and to "Follow me." Apparently, that doesn't mean going back to his old job.

I know that I might be making more out of this part of the story than is there in the text, but there is something kind of sad to me imagining Peter going back to who he was before. Did Jesus' resurrection not change him? How can you "go back"? Jesus breathed on him his Holy Spirit and told the disciples to forgive sins (John 20:21-23). Forgive sins! "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." That doesn't sound like fishing...

And that's the sad part. I get that he only knows how to fish. How do you, "feed Jesus' sheep," anyway? And not everyone is called to drop "their nets," quit their job, go to seminary, and follow Jesus. "Do you love me," Jesus asks three times (undoing Peter's denial of Jesus three times). "Of course I do!" Peter answers. Feed my sheep.

I get that Peter's not comfortable doing that. Fishing is more comfortable. There are a LOT of things more comfortable than sharing our faith in Christ. I'd rather just trust Christ's *love for me*, and trust Christ's universal *love for others*, than feel obligated to love others (I might not like). Feed my sheep.

Easter changes us. Death has no hold. Fear has no grasp when we're in Christ's hand (John 10). God takes away our guilt and shame before God, freeing us to relate to others as our authentic selves. Life is more than fishing and food and clothing (Luke 12) and bills and politics and... Isn't that the *better* news people are *starving* for? Feed my sheep.

Peace,
Pr. Christian



SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP

IMPORTANT NOTE: We will be changing our evening Worship schedule starting in May to the first and third Sundays of the month. Our May services will take place at 6:00pm on May 4 and May 18.

Sunday Evening Worship services are great for those with busy schedules! Hope to see you next time!



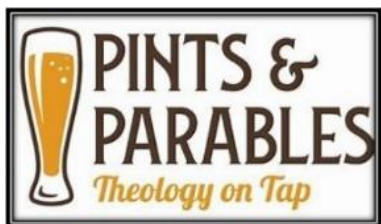
EURLA'S 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION, MAY 4

One of our longtime St. Matthew's church members, Eurla Frederick, celebrated her 100th birthday on April 25!

If you would like to send Eurla a card, her address is:

Spring Mill Retirement Community
Room 311
3000 Balfour Circle
Phoenixville, PA 19460

We will be celebrating Eurla's birthday with a cake and balloons TODAY, Sunday, May 4 following the 9:30am Worship Service in the CLC. Join us to celebrate Eurla and her milestone birthday! ***No gifts, please.***



PINTS AND PARABLES, MAY 5

Come join us for stimulating conversation & fellowship, in a laid-back relaxing atmosphere on **Monday, May 5, 7:00pm, Liberty Union in Chester Springs.**



FAITH DISCUSSIONS, MAY 6

The Faith Discussion Group will meet in the Sanctuary at 7:00pm on **Tuesday, May 6.** We will continue our discussion on the book, *The Sin of Certainty* by Peter Enns. Hope to see you there!



MEN'S BREAKFAST: MAY 10

Please plan on bringing something to cook and share with the group on **Saturday, May 10.** Food prep begins at 8:00am with breakfast starting at 8:30am. **The topic will be Faith: Do you have it, how did you get it, how do you grow it, how do you show it?**

Please contact Tim Guyer at ttguyer@gmail.com with questions.



FOOD PACKING EVENT, MAY 18

Let's continue to combat food insecurity within **Chester County.** Some kids go hungry in the summer without having access to free school lunches and breakfasts. We will be collecting food items and packing

them up in "To Go" bags for the Chester County Food Bank to distribute to kids in need.

We also plan to hold a packaging event for families to come and help pack these items in gallon size ziplock bags to be distributed to those in need. The packing event will be on **Sunday, May 18** after the worship service. Children are welcome!

Food items requested are:

- Go Go Squeeze Fruit
- Individual oatmeal packets
- Oatmeal snack bars
- Animal crackers in small bags
- Tuna and chicken salad kits which include crackers
- Individual packs of cereal
- Small bags of Goldfish crackers

Questions? Contact Diana Sisum, tdsisum1@yahoo.com



MISSION IN:

THANKS FOR COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES! NEXT MEETING MAY 18

The Mission In Team thanks everyone who helped make our Care Packages of College Students Project a success! We sent cookies, candy, and a card to 19 students! Thank you to all who baked or purchased cookies and candy, and to those who assembled the boxes. A special thank you to our Faith Formation kids who decorated and signed the cards we sent. We wish all the best to our college students as they head into finals for the semester.

The next Mission In meeting will be **Sunday, May 18 at 10:45am** in the CLC.

DONATE WITH A
Freddy's **DOUBLE**

FREDDY'S IS PROUD
TO CONTRIBUTE

YOUTH DINE AND DONATE, MAY 21

Want to take a break from cooking dinner in May? Please come support the **St. Matthew's and St. Paul's Youth Group** on **May 21 from 4:00-8:00pm,** and order dinner at **Freddy's (221 Eagleview Blvd. in Lionville).** A portion of the proceeds will benefit the St. Matthew's/St. Paul's Youth Ministry and the summer Appalachia Service Project. Just let them know you are here for the St. Matthew's/St. Paul's Youth Fundraiser. We look forward to seeing you, and thank you for your support.

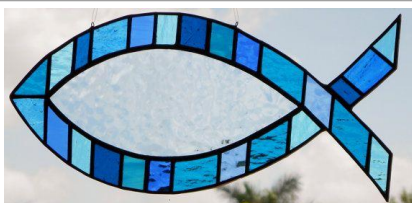


ST. MARY'S MEAL DELIVERY **NEXT MEAL, MAY 25**

St. Matthew's will be providing a meal for 15 people the 4th Sunday of the month. **Based on the Board of Health regulations - they can only accept prepared food from grocery stores/restaurants.** We will continue to have signs up for 2 entrees, side, veggie, salad, dessert and delivery. **ALL items must be purchased from a grocery store/restaurant. Ex. Rotisserie chickens, bags of salad, frozen veggies/fresh veggies, cookies/cakes from the bakery.**

Due to religious and cultural reasons, St. Mary's has requested we do not bring pork/ham products. Thank you for your understanding.

The sign up for the May 25 meal is now posted in the online ATC. If you have any questions, contact Mindy Elmer at mlong1011@comcast.net or 484-319-8998.



FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY: **DEEP DIVE RETURNS ON JUNE 1**

You are invited to join a discussion group that is different from a Bible study or book study. It is taking a deep dive into a theological topic. For more information, contact skip.craft@verizon.net...all are welcome!

We'll meet after the service on Sunday, June 1 in the Lounge. This month's topic: What is the Soul?



COFFEE & CHRIST, JUNE 7

Join us for coffee and good conversation at our next session of Coffee & Christ, **Saturday, June 7 at 8:30am at Starbucks in Chester Springs!**



FAMILY, FAITH, FRIENDS: **END OF SCHOOL GATHERING, JUN. 8**

YOUNGER FAMILIES - COME TO OUR "FAMILY FAITH FRIENDS" END-OF-SCHOOL-YEAR GATHERING on Sunday, June 8 from Noon-3:00pm at Warwick County Park! Families with kids in preschool- 5th grade are invited to join us for a barbecue and relaxed afternoon of food and fun at one of the park's pavilions. (Older and younger siblings are welcome, too). Get to know other families at St. Matthew's and St. Paul's as we mark the completion of another school year and the start of summer! Families are asked to bring a side dish, snack, or dessert to share with the group; burgers, hot dogs, and beverages will be provided. Sign up in the online ATC!

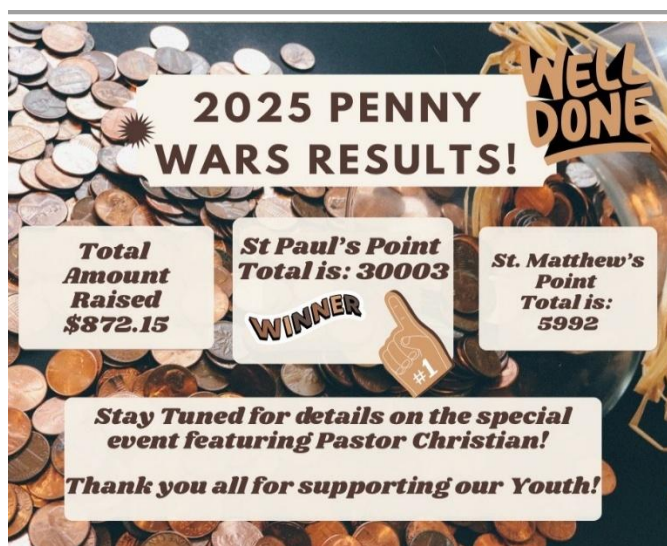


ASP NEWS: LEADERS NEEDED & DONATION ENVELOPES AVAILABLE

WE NEED A FEW MORE ADULT LEADERS FOR OUR APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT WORK WEEK THIS SUMMER - We have enough youth signed up that

we will be taking FOUR work crews on our July 12-19 trip, but we still need two female and one male adult leaders to round out our group. If you can help or want more info, please contact Craig Miller

at craigyouthmin@gmail.com as soon as possible! **DONATION ENVELOPES FOR OUR APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT TRIP are now hanging on the youth bulletin board in the CLC.** Donation amounts range from \$10 to \$200, and will cover things such as duct tape, drill bits, a tank of gas for the van, and a sponsorship of one of our youth participants. Just grab an envelope, fill out the card inside, and return it with your donation to the offering plate or church office.





YOUTH NEWS

DECORATING OUR NEW YOUTH ROOM AT ST. PAUL'S will happen on Sunday, May 4 from 12:30-3:00pm. All 6th-12th graders are invited to come paint, put up wall hangings, and help us create our new space! Pizza will be provided.

OUR NEXT APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT PREP SESSION will be held on Sunday, May 4 from 4:00-5:30pm at St. Paul's. Find out work crew assignments and where we will be serving in Central Appalachia this summer!

YOUTH DINE AND DONATE AT HANDEL'S, JUNE 10

See below for more information! You must bring a copy of this flyer so the Youth Ministry receives credit.

For a printable form of the flyer, check this week's online ATC.

Handel's is located at 520 East Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown.



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!

**ST PAUL'S & ST MATTHEWS
YOUTH GROUP SPIRIT NIGHT**





DOWNINGTOWN
 520 East Lancaster Avenue
 Downingtown, PA 19335

JUN 10
 3:00 PM-9:00 PM

@HANDELS_DOWNINGTOWN
 WWW.HANDELSICECREAM.COM

**20% OF TOTAL PURCHASES WILL BE DONATED TO
ST PAUL'S & ST MATTHEWS YOUTH GROUP**

Not valid with any other offer. Good at Downingtown Handel's only. Good this day and time only. Flyer distribution on Handel's property is prohibited and will result in forfeiture of your organization's entire donation.