



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Around the Church

July 6, 2025



FREEDOM

Happy July 4!! Happy Independence Day!

So what is liberty? What is freedom? (Have y'all noticed that sometimes I like to lead with the hard questions!) I think a lot—most?—of our political divisions are disagreements about what those central concepts mean. AND I also think that most people would agree on the most important parts. History is history; *how we interpret it* and the *events we decide* are important—well, that's up for debate! I say that as someone with a graduate degree in history. Again, “history” becomes a source of disagreement. This July 4 we'll be celebrating 249 years of our Declaration of Independence, and the grand experiment that became our United States. So, given that history, what is liberty? What is freedom?

When I was a lot younger, when Walter Cronkite was still on the news (yes, I'm older than I look), and there wasn't cable news, it seemed like there was no drama around our nation's ideals. I know that wouldn't have been true for African Americans or women. But I don't remember the kind of name calling from our national leaders that seems to be out there today. So what is liberty?? Last week, St. Paul in our Galatians 5 reading said that “For freedom, Christ has set you free” (Gal. 5:1). He goes on to say that this freedom is not a selfish thing, but rather we are freed *spiritually*, emotionally, and mentally to serve others. This freedom transcended all earthly distinctions—“there is no longer Jew nor gentile, slave nor free, male nor female, you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:28). How do we apply that *spiritual* definition of liberty and freedom to our political and social lives??

Ideals are easy to have. Living them out?—well, the devil (!) is in the details! I don't want us to lose sight of how our *Christian* ideals can intersect with our nation's founding ideals. What if we started there with those who disagree with us

politically? The optimist in me believes that there is a LOT of common ground to be found there. We can't achieve the common good without letting go somewhat and serving others.

Peace,
Pr. Christian



BAPTISM OF **LOGAN DARBY KRIENKE**

Today, we will celebrate the **Baptism of Logan Darby Krienke** at the 9:30am Worship Service. We warmly welcome him into our Church. May the Lord bless him and the Krienke family throughout the years to come. Congratulations!



SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP

We have changed our Sunday Evening Worship services to the first and third Sundays of the month. **Our July Worship Services will be held on July 6 and 20 at 6:30pm.** Sunday Evening Worship services are great for those with busy schedules! Hope to see you next time!



CLC PAINTING JULY 7-17

****UPDATE: Please note new dates!**** The Hall and Lobby areas of the CLC will be freshly painted from Monday, July 7 through Thursday, July 17. The crew will clean up their area every day, but please be mindful of the walls. Sunday morning Fellowship will carry on as usual.

ASP Appalachia
SERVICE PROJECT®
ASP: CARE PACKAGE ITEMS
NEEDED BY JULY 9

UPDATE: Due to the excessive heat, we at St. Matthew's will only be collecting inside of the Narthex or in the office during regular office hours (Monday-Friday, 9:00am-1:00pm) or you can take them to St. Paul's airlock.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR CARE PACKAGE GOODIES TO SEND TO OUR ASP TEAM WHILE THEY ARE AWAY IN WV! Items can be cookies, brownies, hard candy, Tastykakes, simple dollar-store puzzles and games, etc. **Donations must be received by Wednesday, July 9.**

Questions? Contact Craig Miller at craigyouthmin@gmail.com.

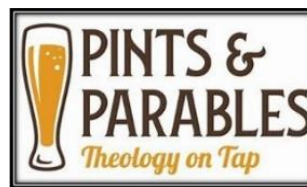


GEMMA SERVICES SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION, NOW-JULY 31

We will once again be having a school supply collection to benefit GEMMA Services, now through July 31. Let's help them fill new backpacks for the children and teens they serve. They will be delivered to GEMMA in August before the next school year begins. Supplies can be dropped off in the back of the Narthex, the CLC or in the bin on the Church Office porch.

Items requested for each backpack include:

- New Backpack
- 4 Pocket Folders
- 3 Composition or Spiral Notebooks
- 1 Box of Pencils
- 2 Erasers
- 2 Glue Sticks
- 1 Box Colored Pencils or Markers
- 1 Box of Crayons



PINTS AND PARABLES, JULY 7

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



COFFEE & CHRIST, JULY 12

Join us for coffee and good conversation at our next session of Coffee & Christ, **Saturday, July 12 at 8:30am at Starbucks in Chester Springs!**

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church 2025 Golf Event

Drive Out Hunger.

~ Proceeds Benefit ~
Grace Crossing Community Food Pantry
Chester County Food Bank,
Coatesville Youth and Women's Alliance

Raffle Prizes, Mulligans, Hole Sponsors, Fun, Food, and Music!

Kimberton Golf Club

\$125 Per Golfer — Includes
a BBQ Lunch
\$20 Lunch Only — Children
under 10 Eat Free!

September 18, 2025

7:00 am Registration
8:00 am Shot Gun
Live Music



Questions? Contact Patrick Miller, 610-291-3002 or pjmill98@yahoo.com

REGISTRATION IS OPEN: 2ND ANNUAL DRIVE OUT HUNGER, SEPT. 18!

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! Thursday, September 18 at Kimberton Golf Club.

Cost is \$125 per golfer (including BBQ lunch), or \$20 just for lunch. Children under 10 eat free.

To register, view the "Drive Out Hunger" Poster and scan the QR Code to go to the giving page at the St. Matthew's Church website, or go to the link directly at <https://stmatthews-church.org/give>

Once you're there, click "Give Online Now," select "Golf Event Fundraiser" from the drop-down menu, and you can sign up for golf. You can sign up as a foursome and we will capture your email address for the team.

If you have any questions, contact Patrick Miller: pjmill98@yahoo.com or 610-291-3002.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE, JULY 15

****Please note: If you signed up for the June 19 drive when the storm hit and we briefly lost power, please consider signing up for this drive.****

We will host one more Red Cross Blood Drive this summer, on Tuesday, July 15 from 2:00-7:00pm in the CLC. There is a particular need for type O blood. To register for this drive, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go to RedCrossBlood.org. Our direct link to sign up is on our website and in the online ATC. As an incentive for signing up for the July 15 drive, you'll receive a Fandango Movie reward. All type O donors who come to give blood will receive a BONUS \$20 e-gift card to a merchant of their choice.* Or, they can make a Power Red donation (if eligible) and get \$25 instead.



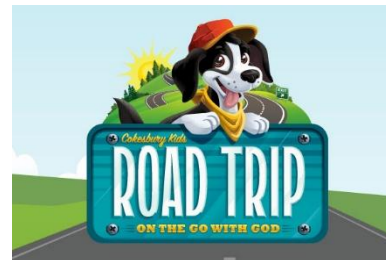
MEN'S BREAKFAST: JULY 19

Please plan on bringing something to cook and share with the group on **Saturday, July 19**. Food prep begins at 8:00am with breakfast starting at 8:30am. Please contact Tim Guyer at ttguyer@gmail.com with questions.



DEEP DIVE INTO THEOLOGY, JULY 27

You are invited to join a discussion group that is different from a bible or book study. For more information, contact skip.craft@verizon.net
We'll meet after the service Sunday, July 27 in the lounge. All are welcome.



VBS: CAMPER REGISTRATION IS FULL, STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Our 2025 Vacation Bible School: *Road Trip...On the Go with God*, will be held at St. Paul's from Monday, July 21-Friday, July 25 from 9:00am-12:00pm each day.

Camper Registration is now FULL. To be put on the wait list, please contact Cari Kramer at caristpauls@gmail.com.

We are still accepting volunteers! Volunteer registration forms are on our website and the online ATC...please return them to St. Paul's as soon as possible.

YOUTH HELP NEEDED FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL! Sixth-twelfth graders are encouraged to sign up to help with VBS. Helpers are asked to be there from 8:30am-Noon, and can help as many days as you are available -you don't have to commit for the whole week. To volunteer, go to the link in the online ATC and church website to sign up!



ST. MARY'S MEAL DELIVERY NEXT MEAL, JULY 27

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.** The sign up for the July 27 meal is now posted in the online ATC. If you have any questions, contact Mindy Elmer at mlong1011@comcast.net or 484-319-8998.



COMMUNITY GARDEN: **HARVESTING UPDATE!**

Our summer growing season is off to a fantastic start! We have already started to harvest some of our earliest summer vegetables including zucchini and yellow squash, cucumbers, beets and banana peppers. **We have donated 181 pounds of veggies to the Chester County Food Bank so far this season.** Even if you are not renting one of our 16 beds, we would love to have some new faces join us in helping plant, maintain, and harvest the vegetables we grow in the five dedicated food bank beds. No experience is necessary! Also if you have gardens at home or belong to a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and have extra vegetables that you would like to donate we would be happy to help coordinate.

If you are interested in helping in the garden or want to donate your extra vegetables, 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).

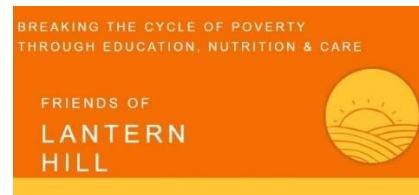


MISSION IN: **NEXT MEETING AUG. 10 &** **PRAYER SQUARES NEEDED!**

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

For anyone who likes to crochet, Mission In needs prayer squares to send to members needing encouragement. Prayer squares can be dropped off in the basket in the CLC near the bulletin boards. Thank you in advance!

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.



TRIP INTEREST FORM

We are seeking families and individuals of all ages who want to attend a culture-rich trip to Lantern Hill, outside of Ensenada, Mexico the week of July 12-19, 2026. We will have an informational meeting once we get a sense of who is interested. Lantern Hill is relational and our eyes will be opened as we live, play, work, and interact with the students and staff. The nature of the trip and service we contribute is personalized to our group. There is a cost of the trip that covers airfare, room and board. We will discuss more details at the meeting. Prepare to be changed and led by God. **The form can be found in the online ATC and on the church website.**