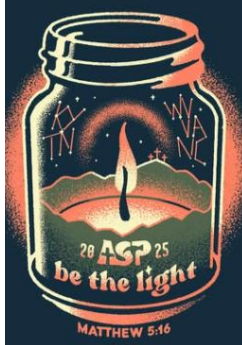




St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Around the Church

July 13, 2025



"BE SALT, BE LIGHT."

Early on in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), the longest continuous bulk of his teaching in the Gospels, Jesus tells us that we are the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world" (Matt. 5:13-16). These are powerful promises, affirmations, and responsibilities! It is also the "theme" for this year's Appalachia Service Project mission trip. The idea is basic—we serve others, motivated by Christ's love for us, and in that way "let our light shine." Light is a big image in the Gospels. It also isn't just any "light"; it's Christ's light, the light of God that shines through him, and that through his Holy Spirit, shines through us. If you've ever "been in the dark"—literally or figuratively—you know how important the light is.

Have you noticed that there is a LOT that y'all do as the people of St. Matthew's? Even though no one can do everything, I think we can participate vicariously with each other through our different ministries. This is especially true about mission trips like ASP. Even though not everyone can go on the mission trip, all y'all are participating vicariously. You might not be able to swing a hammer or sleep in a gymnasium or take time off because of work or children, but you are "letting your light shine" through your support of our participants. For example, the money raised to go on the trip this year was more than anticipated! THANK YOU!! We'll come back and share stories, and it's all a part of St. Matthew's, which includes YOU. (or in Southern English, "all y'all")

In the next column is a prayer from ASP for this year's theme. Please pray for us! And thank you for letting your light shine!

Peace,
Pr. Christian

Let us pray. God of light and love, we pray for safety as this team travels, for courage as they try new things and overcome fears, and for excitement as they learn more about you and your children in Appalachia. Help them to accept all people right where they are just the way they are, and to embrace all people as neighbors. Bless them with servant hearts so they may be lights to each other and to everyone they meet. In the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.



SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP

We have changed our Sunday Evening Worship services to the first and third Sundays of the month. **Our next July Worship Service will be held on July 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

The Hall and Lobby areas of the CLC will be freshly painted through Thursday, July 17. Over the weekend, their supplies will be stored in the CLC lobby. Please be mindful of this and the walls when going to Fellowship.



**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



**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE,
JULY 15**

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, 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.*



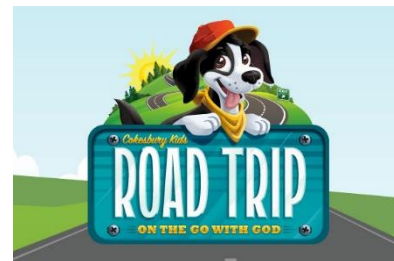
MEN'S BREAKFAST: JULY 19

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

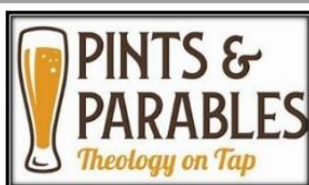
NEXT MEAL, JULY 27

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.



COFFEE & CHRIST, AUG. 2

Join us for coffee and good conversation at our next session of Coffee & Christ, **Saturday, August 2 at 8:30am at Starbucks in Chester Springs!**



PINTS AND PARABLES, AUG. 4

Come join us for stimulating conversation & fellowship, in a laid-back relaxing atmosphere on **Monday, August 4, 7:00pm, Liberty Union in Chester Springs.**



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.

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.

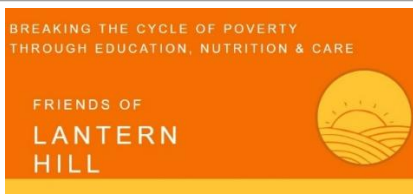
If you have any questions, contact Patrick Miller: pjmill98@yahoo.com or 610-291-3002.



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 256 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 (jirutman2005@yahoo.com or 484-459-3255).



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.**



LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE: TEXAS FLOODS

With your support, the ELCA, through Lutheran Disaster Response, stands ready to walk with our neighbors in the Texas hill country as the floodwaters recede and communities begin to navigate life on the other side of this horrific flood. **Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response ensure that our neighbors are not alone on the long road to recovery after disasters like the floods in Texas.**

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Southwestern Texas Synod and will work with other partners as well to respond to urgent needs, provide emotional and spiritual care, and support cleanup and long-term recovery.

The link to give is posted in the online ATC and on the front page of our church website!

From the Chester County Food Bank's Community Kitchen

SIMPLE SUPPERS

Feel good meals for you & the community

Delicious and nutritious frozen meals that are made from scratch in the Chester County Food Bank's licensed retail commercial kitchen. Prepared by professional chefs, the seasonal menu offers convenient "heat & eat" suppers for **only \$6** for you to enjoy at home. **Proceeds from your purchase allow us to provide meals for those struggling with food insecurity in our community.**

SIMPLE SUPPERS TO BENEFIT CHESTER COUNTY FOOD BANK

Looking for an easier way to enjoy dinner? Try **Simple Suppers**-delicious, nutritious, and affordable frozen meals made from scratch in the Chester County Food Bank's licensed commercial kitchen. **Prepared by professional chefs, these seasonal "heat & eat" meals are only \$6 each.**

Check the online ATC and our church website for more information about the program and a link to order. All orders support CCFB's mission!