



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Around the Church

August 31, 2025



END OF THE SUMMER

Whether you're ready for it or not, summer is ending. This is Labor Day weekend, kids are back in school, and now that

everyone is back from summer vacations, fall programming ramps back up. There is an interesting rhythm to the year in our country—whether we have kids or not, are retired, working, not working, there seems to be a collective “busy-ness” that kicks in in September. The church is no exception.

In my life, this summer is ending with a lot of changes. This weekend we take Caroline off to college to the University of Rhode Island. I'm really excited for her! My mother-in-law's an hour away, where Stephanie grew up. The area has that familiar New England feel. This also makes us empty nesters! Meanwhile, Eric the middle child, just turned 21, has a job, an apartment with his girlfriend, and a 6-week-old baby. We're empty nesters AND grandparents! And Nathan the oldest, who's been working in Maryland with a defense subcontractor, is going back to get a Masters in Aerodynamics in the spring. Pray for a research assistantship! Needless to say, we've had a lot to absorb in 2025.

All this change brings up lots of feelings... Spiritually, I have A LOT to be thankful for. God has been very good to us. Yes, we've had problems over the years, but they recede into the “cloud of forgetfulness” when God's Joy impresses itself on my heart. Meanwhile, the fact that I'm getting older also impresses itself on my mind. The “self-inventory” comes with a push to ask and answer the “Now what?” questions—in other words, be at peace and do something meaningful.

I'm sure you've noticed a lot of “meanwhiles.” But I guess life is like that. Meanwhile, what will my empty nester hobby become? I don't know...maybe oil painting...

Peace,
Pr. Christian



OFFICES CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY, SEPT. 1

Our church and school offices will be closed on Monday, September 1 to observe the Labor Day Holiday!

We will resume regular business hours on Tuesday, September 2 from 9:00am-1:00pm. Have a great holiday weekend!



OUTREACH MEETING, AUG. 31

Please join us for our rescheduled August Outreach Team meeting on Sunday, August 31 at 10:45am in the CLC. Please spread the word. Hope to see you there.



ST. MATT'S SPONSORED RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE, SEPT. 2 **ONLY 1 SLOT LEFT!**

St. Matthew's and the American Red Cross are hosting our annual Blood Drive on Tuesday, September 2 from 2:00-7:00pm in the CLC. *As of press time, there is only one (1) PowerRed slot left! To register, call 1-800-733-2767. Thank you to all who signed up, and we'll see you on Tuesday!* If you have any questions, contact Meghan Comegys, megcomegys@gmail.com, 484-684-3109.



ST. MATTHEW'S YARD SALE SEPT. 6: **UPDATED TIME & HELP NEEDED!**

Come sell and shop at the St. Matthew's Yard Sale on Saturday, Sept. 6 from 8:00am-12:00pm. Rain Date: Sept. 13.

Do you have home decor, games, craft supplies, records, jewelry, clothes, tools, etc collecting dust? Time to clean out your basement! Space/Table fees are \$15.00. Would you like to donate items without selling? Please contact Desiree Lee (contact info is below) for coordination.

Donated items will have a special area at the sale. Donated proceeds and table fees will be given to benefit the Chester County Food Bank.

Church members and members of the public are invited to rent a space/table or to donate items for the sale. Please contact Desiree Lee at 610-425-0484 or DAL2123@yahoo.com

Volunteers are always needed and appreciated! We need people for set up tables, put out items, collect money, and clean up. Any amount of time you can offer would be greatly appreciated.



THREE BAND-B-QUES! **SEPT. 3, OCT. 1 & NOV. 5**

Do you love music? Singing? Playing? Wanna be in a band?! This year, we will be hosting **THREE BAND-B-QUES**, on the first Wednesday of the next three months: **September 3, October 1, and November 5**. Join us for food at 6:00pm, and then we'll move to the Sanctuary to make some music at 7:00pm.

All are welcome: All skill levels, all musical styles, and all commitment levels! For more information, contact Music Director Daniel Bower at worship@stmatthews-church.org.

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 Shotgun

Live Music



Questions? Contact Patrick Miller, 610-291-3002 or pjm198@yahoo.com

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:

Step 1: To register to Golf or for just the lunch, please fill out the Google form (in the online ATC and Church website) and hit "Submit."

Step 2: To pay for your registration, go the giving page at the St. Matthew's Church website, go here:

<https://stmatthews-church.org/give>

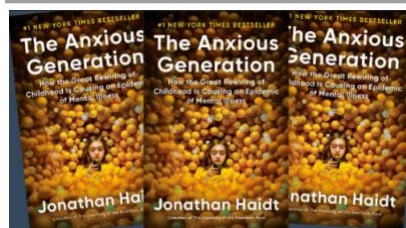
Once you're there, click "Give Online Now," select "Golf Event Fundraiser" from the drop-down menu, and pay.

If you have any questions, contact Patrick Miller: pjm198@yahoo.com or 610-291-3002.



SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP

Our Sunday Evening Worship services will be held on first and third Sundays of the month. **Our September services will be held on Sept. 7 and 21 at 6:30pm.** Sunday Evening Worship services are great for those with busy schedules! Hope to see you next time!



September 14th
Anxious Generation Signup

"THE ANXIOUS GENERATION" BOOK **GROUP, STARTS SEPT. 14**

This fall, our St. Matthew's/St. Paul's Family Ministry Team is offering a group book study around the New York Times bestseller "The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness," written by social psychologist Jonathan Haidt. **We are particularly encouraging parents with young kids to join us, so that you can think about these things *before* you experience the pressure to get a smartphone for your child.** Our get-togethers will be held once a month on the second Sunday from 5:00-6:00pm, alternating between churches. The first gathering will be an information and introductory session on Sunday, September 14 in the Fellowship Hall at St. Paul's; childcare will be provided.

If you are interested in attending the September 14 informational session, please find the Sign Up link in the online ATC or scan the QR code, so that we make sure to have adequate childcare in place. If you have any questions, contact Craig Miller at craigyouthmin@gmail.com, or 484-320-0785.



YOUTH NEWS



September 6th-7th
Kickoff Lock-In Signup

OUR SECOND ANNUAL YOUTH KICKOFF LOCK-IN will be held **Saturday evening, September 6-Sunday morning, September 7 at St. Paul's! All 6th-12th graders (including friends) are invited to spend an overnight in the church building playing games, doing activities, eating food, and just generally getting to know more about each other.** The event starts at 6:00pm Saturday evening and ends with us leading worship at St. Paul's on Sunday morning, where our ASP participants will share stories from their trip to West Virginia this summer. Come late or leave early if you need to (with parental permission). **Sign up in the online ATC or scan the QR code to avoid missing out on the excitement!**

HIGH SCHOOL OASIS RESUMES ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 from 6:30-8:00pm in the St. Paul's Youth Room. Come welcome our rising 9th graders to this opportunity to relax, chill out, and decompress from the stresses of school, activities, and other pressures of life. No heavy discussions or deep Bible studies; just a chance to breathe. Advance sign-up isn't required, either; just show up! As with most of our youth events, friends are welcome, too.



September 27th
Good Works Workday Signup

OUR NEXT GOOD WORKS YOUTH WORK DAY is scheduled for **Saturday, September 27 from 8:15am-3:45pm** (meet at the Good Works warehouse in Coatesville). Come spend the day helping fix up

homes for families who don't have the means to do it themselves. Anyone in eighth through twelfth grade is welcome to join us, including friends. **Sign up on the online ATC or church website, or scan the QR code by September 15 to participate!**



September 28th
Canoe Trip Signup

THE 6TH-12TH GRADE YOUTH ARE GOING CANOEING on the Brandywine on Sunday, September 28th! Meet at St. Paul's at noon to carpool to Northbrook Canoe Company, where we will spend a leisurely afternoon drifting down the river! Family cost is \$25 for one youth, or \$40 for two or more youth from the same household. Sign up in the online ATC or church website, or scan the QR code to reserve your paddle:

THE FALL 2025 YOUTH CALENDAR IS NOW AVAILABLE on the Youth page of the church website. Events, dates, times, locations, and signup

links may be found on the calendar; check it out to see what's happening for our Middle School (6th-8th grade) and High School (9th-12th grade) youth! Unless otherwise indicated, friends are *always* welcome to participate!



HARI OM MANDIR INTERFAITH NITE, SEPT. 4

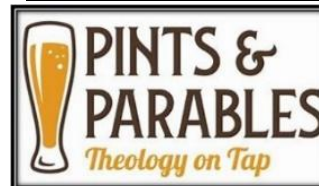
The Interfaith Action Community cordially invites you to the annual Hindu festival of Ganesh on Thursday, September 4 from 6:15-8:00pm. Join us as we celebrate the Hindu festival of Ganesh Utsav in all its vibrancy, learn about its significance, partake in cultural traditions, enjoy the beautiful musical integration of multiple faiths and indulge in delicious, authentic festive foods!
More info at: www.hariomganeshutsav.org



COFFEE & CHRIST, SEPT. 6

Join us for coffee and good conversation at our next session of Coffee & Christ, **Saturday, September 6 at 8:30am at Starbucks in Chester Springs!**

PINTS AND PARABLES, SEPT. 8



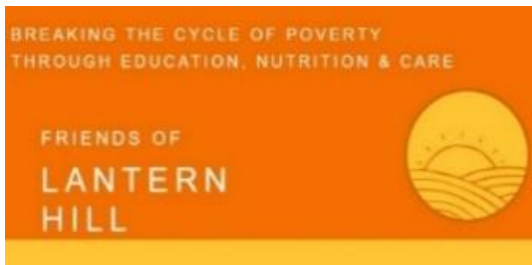
Come join us for stimulating conversation & fellowship, in a laid-back relaxing atmosphere on **Monday, September 8, 7:00pm, Liberty Union in Chester Springs.**



MEN'S BREAKFAST: SEPT. 20

There will be no Men's Breakfast in August.

Please plan on bringing something to cook and share with the group on **Saturday, September 20** Food prep begins at 8:00am with breakfast starting at 8:30am. Please contact Tim Guyer at ttguyer@gmail.com with questions.



MEXICO TRIP INTEREST MEETING, SEPT. 21

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 June 21-27, 2026. We will have an interest meeting on September 21 at 10:45am in the CLC.

The interest form can be found in the online ATC and on the church website.



ST. MARY'S MEAL DELIVERY NEXT MEAL, SEPT. 28

The kitchen at St. Mary's Homeless Shelter in Phoenixville is now fully licensed allowing them to offer more flexible options in the meals we prepare for them.

You can choose one of these options when you sign up to provide a meal:

- Provide groceries for their kitchen team to prepare dinner. Plan a meal for 15 people, including a main dish, a vegetable or salad and a dessert. Groceries can be dropped off the day before or by 2:30 pm on the day of the meal.

- Deliver a ready-to-eat meal (frozen or fresh) from a grocery store or pizza parlor.

- Donate a \$40 grocery gift card to ACME, Giant, Redners or Costco so they can purchase the ingredients to prepare that evening's meal.

- Become a guest chef/baker and prepare your favorite meal or baked treat in their kitchen.

More information is on our Church website, and the sign up for the next meal on Sept. 28 is in the online ATC.



MISSION IN: NEXT MEETING OCT. 12

The next Mission In meeting will be Sunday, October 12 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.



COMMUNITY GARDEN: HARVESTING UPDATE!

Our summer growing season is now in full swing! We have been busy harvesting cucumbers, zucchini, yellow squash, banana peppers, bell peppers, green beans, tomatillos, and several varieties of tomatoes.

We have donated a total of 923 pounds of veggies to the Chester County Food Bank so far this season.

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

(jrtutman2005@yahoo.com or 484-459-3255).