



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Around the Church

October 19, 2025



PRAYER

There is probably no topic bigger than prayer when it comes to the spiritual life. Which means there is no shortage of ways of talking about it. Which makes it actually hard sometimes to boil it down or summarize it. I tell the preschoolers in Chapel Chats that prayer is "talking to God." "You can talk to God anytime, anywhere, about anything... when you're happy, when you're sad..." *Communication* is the very definition of relationship. The modern world has doubts and questions, though—doubting whether or not there is anything bigger than ourselves, beyond what we can merely see and touch, that can be "in relationship" with us. What do you do when you pray and don't get an answer?

Do we have faulty expectations? Do we expect God to respond in one way, when in reality God's responding to us—shouting to us!—in a completely different way? Deep down there are no easy answers to these questions. Which is why a *community of faith* is so important to help us make sense of prayer and what that relationship can be like. In the Gospel for this Sunday (Luke 18:1-8), Jesus tells a parable about the need to pray always. A widow keeps bothering an unjust (!) judge to give her justice until he finally relents. Jesus then rhetorically asks if God will "delay long" in answering our prayers and cries for justice. "I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" (vs. 8).

Persistence, not letting go, wrestling with God are the themes with prayer this Sunday. What are you crying out to God for? Is it "justice," or peace, or forgiveness, or health, or assurance, or [fill-in-the-blank]? How do we maintain our faith? Simply put, it begins with hearing Christ's promises and entering into his story. That is our God in the flesh we are talking to.

Peace,
Pr. Christian



PASSING OF NOREEN CRAFT

The St. Matthew's Community is mourning the loss of one of our very active church members, Noreen Craft. Noreen passed away on Saturday, October 11. We will host the Celebration of Her Life on Saturday, November 1, at 11:00am in the Sanctuary.

Our prayerful condolences go to her husband, Skip, and to all of Noreen's family.

OUR GIFTS TOGETHER: PLEASE FILL OUT OUR SURVEY!



Please scan this QR code from your mobile device to open a survey about what gifts and skills that you would like to share with your St. Matthew's family. You can also go to the link below to access the survey.

Additionally, it will be posted in the *Around the Church* email newsletter and around campus.

<https://forms.gle/PC66D8dp7Qpnus4t8>



RISE AGAINST HUNGER MEAL PACKAGING EVENT IS TODAY!

The annual Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event will be held TODAY, Sunday, October 19. We cannot wait to work with our volunteers all day!

As of press time on October 17, we have surpassed our fundraising and volunteer goals! We have raised over \$25,350.07, which will allow us to pack 61,250 meals. We currently have 360 volunteers which is 60 more than our 300 volunteer goal!

Please reach out to Troy and Diana Sisum (tdsisum1@yahoo.com) or Kathy Meltzer (kmeltzer@comcast.net) with any questions.

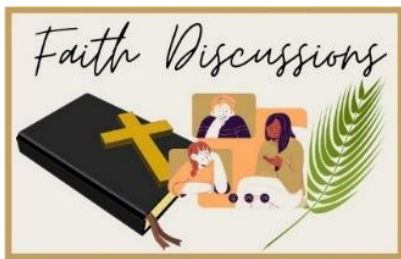


TRUNK OR TREAT: OCT. 25

Please join us for our second annual Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, October 25 from 3:00-5:00pm on the church grounds! Admission is free.

We are still in need of volunteers to help with craft activities, face painting, and inflatables supervision, as well as more trunkers!

Check this week's online ATC for the link to sign up! Trunkers: Please make sure you have enough candy for the Treaters! We are also collecting extra candy in the bin in the Narthex!



FAITH DISCUSSIONS, OCT. 21

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 21 at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. If you would like to purchase one of the books we are using for discussion, the title is *The Way of the Heart: The Spirituality of the Desert Fathers and Mothers* by Henri Nouwen. We are reading the first section on solitude for this next session and reading the book before each session is optional. Hope to see you on October 21!



YOUTH NEWS

HELP WITH RISE AGAINST HUNGER! On Sunday, October 19, we would like to have our 6th-12th grade youth show up in force for the 1:00pm-3:00pm shift at St. Matthew's! Bring your family and friends along too, if you can. If you show up in the downstairs lounge at 12:15pm, there will be pizza and beverages available before our shift begins. Even if you can't do the 1:00pm time slot, you still have opportunities to serve from

11:00am-1:00pm, or 3:00pm-5:00pm. Sign up in the online ATC or church website to participate!

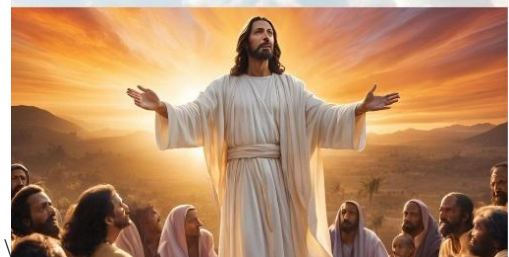
HELP WITH ST. MATTHEW'S TRUNK OR TREAT from 2:30-5:00pm. Anyone in 6th-12th grade is invited to help with setup, then be stationed at one of our youth "trunks" to help hand out candy to our neighborhood guests! Sign up in the online ATC or church website to participate. Then afterward, stay for...

YOUTH MOVIE NIGHT AT ST. MATTHEW'S! Come from 5:00-7:30pm for food and movie fun for all 6th-12th graders. Even if you can't help with Good Works or the Trunk or Treat, you're still welcome to come. No signup needed; just bring a lawn chair or blanket!

THE NEXT HIGH SCHOOL OASIS GATHERING will be Sunday, November 2 from 6:30-8:00pm at St. Paul's; if the weather cooperates, we'll be at the outdoor fire pit. All 9th-12th graders are welcome to come and 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!

A YOUTH E-GAMES DAY AT UPLINK STUDIOS will happen on Sunday, November 9 from 1:00-3:00pm. Come join us at Uplink Studios in Glenmoore (near the corner of Routes 401 and 100) for an afternoon of competitive gaming AND teamwork! Family cost is \$20 for one youth participant, or \$35 for two or more participants from the same household. Sign up in the online ATC or church website to reserve your console.

Social Justice Group



SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP: PLANNING MEETING OCT. 26

The planning session for the Social Justice Group will be held in the CLC on Sunday, October 26 at 10:45am.

If you would like to learn more about the Social Justice Group, feel free to reach out to Mary Kwiatkowski (marykkwiatkowski@gmail.com), Jeff Foltz (autooutlook@icloud.com), or Drew Ortyn (andrew.ortyn@nimble-leader.com).

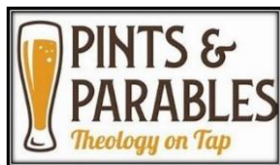
Please reach out to Jeff Foltz if you would like to be added to the email list!



HONEY SUNDAY, NOV. 2

HONEY SUNDAY IS COMING!

On Sunday, November 2, our youth will have a table outside of the sanctuary after worship to take honey orders and accept donations. This honey is produced by the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch organization, which provides residential, educational, and support services for at-risk youth and their families in North Dakota. Proceeds benefit this organization, as well as our own St. Matthew's/St. Paul's youth ministry.



PINTS AND PARABLES, NOV. 3

Come join us for stimulating conversation & fellowship, in a laid-back relaxing atmosphere on **Monday, November 3,**

7:00pm, Liberty Union in Chester Springs.



FINAL BAND-B-QUE NOV. 5

Do you love music? Singing? Playing? Wanna be in a band?! We will be hosting one more Band-B-Que, on **Wednesday, 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.



MISSION IN: NEXT MEETING NOV. 9

The next Mission In meeting will be **Sunday, November 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: NOV. 15

Please plan on bringing something to cook and share with the group on **Saturday, November 15.** Food prep begins at 8:00am with breakfast starting at 8:30am. Please contact Tim Guyer at ttguyer@gmail.com with questions.

COFFEE & CHRIST, NOV. 22



Join us for coffee and good conversation at our next session of Coffee & Christ, **Saturday, November 22 at 8:30am at Starbucks in Chester Springs!**

INTERFAITH/MINISTERIUM THANKSGIVING SERVICE, NOV. 23

The Interfaith Action Community and the Exton/Lionville Ministerium invite you to the third annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on **Sunday, November 23 at 7:00pm at the Hari Om Yoga Center at 348 Boot Road, Downingtown.**



Presented by the
Interfaith Action Community
of Chester County and the
Exton/Lionville Ministerium





COMMUNITY GARDEN:
HARVESTING UPDATE!

We had a fantastic summer growing season in the garden and to date have donated **1431 pounds** of veggies to the Chester County Food Bank. We recently transitioned to growing our fall vegetables including several types of lettuce, turnips, radishes, and kale.

Thanks to all our gardeners for your efforts in maintaining the garden and for your generous donations to the food bank! **If you are interested in helping in the garden or want to donate your extra vegetables, please contact Meghan Comegys (megcomegys@gmail.com/484-684-3109), Desiree Lee (dal2123@yahoo.com/610-425-0484) or Jim Rutledge (jrutman2005@yahoo.com/484-459-3255).**