



# St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Around the Church March 1, 2026

## in a nutshell



### **IN A NUTSHELL**

I don't like tree nuts. When I was a little kid my job at Thanksgiving and Christmas was to shell pecans so my mom and grandmom could make pecan pies. I hate pecan pie, but oh well. They would get a few pounds of pecans from the state farmers market in Columbia, SC and I would sit and shell them in front of whatever was on the TV. I got really good at it. I'm familiar with what's "in a nutshell." My first "Bible" was a pocket New Testament. It was in the King James Version, had a fake green leather cover, and very thin pages. I don't really remember reading it, but it had John 3:16 printed in 30 (?) different languages in the front. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life." Martin Luther called this verse "the Gospel in a nutshell." I tell kids that if there is one Bible verse they should memorize, it's this one.

Gospel means "good news"! It is news that is *proclaimed, announced*, spread, spoken. It is *news!* In the Greek word for "Gospel"—euangellion—the word "angel" is in the middle of it. Angels bring *news*. The Gospel is the good news of God in Jesus Christ. That God so loved the world (cosmos) that God "came down" in Jesus Christ. His teachings, life, crucifixion and resurrection (!) were to save us, not judge us (John 3:17). The Good News is that God heals our brokenness, which is another way of talking about "salvation"; and rather than be told to "do" we're told to "believe," to "trust" him. The truth is we'll never be able to "do *enough*" to save ourselves or our world. But *Christ* can change hearts of stone to flesh and make "dead" people reborn. God says, "Trust him," "believe in him." That's Good News. In a nutshell!

**Peace,  
Pr. Christian**



### **ENTER TO WIN RAFFLE BASKETS!**

Winter Carnival Baskets are on display in the CLC, we will have tickets to purchase after Morning Worship on Sunday, March 1.

To view the basket contents and photos, and to purchase tickets electronically, please find the link posted in the online ATC!

#### Raffle Tickets Prices:

1 ticket =	\$1.00
7 tickets =	\$5.00
15 tickets =	\$10.00
30 tickets =	\$20.00



### **SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER FOR YOUTH MINISTRY, MAR. 6**

THE ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER AND YOUTH FUNDRAISER will be held on Friday evening, March 6 at St. Matthew's! As in past years, there will be two seatings, one at 5:30pm and one at 7:00pm. Unlike past years, tickets will not be sold, but a freewill offering will be collected to benefit the St. Matthew's/St. Paul's youth ministry; suggested donations are \$10 per adult and \$5 per child 12 and under, or \$30 per family. **To reserve your seats, go to the link in the online ATC or church website.**

**LOOKING FOR SPAGHETTI DINNER FOOD DONATIONS!** We are looking for people to donate food and supplies for our March 6th Spaghetti Dinner. Donations should be

dropped off at St. Paul's by Thursday, March 5 or at St. Matthew's by noon Friday, March 6. **Sign up link is in the online ATC or church website.**



### **MATCHING CAMPAIGN FOR LANTERN HILL TRIP**

We have a group from St. Matthew's who will volunteer at Lantern Hill in July 2026, and would love your help to kickstart our mission! Donations will be matched! You can donate 3 different ways: **Please add Lantern Hill as your memo line for each payment option: Checks (written to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church), through Tithe.ly online payment on the church website, or by sending a Venmo to Stephanie McMullan: @Stephanie-McMullan1**

**Help us lay a path forward for Lantern Hill!**

#### **Update Regarding Cartel Violence in Mexico:**

You may have seen on the news about the rise of cartel violence in certain areas of Mexico with travel restrictions and shelter-in-place orders. Lantern Hill is **NOT** located near the restricted locations.

**As always, we will monitor the travel situation to Mexico and alert you to any anticipated changes.**



### **OUTREACH LENTEN COLLECTIONS FOR GRACE CROSSING AND CYWA**

The Outreach Team is sponsoring this year's Lenten Collections, to benefit Grace Crossing Food Pantry and the Food Pantry Van for the Community Youth and Women's Association (CYWA). The collections will run through **Sunday, March 22.** You can place food items in the bins inside of the Narthex before **Sunday Worship**, in the CLC, or in the bin on the Church Office porch.

To give financially, go to [www.stmatthews-church.org/give](http://www.stmatthews-church.org/give) select "Give Online Now," and in the drop-down menu on the next screen, select "Outreach." You can also drop any

**donations in the collection in an envelope marked for Grace Crossing or the CYWA.**

#### **Grace Crossing's most needed items include:**

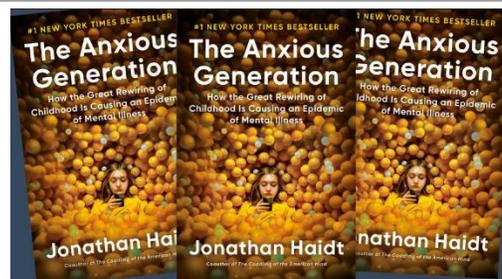
- Large Sweet Potatoes (40 oz., only need 9)
- Canned Pineapple (sliced only, need 26)
- Canned Green Beans
- Canned Mixed Vegetables (any brand is fine)
- Canned Pears
- Boxed Mac and Cheese
- Cookies (VARIETIES OTHER THAN CHOCOLATE...NO CHOCOLATE CHIP)
- Cereal (other than Cheerios or cornflakes - they receive these from Food Bank)
- Jelly (strawberry and grape, glass jars OK)
- Salad dressing of any flavor

*Items will be used as sides for Grace Crossing's Easter Meal.*

**They will also need reusable/recyclable (non-paper bags) for transport.**

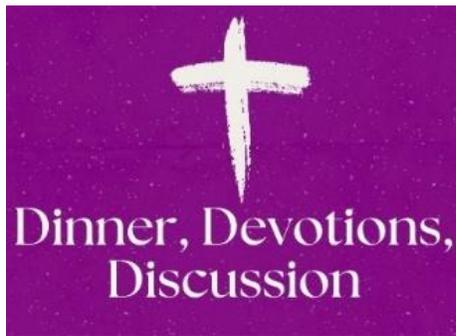
The CYWA Food Pantry Van picks up donated food every day from our partners, such as Wegmans, Giant, Acme, Walmart, and several others to provide food for over 500 families a month, delivering about 1 million pounds of food a year to the most needy.

**Please consider a monetary donation or a donation of gas gift cards to help offset the gas costs.**



### **AN IMPORTANT EVENT FOR PARENTS WITH YOUNGER CHILDREN**

Next Sunday, March 8 from 3:00-4:30pm at St. Paul's, there will be a follow-up discussion to our study of Jonathan Haidt's "The Anxious Generation," which highlights the dangers of social media for children and teens. Erin Arizzi-Shores from West Chester Unplugged will join us to talk about community efforts that are already underway to support parents seeking to push back against our culture's obsession with smartphones and "always-on" connectivity. All parents are invited to join us, whether you have read Haidt's book or not. Childcare will be provided. **Please sign up in the online ATC so we have an adequate amount of childcare help!**



**DINNER, DEVOTIONS, DISCUSSION**  
**EVERY WEDNESDAY IN LENT**

We will be offering "Dinner, Devotions, Discussion" every Wednesday evening during Lent, running through March 25, in the CLC from 6:00pm-7:15pm.

It's a great opportunity to get together, reflect on the meaning of the Lenten season with fellow church members, and share a meal! All are welcome!

If you would like to contribute to the meals, please sign up on the link posted in the online ATC or the church website.



**Pints & Parables:** Monday, March 2, 7:00pm at MaGerks in Lionville. Come join us for stimulating conversation & fellowship, in a laid-back relaxing atmosphere.

**Faith Discussions:** Tuesday, March 3 at 7:00pm in the Lounge. We will be discussing Matthew 7:7-29.

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

**Mission In:** Sunday, March 8 at 10:45am in the CLC. All are welcome!

**Men's Breakfast:** Saturday, March 21. Please bring something to cook and share. Food prep begins at 8:00am with breakfast starting at 8:30am. Questions? Tim Guyer: ttguyer@gmail.com



**MISSION IN:**  
**TAKE A PRAYER**  
**SQUARE!**

The Mission In team invites anyone who is interested to take a prayer square and/or a

prayer card for themselves, or to give to a friend. They are located in a basket on the Outreach table in the CLC lobby.



**Lecture Series:**

Faith Traditions and Beliefs: The Beginning of Life and Birth

**INTERFAITH LECTURE: BUDDHIST**  
**FAITH TRADITIONS, MAR. 12**

The Chester County Interfaith Action Community cordially invites you to the next event in our lecture series:

**"Buddhist Faith Traditions and Beliefs re: the Beginning of Life and Birth"**

**by Venerable Amy Miller**

**March 12, 2026, 7:00-8:30 pm (lecture and fellowship)**

**St. Francis-in-Field Episcopal Church**  
**689 Sugartown Rd. Malvern, PA 19335**

Please check the online ATC and church website for more information!



**FAMILY TRIP TO MIDDLE CREEK,**  
**POSTPONED UNTIL MAR. 14**

LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN - OUR FAMILY TRIP TO MIDDLE CREEK WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 14. Meet at St. Matthew's at 7:30am to travel to Middle Creek (about an hour's drive), or meet us there at the Willow Point Trail parking lot (off Kleinfeltersville Road) for some hiking and exploration. Hopefully we'll get to see some of the amazing snow goose migration that takes place through the area. Bring snacks and water; hot dogs and hot chocolate will be provided. Sign up in the online ATC to join us!



**...ARE BACK,**  
**WITH A**  
**TWIST!**

This year, we have a competition not only between

Pastor Christian and Pastor Stuart, but also between two youth from our congregations! John Lueders from St. Matthew's is facing off against Zack Heath from St. Paul's. Beginning next Sunday, four jars will be in the Narthex with the participants' names on them. On April 12, whichever pastor AND youth have the highest

amounts in their containers will take part in a slightly embarrassing stunt. As an added bonus, if \$1,000 is raised between both congregations, our Youth Director, Craig Miller, will be involved as well!



### **EASTER EGG HUNT, APR. 4**

**ST. MATTHEW'S ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT** will be held Saturday, April 4 beginning at 10:00am at St.

Matthew's. All kids from toddlers-5th grade are welcome to come participate in the egg hunt and other Easter-related activities. If you know you are coming, sign up in the online ATC to help us with planning the event!

**OUR EASTER EGG HUNTS ARE COMING, AND WE NEED CANDY!** Last year we filled 2,000 eggs for our two congregational egg hunts. Please donate bags of **individually-wrapped** candies by dropping them off in the bin on the office porch at St. Matthew's, or in the collection boxes in either airlock at St. Paul's by Sunday morning, March 15. Thank you!



### **YOUTH NEWS**

**ATTENTION ALL YOUTH AND PARENTS: HELP NEEDED FOR THE SPAGHETTI DINNER AND FUNDRAISER!** We need 6th-12th graders, along with their parents, to come out and be part of the youth ministry's biggest fundraising event of the year. We're looking for people to help with setup, decoration, cooking, and serving on Friday evening, March 6. Sign up in the online ATC to help out!

**OUR HIGH SCHOOL OASIS GROUP** meets again on **Sunday, March 8 from 6:30-8:00pm at St. Matthew's, in the downstairs lounge.** We will continue our Bible Dive series with a focus on the history of the early Christian church, from Acts up through the first three hundred years. Our first two Bible Dive sessions have had some really deep, thoughtful discussion and reflections; come and

see what this is all about. All 9th-12th graders are welcome to attend, including friends. No advance signup necessary; just show up!

**RESCHEDULED: AN OUTDOOR ADVENTURE OPPORTUNITY! 6th-12th GRADE YOUTH** are invited to participate in our trip to **Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area on Saturday, March 14.** Meet at St. Matthew's at 7:30am to carpool to Middle Creek and spend the day hiking, exploring, and hopefully seeing some of the amazing snow goose migration. Bring snacks and water; hot dogs and hot chocolate will be provided. Sign up in the online ATC to join us.

**COME JOIN OUR RE-RESCHEDULED YOUTH EVENT AT TOPGOLF IN KING OF PRUSSIA on Sunday, March 15 from Noon-3:00pm!** Spend a couple of fun hours showing off your golf swing (or developing one), eating, and having fun with friends! ALL youth in grades 6-12 are invited to participate, including friends. The household cost is \$20 for one participant, or \$35 for two or more participants from the same household. Sign up in the online ATC!

**CALLING ALL YOUTH - HELP NEEDED WITH OUR EASTER EGG HUNTS!** We need 6th-12th graders who can help hide eggs and run events for both congregations' Easter family events. Helpers are needed on Saturday, March 28 from 3:00-7:30pm at St. Paul's, and on Saturday, April 4 from 8:30am-11:00am at St. Matthew's. **Sign up for one, or sign up for both in the online ATC - the more help we get, the better the events will be for our younger kids!**

**LAST CALL TO REGISTER FOR OUR 2026 APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT WORK WEEK - ONLY TWO SPOTS LEFT!** Current seventh through twelfth graders are able to participate in this annual trip to Central Appalachia to help make homes safer, warmer, and drier for families in need. This year's ASP trip will be July 11-18 (Saturday through Saturday), with three prep sessions happening Sundays April 19, May 3, and May 31.

**Cost per participant is \$400, with fundraising opportunities available to help defray the cost. Registration links and instructions are in the online ATC and on the church website.** Questions? Contact Craig Miller at [craigyouthmin@gmail.com](mailto:craigyouthmin@gmail.com), or by text or phone at 484-320-0785.