



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Around the Church

May 17, 2026



WHAT'S NEXT?

The Easter season is drawing to a close. It is the 50-day period between Easter and Pentecost (which is Sunday, May 24)—

and it celebrates all things resurrection and new life in Christ. In Luke's gospel and the book of Acts, Luke tells us Jesus appeared off and on with his disciples for 40 days, then ascended into heaven (May 14). Then ten days later, the Holy Spirit fell on the disciples at Pentecost and the church was "born."

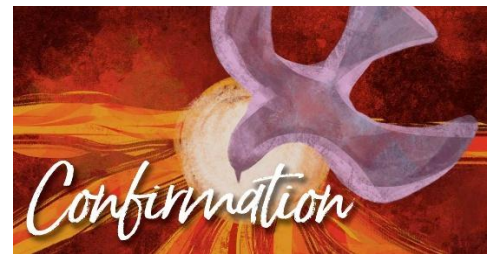
When I did Chapel Chats with the preschoolers this week, I tried to explain why Jesus isn't on earth with us anymore, even though God made him alive again and he'll never die. The Resurrection happened, so... What's Next? Where is Jesus? Jesus went up to heaven to be with God again, and... What's Next? The disciples *waited and prayed* together.

What's Next? is the gift of the Holy Spirit, and a whole lot of *living* in the Spirit, following Jesus' teachings, going on adventures to places unexpected, places inside the mind and heart and places outside (like for me Boston and Midland MI!). What's next?? Three young people will be getting confirmed—affirming their baptism—this Sunday. On the cusp of young adulthood, they will be asking that question a LOT in the next few years, about their faith and the place it'll occupy in their lives... and they'll be asking that when they get into high school, and graduate, etc...!

We might not know what's next for our own personal lives, but *from God's point of view*, God answered that a long time ago. What's next?? God is present with us in a way different than God was in Jesus Christ walking the earth. God is present with us in the Holy

Spirit, that feeling of "wind" and "fire." That feeling of comfort in adversity and struggle. God says that what's next for us is what happened in Christ—death and resurrection; growth and learning and letting go... being filled with the Spirit of "counsel and might... knowledge and reverence for the Lord, and Joy in God's presence!"

Come, Holy Spirit!
Pr. Christian



CONGRATULATIONS, **CONFIRMANDS!**

We are celebrating the Confirmation of **Braelyn Isabelle Burgess**
Theodore Alfred Lieb
and **Jillian Grace Unger**
during today's 9:30am Worship Service. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide and inspire these confirmands in the years to come! Congratulations!



HAVE A NEW (OR SOON-TO-BE) **GRADUATE?**

We will recognize our St. Matthew's Graduates on Sunday, May 31 at the 9:30am worship service. All those graduating from high school, college, grad school or technical school this Spring are invited to join us to

celebrate with your congregational family! **Even if you can't be there, please send your graduate's information (name, school, degree received, and future plans) to Sara Richardson in the church office, srichardson@stmatthews-church.org.**



Mission In: TODAY, Sunday, May 17 at 10:45am in the CLC. All are welcome!

Faith Discussions: Tuesday, May 19 at 7:00pm in the Lounge. We will be discussing pages 59-65 in *The Freedom of a Christian* by Martin Luther.

Outreach: Sunday, May 24 at 10:45am in the CLC. We will discuss Project If/Enough, Lantern Hill, the Garden beds for the Chester County Food Bank, planning for Summer and Fall, and communication ideas. All are welcome!

Pints & Parables: Monday, June 1, 7:00pm at MaGerks in Lionville. Come join us for stimulating conversation & fellowship, in a laid-back relaxing atmosphere.

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

Men's Breakfast: Saturday, June 20. Please bring something to cook and share. Food prep begins at 8:00am with breakfast starting at 8:30am. Questions? E-mail Tim Guyer: ttguyer@gmail.com



St. Mary's
Franciscan Shelter
for Homeless Families

ST. MARY'S MEAL:
NEXT MEAL MAY 24

The May Meal will be delivered on Sunday, May 24. Please sign up in the online ATC.

There are many options to provide a meal for at least 15 people residing at the shelter. These include providing groceries for their kitchen team to prepare, deliver ready-to-eat items, donate a grocery gift card, or use their kitchen to become a guest chef/baker for parts of the meal.

Full details with the requirements are listed on the church website and on the Sign-Up Genius. If you have any questions, please contact Mindy Elmer: mlong1011@comcast.net



ENVELOPE FUNDRAISER FOR ASP

IF YOU HAVE TAKEN A FUND-RAISER ENVELOPE OFF OF THE YOUTH BULLETIN BOARD, please return it with the indicated amount and card inside filled out by **Sunday, May 31.**

Completed envelopes can be placed in the church offering or turned in to the church office.



YOUTH CAR WASH

RESCHEDULED TO MAY 31

OUR ANNUAL YOUTH CAR WASH FUNDRAISER has been rescheduled for **Sunday morning, May 31 from 8:00-11:00am (weather permitting).** Drop your car off before worship, and our team will return it to you with a sparkling clean exterior when you come out afterward! No charge, but donations are gratefully accepted.

End-of-Year Picnic



YOUNG FAMILIES END-OF-YEAR PICNIC, MAY 31

OUR SECOND ANNUAL YOUNG FAMILIES END-OF-YEAR PICNIC will be held on Sunday, May 31 from 12:30pm- 3:00pm(ish) at Warwick County Park, Pavilion #3. Burgers, hot dogs, and drinks will be provided...bring a side dish, snack, or dessert to share with the group! All families with kids in preschool-5th grade are invited; older and younger siblings are welcome to come, too! **Sign up in the online ATC to let us know you are coming! Questions? Contact Craig Miller at craigyouthmin@gmail.com, or 484-320-0785.**



St. Matthew's Community Garden

COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

Our 2026 growing season is well underway! Our spring vegetables this year include cherry belle radishes, French breakfast radishes, salad turnips, beets, romaine lettuce, red leaf lettuce, butterhead lettuce, arugula lettuce and collards. So far, we have harvested **68 pounds** that we have donated to the Chester County Food Bank. 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! If you are interested in helping in the garden, 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).

IAC UNITY SHABBAT MAY 29 & RABBI RETIREMENT MAY 30

The Interfaith Action Community of Chester County cordially invites you to the 8th Annual Unity Shabbat at Beth Israel Congregation of Chester Springs on May 29 at 7:00pm.

You are also cordially invited to "A Night of Gratitude and Laughter" celebrating the retirement of Rabbi Jon Cutler on May 30 at 7:00pm at Beth Israel. Please see the images below for more information.



Interfaith Action Community, Chester County, PA
Beth Israel Congregation of Chester County

Hosts:
8th Annual

UNITY SHABBAT

SALAAM PACEM SHAANTI PEACE SHALOM
Unify the voices of people of faith

Everyone Welcome!

MAY 29th, 2026
Friday Evening Service
7:00 PM

including the Beth Israel Choir

385 Pottstown Pike, Chester Springs, PA
This service will also be live streaming @
<https://www.facebook.com/BethIsraelofCC/>



Bring a canned or boxed food good for
Donation to the Chester County Foodbank
www.bethisraelpa.org

Rooted in Community:
A Weekend of Celebration and Thanks

Celebrating the Retirement of
Rabbi Jon Cutler

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: #00a0c0;"><i>Unity Shabbat</i></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Friday, May 29, 2026, 7:00 pm Kiddush Following Service</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: #00a0c0;"><i>Q'dor Vador Service</i></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Saturday, May 30, 2026, 9:30 am Kiddush Following Service</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: #00a0c0;"><i>A Night of Gratitude and Laughter</i></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Saturday, May 30, 2026, 7:00 pm</p>
<p>Beth Israel will be hosting our annual Interfaith Action Community Shabbat Service! Clergy from Interfaith congregations will be joining us for a special Unity Shabbat!</p>	<p>Join us as we celebrate all of the b'nai mitzvah students who have studied with Rabbi Jon over the past 11 years and honor congregational members with Torah readings.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">\$36 Member \$54 Non-Members</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Prices increase May 11 - RSVP today! Enjoy a delicious dinner while we schmooze and share stories about Rabbi Jon as we celebrate his retirement from Beth Israel!</p>

RSVP

by May 11th

www.bethisraelpa.org biccacct@gmail.com
610-458-8550



YOUTH NEWS

OUR HIGH SCHOOL OASIS GROUP meets one more time before summer on Sunday, May 17 from 6:30-8:00pm at St. Matthew's, either at the fire pit (weather permitting) or in the downstairs lounge. We will continue our Bible Dive series and also take some time to send off our graduating seniors. All ninth through twelfth graders are welcome to attend, including friends. No advance signup necessary; just show up!

YOUTH AND PARENT HELP IS NEEDED WITH OUR RESCHEDULED CAR WASH FUNDRAISERS! We are holding car washes on Saturday morning, May 30 at St. Paul's, and on Sunday morning, May 31 at St. Matthew's. All 6th-12th graders are encouraged to participate in one or both events to raise money for the youth ministry. Parents are needed to help move cars around. Sign ups are located in the online ATC.



ORDER FORMS FOR PENTECOST GERANIUMS

Order Forms are now in the pews and in the online ATC and church website for

Geraniums on Pentecost, May 24. Cash and checks written to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church are accepted for \$10.00 each. **Please submit your order form and payment in the collection or return to the church office by Wednesday, May 20.**