



# St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

## Around the Church

### March 29, 2026



### **TRUE HUMILITY**

(Reflection from *Sundays & Seasons*)

The servanthood of a teacher in Isaiah, the outcast in the psalm, those who bow down in Philippians: today's readings teach humility. On this day we move from Christ's triumphant ride on a humble donkey to the humiliation of the cross. The humility of the characters in the passion story is in question: Judas, Pilate, the Twelve, chief priests and elders, Barabbas, the crowd, the soldiers, two bandits. Among other things, their lack of humility is what brings about the passion of Christ. There is only one truly humble person in this story: Jesus the Christ. Matthew's humble Jesus cries out from the cross to ask God why he has been forsaken. Only in the stories of the resurrection do other humble characters appear: the centurion, the women, Joseph of Arimathea. A careful look at the complexity of humility in the palm and passion stories could set up a reflective theme carried through to Easter. Who in each story do we regard as humble? Why? How does our humility compare? Are there characters who seem to gain or lose humility in the course of the story from the triumphant entry to the resurrection? A deep and meaningful understanding of humility is a worthy and lasting gift to take away from the season of Lent and the celebration of Easter. Joseph of Arimathea is a particularly good character on which to base an understanding of humility. A close look at all references to him in the Gospels, and a bit of creative narrative, create an image of a truly humble believer. He is referenced in both canonical and apocryphal texts. His devotion represents deep humility that leads to the very finest of good works as he cares for the body of Jesus.

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Reflections adapted from *Sundays and Seasons.com*.



### **HOLY WEEK 2026 SCHEDULE**

Please join us to remember the sacrifice and rejoice in the resurrection of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, during our Holy Week Worship Services:

**Maundy Thursday, April 2:**

Service at 7:00pm

**Good Friday, April 3:**

Service at 7:00pm

**Easter Sunday, April 5:**

Services at 7:30am and 9:30am



### **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!***



### **EASTER CONGREGATIONAL BREAKFAST, APR. 5 8:30AM**

Our Annual Easter Congregational Breakfast will take place on Easter Sunday, April 5, between the 7:30am and 9:30am Worship Services. We will need a lot of help, especially with cooking and cleanup, and we'll also need a few items!

If you can help out in any way, please use the sign up posted in the online ATC, on church website or in the Facebook group.

Please reach out to Patrick Miller with any questions: [pjmill98@yahoo.com](mailto:pjmill98@yahoo.com)



### **ORDER EASTER TULIPS!**

We invite you to contribute to the beauty of our Easter Sunday Services by

ordering tulips! Each plant will be \$10.00 each. This year's ordering deadline is **TOMORROW, Monday, March 30**. Please fill out the form and submit it with check or cash to the church office or in the Sunday Collection. Checks may be made payable to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. **Forms are located in the pews and in the online ATC.**

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## Braver Angels

### **BRAVER ANGELS: DEPOLARIZING WITHIN WORKSHOP, APR. 11**

Please join us for this very special workshop on Saturday, April 11 from 9:00am-12 Noon in the CLC. Lunch will follow the workshop.

Participants will develop strategies for engaging in politics without demonizing the other side and constructively intervene in conversations with like-minded peers.

An EventBrite registration link can be found in the online ATC. This will connect you with some of the resources for the workshop.

Too often common ground is lost when emotions and conflict cloud relationships. We could all use a little more humility and learn to listen better. Jesus said, "Love your enemies," (Luke 6:27, 35), and that means learning how to listen to them...knowing what is within us that gets in the way.

The "Depolarizing Within" workshop is not "political" in the normal sense--it's not about "blue or red" positions. Its purpose is for us to learn how we ourselves can be polarizing, in order to listen better and prevent others from being polarizing.

**Braver Angels is a volunteer-led organization whose stated purpose is to foster healthy, civic dialogue. If you have any questions about this program, please contact the church office: [office@stmatthews-church.org](mailto:office@stmatthews-church.org)**



### **PENNY WARS END ON APR. 12!**

As of Wednesday, Pastor Christian has raised \$53.13 and Pastor Stuart has \$47.99, so it's pretty close! In the youth competition, John Lueders from St. Matthew's has \$47.82 and Zack Heath from St. Paul's has \$28.87. The pastor and youth who raise the highest amount will "win" the privilege of performing in front of the congregations. If we raise \$1,000 total combined, our Youth Director, Craig Miller, will be involved as well! Containers are in the narthex at both churches; be sure to vote with your pennies, coins, and dollars who you want to "win" in both contests!

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**Outreach Team:** TODAY, Sunday, March 29 at 10:45am in the CLC. Please feel free to join us as we discuss ways to support our community in the coming months. Feel free to contact Kathy Meltzer at [kmeltzer@comcast.net](mailto:kmeltzer@comcast.net) with any questions, suggestions, or concerns.

**Coffee & Christ:** Saturday, April 4 at 8:30am at Starbucks in Chester Springs. Join us for coffee and good conversation at our next session.

**Pints & Parables:** Monday, April 6, 7:00pm at MaGerks in Lionville. Come join us for stimulating conversation & fellowship, in a laid-back relaxing atmosphere.

**Faith Discussions:** Tuesday, April 7 at 7:00pm in the Lounge. We will begin a discussion of a book by Martin Luther.

**Mission In:** Sunday, April 12 at 10:45am in the CLC. All are welcome!

**Men's Breakfast:** Saturday, April 18. 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](mailto:ttguyer@gmail.com)



**BLUE JEAN SATURDAY AND  
CLEAN OUT AROUND CAMPUS,  
APR. 18**

Spring is coming...really, it is...and we are planning our Blue Jean Saturday clean-up will be held on Saturday, April 18 from 9:00am-1:00pm. This will make sure that our campus is looking its best after a very rough winter. We will need several volunteers...all you'll need to do is bring is yourself, your family or friends, and a pair of gloves. We will have tools for weeding and moving mulch. **Please sign up in the online ATC!** Please contact the church office with questions: [office@stmatthews-church.org](mailto:office@stmatthews-church.org)  
*This will now be combined with the Clean Out Around Campus!*  
We are in need of many volunteers to assist with the clean out of the CLC closets, the garage and the basement. Please join us on the same date, Saturday, April 18 starting at 9:00am. Many hands make lighter work! For more information, contact Sue Hummerston: [hummerstonsue@gmail.com](mailto:hummerstonsue@gmail.com)



**MISSION IN:  
CARE PACKAGES  
FOR COLLEGE  
STUDENTS,  
APR. 26**

Please sign up in the online ATC or on the church website to bake/purchase cookies

or donate candy for care packages being sent to our college students. The care packages will be assembled on Sunday, April 26 at 10:45am in the CLC. Everyone is invited to help the Mission In team assemble the boxes for our students. No cookies with peanuts please. Bakers are asked to bake at least 2 dozen cookies. Please package them in zip lock bags to maintain freshness, and label bags with your name, the type of cookies and whether they contain nuts.  
**Cookies need to be dropped off in the church office by Friday, April 24 between 9:00 am-1:00pm or on Sunday, April 26 before 10:30am in the CLC. Candy can be dropped off in the bin on the office porch or in the lobby of the CLC.**

Please add your email address and the amount of cookies you are donating when signing up for a slot. Please contact Louise Rutledge at [larutledge51@gmail.com](mailto:larutledge51@gmail.com) with any questions.

**Have a College Student?** If your son/daughter's college mailing address has changed since November 2025, please contact the church office at (610) 458-5675 or [office@stmatthews-church.org](mailto:office@stmatthews-church.org). Please give them your college student's current mailing address, so that we can ship a package to them at school.



**ST. MARY'S MEAL: APR. 26**

*Special thanks to our church members who provided Gift Cards to St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter last month to cover our March meal!*  
**The April Meal will be delivered on Sunday, April 26. 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 at [mlong1011@comcast.net](mailto:melong1011@comcast.net)



**YOUTH NEWS**

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

**OUR HIGH SCHOOL OASIS GROUP** meets again on **Sunday, April 12 from 6:30-8:00pm** at **St. Paul's, in the upstairs Youth Room**. 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 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome to attend, including friends. No advance sign up necessary; just show up!

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**E-MAIL SCAM IS MAKING THE ROUNDS AGAIN!**

We have been informed by several church members that there is an e-mail purportedly sent by Pastor Christian that asks for a brief conversation and asks to continue this over e-mail.

**PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS E-MAIL AND DELETE IT IMMEDIATELY, AND IF POSSIBLE, BLOCK THE E-MAIL!**

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**NOTE ABOUT OFFICE E-MAILS TO COMCAST E-MAIL CUSTOMERS**

We have been made aware by several of our church members that e-mails sent by the church office have been landing in Spam, or are not being delivered at all to those who have comcast.net e-mail addresses. We are looking into this problem.

*Until we have a solution, in addition to using [srichardson@stmatthews-church.org](mailto:srichardson@stmatthews-church.org), we will also be sending e-mails from the Office Gmail account:*

*[stmattschestersprings@gmail.com](mailto:stmattschestersprings@gmail.com).*

*We apologize for any inconvenience!*