



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Around the Church

September 27, 2026



CHANGING YOUR MIND

I love how the Bible describes deep human realities and motivations in the simplest way possible. As a person who loves stories (books, novels, etc.) as literature it amazes me that it's able to do that so well. Jesus' parables are brilliant at that. They get to the point and leave open lots of other details that we the listener fill in based on our lived experience. This Sunday's Gospel is a case in point (Matthew 21:28-31). A farmer had two sons (wait, I *have two sons*) and asks them to go work in the vineyard. One says, "Yes" but doesn't go; the other contrarian one says, "No" but changes his mind and goes. If you've ever had teenagers you know what that looks like. I don't have a vineyard, but I have a lawn that needs mowing... And Jesus then asks, "What do you think?"

What do I think? First question is, why do they do what they do? What made the one son say Yes but not do it? Was the work too hard? Was he blowing off his dad? Was he wanting to appear agreeable and liked, but then chose selfishness over his father's will? Was the one who said No just being annoying? In the parable he "changes his mind and went"—in other words, *repents*? One translation has: "afterward he regretted it and went." Did the son *regret* being "selfish" and disappointing his dad? You've got a parent and two kids—talk about the messiness of human relationships!—as an example of the motivations of our words and actions in our relationship with God.

In other words, this brilliant little parable *asks us* to think about our motivations when it comes to doing what's right (doing God's will). Both said one thing, and both "changed their minds." Why? Out of a sense of self, do we say No and later regret it? What are we missing out on by saying No and *not* "changing our minds"? How often do we say Yes to things we don't follow through on? Do we "change our mind" and *not* follow through out of *self-ish* reasons? What does all this do in the long run in our relationships? How is all of this like our relationship with God and the life God offers?

If you look around, there are LOTS of ways God asks us to follow and act....

**Peace,
Pr. Christian**



Today's Altar Flowers are given by John and Peggy Smith: "In memory of our dear friend, John."

The September/October Altar Flowers Sign Up is posted in this week's online ATC.



FOOD & HYGIENE PACKAGING FOR DISTRIBUTION, TODAY AFTER WORSHIP!

Christine Wills and Diya Kondoor, Downingtown high school seniors, organized the collection of items to help the homeless in our area, and St. Matthew's members responded with abundant generosity. **Christine and Diya will join us for this Sunday's 9:30am worship service. After our regular fellowship time (approximately 11:00am), we will package items in the CLC into individual bags. These bags will include healthcare, hygiene, toiletries, and food items. You are invited to help us package these donations and to celebrate the generosity of our congregation.** If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Meltzer at kmeltzer@comcast.net



RISE AGAINST HUNGER OCT. 25, REGISTER NOW!

Help us package 70,000 meals! On Sunday, October 25, St. Matthew's Lutheran Church will host our 5th annual Rise Against Hunger Community Meal Packaging Event—the second-largest Rise Against Hunger event in the region.



We have already raised \$16,719 toward our \$28,117 goal. After this year's event, our community will have packaged more than 280,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger! Volunteers of all ages are welcome, including children as young as 4. Choose one of three fun, two-hour shifts and help us feed hope together.

Sign up, volunteer or donate by clicking the QR code. The links are in this week's online ATC and on the church website!



MISSION IN: CARD MAKING EVENT, OCT. 4

Mission In will be holding a card making event on Sunday, October 4 at 10:30am in the CLC. We invite

everyone to join us to create general support type cards and Thanksgiving cards to be sent to church members. We will supply materials and instructions. Hope to see you there!



ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL CONSIGNMENT SALE, OCT. 16 & 17

The Fall Children's Consignment Sale, benefiting St. Matthew's School, will take place on Friday and Saturday, October 16 and 17. New sellers are always welcome!

Friday, October 16:

9:00am-3:00pm SPECIAL PARENT AND CHURCH SHOPPING DAY

5:30pm-7:30pm OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Saturday, October 17:

8:00 am - 10:00 am ***50% OFF SALE***

If you would like to consign or volunteer to help, contact Chrissy Guyer at stmatssale@gmail.com

We will be accepting donations of FALL and WINTER clothing (birth through teen), as well as puzzles, books, games, toys, baby equipment, outdoor play toys, bikes and electronics. All donations must be in the garage (shed near playground) by October 13. All items must be clean (no stains please) and in working order. Dirty or broken items will be thrown away.

TRUNK OR TREAT, OCT. 24

Join us for our third annual Trunk or Treat on the Church Grounds on Saturday, October 24 from 3:00-5:00pm. Admission is FREE and open to the whole community! Put on your costumes (and your biggest smiles) and trick or treat among the Trunks! We will also have a DJ, a petting zoo, a photo booth, crafts, games and prizes. Hope to see you there!

To sign up to be a trunker or to help us at the event, please find the link in the online ATC!



YOUTH NEWS



Youth Canoe Trip on the Brandywine Sunday, Sept. 27th, Noon-3:30pm Meet at St. Paul's for pizza, then carpool to Northbrook Canoe Company near Marshallton. Sign up is in the online ATC.

High School OASIS returns on Sunday, Oct. 4 from 6:30-8:00pm in St. Paul's upstairs Youth Room (no signup necessary)

"Choose Your Event" on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 11. Youth get to vote on whether we go bowling, mini golfing, indoor rock climbing, or laser tagging! Voting is open now until Oct. 4; the link to vote is in the online ATC.

High School OASIS "Deep Dive" on Sunday, Oct. 18 from 6:30-8:00pm in St. Matthew's downstairs lounge.

Rise Against Hunger meal packing event on Sunday, Oct. 25. We will have our usual youth slot from 1:00-3:00pm (with pizza beforehand in the lounge), but if you can't make that you are welcome to do the 11:00am or 3:00pm shifts

instead. Bring your family! Sign up is in the online ATC.

Middle School Retreat to Bear Creek Camp with some other congregations Saturday afternoon, Nov. 7-Sunday afternoon, Nov. 8. An informational flyer is in the online ATC. **If you want to attend, you MUST sign up (located in the online ATC) by Oct. 18!**

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH PEER MINISTRY RETREAT - If you are in 9th-12th grade and interested in being trained as a Peer Ministry Leader, reserve the weekend of November 13-15 on your calendar to attend a special retreat in Bethany Beach, DE. More information to come!



Coffee & Christ: Saturday, October 3, 8:30am at Starbucks in Chester Springs.

Pints & Parables: Monday, October 5, 7:00pm at MaGerks in Lionville. Come join us for stimulating conversation & fellowship, in a laid-back relaxing atmosphere.

Faith Discussions: Next meeting in the Lounge on Tuesday, October 6. all are welcome!

Men's Breakfast: Saturday, October 10. 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

Mission In: Next meeting Sunday, October 11 at 10:45am in the CLC. Hope to see you there!

FAITH FORMATION IS STARTING!

The 2026-27 Faith Formation Year began on Sunday, Sept. 20! Faith Formation is open to any child ages 3-11 and classes are held during our Sunday 9:30am service. Children will learn Bible stories and prayers, and participate in fun activities to plant the roots of faith.

The link to Sign Up is posted on the online ATC and on the church website.

We are also in need of several volunteers to teach and to help out in our Faith Formation classes at least once per month. **IMPORTANT NOTE: All teachers and helpers will need clearances and Youth Protection Policy training.**

For more information, please contact our Faith Formation Coordinator Beth Bilinski at stmattsfaithformation@gmail.com or 610-804-8380.

Faith GROWS Here!
LUTHERAN FAITH FORMATION
for Preschoolers and Elementary Students

Help your child grow in faith, friendship, and God's love!
Our Faith Formation program offers fun, engaging, and age-appropriate learning experiences that help children know and love Jesus.

Young hearts. Strong foundation.
A faith that lasts a lifetime.

Learn
Bible stories, prayers, and God's love in fun and meaningful ways.

Grow
Build a strong faith foundation that helps children grow with confidence.

Belong
Make new friends and feel part of a caring church community.

Live
Learn how to live out faith everyday life and share God's love.

For Children Ages 3-11
Preschool classes, elementary classes, activities, music, service projects, and more!

You Belong Here!
We invite your family to be part of our Faith Formation family! Together, we will help your child believe, belong, and become the person God created them to be.

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."
— Proverbs 22:6

JOIN US THIS YEAR!
We can't wait to welcome your child and walk alongside your family in faith.

Questions or Want to Register?
Contact: Beth Bilinski
610-804-8380
stmattsfaithformation@gmail.com

GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH. LOVED BY GOD. SENT TO SERVE.



ST. MARY'S MEAL: NEXT MEAL, OCT. 25

Thanks to everyone who have contributed to the September meal. The next meal delivery to St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter will be on Sunday, October 25, and the sign up is now in the online ATC.

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



COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

This year's veggies include several varieties of tomatoes, tomatillos, bell peppers, banana peppers, summer squash, gordini lettuce, pole beans, bush beans and cucumbers. We are also

growing some herbs including papalo, basil, chives and parsley.

So far, we have harvested **983 pounds** that we have donated to the Chester County Food Bank.

If you are interested in helping in the garden, please contact Meghan Comegys megcomegys@gmail.com, Desiree Lee dal2123@yahoo.com or Jim Rutledge jrutman2005@yahoo.com

DRIVE OUT HUNGER: THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our annual Drive Out Hunger Golf Outing on September 17, whether you golfed with us, had lunch, or participated in our raffle drawings! **We're happy to report that we've exceeded expectations for the net proceeds, which total approximately \$16,000 to benefit the Grace Crossing Food Pantry, the West Chester Food Cupboard, and the Community Youth and Women's Alliance (CYWA).** A big thank you goes out to our hole sponsors, and all the local businesses who contributed to the raffle prizes, please be sure to patronize them as supporters of Drive Out Hunger!

Event photos are now posted on the church website and the Facebook page!

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church 2026 Golf Event

Drive Out Hunger.

THANK YOU to our Generous Hole Sponsors!

PLATINUM SPONSOR	GOLD SPONSORS
 SHEER VENTURE SOLUTIONS	 thrivent Pickering Group 484-875-0202 pickeringgroup@thrivent.com Barbara Miller
 Rock Pointe INSURANCE	
SILVER SPONSORS	
 Morgan Stanley BARTOLI WEALTH MANAGEMENT GROUP AT MORGAN STANLEY	 CHESTER COUNTY FUEL OIL, INC. "First in Customer Satisfaction"
 CLAIRMONT PACIELLO & Co., P.C. CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS	
 James A. Cochrane Inc. REALTOR	 DRAGON GYM
 DiBiase HEATING & COOLING Let's get into Comfort!	 Lionville School of Dance
 1st Resource Bank	 Lionville NATURAL PHARMACY
 NEW PRECISION REALTY	 S&T Bank
 Worrell's BUTCHER SHOP	 The Sisum Family Diane Ross

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church 2026 Golf Event

Drive Out Hunger.

THANK YOU For Raffle Prize Donations















































St. Matthew's Lutheran Church 2026 Golf Event

Drive Out Hunger.

THANK YOU For Raffle Prize Donations













































