

# ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH

## WHITE DOVE FLYER

*"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ"*

WORSHIP SERVICE

9:00 AM SUNDAY

CIA CLASS

10:30 AM SUNDAY

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND  
CHILDREN'S CHURCH  
TAKES PLACE DURING THE  
9:00AM WORSHIP



**APRIL 2025**

Secretary Office **Hours are:**

**Mon., Wed., Thurs. 10am—2pm**

**Phone: 610-381-2442**

**Email: stmatts@ptd.net**

**RJ Cramer**

Council President

**Rick Rufenacht**

Interim Pastor

**Starlene Barr**

Treasurer

**Renée Keiper**

Church Secretary

**Dan Smale**

Music Director

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102 Church Road

St. Matthew's Church

LEHIGHTON, PA 18235

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## IT'S A MAD, MAD, MAD, MAD WORLD

By Pastor Rick

The movie *It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World* came out in 1963. It starred Spencer Tracy as well as numerous well-known comedic actors of the era such as Buddy Hackett, Johnathan Winters, and Milton Berle — just to name a few. All of the actors in the movie are frantically trying to be the first to discover a boat load of money buried in the San Rosita park under a big W. After watching three hours of mishaps, car crashes, car chases, and much yelling and hollering, one can only conclude it's truly a maniacal mad, mad world. Is the world in which we live so different? Our lives are packed full of tight schedules and continuous motion, so many “talking heads,” interruptions and distractions, so much so that we concur this is a mad, mad world.

So where do we find rest in our over-committed and over-scheduled existence? Where do we find rest when it seems like our lives are going 100 miles an hour and being pulled in a myriad of different directions? The answer is found in Psalm 62. It is there that the Psalmist writes, “My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I shall never be shaken.” (Psalm 62:1-2)

King David knew something that we all must discover. Rest is possible, but only in God alone. Rest is not found in any other thing, or any other person, or any better circumstance. We think we can find it elsewhere: in our job success, in our corporate ladder-climbing, in our family activities, in our marriage, in our leisure, and even in our activities at church.

The rest that the Psalmist writes about is not the absence of a hectic existence. The rest he talks about is a supernatural peace that can only come from one place, which is the person of Father God. It is in God that we discover the ultimate place of peace, contentment, confidence, and rest. There is no striving. There's not a sense that one has to perform and measure up for success.

Psalm 46 instructs us to “be still and know that He is God.” Being still means that I let go. I stop trying to make it happen in my own strength and instead I trust God.

So many times we think, “If I can only make my circumstances better, then I will have contentment. If I could only make enough money, or have a better house, or secure a better job . . . if only I can get to retirement, then I can get some rest.”

My soul finds rest in God alone. Anything else is an exercise in futility.

If you sense that life is chaotic and you are coming to the end of your rope, take a moment and call out to the Lord. Spend time in God's presence. Worship Him with thankfulness and you will experience the rest that He can give.

In Ephesians 4:13 we read, “until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God **and become mature**, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

As young believers, this verse is calling us to embark upon a spiritual growth journey that will take us from adolescence (level A) on to maturity (level B). This is a process we continue to refine throughout our lives. Attaining the full measure of Christ can sometimes be challenging and frustrating.

In his book *The Three Colors of Your Spirituality*, author Christian A. Schwartz defines these two levels of maturity in the following ways:

**Level A** focuses on identifying and developing one's strengths, creating a sense of security, stability, and grounding. It emphasizes a spirituality of "dwelling," where individuals feel at home and centered in their relationship with God. At this stage, the focus is on personal identity, building spiritual self-esteem, and **operating within one's comfort zone**. Level A is about spiritual formation, where individuals intensify and deepen their existing spiritual experiences. **The goal is not to leave this stage entirely, but to mature within it**, integrating elements of other spiritual styles to address areas of weakness or underdevelopment.

**Level B** spirituality represents **a deeper level of spiritual maturity** that goes beyond the easy, gratifying experiences of Level A. It involves **a lifelong journey of growth** that is slower and often more challenging, requiring individuals to **confront both their strengths and weaknesses**. Unlike Level A, which offers a sense of security and comfort, Level B **demands greater complexity, discomfort, and vulnerability**. Spiritual maturity in Level B is **not immediately gratifying** and may bring subtle progress, but it requires the courage to face ambiguity, complexity, and personal sin. Overcoming the misconception that spiritual growth is always a positive experience without challenges is key, as **both the positive and negative aspects of one's spirituality are necessary for full growth**.

So, what is the best way to begin the journey toward spiritual maturity? If you've been reading my newsletter articles over the past few months, you've already begun thinking about passionate spirituality, and I want to encourage you to continue on this path. There is a Spiritual Style Test developed by Christian A. Schwarz, designed to help individuals identify their native spiritual style. Once we understand your native style, we can identify areas for growth.

You can complete the Spiritual Style Test by filling out an online form I created. This will allow me to determine where you fall on the Spiritual Style spectrum. There are no right or wrong answers, so don't feel intimidated. Instead, I encourage you to get excited about this opportunity. I found the information to be very eye-opening and beneficial in my own spiritual journey, as it has helped me gain a deeper understanding of my own strengths and weaknesses.

I will be offering two opportunities for people to take the Spiritual Style Test and learn possible ways to grow and become more spiritually mature. You can join us on **Sunday, May 4th** (after church in the CIA room) or **Wednesday, May 7th** at 6:30 PM. I look forward to seeing you there and will have materials prepared to support you on this exciting journey of growth toward spiritual maturity.

**Link to the Spiritual Style Test: <http://bit.ly/spiritualstyletest>**



Hello Church Families,

The Christian Education committee recently met and planned some upcoming events. Please see Miss Dora if you have any questions about any of these events.

**Friday, April 11: Family Faith & Fun Night – 5:30-7:30 pm**

We'd like to invite you & your family to come to Family Faith & Fun night on Friday, April 11, from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm. Come & join us for Pizza, a Scripture Lesson, Practice for our Easter Pageant to be presented on Easter, Sunday, April 20, at the 9:00 service, an Easter Craft & Easter Bingo. **Please RSVP to Dora by Friday, April 4, to have a count for the pizza & goodies! Text Dora – 570-730-9931 or email [ddtartar929@gmail.com](mailto:ddtartar929@gmail.com)**. Thanks & join us for the fun!

**Sunday, April 13:** The children will parade with palm branches and our wooden donkey during the opening hymn. Miss Gabby and Miss Staci will be parading with them. Please meet in the narthex at 8:50.

**Saturday, April 19:** The CE committee will host our **Annual Easter Egg Hunt** in the Church Grove at 1:00. We are seeking youth and adult helpers to hide the eggs. Youth & adults helpers please arrive at the Grove at 11:30 to set up. Kids will hunt by age group, and then there will be snacks, games, a craft, and a visit with the Easter bunny. Plastic eggs will be in the Narthex before the end of March, if you'd like to take a bag home to fill and return. We are also seeking individual snack packs of popcorn, fruit gummies, goldfish crackers and small bottles of water.

**Sunday, April 20:** The children will perform an Easter skit during worship. In the next week or so, Miss Dora will have more details about the name of the skit and when they will rehearse it.

**Sunday, June 15:** Miss Gabby and Miss Staci will be leading Children's Activities during the Strawberry Festival. **We are seeking youth and adult helpers to assist** with temporary tattoos, fish pond, kiddie cakewalk, coloring/craft station, a lucky boat game, and parachute games.

**Monday, July 14 through Friday, July 18 - Road Trip VBS** will be held in the **Church** from 9 a.m. to noon daily. Our field trip will be Wednesday afternoon. Our Friday Luncheon will be held in the grove at 12:15 with a guest speaker, refreshments, and VBS songs. We also need youth helpers and adult leaders for VBS week. Here is the Amazon Wishlist, which contains snacks, decorations, and treats. We greatly appreciate your contribution.

<https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/WI9UUUZJCRY3>

**Sunday, July 20 - VBS Sunday** during worship. We will share a VBS storytelling skit, a science experiment, our Mission Project accomplishments, and a couple of songs.

Sincerely,

The CE Team

### Income for February 2025

2/2/25—74 attending—\$1,659.00

2/9/25—snow—mail \$885.00

2/16/25—46 attending—\$1,825.00

2/23/25—73 attending—3,062.00

Paypal - \$225

Total \$7,656.00

### Income for February 2024

2/4/24—76 attending—\$2,235.00

2/11/24—77 attending—\$3,227.00

2/14/24—42 attending—\$176.00(Ash Wed.)

2/18/24—49 attending—\$950.00

2/25/24—69 attending—\$2,273.00

Total \$8,861.00



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!

#### UPCOMING MAY EVENTS

MAY 1—CONCERT OF PRAYER, 7PM

MAY 18—HYMN SING, 3PM

*Canto 2 Canon*

O Come, Let Us Sing Unto the Lord

1 O come, let us sing un - to the Lord, to the Lord!

2 Let us make a joy - ful noise to the Rock of our sal - va - tion.

3 Let us come be - fore His pre - sence with thanks - giv - ing.

4 And make a joy - ful noise un - to Him with psalms.

Text: Psalm 95:1,2

### ELDRED TWP CLEAN UP DAYS

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025 7AM TO 1PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025 8AM TO 12PM

FREE TO ELDRED RESIDENTS (EXCEPT TIRES, SEE BELOW)

DUMPSTERS WILL BE AVAILABLE

OLD OUTDOOR FURNITURE

LAWNMOWERS AND BICYCLES

OLD CHILDREN'S TOYS

FURNITURE

#### TIRES

CAR TIRES \$5

TRUCK TIRES \$10

LARGE TRUCK TIRES \$20

EXTRA LARGE TIRES (CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES, ETC) \$50

If you cannot put it in the regular trash, bring it for disposal

Eldred Township Municipal Building

490 Kunkletown Rd, Kunkletown, PA 18058

For more information call 610-381-4252



Come one! Come All! To St. Matthew's Birthday Bash  
Saturday, May 17 at 5 p.m. in the Social Hall  
\$5 per person



There will be a buffet dinner and a little entertainment.  
CIA will provide the meat, potatoes, desserts and drinks.

We'd love it if you'd sign up to bring the side dishes.

Please let us know if you can attend and how many.

This is open to men, women and children.

Also, please tell us what month you were born in.

You will be sitting at a table with others also born in that month.

Yes, this may be a little bit out of your comfort zone, but that's the whole idea.

This allows us to fellowship with people we may not normally have a chance to speak to!

Contact one of the following: the church office, 610-381-2442;

Linda Koehler 610-681-4617 (text 570-236-7536) or email [linhar@ptd.net](mailto:linhar@ptd.net).

Hope to see you there!

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Alexander Wunder
- 4 Diane Bonser, Kaitlyn Delbertis, Renee Rapa
- 5 Melanie Frantz, Alexander Greenzweig
- 6 Doris Krechel
- 7 Terri Meckes
- 8 Leonard Ash
- 11 Richard King, Sara Warner
- 14 Desiree Kresge, Steven Maas
- 15 Gladys Meixsell
- 19 Dennis Rundle
- 20 Larry Anewalt, Roy Bollinger
- 21 Norman Burger, Delphin George
- 22 James Borger
- 23 Marc LoMonaco
- 24 Josh Adams, Drew Meckes, Jaxson Gower
- 25 Marjorie Borger, Janet Smith
- 26 Jennifer Kratz
- 28 Stella Jean Christiansen, Tracy Smith
- 29 Mark Andrews
- 30 Diann Bittenbender, Robbin Eckhart, Megan Scimeca





CIA COOK'S CORNER  
PASTA SALAD  
STELLA JEAN CHRISTIANSEN

8 oz. pasta—medium shells  
1/2 cup basil pesto  
1/2 cup sun dried tomatoes (drain the oil) cut into bite size pieces  
1 lb. asparagus  
1/3 cup mozzarella cut in cubes  
2 tbsp olive oil  
Salt and pepper

Bake asparagus in the oven on a cookie sheet at 425 degrees for 10-12 minutes.

Coat the baked asparagus with 2tbs olive oil, salt and pepper by placing it in a plastic bag and shaking until all spears are coated. Then cut into bite size pieces.

Cook pasta according to directions and drain well.

Add all ingredients together and mix.



# April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Bethany EC Church 7pm	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 St. Matthews EC 7pm	10	11 Family Fun Night 5:30pm	12
13 Palm Sunday	14 Council 7pm	15	16 Laymen's Fellow- ship Meeting 10am  Living Hope Light- house 7pm	17 Maundy Thursday Service 7pm	18 <u>Good Friday</u> Church open for prayer 12pm— 3pm	19 Egg Hunt 1pm in the Grove
20 <u>Easter Services</u> 6am Grove 9am Sanctuary	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	May 1 Concert of Prayer 7pm		