

Sunday

July 30, 2017 10:00am

Pentecost Eight



St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

700 Pleasure Road * Lancaster, PA 17601

717-394-9607

A Service of Holy Communion
St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lancaster, PA

Pentecost Eight
JULY 30, 2017—10:00AM

PRELUDE: **JESUS PRICELESS TREASURE** Johann Cruger
 TUNE: JESU, MEINE FREUDE

(Time for silent prayer and meditation as we gather for worship.)

** Indicates please stand as you are able.*

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
 full of compassion and mercy,
 abounding in steadfast love.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Trusting God's promise of forgiveness,
 let us confess our sin against God and one another.
 Eternal God our creator,

People: ***in you we live and move and have our being.***
 Look upon us, your children,
 the work of your hands.
 Forgive us all our offenses,
 and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires.
 By your grace draw us near to you,
 our refuge and our strength;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Since we are justified by faith,
 we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
 God's love has been poured into our hearts
 through the Holy Spirit given to us.
 In the mercy of almighty God,
 Christ died for us while we still were sinners;
 and for his sake, God ✚ forgives you all your sins.

People: **Amen.**

GATHERING

GATHERING HYMN *GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY #705

***GREETING**

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: ***And also with you.***

***KYRIE** (Have mercy on us Lord...) p. 203

***HYMN OF PRAISE** (Glory be to God in heaven...) 1st verse only p. 204

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: ***Amen.***

WORD

FIRST READING: I KINGS 3:5-12

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" ¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

There is no other rock; I know not one.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: ***Thanks be to God.***

PSALM 119:129-136

Spoken in Unison

¹²⁹***Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.***

¹³⁰*When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.*
¹³¹*I open my mouth and pant
because I long for your commandments.*
¹³²*Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.*
¹³³*Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.*
¹³⁴*Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.*
¹³⁵*Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.*
¹³⁶*My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.*

SECOND READING: ROMANS 8:26-39

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: ***Thanks be to God.***

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

p. 205

People: *Alleluia! Lord and Savior:
open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us;
speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

People: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

***GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13:31-33. 44-52**

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." ³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵²And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *Be Thou My Vision*

#793

***APOSTLES' CREED**

Spoken in Unison

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,*

*was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

***PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

Between each petition the following is said:

Asst. Min.: Lord, in your mercy.

People: ***Hear our prayer.***

Pastor: Receive these our prayers, O God, and give us all we need for this day and the days to come, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: ***Amen.***

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: ***And also with you.***

MEAL

GATHERING OF GIFTS AND PREPARING OF THE TABLE

OFFERING MUSIC *More Love to Thee, O Christ*

Mark Hayes

***OFFERING RESPONSE**

WE ARE AN OFFERING

*We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering.*

*Lord, use our voices, Lord use our hands, Lord, use our lives,
they are yours: we are an offering.*

*All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be,
we give to you, we give to you.*

*We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering, we are an offering.*

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Asst. Min.: Let us pray. Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it.

We pray this through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** p. 206

Dialog & Preface

***SANCTUS** (*Holy, holy, holy...*) p. 207

***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

***ACCLAMATION** p. 207

***LORD'S PRAYER** Spoken in Unison

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.*

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Pastor: Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.

Our Lord's body let us take together.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT

Please follow the direction of the ushers as you approach the communion rail. You may take a small glass for the reception of wine, or you may drink or intinct from the common chalice. If you prefer not to partake of the Sacrament today, you may cross your arms and receive a blessing. We offer gluten-free wafers, please ask the pastor as you approach the rail.

Lamb of God...

#208

Please use this time for prayerful meditation.

***TABLE BLESSING**

Pastor: The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

People: *Amen.*

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Asst. Min.: Let us pray. Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your

grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore.

People: *Amen.*

SENDING

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor: May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

People: *Amen.*

***SENDING HYMN** *SENT FORTH BY GOD'S BLESSING* #547

***SENDING**

Asst. Min.: Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

***POSTLUDE** *LAUDES DOMINI* Robert Lind

*The Chancel flowers are presented
to the glory of God.*



We Remember in Our Prayers

*Ruth Ebersole, Sandra Hoffman, Becky Reinas, Keith Shetter,
Cindy Maurer Hall, Bill Conrad, Linda Fritz,
Robert Martin, Jo Zwally, Jim Kopp, Mildred Collins,
Paul Sheaffer and Mary Burkhardt*

Announcements & Upcoming Events



Pot Luck
Luncheon
TODAY
following
worship



Stop by for "A Bear Claw & Coffee" with
the Pastor at S. Clyde Weaver
Wednesday mornings from 9 to 11 AM.
on Lititz Pike (by CVS)



BROWN BAG & BIBLE—
Wednesday at 12 noon in
Fellowship Hall.



Mark your calendars for more
"Fun on the Lawn"
AUGUST 10 and
SEPTEMBER 14 6 TO 8 PM

Our focus for the month of August is LWR **Personal Care Kits**. Please see the display in the foyer. Your help is needed purchasing the requested items (must be new) printed on the tabs. Each bar of soap can be 3-4 oz. Please return these items during August. Monetary contributions will also be greatly appreciated. All donations can be placed in the collection baskets on the front pews. Thank you for your continued support as we try to provide hope and opportunity while reaching out to the farthest corners of the earth! Any questions, please contact Sheila Charles (471-2013).



Looking for a few minutes of R&R, or perhaps a challenge? Come on over to our **PUZZLE CORNER** in Fellowship Hall and add your expertise to our work-in-progress.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, August 1st 6 to 8 PM

at Overlook Park,

hosted by Manheim Twp. Police Dept.

Please join in with other St. Matthew members as we volunteer the evening of this important event.

See Brenda Stauffer for more information.

What can we say about
Linda Fritz and Ned Dixon?

First and foremost, we will surely and sorely miss these two long-time, faithful, service-minded members. Linda led our Congregational Council and church members through some difficult changing times and transitions. Ned served us well as our on-call, on-the-spot Property Chair.

Your journey began in California, eventually bringing you east to teach at F&M and Millersville.

As retirement glowed on the horizon, you began planning your much anticipated move to Colorado.

Then, for a while, life put a rather difficult bump and twist in your road. But with your usual strength and determination, you made it through this detour. And now it is time to pick up that journey again and head west toward that glowing Colorado horizon.

You will be missed.

Vaya con Dios.

Contact Info for Ned and Linda: linda.fritz@fandm.edu ; nedsdixon@gmail.com ; Mailing for at least the next 12 months: 10465 Mesa View Court, Poncha Springs, Colorado 81242.

The Congregation**Pastor Robin Fero**
(877-3386)**Sue Cooke-Krackow**
(823-1243)**Nancy Maurer**
(426-1888)**Brenda Stauffer**
(392-1566)*The Ministers**Pastor*
email: pastor@stmatthewelc.com*Parish Secretary*
email: info@stmatthewelc.com*Director of Music*
email: nmaurer@embarqmail.com*Council President*
email:snbdncrs@comcast.net

Church Office (394-9607)

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**Council Member in Charge:** Pat Smith**Altar Care for July:** Lunda and Ray Shaub**Greeter(s):** Sarah Jordan and Pat Smith**Usher(s):** Sam Jordan and Shep Smith**Reader:** Barb Elsen**Assisting Minister:** Bradley Charles**Counter(s):** Barb Elsen and Bradley Charles***This Week at St. Matthew*****07/30 Sunday—Pentecost 8**

10:00am Worship Service

**11:30am POT LUCK
LUNCHEON****4:00pm Moment of God
Worship***08/01 Tuesday****8:30am Bridge Buddies***6-8pm Nat'l Night Out at
Overlook Park****7:00pm Moment of God Bible
Study***08/02 Wednesday**9-11:00am Bear Claw & Coffee
with the Pastor
at S. Clyde Weaver

12noon Brown Bag & Bible

**6:30pm Manheim Twp. Demo-
cratic Committee***08/03 Thursday****7:00pm Moment of God Bible
Study***08/05 Saturday****9:00am Lydia's Closet Distribu-
tion at St. Peter's
5:00pm Worship Service***08/06 Sunday—Pentecost 9**

10:00am Worship Service

**4:00pm Moment of God
Worship***Events scheduled for outside groups that use our facility. You are
welcome to attend or sign up for all other events on the calendar.****Scripture Readings—*****August 6, 2017***Isaiah 55:1—5**Psalms 145:8—9, 14—21**Romans 9:1—5**Matthew 14:13—21*