

Easter Four
Sunday April 21, 2024



Looking for Jesus!



**St. Matthew Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

700 Pleasure Road + Lancaster, PA

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www.stmatthewelc.com



St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lancaster, PA

Easter Four

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* *Indicates please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

arr. Dale Wood

***Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Reader: Word of God; Word of Life.

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

Psalm: Psalm 23

Spoken in Unison

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I
shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort
me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my
enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of
my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Reader: Word of God; Word of Life.

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

***Gospel Acclamation**

p. 142a

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John

People: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

Gospel: John 10:11-18

[Jesus said:] ¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord
PEOPLE: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

The King of Love My Shepherd Is
(verses 1-3, 6)

ELW #502

***NICENE CREED**

Asst. Min.: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

***We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary***

*and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into
heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Between each petition the following is said:

Asst. Min.: God of grace,
People: ***Hear our prayer.***

Asst. Min.: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all
for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love;
through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.
People: ***Amen.***

SPECIAL MUSIC

Like a Shepherd Lead Us
Chancel Choir

Mary McDonald

PREPARING THE TABLE

OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One,
you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.
Amen.

***The Great Thanksgiving**

p. 144a

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: *We lift them to the Lord.*

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Sanctus**

p. 144b

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

***Eucharistic Prayer**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Spoken in Unison

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us.

***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**

The risen Christ is made known to us
in the breaking of the bread.

Come and eat at God's table.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT

***TABLE BLESSING**

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

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Shepherding God,
you have prepared a table before us
and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend.
Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always.
Amen.

***SENDING HYMN** *God Be With You Till We Meet Again*

ELW #536

***DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE *Boundless Grace*

David Paxton



***OUR GUEST
PREACHER today...***

***Welcome Pastor Emmanuel
Mchomvu from Tanzania!***

**Please stay after the worship
service, meet Pastor Emmanuel,
and hear more about the Church
in Tanzania.**

***Learning and
Loving Series***

**Anti-Racism, Diversity,
Equity and Inclusion**

****Presented by Robert C.
Wimer Jr. , MEd, MAR**

**After worship services on
May 4th and 5th
In Fellowship Hall**



**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
Statement of Welcome, Affirmation
and Full Participation**



Welcome to St Matthew, the little church
with a big heart.



We are a Reconciling in Christ (Open and
Affirming)
congregation, so when we say "all are welcome",
we really mean it.

We strive to live that out in our actions as well as our words. We
publicly and humbly commit to do what it takes to truly be a
sanctuary filled with warmth, love, understanding, safety,
respect and care for all who enter here.

*(Please see our Full Statement of Welcome, Affirmation and Full
Participation on our website: www.stmatthewelc.com. Copies of the
Full Statement are also available in the Education and
Resources Stand in the Fellowship Hall.)*



**Christ in our Home booklets (for April, May
and June) are now available.**

**These are free and for anyone to take.
Please take multiple copies and share Jesus
in your community.**



APRIL BIRTHDAYS!

**4/1 Kim Murray
4/21 Bradley Charles
4/25 Cliff Eshbach
4/25 Sadie Jordan
4/26 William Overly
4/30 Linda McIntyre**

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES!

4/15 Robert & Phyllis Wimer

The Congregation

The Ministers

Pastor Robin Fero**Church Office**

phone: 717-394-9607

Website: stmatthewelc.com

Email: info@stmatthewelc.com

Barb Elsen

Council President

Susan Feldmann

Director of Music/Choir

Phil High

Organist/Pianist

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Altar Care for April:	Barb Elsen & Carol Rothweiler
Assisting Minister:	Barb Elsen
Greeter:	Carol Rothweiler
Usher:	OPEN
Reader:	Nora Hudack
Counters:	Barb Elsen & Linda Tice

4/20 Saturday
 2:00pm Quilting Workshop
 5:00pm Worship -Tanzania

4/27 Saturday
 5:00pm Worship

4/21 Sunday
 10:00am Worship-Tanzania

4/28 Sunday
 10:00am Worship
 11:15am Evangelism Mtg

4/23 Tuesday
 Primary Election

**Events scheduled for outside groups that use our facility. You are welcome to attend or sign up for all other events on the calendar.*

4/24 Wednesday
 12:00pm Bible Study

4/25 Thursday
 5:30pm SUNNY Scouts *
 6:30pm Vocal Choir
 Rehearsal

**Scripture Readings—
April 27-28, 2024**

**Acts 8:26-40
 Psalm 22:25-31
 1 John 4:7-21
 John 15:1-8**