

**Epiphany Four**  
**Sunday February 1, 2026**



**ONLINE**  
 **GIVING**



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**St. Matthew Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**

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# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lancaster, PA

## ***Epiphany Four***

February 1, 2026

\* *Indicates please stand as you are able.*

**PRELUDE**     *Meditation*

Anthony Giamanco

### **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
the Creator of heaven and earth,  
the Word who spoke life into being,  
the Wind stirring the waters.

**Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Mighty God, lover of justice,

**you call us to life in community,  
but we have served our own interests  
at the expense of our neighbors.**

**We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.**

**We say the right words,  
but our hearts are far from you.**

**Turn us to seek your face.**

**Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,  
that we may do justice, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.**

**Amen.**

The former things have passed away,

and new things God now declares:

Like a spring of water that never fails,

God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,

and forgives your sin in ✝ Jesus' name.

May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,  
and bless you with the gift of peace.

**Amen.**

### **GATHERING**

**GATHERING HYMN**     *As We Gather at Your Table*

**ELW #522**

**\*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.*

**\*Hymn of Praise**     *Glory Be to God*     **p. 204a**

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.  
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:  
We exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;  
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:  
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.  
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom  
to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst  
for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words  
and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our  
Savior and Lord.

**People:** *Amen*

**WORD**

**First Reading: Micah 6:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> Hear what the LORD says:  
Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup> Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the LORD has a case against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup> "O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup> For I brought you up from the land of Egypt  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup> O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,

and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

- <sup>6</sup> "With what shall I come before the LORD  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?  
<sup>7</sup> Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"  
<sup>8</sup> He has told you, O mortal, what is good,  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly with your God?

Reader: Word of God; Word of Life.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 15**

*Read responsively*

- <sup>1</sup> LORD, who may dwell in your <sup>1</sup> tabernacle?  
Who may abide upon your <sup>1</sup> holy hill?  
<sup>2</sup> **Those who lead a blameless life and do <sup>1</sup> what is right,  
who speak the truth <sup>1</sup> from their heart;**  
<sup>3</sup> they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil <sup>1</sup> to  
their friends;  
they do not cast discredit up- <sup>1</sup> on a neighbor.  
<sup>4</sup> **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor  
those who <sup>1</sup> fear the LORD.  
They have sworn upon their health and do not take <sup>1</sup> back  
their word.**  
<sup>5</sup> They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they  
take bribes a- <sup>1</sup> gainst the innocent.  
Those who do these things shall never be <sup>1</sup> overthrown.

## **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

- <sup>18</sup> The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are  
perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.  
<sup>19</sup> For it is written,  
"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."  
<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the  
debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the  
world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know  
God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the

proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup> Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Reader: Word of God; Word of Life.

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

### **\*Gospel Acclamation**

**ELW #174**

**Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

**People: *Glory to you, O Lord.***

### **Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12**

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

<sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

**People: *Praise to you, O Christ.***

## **SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**    *Let Streams of Living Justice*

**ELW #710**

## **\*APOSTLES' CREED**

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

***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.: Merciful God,

**People:     *Receive our prayer.***

Asst. Min.: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

**People:     *Amen.***

## SPECIAL MUSIC VIDEO

*The Beatitudes Song*  
Mauchline and Sorn Churches, Scotland

## PREPARING THE TABLE

### OFFERING PRAYER

Spoken in Unison

God of majesty,  
no eye has seen, no ear has heard  
what you have prepared for those who love you,  
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.  
Use what we have gathered  
to feed us with the reign of God come near,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
*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

ELW #193a

*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, 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**

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table; taste and see.

**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**

Spoken in Unison

**Radiant God,  
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.  
In the sacrament of his body and blood  
you have drawn us to your heart.  
Send us from this table with delight,  
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,  
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

May the triune God,  
who has put a new song in your mouth  
and tuned your heart for praise  
✠ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**



**\*SENDING HYMN**     *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*

**ELW #551**

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**     *Arise, My Soul. Arise*

arr. Terry Osmon



**2026 Church Council Members (Left to right)**

**Seated: Barb Eshbach (Treasurer), Cliff Eshbach (President),  
Laurie LaBar (Vice-President), Kay Gontner (Secretary)**

**Standing: Roxanne Koch, Peg Sampson, Rev. Robin Fero,  
Toni Sweitzer, Barb Elsen, Andrea Farris**



**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](http://www.stmatthewelc.com). Copies of  
the Full Statement are also available in the Education  
and Resources Stand in the Fellowship Hall.)*

**Chancel Flowers Dedications for 2026**

***Several dates are available for chancel flowers.  
Flower dedications are now \$50.***



**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!**

<b>2/11</b>	<b>Eric Teichmann</b>
<b>2/21</b>	<b>Louise Lilley</b>
<b>2/22</b>	<b>Jennifer Piersol</b>
<b>2/23</b>	<b>Chloe Haldeman</b>
<b>2/24</b>	<b>Nancy Maurer</b>

**FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES!**

<b>2/4</b>	<b>James &amp; Mabel Frazier</b>
<b>2/25</b>	<b>Neely &amp; Pam Frye</b>

**The Congregation**

The Ministers

**Pastor Robin Fero**

**Church Office**

phone: 717-394-9607

Website: stmatthewelc.com

Email: info@stmatthewelc.com

**Rev. Cliff Eshbach**

Council President

**Susan Feldmann**

Director of Music/Choir

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

**Altar Care for February:**

Barb Elsen & Carol Rothweiler

**Assisting Minister:**

Barb Emmerich

**Greeter:**

Linda Tice

**Usher:**

Barb Elsen

**Reader:**

Peg Sampson

**Counters:**

Carol Rothweiler & Pam Frye

**1/31 Saturday**  
5:00pm Worship

**2/7 Saturday**  
9:30am CPR Class \*  
5:00pm Worship

**2/1 Sunday**  
10:00am Worship

**2/8 Sunday**  
10:00am Worship

**2/3 Tuesday**  
12:00pm Better Bones at  
Grandview

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

**2/4 Wednesday**  
12:00pm Bible Study  
5:00pm M.T. Democratic  
Committee \*

**Scripture Readings—  
February 7-8, 2026**

**2/5 Thursday**  
6:30pm Vocal Choir

**Isaiah 58:1-9a  
Psalm 112:1-9  
1 Corinthians 2:1-12  
Matthew 5:13-20**