

**Baptism of Our Lord**  
**Sunday January 11, 2026**



**ONLINE**  
 **GIVING**



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**St. Matthew Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**

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# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lancaster, PA

## ***Baptism of Our Lord***

January 11, 2026

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

**PRELUDE**     *Baptism*

arr. Jan Welch

### **\*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**     *Crashing Waters at Creation*

**ELW #455**

## \*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**     *Angels We Have Heard on High*  
(verse 1)

**ELW #289**

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen**

**WORD**

**First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

<sup>2</sup> He will not cry out or lift up his voice  
or make it heard in the street;

3 a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

4 He will not grow faint or be crushed  
until he has established justice in the earth,  
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

5 Thus says God, the LORD,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:

6 I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;  
I have given you as a covenant to the people,  
a light to the nations,

<sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind,

to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

<sup>8</sup> I am the LORD; that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other,  
nor my praise to idols.

<sup>9</sup> See, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth,  
I tell you of them.

Reader: Word of God; Word of Life.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 29

*Read responsively*

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glo-ry and strength.

<sup>2</sup> **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of  
glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup> **The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup> **the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup> The voice of the LORD  
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup> **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips  
the forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

<sup>10</sup> **The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup> O LORD, give strength to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

## Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43

<sup>34</sup> Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel,

preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.<sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:<sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.<sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree,<sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,<sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.<sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.<sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

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 3:13-17**

<sup>13</sup> Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

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

### **SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY** *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized*

**ELW #304**

### **\*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**

*Christ Be With Me* Julie Cameron-Hall  
Julie Cameron-Hall, vocals and fiddle;  
Nigel Cameron, whistle; Chris Smith, piano

### **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** *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

**ELW #310**

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

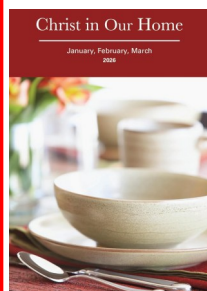
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *Recessional*

Anthony Giamanco







**Christ in our Home booklets  
(January, February, March) are now  
available in the church lobby.**

**These are free and for anyone to take.**

**Please take multiple copies and  
share Jesus in your community.**

### **COMMUNITY MEAL**

*The meals are distributed on the third Monday of each month  
at Zion Lutheran, East Petersburg. Prep work starts that  
morning at 9am at St. Matthew. Contact Barb Elsen if you  
would like to be a part of this vital ministry.*

### **At-Home Monthly Prayer List**

Marie Bernlohr, Linda Martin, Jean Schweers,  
Ray Shaub, Lunda Shaub and Jack Underkoffler

### **Weekly Prayer List**

Kaye Ames, Sarah Challenger, Don Dubs,  
James Frazier, Mabel Frazier, Ruth Graver,  
Heather Hildebrand, Tim Kauffman, Debbie LaNasa,  
Anna Neal, Bill Overly, Diane Repp,  
Buzz Rothweiler, Bob Sampson, Carolyn Sampson,  
Shelly Scheetz, Steve Schweers,  
Betty Sheaffer and Shirley Wertz

### **BETTER BONES, BETTER BALANCE**

**Dr. Tim Kauffman's class  
(Tuesdays at 12:00 PM)**

**January classes will be held at St. Matthew  
on Tuesday, January 6, 13, 20 and 27.**

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



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



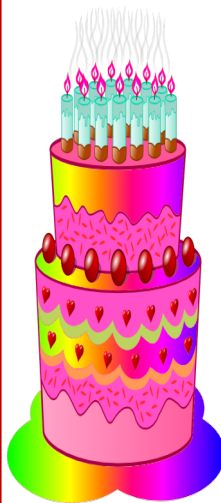
We are a Reconciling in Christ  
(Open and Affirming)  
congregation, so when we say "all are welcome",  
we really mean it.

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.***



**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!**

1/6	Shirley Wertz
1/7	Harold Nightingale
1/8	Terry Tice
1/9	Sarah Jordan
1/13	Laurie LaBar
1/13	Betty Sheaffer
1/15	Ned Longenecker
1/25	Sue Feldmann

**JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES!**

1/27	Terry & Linda Tice
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**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

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

**Altar Care for January:**

Barb Elsen & Kay Gontner

**Assisting Minister:**

Steve Feldmann

**Greeter:**

Kay Gontner

**Ushers:**

Andrea Farris & Kaye Ames

**Reader:**

Peg Sampson

**Counters:**

Brenda Stauffer & Pam Frye

**1/10 Saturday**  
5:00pm Worship

**1/17 Saturday**  
2:00pm Quilting Workshop  
5:00pm Worship

**1/11 Sunday**  
10:00am Worship

**1/18 Sunday**  
10:00am Worship  
11:15am Evangelism Mtg

**1/13 Tuesday**  
9:00am Lancaster  
Conference Mtg \*  
12:00pm Better Bones at  
St. Matthew

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

**1/14 Wednesday**  
12:00pm Bible Study  
12:30pm Head Start Mtg \*  
6:30pm RIC Committee Mtg

**Scripture Readings—  
January 17-18, 2026**

**Isaiah 49:1-7  
Psalm 40:1-11  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9  
John 1:29-42**

**1/15 Thursday**  
6:30pm Vocal Choir  
Rehearsal