

Epiphany Five
Sunday February 8, 2026



ONLINE
 **GIVING**



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**St. Matthew Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

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Lancaster, PA

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* *Indicates please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

arr. Mark Hayes

***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 *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*

ELW #553

***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**

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: *Amen*

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a

¹ Shout out; do not hold back!
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.
² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.
³ "Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.
⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today

will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

^{9a} Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

Reader: Word of God; Word of Life.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 112:1-9

Read responsively

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who I fear the LORD
and have great delight in I God's commandments!

² **Their descendants will be mighty I in the land;**
the generation of the upright I will be blessed.

³ Wealth and riches will be I in their house,
and their righteousness will I last forever.

⁴ **Light shines in the darkness I for the upright;**
the righteous are merciful and full I of compassion.

⁵ It is good for them to be gener- I ous in lending
and to manage their af- I fairs with justice.

⁶ **For they will nev- I er be shaken;**
the righteous will be kept in everlast- I ing remembrance.

⁷ They will not be afraid of any I evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting I in the LORD.

⁸ **Their heart is established and I will not shrink,**
until they see their desire up- I on their enemies.

⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness

stands ¹ fast forever;
they will hold up their ¹ head with honor.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him"—

¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

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 5:13-20

[Jesus said:] ¹³ "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the

house.¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.

19 Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

People: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

SERMON

***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

Salt of the Earth
Holy Strings Music

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**

Lord of Light
(verses 1, 3 & 4)

ELW #688

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE *The Light of the World is Jesus*

arr. Michael Cox

****A word about the photo on the front cover****

God Beams in the Woods: A Sign of Hope

In June of 1999 I saw the phenomenon of God Beams for the first time. My husband, son, and I had camped on our new mountain property in Clinton County, PA. I awoke early the next morning, and saw beautiful sunbeams streaming through the woods. I had been weary from my dear mother's life long emotional dependency on me and was trying to help her to rely more on her own inner strength. The radiant beauty of the morning seemed like a sign of hope for a better future for both of us. (*I captured the moment with a film photo; this digital photo is similar.*)

~ Phyllis Wimer

2026 Lent/ Easter Dates

February 18 - Ash Wednesday (12:00pm & 7:00pm)

March 28, 29 - Palm Weekend

April 2 - Maundy Thursday



April 3 - Good Friday

April 4 & 5 -Easter



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.

Weekly Prayer List

Sean Carter, Sarah Challenger, Don Dubs,
James & Mabel Frazier, Ruth Graver,
Heather Hildebrand, Tim Kauffman,
Debbie LaNasa, Anna Neal, Bill Overly, Diane Repp,
Buzz Rothweiler, Bob & Carolyn Sampson, Brian
Schmoyer, Addie & Ella Schmoyer, Steve Schweers,
Betty Sheaffer and Shirley Wertz

★ BETTER BONES, BETTER BALANCE ★
★ Dr. Tim Kauffman's class ★
★ (Tuesdays at 12:00 PM) ★
★ February classes will be held at Grandview ★
★ on Tuesday, February 3, 10, 17 and 24. ★

**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.)*

At-Home Monthly Prayer List

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



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!

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

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES!

2/4 James & Mabel Frazier
2/25 Neely & Pam Frye

The Congregation
The Ministers

Pastor Robin Fero

Church Office
phone: 717-394-9607
Website: stmatthewelc.com
Email: info@stmatthewelc.com

Cliff Eshbach
Council President

Susan Feldmann
Director of Music/Choir

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Altar Care for February: Barb Elsen & Carol Rothweiler

Assisting Minister: Steve Feldmann

Greeter: Nancy Smith

Usher: Barb Elsen

Reader: Linda Tice

Counters: Brad Charles & Linda Tice

2/7 Saturday
5:00pm Worship

2/14 Saturday
5:00pm Worship

2/8 Sunday
10:00am Worship

2/15 Sunday
10:00am Worship
11:15am Evangelism Mtg

2/10 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.*

2/11 Wednesday
12:00pm Bible Study

**Scripture Readings—
February 14-15, 2026**

2/12 Thursday
6:30pm Vocal Choir

**Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9**

2/13 Friday
1:30pm CPR Class *