

Lent Five
Sunday March 22, 2026



ONLINE
GIVING



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**St. Matthew Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

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St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lancaster, PA

Lent Five

March 22, 2026

* *Indicates please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE *O, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus*

arr. Mary Ann Fritz

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God,

you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of ✚ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you,
pours God's love into your hearts,
and gives you life and peace.
Amen.

GATHERING

GATHERING HYMN *You Are the Way*

ELW #758

***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**

p. 203

**Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.**

**Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may
begin.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord; make sin and shame depart.
Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, 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: Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹ The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me,

"Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know."⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD."⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.⁶ I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them.⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live."¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.'¹² Therefore prophecy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel.¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people.¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

Reader: Word of God; Word of Life.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 130

Read responsively

¹ Out ¹ of the depths

I cry to ¹ you, O LORD;

² **O LORD, ¹ hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my ¹ supplication.

³ If you were to keep watch ¹ over sins,

O LORD, ¹ who could stand?

⁴ **Yet with you ¹ is forgiveness,**

in order that you ¹ may be feared.

⁵ I wait for you, O LORD; ¹ my soul waits;

in your word ¹ is my hope.

⁶ **My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep**

**watch¹ for the morning,
more than those who keep watch¹ for the morning.**
⁷ O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is¹
steadfast love;
with the LORD there is plen-¹teous redemption.
⁸ **For the LORD shall¹ redeem Israel
from¹ all their sins.**

Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11

⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Reader: Word of God; Word of Life.

People: *Thanks be to God*

***Gospel Acclamation**

p. 205b

***We are turning, Lord, to hear you;
you are merciful and kind
Slow to anger, rich in blessing,
and with love to us inclined.***

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John

People: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

Gospel: John 11:1-45

See insert

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

People: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

SERMON

Seminarian Deklan Lewis

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*
(verses 1-4 & 6) **ELW #886**

***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.: Hear us, O God,
People: ***Your mercy is great.***

Asst. Min.: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our
strength and salvation.
People: ***Amen.***

***HYMN RESPONSE** *O Lord, Hear My Prayer*
(please sing twice) **ELW #751**

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,
When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.

SPECIAL MUSIC VIDEO

O Love that Will Not Let Me Go Albert Peace
Catherine Hessler, soloist; Katie Freeze, piano

PREPARING THE TABLE

OFFERING PRAYER Spoken in Unison

**O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
*Amen.***

***The Great Thanksgiving p. 206**

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. 207a**

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. 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**

Come to the table.
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.
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

**God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always.
Amen.

***SENDING HYMN** *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*

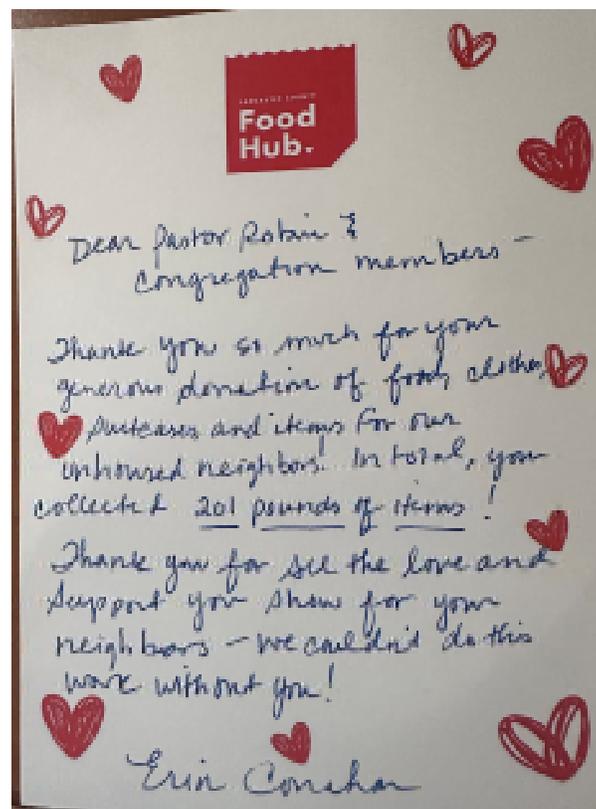
ELW #712

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Believe the good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Consolation*

James Michael Stevens



2026 Lent/ Easter Dates

March 28, 29 - Palm Weekend

April 2 - Maundy Thursday, 12 Noon

April 3 - Good Friday, 12 Noon & 7

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

Kaye Ames, 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,
Anna Stager and Shirley Wertz

Community Businesses Giving Back

When you eat at Park City Diner or Knight and Day Diner, simply mention St. Matthew at checkout. A percentage of your bill will be donated to our church, and we receive quarterly checks through their community program.

Enjoy a meal, support a local business, and bless our church — all at no extra cost to you!



**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.)*



**Lenten devotional booklets
for 2026 are now available in the
church lobby.**

These are free and for anyone to take.

**This booklet finishes on Easter Sunday, but
can be started/finished at any time.**



MARCH BIRTHDAYS!

3/9	Barb Emmerich
3/10	Sammy Sweitzer
3/14	Buzz Rothweiler
3/14	Pat Smith
3/17	Ray Shaub
3/25	Sandy Tucker
3/27	Sarah Teichmann
3/30	Judith Miller

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

Ann Hossler

Organist/Pianist

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Altar Care for March:

Barb Elsen & Linda Tice

Assisting Minister:

Barb Elsen

Greeter:

Carol Rothweiler

Ushers:

Andrea Farris & Kaye Ames

Reader:

Peg Sampson

Counters:

Brad Charles & Sandy Tucker

3/21 Saturday

9:30am CPR Class *

2:00pm Quilting Workshop

5:00pm Worship

3/27 Friday

1:30pm CPR Class *

3/28 Saturday

5:00pm Worship

3/22 Sunday

10:00am Worship

3/29 Sunday

10:00am Worship

3/23 Monday

6:30pm Grandview Heights
CAN *

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

3/25 Wednesday

12:00pm Bible Study

5:30pm Optimist Club

Contest *

**Scripture Readings—
March 28-29, 2026**

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:14—27:66

3/26 Thursday

6:00pm Bell Choir

7:00pm Vocal Choir