

Easter Sunday
Sunday April 5, 2026



ONLINE
GIVING



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**St. Matthew Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

700 Pleasure Road + Lancaster, PA

717-394-9607

www.stmatthewelc.com



people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.⁴² 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.⁴³ 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.*

Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Read responsively

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God’s mercy endures forever.

² **Let Israel now declare,
“God’s mercy endures forever.”**

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵ **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of
the righteous:**

“The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!

¹⁶ The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!”

¹⁷ **I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.**

¹⁸ The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹ **Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰ “This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter.”

²¹ **I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.**

²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ **By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

¹ If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in

God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

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. Matthew

People: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

¹ After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

People: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC

For the Beauty of the Earth
Bell Choir

arr. Carol Mizell

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing
(verses 1-3 & 5) **ELW #389**

***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.: Merciful God,
People: *Receive our prayer.*

Asst. Min.: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers
to proclaim the good news of new life to all the
world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
People: *Amen.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

Star of the Morning
Chancel Choir; Ann Hossler, piano

arr. Jay Rouse

PREPARING THE TABLE

OFFERING PRAYER

Spoken in Unison

**Merciful God,
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day
when we will hunger and thirst no more.
Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,
that goodness and mercy may follow us
and bless the world you love.
In the name of Jesus,
*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**

Come to the table of new life.
Receive the risen Lord.

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

**Holy One,
through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies,
and to bring your healing to the nations.
In the name of Jesus,
Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***SENDING HYMN** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!*
ELW #385

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* arr. Robert D. Vandall
Ann Hossler and Susan Feldmann, piano

Bell Choir

Barb Eshbach, Pastor Cliff Eshbach, Steve Feldmann,
Susan Feldmann, Nora Hudack, Nancy Pokopec,
Mark Smith, Sam Sweitzer

Chancel Choir

Barb Elsen, Barb Eshbach, Pastor Cliff Eshbach,
Steve Feldmann, Susan Feldmann, Pastor Robin Fero,
Kay Gontner, Nora Hudack, Linda McIntyre, Peg Sampson

Accompanied by Ann Hossler



**Christ in our Home booklets
(April, May, June) 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.**

At-Home Monthly Prayer List

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

Weekly Prayer List

Kaye Ames, Sean Carter, Sarah Challenger,
Don Dubs, James & Mabel Frazier, Ruth Graver,
Patrick Herr, Heather Hildebrand, Tim Kauffman,
Debbie LaNasa, Joan Matternas & Abbey, Anna Neal,
Bill Overly, Diane Repp, Buzz Rothweiler,
Bob & Carolyn Sampson, Steve Schweers,
Betty Sheaffer, Anna Stager,
Angie Wendler 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.)*

Chancel Flowers Dedications for 2026

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



APRIL BIRTHDAYS!

4/1 Kim Murray
4/16 Nick Boehm
4/21 Bradley Charles
4/25 Cliff Eshbach
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

Cliff Eshbach
Council President

Susan Feldmann
Director of Music/Choir

Ann Hossler
Organist/Pianist

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Altar Care for April:	Barb Elsen & Carol Rothweiler
Assisting Minister:	Linda McIntyre
Greeter:	Laurie LaBar
Usher:	Barb Elsen
Reader:	Linda McIntyre
Counters:	Brad Charles & Linda Tice

4/4 Saturday
10:00am Bell Choir
11:00am Vocal Choir
5:00pm Easter Vigil Worship

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

4/5 Sunday
10:00am Easter Worship

4/8 Wednesday
12:00pm Bible Study
6:30pm RIC Committee Mtg

4/11 Saturday
9:30am CPR Class *
5:00pm Worship

4/12 Sunday
10:00am Worship

Scripture Readings—
April 11-12, 2026

Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31