

**Easter Two**  
**Sunday April 12, 2026**



**ONLINE**  
GIVING



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**St. Matthew Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**

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# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lancaster, PA

## ***Easter Two***

April 12, 2026

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

**PRELUDE**    *Easter Blossoms Forth*

Colin Curtis

### **\*Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne  
and to the Lamb!

**Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,  
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.  
You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness

who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,  
and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**



<sup>29</sup>“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup> Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup> Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

<sup>32</sup>“This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

Reader: Word of God; Word of Life.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm: Psalm 16**

*Read responsively*

<sup>1</sup> Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;  
I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good above  
all other.”

<sup>2</sup> **All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,  
upon those who are noble among the people.**

<sup>3</sup> But those who run after other gods  
shall have their troubles multiplied.

<sup>4</sup> **I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,  
never take their names up on my lips.**

<sup>5</sup> O LORD, you are my portion and my cup;  
it is you who uphold my lot.

<sup>6</sup> **My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;  
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

<sup>7</sup> I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel;  
my heart teaches me night after night.

<sup>8</sup> **I have set the LORD always before me;  
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

<sup>9</sup> My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;  
my body also shall rest in hope.

<sup>10</sup> **For you will not abandon me to the grave,  
nor let your holy one see the pit.**

<sup>11</sup> You will show me the path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right  
hand are pleasures forevermore.

### **Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who are being protected by the power of God

through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup> Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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. John

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

**Gospel: John 20:19-31**

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

<sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

<sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who

have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord  
**People: *Praise to you, O Christ.***

## SERMON

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**      *We Walk by Faith*

**ELW #635**

**RECONCILING IN CHRIST TALK**  
Roxanne Koch

## \*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 VIDEO

*An Easter Hallelujah* Leonard Cohen  
Cassandra Star and Callahan Star, vocals  
Jeff Buckley, piano

## 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**     *Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!*

**ELW #380**

**\*DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE**     *He is Lord*

arr. Janet Vogt





**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.**



***Today's flowers are given by  
Pamela Frye in memory of  
Olivia Miller***

### **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](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.***



**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:**

Barb Emmerich

**Greeter:**

Toni Sweitzer

**Usher:**

Pat Smith

**Reader:**

Roxanne Koch

**Counters:**

Pam Frye & Brenda Stauffer

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

**4/18 Saturday**  
2:00pm Quilting Workshop  
5:00pm Worship

**4/12 Sunday**  
10:00am Worship

**4/19 Sunday**  
10:00am Worship  
11:15am Evangelism Mtg

**4/15 Wednesday**  
12:00pm Bible Study

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

**4/16 Wednesday**  
6:30pm Vocal Choir Reh

**4/17 Friday**  
1:30pm CPR Class \*

**Scripture Readings—**  
**April 18-19, 2026**

**Acts 2:14a, 36-41**  
**Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19**  
**1 Peter 1:17-23**  
**Luke 24:13-35**