

Easter Four
Sunday April 26, 2026



ONLINE
 **GIVING**



bit.ly/GiveStMatthew



**St. Matthew Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

700 Pleasure Road + Lancaster, PA

717-394-9607

www.stmatthewelc.com



St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lancaster, PA

Easter Four

April 26, 2026

* *Indicates please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE *Shepherd*

Gilbert Martin

***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.

Psalm: Psalm 23

Read responsively

- ¹ The LORD ¹ is my shepherd;
I shall not ¹ be in want.
- ² **The LORD makes me lie down ¹ in green pastures
and leads me be- ¹ side still waters.**
- ³ You restore my ¹ soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways ¹ for your name's sake.
- ⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall ¹ fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they ¹
comfort me. R**
- ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence ¹ of my
enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is ¹ running over.
- ⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days ¹
of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the ¹ LORD forever.**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹ It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² "He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian 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 10:1-10

[Jesus said:] ¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

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

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *My Shepherd, You Supply My Need*
ELW #782

***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

The King of Love My Shepherd Is arr. Robert Leaf
Chancel Choir; Ann Hossler, organ

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** *Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing*

ELW #544

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE *Psalm 23*

Howard Goodall

AROUND THE CORNER

CONVERSATION

Tales from the Beeyard

Lori Stahl
Cornell University
Certified Master Beekeeper

TUESDAY
MAY 5, 2026
6:30-7:30 p.m.

FREE & OPEN TO ALL

 **ST. MATTHEW**
LUTHERAN CHURCH

700 Pleasure Rd.
Lancaster, PA 17601
717-394-9607
stmatthewelc.com





**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.**

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, Patrick Herr, Heather Hildebrand,
Debbie LaNasa, Joan Matternas & Abbey,
Diane Repp, Bob & Carolyn Sampson,
Betty Sheaffer, Anna Stager,
Angie Wendler, Shirley Wertz and Bob Wimer

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.)*



***Today's flowers are presented to
the Glory of God.***



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 Elsen

Greeter:

OPEN

Usher:

OPEN

Reader:

Linda Tice

Counters:

Linda Tice & Brad Charles

4/25 Saturday
5:00pm Worship

5/2 Saturday
5:00pm Worship

4/26 Sunday
10:00am Worship

5/3 Sunday
10:00am Worship

4/27 Monday
5:30pm CPR Class *

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

4/29 Wednesday
12:00pm Bible Study

**Scripture Readings—
May 2-3, 2026**

4/30 Thursday
6:30pm Vocal Choir Reh

**Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16**

5/1 Friday
10:30am CPR Class *

**1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14**