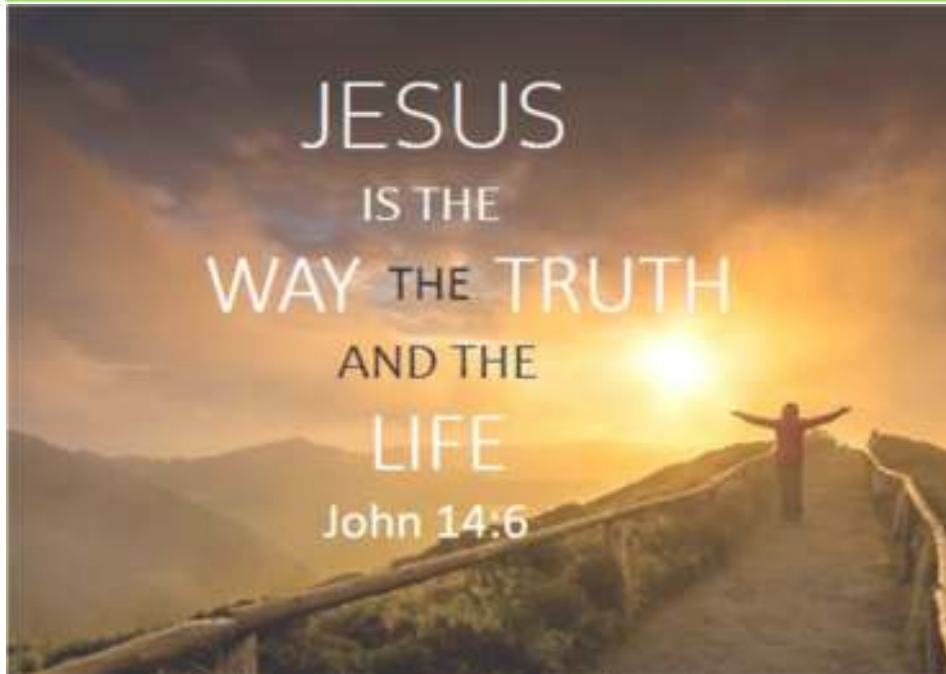


**Easter Five**  
**Sunday May 3, 2026**



**ONLINE**  
 **GIVING**



[bit.ly/GiveStMatthew](https://bit.ly/GiveStMatthew)



**St. Matthew Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**

700 Pleasure Road + Lancaster, PA

717-394-9607

[www.stmatthewelc.com](http://www.stmatthewelc.com)



# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lancaster, PA

## ***Easter Five***

May 3, 2026

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

**PRELUDE**    *My Eternal Desire*

Matt Schinske

### **\*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.**

## **GATHERING**

**\*GATHERING HYMN**    *How Firm a Foundation*

**ELW #796**

### **\*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.138**

**\*Hymn of Praise**            This is the Feast.....    **p. 140**

### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:**    *Amen*

## **WORD**

### **First Reading: Acts 7:55-60**

<sup>55</sup> Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

<sup>56</sup> "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" <sup>57</sup> But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup> Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

<sup>59</sup> While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup> Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Reader: Word of God; Word of Life.

**People:**    *Thanks be to God.*

**Psalm: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16**

*Read responsively*

- <sup>1</sup> In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;  
deliver me in your righteousness.
- <sup>2</sup> **Incline your ear to me;  
make haste to deliver me.**
- <sup>3</sup> Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold;  
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.
- <sup>4</sup> **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,  
for you are my tower of strength.**
- <sup>5</sup> Into your hands I commend my spirit,  
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.
- <sup>15</sup> **My times are in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**
- <sup>16</sup> Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love."

**Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

- <sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation <sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.
- <sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup> like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- <sup>6</sup> For it stands in scripture:  
"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."
- <sup>7</sup> This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,  
"The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,"
- <sup>8</sup> and  
"A stone that makes them stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall."  
They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.
- <sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
- <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;

once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

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 14:1-14**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup> "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to the place where I am going." <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." <sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father?' <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

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

**SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**     *You Are the Way*

**ELW #758**

**\*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**

*Cornerstone*  
Susquehanna Chorale

Shawn Kirchner

## **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**    *Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing*

**ELW #389**

**\*DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE**    *How Firm a Foundation*

arr. Kenon D. Renfrow

**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

### **At-Home Monthly Prayer List**

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



***Today's flowers are given by  
Bradley & Sheila Charles in  
memory of loved ones.***

### **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](http://www.stmatthewelc.com). Copies of  
the Full Statement are also available in the Education  
and Resources Stand in the Fellowship Hall.)*



**MAY BIRTHDAYS!**

**5/4 Nancy Smith**  
**5/5 Bob Wimer**  
**5/9 Mimi Ruth**  
**5/19 Lunda Shaub**  
**5/22 Cynthia Longenecker**  
**5/24 Linda Tice**  
**5/24 Mark Smith**

**MAY ANNIVERSARIES!**

**5/2 Brad & Sheila Charles**  
**5/17 Paul & Donna Kilgore**  
**5/19 Erik & Sarah Teichmann**  
**5/28 Steve & Sue Feldmann**

**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 May:**

Linda Tice & Barb Elsen

**Assisting Minister:**

Linda McIntyre

**Greeter:**

OPEN

**Usher:**

OPEN

**Reader:**

Linda McIntyre

**Counters:**

Carol Rothweiler & Pam Frye

**5/2 Saturday**  
5:00pm Worship

**5/10 Sunday**  
10:00am Worship

**5/3 Sunday**  
10:00am 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.*

**5/5 Tuesday**  
6:30pm Conversation  
Around the Corner  
\*\*Beekeeping\*\*

**5/6 Wednesday**  
12:00pm Bible Study  
6:30pm M.T. Democratic  
Committee \*

**Scripture Readings—  
May 9-10, 2026**

**Acts 17:22-31  
Psalm 66:8-20  
1 Peter 3:13-22  
John 14:15-21**

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