

Easter Seven
Sunday May 17, 2026



ONLINE
 **GIVING**



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**St. Matthew Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

700 Pleasure Road + Lancaster, PA

717-394-9607

www.stmatthewelc.com



St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lancaster, PA

Easter Seven

May 17, 2026

* *Indicates please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE *On Our Way Home*

David Lanz

***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.

were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Reader: Word of God; Word of Life.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 *Read responsively*

- ¹ Let God arise, and let God's ene-¹ mies be scattered;
let those who ¹ hate God flee.
- ² **As smoke is driven away, so you should drive ¹ them away;
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish
at the pres-¹ ence of God.**
- ³ But let the righteous be glad and rejoice ¹ before God;
let them also be mer-¹ ry and joyful.
- ⁴ **Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one
who ¹ rides the clouds;
I AM is that name, rejoice ¹ before God!**
- ⁵ In your holy habita-¹ tion, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defend-¹ er of widows;
- ⁶ **you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners ¹
into freedom;
but the rebels shall live in ¹ desert places.**
- ⁷ O God, when you went forth be-¹ fore your people,
when you marched ¹ through the wilderness,
- ⁸ **the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at
the presence of God, the ¹ God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the ¹ God of Israel.**
- ⁹ You sent a bountiful ¹ rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance ¹ when it languished.
- ¹⁰ **Your people found their ¹ home in it;
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision ¹
for the poor.**
- ³² Sing to God, O kingdoms ¹ of the earth;
sing praises ¹ to the Lord.
- ³³ **You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ¹ ancient heavens;
you send forth your voice, your ¹ mighty voice.**
- ³⁴ Ascribe pow-¹ er to God,
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is ¹ in the skies.
- ³⁵ **How wonderful you are in your holy places, O ¹ God of
Israel,
giving strength and power to your people! ¹ Blessed be
God!**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6} Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

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 17:1-11

¹ After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I

have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

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

SERMON

Rev. Cliff Eshbach

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
(verses 1-3)

ELW #392

RECONCILING IN CHRIST TALK

Phyllis Wimer

*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

Prayer for Unity (from the Baha'i Writings) Ray Maloney
Sarah Maloney, soloist

O my God! O my God! Unite the hearts of Thy servants,
And reveal to them Thy great purpose.
May they follow Thy commands and abide in Thy law.
Help them, O God, in their endeavor,
And grant them strength to serve Thee.
O God! Leave them not to themselves,
But guide their steps by the light of Thy knowledge,
And cheer their hearts by Thy love.
Verily, Thou art their Helper and their Lord.

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** *Bind Us Together*

WOV #748

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE *Standing on the Promises*

arr. Bernadine Johnson



*Today's flowers are given by
Sam Sweitzer in honor of
birthday celebrations for
Dad & Mom*

Weekly Prayer List

Brenda Artz, Sean Carter, Sarah Challenger,
Don Dubs, James and Mabel Frazier,
Patrick Herr, Heather Hildebrand,
Debbie LaNasa, Joan Matternas & Abbey,
Diane Repp, Bob & Carolyn Sampson,
Betty Sheaffer, Angie Wendler,
Shirley Wertz and Bob Wimer

**ELEPHANTS
UP CLOSE**

Rosanne Sietins
ELEPHANT SANCTUARY AMBASSADOR

Tuesday, June 9
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

AROUND THE CORNER
ST. MATTHEW
LUTHERAN CHURCH
700 Florence Rd.
Lancaster, PA 17601
717-394-9607

Free and open to everyone!

**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.)*



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:

Steve Feldmann

Greeter:

Nancy Smith

Usher:

Pat Smith

Reader:

Linda Tice

Counters:

Sandy Tucker & Linda Tice

5/16 Saturday
2:00pm Quilting Workshop
5:00pm Worship

5/23 Saturday
5:00pm Pentecost Worship

5/17 Sunday
10:00am Worship
11:15am Evangelism Mtg

5/24 Sunday
10:00am Pentecost 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*

5/18 Monday
9:00am Community Meal

5/19 Tuesday
PRIMARY ELECTION

Scripture Readings—
May 23-24, 2026

5/21 Thursday
6:30pm Vocal Choir

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
John 20:19-23