

Pentecost Seven
Sunday July 12, 2026



ONLINE
 **GIVING**



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**St. Matthew Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

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St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lancaster, PA

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* *Indicates please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE *For the Fruit of All Creation*

arr. Zach Unke

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me,

all you who are weary

and are carrying heavy burdens,

and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,

Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit,

your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love.

Amen.

GATHERING

***GATHERING HYMN** *God of the Fertile Fields*

ACS #1063

***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**

Glory to God...

p. 139

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your
word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according
to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord.

People: *Amen*

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Reader: Word of God; Word of Life.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm: Psalm 65:9-13

Read responsively

- ⁹You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is ¹ full of water.
You prepare the grain, for so you provide ¹ for the earth.
- ¹⁰**You drench the furrows and smooth ¹ out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and ¹ bless its increase.**
- ¹¹You crown the year ¹ with your goodness, and your paths over- ¹ flow with plenty.
- ¹²**May the fields of the wilderness be ¹ rich for grazing, and the hills be ¹ clothed with joy.**
- ¹³May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak them- ¹ selves with grain; let them shout for ¹ joy and sing.

Second Reading: Romans 8:1-11

¹Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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 13:1-9, 18-23

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.

² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"

¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

People: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil*

ELW #512

***APOSTLES' CREED**

Asst. Min.: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Between each petition the following is said:

Asst. Min.: God of grace,

People: ***Hear our prayer.***

Asst. Min.: Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

People: ***Amen.***

SPECIAL MUSIC VIDEO

All Good Gifts, from Godspell Stephen Schwartz
Lisa Gordon, soloist; Frederick Golz, piano

PREPARING THE TABLE

OFFERING PRAYER

Spoken in Unison

Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
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**

Heaven has come near.
Come, share in the feast!

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

**Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
*Amen.***

***BENEDICTION**

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.

Amen.

***SENDING HYMN** *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

ELW #547

***DISMISSAL**

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Let All Creation Sing*

Janet Vogt

Upcoming Events—July 2026

Grandview Neighborhood Yard Sale Help Wanted!

Saturday, July 18, 2026

We need volunteers at 6:00am to help set up the Welcome Booth, signs, a pet water station and chairs in the Fellowship Hall. In addition, we need volunteers until 1:00pm to work at the Welcome Booth and Fellowship Hall. Please consider signing up! Detailed instructions will be provided to you after you sign up.

We open our doors to the neighborhood for cool air, restrooms, and the opportunity to relax during a busy day. Free Freeze Pops, stickers, and books are available and food trucks will be parked by the church!

Exciting News!

Local band *Red Sky Morning* will be giving a free concert on the lawn of St. Matthew during the annual Grandview Yard Sale! The concert will take place on July 18 from 10:00am—noon.



Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy the show! Refreshments will be available from nearby food trucks.

Liz Fulmer Concert



Local favorite and Grandview Church associate pastor Liz Fulmer will be the headline performer at a concert on St. Matthew's lawn on Tuesday July 28 at 7:00pm.

The concert is being organized by Embrace, the Lancaster area group of faith communities that are open and affirming.

Food trucks will be at the curb.

**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 given by
Barb Elsen in thanksgiving
of our nation's 250th birthday***



JULY BIRTHDAYS!

**7/3 Peg Sampson
7/15 Donna Kilgore
7/21 Jeff Auer
7/24 Kay Gontner**

JULY ANNIVERSARIES!

7/1 Matthew & Susan Kolb

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 July:

Linda Tice & Barb Elsen

Assisting Minister:

Barb Elsen

Greeter:

Kay Gontner

Ushers:

Andrea Farris & Kaye Ames

Reader:

Barb Elsen

Counters:

Linda Tice & Sandy Tucker

7/11 Saturday
9:30am CPR Class *
5:00pm Worship

7/19 Sunday
10:00am Worship
11:15am Evangelism Mtg

7/12 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*

7/15 Wednesday
12:00pm Lunch at the Shack

7/17 Friday
2:30pm CPR Class *

7/18 Saturday
6:00am Grandview Yard Sale
5:00pm Worship

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

**Isaiah 44:6-8
Psalm 86:11-17
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**