

Pentecost Nine
Sunday July 26, 2026



ONLINE
 **GIVING**



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**St. Matthew Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

700 Pleasure Road + Lancaster, PA

717-394-9607

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St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lancaster, PA

Pentecost Nine

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* *Indicates please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE *Heaven Is My Throne*

Dennis Eliot

***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** *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*
(verses 1-4)

ELW #533

***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**

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of
your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By
your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that
comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: *Amen*

WORD

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and
God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You
have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father
David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteous-
ness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for
him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on
his throne today. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your
servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little
child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is
in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people
so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your
servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people,
able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this
great people of yours?"

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to
him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself
long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for
yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do
according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning
mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you
shall arise after you."

Reader: Word of God; Word of Life.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 119:129-136

Read responsively

¹²⁹ Your de- | crees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with | all my heart.
¹³⁰ **When your word is opened | it gives light;
it gives understanding | to the simple.**
¹³¹ I open my | mouth and pant
because I long for | your commandments.
¹³² **Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,
as you always do to those who | love your name.**
¹³³ Order my footsteps | in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion | over me.
¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those | who oppress me,
and I will keep | your commandments.**
¹³⁵ Let your face shine up- | on your servant
and teach | me your statutes.
¹³⁶ **My eyes shed | streams of tears,
because people do not | keep your teaching.**

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,
"For your sake we are being killed all day long;

we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”
³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 13:31-33,44-52

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *God of Grace and God of Glory*
ELW #705

***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

Nothing, God (Can Ever Separate Us)
David MacGregor, soloist

David MacGregor

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** *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*
ELW #771

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE *Your Throne Shall Never Pass Away*
Clement Cotterill Scholefield



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.

Weekly Prayer List

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

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Christ in our Home booklets (July, August, September) 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.



WEDNESDAY AT THE SHACK IS BACK!

We will meet for lunch at The Shack one more time this summer at noon on August 19.

**The Shack Restaurant & Mini Golf,
662 S Oak St, Manheim**

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.

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**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
Statement of Welcome, Affirmation
and Full Participation**



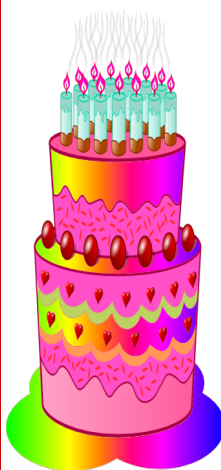
Welcome to St Matthew, the little church
with a big heart.
We are a Reconciling in Christ
(Open and Affirming)
congregation, so when we say "all are welcome",
we really mean it.



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
Andrea Farris and Kaye Ames
to the Glory of God***



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
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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:

Steve Feldmann

Greeters:

Mark & Fiona Smith

Ushers:

Andrea Farris & Kaye Ames

Reader:

Erin Conahan

Counters:

Brenda Stauffer & Linda Tice

7/25 Saturday

9:30am CPR Class *

5:00pm Worship

8/2 Sunday

10:00am Worship

7/26 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*

7/28 Tuesday

7:00pm Concert on the
Lawn—Liz Fulmer

7/31 Friday

11:30am CPR Class *

2:30pm CPR Class *

8/1 Saturday

5:00pm Worship

**Scripture Readings—
August 1-2, 2026**

Isaiah 55:1-5

Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21