

Pentecost Six
Sunday July 5, 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 *America the Beautiful*

arr. Doug Hammer

***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** *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

ELW #608

***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**

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us
for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant
that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you,
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: *Amen*

WORD

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Reader: Word of God; Word of Life.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm: Psalm 145:8-14

Read responsively

- ⁸ The LORD is gracious and full ¹ of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in ¹ steadfast love.
- ⁹ **LORD, you are ¹ good to all,
and your compassion is over ¹ all your works.**
- ¹⁰ All your works shall praise ¹ you, O LORD,
and your faithful ¹ ones shall bless you.
- ¹¹ **They shall tell of the glory ¹ of your kingdom
and speak ¹ of your power,**
- ¹² that all people may know ¹ of your power
and the glorious splendor ¹ of your kingdom.
- ¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion
endures through- ¹ out all ages.
You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in ¹
all your works.**
- ¹⁴ The Lord upholds all ¹ those who fall
and lifts up those who ¹ are bowed down.

Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a} Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ 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 11:16-19, 25-30

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸“For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

People: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *In This Time of Great Reflection*

See Insert

***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, CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

ELW #888

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** *This Is My Song*

ELW #887

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE *Lift High the Cross*

arr. Faye López

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.)*

Chancel Flowers Dedications for 2026

***Several dates are available for chancel flowers.
Flower dedications are now \$50.***



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:

Steve Feldmann

Greeters:

Andrea Farris & Kaye Ames

Usher:

Barb Elsen

Reader:

Steve Feldmann

Counters:

Brad Charles & Brenda Stauffer

7/4 Saturday

5:00pm Worship

7/5 Sunday

10:00am Worship

7/11 Saturday

9:30am CPR Class *

5:00pm Worship

7/12 Sunday

10:00am Worship

***Scripture Readings—
July 11-12, 2026***

Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalm 65:9-13

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

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