

Pentecost Thirteen
Sunday August 23, 2026



ONLINE
 **GIVING**



bit.ly/GiveStMatthew



**St. Matthew Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

700 Pleasure Road + Lancaster, PA

717-394-9607

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St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lancaster, PA

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* *Indicates please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE *Built on a Rock*

arr. Anthony Giamanco

***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**

The Church's One Foundation
(verses 1, 2, 4, 5)

ELW #654

***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**

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you,
the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the
body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: *Amen*

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³ For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴ Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;

the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.
⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

Reader: Word of God; Word of Life.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 138 *Read responsively*

- ¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with ¹ my whole heart;
before the gods I will ¹ sing your praise.
² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your
name, because of your steadfast ¹ love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word a- ¹bove
all things.**
³ When I called, you ¹ answered me;
you increased my ¹ strength within me.
⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise ¹ you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words ¹ of your mouth.**
⁵ They will sing of the ways ¹ of the LORD,
that great is the glory ¹ of the LORD.
⁶ **The LORD is high, yet cares ¹ for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty ¹ from afar.**
⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you ¹ keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right ¹ hand shall save me.
⁸ **You will make good your pur- ¹pose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not
abandon the works ¹ of your hands.**

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-8

- ¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of
God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and
acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do
not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing
of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what
is good and acceptable and perfect.
³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not
to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to

think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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 16:13-20

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

People: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*
ELW #596

***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.: Merciful God,

People: ***Receive our prayer.***

Asst. Min.: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have
promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: ***Amen.***

SPECIAL MUSIC VIDEO

Hold On to the Rock
Feldmann Family; John Feldmann, soloist

Pepper Choplin

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** *O Savior, Precious Savior*

ELW #820

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE *The Solid Rock*

arr. Jason W. Krug

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!



Exciting News!

Our next Concert on the Lawn
will spotlight local band
Red Sky Morning and has been
scheduled for August 27 at 6:30pm.

This is a free concert taking place on
St. Matthew's lawn. Bring your lawn chairs
or blankets and enjoy the show!



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, Alban Tippins,
Angie Wendler, Shirley Wertz and Bob Wimer

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.



**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.**

***Today's flowers are given by
Barb Elsen in loving memory
of Earl Elsen***



Chancel Flowers Dedications for 2026

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

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



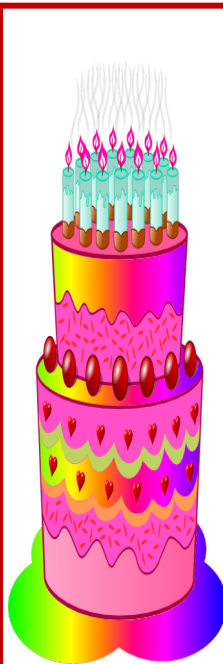
Welcome to St Matthew, the little church
with a big heart.



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.)*



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS!

8/7	Erin Conahan
8/10	Ann Hossler
8/12	Matthew Kolb
8/15	Linda Martin
8/15	Noah Haldeman
8/20	James Nolt
8/20	Toni Sweitzer
8/20	Paul Kilgore
8/23	Marie Bernlohr
8/30	Jodi McIntyre

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES!

8/1	Barb Emmerich & Jennifer Piersol
8/8	Mark Smith & Erin Conahan

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 August:

Kay Gontner & Barb Elsen

Assisting Minister:

Steve Feldmann

Greeter:

Roxanne Koch

Usher:

Barb Elsen

Reader:

Steve Feldmann

Counters:

Brenda Stauffer & Carol Rothweiler

8/22 Saturday

5:00pm Worship

8/23 Sunday

10:00am Worship

8/27 Thursday

6:30pm Concert on the
Lawn—Red Sky
Morning

8/29 Saturday

5:00pm Worship

8/30 Sunday

10:00am Worship

***Scripture Readings—
August 29-30, 2026***

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Psalms 26:1-8

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

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