

Pentecost Sixteen
Sunday September 13, 2026



ONLINE
 **GIVING**



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**St. Matthew Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

700 Pleasure Road + Lancaster, PA

717-394-9607

www.stmatthewelc.com



Lancaster, PA

Pentecost Sixteen

September 13, 2026

* Indicates please stand as you are able.

PRELUDE *Lead Me, Lord*

arr. Robert W. Thygerson

*Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Compassionate God,

**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

Renew us to live as your holy people,

following the way of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through **✝** Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

GATHERING

***GATHERING HYMN** *All Creatures, Worship God Most High!*
(verses 1, 4 & 6) **ELW #835**

***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 Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: *Amen*

WORD

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Reader: Word of God; Word of Life.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm: Psalm 103:8-13

Read responsively

- ⁸ **LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;**
⁹ you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.
¹⁰ **You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.**
¹¹ For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.
¹² **As far as the east is | from the west,
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.**
¹³ As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD.

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

- ¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.
⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.
⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves.
⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.
¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,
"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."
¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

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 18:21-35

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?"

²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

People: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *Our Father, We Have Wandered*

ELW #606

***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.: Hear us, O God,
People: ***Your mercy is great.***

Asst. Min.: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have for
gotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we
need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

People: ***Amen.***

SPECIAL MUSIC VIDEO

I Come With Joy
Olivet Handbell Ensemble

arr. Jason Krug

PREPARING THE TABLE

OFFERING PRAYER

Spoken in Unison

**God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;**

make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.
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**

Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!
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

**Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.
Amen.

The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.
Amen.

The God of grace
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

ELW #543

***DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Redemption*

Bethany K. Smith



StewardSix

Kick-off Dinner Church and Ingathering
Saturday, September 26
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

There will be worship, dinner, the blessing of the quilts,
and a brief program explaining the Steward Six initiative.
Those in attendance will receive their Steward Six booklet.
If you can't join us, don't worry—we'll make sure
you receive your booklet.

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

**September classes will be held at St. Matthew
on Tuesday, September 15, 22, and 29.**

***Today's flowers are given by
Kay Gontner in honor of
Manheim Township's Class of 1956
70th Year Reunion***



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.



Support St. Matthew
Just by going out to eat!

PARK CITY *and*
KNIGHT AND DAY

DINER

OPEN 24 HOURS

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



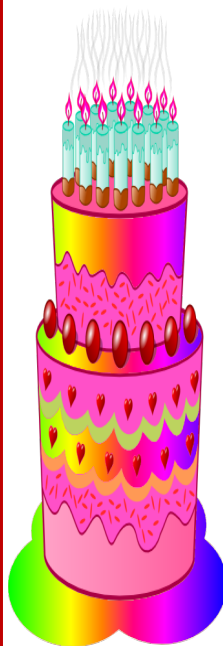
Welcome to St Matthew, the little church
with a big heart.



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.)*



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/5	Kathleen Nightingale
9/6	Scarlett Jordan
9/7	Hannah Bentz
9/8	Kaye Ames
9/9	Susan Kolb
9/12	Marilyn Huehnergath
9/22	Barb Eshbach
9/29	Brenda Stauffer

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9/10	Harold & Kathleen Nightingale
9/10	Pat & Shep Smith
9/11	Carol & Buzz Rothweiler
9/14	Jacki & Clint Roderick
9/24	Sam & Sarah Jordan
9/25	Ray & Lunda Shaub
9/27	Cliff & Barb Eshbach

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 September:

Carol Rothweiler & Linda Tice

Assisting Minister:

Barb Elsen

Greeter:

Anna Neal

Usher:

OPEN

Reader:

Linda Tice

Counters:

Pam Frye & Brad Charles

9/12 Saturday

5:00pm Worship

9/19 Saturday

5:00pm Worship

9/13 Sunday

10:00am Worship

11:15am Evangelism Mtg

9/20 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*

9/15 Tuesday

12:00pm Better Bones at
St. Matthew

7:00pm Church Council

9/16 Wednesday

12:00pm Bible Study

9/17 Thursday

6:30pm Vocal Choir Reh

9/18 Friday

10:00am CPR Class *

1:30pm CPR Class *

**Scripture Readings—
September 19-20, 2026**

Jonah 3:10—4:11

Psalms 145:1-8

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16