

Pentecost Eighteen
Sunday September 27, 2026
In-gathering—Blessing of the Quilts



ONLINE
 **GIVING**



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**St. Matthew Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

700 Pleasure Road + Lancaster, PA

717-394-9607

www.stmatthewelc.com



St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lancaster, PA

Pentecost Eighteen

September 27, 2026

In-gathering—Blessing of the Quilts

* *Indicates please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE *Time With God*

Garrett Parker

***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**

God Is Here!
(verses 1, 2 & 4)

ELW #526

***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**

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us
your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm
us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord.

People: *Amen*

WORD

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this
proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour
grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"?

³ As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in
Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life
of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of
Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and
commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have
committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the
wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they
shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all
the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they
shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair."
O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to
your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your
transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you
all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get
yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of
Israel?

³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn,
then, and live.

Reader: Word of God; Word of Life.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-9

Read responsively

- ¹To ¹you, O LORD,
I lift ¹up my soul.
²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be ¹put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph ¹over me.**
³Let none who look to you be ¹put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame ¹who are treacherous.
⁴**Show me your ¹ways, O LORD,
and teach ¹me your paths.**
⁵Lead me in your ¹truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted
all ¹the day long.
⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- ¹sion and love,
for they are from ¹everlasting.**
⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and ¹my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for
the sake of your good- ¹ness, O LORD.
⁸**You are gracious and up- ¹right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners ¹in your way.**
⁹You lead the low- ¹ly in justice
and teach the low- ¹ly your way.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

- ¹If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any
partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ²make my
joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full
accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty
conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each
of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵Let
the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,
⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
⁹Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,
¹⁰so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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 21:23-32

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?'" ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

People: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *O God, My Faithful God*

ELW #806

***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
forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we
need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

People: ***Amen.***

SPECIAL MUSIC

Come, Bring Your Burdens to God
South African Traditional Tune and Text
St. Paul Young Adult Choir;
Church of St. Paul the Apostle, NYC

Come, bring your burdens to God, for Jesus will never say no.

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**

O Master, Let Me Walk with You

ELW #818

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE *Let All Creation Sing*

Janet Vogt

Pet Blessing

Saturday, October 3, 2026
1:00-2:00 p.m.

The community of St. Matthew welcomes you to our annual pet blessing. Bring your pets for a special outdoor blessing and a chance to celebrate God's creation together.

**Thank you to the volunteers
on the Quilting Team!**



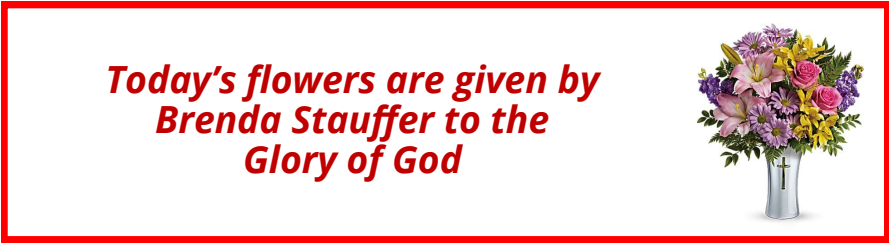
**Tara Lynch
Al Frantz
Peg Sampson
Anna Neal
Pastor Fero
Helen Bucher**

**Brooke Williams
Barb Elsen
Cindy & Ned Longenecker
Marly Huehnergath
Jeff Auer
Bradley & Sheila Charles**

Weekly Prayer List

Kaye Ames, 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

***Today's flowers are given by
Brenda Stauffer to the
Glory of God***



BETTER BONES, BETTER BALANCE
Dr. Tim Kauffman's class
(Tuesdays at 12:00 PM)

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

October classes will be held at St. Matthew on
Tuesday, October 6, 13, 20 and 27.

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We Can Do It!

Fill out your offering envelope!



St. Matthew
Evangelical Lutheran Church
LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA

SEP 29, 2020

My Offering is **000**
\$ **95.00**

Cash _____ Check # **1517**

Name **Rosie the Giver**

Reference Church #2

Please fill in the amount, payment type, and name.

It saves our counters a little extra work!

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



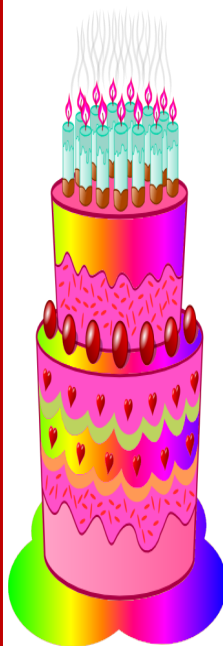
Welcome to St Matthew, the little church
with a big heart.



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:

Linda McIntyre

Greeter:

Toni Sweitzer

Usher:

Barb Elsen

Reader:

Linda McIntyre

Counters:

Brad Charles & Linda Tice

9/26 Saturday

9:30am CPR Class *

5:00pm Worship
Steward Six Kickoff
Quilts Blessing

9/27 Sunday

10:00am Worship
Quilts Blessing

9/28 Monday

5:30pm CPR Class *

9/29 Tuesday

12:00pm Better Bones at
St. Matthew

9/30 Wednesday

12:00pm Bible Study

10/1 Thursday

6:30pm Vocal Choir Reh

10/2 Friday

1:30pm CPR Class *

10/3 Saturday

1:00pm Pet Blessing
5:00pm Worship

10/4 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*

**Scripture Readings—
October 3-4, 2026**

**Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:7-15
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46**