

Pentecost Twenty-one
Sunday October 18, 2026



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 Twenty-one

October 18, 2026

* *Indicates please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE *Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated*
arr. Barbara Boertje

***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** *You Servants of God*

ELW #825

***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**

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let
us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory;
redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: *Amen*

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

- ¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:
² I will go before you
and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;
³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name;
I give you a title, though you do not know me.
⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;

I am the LORD, and there is no other.
⁷ I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things.

Reader: Word of God; Word of Life.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm: Psalm 96:1-9

Read responsively

¹ Sing to the LORD ¹ a new song;
sing to the LORD, ¹ all the earth.
² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name ¹ of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from ¹ day to day.**
³ Declare God's glory a- ¹ mong the nations
and God's wonders a- ¹ mong all peoples.
⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly ¹ to be praised,
more to be feared ¹ than all gods.**
⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they ¹ are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have ¹ made the heavens.
⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are ¹ in your presence;
power and splendor are in your ¹ sanctuary.**
⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families ¹ of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- ¹ or and power.
⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the ¹ holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts ¹ of the LORD.**
⁹ Worship the LORD in the beau- ¹ ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, ¹ all the earth.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the
Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in
our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father
your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in
our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved
by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the
gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the
Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of
persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you
became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution
you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you
became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in

Achaia.⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it.⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

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 22:15-22

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said.

¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality."¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites?"¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius.²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?"²¹ They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's."²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

People: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *Commonwealth Is God's Commandment*

ACS #1036

***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.: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up
these spoken prayers and those in our hearts;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
People: *Amen.*

SPECIAL MUSIC VIDEO

Lord, I Offer You My Life
Jessell Dawn Mahinay, soloist

Claire D. Cloniger
& Don Moen

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**

We Give Thee but Thine Own

ELW #686

***DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Praise to the Almighty God*

David Paxton



StewardSix
Six weeks.
One faithful practice.
ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN
700 Pleasure Rd.
Lancaster, PA 17601
Name _____
Envelope # _____

StewardSix

WEEK 4

GIVING TOGETHER

What becomes possible when we give together?



StewardSix
ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN
700 Pleasure Rd.
Lancaster, PA 17601
Name _____
Envelope # _____

Week #4
Giving Together
\$6.00
Together our gifts make a difference.

Halloween Treats– No Tricks! Saturday, October 31st, 6-8PM



The Evangelism Committee is in need of bagged candy donations. Please drop donations in the red wagon in the fellowship hall.



AROUND THE CORNER

CONVERSATION

CURES, QUACKERY & COMMON SENSE

Medicine and Healing in the 1800s
Diane Whitecomb FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER

**WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 21
6:30-7:30 p.m.**

**FREE
AND OPEN TO ALL!**

**ST. MATTHEW
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

700 PLEASURE ROAD
LANCASTER, PA 17601
717-394-9607
stmatthewelc.com

Weekly Prayer List

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

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

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

Cookie Event

We are considering having a cookie event at St. Matthew as a fellowship sharing event. We are looking for suggestions from the congregation for ideas. Any suggestion can be placed in the cookie jar in the fellowship hall or emailed to Laurie LaBar at info@stmatthewelc.com.

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.)*



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/1	Steve Feldmann
10/1	Jacqueline Roderick
10/3	Shirley Randow
10/8	Samuel Jordan
10/11	Pam Frye
10/13	Barbara Elsen
10/16	Jean Schweers
10/16	Dave Kontrye
10/18	Nora Conahan
10/21	Russell LaBar
10/29	Pastor Fero
10/30	Suzanne Mink
10/30	David Ostrander
10/31	Anna Neal

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/3	Kaye Ames & Andrea Farris
10/6	Dan & Suzanne Mink
10/17	Jeff Auer & Pastor Fero
10/21	James & Kay Nolt

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 October:

Carol Rothweiler & Barb Elsen

Assisting Minister:

Brad Charles

Greeter:

Kay Ames

Usher:

Andrea Farris

Reader:

Linda Tice

Counters:

Sandy Tucker & Brad Charles

10/17 Saturday
5:00pm Worship

10/23 Friday
1:30pm CPR Class *

10/18 Sunday
10:00am Worship

10/24 Saturday
9:30am CPR Class *
5:00pm Worship

10/19 Monday
9:00am Community Meal
5:30pm CPR Class *

10/25 Sunday
10:00am Worship

10/20 Tuesday
12:00pm Better Bones at
St. Matthew

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

10/21 Wednesday
12:00pm Bible Study
6:30pm Conversation
Around the Corner

10/22 Thursday
6:30pm Vocal Choir Reh

**Scripture Readings—
October 24-25, 2026**

**Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 46
Romans 3:19-28
John 8:31-36**