

Pentecost Nineteen
Sunday October 4, 2026



ONLINE
 **GIVING**



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**St. Matthew Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

700 Pleasure Road + Lancaster, PA

717-394-9607

www.stmatthewelc.com



***GATHERING HYMN** *If You But Trust in God to Guide You*
(verses 1, 3 & 4) **ELW #769**

***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**

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by
the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and
by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord.

People: *Amen*

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

- ¹ I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
² He dug it and cleared it of stones
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.
- ³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.
- ⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?
- ⁵ And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

⁶ I will make it a wasteland;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his cherished garden;
he expected justice
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness
but heard a cry!

Reader: Word of God; Word of Life.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalms: Psalm 80:7-15 *Read responsively*

⁷ Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
⁸ **You have brought a vine out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and planted it.**
⁹ You cleared the ground for it;
it took root and filled the land.
¹⁰ **The mountains were covered by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**
¹¹ You stretched out its tendrils to the sea
and its branches to the river.
¹² **Why have you broken down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**
¹³ The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.
¹⁴ **Turn now, O LORD God of hosts,
look down from heaven;**
¹⁵ behold and tend this vine;
preserve what your right hand has planted.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ,

the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me.

¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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: *Glorify to you, O Lord.*

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

[Jesus said:] ³³ "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹ They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

⁴² Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:
The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes?"

⁴³ "Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

People: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *The Church of Christ in Every Age*
ELW #729

*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

In Christ Alone

Keith and Kristyn Getty

In Christ alone, my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled and strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All;
Here in the love of Christ, I stand.

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** *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*
ACS #1084

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE *Nobody Fills My Heart like Jesus* arr. Carol Tornquist

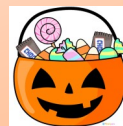


Halloween Treats- No Tricks!

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,
Steve Gross, Patrick Herr, Heather Hildebrand,
Debbie LaNasa, Harold Nightingale,
David Ostrander, Diane Repp, Bob & Carolyn Sampson,
Betty Sheaffer, Angie Wendler,
Shirley Wertz and Bob Wimer

*Today's flowers are given by
Cindy & Ned Longenecker in
loving memory of our parents*



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.

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At-Home Monthly Prayer List

Marie Bernlohr, Linda Martin, Jean Schweers,
Ray Shaub, Lunda Shaub and Jack Underkoffler

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Cookie Event

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

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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:

Barb Elsen

Greeter:

Roxanne Koch

Usher:

OPEN

Reader:

Sandy Tucker

Counters:

Carol Rothweiler & Pam Frye

10/3 Saturday

1:00pm Pet Blessing

5:00pm Worship

10/9 Friday

10:30am CPR Class *

1:30pm CPR Class *

10/4 Sunday

10:00am Worship

10/10 Saturday

5:00pm Worship

10/6 Tuesday

12:00pm Better Bones at
St. Matthew

10/11 Sunday

10:00am Worship

10/7 Wednesday

12:00pm Bible Study
6:30pm M.T. Democratic
Committee *

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

10/8 Thursday

6:30pm Vocal Choir Reh

**Scripture Readings—
October 10-11, 2026**

**Isaiah 25:1-9
Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14**