Pentecost Twenty-four
Sunday November 8, 2026



ONLINE GIVING

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St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Lancaster, PA

Pentecost Twenty-four

November 8, 2026

***** *Indicates please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE *Blessed Assurance*

setting John Carter

*Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
our dwelling place for all generations,
whose compassion never slumbers.
Amen.
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Holy God,
we confess that we have trusted in our preparation
instead of your invitation.
We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved.
We trust the voice of our shame and fear,
which keeps us from entering fully
into relationship with you and others.
We are not awake to the coming of your reign.
Rouse us and rescue us,
that we may enter into your joy.
Amen.
Inherit the riches of God's grace.
☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy.
You are forgiven.
Blessed are you.
Amen.

GATHERING

***GATHERING HYMN** *Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand*

ELW #441

***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.***

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: ***Amen***

WORD

First Reading: Amos 5:18-24

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light,
19 as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

21 I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Reader: Word of God; Word of Life.

People: ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm: Psalm 70 *Read responsively*

1 Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me;
O LORD, make | haste to help me.
2 **Let those who seek my life be put to shame | and confounded;**
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and | be disgraced.
3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat | over me
turn back because | of their shame.
4 **Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;**
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great | is the LORD!"
5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick- | ly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, | do not tarry.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters,
about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others
do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and
rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those
who have died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of the
Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the
Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. 16 For the
Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and
with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and
the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are
left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the
Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever.
18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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 25:1-13

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [1] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be
like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the
bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] When
the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4] but the
wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As the bridegroom was
delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight
there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet
him.' [7] Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps.
[8] The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps
are going out.' [9] But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough
for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some
for yourselves.' [10] And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom
came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding
banquet, and the door was shut. [11] Later the other young women
came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12] But he replied, 'Truly I
tell you, I do not know you.' [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know
neither the day nor the hour."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord
People: ***Praise to you, O Christ.***

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*
ELW #436

***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.: God, in your mercy,
People: ***Hear our prayer.***

Asst. Min.: Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.
People: ***Amen.***

PREPARING THE TABLE

OFFERING PRAYER Spoken in Unison

Eternal God,
our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you.
Receive what we offer,
and all that you entrust to us,
until hungry no more, all the world is fed,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
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**

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.
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

Holy God,
we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal.
You continuously seek the lost,
bind the injured,
and feed your people abundantly.
Now send us out,
awake to your presence,
now and forever.
Amen.

***Benediction**

The holy Trinity,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God,
today and always.
Amen.

***Sending Hymn** *Let Streams of Living Justice*

ELW #710

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Encourage one another.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude *I Am Bound for the Promised Land*

Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.





St. Matthew Annual Congregation Meeting and StewardSix Recap Lunch

Sunday, November 8

Immediately following the 10am worship service

SATURDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP

November 21 at 6:00pm
Dinner out after the 5pm worship service

Olde Hickory Grille, 709 Olde Hickory Rd

Weekly Prayer List

Brenda Artz, Beth Bricker, Sean Carter,
Sarah Challenger, Don Dubs, James and Mabel Frazier,
Patrick Herr, Heather Hildebrand,
Debbie LaNasa, 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)

November classes will be held at Grandview
on Tuesday, November 10, 17 and 24.

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



At-Home Monthly Prayer List

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



Christ in our Home booklets (October, November, December) 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.

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.)



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/2	**Corbin Miller**
11/3	**Carole Castline**
11/3	**Andrea Farris**
11/4	**Brian Almond**
11/4	**Fiona Smith**
11/7	**Neely Frye**
11/18	**Joan Bowers**
11/18	**Mabel Frazier**
11/20	**Nancy Pokopec**
11/22	**Shep Smith**
11/28	**James Frazier**
11/29	**Sheila Charles**
11/29	**Carolyn Rothweiler**

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11/30	**Norm Drescher & David Ostrander**

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 November:	Linda Tice, Anna Neal & Barb Elsen
Assisting Minister:	Steve Feldmann
Greeter:	Scarlet Jordan
Usher:	Sadie Jordan
Reader:	Steve Feldmann
Counters:	Sandy Tucker & Brenda Stauffer

11/7 Saturday
5:00pm Worship

11/8 Sunday
10:00am Worship
11:00am Congregation Mtg & StewardSix Lunch

11/10 Tuesday
12:00pm Better Bones at Grandview

11/11 Wednesday
12:00pm Bible Study
6:30pm RIC Committee Mtg

11/12 Thursday
1:00pm Thrive to Five Parent Group *
6:00pm Bell Choir
7:00pm Vocal Choir

11/14 Saturday
5:00pm Worship

11/15 Sunday
10:00am Worship
11:00am Evangelism Mtg

**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— November 14 -15, 2026

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm 90:1-8, 12
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30