Pentecost Twenty-five
Sunday November 15, 2026



ONLINE GIVING

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St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Lancaster, PA

Pentecost Twenty-five

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

PRELUDE *Deep River* with *Shall We Gather at the River*
Traditional Spiritual and Robert Lowry

*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** *We Praise You, O God*
ELW #870

***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**

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: ***Amen***

WORD

First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD,
for the day of the LORD is at hand!
The LORD has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.

12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

14 The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,

a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Reader: Word of God; Word of Life.
People: ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm: Psalm 90:1-8, 12

Read responsively

1 Lord, you have | been our refuge
from one generation | to another.
2 **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the |**
earth were born,
from age to age | you are God.
3 You turn us back to the | dust and say,
"Turn back, O child- | ren of earth."
4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it**
is past
and like a watch | in the night;
5 you sweep them away | like a dream,
they fade away suddenly | like the grass:
6 **in the morning it is | green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.
7 For we are consumed | by your anger;
we are afraid because | of your wrath.
8 **Our iniquities you have | set before you,**
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance.
12 So teach us to num- | ber our days
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do
not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very
well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 When
they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will

come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! [4] But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; [5] for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. [6] So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, [7] for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. [8] But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9] For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. [11] Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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 25:14-30

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [14] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; [15] to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once [16] the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. [17] In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. [18] But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. [19] After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. [20] Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' [21] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [22] And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' [23] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [24] Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' [26] But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have

received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him,
and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have,
more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who
have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this
worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be
weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

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

SERMON Cliff Eshbach

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *Lord of Light*

ELW #688

***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.***

SPECIAL MUSIC VIDEO

O God, Our Help in Ages Past arr. Tim Janis

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**

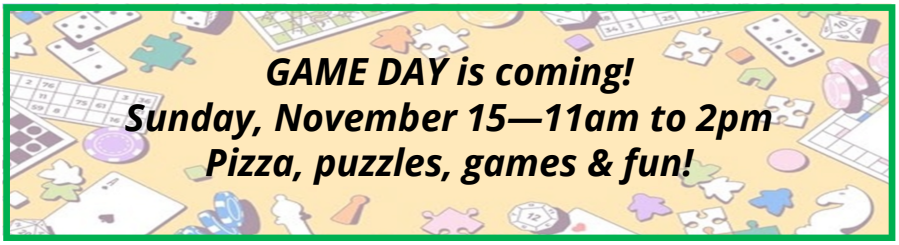
The holy Trinity,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God,
today and always.
Amen.

***Sending Hymn** *O God Our Help in Ages Past*
(verses 1-3 & 6) **ELW #632**

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*
arr. Anthony Giamanco







Weekly Prayer List

Brenda Artz, Beth Bricker, Sean Carter,
Addie Cawley, Don Dubs, James and Mabel Frazier,
Patrick Herr, Heather Hildebrand, Debbie LaNasa,
Kay Nolt, 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 the Rothweiler family in loving memory of Brett Rothweiler



SATURDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP

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

Olde Hickory Grille, 709 Olde Hickory Rd



Advent 2026 booklets 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:	Barb Emmerich
Greeter:	Kay Gontner
Usher:	Barb Elsen
Reader:	Linda Tice
Counters:	Carol Rothweiler & Linda Tice

11/14 Saturday
5:00pm Worship

11/15 Sunday
10:00am Worship
11:00am Game Day

11/16 Monday
9:00am Community Meal
5:30pm CPR Class *

11/17 Tuesday
12:00pm Better Bones at Grandview
7:00pm Church Council

11/18 Wednesday
12:00pm Bible Study

11/19 Thursday
6:00pm Bell Choir
7:00pm Vocal Choir

11/20 Friday
10:30am CPR Class *
1:30pm CPR Class *

11/21 Saturday
5:00pm Worship
6:00pm Dine Out

11/22 Sunday
10:00am Worship
2:00pm Deadly Silence Play

**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 21-22, 2026

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46