Christ the King
Sunday November 22, 2026



ONLINE GIVING

bit.ly/GiveStMatthew



St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

700 Pleasure Road + Lancaster, PA

717-394-9607

www.stmatthewelc.com

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lancaster, PA

Christ the King

November 22, 2026

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

PRELUDE *Fairest Lord Jesus* arr. Erinn Schwarz

*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** *O Savior, Precious Savior*

ELW #820

***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**

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: ***Amen***

WORD

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

11 Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will
sort them out. 12 As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are
among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue
them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a
day of clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will bring them out from the
peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into
their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by
the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. 14 I will
feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel
shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land,
and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I
myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie
down, says the Lord GOD. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back
the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the
weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with
justice.
20 Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge
between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21 Because you pushed
with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with
your horns until you scattered them far and wide, 22 I will save my
flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between
sheep and sheep.

[23] I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and
he shall feed them; he shall feed them and be their shepherd.
[24] And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David shall be
prince among them; I the LORD have spoken.

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

Psalm: Psalm 95:1-7a

Read responsively

[1] Come, let us sing | to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.
[2] **Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving**
and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.
[3] For you, LORD, | are a great God,
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.
[4] **In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;**
the heights of the hills are | also yours.
[5] The sea is yours, | for you made it,
and your hands have molded | the dry land.
[6] **Come, let us worship | and bow down,**
let us kneel before the | LORD our maker.
[7a] For the LORD | is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep |
of God's hand.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

[15] I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward
all the saints, and for this reason [16] I do not cease to give thanks
for you as I remember you in my prayers, [17] that the God of our
Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of
wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, [18] so that, with
the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the
hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his
glorious inheritance among the saints, [19] and what is the
immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe,
according to the working of his great power. [20] God put this power
to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated
him at his right hand in the heavenly places, [21] far above all rule
and authority and power and dominion and above every name
that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.
[22] And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the
head over all things for the church, [23] which is his body, the
fullness of him who fills all in all.

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 25:31-46

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his
glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his
glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will
separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the
sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand
and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right
hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom
prepared for you from the foundation of the world, 35 for I was
hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me
something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was
naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me,
I was in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer
him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food
or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that
we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you
clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and
visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as
you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine,
you did it to me.' 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You
who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for
the devil and his angels, 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no
food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a
stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give
me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' 44 Then they
also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or
thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take
care of you?' 45 Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you
did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'
46 And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous
into eternal life."

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

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *Jesus Shall Reign*
(verses 1 & 3-5) **ELW #434**

***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

Jesus Strong and Kind Rich Thompson, Johnny Robinson
Michael Farren, Colin Buchanan

Sounds Like Reign

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** *Blessing and Honor*

ELW #854

***Dismissal**

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

Postlude *All People That on Earth Do Dwell*

arr. Lloyd Larson

Poinsettias



We are accepting monetary donations for decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas. Special envelopes can be found in the church lobby.



A powerful play exploring the tragic death by suicide of a 16-year-old transgender girl, the devastating consequences of rejection, and the lifesaving power of acceptance.



Weekly Prayer List

Brenda Artz, Marie Bernlohr, 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,
Elizabeth Singley, 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 24.

December classes will be held at St. Matthew on Tuesday, December 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29.

Today's flowers are given by Nancy Smith in loving memory of Rick Smith





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:	Brad Charles
Greeter:	Roxanne Koch
Usher:	Barb Elsen
Reader:	Peg Sampson
Counters:	Brad Charles & Pam Frye

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

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

11/24 Tuesday
12:30pm Better Bones at St. Matthew

11/25 Wednesday
12:00pm Bible Study

11/25 Thursday
THANKSGIVING

11/28 Saturday
5:00pm Worship

11/29 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— November 28-29, 2026

Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37