

Pentecost Sixteen
September 19 -20, 2020



Hope!



**St. Matthew Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

700 Pleasure Road + Lancaster, PA

717-394-9607

www.stmatthewelc.com

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lancaster, PA

Pentecost Sixteen

September 19 -20, 2020

PRELUDE

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Faithful God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world.

Amen.

GATHERING

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

In Peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:

Have mercy on us;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone
are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of
God the Father. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to
us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities,
grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the
generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Jonah 3:10 – 4:11

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Reader: The Word of the Lord
People: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 145:1-8

- ¹I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.
²Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.
³Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.
⁴One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.
⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.
⁶They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.
⁷They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.
⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Reader: The Word of the Lord
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

People: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

PEOPLE: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

SPECIAL MUSIC

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

We Remember in Our Prayers

Jack Bitzer, Nancy Bitzer, Deb Bosch,
Mildred Collins, Earl Elsen,
Rev. Courtney Erzkus, Mary Houck,
Ginny McCreary, Florence Meily, Shel Merr,
Jacqueline Ort, George Resh, Kathy Roland,
Bob Sampson, Carolyn Sampson,
Doug Schwanger, Jean Schweers, Paul Sheaffer,
Betty Sheaffer, Lou Suter, and Jo Zwally



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/6 Scarlett Jordan
9/7 Hannah Bentz
9/10 Florence Meily
9/11 Peggy Atkins
9/12 Marly Huehnergath
9/26 John Matusek
9/28 Wayne McKinley
9/29 Brenda Stauffer

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9/10 Pat & Shep Smith
9/11 Carol & Buzz Rothweiler
9/14 Jacki & Clint Roderick
9/24 Sam & Sarah Jordan
9/25 Ray & Lunda Shaub

Signs of Hope around St. Matthew

New Sidewalk signs for our walking neighbors.



Signs of Hope around St. Matthew



There are postcards available in the church office that we can send to you to encourage others. Just let us know! A sign of Hope for their future.

Signs of Hope around St. Matthew



Signs of Hope around St. Matthew



**New paint job on the front of the church building.
A sign of welcome.**

The Congregation

The Ministers

Pastor Robin Fero

717-877-3386

email: pastor@stmatthewelc.com

Steve Feldmann

Council President

717-472-6642

SFFsstuff@icloud.com

Susan Feldmann

Director of Music/Choir

717-891-4363

email: susanefeldmann@gmail.com

Church Office

phone: 717-394-9607

Website: stmatthewelc.com

Email: info@stmatthewelc.com

Ann Hossler

Organist/Pianist

717-314-2976

email: annstmatthews@gmail.com

Worship at Home
stmatthewelc.com



Pentecost Seventeen
September 26 -27, 2020



Hope!



**St. Matthew Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

700 Pleasure Road + Lancaster, PA

717-394-9607

www.stmatthewelc.com

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lancaster, PA

Pentecost Seventeen

September 26 -27, 2020

PRELUDE

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Faithful God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world.

Amen.

GATHERING

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

In Peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:

Have mercy on us;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone
are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of
God the Father. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give
us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that
harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—"Is the LORD among us or not?"—received a very positive answer.

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 25:1-9

¹To you, O LORD,

I lift up my soul.

²My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all
the day long.

⁶Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.

- ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake
of your goodness, O LORD.
- ⁸You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.
- ⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

- ¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
- ⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
- ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
- ¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at

work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Reader: The Word of the Lord
People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Acclamation

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew
People: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

SPECIAL MUSIC

BENEDICTION

We Remember in Our Prayers

Jack Bitzer, Nancy Bitzer, Deb Bosch,
Mildred Collins, Earl Elsen,
Rev. Courtney Erzkus, Mary Houck,
Ginny McCreary, Florence Meily, Shel Merr,
Jacqueline Ort, George Resh, Kathy Roland,
Bob Sampson, Carolyn Sampson,
Doug Schwanger, Jean Schweers, Paul Sheaffer,
Betty Sheaffer, Lou Suter, and Jo Zwally



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/6 Scarlett Jordan
9/7 Hannah Bentz
9/10 Florence Meily
9/11 Peggy Atkins
9/12 Marly Huehnergath
9/26 John Matusek
9/28 Wayne McKinley
9/29 Brenda Stauffer

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9/10 Pat & Shep Smith
9/11 Carol & Buzz Rothweiler
9/14 Jacki & Clint Roderick
9/24 Sam & Sarah Jordan
9/25 Ray & Lunda Shaub

Signs of Hope around St. Matthew

New Sidewalk signs for our walking neighbors.



Signs of Hope around St. Matthew



There are postcards available in the church office that we can send to you to encourage others. Just let us know! A sign of Hope for their future.

Signs of Hope around St. Matthew



Signs of Hope around St. Matthew



**New paint job on the front of the church building.
A sign of welcome.**

The Congregation

The Ministers

Pastor Robin Fero

717-877-3386

email: pastor@stmatthewelc.com

Steve Feldmann

Council President

717-472-6642

SFFsstuff@icloud.com

Susan Feldmann

Director of Music/Choir

717-891-4363

email: susanefeldmann@gmail.com

Church Office

phone: 717-394-9607

Website: stmatthewelc.com

Email: info@stmatthewelc.com

Ann Hossler

Organist/Pianist

717-314-2976

email: annstmatthews@gmail.com

Worship at Home
stmatthewelc.com

