



***St. Matthew's Evangelical  
Lutheran Church & School***

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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*Worship for the Celebration of the Lutheran Reformation*

*November 3, 2024*

**Opening Hymn: Reformation Song** CW 877 sts. 1–2, Ref. 3–4

**1 Your Word alone is solid ground,  
the mighty rock on which we build.  
In ev'ry line the truth is found,  
and ev'ry page with glory filled. (v. 2)**

**2 Thro' faith alone we come to you;  
we have no merit we can claim.  
Sure that your promises are true,  
we place our hope in Jesus' name. (Refrain)**

**Ref Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone.  
Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone.**

**3 In Christ alone we're justified;  
his righteousness is all our plea.  
Your law's demands are satisfied;  
his perfect work has set us free. (Refrain)**

**4 By grace alone we have been saved;  
all that we are has come from you.  
Hearts that were once by sin enslaved  
now by your pow'r have been made new. (Refrain)**

**Invocation**

**P:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

P: O Lord, open my lips.

**C: And my mouth shall declare your praise.**

P: Hasten to save me, O God.

**C: O Lord come quickly to help me.**

### **Confession of Sins**

P: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.**

**For faithless worrying and selfish pride,**

**For sins of habit and sins of choice,**

**For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,**

**You should cast me away from your presence forever.**

**O Lord, I am sorry for my sins.**

**Forgive me for Jesus' sake.**

P: Christ has died. Christ has risen from the dead. Christ will come again in glory. In his great mercy, "God made us alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross." Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**Song of Praise** *(sung to the tune of CW 936)*

♪ **All glory be to God alone,**

**forevermore the highest One,**

**who did our sinful race befriend**

**and grace and peace to us extend.**

**Among mankind may his good will**

**all hearts with deep thanksgiving fill.**

♪ Lord God, our King on heaven's throne,  
our Father, the Almighty One,  
O Lord, the sole-begotten One,  
Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's Son,  
true God from all eternity,  
O Lamb of God, to you we flee.

### Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, through the preaching of your servants, the blessed Reformers, you caused the light of the gospel to shine forth. Grant that we may faithfully defend it against all enemies and joyfully proclaim it to the salvation of people everywhere to the glory of your holy name; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

### Old Testament: Genesis 15:1-6

After these events the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision. He said, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

<sup>2</sup>Abram said, "LORD God what can you give me, since I remain childless, and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>Abram also said, "Look, you have given me no offspring, so a servant born in my house will be my heir."

<sup>4</sup>Just then, the word of the LORD came to him. God said, "This man will not be your heir, but instead one who will come out of your own body will be your heir." <sup>5</sup>The LORD then brought him outside and said, "Now look toward the sky and count the stars, if you are able to count them." He said to Abram, "This is what your descendants will be like." <sup>6</sup>Abram believed in the LORD, and the LORD credited it to him as righteousness.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

### Verse of the Day: *(sung to the tune of CW 936)*

♪ You only are the Holy One; o'er all things you are Lord alone.  
O Jesus Christ, we glorify you and the Spirit, Lord Most High;  
with him you evermore shall be one in the Father's majesty.

## **Gospel: John 8:30-36**

<sup>30</sup>As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

<sup>31</sup>So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup>You will also know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

<sup>33</sup>"We are Abraham's descendants," they answered, "and we have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say, 'You will be set free'?"

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, "Amen, Amen, I tell you: Everyone who keeps committing sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>But a slave does not remain in the family forever. A son does remain forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free."

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## **Apostles' Creed**

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

## **Hymn: (by choir) *This Is My Word***

## **Sermon: Romans 4:1-5**

What then will we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>If indeed Abraham had been justified by works, he would have had a reason to boast—but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does Scripture say? "Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness."

<sup>4</sup>Now to a person who works, his pay is not counted as a gift but as something owed. <sup>5</sup>But to the person who does not work but believes in the God who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited to him as righteousness.

*Hold on Tight to Your Reformation Heritage*

*I. Sola Scriptura*

Hymn: Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

CW 557

1 Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,  
with exultation springing,  
and, with united heart and voice  
and holy rapture singing,  
proclaim the wonders God has done,  
how his right arm the vict'ry won.  
How dearly it has cost him!

2 Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay;  
death brooded darkly o'er me.  
Sin was my torment night and day;  
in sin my mother bore me.  
Yet deep and deeper still I fell;  
life had become a living hell,  
so firmly sin possessed me.

3 My own good works availed me naught,  
no merit they attaining;  
my will against God's judgment fought,  
no hope for me remaining.  
My fears increased till sheer despair  
left only death to be my share  
and hell to be my sentence.

4 But God beheld my wretched state  
before the world's foundation,  
and, mindful of his mercies great,  
he planned for my salvation.  
A father's heart he turned to me,  
sought my redemption fervently;  
he gave his dearest treasure.

5 He spoke to his beloved Son:  
    "It's time to have compassion.  
Then go, bright jewel of my crown,  
    and bring to all salvation.  
From sin and sorrow set them free;  
slay bitter death for them that they  
    may live with you forever."

## *II. Sola Gratia*

6 The Son obeyed his Father's will,  
    was born of virgin mother,  
and, God's good pleasure to fulfill,  
    he came to be my brother.  
No garb of pomp or pow'r he wore;  
a servant's form like mine he bore  
    to lead the devil captive.

7 To me he spoke, "Hold fast to me,  
    I am your rock and castle.  
Your ransom I myself will be;  
    for you I strive and wrestle.  
For I am yours, your friend divine,  
and evermore you shall be mine;  
    the foe shall not divide us.

8 "The foe will shed my precious blood,  
    me of my life bereaving;  
all this I suffer for your good;  
    be steadfast and believing.  
Life will from death the vict'ry win;  
my innocence shall bear your sin,  
    and you are blest forever.

9 "Now to my Father I depart,  
    the Holy Spirit sending  
and, heav'nly wisdom to impart,  
    my help to you extending.  
He will a source of comfort be,  
teach you to know and follow me,  
    and in all truth will guide you.

10 "What I on earth have lived and taught  
be all your life and teaching;  
so shall my kingdom's work be wrought  
and honored in your preaching.  
Take care that no one's man-made laws  
should e'er destroy the gospel's cause;  
this final word I leave you."

### *III. Sola Fide*

Hymn: God's Word Is Our Great Heritage CW 640

God's Word is our great heritage  
and shall be ours forever;  
to spread its light from age to age  
shall be our chief endeavor.

Through life it guides our way,  
in death it is our stay.

Lord, grant, while worlds endure,  
we keep its teachings pure  
throughout all generations.

### Offering

#### Prayer of the Church

P: Heavenly Father, we who call ourselves Lutherans are honored to be in your house today. We have come to praise your grace, your kindly attitude toward us as revealed in Christ, not because of what we are, but in spite of what we are. Through your guidance Dr. Martin Luther taught us to despair of human merit and to rely completely, utterly, and absolutely on you for our salvation.

**C: By grace alone you chose us to be your children, by grace alone you called us to faith in your Son, by grace alone you made us kings and priests to serve you forever.**

P: Lord Jesus Christ, we who call ourselves Lutheran Christians are honored to bear your name. We have come here to praise you for giving yourself for us. You gave up your heavenly glory to live our lives for us, you gave up your precious life to take our curse, you still give yourself to us in Holy Communion. Through your guidance Dr. Martin Luther taught us to despair of our own good works and simply to receive your marvelous gifts with believing hearts.

**C: By faith alone we have the forgiveness of sins, by faith alone we have the promise of your daily care, by faith alone we have the hope of everlasting life.**

P: Holy Spirit, we who call ourselves Evangelical Lutheran Christians are honored to have your pure gospel. We have come here to praise you for inspiring holy writers with your sacred thoughts and words. Through your guidance Dr. Martin Luther taught us to despair of man-made authority and traditions, the arrogance of human reason, and the whims of personal experience, and to rely solely on Holy Scripture.

**C: By Scripture alone we are informed of your mighty works, by Scripture alone we are persuaded to believe in you, by Scripture alone we test all religious teaching, thought, and opinion.**

P: O Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, grant that we always hold on tight to our Reformation heritage of Scripture alone, grace alone, and faith alone, and hear us as we also pray:

**C: 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.**

### **Benediction**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

**Hymn: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**      *CW 864*

**1 A mighty fortress is our God, a trusty shield and weapon;  
he helps us free from ev'ry need that has us now o'ertaken.  
The ancient evil foe now means to work us woe;  
deep guile and awful might are his dread arms in fight;  
on earth is not his equal.**



2 With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our loss effected;  
but for us fights the valiant one whom God himself elected.  
You ask who this may be? Christ Jesus, it is he,  
the Lord of hosts his name, from age to age the same,  
he holds the field forever.

3 Though devils all the world should fill, all eager to devour us,  
we tremble not, we fear no ill; they shall not overpower us.  
The prince of darkness still may scowl fierce as he will,  
his raging harms us none. He's judged; the deed is done;  
one little word can fell him.

4 The Word they still shall let remain nor any thanks have for it;  
he's by our side upon the plain with his good gifts and Spirit.  
And should they take our life, goods, honor, child, and wife,  
though all of these be gone, our victory is won;  
the kingdom's ours forever!

**Members, Visitors & Guests—Welcome to St. Matthew's!**

May God help us hold on to our precious Reformation heritage!

If you are visiting our service, please sign a "care card" in the church pew or our guest book and come back to visit again soon.

Attendance Last Week—214 (36, 113, 65)

Bible Classes – 67

Offering Last Week—\$7,357.75

Sunday School – 20

*(Meeting our 2024 Ministry Plan requires weekly offerings of \$14,735.00.)*

*"I hold fast to your statutes, O LORD, do not let me be put to shame"*

*Psalms 119:31.*

**Announcements:**

1. **The flowers on the altar** have been given by Dan and Sue Enloe in celebration of their 39<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. God's blessings and congratulations!
2. **Sunday Morning Bible Class** – Sunday morning Bible class will meet today between services in the Fellowship area. We will continue studying the book of Haggai.
3. **Sunday School** Sunday School will meet in the library for opening devotion. The children may be picked up in their classrooms at 10:15 am.

4. **The Women's Bible Study** The Women's Bible Study will meet in the library Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. All women are welcome!
5. **Miss Moeller's Call** Miss Moeller has received a call to St. Paul's Lake Mills to teach 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, assist with organ playing, and direct the lower grades choirs. Please keep Miss Moeller in your prayers as she deliberates where she can best serve.
6. **Voters' Meeting** The church council has prepared a proposed ministry plan for calendar year 2025. The council has set the Voters' meeting for after the 10:30 service on November 10 at which a ministry plan will be adopted for next year. *The agenda includes next year's ministry plan, which includes a sizeable tuition increase along with financial assistance and election of officers.* We would encourage all to attend.
7. **Church Council Elections** November is the month of the church year where there will be a voter's meeting to elect three members of the Church Council to a three-year term. This year, the positions up for election will be that of President, Secretary, and the Chairman of the Education Committee. You may be asked by one of the outgoing councilmen if you will consider being a candidate, but if you have not been contacted and wish to run for one of these positions, are at least 21 years old, and have been a member of a WELS/ELS church for at least one year, please contact Karl Kroening, Council Vice President.
8. **Evening Guild** will be meeting November 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We are targeting 16:49 donations and also presenting the Advent by Candlelight plans which will need many volunteer readers and table setters. Please plan on attending. We need your help. Thank you.
9. **Euchre Tournament Save the Date** **On Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-4:00 p.m.** the Fellowship/Outreach Committee will host a Euchre Tournament. Please plan to attend and enjoy a fun filled, competitive afternoon. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Childcare will not be available for this event.
10. **Mission Journeys** volunteer opportunity. If you are interested in helping out a new home mission church close to home, here's your chance! On **November 10<sup>th</sup>** from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., Hope in

Deerfield is hosting a community meal designed to reach out to underprivileged folks in the area. The mission is looking for volunteers to provide fall themed desserts for the event. If you would like to deliver the desserts and help serve at the event as well, volunteers are also being accepted for this role. Reach out to Nicole Caminata, Deb Lehmann, or Liz Sanchez if you are interested.

11. **Meals On Wheels** - St. Matthew's will deliver "Meals on Wheels Nov. 25th thru Nov. 29th. We have three routes with two people needed per route (one person to drive, one person to deliver the meal). Meals are picked up at Mercy Hospital at 11:00 a.m. There is a sign-up sheet on the lower bulletin board. If you have any questions, please contact Sally Wellnitz (608) 752-2037. If you are a first time volunteer I have forms for you that need to be filled out and turned in to Mercy Hospital. Thank you!
12. **Luther Prep Invites You:** On Sunday, November 10, the music department of Luther Prep School will be presenting its annual fall band concert at 7:00 PM in the Auditorium. This year's concert will feature a patriotic program entitled "Let Freedom Ring!", and it will feature the concert and jazz bands, as well as the string, guitar, handbell, and brass choir ensembles. We hope you can join us for a wonderful evening of music!  
[lps.wels.net/apps/pages/lpsconcertsstream](https://lps.wels.net/apps/pages/lpsconcertsstream)
13. **Extended Scrip Orders** Extended Scrip order blanks are on the table in the Narthex or on a table in the school lobby. Please return to Cathy Sonntag, Lori Sage, or the office mailbox slot by Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.

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### Assisting with Worship

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#### **Organist:**

Thursday, 6:30 p.m. – Jim Langkamp

Sunday, 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. – Meredith Moeller

#### **Ushers:**

8:00 a.m. – Gerald Wellnitz, Evan Burnside, Alex Schmitt

10:30 a.m. – Tim Stirmel, Connor Stirmel

**Next Week Ushers:**

8:00 a.m. – Doug McIlvain, Dane McIlvain, Jeff Burandt, Nathan Wagner  
10:30 a.m. – Fred Shadoski, Russ Scott

**CODS:**

Thursday, October 31, 2024, 6:30 p.m. – Phil Fry  
Sunday, November 3, 8:00 a.m. – Marc Augsburg  
Sunday, November 3, 10:30 a.m. – Brian Hartwig

**Next Week CODS:**

Thursday, November 7, 2024, 6:30 p.m. – Briton Peterson  
Sunday, November 10, 8:00 a.m. – Tim Stirmel  
Sunday, November 10, 10:30 a.m. – Jim Daley

**Greeters**

Sunday, November 3, 8:00 a.m. – Doug & Alicia McIlvain  
Sunday, November 3, 10:30 a.m. – Brandon & Ashley Phillips

**Next Week Greeters**

Sunday, November 10, 8:00 a.m. – Shari Deegan  
Sunday, November 10, 10:30 a.m. – Sue Balog

**Church Cleaning:**

November 9, 2024 – Bev Boughton & Dale Brooks families  
November 16, 2024 – Evie Burkholder & Rick Burnside families

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**This Week at St. Matthew's**

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**Sunday**

Worship 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School/Bible Class  
9:15 a.m.

**Monday**

Evening Guild 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday**

Women's Bible Study 9:30 a.m.  
Sr. Choir 5:45 -6:45 p.m.

**Thursday**

Worship 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday**

Men's Bible Study 8:00 a.m. at  
Citrus Cafe

**Sunday**

Worship with Communion  
8:00 & 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School/Bible Class  
9:15 a.m.  
Voters' Meeting after 10:30  
service.  
Euchre Tournament  
2:00-4:00 p.m.

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## Extended SCRIP Program Opportunity

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St. Matthews has the opportunity to participate in a broader Scrip Program. SCRIP is the general name given to gift cards issued by local and national businesses. SCRIP can be thought of as substitute money and many be used in place of cash, checks, or credit cards at various businesses. At the time the SCRIP order is placed, St. Matthews receives a rebate ranging from 2% - 20% depending on the business. This rebate will be used to support special projects, which are not in the budget. SCRIP cards can be purchased in various amounts. It's a great way to allow your money to benefit St. Matthews by purchasing items you were already planning to buy from a store you already shop at! **Starting Sunday October 13<sup>th</sup> through November 11<sup>th</sup>**, these gift cards will be available to order. Payment must accompany your order and can be cash or check. Please make checks payable to St. Matthews. The ordered and prepaid gift cards should be available for pick up by Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. (Just in time for Christmas shopping and gift giving.)

The complete order form list of over 100 participating businesses is attached to the letter. Completed orders (payable to St. Matthews) can be handed in to Cathy Sonntag between church services Sundays or to Lori Sage. You may also place orders in the mail slot in the office. Please contact Cathy Sonntag 754-3994 or [csonntag@charter.net](mailto:csonntag@charter.net) with any questions regarding this optional program.

If you are interested in participating in the Extended Scrip program, order forms can be found in the back of the church on a table or in the school lobby.



