

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

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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www.stmatthewsjanesville.org

*Worship for the 4th Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2023*

Opening Hymn: Christ Is The World's Light

CW '93 343

**1 Christ is the world's light, Christ and none other;
born in our darkness, he became our brother.**

If we have seen him, we have seen the Father:

Glory to God on high!

**2 Christ is the world's peace, Christ and none other;
no one can serve him and despise another.**

Who else unites us, one with God the Father?

Glory to God on high!

**3 Christ is the world's life, Christ and none other;
sold once for silver, murdered here, our brother.**

He who redeemed us reigns with God the Father:

Glory to God on high!

4 Give God the glory, God and none other;

give God the glory, Spirit, Son, and Father;

give God the glory, God with us, our brother:

Glory to God on high!

Invocation

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

Confession of Sins

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children.

C: But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment.

P: Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

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

Song of Praise



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eter - nal; it stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for - ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

Prayer of the Day

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, by your almighty power you opened the eyes of the blind and showed yourself to them. Turn our eyes away from worthless things, and lead us to love you sincerely; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Old Testament: Isaiah 42:14-21

¹⁴I have been silent for a long time.

I have kept still. I have restrained myself.

But now, like a woman giving birth, I will scream.

I will gasp and pant.

¹⁵I will dry up mountains and hills.

I will make all their grass wither.

I will turn rivers into islands.

I will dry up pools.

¹⁶I will lead the blind on a way they do not know.

Along paths they do not know I will direct them.

Ahead of them I will turn darkness into light

and rough places into level ground.

These are the things I will accomplish for them.

I will not abandon them.

¹⁷They will be turned back and completely disgraced —

those who trust in an idol,

those who say to molten images,

“You are our gods.”

¹⁸You deaf ones, listen!

You blind ones, watch carefully so that you can see!

¹⁹Who is as blind as my servant?

Who is as deaf as my messenger whom I sent?

Who is as blind as my associate,

as blind as the servant of the LORD?

²⁰You, Israel, see many things, but you do not observe.

Israel opens his ears, but he does not hear.

²¹Because of his own righteousness,


the LORD was pleased to make his law great and glorious.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

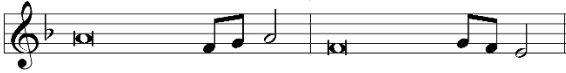
Psalm 27

Refrain



The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion — of whom shall I
be a - fraid, of whom shall I be a - fraid?

Psalm tone



Refrain

The Lord is my light and my salvation—of whom shall I be afraid, of
whom shall I be afraid?

Hear my voice when I call, O LORD;*
be merciful to me and answer me.

Do not hide your face from me,*
do not turn your servant away in anger;
you have been my helper.

Do not reject me or forsake me,*
O God my Savior.

Refrain

Though my father and mother forsake me,*
the LORD will receive me.

I am still confident of this:*

I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD;*

be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Gospel: John 9:1-7; 13-17; 34-39

As Jesus was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

³Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that God's works might be revealed in connection with him. ⁴I must do the works of him who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the Light of the World."

⁶After saying this, Jesus spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and spread the mud on the man's eyes. ⁷"Go," Jesus told him, "wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means "Sent"). So he went and washed, and came back seeing...

¹³They brought this man who had been blind to the Pharisees.

¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees also asked him how he received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man told them. "I washed, and now I see."

¹⁶Then some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God because he does not keep the Sabbath." Others were saying, "How can a sinful man work such miraculous signs?"

There was division among them, ¹⁷so they said to the blind man again, "What do you say about him, because he opened your eyes?" The man replied, "He is a prophet...."

³⁴They answered him, "You were entirely born in sinfulness! Yet you presume to teach us?" And they threw him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had thrown him out. When he found him, he asked, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"

³⁶"Who is he, sir," the man replied, "that I may believe in him?"

³⁷Jesus answered, "You have seen him, and he is the very one who is speaking with you."

³⁸Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" and he knelt down and worshipped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, in order that those who do not see will see, and those who do see will become blind."

P: This 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: "I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light"

CW 713

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

*Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. (Refrain)

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. (Refrain)

Sermon Text: Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, ⁹for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth. ¹⁰Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord, ¹¹and do not participate in fruitless deeds of darkness. Instead, expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention the things that are done by people in secret. ¹³But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes things visible. ¹⁴Therefore it is said, "Awake, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Shine In My Heart, Lord Jesus

I. So I walk as a child of the light

II. So I do not die in darkness

Offering

Prayer of the Church for Lent

P: Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

C: We confess that without your love we are lost.

P: Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

C: Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.

P: Let us pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and their values as Christians.

C: By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

P: Let us pray for those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, those victimized by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

C: Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.

P: Let us pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

C: Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

P: Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Hymn: O Christ, Our True and Only Light

CW '93 569

1 O Christ, our true and only light,

Enlighten those who sit in night;

Let those afar now hear your voice

And in your fold with us rejoice.

2 Fill with the radiance of your grace

The souls now lost in error's maze

And all whom in their secret minds

Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.

3 Oh, gently call those gone astray

That they may find the saving way!

Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed

In you find peace and heav'nly rest.

**4 Shine on the darkened and the cold;
Recall the wand'ers to your fold.
Unite all those who walk apart;
Confirm the weak and doubting heart**

**5 That they with us may evermore
Such grace with wond'ring thanks adore
And endless praise to you be giv'n
By all your Church in earth and heav'n.**

Prayer

P: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: 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.

Closing Hymn: Renew Me, O Eternal Light

CW 689

**1 Renew me, O eternal Light,
And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace
That issues from your holy face.**

**2 Destroy in me the lust of sin;
From all impureness make me clean.
Oh, grant me pow'r and strength, my God,
To strive against my flesh and blood.**

**3 Create in me a new heart, Lord,
That gladly I obey your Word.
Oh, let your will be my desire
And with new life my soul inspire.**

4 Grant that I only you may love
And seek those things which are above
Till I behold you face to face,
O Light eternal, through your grace.

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

May the Lord Jesus shine in our hearts so that we walk as children of God and so that we do not die in darkness.

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—271 (85/84/102) Bible Class – 63

Offering — \$8,091.55 Sunday School – 15

(Meeting our 2023 Ministry Plan requires weekly offerings of \$14,735.00.)

*“The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn,
shining brighter and brighter until it is day.”*

Proverbs 4:18

Announcements

1. **Pastor Janke & Mr. Sonntag calls** Please provide encouragement and keep them in your prayers as they deliberates where the Lord wants them to serve in the future.
2. **Bible Class** We will continue a study of Daniel. Bible class meets in the fellowship area downstairs. Please join us as we “Book Through the Bible.”
3. **Woman’s Bible Class** – We will continue with the book “More Prepared to Answer” by Mark Paustian. Each lesson stands alone so feel free to join at any time. Hope to see you there!
Debbie Lenser.
4. **Lenten Services** We have entered the Lenten Season We observe this sacred season with special midweek Lenten services. Our “fifth” mid-week Lenten service will be this Wednesday, March 22 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Our theme for this year’s Lenten services will be “Psalms of the Savior’s Suffering”. A light supper is served prior to the service beginning at 5:00 p.m.
“Jesus, I will ponder now on your holy passion.

5. **Wednesday Evening Confirmation Class** Wednesday evening confirmation class will meet at 5:00 p.m.
6. **Easter Breakfast** Preparations are under way for Easter Breakfast to be held between services on Easter Sunday, April 9th. A sign-up for food donations can be found on the lower bulletin board. If you have any questions, please contact: Karen Delong-Eichmann (608) 208-8094, Carol Hirsch (608) 751-3648 or Sally Wellnitz (608) 752-2037
7. **2023-2024 Preschool Enrollment** We will be accepting preschool enrollment forms for the coming school year. Our program for 3 year olds will meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:00–11:15 a.m. Children must be 3 years of age by September 1st. Our 4 year olds will meet on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings from 8:00-11:15 a.m. Children registering for this class must be 4 years old by September 1st. We are also offering wrap-around care for students after preschool is over. This new program started four years ago. We would like you to get the applications in by May 28 so a spot can be reserved for you. Shortly after that we will begin advertising to the public that there are spots available for next year. If you have any questions about our preschool or would like an enrollment form, please contact Mr. Proeber or Mrs. Sonntag.
8. **Easter for Kids!** Please consider volunteering for Easter for Kids on April 1, 2023. In order to make this event successful we need your help! If you are interested in teaching, helping, or setting up please contact Cathy Sonntag at 754-3994 or sign up on the board in the lower hallway.
9. **Easter for Kids Registration has begun. Early registration is needed for planning.** Please sign your child (age 4 through 6th grade) up by **Wednesday, March 29**. Signup sheets are located in the narthex (next to the mailboxes) and you can also signup ONLINE at www.stmathewsjaneseville.org by clicking the link Event and following the directions. Please take extras (to give to neighbors & friends). Since this program is an outreach event, we strongly encourage invitation of your child's friends and neighbors. Enrollment can also be done by calling the church at 752-1304.

10. **Easter for Kids Cut Out Cookie & Snack Donations** We are in need of 18 dozen unfrosted cutout cookies and other snack items for Easter for Kids! A religious Easter theme will be used such as crosses, eggs, butterflies, and flowers for the cookies. Please check out the sign-up in the lower hallway to see if you can help. Thank you!
11. **Easter Flowers**. 'To the glory of God' Easter flowers may be ordered. They will be available for \$19 each if a quantity of 25 are purchased. Envelopes are available on the lower bulletin board. Please fill in the needed information on the envelope and enclose payment. Checks may be made payable to St. Matthew's Evening Guild and placed in the offering plate or left in the office. **The deadline for ordering is April 2.** Thank you for your beautiful gift. Flowers may be taken home beginning on Easter Sunday after the 10:30 am service.
12. **Men's Softball** Janesville is having softball leagues again this summer! Any guys (18 and over) interested in playing for our St. Matthew's team in a 12-week Monday night church league should sign up on the narthex bulletin board. The games are played at Dawson Fields. Games begin May 7th and the cost is \$30/player. If you have questions, talk to or call Craig Sonntag (608) 322-7995. Deadline to sign up is April 3.
13. **LWMS Spring Rally** is scheduled for Saturday, April 22 at New Life Lutheran Church in Rockford, IL. The schedule for the ½ day rally includes registration and morning refreshments from 8-9 am; devotion, mission presentation and business meeting from 9 am-12:30 pm, and lunch at 12:30 pm. The featured guest speaker will be Mr. Aaron Wakeman, the executive director of Friends Network. His presentation will be "Building Eternal Friendships." Please consider attending the rally to learn more about this ministry in WELS! We will need to RSVP a head count to the ladies at New Life, so please either sign up on the sheet provided in the narthex or call Ann Janke (608) 563-4383 by Sunday, April 2.

*If you are in need of childcare while at the rally, New Life has the facility to offer it during the rally...just let Ann know so she can reserve you a spot!

14. **LWMS Mission Offerings**-Mission offerings can be given to Ann Janke at church or mailed to Ann. Checks should be made payable to St. Matthew's Evening Guild. They need to be sent to our Rock River circuit treasurer by April 5, so please have your mission offering to Ann by April 2, so that our St. Matthew's offering can be sent in a timely manner. The mission projects that our circuit will be supporting at this time are Asia Special Projects (World) and Children's Ministry Outreach (Home).
15. **2023 LWMS Convention**-the annual LWMS convention is just around the corner! This year it will be held in LaCrosse, WI, from June 22-25, 2023. Our Rock River Circuit (of which St. Matthew's is a part), is co-hosting the event with the Crow River Circuit in Minnesota, which means that many of our members have been busy planning and getting ready to host this huge event! If you've already attended an LWMS convention, you know how uplifting and rewarding they are. If you have never been to one, this is a great opportunity since it is so close to home! Early bird registration is due by April 1. Please see the information posted on the bulletin board in the narthex, or visit www.lwms.org for convention information and forms.

Please continue to pray for the spread of the Gospel through our WELS missionaries and mission opportunities!

Assisting with Worship

Organist:

Kathi Hendee

Ushers:

8:00 a.m. – George Ehlers, Bob Williams, Mike Fox

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

Wednesday – Fred Shadoski, Russ Scott

Next Week Ushers:

8:00 a.m. – Gerald Wellnitz, Richard Stout, Nathan Stout, Evan Burnside, Tom Timmermann

10:30 a.m. – Jim Langkamp, Grant Lamgkamp

Wednesday – Doug McIlvain, Dane McIlvain, Jeff Burandt

CODS:

8:00 a.m. – Marc Augsburg

10:30 a.m. – Trevor Sanchez

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Jim Daley

Next Week CODS:

8:00 a.m. – Tom Timmermann

10:30 a.m. – George Ehlers

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Brian Hartwig

Greeters

8:00 a.m. – Tim & Susan Probst

10:30 a.m. – Scott & Kathi Hendee

Next Week Greeters:

8:00 a.m. – Kyle & Megan Stade

10:30 a.m. – Pam Beres

Church Cleaning:

March 25, 2023 – Roger Howard & Corey Jackson families

April 1, 2023 – Pastor Janke & Karl Kroening families

This Week at St. Matthew's

Sunday

Worship 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

SS/Bible Class 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday

Women's Bible Study

9:30 a.m.

Confirmation Class 5:00 p.m.

Lenten Meal 5:00 p.m.

Sr. Choir Practice 5:30 p.m.

Lenten Service 6:30 p.m.

Sunday

Worship with Lord's Supper

8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

SS/Bible Class 9:15 a.m.



BUILDING ETERNAL
FRIENDSHIPS

LWMS Spring Rally

Recruiting, training,
sending, and
supporting lay
missionaries around
the world



Ann Janke
RSVP: 608-563-4383

Mr. Aaron Wakeman

Saturday, April 22

New Life Lutheran Church
Rockford, IL



8am - Registration and
light breakfast

9am - Program begins

12:30pm - Lunch