



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

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

709 Milton Ave., Janesville, WI 53545

Church & School Phone: 752-1304

James Janke, Pastor 563-4383

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www.stmatthewsjanesville.org

Worship for the 5th Sunday in Lent

April 6, 2025

Opening Hymn: Not unto Us CW 582

**1 Not unto us, not unto us be glory, Lord;
not unto us but to your name be praise;
not unto us but to your name all honor be giv'n
for matchless mercy, forgiveness, and grace.**

**2 Amazing grace—that chose us ere the worlds were made;
amazing grace—that sent your Son to save;
amazing grace—that robed us in your righteousness
and taught our lips to sing glory and praise.**

**3 O faithful love—that shepherded through faithless years;
forgiving love—that led us to your truth;
unyielding love—that would not let us turn from you
but sent us forth to speak pardon and peace.**

**4 Not unto us but to your name be glory, Lord,
for grace so rich, so wide, so high, so free.
Abide with us till trav'ling days are over and done,
and pilgrim feet lead us home, Lord, to you.**

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

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 peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

P: Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation, that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive the forgiveness of sins, victory over the grave, and finally inherit eternal life; 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: Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing for my loved one

a song about my loved one's vineyard.

My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile ridge.

²He dug it up and gathered the stones out of it.

He planted it with the best vines.

He built a tower in the middle of it.

He also cut a winepress into it.

He expected it to produce clusters of sweet grapes,
but it produced only sour grapes.

³So now, you residents of Jerusalem and you men of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.

⁴What more could have been done for my vineyard

that I have not already done for it?

**When I expected it to produce clusters of sweet grapes,
why did it produce sour grapes?**

⁵Now, let me tell you what I will do to my vineyard.

I will take away its hedge, and it will become a pasture.

I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled down.

⁶I will make it a wasteland.

It will not be pruned or hoed.

So briars and thorns will shoot up.

I will also command the clouds not to pour rain on it."

⁷Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of Armies is the house of Israel,

and the men of Judah are the planting that was pleasing to him.

He expected justice, but instead there was oppression.

He expected righteousness, but there was an outcry.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day: O Taste and See CW 965

♪ O taste and see that the Lord is good.

Blessèd are they who take refuge in him.

Your Word, O Lord, is eternal;

it stands firm in the heavens.

Your faithfulness continues forever.

O taste and see that the Lord is good.

Blessèd are they who take refuge in him.

Epistle: 1 Peter 2:4-10

⁴As you come to him, the Living Stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious, ⁵you also, like living stones, are being built as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order to bring spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it says in Scripture:

See, I lay a stone in Zion,

a chosen and precious cornerstone,

and the one who believes in him will certainly not be put to shame.

⁷Therefore, for you who believe, this is an honor. But for those who do not believe:

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,

⁸and,

a stone over which they stumble
and a rock over which they fall.

Because they continue to disobey the word, they stumble over it.
And that is the consequence appointed for them.

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the people who are God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰At one time you were not a people, but now you are the people of God. At one time you were not shown mercy, but now you have been shown mercy.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Apostles' Creed

**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: What Wondrous Love Is This CW 526

1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

**What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss**

to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,

to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

2 When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
 when I was sinking down
 beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
 to God and to the Lamb,
 who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.

Sermon: Luke 20:9-19

⁹He began to tell the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard, leased it to some tenant farmers, and went away on a journey for a long time. ¹⁰When it was the right time, he sent a servant to the tenants to collect his share of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenant farmers beat the servant and sent him away empty-handed. ¹¹The man went ahead and sent yet another servant, but they also beat him, treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. ¹²He then sent yet a third. They also wounded him and threw him out. ¹³The owner of the vineyard said, 'What should I do? I will send my son, whom I love. Perhaps they will respect him.'

¹⁴"But when the tenant farmers saw him, they talked it over with one another. They said, 'This is the heir. Let's kill him, so that the inheritance will be ours.' ¹⁵They threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. So what will the owner of the vineyard do to them? ¹⁶He will come and destroy those tenant farmers and give the vineyard to others."

When they heard this, they said, "May it never be!"

¹⁷But he looked at them and said, "Then what about this that is written:

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

¹⁸Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush the one on whom it falls."

¹⁹That very hour the chief priests and the experts in the law began looking for a way to lay hands on him, because they knew he had spoken this parable against them. But they were afraid of the people.

You Be The Judge

I. Of tenants who despise such patience

II. Of a landlord who displays such justice

Response to God's Word

♪ **And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.**

**And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing his love for me,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on.**

Offering

Prayer of the Church

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. Hear us for your mercy's sake and hear us as we pray as you taught us:

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. 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: Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head

CW 861

**1 Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's head, you are her one foundation;
in you she trusts, before you bows, and waits for your salvation.
Built on this rock secure, your Church shall endure
though all the world decay and all things pass away.**

O hear, O hear us, Jesus!

**2 O Lord, let this your little flock, your name alone confessing,
continue in your loving care, true unity possessing.
Your sacraments, O Lord, and your saving Word
to us e'er pure retain; grant that they may remain
our only strength and comfort.**

**3 Help us to serve you evermore with hearts both pure and lowly;
and may your Word, that light divine, shine on in splendor holy
that we repentance show, in faith ever grow;
the pow'r of sin destroy and evils that annoy.**

O make us faithful Christians.

**4 And for your gospel let us dare to sacrifice all treasure;
teach us to bear your blessed cross, to find in you all pleasure.
O grant us steadfastness in joy and distress.
Lord, for your mercy's sake, let us by grace partake
of endless joy and glory.**

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: On My Heart Imprint Your Image CW 405
**On my heart imprint your image, blessed Jesus, King of grace,
that life's riches, cares, and pleasures have no pow'r to hide your face.
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,
is my life, my hope's foundation, and my glory and salvation.**

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

May it never be that we would presume on the patience of God and perish under the justice of God!

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 Sunday— 390 (114, 101, 175) Bible Study – 71

Offering Last Week—\$ 14,368.96 Sunday School – 18

(Meeting our 2025 Ministry Plan requires weekly offerings of \$15,324.00.)

"Judge me justly, O God, and plead my case against an unjust nation"

(Psalm 43:1)

Announcements:

1. **Bentonville Free Will Offering** The free will offering for Cornerstone Lutheran Church, our Mission Journeys home mission church partner in Bentonville, Arkansas, will continue through Sunday, April 13th. Offerings will be used to supplement the approximately \$8,5000 needed for worship space and equipment rental in preparation for the churches first worship service outside of member homes. Your offerings can be placed in the box located in the Narthex and are very much appreciated.
2. **Call for Miss Meredith Moeller** We would like to inform the congregation that Miss Meredith Moeller has received a Call to Divine Savior Academy in Missouri City, TX to teach 5th grade. Please keep Miss Moeller in your prayers as she deliberates where she can best serve her Savior.
3. **Sunday Morning Bible Class** – Sunday morning Bible class will meet today in between services in the fellowship hall. We will continue study of the Lord’s Prayer. Please join us!
4. **Sunday School** Sunday School will begin at 9:15 a.m. We will meet in the library for opening devotion. The children may be picked up in their classrooms at 10:15 am.
5. **The Women’s Bible Study** The Women’s Bible Class will watch the DVD of the musical “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” starring Donny Osmond. **Class will start at 9:00 a.m. that day.** All are welcome!
6. **Ladies Evening Guild will meet Monday, April 7th at 6:30** in the Fellowship Hall. We will be reviewing the last two months of activities, answering questions about the Mission Festival and the Create and Share, you can sign up for the Easter Breakfast and take home a card or two to send to our shut-ins for Easter. Also be thinking about an office you might want to run for if you so desire. And then there’s always a great Bible study you don’t want to miss!!!! See you then!!!
7. **Sr. Choir Practice** We will have Senior Choir practice on **Tuesday, April 15th** and not on Wednesday, April 16th.

8. **Lenten Services** We observe this sacred season with special midweek Lenten services. Our sixth service will be on Wednesday, April 9 at 6:30 p.m. Our theme for this year's Lenten services will be "*Prophesies Fulfilled in the Passion of Christ*". "A light supper is served prior to the service beginning at 5:00 p.m.
9. **April Communion Services** We have a number of special services coming up in the month of April. For that reason, we have modified our schedule for celebrating the Lord's supper. We will celebrate the Lord's supper on April 13 which is Palm Sunday and then again on April 17 which is Maundy Thursday. Those will be our two opportunities to receive Holy communion in April.
10. **Mission Journeys** If you enjoyed the mission festival and would like the opportunity to work with Pastor Chartrand and Cornerstone Lutheran Church again, the Mission Journeys Committee encourages you to join us on our next trip to Arkansas this Memorial Day weekend! The journey will depart Friday, May 23rd, and return Tuesday, May 27th and will include opportunities for outreach, event preparation and execution, canvassing, fellowship and more. Reach out to Deb Lehmann, Nicole Caminata, or Liz Sanchez for more information or to sign up.
11. **Easter Breakfast**: Preparations are under way for Easter Breakfast to be held between services on Easter Sunday, April 20th. A sign-up for food donations can be found on the lower bulletin board. If you have any questions, please contact a committee member: Karen DeLong-Eichman (608) 208-8094, Rosella Reichardt (608) 530-5427, or Sally Wellnitz (608) 752-2037.
12. **Easter Flowers**. 'To the glory of God' Easter flowers may be ordered. They will be available for \$20 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 9.** Thank you for your beautiful gift. Flowers may be taken home beginning on Easter Sunday after the 10:30 am service.

13. **Easter Orchestra** Anyone interested in putting musical gifts to work serving God and his people as part of an orchestra that will perform on Easter Sunday at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m., should speak with Jack Schroeder or sign up on the bulletin board in the lower hallway. You may contact him at 608-752-0922. **The band will rehearse in the balcony from 2:00 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 19.**
14. **Save The Date**—The LWMS spring rally is scheduled for **Saturday, April 26** at Good Shepherd in Beloit, WI. The itinerary for the ½ day rally includes registration and a light breakfast from 8-9 am, a devotion, mission presentation and business meeting, followed by lunch. Rev. Kevin Hundley and Staff Minister Julia Boggs from Hope Lutheran Church in Deerfield, WI will be the guest speakers. They will give us information on how the Good News of Christ is being shared in the Deerfield mission, with one emphasis being music for children Consider attending the rally to learn more about this mission’s opportunities as well as its challenges! We will need to RSVP a head count to the ladies at Good Shepherd, so please either sign up on the sheet provided in the narthex or call Ann Janke (608) 563-4383 by **Wednesday, April 9.**
- *If you are in need of childcare while at the rally, Good Shepherd is offering that service during the rally...just let Ann know so she can reserve you a spot!
15. **LWMS Mission Offerings**—Mission offerings can be given to Ann Janke at church or mailed to her. Checks should be made payable to St. Matthew’s Evening Guild. They need to be given to our Rock River circuit treasurer by April 11, so please have your mission offering to Ann by **Wednesday, April 9**, as well. The offerings collected from our Rock River Circuit will be designated for 100 Missions in 10 Years (Home Mission) and Native American Missions (World Mission). Please continue to pray for the spread of the Gospel through our WELS missionaries and mission opportunities!
16. **2025-2026 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 five years ago. We would like you to get the applications in by **May 23** 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. Joel Sonntag or Mrs. Cathy Sonntag.

17. **Easter for Kids!** Please consider volunteering for **Easter for Kids on Saturday, April 12, 2025**. 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.
18. **Easter for Kids Registration has begun. Early registration is needed for planning.** Please sign your child (age 4 through 6th grade) up by Wednesday, April 9. Signup sheets are located in the narthex (next to the mailboxes) and you can also signup ONLINE at www.stmathewsjanessville.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.
19. **Our area WELS "Men's Breakfast Bible Study"** is beginning a new series of study as we explore "Isaiah." Who is Isaiah? When did he live on earth? What did he all do? Why is he nicknamed the "Evangelist-Prophet?" Why is he such a famous "major" prophet. One of our regular attendees commented that he was interested in studying "ISAIAH" because he knew many passages from Isaiah but didn't know much about the prophet himself and the historical conditions at that time. Maybe that's how you feel, too. You will be surprised how many passages you know from Isaiah (especially Advent/Christmas, Lenten, and Easter passages) as we travel through his magnificent book. Join us as we begin studying this highly-quoted prophet of God. We meet the **2nd Saturday of every month only from 8-9 a.m. at The Citrus**

Cafe (near Hedberg Library) in the "back room." Bring a friend or another member from your church. Also, bring your Bible and a good appetite!! See you on Saturday, April 12 (the day before Palm Sunday this year) at 8 a.m. Any questions?-- Call, email, or "message" Pastor Lehmann at **608-295-6498** or rwlehmann1950@gmail.com

20. **40th Anniversary Celebration** You are cordially invited to join us in celebrating the 40th anniversary in the preaching ministry of Reverend James Janke. The celebration will be held on **Sunday, May 4, 2025** with a church service at 10:00 a.m. and a catered meal to follow. (Please note, there will be no service on Thursday, May 1.) We ask that you please RSVP no later than April 14 to Lori Sage at lsage@stmatthewsjanesville.org, or by phone at 608-752-1304. A card and best wishes box will be set out in the Narthex on Sunday, April 27 and Sunday, May 4. Please plan on attending! *St. Matthew's Fellowship/Outreach Committee*
21. **Custodians Are Needed** We are looking for part time custodians to help with the cleaning of the school area. We are looking for someone to work 1-2 days per week for 2-3 hour shifts. If you are interested in this paid position, please contact Phil Fry at (608) 208-2178.

Assisting with Worship

Organist:

Kathi Hendee

Ushers:

8:00 a.m. – George Ehlers, Bob Williams, Mike Fox, Nico Caminata
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. – Tom May, Ben May, Eddie May

Next Week Ushers:

8:00 a.m. – Gerald Wellnitz, Evan Burnside, Alex Schmitt
10:30 a.m. – Steve Sage, David Johnson
Maundy Thursday, 6:30 p.m. – Doug McIlvain, Dane McIlvain,
Jeff Burandt, Nathan Wagner
Good Friday, 1:00 p.m. – Mark Schulz, Mike Lenser, Kevin Paasch
Good Friday, 6:30 p.m. – Tim Stirmel, Connor Stirmel

CODS:

Sunday, April 6, 8:00 a.m. – Zach Pfaffenbach

Sunday, April 6, 10:30 a.m. –Karl Kroening

Wednesday, April 9, 6:30 p.m. – Kyle Stade

Next Week CODS:

Sunday, April 13, 8:00 a.m. – Phil Fry

Sunday, April 13, 10:30 a.m. – George Ehlers

Maundy Thursday, April 17, 6:30 p.m. – Brian Hartwig

Good Friday, April 18, 1:00 p.m. – Briton Peterson

Good Friday, April 18, 6:30 p.m. – Tim Stirmel

Greeters

Sunday, April 6, 8:00 a.m. – Judy Fanning

Sunday, April 6, 10:30 a.m. – Mary Howard

Next Week Greeters

Sunday, April 13, 8:00 a.m. – Doug & Alicia McIlvain

Sunday, April 13, 10:30 a.m. – Brandon & Ashley Phillips

Church Cleaning:

April 12, 2025 – Dale Brooks & Rich Burnside families

April 19, 2025 – Mark Butzow & Tara Chapman families

This Week at St. Matthew's

Sunday

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

Sunday School/Bible Class 9:15 a.m.

Monday

Principal's Conference – Grades 5 & 6 dismissed at 11:15 a.m.

Evening Guild 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Chick-Fil-A Day (5:00-8:00 p.m. Make sure you say you're from
St. Matthew's)

Elder's Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Women's Bible Study 9:00 a.m.

Lenten Meal 5:00 p.m.

Sr. Choir 5:30 p.m.

Lenten Service 6:30 p.m.

This Week at St. Matthew's (continued)

Thursday

Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Saturday

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

Easter for Kids 8:45 - 12:00

Palm Sunday

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

Sunday School/Bible Class 9:15 a.m.



MUSIC AS MISSION: SHARING THE
GOOD NEWS IN DEERFIELD, WI

LWMS RALLY

8:00AM-
1:00PM

APRIL 26,
2025

LIGHT BREAKFAST
AND LUNCH
PROVIDED

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
2447 Park Ave, Beloit, WI 53511

Follow the LWMS Rock River Circuit on Facebook for more details

RSVP: Ann Janke 608-563-4383



Speakers: Rev. Kevin Hundley and Staff Minister Julia Boggs

Hope in Deerfield