

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

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)
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*Worship for the Sunday after Ascension/Confirmation Sunday
May 21, 2023*

Opening Hymn: "Our Lord and God, Oh, Bless This Day" CW '93 599

1 Our Lord and God, oh, bless this day

And hear us, we implore you;

None of your children turn away

Who now appear before you.

We come before your face

And pray: let your rich grace

Descend from heav'n above In all your wondrous love,

And keep us by your Spirit.

2 Oh, bless your Word to all the young;

Let them, your truth possessing,

Bear witness true with heart and tongue,

Their faith and ours confessing.

From mother's arms your grace

With love did them embrace. Baptized into your name,

As yours you did them claim;

O Lord, as yours now own them!

3 And when they leave their childhood home,

When Satan comes alluring,

May their baptismal grace become

A refuge reassuring.

God's covenant is sure;

His promises endure. They ne'er shall be undone

Who trust in God alone—

God is their mighty Father!

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

The Confession of Sins

P: Let us approach God with true hearts and confess our sins,

C: asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

P: Most holy and merciful Father,

C: we confess that we are sinful from birth, and that we have sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and actions.

P: We have done what is evil and failed to do what is good.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness; the pride, the apathy and selfishness in our lives.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: Our negligence in worship and prayer, and our failure to confess with our lives the faith that is in us,

C: we confess and plead with you, for Jesus' sake to forgive us.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to die for us and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on his name he gives power to become the children of God and has promised them his Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.

C: Grant this, Lord, unto us all. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty and everlasting God, merciful Father, we thank and praise you for your great goodness in bringing our children to the knowledge of your Son, Jesus Christ, and for giving them both hearts that believe and tongues that confess his saving name. Be with those who profess their faith today and with all who have done so in the past. Keep us all from falling from the secure position you have given us as your children and heirs of eternal life. To that end lead us to guard our faith against the unbelieving world and to grow in faith through your Word, that we may receive at last the crown of everlasting life, through your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sr. Choir 10:30: "A Future and A Hope"

Old Testament: Psalm 110

¹The decree of the LORD to my lord:

"Sit at my right hand

until I make your enemies

a footstool under your feet."

²The LORD will stretch out your strong scepter from Zion.

Rule in the midst of your enemies.

³Your people will be willing on the day of your power.

In majesty of holiness, from the womb of the dawn,

the dew of your youth will be yours.

⁴The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind:

"You are a priest forever, in the manner of Melchizedek."

⁵The Lord is at your right hand.

He will crush kings on the day of his wrath.

⁶He will judge the nations.

He will fill valleys with corpses.

He will crush heads over the wide world.

⁷He will drink from a stream beside the way;

therefore he will lift up his head.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-13

As a prisoner in the Lord, therefore, I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called. ²Live with all humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another in love.

³Make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in the one hope of your calling. ⁵There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in us all.

⁷But to each one of us grace was given, ⁷according to the measure of the gift from Christ. ⁸That is why it says, "When he ascended on high, he took captivity captive and gave gifts to his people." ⁹Now what does it mean when it says, "he ascended," other than that he

also had descended to the lower parts, namely, the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he would fill all things. ¹¹He himself gave the apostles, as well as the prophets, as well as the evangelists, as well as the pastors and teachers, ¹²for the purpose of training the saints for the work of serving, in order to build up the body of Christ. ¹³This is to continue until we all reach unity in the faith and knowledge of the Son of God, resulting in a mature man with a stature reaching to the measure of the fullness of Christ.

P: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn: "Yours Forever, God of Love"

CW '93 426

**1 Yours forever, God of love! Hear us from your throne above;
Yours forever may we be Here and in eternity!**

**2 Yours forever, oh, how blest They who find in you their rest!
Savior, Guardian, heav'nly Friend, Oh, defend us to the end.**

**3 Yours forever, Lord of life! Shield us through our earthly strife.
You, the life, the truth, the way, Guide us to the realms of day.**

**4 Yours forever! Shepherd, keep All your weak and trembling sheep
Safely in your tender care; Let us all your goodness share.**

**5 Yours forever! You our guide, All our needs by you supplied,
All our sins by you forgiv'n, Lead us, Lord, from earth to heav'n.**

Sermon: John 17:13-24

¹³"But now I am coming to you, and I am saying these things in the world, so that they may be filled with my joy. ¹⁴I have given them your word. The world hated them, because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I am not asking that you take them out of the world, but that you protect them from the Evil One. ¹⁶They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

¹⁷"Sanctify them by the truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, I also sent them into the world. ¹⁹I sanctify myself for them, so they also may be sanctified by the truth.

²⁰"I am praying not only for them, but also for those who believe in me through their message. ²¹May they all be one, as you, Father,

are in me, and I am in you. May they also be one in us, so that the world may believe that you sent me. ²²I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one: ²³I in them, and you in me. May they become completely one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

²⁴“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am so that they may see my glory—the glory you gave me, because you loved me before the world’s foundation.”

The Ascended Savior Prays For You

I. That you would be protected from the enemy

II. That you would be brought to complete unity

III. That you would be with him and see his glory

Our Response to God’s Word

CW '93 426

**(sing) Yours forever on that day When the world shall pass away
Yours forever by your grace May we see you face to face.**

Offering

The Rite of Confirmation (10:30 a.m.)

Prayer of the Church for Confirmation Day

P: Gracious Father, you have adopted these young people into your family of faith in Holy Baptism and anointed them with your Holy Spirit. Renew and strengthen them by that same Spirit so that they may continue to grow in faith and boldly confess you before others. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Move them to faithfully hear your Holy Word and joyfully receive your Sacrament that they may again and again be assured of your gracious love and forgiveness. By their attendance in your house and their partaking of your Supper, encourage them in their Christian faith and life, and let them be an encouragement to others. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Give them the sincere desire to die each day to sin and put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Clothe them with the kindness, humility, and patience of Christ and so that they may live at peace with all the members of Christ's body. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Protect them from the powers of evil and give them the weapons to fight against the devil. Preserve in these young people a spirit of humility in heart and fervency in prayer. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Keep them faithful and holy so that they with all of us may inherit eternal 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.**

The Laying On Of Hands – As each confirmand approaches the altar, we ask parents, grandparents, and godparents to stand as the student's name is spoken and the blessing/confirmation verse is spoken.

The Sacrament

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who rose from the dead in glorious triumph to bring forgiveness of sins and everlasting life to all who believe. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy (Tune: Munich, O Word of God Incarnate, CW, #279)

All: (sing)

O holy, holy, holy
Lord God of pow'r and might
Your glory, earth and heaven
In countless ways recite.
Hosanna! Come and save us,
Lord God of Hosts on high,
And in your grace and mercy
Receive our fervent cry.

Hosanna in the highest!
How truly blest is he
Who in God's name is coming
To set his people free!
He comes to bring salvation
And with his blood outpoured
Deliver us from bondage—
Hosanna, mighty Lord!

Words of Institution

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

Lamb of God (Tune: Munich, O Word of God Incarnate, CW, #279)

All: (sing) I lay my sins on Jesus,
The spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us
From the accursed load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus
To wash my crimson stains
White in his blood most precious
Till not a spot remains.

Distribution

Distribution Hymn: "Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face" CW 660

1 Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;
Here would I touch and handle things unseen,
Here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace,
And all my weariness upon you lean.

2 This is the hour of banquet and of song;
Here is the heav'nly table spread anew.
Here let me feast and, feasting, still prolong
The brief bright hour of fellowship with you.

3 I have no help but yours nor do I need
Another arm but yours to lean upon.
It is enough, O Lord, enough indeed;
My strength is in your might, your might alone.

4 Mine is the sin but yours the righteousness;
Mine is the guilt but yours the cleansing blood.
Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace:
Your blood, your righteousness, O Lord, my God.

5 Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear.
The feast, though not the love, is past and gone.
The bread and wine remove, but you are here,
Nearer than ever, still my shield and sun.

6 Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

Distribution Hymn: "My Maker, Be with Me" *CW* '93 598

1 My Maker, be with me The light of life to give,
And guide me patiently While here on earth I live.
To you my heart I tender And all my pow'rs surrender;
Make it my one endeavor To love and serve you ever.
Help me your loving care to see; My Maker, be with me.

2 My Savior, wash me clean With your most precious blood,
That takes away all sin And seals my peace with God.
My soul will rest securely, For you still love me dearly;
Now I find full salvation And freedom from damnation.
Without you, lost, defiled by sin, My Savior, wash me clean.

3 My Comforter, give pow'r That I may stand secure
When in temptation's hour The world and sin allure.
The Son to me revealing, Inspire my thought and feeling,
His Word of grace to ponder Nor let me from him wander.
On me your gifts and graces show'r: My Comforter, give pow'r.

4 O Holy Trinity, To whom I all things owe,
Your presence graciously Within my heart bestow.
Though I am weak and lowly, I am your temple holy.
My praise shall rise unending For grace so condescending.
Oh, heav'nly bliss, your own to be, O Holy Trinity!

Thanksgiving

Song of Simeon (Tune: Munich, O Word of God Incarnate, CW, #279)

All: (sing) Let us, O Lord, be faithful
Like Simeon to the end
So that his prayer exultant
May from our hearts ascend:
"O Lord, now let your servant
Depart in peace, I pray,
Since I have seen my Savior
And here beheld his day."

Closing Prayer

P: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, 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 (8:00): “Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways” CW 705

1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways

To keep his statutes still!

Oh, that my God would grant me grace

To know and do his will!

2 Order my footsteps by your Word,

And make my heart sincere;

Let sin have no dominion, Lord,

But keep my conscience clear.

3 Assist my soul, too apt to stray,

A stricter watch to keep;

And should I e'er forget your way,

Restore your wand'ring sheep.

4 Make me to walk in your commands -

'Tis a delightful road -

Nor let my head or heart or hands

Offend against my God.

Sr. Choir (10:30): “Go Now In Peace”



Communion Registration Communicant members of St. Matthew's are reminded to register for Holy Communion on the “Care Card” found in the pews. If you are visiting St. Matthew's today, we request that you please speak with the Pastor before communing. Questions and answers which will assist you in preparing for partaking of the Lord's Supper are found on page 156 in the front of the hymnal. Please note:

- For those who prefer grape juice, in the center of each tray there are purple individual cups containing grape juice.
- Those who prefer a gluten-free wafer will find individually wrapped wafers in the tray on the table where the bread is located.

Solemn Vow on the Day of Confirmation

P: Do you this day, in the presence of God and of this congregation, acknowledge that in Baptism God gave you forgiveness of sins, life and salvation?

C: I do.

P: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

C: I do.

P: Do you believe in the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

C: 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.

P: Do you believe all the books of the Bible to be the inspired Word of God?

C: I do.

P: Do you believe that the teaching of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as you have learned to know it from Luther's Small Catechism, is faithful and true to the Word of God?

C: I do.

P: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this teaching and to endure all things, even death, rather than fall away from it?

C: I do, and I ask God to help me.

P: Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the teachings of God's Word, to be faithful in the use of the Word and sacrament, and in faith and action remain true to God—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—as long as you live?

C: I do, and I ask God to help me.

St. Matthew's 2023 Confirmation Class

Brayden Michael Becker – son of Brian and Brooke ('nee Cox) Becker was born on March 11, 2009 and reborn as a child of God in his baptism on March 22, 2009. His memory verse comes from Matthew 28:20:

"Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Nico Lee Caminata – son of Nicholas and Nicole ('nee Frey) Caminata was born on September 20, 2008 and reborn as a child of God in his baptism on November 9, 2008. His memory verse comes from Isaiah 40:31:

"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles;

they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Gracie Loren Carlson – daughter of Jason and Kristina ('nee Collins) Carlson was born on November 20, 2008 and reborn as a child of God in her baptism on December 17, 2014. Her memory verse comes from: John 15:5:

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me
and I in him, he will bear much fruit;
apart from me you can do nothing."*

Collin William Daley Hilding – son of William Hilding and Maureen ('nee Daley) Hilding was born on January 22, 2009 and reborn as a child of God in his baptism on January 24, 2009. His memory verse comes from Revelation 2:10

*"Be faithful, even to the point of death,
and I will give you the crown of life"*

Marley Eliza Hill – daughter of Daniel and Ashley ('nee Jones) Hill was born on February 16, 2009 and reborn as a child of God in her baptism on May 11, 2009. Her memory verse comes from Romans 1:16:

*"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God
for the salvation of everyone who believes."*

Allen Lund – son of Joshua and Rebecca ('nee Williams) Lund was born on December 22, 2008 and reborn as a child of God in his baptism on March 1, 2009. His memory verse comes from II Peter 3:18:

*"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our
Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*

Bernard May – son of Bernard Blackburn and Deidre May was born on October 16, 2008 and reborn as a child of God in his baptism in November 2008. His memory verse comes from Revelation 3:11:

“Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.”

Celia Catherine May – daughter of Thomas and Jessica (‘nee Nowak) May was born on June 17, 2009 and reborn as a child of God in her baptism on June 28, 2009. Her memory verse comes from John 10:27,28:

***“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.
I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish;
no one can snatch them out of my hand.”***

Alexander David Schmitt – son of Nicholas and Rachel (‘nee Bartz) Schmitt was born on November 8, 2008 and reborn as a child of God in his baptism on November 30, 2008. His memory verse comes from Joshua 1:9:

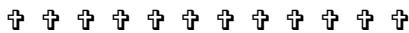
***“Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified;
do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be
with you wherever you go.”***

Ethan Lane Stout – son of Richard and Erin (‘nee Nelson) Stout was born on September 3, 2008 and reborn as a child of God in his baptism on October 19, 2008. His memory verse comes from John 14:6:

***“I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.”***

Andrew David Vergenz – son of Kristoffer and Rachel (‘nee Quale) Vergenz was born on February 11, 2009 and reborn as a child of God in his baptism on February 22, 2009. His memory verse comes from John 3:16:

***“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”***



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

Let us rejoice to know that our ascended Savior still prays that we would be protected from our enemy, brought to complete unity and finally and eternally be with him and see his glory.

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—263 (35/228)

Bible Class – 82

Offering Last Week—\$12,951.13

Sunday School – 22

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

“Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us”

II Timothy 1:14.

Announcements:

1. **The flowers on the altar** have been given by 2023 Confirmation Class. God's blessings to you.
2. **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.
3. **7th & 8th Grade Teacher Call Meeting** – A call meeting for a 7th and 8th grade teacher and athletic director has been scheduled for Sunday, May 28, after the 9:00 a.m. service. This will be a one-year call. Please attend!
4. **Thank you! Thank you!** Blessed beyond measure is a good description of my reaction to my farewell between services on April 30th. I want to thank each and every one of you that spoke to me, contacted me, gave me cards, and supported me with your kind words and prayers! I want to especially thank the Fellowship and Education Committees and Miss Moeller and Mr. Proeber for all of the extra work you put in for my farewell. St. Matthew's has truly been a blessing for me and my family these last 34 years. You called a young graduate out of New Ulm 34 years ago, and you built me up and supported me as I grew into my roles at St. Matthews. I pray I have made just a fraction of the impact in your lives that all of you have made in mine. Thank you again. I am blessed! *Craig Sonntag*

5. **Summer Schedule:** Please note that we will begin our summer worship schedule on Sunday, May 28. That means that on Sunday, May 28, which is the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend, we will have just one service on Sunday morning beginning at **9:00 a.m.** There will be no Bible Class on the 28th and during the month of June. Bible Class will resume on Sunday, July 9 at 8:00 a.m. However, please keep in mind that we will continue to have our Thursday evening worship service throughout the summer beginning at 6:30 p.m.
6. **Kids Toys and Clothing Exchange** Do you have extra kids clothing, toys, or accessories that you plan to give away? Consider having a table at our St. Matthew's Kids Toy and Clothing Exchange on Saturday, June 10th from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. instead! Items for all ages from newborn to teenager are welcome and encouraged. Sign up for your table on the bulletin board or with Lori Sage in the office. If you have any questions, please call Liz Sanchez at (847)-346-2066.
7. **Summer Bible Camp Save the Date** Our Summer Bible Camp for 2023 will be held on July 18, 19 and 20. Please mark your calendars for this fun adventure!
8. **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.

Assisting with Worship

Organist:

Meredith Moeller

Ushers:

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

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

Next Week Ushers:

9:00 a.m. – Doug McIlvain, Dane McIlvain, Jeff Burandt

CODS:

8:00 a.m. – Doug McIlvain

10:30 a.m. – George Ehlers

6:30 p.m. – Jim Daley

Next Week CODS:

9:00 a.m. – Tom Timmermann

6:30 p.m. – Phil Fry

Greeters

8:00 a.m. – George & Jan Ehlers

10:30 a.m. – Jean Ruppier

Next Week Greeters:

9:00 a.m. – Judy Fanning

Church Cleaning:

May 27, 2023 – Todd Schwark & Russ Scott families

June 3, 2023 – Fred Shadoski & Craig Sonntag families

This Week at St. Matthew's

Confirmation Sunday

Worship with Communion

8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Confirmation Examination

9:15 a.m.

Confirmation Service with

Communion 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Women's Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

Thursday

School Picnic 10:00 a.m.

Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.

Worship/Graduation Service

6:30 p.m. Students receive
report cards after the service
in their classroom.

Sunday

Worship Service 9:00 a.m.

