

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

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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[www.stmatthewsjanesville.org](http://www.stmatthewsjanesville.org)

*Worship for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*

*May 7, 2023*

**Opening Hymn: Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing** *CW 520*

- 1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!**
- 2 My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad, the honors of your name.**
- 3 The name of Jesus calms our fears and bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears, tis life and health and peace.**
- 4 He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin; he sets the pris'ner free.  
His blood can make the foulest clean; his blood avails for me.**
- 5 See all your sins on Jesus laid; the Lamb of God was slain.  
His life was once an off'ring made that you might live again.**
- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love be ever, ever giv'n  
by saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heav'n.**

**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.

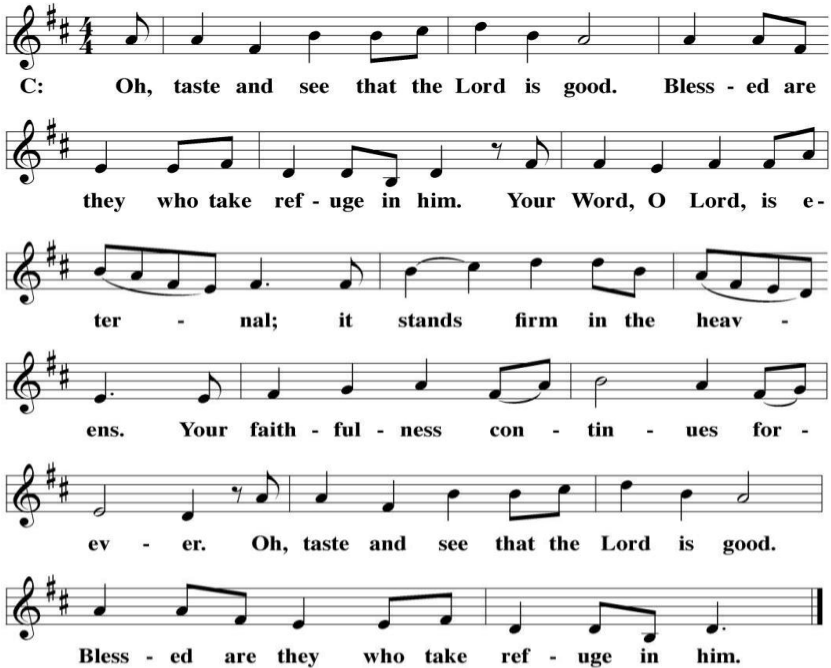
**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.**

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 God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ

our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **JUNIOR CHOIR SONG SERVICE:**

#### *We Sing of the Great Things He Has Done*

**Gloria May:** *A few short weeks ago, we gathered here to celebrate the triumphant resurrection of our Savior, Jesus. The church was full, the brass was loud, the singing was joyful. It may not be Easter Sunday today, but the promise of eternal life that our Savior gives us is still true – we can join the chorus of redeemed and sing together: Christ is risen, he is risen indeed!*

#### Song: Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed

Verse 1: How can it be the one who died has born our sin through sacrifice, to conquer every sting of death, sing, sing hallelujah! For joy awakes as dawning light when Christ's disciples lift their eyes, alive he stands, their friend and king, Christ, Christ, He is risen.

Refrain: Christ is risen, he is risen indeed! Oh, sing hallelujah! Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed, Christ is risen, He is risen, indeed.

Verse 2: Where doubt and darkness once had been, they saw him and their hearts believed, but blessed are those who have not seen, yet, sing hallelujah. Once bound by fear now bold in faith, they preached the truth and power of grace, and pouring out their lives they gained, life, life everlasting. (Refrain)

Verse 3: The power that raised him from the grave now works in us to powerfully save, He frees our hearts to live his grace, go tell of his goodness. (Refrain)

**Nico Caminata:** *The disciples saw their Lord. They saw his hands and his feet, they looked at his pierced side – they saw, and they believed. But blessed are those who have not seen, yet still believe. We know our Redeemer lives, we know that he is preparing a place for us in heaven. We know he is by our side, and that he fills our lives with grace and blessings that we don't deserve. Praise the Lord for his indescribable gifts!*

Song: Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord (with Amazing Grace)

Praise, praise, praise the Lord, praise God's holy name. Praise, praise, praise the Lord, Praise God's holy name. Praise God's holy name, hallelujah, praise God's holy name. Praise God's holy name, hallelujah, praise God's holy name.

Once was lost, now I'm found, praise God's holy name. Once was lost, now I'm found, praise God's holy name. Praise God's holy name, hallelujah, praise God's holy name. Praise God's holy name, hallelujah, praise God's holy name.

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound! That saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see. When we've been there ten thousand years bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than we've first begun.

Praise God's holy name, hallelujah. Praise God's holy name! Praise God's holy name!

**Teagan Hilding:** *Our Good Shepherd provides us with an abundance of blessings – we were lost, wretched sinners who deserve nothing but punishment, but our Shepherd laid down his life for his sheep so that we will have an eternity in heaven to praise God's holy name. With the Lord as our Shepherd, there is nothing more we will ever need.*

Song: The Shepherd's Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd, there's nothing more I'll ever need. I'll lie down to dream in a pasture of green, I'll follow wherever he leads me.

The Lord is my shepherd, beside the still waters I go; my soul is restored when I walk with my Lord, his righteousness 'round me will flow. And if I should walk in the shadow of death, I will not be afraid, My shepherd the Lord goes wherever I go, his rod and his staff are my comfort.

I know that the Lord is my shepherd, I'll sit at his table to dine. His goodness and mercy will follow my days, and heaven will surely be mine, and heaven will always be mine.

## Old Testament: Zephaniah 3:14-20

<sup>14</sup>Sing out, daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, you daughter of Jerusalem. <sup>15</sup>The LORD has removed the judgment against you. He has turned back your enemy. Israel's king, the LORD, is in your midst! You no longer need to fear disaster. <sup>16</sup>In that day Jerusalem will be told, "Do not be afraid, O Zion. Do not give up. <sup>17</sup>The LORD your God is with you as a hero who will save you. He takes great delight in you. He will quiet you with his love. He will rejoice over you with singing."

<sup>18</sup>I will bring back those among you who grieve over the loss of the appointed feasts, those for whom the loss was a burden and a disgrace. <sup>19</sup>Look, at that time I will deal with those who mistreated you. I will rescue the lame and gather together the scattered. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they were put to shame. <sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you in. At that time I will gather you. I will give you a name and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, declares the LORD.

## Verse of the Day



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## Epistle: Revelation 21:1-8

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, because the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. And the sea no longer existed. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down

out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

<sup>3</sup>And from the throne I heard a loud voice that said, "Look! God's dwelling is with people. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them, and he will be their God. <sup>4</sup>He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain, because the former things have passed away."

<sup>5</sup>The one who was seated on the throne said to me, "Look, I am making everything new!" He also said, "Write, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup>And he said to me:

It is done.

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.  
To anyone who is thirsty,

I will give freely from the spring of the water of life.

<sup>7</sup>The one who is victorious will inherit these things.

I will be his God, and he will be my son.

<sup>8</sup>But those who are cowardly, unbelieving, detestable, murderers, adulterers, sorcerers, idolaters, and all the liars will have their share in the lake burning with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Collin Hilding:** *What would happen if it hadn't been for the perfect life and death of our Savior, Jesus? What would happen if he hadn't been on our side? The sinful reality is that the devil would overpower us, and we'd be crushed beneath the weight of our sins. While Jesus was on the cross, he thought of each and every one of us. His love reached down to claim us as his own and we no longer need to wonder what would happen if it had not been for the Lord. Our grateful hearts can sing our thanks eternally.*

Song: If It Had Not Been for the Lord

Verse 1: If it had not been for the Lord on our side, when strong raging floods surrounded us, we'd be surely crushed beneath the waves of sin, if it had not been for, if it had not been for the Lord.

Verse 2: If it had not been for the Lord on our side, when dry desert plains had wearied us. But for grace we'd still be wandering in those lands. If it had not been for, if it had not been for the Lord.

Refrain: Our hope, our help, from age to age the same. Our God, our rock, most worthy to be praised. From this mount of grace, our grateful hearts will say evermore: if it had not been for the Lord.

Verse 3: If it had not been for the Lamb, on that cross, where love full and free reached down to us. There would be no peace with God, no peace with man, if it had not been for, if it had not been for the Lord.  
(refrain)

Verse 4: If it had not been for the Lord on that day, before heaven's throne what would we say? There with endless wonder we will shout Amen! If it had not been for, if it had not been for the Lord. (Refrain)

**Bernard May:** *The Lord is on our side, but that isn't going to stop the devil from trying to tear us away from our Savior. His attacks are countless, powerful, and relentless. The devil knows our weaknesses and preys on them. He wants us to fall. But we have one who holds us fast. When we feel like our faith will fail, Christ holds us. He doesn't let us go – the tempter will not prevail. We can't fight him off by ourselves, and thanks be to God that we are not alone – He will hold us fast because he loves us so much.*

### Song: He Will Hold Me Fast

Verse 1: When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast. When the tempter will prevail, he will hold me fast. I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path, for my love is often cold, he must hold me fast.

Refrain: He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast. For my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

Verse 2: Those he saves are his delight, Christ will hold me fast. Precious in his holy sight – he will hold me fast. He'll not let my soul be lost, his promises shall last. Bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast. (Refrain)

Verse 3: For my life he bled and died, Christ will hold me fast. Justice has been satisfied, he will hold me fast. Raised with him to endless life, he will hold me fast, 'til my faith is turned to sight, when he comes at last. (Refrain)

**Molly Augsburg:** *The Savior is risen, our praises rise to give him glory. Our Shepherd provides for us in all our needs, and will hold us fast through the temptations the devil brings. Our lives here on earth are a testament to the love and grace that Jesus has given us through his life, death, and resurrection. It's our job to share this good news with others. And finally, when our time of grace on earth is finished, Our Good Shepherd, Our Savior, Jesus will call us home to heaven, where he has prepared a mansion for us. We sing for the great things he has done for us and we look forward to that day: Heaven's gonna be our home.*

### Song: Heaven's Gonna Be My Home

Heaven's gonna be my home, some day I'm going there! Heaven's gonna be my home, that land beyond compare. No more crying, no more tears, no more sorrow, no more fears, and every cloud shall disappear, oh, heaven's gonna be my home.

Oh they tell me of a home beyond the sky, they tell me of a home far away. Oh they tell me of a home far beyond the sky, oh they tell me of an unclouded day. Oh the land of cloudless day, oh the land of an unclouded day. Oh they tell me of a home, far beyond the sky, oh they tell me of an unclouded day.

Heaven's gonna be my home. Heaven's gonna be my home one fine day.

Heaven's gonna be my home, someday I'm going there! Heaven's gonna be my home, that land beyond compare. Heaven's gonna be my home, someday I'm going there. No more sickness, no more pain, no more dying, no more shame, I'll hear my Savior call my name, Heaven's gonna be my home.

### **Sermon Text: John 14:1-6**

"Do not let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I



would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me, so that you may also be where I am. <sup>4</sup>You know where I am going, and you know the way."

<sup>5</sup>"Lord, we don't know where you are going," Thomas replied, "so how can we know the way?"

<sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through me."

*Your Room In The Father's House Is Ready*

*I. Jesus made the reservation*

*II. Jesus supplies the amenities*

*III. Jesus provides the directions*

**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.**

**Offering**

**Prayer of the Church for Easter**

P: O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

**C: Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

P: In your compassion you sent your Son, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life and took it up again to rescue the lost.

**C: You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.**

P: Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory:

**C: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and wealth, and wisdom and strength, and honor and glory and praise."**

P: Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

**C: How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news...who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"**

P: Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With joyful hearts we come before you and say:

**C: Alleluia! Thanks be to God! 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: Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices

CW 484

- 1 Oh, that I had a thousand voices  
to praise my God with thousand tongues!  
My heart, which in the Lord rejoices,  
would then proclaim in grateful songs  
to all, wherever I might be,  
what great things God has done for me.
- 2 Dear Father, endless praise I render  
for soul and body, nobly joined;  
I praise you, guardian kind and tender,  
for all the daily joys I find  
so richly spread on ev'ry side  
and freely for my use supplied.

- 3 I praise you, Savior, whose compassion  
has brought you down to ransom me.  
Your pitying heart sought my salvation;  
you bore the cross triumphantly,  
brought me from bondage full release,  
made me your own, and gave me peace.
- 4 Glory and praise, still onward reaching,  
be yours, O Spirit of all grace,  
whose holy pow'r and faithful teaching  
give me among your saints a place.  
Whatever good by me is done  
is worked by grace divine alone.

### 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: *Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices* CW 484

- 5 Shall I not then be filled with gladness?  
Shall I not praise you evermore  
and triumph over fear and sadness,  
although my cup of woe runs o'er?  
Though heav'n and earth shall disappear,  
your endless love is ever near.

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

Let us praise our Savior that because he made the reservation, supplies the amenities, and provides the directions our room in the Father's house is ready.

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—248 (38/210) Women's Bible Class— 12  
Offering — \$12,036.52

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

*"One thing I ask from the LORD. This is what I seek:  
that I live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life"*

*Psalm 27:4.*

**Announcements:**

1. **The flowers on the altar** have been given by Anthony and Abbie Ayres in celebration of their 10<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Congratulations and God's blessings!
2. **Wednesday Evening Confirmation Class** Wednesday evening confirmation class will meet at 5:00 p.m.
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. **Voters' Meeting** A voters' meeting will be held today in between services in the fellowship hall. Items to be discussed are a new furnace for the gym (1994), a new roof over the locker rooms by the gym area (1997), and our financial position at this time. Please plan to attend.
5. **Ascension Day Service** Ascension day is coming up on Thursday, May 18 we will observe this important festival with a special Ascension Day Service. This will not be a communion service. However, we will be celebrating the Lord's Supper in both Sunday services on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Please join us on Ascension Day to sing our great Ascension hymns. The service begins at 6:30 p.m.

6. **Luther Preparatory School Spring Concert** On Sunday, May 7th, the music department of Luther Preparatory School will be presenting its annual spring instrumental concert. This year's program is entitled "Fantastical Music". The concert begins at 7:00 p.m. and we hope you can join us for a wonderful evening of music!
7. **Mustang Invitational** St. Matthew's Annual Mustang Invitational Track Meet at Monterey Stadium will be held on Monday, May 8 (May 11 rain date). We could really use help if any congregational members are available to help between 9:00-2:00. If you are only available for the morning or afternoon, we could still use the help from either 9:00-11:30 or 11:30 - 2:00. We have jobs in concessions, ribbons, and helping with events. We expect about 200 total participants from 7 different schools. Please sign up on the narthex bulletin board. If you have questions, please talk to Mr. Sonntag.
8. **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!
9. **Clothing Drive** - The Evening Gild will be having their Spring clothing drive on May 12<sup>th</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup>. If you have Spring or Summer clothes in good condition that you no longer want or need, or shoes, boots, purses, etc., they may be brought to the school lobby on Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, and until noon on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. We will take all articles to "Twice is Nice" in Jefferson. If you have any questions, please call Betty Olson at 754-7416, Shari Scheibe at 757-9467, or Sally Wellnitz at 752-2037.
10. **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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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.

11. **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](http://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!
12. **The Master's Gardeners** would be delighted to have you join their committee. We tend the flowerbeds around church during the growing season and we decorate the church at Christmas. The time commitment is minimal and you can do the work at your convenience according to your schedule. No experience is required--we will train you. To receive more information, fill out a card from the Service Opportunities Board and put it in the offering plate or call/text Kathi Hendee, #779-348-6394.

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### **Assisting with Worship**

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#### **Organist:**

Kathi Hendee

#### **Ushers:**

8:00 a.m. – Rich Hatfield, Michael Borchardt, Ryan Borchardt, Kyle Stade  
10:30 a.m. – Tim Stirmel, Connor Stirmel, Austin Schultz

#### **Next Week Ushers:**

8:00 a.m. – George Ehlers, Bob Williams, Mike Fox  
10:30 a.m. – Fred Shadoski, Russ Scott

**CODS:**

8:00 a.m. – Tom Timmermann

10:30 a.m. – Steve Sage

6:30 p.m. – Brian Hartwig

**Next Week CODS:**

8:00 a.m. – Phil Fry

10:30 a.m. – Tim Stirmel

6:30 p.m. – Marc Augsburg

**Greeters**

8:00 a.m. – Mike & Bethann Borchardt

10:30 a.m. – Art & Linda Hilker

**Next Week Greeters:**

8:00 a.m. – Bev Boughton

10:30 a.m. – John & Joanne May

**Church Cleaning:**

May 13, 2023 – Warren Scheibe & Jon Spinsky families

May 20, 2023 – Mark Schulz & David Schumann 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 9:15 a.m.

Voters' Meeting 9:15 a.m.

**Monday**

Monterey Track Meet

**Tuesday**

Fellowship/Outreach Meeting

6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday**

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

Confirmation Class 5:00 p.m.

Choir Practice 5:45 – 6:45 p.m.

Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday**

Worship with Communion

6:30 p.m.

**Friday**

School Track Meet 12:30 p.m.

**Saturday**

Men's Bible Class at Citrus Café

8:00 a.m.

**Sunday**

Worship with Communion

8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

SS/Bible Class 9:15 a.m.

