



***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

Dale Beutin, Congregational Asst. 774-5177

Joel Sonntag, Principal 414-460-8305

www.stmatthewsjanesville.org

Worship for the 15th Sunday after Pentecost

August 29 & September 1, 2024

Opening Hymn: Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ CW 560

**1 Your works, not mine, O Christ,
speak gladness to this heart;
they tell me all is done,
they bid my fear depart. (Refrain)**

**Ref To whom but you, who can alone
for sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?**

**2 Your blood, not mine, O Christ,
can heal my sinful soul;
your wounds, not mine, contain
the balm that makes me whole. (Refrain)**

**3 Your cross, not mine, O Christ,
has borne the dreadful load
of sins that none could bear
but the incarnate God. (Refrain)**

**4 Your death, not mine, O Christ,
has paid the ransom due;
ten thousand deaths like mine
would have been all too few. (Refrain)**

**5 Your righteousness, O Christ,
alone can cover me;
no other righteousness
can set a sinner free. (Refrain)**

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

Confession of Sins

P: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

C: Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

P: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

P: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus lived as our substitute and obeyed the law of God perfectly for us, he paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

Glory Be to God *CW 157*

♪ **Glory be to God on high,**

and on earth peace, good will toward men.

We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,

we glorify you, we give thanks to you, for your great glory,

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer.

You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.

For you only are holy; you only are the Lord.

You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

P: Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; 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 1:10-20

¹⁰Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom!

Listen to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah!

¹¹What do your many sacrifices mean to me? says the Lord.

I have more than enough rams as burnt offerings

and enough fat from well-fed animals.

I am not pleased with the blood of bulls
or the blood of lambs and male goats.

¹²When you come to appear before me,
who has asked for this from your hands:

this trampling on my courts?

¹³Stop bringing worthless offerings!

Your incense is an abomination to me.

I cannot stand your sinful assemblies

on the new moons, Sabbaths, and holy days.

¹⁴Deep in my soul I hate your new moons and your appointed feasts.

They have become a burden to me.

I am tired of putting up with them.

¹⁵When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you.

Indeed, even though you make many prayers, I will not hear.

Your hands are full of blood.

¹⁶Wash yourselves. Purify yourselves.

Remove your evil deeds from my sight.

Stop doing evil. ¹⁷Learn to do good.

Seek justice. Relieve the oppressed.

Seek justice for the fatherless. Plead for the widow.

¹⁸Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord.

Though your sins are like scarlet,

they will be as white as snow.

Though they are as red as crimson,

they will be like wool.

¹⁹If you are willing and obedient,

you will eat good things from the land,

²⁰but if you refuse and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword.

Yes, the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day *tune of CW 560*

♪ **Jesus, my great High Priest, offered his blood and died;**
my guilty conscience seeks no sacrifice beside.

His pow'rful blood did once atone,
and now it pleads before the throne.

Gospel: Mark 7:1-8

The Pharisees and some of the experts in the law came from Jerusalem and gathered around Jesus. ²They saw some of his disciples eating bread with unclean (that is, unwashed) hands. ³In fact, the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they scrub their hands with a fist, holding to the tradition of the elders. ⁴When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions they adhere to, such as the washing of cups, pitchers, kettles, and dining couches. ⁵The Pharisees and the experts in the law asked Jesus, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders? Instead they eat bread with unclean hands."

⁶He answered them, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites. As it is written:

These people honor me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me.

⁷They worship me in vain,
teaching human rules as if they were doctrines.

⁸"You abandon God's commandment but hold to human tradition like the washing of pitchers and cups, and you do many other such things.

P: This is the Gospel of the 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: If Your Beloved Son, O God *CW 559:1-4*

1 If your beloved Son, O God,
had not to earth descended
and in our mortal flesh and blood
had not sin's power ended,
then this poor, wretched soul of mine
in hell eternally would pine
because of my transgression.

2 But now I find sweet peace and rest;
despair no more reigns o'er me.
No more am I by sin oppressed,
for Christ has borne sin for me.
Upon the cross for me he died
that, reconciled, I might abide
with you, my God, forever.

3 I trust in him with all my heart;
now all my sorrow ceases.
His words abiding peace impart;
his blood from guilt releases.
Free grace through him I now obtain;
he washes me from ev'ry stain,
and pure I stand before him.

4 All righteousness by works is vain;
the law brings condemnation.
True righteousness by faith I gain;
Christ's work is my salvation.
His death, that perfect sacrifice,
has paid the all-sufficient price;
in him my hope is anchored.

Sermon: Romans 9:30-10:4

³⁰What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who were not pursuing righteousness, have obtained righteousness, a righteousness that is by faith. ³¹But Israel, while pursuing the law as a way of righteousness, did not reach it. ³²Why? Because they kept pursuing it not by faith, but as if it comes by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone. ³³Just as it is written:

Look, I am putting a stone in Zion
over which they will stumble
and a rock over which they will fall.

The one who believes in him will not be put to shame.

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God on behalf of the Israelites is that they may be saved. ²Indeed, I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but it is not consistent with knowledge. ³Since they were ignorant of the righteousness from God and sought to establish their own righteousness, they did not submit to the righteousness from God. ⁴For to everyone who believes, Christ is the end of the law, resulting in righteousness.

"The Harder You Try The Worse It Gets"

I. This is true when you try to make yourself righteous

II. This is true because Christ alone is our righteousness

Response to God's Word CW 559:5

**5 My guilt, O Father, you have laid
on Christ, your Son, my Savior.**

**Lord Jesus, you my debt have paid
and gained for me God's favor.**

**O Holy Spirit, fount of grace,
the good in me to you I trace;
in faith and hope preserve me.**

Offering

Prayer of the Church

P: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.

P: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.

P: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed and comfort all who are old and infirm.

P: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Make our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

P: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight.

P: These prayers we bring in Jesus' name, and in his name, we pray as he 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.

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: Not What My Hands Have Done CW 572:1-3

1 Not what my hands have done
 can save my guilty soul,
not what my toiling flesh has borne
 can make my spirit whole.

Not what I feel or do
 can give me peace with God,
not all my prayers and sighs and tears
 can bear my awful load.

2 Thy work alone, O Christ,
 can ease this weight of sin,
thy blood alone, O Lamb of God,
 can give me peace within.

Thy love to me, O God,
 not mine, O Lord, to thee
can rid me of this dark unrest
 and set my spirit free.

3 I bless the Christ of God,
 I rest on love divine,
and with unfalt'ring lip and heart
 I call this Savior mine.
His cross dispels each doubt;
 I bury in his tomb
each thought of unbelief and fear,
 each ling'ring shade of gloom.

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: Not What My Hands Have Done CW 572:4

4 I praise the God of grace,

I trust his truth and might.

He calls me his, I call him mine,

my God, my joy, my light.

My Lord has saved my life,

and freely pardon gives;

I love because he first loved me,

I live because he lives.

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

Let us see today that when it comes to righteousness before God, the harder we try to make ourselves righteous the worse it gets for us.

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— 218 (43/175) Bible Classes – 46

Offering Last Week—\$9,341.75 Sunday School – 5

To Finish the Work We Need – \$52,000.00 - \$29,124.00 = \$22,876.00

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

"In you, Lord, I have taken refuge. Let me never be put to shame.

In your righteousness deliver me."

Psalm 31:1.

Announcements:

1. **The flowers on the altar** have been given by Meredith Moeller in loving memory of her grandma, Cleo Walling.
2. **Service Schedule** Please keep in mind that we will return to our usual school year service schedule on Sunday, September 8. That means the service on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend will be our last 9:00 a.m. service for the summer schedule. On September 8, we will have two Sunday services—the first at 8:00 a.m. and the

second at 10:30 a.m. Remember that we will continue to hold our Thursday services throughout the fall until the week of Thanksgiving. Our Thursday services begin at 6:30 p.m.

3. **Sunday Morning Bible Class** – Sunday morning Bible class will not meet today. Bible class will resume next Sunday, September 8 between services in the Fellowship Hall. We will continue studying the book of Habakkuk.
4. **Sunday School** Sunday School will resume on Sunday September 8th. Registration will be that morning and we will meet in the classrooms. Staff will be on hand to direct you to the rooms. The Sunday School staff thank you for sending your children and are looking forward to sharing God's word with them. Please feel free to contact any of us with questions.
5. **Women's Bible Class** The Women's Bible Study will spend two weeks covering another write-up from the Paustian book More "Prepared to Answer." We started the book on Abraham and will continue that in mid-September. For more information, contact Debbie Lenser at 608-728-3120
6. **A Special Voters' Meeting** will be held on Sunday, September 8 after the 10:30 service. The purpose of this meeting is to decide whether to repair or replace the school roof which leaks in several places. Please plan to attend. Thank you!
7. **Mr. Joel Sonntag (Principal/7th * 8th grade teacher), Mrs. Emily Fleming (5th & 6th grade teacher), and Mrs. Vicki Schewe (Kindergarten teacher/Before & After Care Director)** will be installed on Sunday, September 15 at the 8:00 a.m. service. To help welcome our new teachers we would like to have a gift card shower for them. You may place the gift cards in the boxes in the Narthex. We ask God's blessings as they begin their ministry at St. Matthew's Lutheran School.
8. **Save the Date for Our Fall Fun Festival/Clothing & Toy Exchange Events** being held on Sunday, September 22 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. The Fall Festival will take place in the Mustang Café, outside, and in the school lobby while the Clothing and Toy Exchange will take place in the gym. We will have fall games, board games, cards, bags tournaments, pumpkin painting, photo

booth, snacks, and fellowship! The clothing/toy exchange will take place in the gym. Join us for snacks and our Fall Festival activities then shop our display of children's items including clothing size newborn to preteen and toys for all ages. **All items are free!** Everyone who comes will receive a free St. Matthew's tote bag. If you have donations that you would like to make, please contact Liz Sanchez at 847-346-2066 or Priscilla Taylor at 608-436-0707. Everyone is invited to attend. Please ask your family members or friends to join us for either event or both!

9. **Ladies Evening Guild** will have their first meeting Monday, September 9th, at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. All female members of St. Matthew's are invited and welcomed. Meetings are normally held the 1st Monday of the month. There is Bible study before the meeting. Guild sponsors many events throughout the year, Advent by Candlelight, serving at the Advent and Lenten suppers, mission journeys, clothing drives and Easter Breakfast to mention just a few. We also support Home and World missions and local programs such as Meals on Wheels, ECHO and Project 16:49. Please consider coming to guild where there is always God's work and word. Address any questions to President Linda Williams, 608-751-7178.
10. **Finish the Work Challenge** A generous member of St. Matthew's has offered to make the final payment on our mortgage when the members of St. Matthew's bring the balance down to \$50,000.00. At the moment the remaining balance on the mortgage totals \$102,000.00. That means that when the members of St. Matthew's can raise \$52,000.00 **we will truly finish the work!** *Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Hebrews 10:23, 24*
11. **St. Matthew's Lutheran School Fees Assistance Fund** – We have some families who could use financial assistance with their grade school registration fees. If you are interested in helping, please notify Mr. Sonntag. Donating should be identified **St. Matthew's Lutheran School Fees Assistance Fund** and can be put in the regular Sunday collections.

Sanctuary Sound

Hi, I'm Rog Howard and I'm the church sound guy. If you think the sound in the sanctuary might be improved you might also think it's about time when I tell you I recently got hearing aids. My hearing aids have a "loop" setting which makes listening to Pastor on Sundays like having my own private FM radio station. It really works great! If you have hearing aids they likely have a "loop" setting which I encourage you to give a try. I had to go to my audiologist to get the "loop" setting working but it was well worth it.

If you have any thoughts about sanctuary sound, lighting, the 75" video monitors in church or our live streamed Sunday services please speak up as we are always seeking input that helps us do better. Thanks.

Assisting with Worship

Organist:

Meredith Moeller

Ushers:

9:00 a.m. – Rich Hatfield, Michael Borchardt, Ryan Borchardt, Kyle Stade

CODS:

Thursday, August 29, 2024, 6:30 p.m. – Tim Stirmel

Sunday, September 1, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – Jim Daley

Next Week CODS:

Thursday, September 5, 2024, 6:30 p.m. – Trevor Sanchez

Sunday, September 8, 2024, 8:00 a.m. – George Ehlers

Sunday, September 8, 2024 – 10:30 a.m. – Karl Kroening

Greeters

Sunday, September 1, 9:00 a.m. – Gerry & Sally Wellnitz

Next Week Greeters

Sunday, September 8, 8:00 a.m. – Arlan Miller

Sunday, September 8, 10:30 a.m. – Dale & Lynn Beutin

Church Cleaning:

September 7, 2024 – Tim Probst & Warren Scheibe families

September 14, 2024 – Brandon Schulz & Todd Schwark families

This Week at St. Matthew's

Sunday

No Sunday School or Bible Class

Worship 9:00 a.m.

Monday

Labor Day – No School

Wednesday

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

Thursday

Worship Service with Communion 6:30 p.m.

Friday

Sprouts 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Sunday

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

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

Voters' Meeting after 10:30 a.m. service.

Women's Bible Class Summary on Noah

The Women's Bible Class wanted to share some of the things we learned and discussed from our first character study, Noah. We read the People's Bible book on Noah and compared it to what would be in a Sunday School lesson, including a song. We had 5 people who had previously visited the Ark Encounter and had photos, books, and information to share about that experience. We studied information from the "Ark and The Darkness" a book from Genesis Apologetics. We looked at articles explaining what researchers are finding in Turkey that are most likely parts of the ark.

We will have a film viewing party of the movie "The Ark and the Darkness" with food and fellowship with a date to be determined. (Reese's coated animal crackers, a rainbow fruit pizza and porcupine meatballs, anyone?) All will be invited.

Some of our impressions include:

1. It was amazing to realize that God told Noah about the Flood and waited 120 years before he sent the Flood.

2. Many miracles were involved including getting all of the animals to come two by two. Our minds can't comprehend all of the aspects of an infinite God.
3. Noah learned the oral histories of Adam and Eve and Enoch from his father Lamech and grandfather Methuselah who lived to be the oldest person in recorded history. God waited 120 years but it probably took Noah and his family about 115 years to build the ark. Only eight people were on the ark as Noah's father and grandfather died before the flood. It was Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives.
4. The dimensions of the ark are astounding. It did not need to be propelled in any way. The size was about the size of 20 football fields. It was 45 feet high. The dimensions are spelled out in the Bible. It was 3 stories high and was not like the little cute cartoon figures of the ark.
5. The only windows were a row at the top. We talked about the darkness probably keeping the animals calm. The lack of windows also probably prevented Noah and his family from watching the destruction of the people and the earth.
6. We realized we had to let go of "our reasoning" and accept how all of this could happen. (see number 2 above)
7. The dinosaurs and other big animals could have been the babies in size so they could fit on the ark. It has been studied and scientists have agreed it could be mathematically possible to get pairs all of the land species on the ark.
8. The genetic DNA complexity could account for the numbers of animals within a species with dogs being one example being able to reproduce many types of dogs.
9. There are Flood stories from all over the world in about 300 Flood Legends with stories similar (oral traditions) passed down from one generation to another. The details have slightly changed (like in the game of telephone), but the idea of a worldwide (not local) flood was described. These oral traditions are now in written form. The people were scattered throughout the world at the time of the Tower of Babel which helps explain how this was passed on around the world.

10. Geological evidences support the flood including: Fossil evidence, sediment levels, coal and oil formation, dinosaur burial areas (Tried to outrace the rising water), sea animals in fossil levels with other animals as a few examples.
11. We discussed the purpose of The Flood and how we can apply to our lives today.
12. It was not just 40 days and 40 nights but Noah's family was on the ark more than a year. The water came up from the depths of the oceans, the source was not just rain.
13. Would our family have been on the ark? Would we have been believers??? Would our kids be on the ark if The Flood came today?
14. God is in control and it is his timing for things to happen. He closed the door of the Ark. He made a promise to never send a worldwide flood again with the rainbow demonstrating his covenant. Through the line of Noah's son, Shem, God sent his Son as our Savior for our salvation.

