



***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 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
September 19 & 22, 2024*

**Opening Hymn: Lord Jesus Christ, the Children's Friend CW 910**

**1 Lord Jesus Christ, the children's friend,  
to each of them your presence send;  
call them by name and keep them true  
in loving faith, dear Lord, to you.**

**2 In Christian homes, Lord, let them be  
your blessing to their family;  
let Christian schools your work extend  
in living truth as you intend,**

**3 That caring parents, gracious Lord,  
and faithful teachers find reward  
in leading these, to whom you call,  
to find in Christ their all in all.**

**4 For by your Word we clearly see  
that we have sinned continually;  
but show us, too, forgiving Lord,  
your saving gospel's great reward,**

**5 That all of us, your children dear,  
by Christ redeemed, may Christ revere.  
Lead us in joy that all we do  
will witness to our love for you.**

**6 Then guard and keep us to the end,  
secure in you, our gracious friend,  
that in your heav'nly family  
we sing your praise eternally.**

## **Invocation**

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

**C: Amen.**

P: O Lord, open my lips.

**C: And my mouth shall declare your praise.**

P: Hasten to save me, O God.

**C: O Lord come quickly to help me.**

## **Confession of Sins**

P: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.**

**For faithless worrying and selfish pride,**

**For sins of habit and sins of choice,**

**For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,**

**You should cast me away from your presence forever.**

**O Lord, I am sorry for my sins.**

**Forgive me for Jesus' sake.**

P: Christ has died. Christ has risen from the dead. Christ will come again in glory. In his great mercy, "God made us alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross." Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

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

## **Gloria**

*sung to the tune of CW 493*

**1 To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth,**

**for God has shown his favor in Jesus' holy birth!**

**Almighty God and Father, our humble thanks we bring;**

**we worship you, we bless you, Lord God, our heav'nly King.**

**2 O Lamb of God exalted, you take all sin away;**

**extend to us your mercy and hear us as we pray.**

**With God the Holy Spirit, at God the Father's throne,**

**you reign, O Christ, forever, for you are Lord alone!**

## Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, you have committed to your Church the task of making disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them that you have commanded us. Enlighten with your wisdom those who teach and those who learn, that, rejoicing in the knowledge of your truth, they may continue in what they have learned from Holy Scripture and pass on those saving truths from generation to generation; 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: Proverbs 30:1-6a

<sup>1</sup>The words of Agur son of Jakeh. An oracle.

**This man declares: I am weary, God.**

I am weary, God, and worn out,

**<sup>2</sup>because I am too unreasoning to be a man.**

I do not even possess human understanding.

**<sup>3</sup>I have not learned wisdom.**

I do not have knowledge of the Holy One.

**<sup>4</sup>Who has gone up to heaven and come down?**

Who has gathered the wind in the palms of his hands?

**Who has wrapped the water in a garment?**

Who has set up all the ends of the earth?

**What is his name and the name of his son?**

Tell me if you know!

**<sup>5</sup>Every word of God has been refined.**

He is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

**Do not add to his words.**

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Verse of the Day: *(sung to the tune of CW 493)*

♪ **Abide, O dear Redeemer, among us with your Word**

**And thus now and hereafter true peace and joy afford.**

**Abide with richest blessings among us, bounteous Lord;**

**Let us in grace and wisdom grow daily through your Word.**

## **Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:20-31**

<sup>20</sup>Where is the wise man? Where is the expert in the Jewish law? Where is the probing thinker of the present age? Has God not shown that the wisdom of this world is foolish? <sup>21</sup>Indeed, since the world through its wisdom did not know God, God in his wisdom decided to save those who believe, through the foolishness of the preached message. <sup>22</sup>Yes, Jews ask for signs, Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified—which is offensive to Jews and foolishness to Greeks, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>We preach Christ crucified, because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

<sup>26</sup>For example, consider your call, brothers. Not many of you were wise from a human point of view, not many were powerful, and not many were born with high status. <sup>27</sup>But God chose the foolish things of the world to put to shame those who are wise. God chose the weak things of the world to put to shame the things that are strong, <sup>28</sup>and God chose the lowly things of the world and the despised things, and the things that are not, to do away with the things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one may boast before God. <sup>30</sup>But because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us the wisdom from God, namely, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. <sup>31</sup>God did this so that, just as it is written, “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”  
P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## **Apostles' Creed**

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn: Gracious Savior, Gentle Shepherd CW 757

1 Gracious Savior, gentle Shepherd,  
children all are dear to you;  
may your loving arms enfold them  
in your care their whole life through.

By your tending and protecting  
keep them safe in all they do.

2 Tender Shepherd, never leave them,  
never let them go astray;  
by your warning love directed,  
may they walk the narrow way.

Thus direct them, thus defend them  
lest they fall an easy prey.

3 By your holy Word instruct them,  
fill their minds with heav'nly light;  
by your pow'rful grace convince them  
always to approve what's right.

Let them feel your yoke is easy,  
let them find your burden light.

Sermon: Mark 10:13-16

<sup>13</sup>Some people began bringing little children to Jesus so that he would touch them. But the disciples rebuked them. <sup>14</sup>When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said, "Let the little children come to me! Do not hinder them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>15</sup>Amen I tell you: Whoever will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." <sup>16</sup>And he took the little children in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

*Jesus Loves Little Children*

*I. Let's be like him*

*II. Let's be like them*

**Response to God's Word:** *(tune of CW 520)*

♪ **Taught to love the holy praises**  
    **which on earth your children sing,**  
**with their lips and hearts, sincerely,**  
    **glad thank-off'rings may they bring,**  
**then with all the saints in glory**  
    **join to praise their Lord and King.**

### **Offering**

**Installation of 2024-2025 Sunday School Teachers 10:30 Service:**

*Tom May Superintendent and 2-4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher*

*Lisa Thoni Director of Students and 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher*

*Nicole Caminata 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher*

*Theresa Biele 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher*

*Christiana Peterson PreK-1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher*

*Valerie Johnson PreK-1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher*

*Nico Caminata Teachers Assistant*

*Celia May Teachers Assistant*

### **Prayer of the Church**

**P:** Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your dear Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

**C: Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.**

**P:** Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

**C: Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.**

**P:** Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

**C: Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.**

**P:** Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

**C: Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.**

**P:** Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

**C: Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.**

P: Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity.

Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

**C: Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.**

P: We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

**C: Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.**

P: Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again, and hear us as we pray the prayer 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: Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying

CW 745

1 Hark, the voice of Jesus crying,

“Who will go and work today?

Fields are ripe and harvests waiting;

who will bear the sheaves away?”

Loud and long the Master calleth;

rich reward he offers thee.

Who will answer, gladly saying,

“Here am I, send me, send me”?

2 If you cannot speak like angels,

if you cannot preach like Paul,

you can tell the love of Jesus,

you can say he died for all.

If you cannot rouse the wicked

with the judgment’s dread alarms,

you can lead the little children

to the Savior’s waiting arms.

3 If you cannot be a watchman,  
standing high on Zion's wall,  
pointing out the path to heaven,  
off'ring life and peace to all,  
with your prayers and with your off'rings  
you can do what God demands;  
you can be like faithful Aaron,  
holding up the prophet's hands.

4 Let none hear you idly saying,  
"There is nothing I can do,"  
while the multitudes are dying,  
and the Master calls for you.  
Take the task he gives you gladly,  
let his work your pleasure be;  
answer quickly when he calleth,  
"Here am I, send me, send me!"

#### **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: Jesus Loves Me**      *CW 584 sts. 1, Ref, 2*

1 Jesus loves me! This I know,  
for the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to him belong;  
they are weak, but he is strong. (Refrain)



Ref Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

The Bible tells me so.

2 Jesus loves me! He who died

heaven's gates to open wide.

he will wash away my sin,

let his little child come in. (Refrain)

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

Jesus loves little children so let us be like him and bring our children to be blessed by him and let us be like them in humility and trust.

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—321 (39/245/37) Women's Bible Class – 18

Offering Last Week—\$13,545.00

Sunday School – 10

**To Finish the Work We Need – \$52,000.00 - \$30,584.00 = \$21,416.00**

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

*"Let my soul live and praise you, and may your judgments help me."*

*Psalms 119:175*

**Announcements**

1. **The flowers on the altar** have been given by Kevin and Kelsey Paasch in celebration of their 16<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. God's blessings and congratulations!
2. **Funeral** Pam Haase was called to her eternal home on Thursday, August 29, 2024. A funeral service took place for Pam on Friday, September 20 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Matthews. We extend our deepest sympathy to her loved ones. *May God comfort those who mourn with his precious promises in Christ Jesus.*
3. **Sunday Morning Bible Class** – Sunday morning Bible class will resume today between services in the Fellowship area. We will continue studying the book of Habakkuk.
4. **Sunday School** Sunday School will meet in the library for opening devotion. The children may be picked up in their classrooms at 10:15 am.

5. **Women's Bible Class** The Women's Bible Study continues to meet Wednesday mornings from 9:30-10:30 a.m. We will be following the lives of 12 of the most fascinating individuals God used to share his Word and shape his people. Through their strength and boldness, fear and reluctance, and ultimately their obedience, each was used by God to continue the story of love he has for each of us. The 12 concise accounts are drawn from the living Word of Scripture and are presented in a compelling narrative form provided by context, insights, and lessons for us today. We have just begun our study of Abraham. Please come and join us! For more information, contact Debbie Lenser at 608-728-3120.
6. **Members of St. Matthew's** Please refrain from sitting in the back pews marked with "Reserved for families with small children" unless you have small children or have gold fish in your pocket. ☺
7. **Senior Choir** If you enjoy singing, St. Matthews's choir is looking for you! Everyone is invited to join this friendly group that loves to sing praise to their Risen Lord! Choir rehearsal starts this Wednesday, September 11 at 5:45 p.m. We would love to see you in the balcony for rehearsal or call Jack Schroeder with any questions at 608-752-0922. Now is the time to join!
8. **Our Fall Fun Festival/Clothing & Toy Exchange Events** will be held today 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! 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. Everyone is invited to attend. Please ask your family members or friends to join us for either event or both!
9. **LWMS Fall Rally**—Our next rally is scheduled for **Saturday, October 19** at St. Peter's Lutheran School in Helenville, WI. The schedule for the ½ day rally includes registration and a light breakfast from 8-9 am; a devotion, mission presentation and business meeting with a lunch following. Mr. Gary Evans, the

field director for the Central Africa Medical Mission (CAMM) will be the guest speaker. He will give us information on how CAMM provides Christ-centered health care in Africa. Consider attending the rally to learn more about this mission opportunity as well as its challenges! We will need to RSVP a head count to the ladies at St. Peter's, so please either sign up on the sheet provided in the narthex or call Ann Janke (608) 563-4383 by **Thursday, October 3.**

\*If you are in need of childcare while at the rally, St. Peter's is offering that service during the rally...just let Ann know so she can reserve you a spot!

10. **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 October 4, so please have your mission offering to Ann by Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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!*
11. **Trunk or Treat** – Mark your calendar for Friday night, October 18<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:30 p.m. for a Trunk or Treat at St. Matthews in the parking lot. We are looking for people to participate by decorating the trunk of their car in an appropriate theme and handing out prepackaged treats! If you are interested, please sign up in the Narthex. Hope to see you all there! Any questions, please contact Ashley Phillips.
12. **Trunk or Treat Candy Donations** If you would like to participate by donating candy, please bring the candy to the church office. Thank you!
13. **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.

14. **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*
15. **The September school newsletter and calendar** are available in the church Narthex. Take one if you wish.

### This Week at St. Matthew's

#### Sunday

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

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

Installation of our Sunday School teachers in the 10:30 a.m. service.

Family Fall Festival & Toy/Clothing Exchange 2:00-4:00 p.m.

#### Tuesday

Budget Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m.

#### Wednesday

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

Senior Choir Begins 5:45 - 6:45 p.m.

#### Thursday

Worship with Communion 6:30 p.m.

#### Friday

Teacher's In-service (No School)

#### Sunday

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

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



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## Assisting with Worship

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### Organist:

Meredith Moeller

### Ushers:

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

10:30 a.m. – Steve Sage & David Johnson

### Next Week Ushers:

8:00 a.m. – Gerald Wellnitz, Evan Burnside, Alex Schmidt

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

### CODS:

Thursday, September 19, 2024, 6:30 p.m. – Brian Hartwig

Sunday, September 22, 2024, 8:00 a.m. – Briton Peterson

Sunday, September 22, 2024, 10:30 a.m. – Tim Stirmel

### Next Week CODS:

Thursday, September 26, 2024, 6:30 p.m. – Jim Daley

Sunday, September 29, 2024, 8:00 a.m. – Trevor Sanchez

Sunday, September 29, 2024, 10:30 a.m. – George Ehlers

### Greeters

Sunday, September 22, 8:00 a.m. – Mike & Deb Lenser

Sunday, September 22, 10:30 a.m. – Ann Janke

### Next Week Greeters

Sunday, September 29, 8:00 a.m. – Dale & Lynn Beutin

Sunday, September 29, 10:30 a.m. – Mary Kowal

### Church Cleaning:

September 28, 2024 – David Newlin & Fred Shadoski families

October 5, 2024 – Craig Sonntag & Tim Stirmel families

# LWMS CONVENTION OFFERINGS

## PRAISE BE TO GOD!

The 2024 Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) Convention occurred in Sioux Falls, SD, from June 27-30. At the two worship services, offerings of **\$71,789** were collected and split between the following funds:

**100 Missions in 10 Years:** \$35,894.50

**Europe Special Projects:** \$35,894.50

In addition, an annual Endowment Fund fund distribution of **\$15,477.07** will go to the **Home Missions Equipment Fund**.



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



# LWMS RALLY

8AM - 1PM

**OCTOBER 19, 2024**

LIGHT BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROVIDED

St. Peter's Lutheran School

**W3255 US HWY 18,  
HELENVILLE, WI**

Follow LWMS Rock River on Facebook  
for more information



*"Heal the sick who are there  
and tell them the Kingdom of  
God is near you."*

Luke 10:9

Hear from Mr. Gary Evans,  
Central Africa Medical Mission  
(Camm) Field Director, about  
how Camm provides Christ-  
centered health care in Africa.

RSVP: Ann Janke 608-563-4383

