

**A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING TO GOD
For 40 Years of Blessings on the Ministry of
Pastor James R. Janke**

May 4, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Janesville, Wisconsin

Worship for the Third Sunday of Easter

Opening Hymn: Christ the Lord Is Risen Again CW 459

- 1 Christ the Lord is ris'n again;
Christ has broken death's strong chain.
Hark, the angels shout for joy,
singing evermore on high: Hallelujah!
- 2 He who gave for us his life,
Who for us endured the strife,
is our Paschal Lamb today.
We too sing for joy and say: Hallelujah
- 3 He who bore all pain and loss
comfort-less upon the cross
lives in glory now on high,
pleads for us and hears our cry: Hallelujah!
- 4 He whose path no records tell
has descended into hell;
he the strong man armed has bound
and in highest heav'n is crowned. Hallelujah!
- 5 He who slumbered in the grave
is exalted now to save;
now through Christendom it rings
that the Lamb is King of kings. Hallelujah!
- 6 Now he bids us tell abroad
how the lost may be restored,
how the penitent forgiv'n,
how we too may enter heav'n. Hallelujah!

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

Confession of Sins

P: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**C: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

P: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you
in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray:
God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

P: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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.

Song of Praise: Lord Jesus You Have Come CW 897

2 O blessed ministry of reconciliation,
that shows the way to God and brings to us salvation!
Lord, by your gospel pure you bless and keep your fold,
you call, enlighten, keep, you comfort and uphold.

3 Preserve this ministry while harvest days are keeping;
And since the fields are ripe and hands are few for reaping,
Send workers forth, O Lord, the sheaves to gather in
that not a soul be lost which you have come to win.

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

P: O God, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sr. Choir Hymn: "Ten Thousand Reasons"

First Reading: Acts 9:1-19a

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord. He went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any men or women belonging to the Way, he might bring them to Jerusalem as prisoners.

³ As he went on his way and was approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

⁵ He asked, "Who are you, Lord?"

He replied, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you need to do."

⁷ The men traveling with him stood there speechless. They heard the voice but did not see anyone.

⁸ They raised Saul up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes, he could not see anything. They took him by the hand and led him into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he could not see, and he did not eat or drink.

¹⁰ There was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

He answered, "Here I am, Lord."

¹¹ The Lord told him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. In fact, at this very moment he is praying. ¹² In a vision he has seen a

man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he can regain his sight.”

¹³ Ananias answered, “Lord I have heard from many people about this man and how much harm he did to your saints in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And he has authority here from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.”

¹⁵ The Lord said to him, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the people of Israel. ¹⁶ Indeed, I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”

¹⁷ Ananias left and entered the house. Laying his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, whom you saw on your way here, has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

¹⁸ Immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized. ¹⁹ And after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty CW 624 (1,2,4)

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!

Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!

2 Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.

Have you not seen how all that’s needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?

4 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.

Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
as with his love he befriends you.

Second Reading: Revelation 5:11-14

¹¹ And I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels who were around the throne and around the living creatures and the elders. Their number was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands upon thousands. ¹² With a loud voice they were saying:

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive
power and riches and
wisdom and strength and
honor and glory and blessing.

¹³ I also heard every creature that is in heaven and on earth and under
the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever.

¹⁴ The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders bowed down
and worshipped.

Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty *CW 624 (5)*

5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!

All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again;
gladly forever adore him!

Gospel: John 21:1-14

After this, Jesus showed himself again to the disciples at the Sea
of Tiberias. This is how he showed himself: ² Simon Peter, Thomas
(called the Twin), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of
Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. ³ Simon Peter said to
them, "I'm going fishing."

They replied, "We'll go with you."

They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught
nothing. ⁴ Early in the morning, Jesus was standing on the shore, but
the disciples did not know it was Jesus.

⁵ Jesus called to them, "Boys, don't you have any fish?"

"No!" they answered.

⁶ He told them, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and
you will find some." So they cast the net out. Then they were not able
to haul it in because of the large number of fish.

⁷ The disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!"
When Simon Peter heard, "It is the Lord!" he tied his outer garment
around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the sea. ⁸ But the
other disciples came in the little boat, dragging the net full of fish, for
they were not far from shore, about one hundred yards. ⁹ When they

stepped out on land, they saw some bread and a charcoal fire with fish on it. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you just caught."

¹¹ So Simon Peter climbed aboard and hauled the net to land, full of large fish, 153 of them. Yet even with so many, the net was not torn.

¹² Jesus said to them, "Come, eat breakfast."

None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord.

¹³ Jesus came, took the bread, and gave it to them, and also the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

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: Lord Jesus Christ, Our Savior-King CW 899

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior-King
to you our highest praise we sing
for blessings to the Church, your bride,
with whom you ever-more abide.
- 2 Your Scriptures lead us to rejoice,
For there we hear our Father's voice.
His gracious promises proclaim
forgiveness in your holy name.
- 3 Your Spirit's call to faith we heard
In water's washing with the Word.
Lord, keep us in baptismal grace
and make our hearts your dwelling place.

- 4 With simple food of bread and wine
you feed us with a feast divine.
Your blood and body we partake—
our sins forgiven for your sake.
- 5 As stewards of these means of grace
You send out preachers in your place
Your wondrous mercy to proclaim
And glorify your saving name.
- 6 Lord, give us ministers who live
according to the grace you give.
To Scripture may they faithful be,
And so preserve this ministry.
- 7 And then, at last, Lord, hear our prayer:
gather your blood-bought children there
where saints and angels sing your praise,
and we with them, through endless days!

Sermon Text: John 21:1-14

All Praise to Jesus for 40 Years of Ministry

*He gave you a message
He faithfully sustained you
He's granted you success*

Response to God's Word: For All the Saints CW 880

- 1 For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest
Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 4 Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 5 And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

7 But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day:
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on his way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

8 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Offering

Litany

P: O most merciful God, our heavenly Father, we praise your holy name for all your blessings and especially for graciously establishing and preserving in this place to this day the ministry of reconciliation to feed your flock with your holy Word.

C: All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

P: You have been gracious to your servant, Pastor James Janke, whom you have called to be shepherd and overseer of this flock. In spite of all human frailties and shortcomings, you have so led him that his lips preserved knowledge, and as one who was entrusted with your mysteries he has endeavored to declare to your congregation the whole will of God, neither adding to it nor subtracting from it, but rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

C: We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

P: You have given him strength to bear the burden of his labor and hardships, to serve as an example to his people, and supported him when crosses weighed heavily upon him. In many temptations and trials, you comforted him and delivered him in every time of trouble. O Lord, you have permitted him to administer this sacred office for 40 years and have bestowed abundant blessings on his ministry. For all your goodness we give you thanks and praise your holy name.

C: Not that we are competent to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

P: O Lord, you have looked with favor upon your people in this place; you have blessed the preaching of the Word, not letting it return empty but causing it to accomplish what you desire. You built your temple in the hearts of your people, so that being enlightened by the grace of the Holy Spirit and sanctified by your truth, they were able to make the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ attractive by the way they lived.

C: Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

P: As you have helped your servant, Pastor Janke, to this hour, be pleased to abide with him always, so that he may abide in you. Keep him in your holy Word and in the sound doctrine set forth in it; help him to serve according to your good pleasure to the glory of your name and for the edification of your people.

C: Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations, for ever and ever!

P Graciously hear us, O God of our salvation, through your Son Jesus Christ, 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

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.

Hymn: Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give CW 896

- 1 Dear Lord, to your true servants give
the grace to you alone to live.
Set free from sin to serve you, Lord,
they go to share your living Word,
the gospel message to proclaim
that all may know your saving name.
- 2 They gladly go at your command
To spread your Word o'er sea and land.
Be with them, Lord, and make them strong
to heal sin's ills, to right the wrong.
Your rule is over wind and wave,
and mighty is your arm to save.
- 3 When all their labor seems in vain,
revive their sinking hopes again;
and when success crowns what they do,
O keep them humble, Lord, and true
until before your judgment seat
they lay their trophies at your feet.

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

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— 265 (183, 82)

Bible Study – 57

Offering Last Week—\$12,105.50

Sunday School – 17

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

*"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of a herald, who proclaims
peace and preaches good news."*

Isaiah 52:7

Announcements

1. **Thank You** We would like to thank Pastor Paul Janke for his message this morning and Pastor Ken Arndt for leading us in worship. Pastor Paul Janke serves part time in retirement at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in West Bend, Wisconsin. Pastor Arndt, of course, serves here at St. Matthews in retirement filling in for Pastor Janke as needed. *“The righteous will flourish like a palm tree... They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, “The Lord is upright; he is my Rock.” Psalm 92:12f.*
2. **The flowers on the altar** have been given by Ann Janke in celebration of Pastor Janke’s 40th year in the preaching ministry.
3. **Call for Miss Meredith Moeller** Miss Meredith Moeller has returned her Call to teach at Divine Savior Academy in Missouri City, TX. Please keep Miss Moeller in your prayers as she continues her call at St. Matthews.
4. **Sunday Morning Bible Class** – Sunday morning Bible class will not meet this morning and will resume in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15 a.m. next Sunday, May 11. Please join us!
5. **Sunday School**. Sunday School will not meet this week but will resume next Sunday, May 11 at 9:15 a.m. We will meet in the library for opening devotion. The children may be picked up in their classrooms at 10:15 am.
6. **Thursday Services** We will resume Thursday evening services on Thursday, May 8. The service will begin at 6:30 p.m.
7. **The Women’s Bible Study** has decided to add more lessons to their “Prepared to Answer” manual. On Wednesday, April 30 they will study the lesson about “How can there be a good God when the world is such a bad place?” Feel free to join the group!
8. **Evening Guild Meeting Reminder** for the May 5th meeting. Time change to **6:00 p.m.**, bring a **dish to pass** and it’s **CREATE AND SHARE NIGHT** silent auction (optional). Please bring, if you so desire, **ONE** and no more than **THREE** items that you have created... Drink and utensils will be provided. Again, note the **TIME CHANGE!!!! 6:00 p.m.** A very fun time and a great social event (no meeting!!!) Remember that all proceeds go to LWMS!!! See you there.

9. Our area WELS Men's Breakfast Bible study of Isaiah will continue **Saturday, May 10, at 8-9 a.m.** in the "**Backroom**" of **Citrus Cafe**. We're going to hear about the deplorable, rebellious attitudes, and narcissistic behavior, that God's Chosen People had shown as they sunk down spiritually and morally and how the Lord was going to bring down the ax of judgment on them since they would not repent. (Chaps.3-5). But not only will that happen with the men. God would also levy quite a sweeping judgment on the proud, vain, haughty, and primping women of Judean society. In chapter 5 Isaiah speaks a meaningful parable just like those that Jesus told 6 1/2 centuries later. Try out our Bible Class and see if you enjoy the special fellowship and Scriptural learning that goes on as we continue with the series: Isaiah...God's O.T. Evangelist.
10. Evening Guild Spring Clothing Drive The Evening Guild will be having their Spring Clothing drive on Friday, May 16 and Saturday, May 17. If you have spring or summer clothes in good condition that you no longer want or need, shoes, boots, purses, household items, etc. they may be brought to the school lobby on Friday, May 16 and until noon on Saturday, May 17. We will take all articles to Twice as Nice in Jefferson. If you have any questions, please call Shari Scheibe at 757-9467 or Sally Wellnitz at 752-2037.
11. Meditations for June 1 – August 30, 2025 are located on the back counter. The cost is \$4.00. There are also copies for the months of March – May.

Assisting with Worship

Organist:

Meredith Moeller

Ushers:

10:00 a.m. – Jerry Wellnitz, Evan Burnside, Alex Schmitt

Next Week Ushers:

8:00 a.m. – Doug McIlvain, Dane McIlvain, Jeff Burandt, Nathan Wagner

10:30 a.m. – Tom May, Ben May, Eddie May

CODS:

Sunday, May 4, 10:00 a.m. – Briton Peterson

Next Week CODS:

Thursday, May 8, 6:30 p.m. – Trevor Sanchez
Sunday, May 11, 8:00 a.m. – Phil Fry
Sunday, May 11, 10:30 a.m. – Zach Pfaffenbach

Greeters

Sunday, May 4, 10:00 a.m. – Pam Beres

Next Week Greeters

Sunday, May 11, 8:00 a.m. – Jerry & Sally Wellnitz
Sunday, May 11, 10:30 a.m. – Arlan Miller

Church Cleaning:

May 9, 2025 – Church Spring Cleaning by 7th & 8th Graders
May 17, 2025 – Craig Groninger & Brian Hartwig families

This Week at St. Matthew's

Sunday

Worship 10:00 a.m.

No Sunday School/Bible Class

Catered Meal after 10:00 a.m. service to celebrate Pastor Janke's
40 years in the preaching ministry.

Monday

Evening Guild's Create & Share/Potluck Evening **6:00 p.m.**

Wednesday

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

Preschool – 2nd Grade Play 6:00 p.m. in the gym

Thursday

Choir 5:30- 6:45 p.m.

Worship Service with Communion 6:30 p.m.

Friday

Spring Clean Up Day 9:00-11:00 a.m.

School Track meet 12:30 p.m.

Sunday

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

Confirmation Examination 9:15 a.m.

LWMS Spring Rally Recap

We had 16 from St. Matthew's with a total attendance of 109 at Good Shepherd in Beloit last Saturday for the LWMS rally. The offering of \$1,430 collected at the rally was designated for the "Family and Children's Ministry Outreach" for the mission in Deerfield, WI. Rev. Kevin Hundley and Staff Minister Julia Boggs gave an interesting presentation on the efforts that the group in Deerfield is putting forth to bring the Gospel to those in the area. Friendship evangelism seems to work best and getting to know people in the community has been one of their goals. Mrs. Boggs leads a children's (infant-preK) music program at a local coffee shop in town and it is gaining enthusiasm.

Besides the featured presentation, we had edifying opening and closing devotions from area pastors, and a business meeting in which 3 of our St. Matthew's ladies were elected to positions on the circuit level! Elizabeth Sanchez is now president of our Rock River Circuit LWMS, Lisa Thoni is president-elect and Becky Prellwitz is one of our new Spiritual Growth Women. Thank you for your willingness to serve, ladies!

St. Matthew's collected \$810.10 in mission offerings which will be sent with the other circuit member churches' offerings (totaling \$10,389.28) to the selected Home Mission (100 missions in 10 years) and World Mission (Native American) and 25% to the national office, which is also designated for missions chosen on the national level.

The ladies at Good Shepherd served a delicious lunch after the ½ day rally. The fall rally will be held at Immanuel in Farmington on October 18.



St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)
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Conference of Presidents holds April 2025 Meeting

The WELS Conference of Presidents (COP) held its spring meeting this month at the WELS Center for Mission and Ministry, Waukesha, Wis. The COP comprises the 12 WELS district presidents, the synod president, and two synod vice presidents. Here is a bit of information gleaned from what they discussed.

- As of the April meeting of the COP, there were 156 pastoral vacancies in the synod, with 149 of those being parish pastor positions. The 2025 seminary graduating class will provide candidates numbering in the mid-20s, meaning that the pastoral vacancy situation will improve only slightly in the near term. Larger classes at the seminary in the coming years, however, will provide some relief in the future. In the meantime, the COP asks every WELS congregation and member to encourage young men to consider training for the pastoral ministry.

- A similar high vacancy rate is taking place in teacher positions. WELS school enrollments have increased significantly in the last two years—a real blessing—but that has caused a need for more teachers than are currently available. It's estimated that even after teacher candidates are assigned at Martin Luther College in May, there will still be approximately 100-120 vacancies in teaching positions. The Commission on Lutheran Schools has been working with congregations to find ways to fill the vacancies. At the same time, Martin Luther College has been redoubling its efforts to recruit both traditional and non-traditional teacher candidates. It will also be exploring other ideas to provide more teacher candidates. As in the case of pastors, those in the best position to recruit and encourage young people for the teaching ministry are congregational members, called workers, parents, and grandparents.

Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder

