# *The Fifth Sunday in Lent* April 6, 2025

10:30 a.m. Worship

We ask that all present sign our Friendship Sheet. After you add your name to the sheet, please pass it toward the center aisle. Then return it to the outside aisle so that you become familiar with our family in Christ. These sheets help our pastor and



congregation with our ministry. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew to worship and serve Christ together!

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

# PRELUDE

# \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

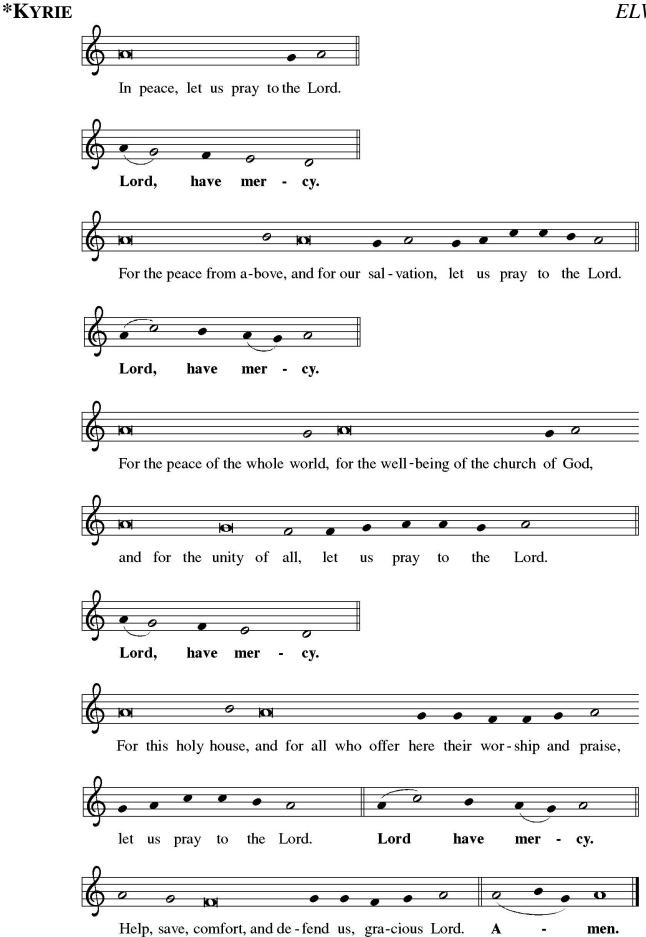
- P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.
- P: Compassionate One,
- C: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.
- P: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In + Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. C: Amen.

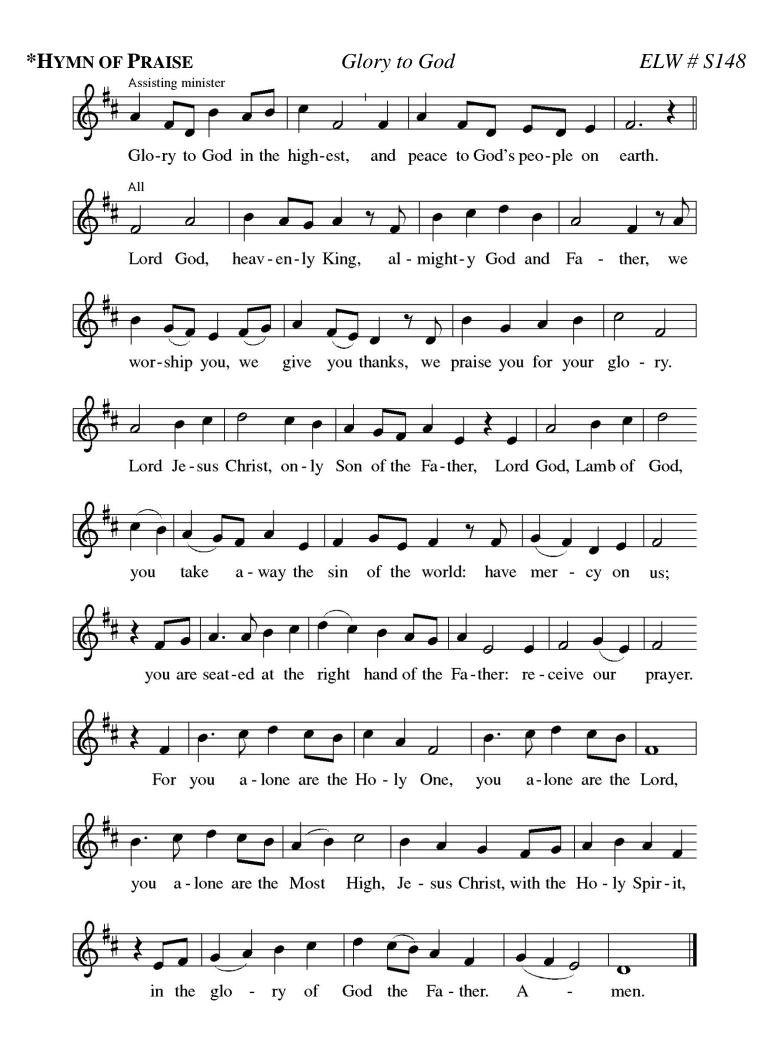
**\*OPENING HYMN** Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart ELW # 750

#### \*GREETING

*P:* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *C:* And also with you.

#### *ELW # S147*





# **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*P: Let us pray* ... Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *C:* Amen.

# FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:16-21

<sup>16</sup> Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, <sup>17</sup> who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: <sup>18</sup> Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. <sup>19</sup> I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. <sup>20</sup> The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness. rivers in the desert. to give drink to my chosen people, <sup>21</sup> the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

*L*: The word of the Lord. *C*: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 126** (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup> When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup> Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.

# Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

- <sup>3</sup> The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.
- <sup>4</sup> Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses of the Negeb.
- <sup>5</sup> Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

# <sup>6</sup> Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

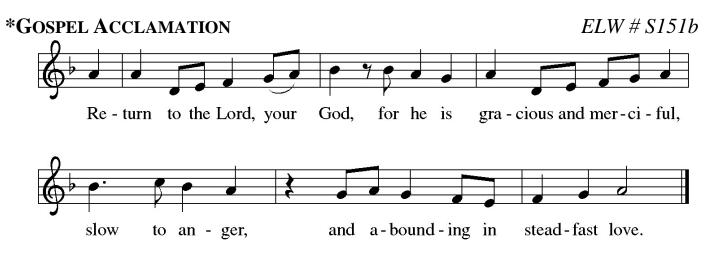
# SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] <sup>4b</sup> If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup> Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

*L*: The word of the Lord. *C*: Thanks be to God.



\*Gospel: John 12:1-8

The holy gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup> Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. <sup>3</sup> Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup> But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup>"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup> (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) <sup>7</sup> Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup> You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

Pastor Traci

My Song Is Love Unknown



#### \*APOSTLES' CREED

- P: Let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed.
- C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
  - I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
  - I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### **\*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

- A: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.
- A: The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah's imagination, Paul's transformed identity, and Mary's faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises. God, in your mercy, *C:* receive our prayer.
- A: The earth declares your praise, O God. Make a way for the planet's future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands. Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above, and beneath the ground. God, in your mercy, *C*: receive our prayer.
- *A:* The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities. God, in your mercy, *C:* receive our prayer.
- *A:* The people declare your praise, O God. Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job or home loss, divorce, or death. Bring healing to those in need. May all who weep now sing songs of joy again. God, in your mercy, *C:* receive our prayer.
- *A:* The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God. We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel. Inspire music, poetry, and images that proclaim the new thing you are doing. God, in your mercy, *C:* receive our prayer.
- *A:* The communion of saints declares your praise, O God. Giving thanks for those who have died, we trust in the one who has made them his own: Christ Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior. God, in your mercy, *C:* receive our prayer.

*P*: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. *C*: Amen.

# **\*THE PEACE**

*P*: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

# C: And also with you.

Please share the peace with those around you using a greeting that is comfortable for both you and them.

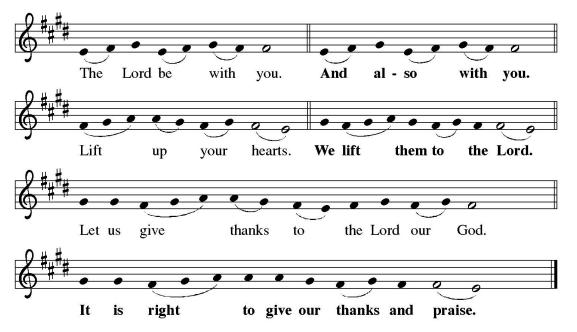
# **\*Offertory Prayer**

An offering plate is located near the entrance to the nave; we offer thanks for the abundance God has first shown us:

A: Let us pray... Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. C: Amen.

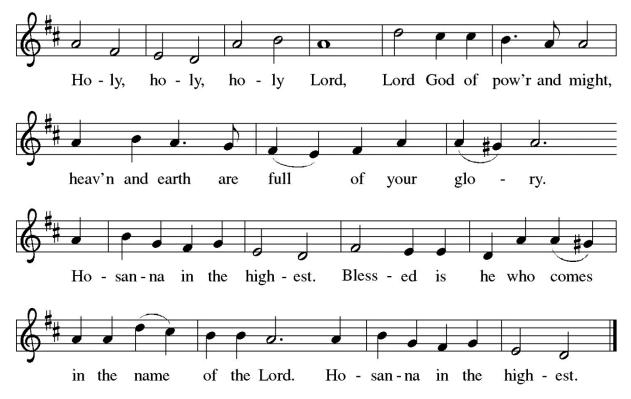
\*GREAT THANKSGIVING

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ELW # S152
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# **\*PROPER PREFACE**

- *P*: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.
- And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



#### \*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*P*:Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

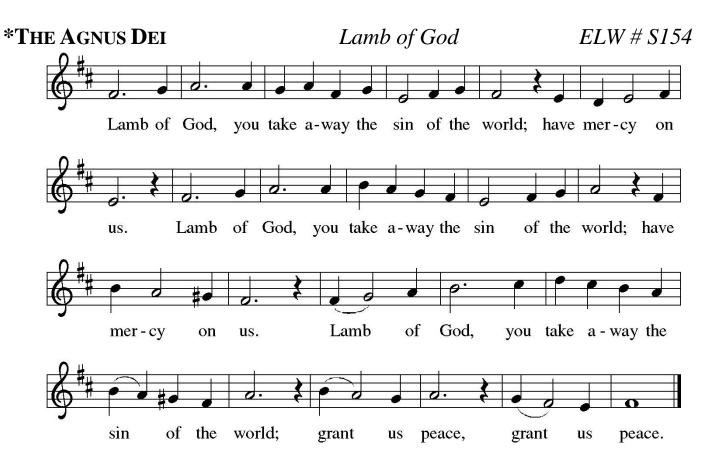
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Grace our table with your presence. Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. *C:* Amen.

# \*LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:





#### **\*INVITATION**

*P*: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread. *C*: Thanks be to God.

#### \*BLESSING

*P*: May the body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. *C*: Amen.

#### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray... Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. *C:* Amen.

#### **\*BENEDICTION**

*P*: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, + bless you now and forever. *C*: Amen.

\*SENDING SONG

Lamb of God

*ELW # 336* 

#### \*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. C: Thanks be to God!

#### POSTLUDE

Reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* copyright © 2006 Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #SB105031 Also, please be advised that our parking lot has surveillance cameras and that our worship service is video recorded and/or live-streamed on social media.

# Serving God and Us Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott Our Organists – Mary Nelson, DeAnna Cree Our Missionary Family – Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings Our Administrative Assistant – Jen Ripka Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck Our Sexton – Phil Claar Our Assisting Minister - Steve Oswalt Our Lector – Dawn Alexy Our Acolyte – Lucy Lightner Our Usher – Jeff Garner Our Altar Guild – Tonya Walter, Tina Harclerode, Jane Fagans Our Audio/Video Tech - Camden Kuster Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner Second Quarter Ventures in Faith to "Youth & Camping"

# This Week at St. Matthew:

# 814-793-2413: Office Hours

Pastor Traci – Tue. 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Jen – Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

#### This Week Events

Today –	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent
	Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
	Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday –	Council Meeting, Window Room/Zoom 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday –	Mending room open 2:00-4:00 p.m.
	Meager Meal, Fellowship Hall 6:00 p.m.
	Lenten Service, Fellowship Hall 6:45 p.m.
Sunday –	Palm Sunday
	Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
	Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

**Prayers are needed for our homebound:** Mary Jane Allision, Fred Brandenburg, Linda Claar, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Ann & Larry Irvin, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Jean Stonerook, Pat & Robert Winston.

So we can give special attention to those with pressing needs, names were removed at the end of the month. Please let the office know if a name should be added to the prayer list for an extended period of time.

**Prayer Concerns:** Barb Beach, Greta Buchart, Doug Bush, Dr. Ramon Burket, Terry Creek, Marilyn Horton, Linda Lehman, Kristen Malloy, John Russell, Dan Sinal, Margie Smith, and for our **Missionaries: Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings.** 

Away at School: Max Baker, Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jeff Hoenstine, Lacey Ripka.

**Those Serving in our Armed Forces:** Bradley Buchart, Melody Estep, Colin Guyer, Nathan Smith (Germany).

# **Church Messenger**

The April 2025 *Messenger* is now available at the St. Matthew **Website** (stmatthewlc.com), and on your recent **Email** message from St. Matthew by using the link listed in the body of the message. A paper copy of the *Messenger* is available in the news rack in the church Narthex. By calling the church office at (814-793-2413), you can request a paper copy to be sent by mail to your home or provide an email address and a copy can be emailed to you each month as soon as it is published. Do not hesitate to call the church office if you need help in securing a copy of the *Messenger*. Your readership and articles are always appreciated.

# **Altar Flowers**



The 2025 Altar Flower chart is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Altar Flowers are a perfect way to remember loved ones or to honor loved ones. There are plenty of dates available. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar. Price: \$40.00



# LENTEN WEDNESDAYS

Road to Jericho

6:00 Supper

6:45 Holden Evening Prayer With a weekly photo journey to the locations featured in scripture... See where the stories of the Bible took place

Dinner & Worship in the Fellowship Hall

# **Good Friday Prayer Vigil**



Scheduled at St. Matthew Lutheran Church on Friday, April  $18^{th}$ , from 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Members are asked to commit one half hour to pray for any concerns of a personal, church, or worldwide nature. We hope to have enough participation to fill a twelve-hour time period with continuous prayer. The sign-up sheet is located on the **bulletin board** in the Narthex. This is an excellent way for you to enrich your spiritual

and prayer life. <u>You may pray at home</u>. **Please sign up by Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**. If you would like to participate and can't come to the church to sign up please call the church office at 814-793-2413.

# Living Lutheran

# Sign up for the print magazine

We heard you—and listened. We have found a way to bring back the magazine's print publication in a quarterly fashion. Each issue (spring, summer, winter and fall) will feature the stories you know and love, along with updates on the church and your ELCA community.

You can sign up today on the sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board or call the church office to let us know you would like to subscribe to the magazine.

The first expected issue to be mailed is Summer 2025. We will keep you updated.



# **Martinsburg Food Pantry**

Volunteers from Clover Creek Church of the Brethren will be assisting with the regular volunteers to distribute items on Thursdays, April 3 and April 17. The Food Pantry will be open from 9:00 until 11:00a.m. and other times by appointment.



Following is the "Wish List" for April: Cereal, Baked Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Chicken Broth, Cleaning Supplies.

These or any other donations can be placed in the basket at the church marked "Food Pantry".

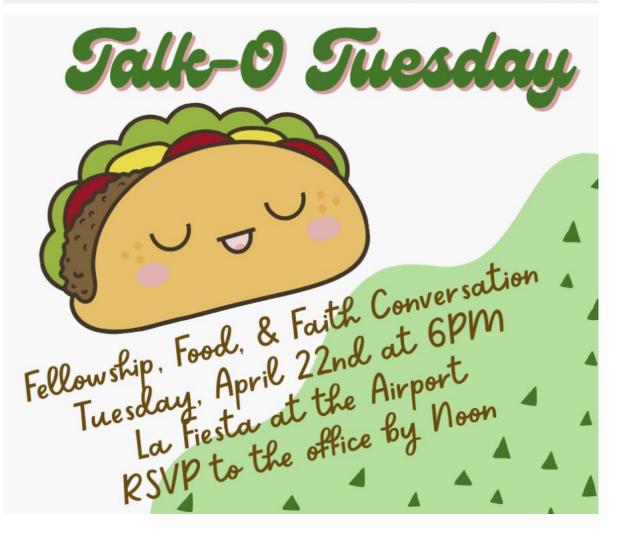
Thank You! Linda Smith Community Mending Ministry at St. Matthew

Favorite clothing in need of repair?

Bring laundered clothes that need mending to work on yourself or get help from our sewers. Materials, machines, & expertise provided. *And we'll have snacks!* 

Feel free to stay for supper at 6PM and/or Lenten Worship at 6:45PM

Wednesday, April 9th from 2PM to 4PM St. Matthew Lutheran Martinsburg Fellowship Hall 115 E Penn Street (Maple Street Parking Lot)







# THIRD CENTURY FUND (ENDOWMENT FUND)

The Third Century Fund continued to have good earnings in 2024 and as a result has \$6,334.60 for distribution in 2025. You or your committee may request funding in writing by contacting Laura Orczeck, chairperson, or committee members: Allen Kuster, Barb Wilt, Beth Garner, or Pastor Traci.

Deadline to submit a request is Sunday, May 25, 2025. Funds will be distributed in June of 2025.

The following is from the by-laws of the Third Century Fund and outline the guidelines for fund requests.

#### PURPOSE

The St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund is established to encourage responsible Christian stewardship and to promote the mission of the congregation. In response to God's love and mercy, the Endowment Fund seeks to enhance and expand the mission outreach objectives of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church. Members and friends of St. Matthew congregation are encouraged to practice responsible Christian Stewardship by making contributions to the Endowment Fund. There are a variety of ways such gifts can be made such as cash, securities, bequests through wills or living trusts, life insurance policies, charitable gift annuities and life estates. The Endowment Fund provides financial support for the church in a manner that is separate from the expenditures normally funded by the annual operating budget of the congregation.

#### **USE OF THE FUND**

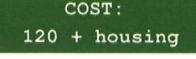
All contributions to the St. Matthew Lutheran Church Endowment Fund will be undesignated and added to the principal balance of the fund. The Endowment fund principal balance will be retained and only the dividend income will be used for annual disbursements. Consideration for awarding fund requests will be given using the following guidelines:

- 1. Youth of all ages scholarship support of congregational members and their children; for youth events, for church camps or similar Christian programs, and education.
- 2. Christian outreach ministries and missions of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, its members, and the ELCA.
- 3. Worship and Music support for the worship of St. Matthew.
- 4. Capital Projects major renovations or building projects of St. Matthew.



# Weekend Themes

- Self-care
- Food & Health
- Arts & Media
- Environment
- Music & Dance
- Spiritual Life



Register today



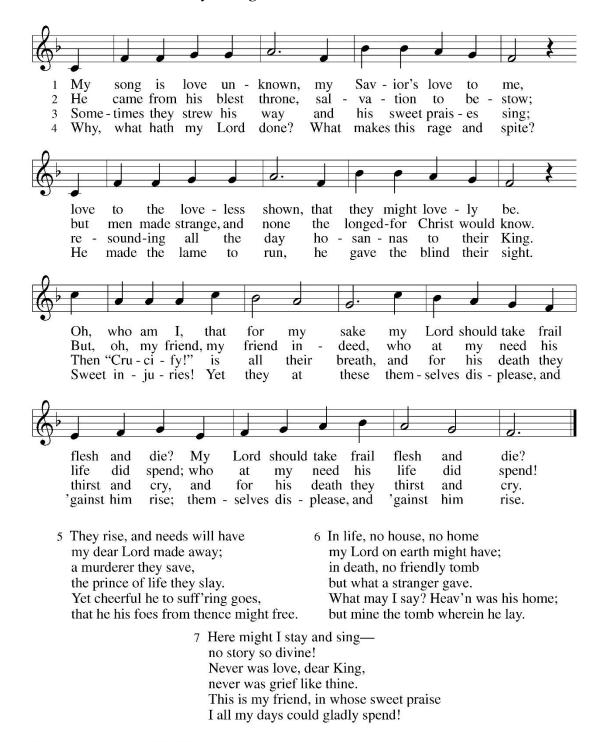
sequanota.com/tendfest

Come to Tend to share in intentional time of faith discussions, good music, art, worship, ecology, and fellowship. This event will have an open schedule allowing participants the freedom to pick what is right for them. It will include options for multiple workshops, open recreation & hiking, food and time to refresh yourself and the family.



Text: Martin Schalling, 1532–1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: HERZLICH LIEB, B. Schmid, *Orgeltabulaturbuch*, 1577 My Song Is Love Unknown

*LBW* # 94



Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683 Music: RHOSYMEDRE, John D. Edwards, 1806–1885

