

Worship In Person & At Home

23rd Week after Pentecost

November 8 and 11, 2020



In this time of world-wide crisis, congregations throughout this church are not able to gather all together for worship as the body of Christ. While you cannot all be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer.

Announcements

Prelude

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Faithful God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

The Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. **Amen.**

The Prayer of the Day

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Amos 5:18-24

Psalm 70

¹Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me.

²**Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded; let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.**

³Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me turn back because of their shame.

⁴**Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great is the LORD!”**

⁵But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God. You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter... **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then the dominion of heaven will be like this.

Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Sir, sir, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you. ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.’”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Reflection

As the darkness around us grows and the vegetation dies, Christians turn to think of the end of our lives and the end of time. All three readings today join in that thinking. Amos warns us not to imagine that the day of the Lord will be wonderful for us unless we have done justice to our neighbors. Matthew warns us to stay awake; without wisdom we could be excluded in the end. But Paul uses old cosmological imagery to assure us that the death and resurrection of Christ brings life to all, the living and the dead. In fact, for Christians, the wedding feast has already started. Though we have often slept, Jesus Christ has stayed awake for us and has shared with us his oil. In Christ's death and resurrection God's marriage with the earth has begun. And even though many of us cannot gather together for the feast now, the Holy Spirit kindles for us the lamp of the word. By the light of that word let us begin again to do justice in a needy world. And no matter who has been elected, as concerned citizens let us call for them to do justice as well.

The Prayers of Intercession

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for God's power to come upon the church, the world, and all in need...

Holy God, rouse us to prayer and praise, both when we gather for worship and when we cannot. Sustain all those who help us to worship at this time. Be pleased, O God, to deliver us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Holy Creator, delight us with the autumn beauty of your earth. At this change of seasons, give the animals what they need for survival. Be pleased, O God, to deliver us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Holy Peacemaker, give peace to our conflicted nation. Quell all attempts at violence and halt the desire for retribution. Cure our nation from prejudice of every kind. Teach us how to abide together as one diverse people. Restore families and friendships torn apart by political differences. Be pleased, O God, to deliver us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Holy Sovereign, grant that all newly elected officials of government will work faithfully for the common good. Give them wisdom, honesty, and humility. Illuminate their convictions with a spirit of cooperation. Pour upon them and upon all their advisors a right spirit of dedication to justice and truth. Be pleased, O God, to deliver us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Holy Protector, bless the observance of Veterans Day. Bring armistice to areas of conflict and keep safe the military who serve in harm's way. Give to all the armed forces a dedication to defend the common good. Heal the wounds, both physical and emotional, experienced by active and retired service members. Be pleased, O God, to deliver us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Holy Healer, bring health and wholeness to those who are sick, those who live with chronic pain, and the thousands who daily contract COVID-19. Console those who feel lonely or abandoned. Protect those living in resettlement camps. Uphold medical care workers, especially in third-world countries. We pray especially for those we name here before you. . .Be pleased, O God, to deliver us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Holy Beloved, form us into a people close to your heart, and receive now our silent petitions. . .Be pleased, O God, to deliver us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Holy and immortal One, we remember before you all who have died in the faith, especially the military and the civilians who died in armed conflicts, and those we name before you here. . . . At the end, bring us with them to be with our Lord forever. Be pleased, O God, to deliver us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Receive these prayers for the same of him who lived, died, and rose for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Liturgy

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Great Thanksgiving & Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Music for Meditation During Communion

The Benediction

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always. **Amen.**

Music to Send Us into the World for Service

Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

**For those worshipping in real time from home, Zoom Fellowship will be available immediately after the 9AM Sunday service:
596-621-1441, passcode 8675309**

Readings for the Week: Monday Psalm 63. **Tuesday** 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13. **Wednesday** (commemoration of Martin, Bishop of Tours, died 397; Søren Aabye Kierkegaard, teacher, died 1855) Matthew 24:29-35. **Thursday** Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12. **Friday** Ezekiel 7:1-9. **Saturday** Matthew 12:43-45. **Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost** Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30.

Reflection text: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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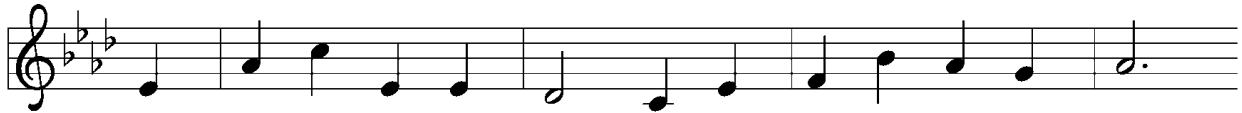
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1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Thanksgiving Outreach

We are asking for donations of the following items so those from our community who are in need can enjoy a Thanksgiving meal. You can bring your donations with you to worship on Sundays or Wednesday before Nov. 18, 2020.

Items Needed: (Name Brand Preferred and No Expired Items Please.)

Frozen Turkey

Stove Top Stuffing

Boxed Instant Mashed Potatoes

Jars of Gravy

Canned Corn

Canned Green Beans

Canned Sweet Potatoes

Cranberry Sauce

Frozen Pumpkin Pie

Disposable Roasting Pan

Schedule

Meetings –

Tuesday: Council Meeting via Zoom at 6:30 PM

Thursday: Social Ministry Committee Meeting via Zoom at 6:30 PM

In-Person Worship

Sunday: 9AM in the Sanctuary, 10:30AM in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday: 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary

Online Worship

Sunday: 9AM Livestream from the Sanctuary

Monday & Friday: 9AM posted Hymn Devotions

Tuesday & Thursday: 9AM & 9PM Morning & Night Prayer

Online Study

Tuesday — Friday: Midday Kids' Devotions

Shoe Boxes Needed



If you have spare medium to large size shoe or boot boxes that you'd like to get out of your house, please drop them off at the church by November 20th. We need them for an Advent project.

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Shirley Acker, Carl & Dawn Alexy, Verna Blough, Fred Brandenburg, Clyde Claycomb, Betty Helsel, Doris Henderson, Gene Henry, Jere Hess, Gerald Hoover, Janet Kreider, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Don Smith, Nancy Uber, Joy Williams.

Prayer Concerns:, John Aljets, Amy & Family, Pastor Denise Arpino, Randy Barrett, Helena Bassler, Kelly Burk, Diane Cappel, Dwight Ciccotelli, Greg Comer, Brian Fleck, Jim Freyer, Erika Hallam, Betty Helsel, Dan Hershberger, Jeff Hoenstine, Marilyn Horton, Amber Itle, Jenny, Janet Kreider, Darren Kreutzer, Kristen Malloy, Rick McIntyre, Ryder McDermitt, Betty McDowell, Nathan, Zowe Orczeck, Aunt Mica, Deb Peters, Alana Rhodes, Paul Ruth, Kaleb Sollenberger, Barbara Smith, Connie Smith, Luther Steele, Wyatt Sweinhart, Cindy Thomas, Carol Weyandt, Pete Williams, Ashley Zanfino, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries:**
Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.

Our college students: Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jacob Orczeck.

Basic Training for the Army: Nathan Smith

Serving God and Us Today

Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Pianist – Dr. Adam Smith

Our Administrative Assistant – Lori Tremmel

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton – Bill Brown

Our Audio/Video Tech – Lori Tremmel

Our Offering Counters – Beth Garner, Anna Klepser

Third Quarter Ventures in Faith to “*United Lutheran Seminary*”

2019 Veterans

Today, November 8, St. Matthew will honor veterans who have served in the military. Please check the list below of veterans who have served in the military. All veterans will be honored, including inactive and deceased.

Dale Allison*

Pete Barley*

Alan Brubaker

Lester Buchart*

Bryan Bush

Jim Calvert*

Cletus Carberry*

Clyde Claycomb

Robert “Bob” Creps*

Michael Corcoran

Kermit Daniel*

LeMar Daniel*

Edward DeAngelis*

Andy Freyer*

Matt Freyer

Donald Garner*

Jeff Garner

George Gilbert Sr

George Gilbert Jr

Harold Grove

Cpt. Donald Grove

Robert V. Gunnett

Bob Guyer

Colin Guyer

Kyle Guyer

Mark Guyer

Greg Haffling

Charles Henzler

Dean Hinish*

Rodger Hoover

Dante Iachini*

Joseph Iwanski*

Charles Kreider*

Henry Lamborn

Mike Lamborn

David Lehman

Les Loomis

Kenneth Long*

Richard A. McGraw*

***Deceased**

Harold Mountain*

Scott Paul

Timothy Perry*

John Replogle

Paul E. Rummel*

John Sell*

Elwood Smith*

Nathan Smith

Sheldon O. Smith*

John L. Snyder

Michael L. Snyder

William Stahl

Jim Stewart

Ralph Stouffer*

William Straesser*

John Szymckec*

Milo “Bud” Uber*

Laura Webb

Jay Webb

James Weyant*



2021 Offering Envelopes

Everyone who is a confirmed member or is a visitor and has requested envelopes receives Offering Envelopes. Included in this "Bulletin" is a NEW Time and Talent Sheet and a Commitment Card for 2021.

Electronic Offerings: If you would like to have funds given directly from your savings or checking please call Lori or Laura at 814-793-2413 to get more info. It is only a 5 minute process.

If you already give Electronically and would like to increase your offerings, checking please call Lori or Laura at 814-793-2413 to get more info. It is only a 5 minute process.

Time and Talent sheets from previous years are deleted and a NEW TIME & TALENT SHEET needs to be completed EVERY YEAR.

January 2021 Offering Envelopes will be mailed in December 2020 to your homes.

The other options for offering or tithing are below:

Ways to Support St. Matthew

Offering Envelopes: These are mailed to our contributors at their homes monthly.

❖ if you would like to use the "**Simply Giving**" on-line program of automatic bank drafts from your checking account. (*Forms are in the church office. Please see Lori.*)

Giving Online: Visit the church website at "www.stmatthewlc.com"

- 1) Click on the "Give" button, (on the top white banner)
- 2) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.

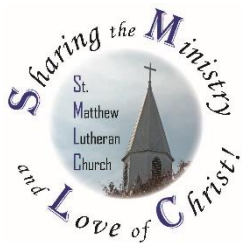
Mobile Giving:

- 1) Visit "**Play Store on your mobile device**"
- 2) Find the "**Vanco Payment**" app (this is free)
- 3) Click on the "**Install**" button
- 4) Open the app on your device
- 5) Follow the onscreen instructions to schedule your one-time contribution or recurring contributions.



Our "Annual Commitment Card"

Please complete the card below and return in the offering plate or to the church office by November 29, 2020.



St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Stewardship Commitment Card 2021

Mission in the Parish \$ _____ (wkly. or mthly) circle one
(Current Expense)

Mission in the World \$ _____ (wkly. or mthly) circle one
(Benevolence)

Ventures in Faith \$ _____ (wkly. or mthly) circle one

Building Fund \$ _____ (wkly. or mthly) circle one

Total Giving \$ _____ (wkly. or mthly) circle one

(Please circle one) →

Weekly or Monthly

St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran Stewardship Commitment Card 2021

Mission in the Parish \$ _____
(Current Expense)

Mission in the World \$ _____
(Benevolence)

Ventures in Faith \$ _____

Building Fund \$ _____

Total Giving \$ _____

**KEEP THIS SECTION FOR
YOUR RECORDS**

Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries

The holiday shopping season is upon us! Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries (ALSM) is hosting a virtual shopping event from November 6th – November 25th. Enjoy shopping from the safety and convenience of your home and support ALSM with your purchases. Each vendor is donating a portion of sales.

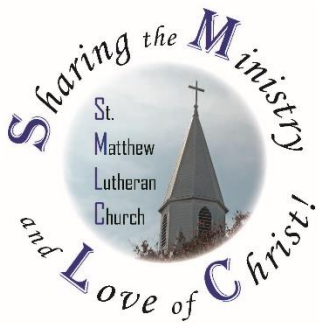
Vendors will post to ALSM's Virtual Shopping Facebook group available products as well as links to order. To join the group visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/842577266570159>

Thank you for your support of ALSM. We wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and a Blessed Christmas.

Event Vendors:

doTERRA Essential Oils, LuLaRoe, Mary Kay, Norwex, Opulenza, Pampered Chef, Rada Cutlery, Scentsy, Touchstone Crystal by Swarovski, Tupperware



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Time and Talent Opportunities for 2020

God calls each of us uniquely into ministry. When we, as good stewards of the passions and gifts God has given us, respond by joyfully dedicating ourselves to God's work in the world, ministry happens.

All who participate in the life of St. Matthew are encouraged to “Share the Ministry and Love of Christ” through their time and talents.

Name _____

Home Address _____

Phone (H) _____ (C) _____ Email _____

God gives each of us unique Spiritual Gifts. What feels like a passion in your heart is the presence of those gifts. Please take a few moments to consider your passions. When our time, talents, and passions are used, joy comes through sharing them to do God's work. Please include interests such as fishing, reading, cooking, sewing, etc. that could be the basis for either forming social groups or contributing to the congregation's ministries. Please list your unique passions/talents/interests here:

Please give prayerful thought to the following list and check the boxes for all activities where you are able to serve.

I would be willing to have my name placed on the ballot to be considered for a leadership role on the St. Matthew Church Council as a member and/or an officer.

I would be willing to serve on the Nominating Committee that secures the nominations for Church Council.

I would like to attend the Allegheny Synod Assembly, either as a voting member or as a visitor.

Serve as a member of the **Evangelism Committee** - responsible for providing opportunities for and encouraging members to share their faith with each other and with their neighbors.

<i>I can't serve on the committee but I would like to help in the following ways:</i>			
Coordinate Prayer Vigil		Provide rides for church events	Coordinate rides for church events
Assemble and deliver welcome boxes		Be a greeter on Sunday morning	Participate in telephone prayer chain.
Participate in email prayer chain		Schedule Sunday morning greeters	

Serve as a member of the **FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE** - responsible for creating and coordinating events that strengthen fellowship among members.

<i>I can't serve on the committee but I would like to help in the following ways:</i>			
Bake cakes for funeral meals		Help prep and serve funeral meals	Prep and/or serve congregational dinners
Call/schedule volunteers for events		Attend men's breakfast	Coordinate recreational events

Serve as a member of the **FINANCE COMMITTEE** – monitors church finances and investments; prepares budget; recommends spending allocations.

<i>I can't serve on the committee but I would like to help in the following ways:</i>			
Count offerings after worship		Audit annual books	

Serve as a member of the **PROPERTY COMMITTEE** – responsible for maintaining the interior and exterior church property.

<i>I can't serve on the committee but I would like to help in the following ways:</i>			
Snow removal		Landscaping/gardening	General handyman/handywoman
Skills you can share:			

Serve as a member of the **SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE** – promotes faith in action through social responsibility at the local, state, national and international levels.

I can't serve on the committee but I would like to help in the following ways:

Blood pressure screenings	Providing meals	Providing transportation
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Serve as a member of the **STAFF SUPPORT COMMITTEE** – oversight of the church staff and child protection clearances for volunteers.

I can't serve on the committee but I would like to help in the following ways:

Serve as a member of the **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE** – encourages members' use of their time, talent and treasures as a response to the generosity of God's love for us.

I can't serve on the committee but I would like to help in the following ways:

Give temple talk	Help develop stewardship programs	Write newsletter articles about stewardship
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Serve as a member of the **WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE** – works with the pastor and music staff to provide meaningful worship experiences.

I can't serve on the committee but I would like to help in the following ways:

Usher	Read lessons	Acolyte
Communion Assistant	Journey to Bethlehem	Coordinate flowers
Audio/Visual equipment	Assisting Minister	Arrange and/or provide special music

WOMEN OF THE ELCA – provides ministry opportunities TO and THROUGH the women in our congregation.

Hike/Bible study	Prayer Breakfast	Knotty ladies
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MISCELLANEOUS – Gifts, talents and interests that can be shared through various committees:

Decorations/Centerpieces	Sing	Drama
Sewing	Cooking	Woodworking
Play instrument(s):		
Photography	Bulletin Boards	Artwork
Office/Administrative	Mailings	Computer assistance