

St. Matthew Day Holy Communion

9:00 a.m., September 21, 2025



Welcome to worship this morning!

We are glad you're here! **Children** are welcome to remain in worship; they are also welcome to take a break in our "Kid's Korner" in the Gathering Space where the service audio is played through speakers. **Bathrooms** are located down the hall, past the church office. **Hymns** are printed in the red book (ELW) available in the pew rack.

We practice **open communion** at St. Matthew, meaning all who desire the sacrament of Holy Communion are welcome. If you prefer, you may also come forward for a blessing. During the distribution of Holy Communion, ushers will direct the congregation forward to receive communion in a continuous line. The pastor will distribute communion wafers, which you may intinct (dip) into red wine or white grape juice, held by communion assistants. Please **do not sip** from the chalices. Gluten free wafers are also available. The pastor will deliver the sacrament to anyone unable to come forward. You may also use a pre-filled communion kit, available at the usher's table.

All are welcome!

PRELUDE: *Voluntary on 'Thaxted'*

Robert S. Wallace, II

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin. I invite you into a prayerful posture of kneeling, standing, or sitting.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life. **Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of † Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN: *All Are Welcome*

ELW 641 (v. 1-3)

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son our Savior called a despised tax collector to become one of his apostles. Help us, like Matthew, to respond to the transforming call of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

A reading from Amos:

⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
⁵ saying, “When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain,
and the Sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier
and practice deceit with false balances,
⁶ buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”
⁷ The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE:

Rev. Ryan

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 9:9-13

Regarded as a traitor to his people and an oppressor of the poor, this tax collector follows Jesus and then offers him hospitality. In the sharing of a meal Jesus reveals his mission: to serve God's mercy.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

¹⁰ And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹² But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON:

Pastor Brian

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me*

ELW 767

APOSTLE'S CREED

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 INTERCESSION

United with the great cloud of witnesses throughout the ages, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. I invite you into a prayerful posture of kneeling, standing or sitting.

A brief silence.

God of love, motivate the church worldwide and our congregation, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, to share your love through our hospitality as well as our words and deeds. Like Matthew the Evangelist, teach us to bear witness through our lives and share your good news with the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God of justice, like the prophet Amos teach your church to speak and act in solidarity with the poor, frustrating the efforts of those who trample on the needy and practicing justice in our own life and community. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Wonderful Creator, we pray for an end to the misuse of the earth and its resources, that all people may benefit from your abundant gifts and that our stewardship of creation would be marked by justice and sustainability. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Holy One, embolden elected leaders to pursue policies of economic justice for the benefit of all, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, we pray for all facing illness, those near death, and those suffering physically, mentally, emotionally, or spiritually. May they find comfort and strength in your love. Prepare us to surround them with your healing care. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Eternal God, we give you thanks for Pastor Brian's sabbatical time of growth and rest. As Pastor Brian returns from his sabbatical, we pray that you enfold us together into the life and ministry of this congregation. As we celebrate today the 10th anniversary of Pastor Brian's ordination, we thank you for guiding and supporting his ministry. Fill us with the power of the Holy Spirit as we discern together how we can glorify you in our ministries at St. Matthew. Bless us in our ministry together. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate Savior, we remember Matthew and all who have gone before us in the faith. We especially remember Patricia Karpe whose life we celebrated yesterday. Bring us, together with all your saints, to the joy of the resurrection and eternal life with you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The congregation may be seated.

OFFERING

At this time, ushers will pass the offering plate if you desire to give a financial gift. Donations may also be given online at stmatthewavon.org/give or mailed directly to the church. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithfulness!

OFFERTORY: *Lead me, Lord*

S. S. Wesley

Lead me, Lord,
lead me in thy righteousness,
make thy way plain before my face.

For it is thou, Lord,
thou, Lord, only,
that makest me dwell in safety.

DOXOLOGY

All rise as the gifts are brought forward.

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God,
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
and our labor,
that we may work for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

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;
 who on this day overcame death and the grave,
 and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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:

SANCTUS

ELW Setting 3

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
 You are most holy,
 and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
 so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
 but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

We ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace.
To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

At this time, ushers will direct the congregation to form two lines in the center aisle. After you receive a communion wafer from the pastor, walk to the side of the altar where you may intinct (dip) the wafer into the red wine or white grape juice. Please do not drink from the chalices.

You may also use a pre-filled communion kit in your seat or the pastor will deliver the sacrament to your seat.

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

THE DISTRIBUTION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

AGNUS DEI

ELW Setting 3

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN: *Will You Come and Follow Me*

ELW 798

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Oh God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

May the Lord look upon with you with favor and give you peace.

In the name of the Father, and the Son ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

ELW 815

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Today's Altar flowers are provided by Nancy Lindquist in loving memory of David Lindquist.

MANY THANKS FOR TODAY'S VOLUNTEER WORSHIP LEADERS

Altar Guild: Anita Mielert & Kathy Alsgaard

Assisting Minister: Will Abbott

Acolyte: Matthew Coslett

Lector: Jane Hanson

Livestream: George Spoering

Coffee Hour: Deb Brodeur, Kathy Kurtich, Jean Tuve, Karen Wright, Sharon Yanke

Ushers: Gary Kurtich, Doug Peterson, & Rob Abbott

STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Rajcok – pastorbrian@stmatthewavon.org

Associate Pastor: The Rev. Ryan Heckman – revryan@stmatthewavon.org

Director of Music: Sarah Schiener-Redenz – music@stmatthewavon.org

Office Administrator: Paul Martin – office@stmatthewavon.org or (860) 673-3301

Sexton: Roy Zurell – contact the office

VISIT US ONLINE

Website: www.stmatthewavon.org

YouTube: @StMatthewAvon

Facebook: [com/SaintMatthewLutheranChurch](https://www.facebook.com/SaintMatthewLutheranChurch) **Instagram:** @stmatthewlutheranavon

THE WEEK AHEAD

Today	10:20am: Adult Forum & Sunday School		10:30am: Confirmation Class	
Tuesday	10am: A.A.	2pm: Choir Rehearsal		
Wednesday	9:30am & 5:15pm: W.W		7pm: O.A.	
Thursday	2pm: Centering Prayer			
Sunday	9am: Sanctuary Worship	10:20am: Adult Forum & Sunday School	10:30 am: Confirmation Class	4pm: Youth Group

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTOR BRIAN'S 10 YEAR ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

Today, Following Worship

Pastor Brian celebrated 10 years of ordained ministry on September 19th! This is a major milestone, and St. Matthew will be celebrating him and his ministry today after worship!

The whole congregation is invited to a special coffee hour after worship today to mark PB's 10 years of ministry. There will be a basket for cards at this celebration if you'd like to honor Pastor Brian with a card. We are so blessed with Pastor Brian's ministry here at St. Matthew and give thanks to God for his call to ministry 10 years ago!

ADULT FORUM

Adult Forum will meet in the Hall of the Evangelists. In today's Adult Forum, Pastor Brian will share highlights from his sabbatical, including pictures from his cross-country roadtrip.

SEASONS OF GIVING | Fall Harvest - Hands of Grace

The Outreach Ministry is continuing its Seasons of Giving initiative by supporting Hands of Grace in New Hartford. The theme will be "Fall Harvest", and we're looking to collect all kinds of non-perishable food items to aid those that need a bit of extra help during the holidays. Please bring your donations to the displays in the Gathering Space. Thank you for your continued generosity to our local community!

OCCASIONAL BAKERS WANTED | SMLC Coffee Hour

Looking for a low-key and occasional way to be involved? The Fellowship Team is looking for volunteers to help out occasionally, as you are able, with either a home baked/prepared OR store bought food item to enjoy at our gatherings where food is partaken (Sunday coffee hour, receptions, concerts, etc.) Can we put your name on the list? Thank you for considering this nourishing opportunity. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the office

THRIVENT ACTION TEAM GRANTS

Signup Sheet Available Now!

Are you a member of Thrivent Financial? If you are, you can apply for two \$250 grants per year to help fund specific projects or events at St. Matthew! Below is a list of annual projects and events at St. Matthew that you can apply for a \$250 grant to help fund.

There is a signup sheet available on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space. Put your name next to the project you'd like to fund with one of your two action grants. If you have the details you need for the project (because you're involved in it) then go to your Thrivent account and apply! If you need information to apply, ask one of the pastors.

MUSIC AT GREENWOOD: SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, October 12, 4:00 pm

Join us for our first Sunday afternoon concert, where we will be treated to a performance by On the Trail! On the Trail is a modern acoustic band that explores everything from bluegrass to contemporary pop, from stunning instrumentals to beautiful traditional songs. The concert will last approximately 90 minutes, with a brief intermission, and will be followed by a reception of light appetizers. An offering will be received at the door (suggested donation: \$10). We hope to see you there!

ONLINE GIVING

Make a one-time gift, or set-up recurring donations, via Vanco! You may use the QR code below to access the website, or visit: stmatthewavon.org/online-giving

We ask those that wish to set-up recurring donations, please select the "GENERAL OPERATING FUND" and choose withdrawals to take place on either the 1st or 15th of the month. Thank you! If you have any difficulty, please contact the church office or see one of the Pastors after service!



St. Matthew Mission Statement:

St. Matthew Lutheran Church is a worshipping community called to proclaim God's love for all and to grow spiritually together. Challenged by Jesus' example, we strive to connect people of all ages, abilities, and needs, and to nurture them to be disciples of Christ. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we reach out to the wider community and welcome our neighbors to a life of worship, preaching, teaching, Christian care, service, and spiritual growth.