

Third Sunday after Pentecost & New Member Sunday Holy Communion

10:30 a.m., June 9, 2024



Welcome to worship this morning!

We are glad you're here! Please know that **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 while kneeling or standing at the altar rail. 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: *Hymn Medley*

arr. Jordan Grigg

Lead On, O Cloud of Presence - Abide with Me - You Servants of God Fred Fenn, Bassoon

WELCOME

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

I invite you to kneel or remain standing.

A brief silence is observed for self-reflection.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy,
loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.
By grace you have been saved.
In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
Amen.

OPENING HYMN: *O Day of Rest and Gladness*

ELW 521

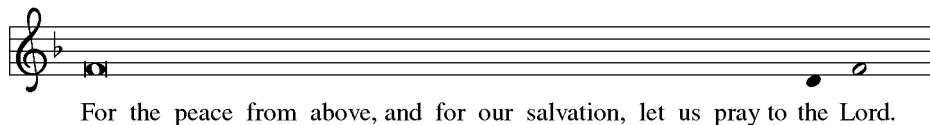
GREETING

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.

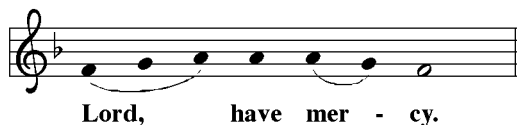
KYRIE



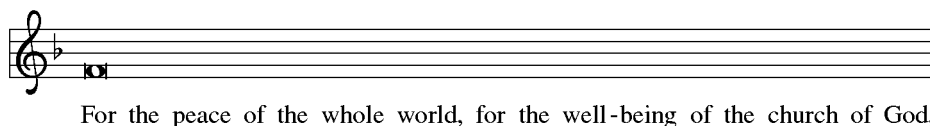
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



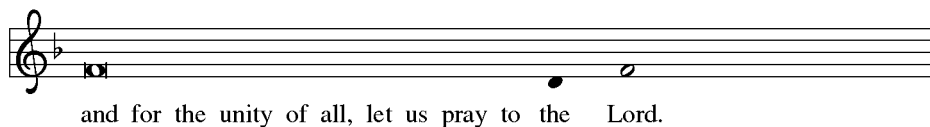
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



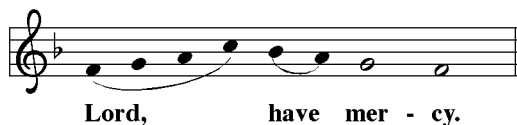
Lord, have mer - cy.



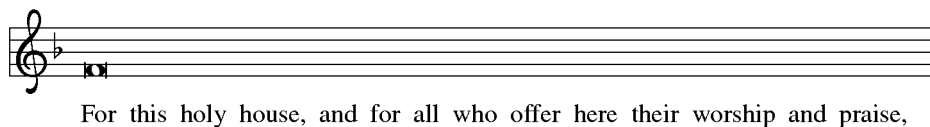
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



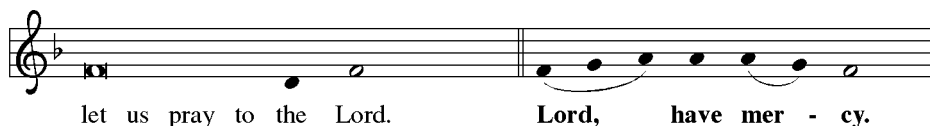
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



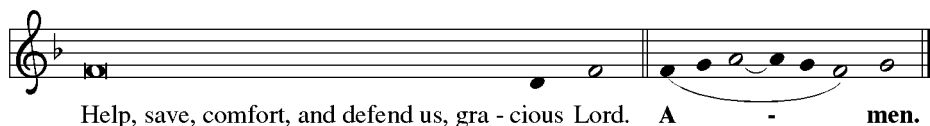
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, throughout time you free the oppressed, heal the sick, and make whole all that you have made. Look with compassion on the world wounded by sin, and by your power restore us to wholeness of life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 5:12-15

This portion of the Ten Commandments instructs the Israelites to keep the sabbath. The Israelites are to rest, and they are to allow their slaves, their livestock, and the foreigners living among them to do the same. They were once slaves, and so they are to treat their own slaves justly.

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy:

¹²Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. ¹³Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁴But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. ¹⁵Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Ryan

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

When we carry out God's ministry we do so not for our glory but for the sake of Jesus Christ whom we proclaim as Lord. The power for ministry comes from God, not us, so that we persevere no matter what, trusting in God's power and promises at work through us.

A reading from St. Paul's second letter to the Corinthians:

⁵We do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

⁷But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. ⁸We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. ¹¹For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. ¹²So death is at work in us, but life in you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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: Mark 2:23—3:6

Jesus challenges the prevailing interpretation of what is lawful on the sabbath and tells his critics that the sabbath was made for humankind, not the other way around. Healing the man with the withered hand is work that cannot wait until the next day.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²³One sabbath [Jesus] was going through the grainfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. ²⁴The Pharisees said to him, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?” ²⁵And he said to them, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? ²⁶He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions.” ²⁷Then he said to them, “The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; ²⁸so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath.”

³¹Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. ²They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. ³And he said to the man who had the withered hand, “Come forward.” ⁴Then he said to them, “Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent. ⁵He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. ⁶The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Brian

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Beautiful Savior*

ELW 838

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

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world. I invite you to kneel or remain standing.

A brief silence.

Lord of the Sabbath, guide your church to expressions of faith that bring rest and release. Teach your faithful people to be attentive to the spiritual, physical, and societal weariness of our neighbors, that we proclaim your grace through tangible acts of mercy and justice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Beautiful Creator, keep us mindful of the rhythms of nature as the days lengthen and the seasons shift toward summer. Grant relief to areas facing flooding or drought and bring favorable weather for the flourishing of crops, gardens, and orchards. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of peace, where there is affliction in our world, bring healing. Where world leaders are perplexed, bring clarity of vision. Give a spirit of discernment to political advisors and policymakers. Bring an end to war and violence, and teach us to live in peace. Be with those suffering in Gaza, Palestine, Israel, Ukraine, and all those experiencing the terror of war. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Divine Physician, provide wholeness and respite to all who are weary: those who struggle with mental health, physical illness or disability. Strengthen first responders and health care workers in their times of exhaustion. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of community, we thank you for the gift of this congregation. Inspire us to share with others how this faith community has positively impacted our lives. We thank you for the gift of children in our community and pray for their spiritual growth. We thank you for the new members who are received this day and we pray for their lives of faith and relationship with you. We thank you for the church picnic and ministry fair held today; send your Spirit to bless our time together. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For what else shall we pray...

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

I now invite those who desire to become new members of this community of faith to come forward in body or spirit:

Erika, Anayah and Aria Bentley
Sandra Festa
Ketty Klein

Mandi, Giada, and Carlina Mazzarella
Donna Grossman
Cole Van Seters

Dear friends, we give thanks for these sisters and brothers, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and set to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Pastor addresses new members:

Sisters and brothers in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place? If so please respond, "I do, and I ask God to help and guide me."

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Pastor addresses congregation:

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members, to welcome them into this community of faith and walk with them in their life in Christ? If so please respond, "We do, and we ask God to help and guide us."

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

A reading from First Corinthians:

"⁴Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, ⁵ and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good...¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."

Let us pray. Almighty God, we give you thanks for these sisters and brothers, whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and welcomed into this household of faith.

May we show your joy by embracing new brothers and sisters as we bear your creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others, following the example of Jesus Christ, our servant and Lord.

Amen.

I invite you to face the congregation.

Let us welcome these sisters and brothers in Christ to this community of faith!

New members turn and face the congregation, and the congregation responds with applause.

PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

The congregation may be seated.

And also with you.

OFFERING

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

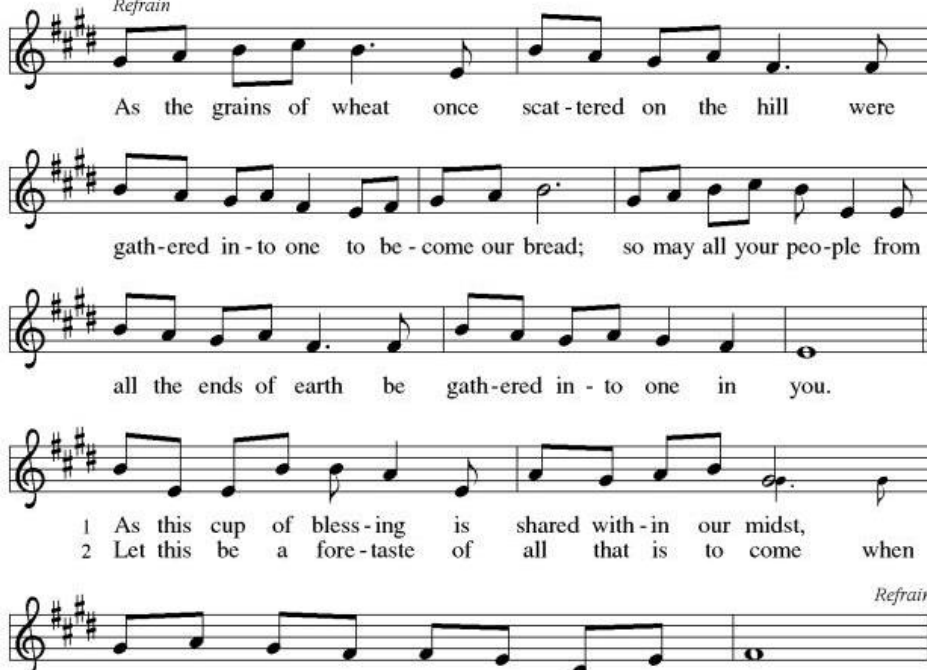
OFFERTORY: O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

arr. Jordan Grigg
Fred Fenn, Bassoon

PRESENTATION HYMN: As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

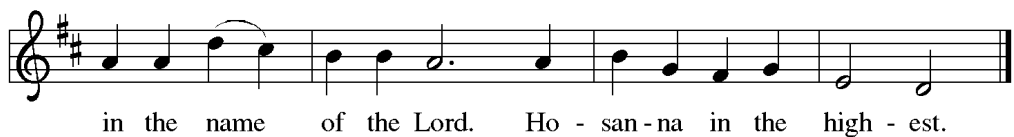
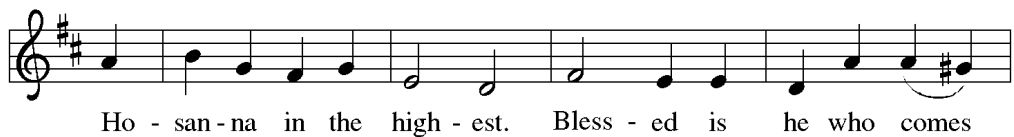
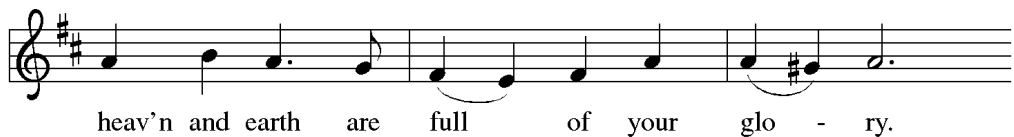
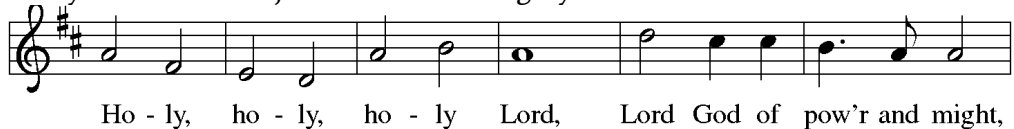
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

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:



Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.
Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

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 approach the altar where you may kneel or stand. You will receive a communion wafer from the pastor, which you are invited to intinct (dip) into the red wine or white grape juice held by the communion assistant. Please do not sip 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.

Christ invites you to this table. Come taste and see!

THE DISTRIBUTION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

AGNUS DEI



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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN: *We Come to You for Healing, Lord*

ELW 617

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

Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
In your name we pray. **Amen.**
The congregation may be seated.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

The Lord bless and keep you.

The Lord lift his countenance upon you and give you his peace.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious.

Amen.

The Lord Bless and Keep You, Kathy C. Bowen © 1999, Triune Music. All rights reserved.

PICNIC MEAL PRAYER

Let us pray as we close our time of worship and go to our church picnic.

Holy God as you have blessed us, we now bless you and give you thanks for the time we are about to spend together at our church picnic. Thank you for bringing us together; thank you for the meal we are about to share; thank you for the hands that have made food for us to eat; thank you for those who have tended farm lands and harvests so that we might enjoy the bounty of your creation. We ask that you bless us with joy today as we celebrate our community.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: *On Our Way Rejoicing*

ELW 537

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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Today's Altar Flowers are provided by the Reiders in memory of David & George III.

CHURCH PICNIC & MINISTRY FAIR TODAY!

Please join us after worship for our Annual Church Picnic! There will also be a Sunday School art show in the Gathering Space and informational displays regarding our many ministries in the Hall of the Evangelists.

MANY THANKS FOR TODAY'S VOLUNTEER WORSHIP LEADERS

Bassoonist: Fred Fenn

Live Stream: John Pearson

Lector: Kathy Alsgaard

Altar Guild: Kris Pearson & Lynn Metz

Ushers: Kevin Reichler

Cantor: Roy Zurell

Assisting Minister: Will Abbott

STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Rajcok – pastorbrian@stmatthewavon.org
Director of Music: Sarah Schiener-Redenz – music@stmatthewavon.org
Director of Christian Ed. The Rev. Ryan Heckman – education@stmatthewavon.org
Office Administrator: Paul Martin – office@stmatthewavon.org or (860) 673-3301
Sexton: Roy Zurell – contact the office

VISIT US ONLINE

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YouTube: [@StMatthewAvon](https://www.youtube.com/@StMatthewAvon) **Instagram:** [@stmatthewlutheranavon](https://www.instagram.com/stmatthewlutheranavon)

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday	10:30 am: Sanctuary Worship w/ Holy Communion	11:45 am: Church Picnic & Ministry Fair	
Tuesday	10:00 am: A.A.	7:00 pm: Avon Land Trust	7:00 pm: Finance Committee Mtg.
Wednesday	9:30 am & 5:15 pm: W.W	7:00 pm: O.A.	
Thursday	10:00 am: Bible Study	2:00 pm: Centering Prayer	
Friday	8:30 am: Men's Breakfast		
Sunday	9:00 am: Outdoor Worship w/ Holy Communion		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RED ENVELOPE FUNDRAISER FOR YOUTH GATHERING

We are well on our way to funding the trip to the Youth Gathering for our young people this summer! To help close the final gap of about \$3,000 there are 100 red envelopes hanging on the wall in the Gathering Space all numbered 1 to 100, and the way it works is people can take an envelope off the wall and you give the amount that corresponds to the number on the front! For example, if you take red envelope #22, you will put \$22 into the envelope to donate to the youth gathering trip!

You can take an envelope and ask other people to help support the Youth Gathering trip too - so if you have a friend, family member or neighbor who can donate, ask them to help out! If all 100 envelopes are returned, St. Matthew Youth will raise \$5,050!!

Please return any envelope you take with your donation inside by Sunday, June 9! Return envelopes to the wooden ballot box in the Gathering Space. Thanks for your continued generosity!

MINISTRY FAIR | During the Annual Picnic

During today's Annual Church Picnic, the ministries of St. Matthew will have informational displays set-up in the Hall of the Evangelists. If you've been thinking about joining one of our many vibrant ministries, or are curious to know more, please check out these displays!

Each table will also have a sign-up sheet for those who want more information. There is no commitment to sign-up during the fair, but we do ask you to provide your contact details if you'd like to know more

SUMMER SERIES: REVIEWING DR. EBEN ALEXANDER

Dr. Eben Alexander engaged deeply theological topics during his visit to St. Matthew on June 1st and 2nd. You may have felt a simultaneous jolt of excitement and apprehension as you heard Dr. Alexander explaining his near death experience (NDE). Your excitement might have been a sense that Dr. Alexander said things that "just makes so much sense" and yet you might have felt tension as you confront some of the ways Lutherans have talked about creation, God, death, salvation, and our role as humans in all this. This tension is good and holy! Join Pastor Ryan after worship this summer to dig a little deeper into these theological topics and tensions with open hearts and with our Lutheran Confessions as our conversation guide.

Pastor Ryan will host this discussion in the Hall of the Evangelists after worship on Sundays throughout the month of June (June 16, 23, 30). If you can, read Dr. Alexander's book Proof of Heaven as a primer for this conversation series.