

Fifth Sunday of Easter with Holy Communion

Baptism of Olivia Rose Swanson

9:00 a.m., May 18, 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.

All who desire the sacrament of Holy Communion are welcome; you may also come forward to receive a blessing. During the distribution of Holy Communion, ushers will direct the congregation forward to receive communion in a continuous line. Our pastors will distribute communion wafers, which you may intinct (dip) into the red wine, or white grape juice, held by communion assistants. Please **do not drink** from the chalices. Gluten free wafers are also available. A 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: *Christ ist erstanden*

Heinrich Bach

WELCOME

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

OPENING HYMN: *The Day of Resurrection!*

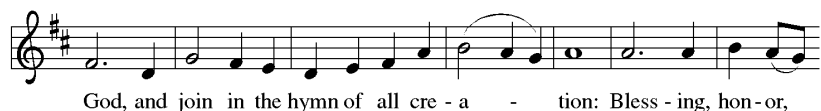
ELW 361

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.

THIS IS THE FEAST



Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

FIRST READING: Acts 11:1-18

In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.

A reading from the Book of Acts:

¹ Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸ But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Rev. Ryan

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6

John’s vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.

A reading from the Book of Revelation:

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



MUSIC: Adapted from the 1978 edition of the Roman Missal, published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Copyright © 1978 by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 13:31-35

After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jewish authorities so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON:

Pastor Mark Lingle

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Now the Green Blade Rises*

ELW 379

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

The baptismal party gathers at the font. Pastor addresses the assembly.

God, who is rich in mercy and love,
gives us a new birth

into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism.

By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death
and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ.

We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ,
anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit,
and joined in God’s mission for the life of the world.

Pastor addresses the parents:

Laura and Morgan, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Olivia baptized into Christ? If so, please respond “we do.”

Response: We do.

As you bring Olivia to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people,
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in her hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture her in faith and prayer,
so that Olivia may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Olivia grow in the Christian faith and life?
Please respond "we do."

Response: We do.

Pastor addresses sponsors:

Molly & David, you have been asked to fulfill the sacred responsibilities of godparents, that is baptismal sponsors. Do you promise to nurture Olivia in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? Please respond "we do."

Response: We do.

Pastor addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support Olivia and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Assisting minister addresses parents and sponsors:

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

Water is poured into the font.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

BAPTISM

Water is poured on the candidate's head:

Olivia Rose, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God,
that through water and the Holy Spirit
you give this your child, new birth,
cleanse her from sin, and raise her to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of the newly baptized, the pastor prays:

Sustain Olivia with the gift of your Holy Spirit:
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the love of the Lord,
the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Pastor marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized saying:

Olivia Rose, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the ✠ cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Assisting minister hands a lit candle to the sponsors, saying:

Olivia Rose may your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Pastor addresses the congregation

Let us welcome the newly baptized.
**We welcome you into the body of Christ
and into the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise to God
and bearing God's creative and redeeming word
to all the world.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of resurrection, healing, wholeness, and new life, we come before you in prayer 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.

Fill the church with the spirit of your redeeming love. Teach us to embody Christ's new commandment to love one another. Guide all siblings in Christ of different denominations and traditions, particularly the newly elected Pope Leo XIV. Guide Catholics and Lutherans and all Christians to follow your call together. Further ecumenical and interfaith relationships. Make us steadfast in our proclamation of your grace for all people without exceptions. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Awaken joy in the beauty and abundance of your creation. Show us the wonder of your presence from the smallest flower to the tallest tree. Recommit us to preservation of wild places. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Instruct all world leaders to protect the most vulnerable among us. Guide those in power toward equitable and just economic policies, so that all might have sufficient resources to live safely and with dignity. We pray for peace in our world, especially for peace between Russia and Ukraine, India and Pakistan, and Israel, Palestine and Gaza. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abide with all who are victims of racism, especially people who are doubly marginalized because of gender, sexuality, or ability. Destroy all forms of systemic oppression, and renew our commitment to healing the wounds of our broken world. We pray especially for those who have been torn away from their families and homes and face deportation. Instill kindness and compassion in our nation's Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Inspire a spirit of welcome in our hearts, that our policies may reflect Scripture's call to welcome the foreigner and see Christ in the stranger. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of New Life, in the waters of Baptism you set us free from the power of sin and death. Unite all the baptized in the covenant you have made with us, as we strive for your justice and peace in all the earth. Especially we pray for the newly baptized child of God, Olivia Rose Swanson. Send your Spirit upon her and her family. May her life be filled with your blessings, may she grow up to know and love you, and may she be a blessing to the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **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: *Jubilate Deo*

Dale Wood

O sing to the Lord with a jubilant voice.
Glory to God in the highest!
O serve him with gladness, before him
rejoice.
Praise to the Lord in the highest!
The Lord is our God, our Creator, not
we.
Glory to God in the highest!
The sheep of his pasture we ever shall be.
Praise to the Lord in the highest!

O enter his gates with thanksgiving and
praise.
Glory to God in the highest!
To honor his name thankful voices we
raise.
Praise to the Lord in the highest!
For good is the Lord, and his mercy is
sure.
Glory to God in the highest!
To all generations his truth shall endure.
Glory to God! Glory to God!
Praise to the Lord in the highest!

Jubilate Deo, Dale Wood © 1971, Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved.

DOXOLOGY

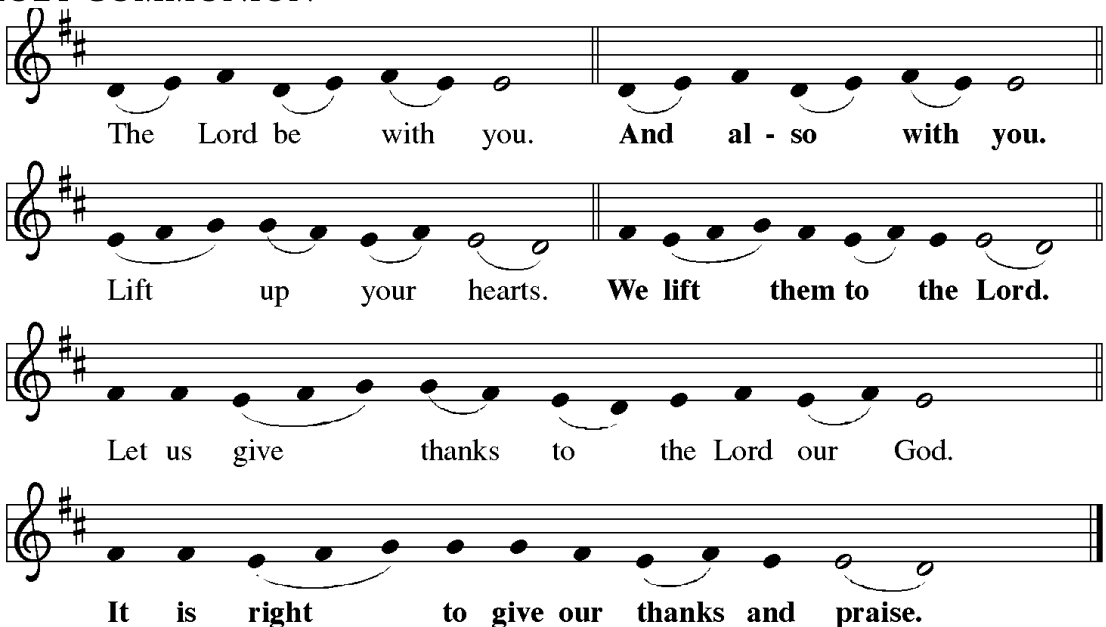
All rise as the gifts are brought forward.

**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

Risen One,
you have gathered us around your table of grace
along with these gifts we bring.
Come among us again,
breathe your life into us,
and enliven us with this meal,
that we may live as your risen body in the world. **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.

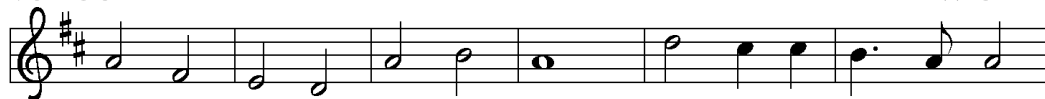
The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The notes are primarily quarter and eighth notes, often beamed together in groups. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across bar lines. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff also has a double bar line. The third and fourth staves end with single bar lines.

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,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

ELW Setting 4



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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.

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.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

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. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity, 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

We are especially blessed that Alina O'Herron and Josephine Vincent are with us
today partaking in their first communion.

At this time, ushers will direct the First Communicants and their families to commune at the rail. After First Communicants are finished the 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.

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

THE DISTRIBUTION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

AGNUS DEI

ELW Setting 4

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: *Lord of All Hopefulness*

ELW 765

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

Living One,
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.
Send us now to tell of your wonders,
sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life
to a wounded and weary world. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The triune God,
who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit,
light your way with resurrection dawn,
now and always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Go in peace. Share the good news!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgical Annual License. Sunday, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. REPRINTED/PODCAST/STREAMED WITH PERMISSION UNDER ONE LICENSE #A-736780. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Today's Altar flowers are given by the Swansons in celebration of Olivia Rose's baptism!

Special thanks to Pastor Mark Lingle for leading us in worship this morning!

MANY THANKS FOR TODAY'S VOLUNTEER WORSHIP LEADERS

Guest Preacher: Pastor Mark Lingle

Coffee Hour: Robin Pietrick & Anne Fenn

Acolyte: Dahlia Codispoti

Altar Guild: Paula Cunningham & Lynn Metz

Assisting Minister: Roy Zurell

Lector: Rob Abbott

Livestream: George Spoering

Ushers: Kevin Reichler, Doug Peterson, Gary Kurtich, & Carlton Slater

TODAY'S ADULT FORUM | "FORGIVENESS"

Pastor Mark Lingle will be using the parable of the Prodigal Son and the Ignatian exercise tool of Examen, we will look at this fundamental aspect of our life and life together.

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

Sunday	10:20am: Sunday School & Adult Forum			10:30am: Confirmation Class
Tuesday	10am: A.A.	12:30-2pm: Threads of Faith	2pm: Choir Rehearsal	7pm: Church Council Mtg.
Wednesday	9:30am & 5:15pm: W.W			7pm: O.A.
Thursday	2pm: Centering Prayer			
Sunday	9am: Sanctuary Worship w/ Holy Communion			

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SMLC ANNUAL PICNIC

Sunday, June 1st after special 10:30 am Worship time

On Sunday, June 1st, worship service will be held at 10:30 am immediately followed by the annual church picnic held on the back lawn (or Hall of the Evangelists, if necessary). Join us for food, fellowship, and fun! The menu includes hamburgers, veggie burgers, hotdogs, salads, and make your own ice cream sundaes.

Donations - In addition, a collection box will be present if you would like to join us in outreach with the following items: toilet paper, paper towels, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, hand soap, laundry detergent, and/or small bottles of dish soap. We will also accept food items such as canned fruit, applesauce, tomato soup, Chunky soup, and/or coffee. These items will be donated to the Zion Lutheran Church - "Meals for Neighbors" program that's run out of Bristol, CT. Items are not required for attendance, but greatly appreciated!

RSVP by signing up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space, or contacting the church office. If you don't get a chance to sign up, come anyway! All are welcome for fun and games, or just to sit a spell.

ST. MATTHEW 140th ANNUAL PROPERTY CLEAN-UP

DATE CHANGED to June 7th @ 8:30 am

Coffee and Donuts provided. We'll be here from 8:30 until we're done. Come whenever you can... Leave whenever you must. If you have a trailer, please bring it along to aid with any larger brush clearing projects.

Contact Ben Wright (Chair), Roy Zurell (Sexton), or the office if you have any questions.

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!

