

# Reformation Sunday & Stewardship Sunday

## Holy Communion



9:00 a.m., October 27, 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 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 drink 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:** *Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott*

Dietrich Buxtehude

**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 into a prayerful posture of kneeling, standing, or sitting.

*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: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God***

**ELW 504**

**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

ELW Setting 8

*Refrain*

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the  
 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for  
 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for  
 hun - gry and the poor; that  
 friends and fam - i - ly; for  
 wa - ter and the word; that you

this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
 we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
 life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

*Refrain*

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## TEMPLE TALK:

**Finance & Stewardship – Debbie Steinberg**

## FIRST READING: Romans 3:19-28

*Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.*

A reading from the Epistle to the Romans:

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup>it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE:

Rev. Ryan

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Setting 3



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**HOLY GOSPEL: John 8:31-36**

*Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.*

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>31</sup>Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” <sup>33</sup>They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free?’”

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON:

Pastor Brian

**HYMN OF THE DAY: *Take My Life, That I May Be***

ELW 685

## APOSTLES' 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

Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation. I invite you into a prayerful posture of kneeling, sitting or standing.

*A brief silence*

Lord of all, we give thanks for the whole church throughout the world. Open wide the paths toward unity between denominations so that all followers of Christ may join in shared worship and mission. May the truth of your saving grace through faith sustain our hope for life in you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Renewing God, as the dying leaves display their beauty, we are reminded that nature's cycle of life includes both life and death. Instill in your people a mission of preservation and appreciation for trees, animals, and waterways threatened by climate collapse. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, in the spirit of reformation we pray for all who cry out for relief from systemic oppression. May the hearts of those who occupy seats of power be reformed so that peace becomes the center of our life together. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Comforting God, be with all who are sick, suffering, or grieving in our own community and beyond. Surround them with the promise of your love, comfort, and grace that never ends. We pray for Liam Shields who was critically injured in a hit and run accident in Avon. We pray also for those mourning the loss of loved ones, especially the family of Paul Stein. Bring your healing and wholeness to our broken world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Divine Guide, continue to challenge this community to be ever reforming in our ministries. This Stewardship Sunday we pray for our finance committee, stewardship committee, those who serve as counters and auditors, and all those who contribute to the ministry of this congregation with time, talent, and treasure. We thank you for the gifts you have entrusted to us as individuals and as a congregation, and ask you to guide us as we use our resources to do your will in the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## **OFFERING**

*During the Offertory music, you are invited to walk forward to place your 2025 Giving Pledge in one of the offering plates near the altar rail. You may also place your weekly offering and your Time & Talent interest form in an offering plate as well. After this, you are invited to pick up a pocket prayer stone as a sign of thanks! There will be no offering plates passed today.*

## **OFFERTORY**

Go ye, go ye into the world and make disciples of all the nations,  
Go ye, go ye into the world and I will be with you there!

Go ye, go ye into the world and take the Gospel to all the people,  
Go ye, go ye into the world and I will be with you there!

I am the vine, you are the branches, ever the fruit to bear;  
I am the light, you, the reflection ev'rywhere.

Go ye, go ye into the world and tell the story to all believers.  
Go ye, go ye into the world and I will be with you there!

Go ye now and make disciples of all the nations,  
Go ye now and I will be with you there.

Go ye now and take the Gospel to all the people,  
Go ye now and I will be with you there.

I am the vine and you, the branches,  
I am the light for you to share, so

Go ye now and tell the story to all believers.  
Go ye now and I will be with you there!

Go Into the World, Natalie Sleeth © 1979, Choristers Guild. 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

Blessed are you, O God,  
source of every gift of your creation.  
By these gifts and with our lives,  
help us to serve one another and all in need,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**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.

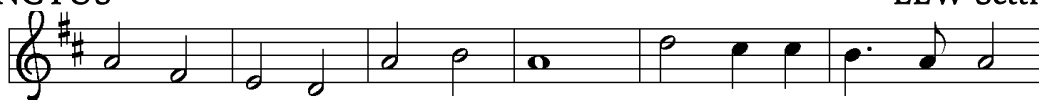
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:

## 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.

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 form two lines. You will receive a communion wafer from a pastor, which you are invited to intinct (dip) into the red wine or white grape juice held by the communion assistants. Please do not drink from the chalices. You may also use a pre-filled communion kit in your seat or indicate to an usher to have a pastor 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

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: *The Church's One Foundation*

ELW 654

## 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

Holy God,  
you have welcomed us to this meal  
and fed us with dignity at your table.  
Send us now to welcome others  
and to be at peace with one another,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

As you go on your way may Christ go with you.  
May he go before you to show you the way,  
Behind you to encourage you,  
Beside you to befriend you,  
Above you to watch over, And within you to give you peace. † **Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: *Lift High the Cross***

**ELW 660**

## 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 given to celebrate the generosity of our congregation!**

**If you'd like to learn more about our Finance Ministry, please contact Debbie  
Steinberg**

**Phone: (860) 463-9212 | Email: deborahsteinberg@mac.com**

**MANY THANKS FOR TODAY'S VOLUNTEER WORSHIP LEADERS**

**Altar Guild: Anita Mielert & MJ Bennett-Sandell**

**Assisting Minister: Robin Lindquist**

**Ushers: Kevin Reichler**

**Acolyte: Ivy Nadeau**

**Lector: Kathy Alsgaard**

**Live Stream: George Spoering**

**Coffee Hour: Sharon Yanke & Carol Reider**

## STAFF

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

## VISIT US ONLINE

**Website:** [www.stmatthewavon.org](http://www.stmatthewavon.org)      **YouTube:** @StMatthewAvon  
**Facebook.com/SaintMatthewLutheranChurch**      **Instagram:** @stmatthewlutheranavon

## THE WEEK AHEAD

|                  |   |   |                                   |
|------------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b>    | 9am: Sanctuary Worship w/<br>Holy Communion | 10:20am: Adult Forum<br>& Sunday School | 10:30am:<br>Confirmation<br>Class |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | 10am: A.A. (Open to All)                    | 6pm: Worship & Music Committee Mtg.     |                                   |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | 9:30am & 5:15pm: W.W                        | 7pm: O.A.                               | 7pm: Choir Rehearsal              |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | 2pm: Centering Prayer                       |   |                                   |
| <b>Friday</b>    | 5-7pm: SMLC Tag Sale                        |   |                                   |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | 9am - 3pm: SMLC Tag Sale                    |   |                                   |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | 9am: Sanctuary Worship<br>w/ Holy Communion | 10:20am: Adult Forum<br>& Sunday School | 10:30am:<br>Confirmation<br>Class |

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### TAG SALE

Volunteers are requested to attend our pre-tag sale meeting in the Sanctuary on Sunday, October 20 following Sunday service. The Tag Sale will be held on Friday 11/01 from 5-7 with a \$5 admission fee and Saturday 11/02 from 9-3. Cash only. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 8am. There will be two Saturday shifts, am and pm. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space. Many hands and talents are needed for Thursday and Friday to set up as well.

## Item Drop-off

- Begins Sunday, 10/27 at 11:30 after Sunday School in the Fireside Room
- Continues Monday-Wednesday, 10/28-10/30, 9am-3pm
- Thursday & Friday, 10/31-11/1, 9am-4pm in the Hall of the Evangelists

Reminder: NO clothing or bedding. Handbags and small furniture items o.k. For larger items requiring assistance please call ahead. When church is not open, a bin will be available near the front door.

## TWO NOTICES FOR SMLC WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

A reminder to SMLC women: Friday, November 15th, from 10:00 to noon at church - barn quilt painting on wood workshop with Kathy Kurtich - come join the fun and learn how to do this very unique craft! Let Kathy know so she will have enough supplies: [kathykurtich@gmail.com](mailto:kathykurtich@gmail.com)

A big thank you to all the women who attended our second women's gathering on Tuesday! We were all inspired as we heard from Anita, Jane, Ellen, Sandy, and Ann who shared their amazing talents and gifts with us!

Our next gathering is: Tuesday, November 12th from 1:00 to 3:00, with a program TBD. Please put the date on your calendar and plan to join us!

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD | SAVE THE DATE: NOV. 17TH

We will hold our annual intergenerational event, building boxes for Operation Christmas Child on Sunday November 17 beginning right after service. Bring your friends and family. This year we will put together special boxes for **boys and girls 10-14 year old** around the world. These are the age groups that could use more boxes to hand out. If you are interested in donating items, please drop them off at the main office with Paul. Also, if you are interested in helping to set up the event the day before or morning of, please reach out to Paul and he will let Melissa know.

## **MUSIC AT GREENWOOD: SAVE THE DATE!**

**Saturday, November 23rd, 4:00 p.m.**

Greenwoods Consort will provide the fifth and final concert of our 2024 season! Singing together for over twenty years, Greenwoods Consort comprises musicians who love vocal harmony and the music of the Renaissance. The songs they sing were written in the sixteenth through twentieth centuries, using intricate and independent parts. With a program ranging from Thomas Morley to Billy Joel, there is a wide variety of music to enjoy. After the one-hour program, please stay for a reception of light appetizers. Donations gratefully accepted. We hope you will join us for this exciting conclusion to the season!

## 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](http://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.*

***In Christ, We Are Digging Deep, Reaching Out, Changing Lives.***