

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Warrens, WI
Sunday, May 17, 2020 – The 6th Sunday of Easter
& Eighth Grade Confirmation
9:15 AM Drive-In Service + Facebook Live

Thank you for worshipping the Lord with us today! If you are attending the service from your vehicle, tune your radio to 93.5 FM to listen. You can park anywhere in St. Matthew's lot. May the Lord's Word be a blessing to you today as we hear about exercising our faith in an open and public way. Please also remember our confirmands, Alauna, Caleb, and Anna in your prayers. You can read their Statements of Faith in the back portion of this bulletin.

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in the sanctuary after the service, first for the Confirmation Class and their families, and then for other individuals and families desiring the sacrament. We will all do our very best to keep one another safe as we once again receive the Lord's Supper.

Welcome & Introduction to Today's Service

We Sing: "On Eagles' Wings" (selected by Anna Rose)

1. You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in His shadow for life,
Say to the Lord: "My refuge,
My rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain: And He will raise you up on eagles' wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His hand.

2. Snares of the fowler will never capture you,
And famine will bring you no fear;
Under His wings your refuge,
His faithfulness your shield. *Refrain*

3. For to His angels He's given a command
To guard you in all of your ways;
Upon their hands they will bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone. *Refrain*

Text: © OCP Publications. Used by permission: CPH Limited Promotional License no. 119000000

Confession & Absolution:

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** (1 John 1:8-9)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Opening Psalm: *Psalm 119:89–93; refrain v. 105*

P: Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.
Forever, O Lord, your word
is firmly fixed in the heavens.
Your faithfulness endures to all generations;
you have established the earth, and it stands fast.
By your appointment they stand this day,
for all things are your servants.
If your law had not been my delight,
I would have perished in my affliction.
I will never forget your precepts,
for by them you have given me life.

C: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.**

Prayer of the Day:

P: O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

New Testament Reading: *Acts 17:16–31*

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbling wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" ²⁰For you bring some strange things to our ears. We

wish to know therefore what these things mean.”²¹ Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

²² So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷ that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸ for

“‘In him we live and move and have our being’;

as even some of your own poets have said,

“‘For we are indeed his offspring.’

²⁹ Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Epistle Reading: 1 Peter 3:13–22

¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Holy Gospel: John 14:15–21

¹⁵ [Jesus said:] “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸ “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ In that

day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

We Sing: “How Great Thou Art” (selected by Alauna Eckelberg)

**1. O Lord my God. When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars I hear the rolling thunder
Thy pow'r thru'out The universe displayed**

***Chorus:* Then sings my soul: My Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, How great Thou art
Then sings my soul: My Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, How great Thou art**

**2. When through the woods And forest glades I wander
And hear the birds Sing sweetly in the trees
When I look down From lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook And feel the gentle breeze – *Chorus***

**3. And when I think That God His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die I scarce can take it in
That on the cross My burden gladly bearing
He bled and died To take away my sin – *Chorus***

**4. When Christ shall come With shout of acclamation
And take me home What joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow In humble adoration
And there proclaim My God how great Thou art – *Chorus***

CCLI Song #14181
By Stuart Wesley Keene Hine
© Copyright 1949 and 1953 Stuart Hine Trust CIO Stuart K. Hine Trust
CCLI License # 20094925

Sermon: “Confessing Christ Confidently”

Choir Anthem: “A Mother's Prayer”

**Before you close your eyes to sleep I have a promise still to keep
As I hold you in my arms I pray your little frame grows strong
And that faith takes hold while you are young. This is my prayer for you**

**Hold my hand. I'll teach you the way to go
Through the joys through the tears The journey of these years
May you trust Him 'til the end May you trust Him in the end**

**This world is not as it should be But the Savior opens eyes to see
All that's beautiful and true Oh may His light fill all you are
And the jewel of wisdom crown your heart This is my prayer for you**

**Hold my hand I'll teach you the way to go
Through the joys through the tears The journey of these years
He is with us 'til the end He is faithful 'til the end**

**You'll travel where my arms won't reach As the road will rise to lead your feet
On a journey of your own May my mistakes not hinder you
But His grace remain and guide you through This is my prayer for you**

**Take His hand And go where He calls you to
And whatever comes seek Him With all your heart
This will be my prayer for you**

Father hear my ceaseless prayer Oh keep her in your care

CCLI Song #6399229
By Fionán De Barra, Keith & Kristyn Getty
© 2012 Fionán De Barra and Getty Music Publishing (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)
CCLI License # 20094925

Confirmation Address:

P: Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." You have been baptized and catechized in the Christian faith according to our Lord's bidding. Jesus said, "Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 10:32-33) Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.

Profession of Faith:

P: Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?

Confirmands: *Yes, I do.*

P: Do you renounce the devil?

Confirmands: *Yes, I renounce him.*

P: Do you renounce all his works?

Confirmands: *Yes, I renounce them.*

P: Do you renounce all his ways?

Confirmands: *Yes, I renounce them.*

P: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

Confirmands: *Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.*

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?

Confirmands: *Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.*

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

Confirmands: *Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.*

P: Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?

Confirmands: *I do.*

P: Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

Confirmands: *I do.*

P: Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?

Confirmands: *I do, by the grace of God.*

P: Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

Confirmands: *I do, by the grace of God.*

P: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

Confirmands: *I do, by the grace of God.*

P: We rejoice with thankful hearts that you have been baptized and have received the teaching of the Lord. You have confessed the Christian faith and been forgiven of your sins. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive the Lord's Supper, He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Individual Blessings:

P: *[Name]*, the almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting.

C: Amen.

Individual Confirmation Verses are Read

Prayer for the Newly Confirmed:

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for bringing these, Your son and daughters, to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name.

In the waters of Holy Baptism, You have united Your children with the suffering and death of Your Son Jesus Christ, cleansing them by His blood. Renew in them the gift of Your Holy Spirit, that they may live in daily repentance, with a faith that ever clings to their Savior. Bring forth in their lives the fruits of faith, that they may continue steadfast to

the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness.

Grant that they remain faithful in hearing Christ's Word and receiving His body and blood. By the Lord's Supper, strengthen them to believe that no one can forgive sin but Christ alone. Enable them to find joy and comfort only in Him, learning from this Sacrament to love You and their neighbor and to bear the crosses and trials of life with patience and joy until the day of the resurrection of our bodies to life immortal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Prayers for our Neighbors & Ourselves

The Lord's Prayer:

C: 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.

Benediction:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

Announcements

We Sing: "Shine, Jesus, Shine" (selected by Caleb Fox)

**Lord, the light of Your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness shining.
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;
Set us free by the truth You now bring us.**

***Refrain:* Shine on me, Shine on me.
Shine, Jesus, shine! Fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze, Spirit, blaze! Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow! Flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!**

**Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
From the shadows into Your radiance.
By the blood I may enter Your brightness;
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness. *Refrain***

**As we gaze on Your kingly brightness,
So our faces display Your likeness.
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here, may our lives tell Your story. *Refrain***

Offering (at the exits of the sanctuary & the parking lot)

Following the conclusion of the service, the Lord's Supper will be celebrated in the sanctuary, first for the Confirmation Class, and then in small groups for other individuals and families desiring the Sacrament.

Statement of Faith – Alauna Eckelberg

Who is Jesus and what has He done for me?

Jesus is God. He is the Son of the Father, and the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, God in Three Persons, the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. He is perfect in every way. He was born of the virgin Mary. When he grew older, he became like a missionary to spread the word of God, his Father. As time went on, the priests and Pharisees started to think that Jesus was overruling them and got upset. They scorned and ridiculed him, and ultimately put him to death. Jesus arose on the third day. He ascended into Heaven and continues to rule with the Father and the Spirit as one God. Jesus's death means more to me because through his death, he saved me. I am still imperfect, but Jesus, my Savior, died to take away my sins. As a saved child of Jesus, I now look forward to the hope of everlasting life with Jesus in heaven.

What does my Baptism mean to me?

My baptism began my relationship with God. Baptism is the washing away of my sins. It means that through the washing away of my sins, I can become a better person and a better learner of my faith. Being baptized means that you were reborn, or born again into the arms of the Father almighty. Which means I am a child of God.

What is my confirmation verse, why have I selected this verse, and how will I apply it to my life in Christ?

The Bible verse that I have chosen for my confirmation is, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." (Isaiah 41:10) I chose this because it is pretty much saying that whatever I do, God will be there to back me up. No matter the trouble, the doubt, or the issue, God will always be there to help me when needed. God says in Isaiah, "Be not dismayed, for I am your God." This small verse provides so much confidence and empowerment. I know that whatever path I choose to take, and when earthly friendships pass or go away, God is still with me, and I have something to put my faith in which never ends. When I am down, or in need, I can rely on the Lord to lift me up. Whenever I doubt my abilities, I can remember this verse and know that God is always with me and will support me in my doings. This makes me feel hopeful and loved by God.

Statement of Faith – Caleb Fox

Who is Jesus and what has he done for me?

Jesus is my Savior; he has done for me what no other person has done. Jesus has died on the cross to save me from my sins. Jesus gives me peace and security by granting me his

home in heaven. Jesus gives us his word and teaches us through it, bringing us true joy, a gift to us all.

What does my Baptism mean to me?

When I was brought to be baptized, I was cleared from all sins, believing I will receive his true gift of everlasting Life. Which brings me to my confirmation verse: 'But Jesus called them to him, saying, 'Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.'" (Luke 18:16)

This verse means that my parents brought me to God on my baptism day to wash away my sins. I will be forgiven each time I pray to God for his forgiveness; he will continue to wash away my sins.

I will apply Christ to my life daily through prayer because I want to pray to God to help people in my life. I will continue to read his Word, believing that God's word is the truth and choosing to obey. The fourth commandment is "Honor your father and mother." I will show respect to my parents, teachers and others in charge. I will continue to attend St. Matthew Lutheran Church and learn God's way. If I attend college, I will find a youth group and church in that area to stay connected to his word.

Statement of Faith – Anna Rose

Who is Jesus and what has he done for me?

Jesus is my Lord and Savior. He is also a Friend and someone I go for guidance and advice. He has been someone I could always talk to about my problems. I know he can guide me the right way and help me overcome my problems. He's there for everyone! No matter how many times we screw up, he is there for us and will always be there for you and for me. He has done countless things for me in the past 14 years of me being a part of his family. He has guided me in a stronger faith and a more understanding faith. He has shown me things I would have never tried. For instance, I sang at state earlier this year, and if it wasn't for him, I probably would have never sung in front of people, let alone a judge. He has guided me to be the person I am today. I wouldn't be the believer I am if it wasn't for Jesus being by my right side.

What does baptism mean to me:

Baptism to me is the joining of a new family. When a person is baptized, Jesus is opening the door to his house and is letting us in. Jesus is just as happy or even more happy when more and more people are baptized because it's like welcoming more and more people into his home. He waits with admiration for more and more people. As a believer in Christ it is an amazing feeling watching others being baptized because you're seeing right before your eyes the washing clean of sins and Jesus's family growing. I am truly humbled and blessed to be called a baptized child of God.

My confirmation verse is 2 Corinthians 12:10:

"For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

I chose this verse because I can apply this to my life today and in the future days to come. In each thing I try I give it my all, but I know that with the things I can't do, God will forever help me. When you've done everything you can do, that's when God will step in and do what you can't do. For example, when a loved one passes away, he helps me realize that they are in his kingdom and they will be forever safe from all harm and danger. In a time like this, we are shown our weaknesses, but God is at our side and provides us the strength to carry on.

Church Announcements

Upcoming Services & Bible Studies:

- Sunday, May 17 at 10:30 a.m. – Bible Study on the Promises of God (Facebook)
- Wednesday, May 20 at 6:30 p.m. – Devotional Service (Facebook)
- Thursday, May 21 at 9:00 a.m. – Bible Study on Philippians 4 (Zoom Meeting)
- Sunday, May 24 – 9:15 a.m. Worship Service (Facebook)

Response to Supreme Court Decision: This past week, the state Supreme Court overturned the Safer at Home order. This means that group size restrictions in Wisconsin have been suspended for churches and other organizations. However, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a serious issue, we will work toward gradually, intentionally, and safely “re-opening” public worship services. Your feedback and guidance in this process is welcome and appreciated. Please stay in touch with me and our congregational leaders as we work together to develop a plan. – Pastor Kory

Feedback on Wednesday Services: I am considering temporarily suspending Wednesday evening services for a portion of this summer. Any feedback on this would be appreciated. Thank you! – Pastor Kory

New Website: now available at our usual web address, stmatthewsonline.org. Please look through the many new resources on our website and let us know what else would be helpful!

Other Options for Offerings:

- **By Mail:** to send a check, please mail to St. Matthew’s business address, P.O. Box 432, Tomah, WI 54660, or to our physical address, 4285 US Hwy 12, Warrens, WI 54666.
- **E-Giving:** now available on our new church website. Just click the “Giving” tab.
- **The Give Plus app:** Download the app and type in our zip code (54666) to get started.
- **Text Message:** simply text 833-853-4407 and follow the prompts.

Ministry by Mail: If you or a loved one would like to receive devotional resources in the mail, contact Pastor Kory. We have some great resources to share!