

Compelled by the love of Christ, St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church and School seek to reach out to our families, community and world, using Law and Gospel to make disciples, growing and nurturing them in their Christian faith and life.

Confirmation Sunday
May 2, 2010

Welcome to Our Confirmation Service — Confirmation is a public profession of the Christian faith, following a period of Biblical instruction. It is a rite by which a person is recognized as one who is properly prepared to receive Holy Communion as a repentant disciple of Christ, sufficiently instructed to “remember” His death and express unity of faith with the congregation, and able to examine himself or herself to receive the sacrament as a blessing.



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is celebrated this afternoon. We invite communicant members of St. Matthew's and our Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) fellowship to the altar for the sacrament. In keeping with Scripture's teaching to examine ourselves before communion & that communing together expresses that we believe, teach, and confess the same Biblical truth, we ask our guests to study the Bible with us before

communions to ensure communion is truly a blessing and sincere expression of unity. Guests, thank you for respecting our practice of “Fellowship Communion”. We refer you to page 134 and following in the front of the hymnal for prayers you may use during the quiet time of meditation during the distribution.

If you feel comfortable please hold out your hand to receive the bread as it is distributed. Non-alcoholic wine, light in color, is in the center of the tray. Please reserve it for those who will be using it for health reasons. We'll commune at the altar rail in our service today, approaching at the direction of the ushers.

Prayers Before Worship — Hymnal pages 10 – 11; 134 – 139

Preparation for Holy Communion — Hymnal page 156

Musical Prelude — As we prepare to worship, the prelude helps us direct our thoughts to God and makes the sanctuary a place of meditation and prayer.

Our Order of Worship

Opening Hymn #599 “Our Lord and God, Oh, Bless This Day”

Pastor: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Congregation: *(sings)* Amen.

Confession of Sins and Absolution

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.
Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: **Who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C: **And You forgave the guilt of my sin.**

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. But we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

ALL: O most merciful God, You have given Your only-begotten Son to die for us. Have mercy on us, and for His sake forgive all our sins. By Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You, so that by Your grace, we may come to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe in His name He gives the right to become children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved. Grant this Lord, to us all.
Amen.

Prayer for the Day *(spoken by the Pastor)*

C: *(sings)* Amen.

Reading from God's Word: John 15:1 – 17

Hymn of the Day #597 “May God the Father of Our Lord”

The Message from God's Word: 2 Timothy 3:14 – 17
“Continue in What You Have Learned”

1. Consider the Source
2. Remember Its Power

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Offering and Friendship Registers

Rite of Confirmation

Prayer of the Church and The Lord's Prayer

Confirmation Class Hymn #440 “On Eagles’ Wings”

Verse 1: Confirmation Students

Refrain: Confirmation Students

Verse 2: Confirmation Students

Refrain: Confirmation Students and Congregation

Verse 3 and Refrain: Confirmation Students and Congregation

Words of Institution and Distribution of the Lord's Supper

Distribution Hymns

#514 “Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain”

#515 “Shepherd of Tender Youth”

Closing Prayer and Blessing

Closing Hymn #332 “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

(Congregation Sings v. 1 – 3; St. Matthew's Staff Choral Group v. 4)

Luther and the Small Catechism

Luther often showed his deep concern for the Christian training of young people. He urged people to provide and support Christian schools for their children. When Luther found that many pastors and parents did not know how to instruct children in the main teachings of the Bible, he wrote the Small Catechism. Luther's chief purpose in writing the Catechism was to lead children to know and believe that the only way of salvation is by faith in Jesus. He wanted the Catechism to be simple, yet to include all the main teachings of the Bible. The six main parts of the Small Catechism are:

The Ten Commandments
The Apostles' Creed
The Sacrament of Holy Baptism
The Sacrament of Holy Communion
The Use of the Keys and Confession
The Lord's Prayer

Our Use of the Catechism

The Lutheran Church has always considered the Catechism the very least that every Christian should know about Bible teachings. For over 400 years the Catechism has served well as the basic book for teaching both young and old. Everything written in the Catechism is based on the Bible. In the explanation of Luther's Catechism, the words of Luther's Catechism are compared with the Bible to assure that the Catechism truly teaches God's Word. Then we can memorize and use the words of the Catechism as a simple summary of the main truths which God teaches us in his Word. This summary will also serve as a foundation on which we can continue to build as we seek to strengthen our faith by Bible study throughout our entire life.

Though the Catechism is simple, we need to study it carefully to know and understand better the Bible truths which it summarizes. Once Luther asked his son Hans how much he knew. Hans answered rather proudly, “The whole Catechism, Papa, because I know that by heart.” “Is that so!” Luther said. “If you really understand that much, you are wiser than I am. I still have to study it every day.” May we, like the author of the Small Catechism, treasure the Bible truths it teaches us and study them diligently!

Altar flowers are provided by the Confirmands and their parents. *Thank you!*



We Welcome Our Confirmands: “He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 1:6)

Dylan Baldassari
Barton Cox
Angie Goessner
Carson Henley
Nicole Italiano
Amanda Johnson
Mason Kellner
Emily Mamerow
Jenna Marti
Kaylee McDonald
Megan McGarvey
Hailey Niedfeldt
Joshua Pagel
Ryan Porter
Kirsten Ruffert
Emily Schmidt
Robert Seaman
Scott Sievert
Garrett Stocker
Luke Thiele
Mitchell Worm
Anna Ziel