

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.

*Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 4 & July 5, 2010*

We Welcome You! — To our friends who know us, we renew our welcome. To first time visitors, we extend our sincere greeting and to those who seek a church home, we offer fellowship with the living Savior. We ask that everyone here today would sign our attendance record found in each pew during the offering. Please take a moment to greet one another and worship with us again soon.

Focus of Worship — As we face so many troubling problems today as a nation, how important it is for us to pray for our country! Pray that God will raise up leaders who will know and follow His will. It is also vital that each of us as disciples of Christ let our light shine. Only the gospel news of Jesus can change people's hearts with faith for eternal life and with faith to motivate people to follow God's commandments. As the proverbs say, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people" (Proverbs 16:34). Today we thank God for His blessings upon our country.

Our Order of Worship — "Service of the Word" on Page 38

Opening Hymn 233 "All People that on Earth Do Dwell"

Confession and Absolution (Page 38, front of Hymnal)

Prayer and Praise

Prayer of the Day Lord of the nations, keep our country under your care. Bless the leaders of our land that we may be people at peace among ourselves, and a blessing to other nations of the earth. Help us elect trustworthy leaders, contribute to wise decisions for the general welfare, and serve you faithfully in our generation to the honor of your holy name, who with the Son and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns as one God, now and forever

C: (sings) Amen.

The First Lesson

1 Kings 19:14-21

He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." The LORD said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him." So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. "Let me kiss my father and mother good-by," he said, "and then I will come with you." "Go back," Elijah replied. "What have I done to you?" So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his attendant. NIV

Psalm 62 (Page 88, front of Hymnal)

The Second Lesson

Galatians 5:1,13-25

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. NIV

The Gospel

Luke 9:51-62

As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" But Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they went to another village. As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." He said to another man, "Follow me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family." Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God." NIV

Response: "Praise be to you, O Christ!"

Hymn of the Day 618 "Before the Lord We Bow"

Message from God's Word: Psalm 107:1-3

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. ² Let the redeemed of the LORD say this—those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, ³ those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south.

Giving Thanks For Our Country

- 1. Thanks for our Christian Heritage**
- 2. Thanks for God's Awesome Creation**
- 3. Thanks for Our Freedoms**

We Confess Our Faith The Apostles' Creed (Page 41, front of Hymnal)

The Offering & Friendship Registers

The Prayer of the Church and Lord's Prayer (Pages 42 and 43, front of Hymnal)

Blessing (Page 44, front of Hymnal)

Closing Hymn 619 "God Bless Our Native Land"

In Our Prayers: Darlene Holz, Irene Kosanke, Mary Krahn, Chad Lauersdorf and Verle Stellmacher all of whom were hospitalized this past week – may the Lord bless them all with healing, according to his will.

Serving God and Us Today

Worship Leader: Pastor Wayne Schneider

Organist: Tracy Schmidt

Usher Captains: (8:00a.m.) Joel Watson (10:00a.m.) Eric Ziel
(Monday) Jerry Wendt

Greeters: (8:00a.m.) Tom and Marlene Miller
(10:00a.m.) Tony and Kathy Kobussen

Upcoming Usher Teams:

Sunday, July 11, 2010 (8:00 a.m.) Mike Bouche' (10:00 a.m.) James Bence

Monday, July 12, 2010 (7:00 p.m.) Rick Jorgenson

Monday Worship – July 5th We will have our regular Monday worship on Monday, July 5th. Please join us if you have been out of town on the 4th of July holiday weekend to grow in God's Word and participate in our mutual prayers for our country we'll be offering in worship.

Church Office will be closed on Monday, July 5th, due to the 4th of July weekend. In case of emergency, please contact Professor Ron Hahm at (262) 569-2731.

Pastors' Vacation Schedule: Both Pastors are out of town until July 10th. For emergency spiritual care, please contact Staff Minister Fletcher (567-1475) or Professor Ron Hahm (569-2731). We thank Pastor Wayne Schneider for leading our worship and preaching God's Word and for Prof. Hahm leading our Bible study this morning.

Next Week's Message: Do you ever wonder whether what you believe is perhaps not true because it is just too simple and humble? Some religions have golden temples. Others use incredible wealth and political power to expand their influence. What do we have? Come to our church and you'll hear just plain old preachers, in plain old pulpits, with a plain old book, and a plain old message. Can it really be the message that will bring us into God's kingdom now and forever? Join us next week as we ask, "How does God bring His kingdom near?"

Video Available: “The Road to Emmaus.” DVD’s are available to use as personal witnessing tools, at a very special price of \$2.00 each, in the Fellowship Center. This is an excellent resource to introduce Jesus to those who need to hear His precious truth!

Bible Study Opportunities

Bible Hour Helpers

During the summer months we will have two Bible Hour Helpers. Each Bible Hour Helper is asked to bring 5 dozen cookies or bars and one gallon juice. Our July Bible Hour Helpers are:

July 11, 2010 Tracy Schmidt and Adele Jester
July 18, 2010 Deb Schramm and Karen Davenport
July 25, 2010

If you would like to provide fellowship refreshments please stop in the church office to sign-up. If you have any questions please contact Amy Bence at abence@smls.org or 262-567-2418, ext. 32.

Sunday Bible Study 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Join us today as we see the showdown between good and evil, between God’s true prophet and the devil’s allies. God’s prophet seems outnumbered. He grows discouraged. Is he alone? Join us as the Lord encourages us today to remain true to His Word in our faith and life of Christian witness.

Summer Sunday Vacation Bible School

We offer an opportunity for our young people to stay in the Word during the summer months. Classes for those entering PreK4 – Grade 6 this fall will be Sunday Mornings from 9:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. (the same time as Adult Bible Study). Those entering grades 7 & 8 may serve as childcare providers, helpers in the classrooms or attend our Adult Bible Study. We’ll alternate weeks between a Bible Lesson and a craft.

Monday Bible Study 8:00 – 8:30 p.m. repeats the study from Sunday morning.

Tuesday Bible Study meets in the Fireside Room at 6:30 a.m. *Please come and join us!*

Men’s Bible Study Our July Men’s Bible study will be held on Saturday, July 10th. Breakfast will be served from 7:30 to 8 a.m. Bible Study & Fellowship time from 8 to 9:30 a.m. All confirmed men of the congregation are invited to join together to enjoy good food for both body and soul, and also good fellowship with their Christian brothers. Our guest Bible Study leader will be Professor Ron Hahm.

Summer Play Group and Bible Stories in the Park

Here is a great way to keep our children in God’s Word over the summer. Join us this summer for fun, fellowship, and God’s Word in the park. During the month of July we will meet on Friday mornings at the Imagination Station playground at 9:00 a.m. Bible stories and a craft will begin at 9:45 a.m. No RSVP is necessary. Bring your friends and neighbors and enjoy the mornings at the park! Contact Laura Lai at llai@smls.org with any questions.

The Christian and Government: Why does the Lord place governing authorities over us? Government is God’s divine institution to promote peace and order, so far as this is possible in a world of sin and righteousness. Its duties are to promote the general welfare of its people by protecting the rights of individuals and groups and by defending the State against dangers from without and within. To this end it exercises legislative, judicial, and executive power (Romans 13:1-7). Citizens are under obligations to honor all governmental persons as God’s representatives, speak well of those in authority, obey those who are in authority (except where such obedience would require disobedience to God, acts 4:19, 5:29), honestly pay taxes, seek the welfare of the government by voting intelligently and by offering the use of their talents in public service, and pray for all in authority (Romans 13:107, 1 Peter 2:13-14, Matthew 22:21, 1 Timothy 2:1-3).

We Christians hold two citizenships, one in the nation in which we dwell, the other in the kingdom of God, in which we were made members by faith in Jesus Christ. We render our duties to our government not only for fear of punishment, but for consciences’ sake, because we recognize that our government is God’s representative. We Christians are the ideal citizens, for we are motivated by the love of Christ and that alone is the true motivation to love and serve others (Galatians 2:20). Our chief concern, however, is not for political change but for a spiritual renewal that makes people a new creation in Christ, forgiven children of God, heirs of eternal life, and willing to let their light shine in the world (2 Corinthians 5:17).

“I recognize the sublime truth announced in the holly Scriptures and proven by all history – that those nations only are blest whose God is the Lord” – Abraham Lincoln

When the civil war was raging at its worst, a minister said to President Lincoln: “I surely hope the Lord is on our side.” To which Lincoln replied, “I’m not concerned about that, for I

know the Lord is always on the side of the right. But it is my constant prayer that I and this nation be on the Lord's side."



Worship Folder
July 4, 2010



Giving Thanks to the LORD for Our Country

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St. Matthew's is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

