

*Rejoice
and
be
glad*

MATTHEW 5:12

Welcome to St. Matthew's!

VISITING TODAY?

Welcome to worship! We are very glad you are here, and we pray that you enjoy your visit here with us today. I hope that you will be encouraged in trusting Jesus, better equipped to serve him, and more aware of his grace in your life every day. We're glad you're here!

Pastor Silas Schmitzer



Theme of Today's Service:

“Christians Trust in God’s Strength”

Prayer Upon Entering Worship:

Merciful Father, I know that every blessing in this life comes from you. Truly blessings abound when I follow your commands and live my life as Jesus taught. Lord, I have seen that you have richly blessed me even when I don't follow your will. Forgive me. Wash away my sins in Jesus name. Give me wisdom to know and trust your will for my life, and to live each day according to your commands. Fill my life with the peace that comes when I walk with you in forgiveness and in newness of life. Amen.

God's Word for This Week:

The Beatitudes are hard for us to swallow. Jesus seems to be espousing a religion based on our works, without much mention of faith in Jesus for salvation. Look closer, however, and see what he says. The weaker you are; the stronger God is in your life. The weaker you are now, the readier you are to trust in a future reward. Look at the past acts of God's grace and you will find many reasons to trust his strength in the face of adversity, persecution, or sorrow.

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Please visit us as: www.stmatthews-wels.com

At our website you'll find audio sermons, daily devotions, our church calendar, and more information about our church, our teachings and our Christian Day School.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Daniel 3:13-27

¹³ Then in a furious rage Nebuchadnezzar said to bring Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king. ¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and that you do not worship the golden statue that I set up? ¹⁵ Now, if you are ready, at the time when you hear the sound of the horn, the flute, the lyre, the harp, the triangular harp, the drum, and all kinds of musical instruments, you must fall down and worship the statue I made. But if you do not worship, you will immediately be thrown into the blazing fiery furnace. What god will be able to save you from my hands?”

¹⁶ Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego answered King Nebuchadnezzar, “We have no need to answer you about this matter. ¹⁷ Since our God, whom we serve, does exist, he is able to save us from the blazing fiery furnace. So, he may save us from your hand, Your Majesty. ¹⁸ But if he does not, you should know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods, and we will not worship the golden statue that you set up.”

The Young Men Are Miraculously Saved by God

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with rage, and the expression on his face changed against Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego. He said to heat the furnace seven times hotter than it was usually heated. ²⁰ He ordered some men, who were soldiers from his army, to bind Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego in order to throw them into the blazing fiery furnace. ²¹ So these men were bound in their coats, their pants, their turbans, and their other clothing, and they were thrown into the middle of the blazing fiery furnace. ²² Because the king’s order was urgent and the furnace was extremely hot, those men who carried Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego were killed by the intense heat of the fire. ²³ But these three men, Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego, who had been tied up, fell into the blazing fiery furnace.

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar was startled and immediately stood up. He said to his advisors, “Didn’t we throw three men, who had been tied up, into the middle of the fire?”

They answered the king, “Certainly, Your Majesty.”

²⁵ He said, “Look! I see four men, who are untied and walking around in the middle of the fire, unharmed. What is more, the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.”

²⁶ Then Nebuchadnezzar approached the door of the blazing fiery furnace. He said, “Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out!” Then

Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego came out from the middle of the furnace. ²⁷ The satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the royal advisors gathered together and looked at these men. The fire had no power over their bodies. Not a hair on their head was singed, their robes were not damaged, and the smell of fire had not stuck to them.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm I

Refrain



Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

Psalm tone



Blessed is the man

who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked*
or stand in the way of sinners.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD,*
and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season*
and whose leaf does not wither.

Whatever he does prospers.

Refrain

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment*,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous*,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

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.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

I Corinthians 1:26-31

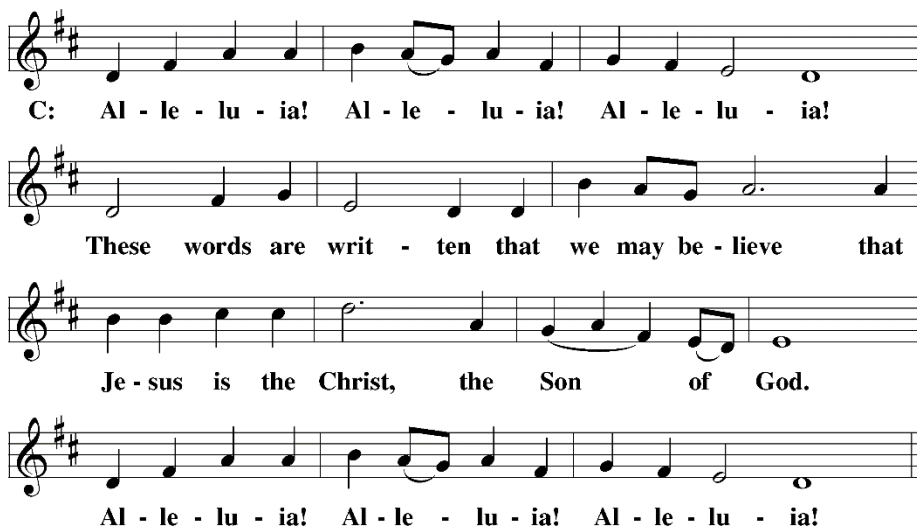
²⁶ For example, consider your call, brothers. Not many of you were wise from a human point of view, not many were powerful, and not many were born with high status. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to put to shame those who are wise. God chose the weak things of the world to put to shame the things that are strong, ²⁸ and God chose the lowly things of the world and the despised things, and the things that are not, to do away with the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before God. ³⁰ But because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us the wisdom from God, namely, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. ³¹ God did this so that, just as it is written, “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

VERSE OF THE DAY

Luke 4:18

Alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is on me; he has anointed me to preach good news. Alleluia.

Please Stand



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12

The Sermon on the Mount

5 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up onto a mountain. When he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² He opened his mouth and began to teach them. He said these things:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit,
because theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
because they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the gentle,
because they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
because they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
because they will receive mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
because they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
because they will be called sons of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
because theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven. In fact, that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S LESSON *

HYMN OF THE DAY

If Your Beloved Son, O God

Hymn 395

SERMON

Matthew 5:1-12

“God Bless You!”

- I. His blessings are the richest.
- II. His blessings are your free gift.

Please Stand

* Omit for Thursday Evening

OUR THANKS

We thank the following people for serving us in worship today:

Worship Accompanist Katie Alderman

Greeter: Ken and Mary Abraham

Ushers: Mike Everson, Jim Bietlich, Tom Dilorio, Eric Artschwager

Audio/Video: Dan Wiese, Carl Piper

Announcements

Church Announcements

Church Service Recording

Our Sunday worship services are regularly video recorded and posted online. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Pastor.

Sunday School and Bible Study

Join us again this week as we continue in the Bible Study – Concerning Spiritual Gifts. All children, age 4-10 are invited and encouraged to attend Sunday School.

Church Announcements

Have an announcement that you want to see in the bulletin? Have some information to spread on the pre-service PowerPoint? Need an activity added to the church calendar? Send an email with your important information to secretary@stmatthews-wels.com or place your announcement in Carl Piper's box in the fellowship hall.

Bible Study - Concerning Spiritual Gifts (6 Lessons)

Many Christians shy away from the topic of spiritual gifts because some of them seem so extraordinary and strange. Perhaps you are unsure of what to do or say about speaking in tongues, prophesying, teaching, comforting, leading, being generous and serving others. This course takes seriously what the Bible says about the gifts of the Spirit. Making the time to study this important topic will help you find and rejoice in your niche among God's people as we all work together to glorify Christ, our Head.

Short Special Voters Meeting

Today immediately following the service we will be having a short meeting to discuss the time limitation we placed on our Synod Certification requirement for our Pre-K Call.

Want to give a gift?

All donations & offerings designated "150th Anniversary Gift" will go towards fresh landscaping on the church property.

Get Your Scrip Cards!

Buying Scrip gift cards helps support our school. You buy the gift cards for your favorite restaurants and stores at face value, and a percentage of the cost of the card is given to St. Matthew's School Scrip fund. Over the past 10 years, the Scrip program has raised over \$11,000 for our school. The Protsman family runs our Scrip program and they have the Scrip cards out by the door after every Sunday service. If you don't see a business that you're looking for, just ask Jan or Kristie, there are many more that they can order for you

Call Meeting

On January 5th we extended a call to Mr. Daniel Johnson. Please pray for him and his family as he considers the call to be our principal and upper grades teacher.

Open Forum regarding Fellowship Hall on February 16 at 10:15am in Sanctuary

While reviewing the comments from the Long-Range Planning Survey, it became clear that members have concerns regarding the Fellowship Hall. As a result, the Design Team would like to hold an open forum to discuss the current challenges of the space and gather possible solutions.

Specific concerns we will be asking for feedback on include, but are not limited to:

- congestion as you enter the Fellowship Hall
- information located in multiple areas so things are overlooked
- safety concerns for our littlest members
- functionality of mailbox system
- flow of serving line after church service

We look forward to gathering together to work on the next best steps for St. Matthew's.

Member Family Pictures

Did you see your picture scrolling on our new display screen in the fellowship hall? Was your picture a little bit outdated? Not your favorite shot of your family? If you'd like to update your family picture, simply email a new one to Carl at secretary@stmatthews-wels.com, or ask Karen Fischer if she would be willing to snap a new one for your family. You can help make sure that those photos are an accurate and up-to-date representation of our congregation. Thank You!

Thank You From The Ottos

We want to thank everyone so much who has written us sweet cards and generously gave gift cards. Your gifts are so very appreciated! We look forward to meeting this little girl very soon! Please continue to pray for our family as we get closer to the big day.

1, 2, 3, 4...We declare a Penny War!

The 150th Anniversary committee is challenging a battle of the sexes to help raise funds for our October anniversary celebration. Two containers will be in the fellowship hall over the next 4 weeks, one for the men and one for the women. Scores will be updated weekly! Any questions, please contact Anne Piper.

School Announcements

St. Matthew's Basketball

Grades 4-8 have their next basketball games on Friday, January 31 at Christ-St. John's in West Salem. B Boys tip off at 6 PM, then A Boys at around 7 PM. There is no A Girls game that night.

St. Matthew's to Become Choice School in 2020-21

Our two congregations both approved St. Matthew's becoming a choice school in 2020-2021. Luther High School is giving a presentation pertaining to the program on February 12. The application window for parents to apply will be February 3 through April 16, 2019. School will be in contact with as many families as possible to apply. The program allows students to attend our school at no cost to the family if they fall under the following income limits:

Family Size	Single Income	Married Income (+\$7,000)
■ 2	\$37,202	
■ 3	\$46,926	\$53,926
■ 4	\$56,650	\$63,650
■ 5	\$66,374	\$73,374
■ 6	\$76,098	\$83,098

- For each additional child add \$9,724
- Income levels are Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)

We appreciate your cooperation and patience as our school navigates its participation in this brand new program. If you are interested in joining school as a choice family, contact Mr. Otto, Mr. Carl Piper (608-799-9318), or Mr. Phil Uebelher (608-483-2080) today!

Preschool & Kindergarten Roundup

This year's open house for the preschool and kindergarten classrooms is scheduled for Friday, February 14 beginning at 8:30 AM. All families interested in their child entering those grades is welcome to accompany their child to get a taste of what it's like. It is a great opportunity to get small children acclimated to school for the first time. More info soon, contact Mr. Otto if you have questions.

Area Announcements

Food Pantry

Looking for a way to directly impact our community? The Stoddard Area Food Pantry located in our Church basement can use your help. To Volunteer contact Paulette Ross (Site Manager) at 608-518-6839 or email her at pross.54632@gmail.com

Caring Christians – Mental Health

Caring Christians-Mental Health will meet at First Lutheran in La Crosse On Monday, February 3 at 6:30 p.m. The topic will be: Anger.

Coulee Region OWLS

The Coulee Region OWLS will be holding their monthly meeting on Thursday, February 13, 2020 at First Ev. Lutheran Church, 400 West Avenue South, La Crosse at 12:00 Noon for a Potluck Luncheon. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Coffee will be provided. The program will be Carissa Pagel-Smith with the La Crosse Human Services Department on Aging giving us information on resources available. All church members – men and women age 55 or older – are welcome. Please come for a visit, enjoy the friends you meet, a good lunch, and an excellent program. There will be a free will offering.

Recovery in Christ:

Two Opportunities: Recovery in Christ will continue to meet Sundays, 6:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Onalaska. A new session will be held at La Crosse's Coulee Recovery Center, 933 Ferry St, 1:00, Wednesdays). Call 608-567-3038 to verify schedule for either session. Recovery in Christ points to Jesus as the answer for recovery from substance abuse.


WELS Grief Support

Our next get-together will be Tuesday, February 4 at 7 p.m. at St. John's in Barre Mills. Our topic for discussion will be "Looking Back While Still Looking Ahead". If you, or someone you know is grieving, please come for comfort and encouragement from God's word and from fellow Christians.

Luther High Call News

Dr. Todd Russ has been called to serve as Principal of Luther High (Dr. Russ currently serves at St. Croix Lutheran High School) Mr. Gregory Baures has been called to serve as Band and Art instructor and co-curricular responsibility to serve a producer of Drama productions Miss Kathy Georgson has received a Call to serve as 6th Grade teacher and Upper Grades Spanish instructor at Martin Luther & Trinity Lutheran School in Neenah, WI

LAST WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

 150 YEARS	WEEKEND WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	BIBLE CLASS	SUNDAY SCHOOL	LIVE STREAM
JAN. 26	148	19	13	7
THURSDAY	9	TOTAL BUDGETARY GIFTS		

OUR WEEK IN THE LORD

FEBRUARY 2 - FEBRUARY 9, 2020

Sunday

- 9:00 AM – Worship
- 10:15 AM – Short Special Voters Meeting
- 10:30 AM – Sunday School
- 10:30 AM – Bible Class

Monday

- 12:30 PM – Principal's Conference
- 6:30 PM Caring Christian's-Mental Health @ First Lutheran
- 6:30 PM – Outreach Coordination Team

Tuesday

- 9:00 AM – Pastor's Conference
- 10:00 AM – Mornings with Mommy
- 2:30 PM – Food Pantry Open

Wednesday

- 8:10 AM – School Chapel
- 9:30 AM – Pastor/Principal Meeting
- 4:45 PM – Catechism Class

Thursday

- 7:00 PM – Worship

Friday

- 1:30 PM – Pep Rally in Gym

Saturday

Sunday

- 9:00 AM – Worship
- 10:30 AM – Sunday School
- 10:30 AM – Bible Class