



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 25, 2024

9:30 a.m.

“Living God’s Love”

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Songs

I Will Call Upon the Lord (x2)

I will call upon the Lord (echo)

Who is worthy to be praised (echo)

So shall I be saved from my enemies (echo)

Refrain

**The Lord liveth, and blessed be the rock
and may the God of our salvation be exulted.**

**The Lord liveth, and blessed be the rock
and may the God of our salvation be exulted.**

They Will Know We are Christians by Our Love

We are one in the Spirit. We are one in the Lord.

We are one in the Spirit. We are one in the Lord.

And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

Refrain:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.

Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.

And together we'll spread the news, that God is in our land. *Refrain*

We will work with each other, we will work side by side.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side.

And we'll guard each one's dignity, and save each one's pride. *Refrain*

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,

And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only son.

And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one. *Refrain*

Peace Like a River

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,

I've got peace like a river in my soul;

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,

I've got peace like a river in my soul;

I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean,

I've got love like an ocean in my soul;

I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean,

I've got love like an ocean in my soul;

I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.
I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.

Opening

D: We gather in the name of the Father, and of the ✚ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

C: Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach

First Reading

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

¹ Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ^{2a} And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴ "Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

¹⁶ Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷ for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸ and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 34:15-22

¹⁵ The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous,
and God's ears are open to their cry.

¹⁶ **The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,
to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.**

¹⁷ The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them
and delivers them from all their troubles.

¹⁸ **The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
and saves those whose spirits are crushed.**

¹⁹ Many are the troubles of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers them from every one.

²⁰ **God will keep safe all their bones;
not one of them shall be broken.**

²¹ Evil will bring death to the wicked
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

²² **O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.**

Second Reading

Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰ Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵ As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

John 6:56-69

Jesus said, ⁵⁶ "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." ⁵⁹ He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰ When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" ⁶¹ But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? ⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³ It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴ But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵ And he

said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

⁶⁶ Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

Song

You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

**You have come down to the lakeshore
seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,
but only asking for me to follow.**

Refrain

**Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes;
kindly smiling, you've called out my name.
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
now with you, I will seek other seas.**

**You know full well what I have, Lord:
neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,
just these my fish nets and will for working. *Refrain***

**You need my hands, my exhaustion,
working love for the rest of the weary--
a love that's willing to go on loving. *Refrain***

**You who have fished other waters;
you, the longing of souls that are yearning:
O loving Friend, you have come to call me. *Refrain***

Prayers

D: Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

D: Holy God, you have the words of eternal life. Lead the church to put its trust in Jesus, the living Word. Direct preachers, teachers, writers, and all the baptized in faithful speech and bold witness. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: Creator God, we and all creation are sustained by your Word. We pray for all who remind us of our interconnectedness with all living things. Prosper the work

of conservation organizations, ELCA advocacy, and local climate justice advocates. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: God of wisdom, as our nation navigates another election cycle, guide our leaders to act justly for the sake of the world. Bring about fruitful conversation among your people and bring about change where you see fit. Sustain all who serve on juries in their deliberations. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: God of restoration, bring healing and wholeness to all who cry to you. Where pain is sharp, bring a sense of comfort and relief. Where grief runs deep, bring your tender mercy. Care for those on our hearts especially the family of Gary, Susie, Jerry, June, Steve, Tom, Adam and Family, Todd, Sandi, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: God of new life, protect students and teachers for a new school year. Bring an end to school shootings and cycles of violence. Move us to do all that is necessary to ensure a safe future for our children. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: God of every generation, we remember with thanksgiving all who have completed their baptismal journeys. Strengthen us in our baptismal callings to serve you faithfully until our journey's end. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.

C: Amen.

***Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***Words of Institution**

***Lord's Prayer**

**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.

Communion

Sanctuary

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true;
and with thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for you

Let Us Break Bread Together

Let us break bread together on our knees.
Let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees
With my face to the rising sun.
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees.
Let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees
With my face to the rising sun.
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees.
Let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees
With my face to the rising sun.
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

*Prayer after Communion

P: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

C: Amen.

Blessing

D: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, † be upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Song

You Are Awesome

**God made everyone BEAUTIFUL
God made everyone DIFFERENT
God made everyone SIGNIFICANT
God made everyone IMPORTANT**

Pre-Chorus (2x)

**So come on now sing OUT
So come on now sing LOUD
So come on now sing WITH ME
So come on now sing PROUD**

Chorus (2x)

**Oh, woah! I AM awesome
Oh, woah! And amazing
Oh, woah! I AM loved
'cause I'm a child of God**

**God made me ON PURPOSE
God made us FOR COMMUNITY
God made us TO WORK TOGETHER
God made us EACH OTHER, yeah.**

Pre-Chorus

Chorus

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Guitar: Pastor Steve, Scott Schwandt, Rachel Knaggs,
Emma Kotick, Jordan Johnston, Craig Zavotka

Altar Guild: Liz Linden

Reader: Melody Costello

Communion Servers: Melody Costello, Delores Ivan

PRAYERS

Altar Flowers This Morning are given to the glory of God in celebration of Judy's birthday by Dave and Judy Weir.

Prayers for Healing: Family of Gary Kelling, Susie Siebert, Jerry Jakovcic, June Trenty, Steve Combs, Tom Thornton, Adam and Family, Todd Costello, and Sandi.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, we worship in person outside at Buckeye Woods at 9:30 a.m. with ELW 8 and holy communion.

Potluck Lunch to follow worship.

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, AT ST. MATTHEW

Return to Two Services

Next Sunday, Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, we will worship in person at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. with Now the Feast and holy communion. *Livestream at 8:30.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Share! Do you have something to share with the congregation and/or community? The Evangelism and Communication Team has developed an easy way to make sure your message gets delivered complete, immediately, and effortlessly. We have many avenues of sharing your message (Shoutout, bulletin, slides, website, Facebook, newspaper, paid ads, etc.) and now you have only ONE place to go to share with all of them. Go to the new webpage, "Share Your News" to submit your message.

Luther Choir Rehearsals - Wednesdays, 6:00- 7:00 p.m. in the Brown Room.

Bible & Brew - *No study August 29 or September 5*

Senior Fellowship - Join us to socialize and play some favorite games. Our next get together is Monday, August 26, at 1:00 p.m. in the Brown Room. Bring your favorite game!

Return to Two Services - Sunday, September 1, 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Office Closed - Labor Day Holiday - Monday, September 2 and Tuesday, September 3.

Catechism Orientation for students in grades 6-8 AND their parents, Wednesday, September 4, 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Rally Day - Kick off to the Sunday School year, Sunday, September 8, during the Sunday School hour (9:45 a.m.)

Blood Pressure Screening - Sunday, September 15, before and between services in the Parish Nurse's office.

Men's Breakfast - Third Monday of the month at Yours Truly Restaurant.

Silent Book Club! Meets the first and third Mondays each month at Faith House (432 N. Broadway). *Note: We will NOT meet on Labor Day, Sept. 2.* After Labor Day, we will move back to meeting on the first and third Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in the Library.

Looms of Love (Hat Making) Meets the second and fourth Mondays each month at Faith House (432 N. Broadway).

Cross Penny Ministry - TAKE A PENNY. SHARE A PENNY. Cross pennies remind us that Jesus was the One sent (cent) to set us free (liberty) from our sins. He rose from the dead so that we could be saved when "In God We Trust". Please take and share cross pennies which can be found in the narthex.

"Getting to Know You" - The *Getting to Know You* segment in the Shout-Out has been received very positively! Please take a couple minutes to respond to the few questions through the link in the Shout-Out or you can find the form in the Narthex. We would love to *Get to Know You* better!

God's Work. Our Hands. Day
September 14, 2024, at 10 AM
at St. Matthew.

Donations have been collected!

Now we need volunteers to help out with set up, tear down, and to fix food for the luncheon. An organization, "For the Greater Good", will be the recipient of the 150 packages of care kits for homeless men in Cuyahoga County. 50 additional kits will be distributed to members of our congregations to be passed out upon encountering someone in need.



St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff

The Rev. Steven Mahaffey	Pastor
Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach	Director of Youth & Family Ministries
Cindy Piovarchy	Organist
Deb Musil	Office Administrator
Joyce Davis	Maintenance Supervisor
Brenda Disbrow	Parish Nurse
Nancy McNeal	Luther Choir Director
Rachel Knaggs	Kids of the Kingdom Director
Kaitlyn Taraschke	Nursery Attendant

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