

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Sandy Hill

Worship: 8:30 a.m.
No Sunday School
Rev. Jim Abbott

***Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 14, 2010***

Congregation responses are in **bold**. *ELW* are hymn numbers.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

[stand]

Invocation

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and are not worthy to be called your children. Have mercy on us and turn us from our sinful ways. Bring us back to you, as those who once were dead but now have life, through our Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Through the Holy Spirit, God gives life, freedom from the power of sin, and resurrection from the dead. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Live in newness of life.
Amen.

Greeting

From our God who loves us with an everlasting love, who brings forth a new creation in Christ, who leads us by the Spirit in the wilderness: Grace and abundant mercy be with you all.

And also with you.

Blessing of the Quilts

P: Let us pray. O Lord our God, maker of all things, you have blessed us with so many gifts—a good eye for color, the ability to make fine stitches, the skills to develop ever-new and exciting patterns. Now we offer the fruits of our labors, the quilts we have made, to you.

C: We dedicate these quilts to your service, trusting that your love will go wherever each item is sent, making it more than just a piece of material, a collection scraps —making each piece we have created an expression of love.

P: There is no way for us to imagine the power and effect an act of love can have on a person's life—how you can use something as small as a quilt, to radiate your love from us to the world.

C: May these be used in your service and become blessings for all those who receive them.

P: Lord, we know that all we possess comes from your loving hand. Give us grace to honor you with all of our being: draw our hearts to you, guide our minds, fill our imaginations, control our wills, so that we may be wholly yours.

C: Use us as you will, always to your glory and the welfare of your people. Amen.

Hymn **“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”** *ELW 807*

Prayer of the Day

God of compassion,
you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your

mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

[sit]

Choir "Let Your Steadfast Love Come to Us, O Lord"

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Children's Sermon

First Reading Joshua 5:9-12

9 The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

10 While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. 11 On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. 12 The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 32

1 Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

2 Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

3 While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the

LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

6 Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

7 You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

8 I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

9 Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

10 Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.

11 Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. 17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. 20 So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

[stand]

Gospel Acclamation:

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

The holy Gospel according to Luke the 15th Chapter
Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

1 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to (Jesus). 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” 3 So he told them this parable: 11 Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. 13 A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. 14 When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. 16 He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. 17 But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18 I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” 20 So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. 21 Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ 22 But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; 24 for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. 25 “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. 27 He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ 28 Then he

became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. 29 But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ 31 Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

[sit]

Sermon

Silence for reflection

[stand]

Hymn **“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”** *ELW 779*

Apostles’ Creed

Inside back cover of hymnal

Prayers of Intercession

Each portion of the prayers ends with:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The prayers end with:

Almighty God, you have commanded us to pray, and you promise to hear us. Hear the prayers of your people and grant us all that we need, for the sake of the one in whose name we pray, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Share a sign of peace with fellow worshipers

[sit]

THANKSGIVING

We give thanks to God for His gifts to us.

Offering

[stand]

Hymn of Thanksgiving **“We Praise You, O God”** *ELW 870*

Thanksgiving for the Word

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you make all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word, you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

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.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

The God who formed us in love, who renews us through grace, and who will transform us into glory, + bless you this day and always.

Amen.

Hymn **“My Life Flows On in Endless Song”** *ELW 763*

[sit]

Announcements

Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

Ringling of the bell

Serving Us Today...

	St Matthew	Immanuel
Organists	Ann Sommer	Allison Collins
Readers	Edna Schroeder	Cheyenne Ridings
Ushers	David Kelm Rudy Dana John Dana Matthew Kelm	Jerry Kieke Charlie Schroeder Colleen Bentke Corey Bentke
Altar Flowers	Clint & Winnie Boriack	Evelyn Maurer
Acolyte		Brianna Hupe

We Welcome To Our Church Family

Garrett Lynn Hupe, son of Jason & Tanya Hupe. His sponsors are: Chantel Torrez, Michael Pohl, Kevin Hupe, Donna Gail Ridings.

Bible Study

Monday, March 15 – Acts 15:12-21, pgs. 42-47 - 1:00 pm at Immanuel and at the home of Clint & Winnie Boriack at 7:00 pm because of daylight savings time change.

Calendar & Upcoming Events...

Today - St Matthew Choir practice 8:00 am
 Worship 8:30 am St Matthew
 St Matthew WELCA Bible Study 9:30 am
 St Matthew Council meeting after service
 No Sunday Schools
 Worship 10:30 am Immanuel

Mon – Bible Study 1:00 PM @ Immanuel
 Bible Study 7:00 PM @ Clint & Winnie Boriack's

Wed – Lenten Services St Matthew 7pm
 Meal 6-6:50 pm

Thurs – Newsletter Deadline

Sun March 21 – No Choir practice today
 Worship w/Holy Communion 8:30 am St Matthew
 Sunday School @ 9:30 am at Immanuel only
 Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30 am Immanuel

Newsletter deadline is Thursday, March 18

Volunteers Serving in the Community

Lay Visitors – Immanuel – Delivering bulletins
 Please support these disciples and our shut-ins with your prayers. Erlene Wellmann and Virginia Tappe are serving in March.

Senior Meals - Those delivering meals for Washington County Healthy Living Association from both Immanuel and St Matthew this week are Edna Schroeder and Alice Petty.

March 17 Wednesday Lenten Service

St Matthew Dinner 6:00 to 6:50 pm Service at 7:00 pm
 Pastor Steve Cox **Supplication**

Choir Notes-St Matthew- March 2010

The choir will meet at 8 AM on March 14 and 28. Everyone is welcome to join the choir.

St. Matthew Sunday School

March 21st – No Sunday School SPRING BREAK WEEK

Sunday, March 28th we will have a Spring Cleaning and Painting Party for the new Sunday School room's bench and cabinet. Anyone wishing to help out after our 9:30 Sunday School class is welcome!

Keeping in Touch

Pastor Abbott:
Call - 251-4992 - Pastor Abbott's cell phone –
E-Mail pastorabbott@earthlink.net – for Pastor Abbott
St Matthew: Call - 836-8894 – the office @ St Matthew
E-mail - smichurch@hotmail.com
Website – stmatthewbrenham.org
Immanuel: Call - 836-6780 – the office @ Immanuel.
E-mail - smichurch@hotmail.com

Members in Nursing Homes or shut in...

Margaret Heideman Lorena Randermann
Louise Bell Loesch Mary Helen Cade Bob Eccleston
Alfred Gaskamp Nelda Gaskamp Martha Clough

Those seeing doctors, continuing treatments and/or recovering from surgery...

Barbara Hollis Don Bolenbarr Tim Wellmann
Mike Hodges Darla Vesper Gladys Schwarze
Alice Petty Leon Schwartz

In our extended family...

The full prayer list is in the March newsletter. Those listed below have been added or updated in the last few weeks. If you want someone added or wish to report their improvements, please let Pastor Abbott know, 251-4992

Robert Terrian – son-in-law of Ed & Sylvia Dannhaus
Lauren Davis – friend of many
David Ryan Fuller – friend of Pam Schroeder
Doris Jankowiak – friend of many
Shawn Presnell – Barbara Hollis' daughter
Ray Goehring – Barbara Hollis's brother
Leroy Boenker – cousin of Renee Lambert
Levi Luvaas – father of Marlene Randermann
Ruby McLain - Aunt of Barbara Kramer & Dorothy Schulte
Bonnie Benkowski – friend of many
Louese Teer – Aunt of Trochelle Ray
Jocine Hanath – Friend of Stanley Sommer
Frank Dickschat – uncle of Renee Lambert
Jimbo Hardin – nephew of Pauline Hodges
Butch Kevorkian - Philip Kelling's biological father
Doris Meyer – mother of Bobby Meyer
Elroy Discher – friend of Schulte family
Annie & Albert Rybarski = Christie Schroeder's parents
June (Wellmann) Schafer
Herbert Bosse – Shirley Dreyer's step-father
Virginia Neinast – friend of Barbara Kramer & Dorothy Schulte
Brenda Flasowski – friend of Doris Kramer

Thanksgiving for improvements or good news...

Alfred Gaskamp