

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Reformation Sunday

October 26 & 29, 2023

A Time For Steadfast Faith

Opening Hymn 560, “Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ”

Order of Service..... Setting Two, Page 172

Prayer of the Day: Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST READING

Psalm of the Day (*On Insert*)..... Psalm 54A

SECOND READING

Gospel Acclamation Page 179

Gospel Acclamation Verse: *Do not be afraid, little flock, /^a for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.*

GOSPEL

Hymn of the Day 863, “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

SERMON..... “Stand Firm With the Lion of Judah” Daniel 6:10-12,16-23

Offering Hymn 749 v. 3, “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

Apostles’ Creed Page 181

Hymn 819 vv. 1-5, “If God Himself Be for Me”

Closing Liturgy Page 171

Closing Hymn 819 vv. 6 & 7, “If God Himself Be for Me”

FIRST READING: Daniel 6:10-12,16-23

Even though it potentially meant death by lion, Daniel got on his knees and prayed to the Lord as he always had, demonstrating steadfast faith.

Now, when Daniel learned that the document had been signed, he went to his house. It had windows on its upper story that opened toward Jerusalem. Three times each day he would get on his knees and pray and offer praise before his God. He continued to do that, just as he had been doing before this. Then these men came as a group and found Daniel praying and seeking favor from his God.

They then went and asked the king about the decree. “Your Majesty, did you not sign a decree that anyone who prays to any god or person for thirty days except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the den of lions?” The king answered,

“Indeed I did. The order is established as a law of the Medes and the Persians that cannot be revoked.” Then the king gave the order, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you.” A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the pit. The king sealed it with his signet ring and the signet rings of his nobles so that nothing could be changed with regard to Daniel’s situation. Then the king went to his palace. He spent the night without food, and no entertainment was brought before him. But he could not sleep.

At dawn the king arose as soon as it was light and hurried to the lions’ den. As he came near the pit, he cried out in a fearful voice. The king said to Daniel, “Daniel, servant of the living God, was your God, whom you serve continually, able to rescue you from the lions?” Then Daniel spoke with the king. “Your Majesty, may you live forever! My God sent his angel and shut the mouth of the lions. They have not hurt me because he found me innocent in his presence. Also before you, Your Majesty, I have committed no crime. ”Then the king was very glad and said that Daniel should be brought up from the pit. So Daniel was brought up from the pit, and he was unharmed because he trusted in his God.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

God justifies those who have been given the gift of steadfast faith in Jesus Christ.

Now we know that whatever the law says is addressed to those who are under the law, so that every mouth will be silenced and the whole world will be subject to God’s judgment. For this reason, no one will be declared righteous in his sight by works of the law, for through the law we become aware of sin. But now, completely apart from the law, a righteousness from God has been made known. The Law and the Prophets testify to it. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all and over all who believe. In fact, there is no difference, because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God publicly displayed as the atonement seat through faith in his blood. God did this to demonstrate his justice, since, in his divine restraint, he had left the sins that were committed earlier unpunished. He did this to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so that he would be both just and the one who justifies the person who has faith in Jesus. What happens to boasting then? It has been eliminated. By what principle—by the principle of works? No, but by the principle of faith. For we conclude that a person is justified by faith without the works of the law.

GOSPEL: Matthew 10:16-23

Our trust in Jesus doesn’t mean absence of persecution, but faithfulness despite it.

“Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. Be on guard against people. They will hand you over to councils, and they will whip you in their synagogues. You will be brought into the presence of governors and kings for my sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. Whenever they hand you over, do not be worried about how you will respond or what you will say, because what you say will be given to you in that hour. In fact you will not be the ones speaking, but the Spirit of your Father will be speaking through you.

“Brother will hand over his brother to death, and a father will do the same with his child. Children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by all people because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved. And when they persecute you in one town, flee to the next. Amen I tell you: You will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEAD USHERS: Ronald Knueppel/Randy Sellnow; next Sunday: Dean Ebert/Rob Stern

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY: This Sunday is Fellowship Sunday! All are invited to stay for the refreshments being served immediately following Sunday's worship service. We thank the Kanas Family for hosting this fellowship hour!

ORGANISTS!! The **November** schedule is hanging on the **SCHOOL** bulletin board. Please look at your calendars in the near future and sign up for the date(s) you are willing to play for us. Thank you!

SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: The following actions took place at last Sunday's Special Voters' Meeting: It was m/s/p to place a call through the Synod for a 4K/5K teacher to replace Mrs. Schulz who is retiring at the end of the current school year.

PASTOR BOEHRINGER FREE-WILL OFFERING: It was also decided at the Special Voters' Meeting that we would take a free-will offering to help offset some of the medical and/or out-of-pocket expenses being incurred by the family of Pastor Luke Boehringer of St. Peter's, Fond du Lac. Pastor Boehringer was recently diagnosed with stomach cancer. This free-will offering will be taken next **Thursday, November 2**, and **Sunday, November 5**. Please keep Pastor Boehringer and his family in your prayers as they navigate through this difficult time.

QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING: All voters are reminded that the next Quarterly Voters' Meeting will be held on **SUNDAY (TODAY)** immediately following the worship service. We are hoping that having the voters' meeting immediately after the church service will help to increase voter participation! We urge all voters to attend!

JOINT REFORMATION SERVICE: The WLA Association Joint Reformation Service will be held on **Sunday (TODAY)** at **4:00 PM** at **St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 1600 Main Street, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin**. The WLA choirs will be bringing God's Word to us in song under the direction of Mr. Dale Witte. The guest preacher will be Prof. Paul Koelpin from Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota. And, some of our St. Matthew's Jr. Choir members will also be participating in the special Children's Choir which will be singing at this service! It should be a very special event! Don't miss it!

PIZZA-MAKING/ORDER PICK-UP TIMES: We are still looking for volunteers to help make the pizzas from our recent PTL sale. This will be done on **Friday, November 3**, from **NOON (to prep) (Actual pizza-making to start by 3:00 PM) – 9:00 PM** -and- **Saturday, November 4**, from **7:30 AM – until done**. If you would be willing to help, please sign up on the sheets posted on the **school** bulletin board in the school hallway. Any questions about this sale may be directed to **Brian Youngbeck (920) 296-1128**.

For those who have ordered pizzas, your orders will be ready to be picked up at the school on **Saturday, November 4**, from **11:00 AM – 2:00 PM**. We ask that you make every effort to pick up your pizza orders during those times! Thank you!

WLA – HOT LUNCH: St. Matthew's has been assigned the week of **November 14 – 17** to help serve hot lunch at WLA. The hours of service are from **9:30 AM – 1:30 PM**. If this is something you would be willing to do, please sign up on the sheet hanging on the church bulletin board. If you would like more information about helping, please contact **Wayne Schultz (920-948-1978)**. There is just one spot left to fill!

MOVIE NIGHT: Everyone is invited to attend St. Matthew's movie night on **Friday, November 10**, beginning at **6:30 PM** in the **gym**. Please watch for details in next week's bulletin about the movie selection. Popcorn and beverages will be provided, but please feel free to bring any other refreshments you may like for the movie. Please also bring along comfortable seating for you and your family. You are welcome to invite your friends, relatives, and neighbors to attend as well!

ALTAR FLOWERS: The flowers on the altar this week are given to the glory of God by the Barbara Kanas Family in loving memory of Clarence Kanas.

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Attendance: Thursday: 27; Sunday: 99

Offerings: \$4,443.00

(Budget Amount Needed Each Week: \$7,239.00)

Special Funds: Debt Retirement: \$200.00; Christian Aid & Relief: \$20.00



We invite you to support this ministry through financial offerings out of thanksgiving for the Gospel you have received here. Offerings may be placed in the plates located on the tables at the back of church, or you may scan the QR code to give electronically.

OUR WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday:	Worship Service (Fellowship Sunday)..... 9:00 AM Quarterly Voters' Meeting – Immediately following service
Thursday:	Parent-Teacher Conferences 3:20 PM – 8:00 PM Communion Worship Service 7:00 PM Adult Choir..... 8:00 PM Scrip Orders Due!
Friday:	NO SCHOOL Parent-Teacher Conferences 8:00 AM – NOON PIZZA-MAKING NOON – 9:00 PM
Saturday:	PIZZA-MAKING 7:30 AM – Until Done (appx. 2:00 PM) Pizza Pick Up Times 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Sunday:	Communion Worship Service 9:00 AM Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School..... 10:15 AM

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS!!

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54A God of Might, I Call to You

Psalm 54A



1 God of might, I call to you: show me your sal - va - tion!
2 When you make the wick-ed pay, when their taunts have van - ished,



In your name I put my trust for my vin - di - ca - tion.
I will sac - ri - fice to you, all my trou - bles ban - ished.



Ruth - less stran-gers hunt me down; e - vil foes as - sail me;
When you un - der-mine such threats, when such dreams are blight - ed,



still I am pro - tect - ed, Lord, for you nev - er fail me.
your de - liv - 'rance ren - ders me grate - ful and de - light - ed.

Text: Martin E. Leckebusch, alt.

Tune: Melchior Vulpus, alt.

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