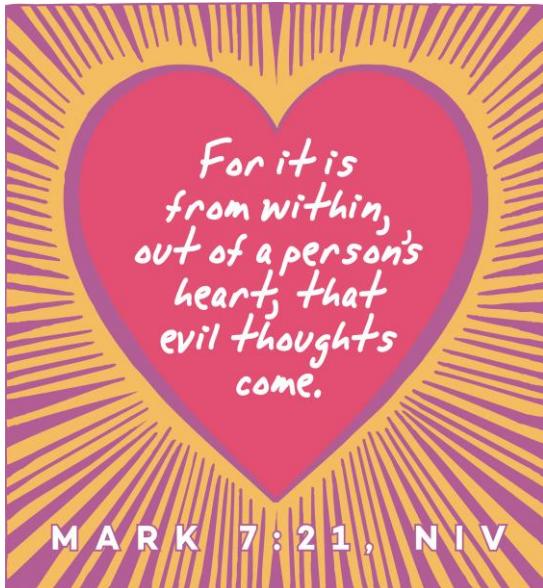


St. Matthew's Lutheran



Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

766 West Wabasha Street, Winona MN 55987

Church and School Phone: 507.454.3083

www.stmatthewswinona.org

www.facebook.com/stmatthewswinona

THE NEED FOR FOLLOWERSHIP

"We need better leadership!" Have you ever said that? Perhaps you were frustrated with the direction being taken by some elected official or by management at your workplace or by the coach of your favorite team. You were frustrated because you know that no matter how many resources an organization has, it will flounder if leaders do not lead well: providing direction, training, motivation, coordination, encouragement, and even grace. Leadership is extremely important. And so, there are times we lament, "We need better leadership!" Jesus Christ is the leader of our congregation, our home, our lives. And his leadership is perfect in every way. Therefore, when things are amiss in any of those arenas, what is needed is not better leadership, but better followership. In this series, we ask Christ to empower us with his Spirit so that we might better follow his lead. May we better reflect the beauty of his life, better make his priorities our own, and better serve our God and neighbor. Our worship follows this path.

Pastor Wade Turner

1.260.492.3036

revwturner@gmail.com

Pastor Winfried Schroeder

1.605.281.0155

winfriedj6@gmail.com

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 31 & September 1, 2024

FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST OBEY HIS LAW FROM THE HEART

A loving father gives his son and daughter a list of rules and regulations. Chores, curfews, civilities, dress code—the father makes his will clearly known. The son strives to follow the rules for two reasons. 1) He wants to get his allowance. 2) He is afraid that if he breaks the rules, his father will punish him. The daughter strives to follow the rules, also for two reasons. 1) She believes her father established those rules not to control her but for her safety and blessing. 2) She wants to demonstrate how much she loves and trusts her father. Those two children's actions might look almost identical. Their hearts are very different! Likewise, following Christ is not simply a matter of outward observance of laws. It is a matter of the heart. The Law was given so we could see God's heart and demonstrate how his heart has affected our own. The followership Christ seeks flows from hearts that have been radically transformed by God's law and gospel. Christ wants his followers to be less like the son described above, and more like the daughter. This week we see that followers of Christ obey his law from the heart.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are happy you have joined us for worship. Please take a few moments to fill out the Friendship Register that is in the pew by the aisle. You may request special prayers and/or a visit from one of our pastors on this form.

OUR MISSION

The mission of every Christian and this congregation is to serve all people in God's world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ on the basis of the Holy Scriptures.

OUR FACILITIES

A restroom is located in the Mother's Room at the back of church and also in the church basement. There is also a handicapped accessible restroom in the back of church. Ask an usher for help and directions. The members of St. Matthew's believe that families should be allowed to worship together. If the need arises, we have an audio-equipped children's room just outside of the church doors to your left. If you need anything during the service, please feel free to ask an usher.

Out of courtesy for your fellow worshipers, please silence all electronic devices.

Opening Hymn

916 Today Your Mercy Calls Us

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the **T** Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

CW 172

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the **T** Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 174

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

CW 176



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. Lord God,



heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. For you a -

lone are the Ho-ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,
 with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of
 God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his
 peo - ple on earth.

Tune: Marty Haugen
 Tune: © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 715394

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9

God is serious about his law because he knows that when his children follow the law carefully, the result is blessing and honor.

¹Now, Israel, hear the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.

⁶Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.” ⁷What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? ⁸And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?

⁹Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

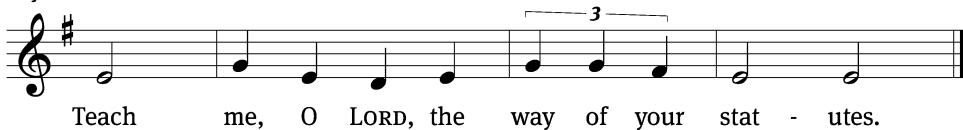
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

119E Teach Me, O LORD

Psalm 119E

Refrain



Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes.

Tone



Your statutes are / wonderful;

therefore I o- / bey them.

The unfolding of your words / gives light;

it gives understanding to the / simple.

Turn to me and have mer- / cy on me,

as you always do to those who / love your name. *Refrain*

Direct my footsteps according / to your word;

let no sin rule / over me.

Redeem me from human op- / pression,

that I may obey your / precepts.

Make your face shine on your / servant

and teach me / your decrees.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son

and to the Holy / Spirit,

as it was in the be- / ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

Tune: Thomas Pavlechko

Setting: Thomas Pavlechko

Music: © 2004, 2012 Thomas Pavlechko, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 715394

Second Reading

Romans 9:30—10:4

Followers of Christ obey the law, not to attempt to become righteous, but to show heartfelt love to the God who declares us righteous through faith in Jesus.

³⁰What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; ³¹but the people of Israel, who pursued the law as the way of righteousness, have not attained their goal. ³²Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone. ³³As it is written:

“See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall,
and the one who believes in him will never be put to shame.”

¹Brothers and sisters, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. ²For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. ³Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness. ⁴Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation John 20:31

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

Mark 7:1–8,14–15,21–23

The Pharisees established traditions which they thought safeguarded obedience to God, but they missed God's desire for heartfelt love.

¹The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus ²and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. ³(The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. ⁴When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

⁵So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?”

⁶He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

“ ‘These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

⁷They worship me in vain;
their teachings are merely human rules.’

⁸You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

¹⁴Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. ¹⁵Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.”

²¹For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²²adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”

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

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

839 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

WASH ME, SAVIOR, OR I DIE!

1. I'm defiled by tradition
2. I'm defiled by hypocrisy
3. I'm defiled from within

Stand

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated

Thank Offering

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to give an offering.

Our offerings will be collected today at the church entrance and brought forward during the offering hymn. To give by phone send a text message to 844-703-3129 with the amount you would like to contribute and you will be sent further instructions.

859 Your Kingdom, O God, Is My Glorious Treasure CW 859 st. 1

1 Your king-dom, O God, is my glo - ri - ous trea - sure, my

pearl of in - com - p'a - ble worth. Its val - ue ex -
 ceeds ev - 'ry stand - ard of mea - sure, sur - pass - ing the
 wealth of the earth. Lord, give me your grace and the
 pow'r of the Spir - it to val - ue this trea - sure a -
 right that, nev - er al - lured by the world, I in -
 her - it your king - dom of glo - ry and light.

Text: David W. Rogner, b. 1960

Tune: Joseph Herl, b. 1959

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Prayer of the Church

In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy**

O Holy Spirit, I am seized with fear whenever these divine words strike my ears: “You shall be holy, for I am holy,” and again, without holiness “no one will see the Lord.” When I ponder these sayings and measure against them my unholy heart, my unholy thoughts, my unholy words, my unholy actions, I am often thrown into great anguish, and I become ashamed of the unbecoming and unholy life that I have led, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, Lord! For the godly disappear! And so, O Holy God, make me understand all these things well, so that I may with sincere earnestness seek for true inward and outward holiness. O Jesus, sanctify me by your righteousness, by your merit and your blood, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Give to me, who by nature am unholy, your holiness, that clothed in it as my most beautiful robe, I may be able to appear and stand before Your heavenly Father. Sanctify my life by Your Holy Word, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Sanctify my heart, that it may always be occupied with good thoughts. Sanctify my lips, that they may speak nothing that is unfitting, unchristian, or wicked. Sanctify my will, that I may desire and do only what pleases you, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

O Holy God, draw me away from the world and unite me to you, that through your Holy Spirit I may have the witness in me that I am born again, that I am a child of God and in a state of grace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

But let this sanctification be real, that I may not be holy only outwardly, seeking holiness while at church, while attending the Lord's Supper, or when I am engaged in other sacred actions; but let me be truly holy and follow after holiness in all places, at all times, on all occasions, even when I must live entirely in the company of godless people, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Let me under all circumstances speak, live, and act as a child of God, and remain in such a blessed state until death, when You will bring me to the company of the saints and elect in the everlasting light of joy, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord of life, bring health and healing to Your people. We pray for everyone in need of Your mercy today [*including _____*]. Strengthen them with Your Word of grace, that they would look to You for comfort in the midst of suffering and pain, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to you alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. ***Amen.***

Sermon Hymn

814 Just as I Am, without One Plea

Stand

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the happy privilege of having gathered with fellow Christians for prayer, for study of your Word, and for praise and thanksgiving. Work in our hearts through the Word we heard this day, so that again in the next seven days we may live to your glory and thus help to draw others to you, our only Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, now and forever. ***Amen.***

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

626 My Heart is Filled With Thankfulness

The WELS Connection Video will be shown at this time

Announcements

August 31 & September 1, 2024

Organist – Sat: Sarah Sell

Sun: Tamara Koenig



Councilmen on Duty this Weekend

Saturday 6PM-

Sunday 9AM- Jake Roelich

Ushers on Duty this Weekend

Saturday 6PM – Dean Rupprecht

Sunday 9AM – Steve Erickson Group

Altar Committee – Mary Schmoker & Bonnie LaGrow

Last Week Attendance: Saturday – 38; Sunday – 104

This Week

Sunday	9:00 AM	Worship
	10:15 AM	Bible Class
	11:00 AM	Worship Service Radio KAGE 1380AM or 101.5FM
Monday		Finance #1
Tuesday		
Wednesday	12:00 PM	Circle 8
	7:00 PM	Worship Service broadcasted on HBC Channel 20
Thursday	11:30 AM	Women's Bible Study @ Beno's Deli
	6:00 PM	Building & Grounds
	6:45 PM	Board of Elders
Friday		
Next Saturday	6:00 PM	Worship/Communion
Next Sunday	9:00 AM	Worship/Communion
	10:15 AM	Bible Class
	10:15 AM	First Day for Kids for Christ & Teen Bible Study!
	11:00 AM	Worship Service Radio KAGE 1380AM or 101.5FM

Financial News

Weekly Budget for Envelope Offerings: \$8,173.08

Envelope offerings received August 24 & 25: \$4,087.00

Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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Church Announcements:

The September Forward in Christ is available in the church entrance. Articles to explore: “Our sins, not his, his blood, not ours.” Read how an autistic man uses his poetry to share the light of the gospel with the world around him (p.18). “When teachers learn more, others learn even more.” Discover how four called workers prioritize continuing education and use what they learn to benefit their ministries (p.12). “In Christ alone, God’s people win, whether in life or in death.” A pastor shares his grief – and his hope – after losing his wife and child in a fire (p.10). **New Bible study opportunity** Looking for a good Bible study for this fall? Join *Forward in Christ*’s next live online Bible study in October based on Charles Degner’s series “When politics drives you crazy” (p.32). Thursdays at 7:30pm central, Oct. 3,10,17, and 24

Our next card club and lunch will be on September 15th. Watch for the sign-up sheet to be in the back of church the 1st and 2nd weekends of the month. We will need 3 people to sign up to bring desserts. Hope you will be able to join us on that weekend.

“HEATING UP” St. Matthew’s Church and School – The Church Council recently approved a three point plan for financing our new \$716,000 heating system. The plan includes transferring \$200,000 from the Endowment Fund to the heating fund with one half of that to be repaid by budgeting \$5,000 annually for 20 years. In addition to encouraging members to consider the heating fund as the recipient of their gifts and memorials, the Heating System Funding Committee is establishing a pledge drive to assist those who wish to donate to the fund in a more systemized way. Finally, bank notes and/or a commercial bank loan will be considered if necessary to get us “over the top”.

Contributions are already coming in, and the current fund balance is \$319,000. We anticipate construction to begin next spring. The pledge drive will get underway shortly with a mailing to every family. As we prepare our hearts to support this facet of our ministry at St. Matthew’s, we may find comfort and encouragement in the following passages from Scripture:

- *Certainly your heavenly Father knows that you need these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*
Matthew 6: 32-33
- *Pray without ceasing. In everything, give thanks.* I Thessalonians 5: 17-18

A gift of \$880 has been given to the Heating System Fund by John and Susan Berg on the anniversary of John's baptism, August 27, 1944.

Summer Church/School Office Hours Starting August 26th, office hours will return to Monday – Friday from 8am to 2pm. You can still contact the office by phone or email at smoffice@stmatthewswinona.org.

School Announcements:

We are in need of a new 5 gallon Igloo cooler. Our old one suffered from mold infestation and had to be thrown away.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR NEW STUDY HALL There is going to be a "Study Hall" each day from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. - this is an opportunity for teachers to send one (or more) of their grade levels to study hall while they FOCUS on another grade level lesson. Students going to Study Hall will have their own work to do and it will be the job of the supervisor to "Keep the Peace" It will be a pretty simple opportunity for the volunteer and will really help our teachers focus on the certain grade level lesson without interruptions.

Currently we have a supervisor set up for Wednesdays & Fridays but are looking for a person or persons to help us out with Monday, Tuesday and/or Thursday. This program will be starting the first week in September (September 3rd) so we are at crunch time to get our volunteers. Ideally we would like to have someone that is willing to come on a weekly basis or if a couple volunteers want to set up a schedule for a specific day that would work too.

We would certainly appreciate anyone that could volunteer their time for this worthwhile project. Certainly a "Win-Win" for both students and teachers!!!

If interested please contact Terri Evans at volunteer@stmatthewswinona.org or call 507-429-6131 - thank you for your consideration.

WELS News

The Coulee Region OWLS will be holding their regular meeting on Thursday, September 12, 2024 at First Ev. Lutheran Church, 400 West Avenue, La Crosse, at 12:00 Noon with a potluck luncheon. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Coffee will be provided. All Church members – men and women age 55 or older – are welcome.

The program will be John Byus from Luther High School telling us how the school is doing with the community and how the industrial arts, woods and metal program offered at the school has led to more interest. Please come for a visit, enjoy the friends you meet, a good lunch and an interesting program. There will be a free will offering.

Light in the Darkness CLR Conference Seeking hope amidst life's challenges? Enjoy a day of renewal at the Light in the Darkness Conference on September 21st, 9-4pm at Ascension Lutheran Church in Rochester, MN. Topics include caregiving, loss of a child, empowering youth, and more. Discover practical tools, biblical wisdom, and the unwavering love of God.

- Pastor Jon Enter (Keeping It Together When Your World Falls Apart)
- Amber Albee Swenson (Closer to Home)
- Rachel Greiner (Empower Today's Youth: Be the Adult They Need)
- Cathe Baeson (Making a Difference Today for the Most Vulnerable)
- Laura Brown (A Story of Hope and Forgiveness)

Don't miss this transformative event! \$50 Register now at ChristianLifeResources.com or 414-376-0594.

Western Wisconsin District congregations, Mark your calendars! Our 16th annual **Men's Retreat**, organized by men from Twin Cities area WELS churches, will take place at Camp Croix on September 20-22, 2024. This year's theme is "Refuge in Times of Calamity: Lessons from Joel", and promises enlightening perspectives and discussions led by Martin Luther College Prof. Tom Nass. Sign up now, while there's still room, at mensretreat.org!

Questions regarding Camp Croix? Call Keith at 218-341-2119.

Questions regarding the retreat? Call Clay at 651-231-3237.

Ways to Serve

The new sign-up sheets for Greeters for September and October are available on the table in the back hallway of the church. This is your opportunity to spend about 15 minutes greeting members and visitors as they enter St. Matthew's Church. Come about 15 minutes before service begins on Saturday and Sunday. This is mainly for the side entrance door. (High Street). Contact Darlene Metzler 507-474-6545 for questions, and more information.

If you would like to sponsor a Radio broadcast, similar to a bulletin sponsorship, the cost is \$100.00. Please contact Lindsey by email: smoffice@stmatthewswinona.org or by phone: 507-454-3083. If you would like to donate to the Radio Broadcast fund, please use your designated offering envelope.

Bulletin Sponsorship Upcoming bulletins available for sponsorship: **Sept 8 & 29**. The cost is \$30.00. If you would like to sponsor a bulletin, you may email the information to Tamara Koenig tkoenig@stmatthewswinona.org or contact Lindsey in the office @507-454-3083.

**Today's bulletin is sponsored by Linda Berg
in memory of Edward & Adela Berg**



Do you know of someone still looking for Pre-K for their child?

We have availability in all three class sessions =

2 Day / 3 Day / 5 Day!!

Contact the school office to set up a visit!!

507-454-3083

The following pictures are from the Youth Discipleship's preparing of the Dorm Warming Bags. Thank you to all who helped make this possible! The bags were delivered last week!



