## 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

November 1 & 2, 2025

## Closer to Jesus, Closer Together



Pastor Winfried Schroeder

1.605.281.0155 winfriedj6@gmail.com Pastor Jason Threlkeld Vacancy pastor 1.414.943.4461 pastorthrelkeld@gmail.com

## The Festival of the Reformation

## November 1 & 2, 2025 CAUSE/EFFECT TRUTH/FREEDOM

Many people believe that freedom means being able to do whatever you want. Jesus teaches that is absolutely false. "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31,32). Jesus says that living however you want does not make you free. In fact, if you take that attitude toward life you will end up a slave. You will only be free—spiritually, emotionally, eternally—"If you hold to my teaching" and therefore "know the truth." Truth is the cause that effects freedom. A key principle Martin Luther established through the Reformation is sola scriptura, Scripture alone. Who or what is the final arbiter of the truth that provides freedom? Scripture alone. Heirs of the Reformation still bind themselves to Scripture. Does restricting ourselves in this manner curtail freedom? Just the opposite is true. God's truth brings freedom from slavery to sinful delusions and the burden of guilt. This week we celebrate this cause and effect—the truth sets us free!

#### Welcome to our Guests.

Thanks for joining us! We are gathered here to be strengthened in the faith through the Word of Jesus, the Son of God who has come to save us. If there is anything that we can do to serve you, please let us know.

#### **OUR MISSION**

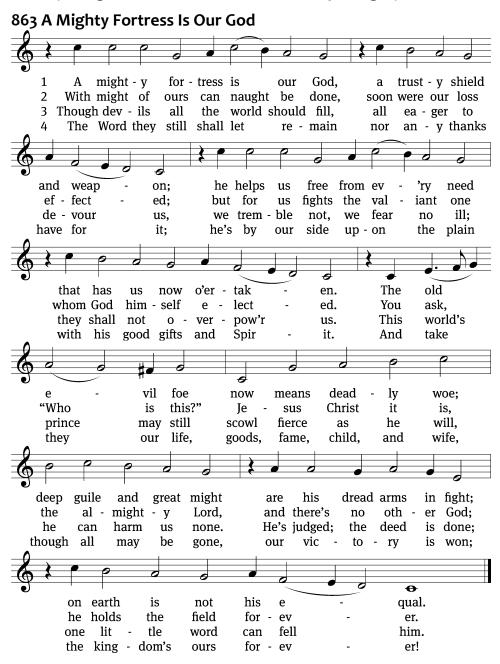
The mission of every Christian and this congregation is to serve all people in God's world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ on the basis of the Holy Scriptures.

#### **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.

## Sunday - Organ/Handbell Introduction to Opening Hymn



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.

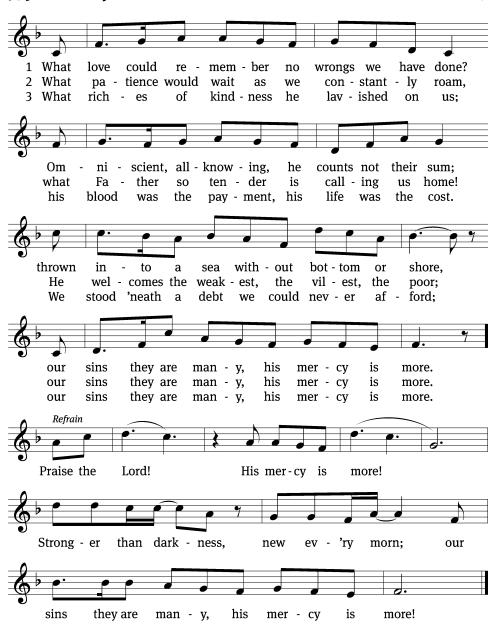
Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son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

Amen.

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

## 579 His Mercy Is More

CW 579



The refrain for stanza 3 is sung three times (twice, with no break between, then a final time).

Text: Matt Boswell, b. 1979; Matt Papa, b. 1983

Tune: Matt Boswell, b. 1979; Matt Papa, b. 1983

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## The Word

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

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.

Amen.

Be seated

## **First Reading**

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The truth of God's new covenant of grace transforms our hearts so we freely and gladly follow God's will.

<sup>31</sup>"The days are coming," declares the LORD,

"when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant,

though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD.

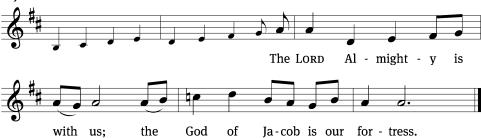
<sup>33</sup>"This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

# **Psalm of the Day - 46A The LORD Almighty Is with Us** Sunday-Choir will sing the verses, please join in singing the refrain and the **Glory be to the Father**

#### Refrain





God is our ref- / uge and strength, an ever-present help in / trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the / earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart / of the sea, though its waters / roar and foam and the mountains quake with their / surging. Refrain

There is a river whose streams make glad the cit-/y of God, the holy place where the Most/High dwells.

God is within her, she / will not fall;

God will help her at / break of day.

"Be still, and know that / I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted / in the earth."

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: Dale A. Witte Setting: Dale A. Witte

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## **Second Reading**

Galatians 5:1-6

St. Paul encourages us to stand firm in the freedom that we receive in the truth about Jesus Christ.

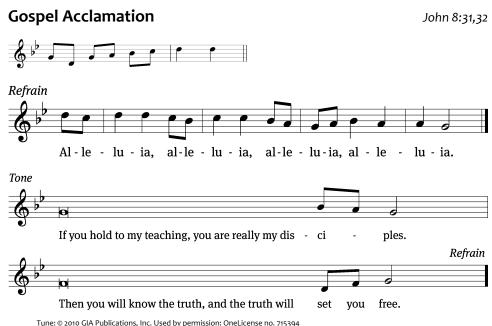
<sup>1</sup>It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

<sup>2</sup>Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. <sup>3</sup>Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. <sup>4</sup>You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. <sup>5</sup>For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. <sup>6</sup>For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand



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Gospel John 8:31–36

The truth of the gospel sets us free.

<sup>31</sup>To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup>Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

<sup>33</sup>They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

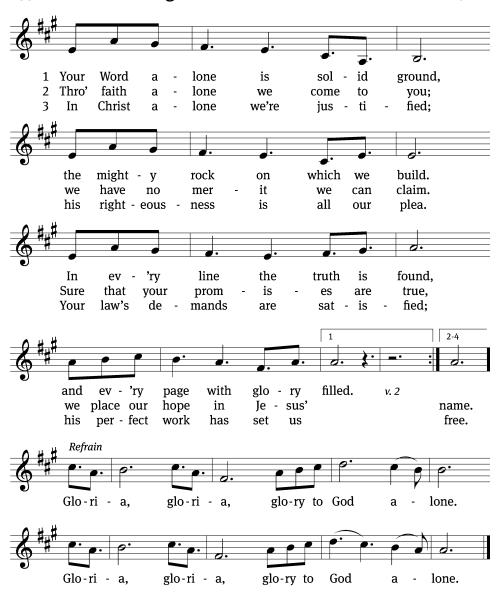
<sup>34</sup>Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated





By grace alone we have been saved;
 all that we are has come from you.
 Hearts that were once by sin enslaved
 now by your pow'r have been made new. (Refrain)

5 And on this Reformation Day
we join with saints of old to sing;
we lift our hearts as one in praise:
glory to Christ our gracious King. (Refrain)

Text: Tim Chester, b. 1967; Bob Kauflin, b. 1955
Tune: Tim Chester, b. 1967; Bob Kauflin, b. 1955
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#### Sermon

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.

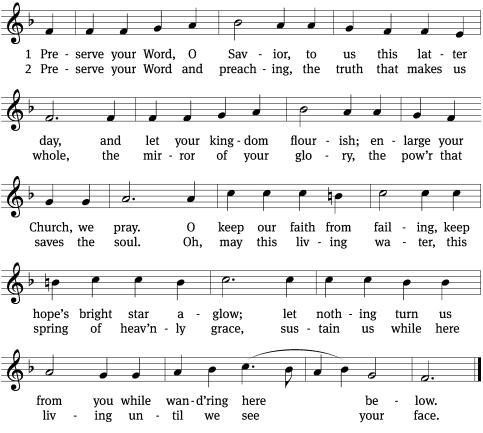
Be seated

## **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.

## Offering Hymn Stanzas - 874 Preserve Your Word, O Savior



Text: Andreas Gryphius, 1616–1664, abr.; tr. William J. Schaefer, 1891–1976, alt.

Tune: Leonhart Schröter, c. 1532-c. 1601

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Tune: Public domain

## **Prayer of the Church**

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

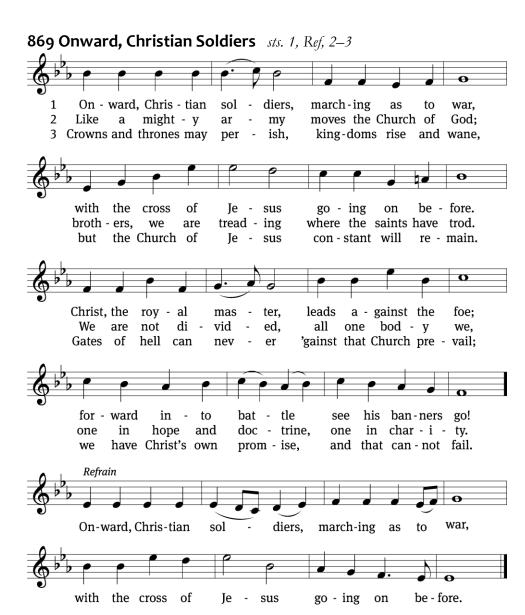
Gracious God, in mercy you sent your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, into this world to redeem us from sin and rescue us from hell. Through your Scriptures and by your Spirit, you have brought us to faith in your Son and have assured us that Christ has fully completed the work of our salvation. Lead us to rejoice in the message of forgiveness through faith alone in Christ Jesus. When guilt grieves our consciences and shame squelches our confidence, use

your Word to encourage and comfort our souls with the good news of your unconditional love.

Almighty God, in the face of immense pressure to compromise their confession, you emboldened Martin Luther and the Lutheran reformers to take a firm stand on the truths of Scripture. Through their clear confession of faith, you restored the gospel to your church and have preserved this saving truth among us today. Send us your Holy Spirit that we exhibit the same zeal and faithfulness as the Lutheran confessors. Give us courage to confess our faith sincerely and boldly in the classroom, the workplace, the community, and to everyone we encounter who needs to hear the truth of your Word. Use our confession to bring faith in your Son to the hearts of those who do not yet believe in you.

Eternal God, you have promised to preserve and protect your church in every age. Even when it appeared that the enemies of the gospel had silenced your truth, you kept your people faithful to you and your Word. Bless all who face hardships for their faith with an added measure of your Holy Spirit so that they do not lose heart as they bear their crosses. Comfort the sick and suffering, the depressed and lonely, those who are persecuted and ridiculed for their faith, and all others who need the encouragement of your love. Fix our eyes on the cross of your Son, his empty tomb, and the sure promise of eternal life in heaven's glory.

Lord God, you know the concerns of our hearts and minds. Hear the public prayers we have spoken with our lips and the personal prayers we offer to you in our hearts, and answer them according to your gracious will. Increase our trust in your power and wisdom that we may rest secure in the plans and purposes you have for our lives; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.** 



Text: Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, abr., alt. Tune: Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900

Text and tune: Public domain

#### Stand

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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**

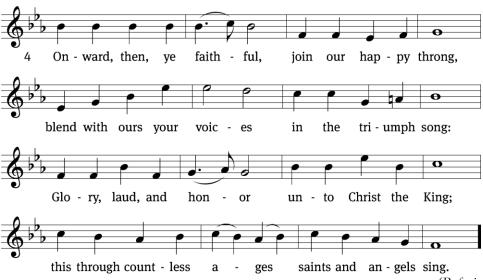
The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

Amen.

## Closing Hymn Stanza - 869 Onward, Christian Soldiers



(Refrain on previous page)

#### **BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES!**

#### **BIBLE BASICS!**



What is the Bible all about? What does a WELS church teach that is different from other churches? What do I/or a friend need to know to be a member of St. Matthew's? If you or someone you know has these questions we have the answer. We are having a Bible Study on the basics

of God's Word Tuesdays at 6:30pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Wilson MN, led by Pastor Jason Threlkeld. The class will be an hour long and will be once a week. Come and bring a Friend! This is a great way to review and to bring Jesus to friends and family!

Wednesday Bible Study @ 6pm is entitled The Council of Nicea and Its Creed.

College to 30's Bible Study meets on Mondays @5:45 – 7:30 at Shannon & Amy Bohme's home: 27385 Ruslynn Dr. When using Google Maps... Hwy 14 is open, Seminary Drive is closed. Continue on Hwy 14 to Quarry Hill and turn right. Carpooling is recommended.



Men's Bible Study will be held on Thursday November 13 at 7am at Perkins. All men are invited.

Women's Bible Study meets on Thursdays @ 11:30am at Beno's. We are using the book Taboo for our study. All are welcome!

There is a mini **outreach group** that you may contact if there is someone you are wanting to invite to church or would like to give a bible presentation to. These men are willing to meet with you and that person at a place of your choosing to talk with, listen to and share with them. **Shannon Bohme**- 651-324-4218; **Dean Rupprecht**- 507-730-8854; **Jeff Sell**- 801-895-9910



## Announcements

October 25 & 26

Worship Leader - Jason Threlkeld

Organist - Tamara Koenig

Councilmen on Duty this Weekend

Saturday 5PM – Devin Ellinghuysen

Sunday 9AM – Shannon Bohme

Ushers on Duty this Weekend Saturday 5PM-Kris & Amanda Wenzel

Saturday 5PM-Kris & Amanda Wenzel Sunday 9AM – Steve Tarras & Larry Bunke

ST. MATTHEW'S

CHURCH

**Altar Committee –** Rose Drazkowski & Sue Gannaway **Last Week Attendance**: Saturday – 48; Sunday – 235

This Week - Nov. 2 - 9

Sunday 9:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Bible Study/Kids for Christ

11:00 AM Worship Service Radio KAGE 1380AM or 101.5FM

12:00 PM Public School Catechism (at Trinity, Wilson)

Monday Finance #1

6:00 PM Adult & Youth Discipleship, Outreach Committee

Tuesday 6:30 PM Bible Basics Class @ Trinity, Wilson

Wednesday 12:00 PM Circle 8

2:30 PM Lake Winona Manor Service

6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Call Meeting 7:30 PM Senior Choir

7:00 PM Worship Service broadcasted on HBC Channel 20

Thursday 11:30 AM Women's Bible Study @ Beno's

6:00 PM Building & Grounds

6:45 PM Board of Elders

Friday

Next Saturday 5:00 PM Worship/Communion

Next Sunday 9:00 AM Worship/Communion/Children's Church

10:15 AM Bible Study/Kids for Christ

11:00 AM Worship Service Radio KAGE 1380AM or 101.5FM

12:00 PM Public School Catechism (at Trinity, Wilson)

Financial News

Weekly Budget for Envelope Offerings: \$8,173.08 Offerings received October 25 & 26: \$6,131.00

Boiler Fund Goal: \$734,985

Boiler Fund Total Received: \$724,406 (up \$16,359 over last 3 wks)

Boiler Fund Pledges Outstanding: \$1,296 Boiler Payment final: \$35,205 due Dec 1

**Boiler Fund Contributions:** Please either write separate checks for the boiler fund or clearly mark on

your envelope how much is to be contributed to the Boiler Fund.

## **Church Announcements:**

- Communion Schedule Change: Communion will not be offered on Oct. 25 -26 due to pastoral scheduling changes. Family Worship and Pancake Breakfast is taking place on Sunday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Our next Call Meeting is scheduled for November 5<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm in the church fellowship hall.
- **Gifts received:** Jerome and Darlene Klein want to thank God for all His blessings and to show their appreciation they have given \$100.00 for Meditations and \$200.00 to the Radio Broadcast to continue the spreading of God's Word and to honor Darlene's 86<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Yard Clean Up! Club 3:16 is offering their services to clean up yards this fall. This may include raking, pulling weeds, bagging leaves, etc. There is no minimum fee for this service, however, we do encourage a free-will donation. This donation will be directly put towards our funds needed to attend the Youth Rally coming up in July 2026. If you are in need of some yard clean up this fall, please reach out to Kris Anderson @ 507.459.0044 or at <a href="mailto:club316@stmatthewswinona.org">club316@stmatthewswinona.org</a>.
- Lunch & Cards: A sign-up sheet is in the church entrance for the next time we meet.
- All are women are welcome to Beno's for Bible study. We will be using Taboo by Pastor Novotny from now until our December Break. Please bring a Bible. Thursdays, 11:30AM.

#### Ways to Serve

If you would like to sponsor a Radio broadcast, similar to a bulletin sponsorship, the cost is \$100.00. Please contact Lindsey by email: <a href="mailto:smoffice@stmatthewswinona.org">smoffice@stmatthewswinona.org</a> 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: **Nov. 23, 26(Thanksgiving), 30.** The cost is \$30.00. If you would like to sponsor a bulletin, you may email the information to Tamara Koenig <a href="mailto:tkoenig@stmatthewswinona.org">tkoenig@stmatthewswinona.org</a> or contact Lindsey in the office <a href="mailto:tkoenig@stmatthewswinona.org">0507-454-3083</a>.

## Women's Fellowship News:

- Women's Fellowship will be preparing Christmas Bags for our Shut-ins again this year. We
  will be asking for monetary donations to purchase gift items for the bags on the first three
  weekends of November.
- The November meeting date has been changed to Tuesday, November 18 @6:00pm. Prison Ministries will be presenting at this meeting. Following the presentation, we will prepare the Shut-in Christmas bags. All members of the congregation are invited to attend.
- Save the Date: The Advent Tea will be held on November 30<sup>th</sup> @2:30pm.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cookie Walk will be held on Wednesday, December 17. Look for more details to come in the next few weeks.

## Upcoming dates to remember:

- November 18 Monthly Meeting 6:00pm
- November 30 Advent Tea 2:30pm
- December 14 Candlelight
- December 17 Cookie Walk

#### **School News**

Nov 7
 No School K-8, Yes School Pre-K

Nov. 7
 1<sup>St</sup> Home BB game, Jr. Tiger night, games start at 5pm

We will have a food drive next week for the Winona Area Food Shelf. If the school brings in 250 items the PTO will give students a special treat! (12 pkg of ramen is 12 items, each \$1 equals 4 items) We will collect all week and until half time of the b boys game. Then we will make an announcement before the A girls game!



## **BIBLE CLASS**

For People With Special Needs

Sunday, November 9 2-3:30 PM

Join us as we learn more about God's love for all people.

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church 766 W. Wabasha St. - Winona

(Use accessible entrance to church off of High Street)

#### **WELS News**



On Sunday, November 2nd at 2pm, there will be an area worship service at Luther High School recognizing God's grace and faithfulness in blessing us with the Reformation and with 175 years as a synod. It promises to be an uplifting gospel-centered service with choirs, instrumentalists, and Prof. Paul Koelpin from Martin

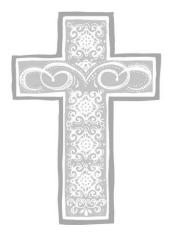
Luther College as our preacher.

Following the service in the school commons, there will be refreshments and a presentation by Prof. Koelpin on the history of worker training in our synod, with special focus on our college of ministry and its predecessor schools. We hope you can join us for this special celebration!

Martin Luther College is accepting applications for a regular part-time Early Childhood Assistant Teacher and Early Childhood Substitute Teachers.

At the ECLC, you'll be part of a caring Christian community that values faith-based education and embraces the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with children from the very beginning of their educational journey. Both of these positions offer flexible scheduling. Interested individuals should apply online at <a href="mailto:mlc-wels.edu/hr/">mlc-wels.edu/hr/</a>.

# This weekend's bulletin is sponsored in honor of Darlene Klein's 86<sup>th</sup> birthday on Oct. 29 by her husband, Jerome.



# This weekend's bulletin is also given in memory of Mary Jo Gerdes who passed on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1999

#### Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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