

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Holy Communion

9:00 a.m., January 19, 2025



Welcome to worship this morning!

We are glad you're here! Please know that **children** are welcome to remain in worship; they are also welcome to take a break in our "Kid's Korner" in the Gathering Space where the service audio is played through speakers. **Bathrooms** are located down the hall, past the church office. **Hymns** are printed in the red book (ELW) available in the pew rack.

We practice **open communion** at St. Matthew, meaning all who desire the sacrament of Holy Communion are welcome. If you prefer, you may also come forward for a blessing. During the distribution of Holy Communion, ushers will direct the congregation forward to receive communion in a **continuous line**. The pastor will distribute communion wafers, which you may intinct (dip) into red wine, or white grape juice, held by communion assistants. Please do not drink from the chalices. Gluten free wafers are also available. The pastor will deliver the sacrament to anyone unable to come forward. You may also use a pre-filled communion kit, available at the usher's table.

All are welcome!

PRELUDE: *Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele*

Johann Gottfried Walther

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
Water is poured into the font while the congregation gives thanks.

**We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.**

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

OPENING HYMN: *Jesus, Come! For We Invite You*

1. Je - sus, come! for we in - vite you, guest and mas - ter, friend and Lord;
 2. Je - sus, come! trans - form our plea - sures, guide us in - to paths un - known;
 3. Je - sus, come! in new cre - a - tion, heav'n brought near in pow'r di - vine;
 4. Je - sus, come! sur - prise our dull - ness, make us will - ing to re - ceive

now, as once at Ca - na's wed - ding, speak and let us hear your word:
 bring your gifts, com - mand your ser - vants, let us trust in you a - lone:
 give your un - ex - pect - ed glo - ry, chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine:
 more than we can yet im - ag - ine, all the best you have to give:

lead us through our need or doubt - ing, hope be born and joy re - stored.
 though your hand may work in se - cret, all shall see what you have done.
 rouse the faith of your dis - ci - ples— come, our first and great - est Sign!
 let us find your hid - den rich - es, taste your love, be - lieve, and live!

Text: Christopher Idle, b. 1938; © 1982 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

GLORIA

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's 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. 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. 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 62:1-5

The people's return to Judah after the exile was marred by economic and political troubles. Nevertheless, the prophet declares, Jerusalem and Judah will be restored. God will rejoice over Jerusalem as a bridegroom rejoices over the bride, and the people are called to the celebration.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah:

- ¹ For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
- ² The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
- ³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
- ⁴ You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for the Lord delights in you,
and your land shall be married.
- ⁵ For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your builder marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Psalm 36: 5-10

We will now read responsively from the Book of Psalms:

- ⁵ Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens,
and your faithfulness to the clouds.
- ⁶ **Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,
your justice like the great deep;
you save humankind and animals, O Lord.**
- ⁷ How priceless is your love, O God!
All people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.
- ⁸ **They feast upon the abundance of your house;
you give them drink from the river of your delights.**
- ⁹ For with you is the well of life,
and in your light we see light.
- ¹⁰ **Continue your lovingkindness to those who know you,
and your favor to those who are true of heart.**

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rev. Ryan

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
Music © 1985 Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, admin. OCP Publications, Inc. 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.
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HOLY GOSPEL: John 2:1-11

Turning water to wine at the wedding at Cana is described as the first of Jesus' signs. Through many such epiphanies, Jesus reveals that he bears God's creative power and joyful presence into the world.

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶ Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ⁹ When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON:

Pastor Brian

HYMN OF THE DAY: *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

ELW 678

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. I invite you into a prayerful posture of kneeling, standing, or sitting.

A brief silence.

Giver of all gifts, you bless your church with unconditional love and abundant life. Make us aware of the abundance we have in you. Fill our hearts with gratitude and joy, and inspire us to live generous lives. Equip your church throughout the world to serve those who lack the necessities of life, and teach us to manifest your abundant life in all we do. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Refuge of creatures, you place all the living under the shadow of your wings. Lead us in ways that tend to the needs of wild and domestic animals, creatures threatened by extinction, and the environment we share. We pray especially for those affected by the wildfires in California or disasters of any kind.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Voice of the oppressed, you call prophets throughout time. This week we remember the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a voice for racial and economic justice and for peace. Guide our nation in continuing to heed your prophetic call. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the peacemakers, we pray for peace throughout the world. We pray for lasting peace in the Holy Land, in Ukraine, in Syria, and all areas where people are forced to endure the terror of war. We pray that war may be obsolete within our lifetime. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of steadfast love, as your goodness overflowed at Cana, so pour out your abundance on a world in need. Nurture marriages and relationships in mutual care. Be present to all who are sick, grieving or in any need. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Unifying Spirit, celebrating this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we pray for neighboring congregations in our town: Avon Congregational Church, Church of St. Ann Roman Catholic Church, Memorial United Methodist Church, Valley Baptist Community Church, and West Avon Congregational Church. We pray for our nearby partners Trinity Episcopal Church in Collinsville and Grace Lutheran Church in Hartford. We pray also for our interfaith partners, the Farmington Valley American Muslim Center in Avon and the Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation Emek Shalom in Simsbury. Nurture our shared commitment to embody your love, justice, and healing. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal Lord, we pray for our congregation of St. Matthew Lutheran Church. We ask your blessing on the children of this community, that they may grow up to know and love you deeply. We pray for members and visitors of all ages, that all who enter here may feel your peace and know your love. Bless our annual meeting this morning. Guide the election of council members and our discernment of the budget. Be present with us now and always. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The congregation may be seated.

OFFERING

At this time, ushers will pass the offering plate if you desire to give a financial gift. Donations may also be given online at stmatthewavon.org/give, using the QR code in this bulletin, or mailed directly to the church. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithfulness!

OFFERTORY: *Now the Silence*

by Carl Schalk, text by Jaroslav J. Vajda

Now the silence Now the peace
Now the empty hands uplifted
Now the kneeling Now the plea
Now the Father's arms in welcome
Now the hearing Now the pow'r
Now the vessel brimmed for pouring
Now the body Now the blood
Now the joyful celebration
Now the wedding Now the songs
Now the heart forgiven leaping
Now the Spirit's visitation
Now the Son's epiphany
Now the Father's blessing
Now Now Now

PRESENTATION HYMN

All rise as the gifts are brought forward.



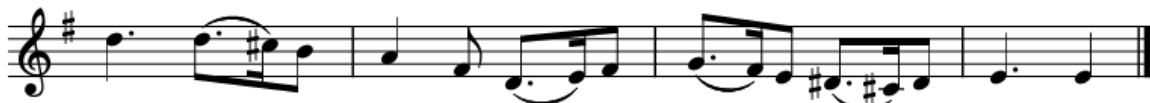
What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim - son drink from heav - en?



What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



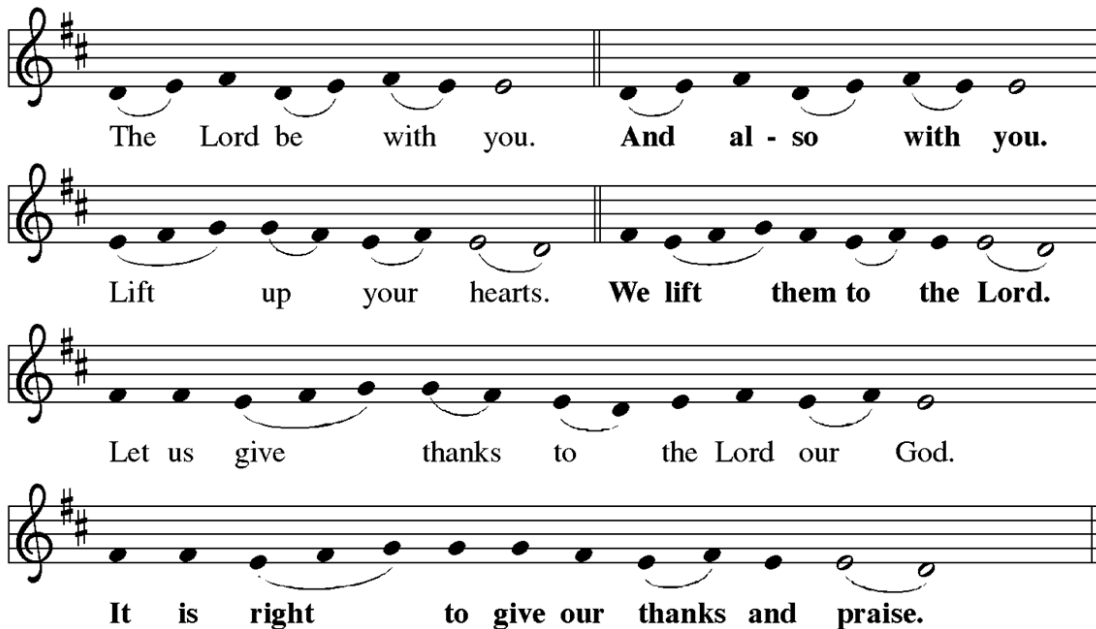
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939; © 1993 Delores Dufner, admin. OCP Publications

OFFERING PRAYER

God of heaven and earth,
from the beginning, you have called forth life,
in which you take delight.
The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.
Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,
that we may join the chorus of creation
to tell of your salvation from day to day.
Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

ELW Setting 3



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
 Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
 Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
 Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
 Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
 Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
 Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.
 Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

At this time, ushers will direct the congregation to form two lines. You will receive a communion wafer from a pastor, which you are invited to intinct (*dip*) into the red wine or white grape juice held by the communion assistants. Please do not drink from the chalices. You may also use a pre-filled communion kit in your seat or indicate to an usher to have a pastor deliver the sacrament to your seat.

Come to the banquet for all is now ready.

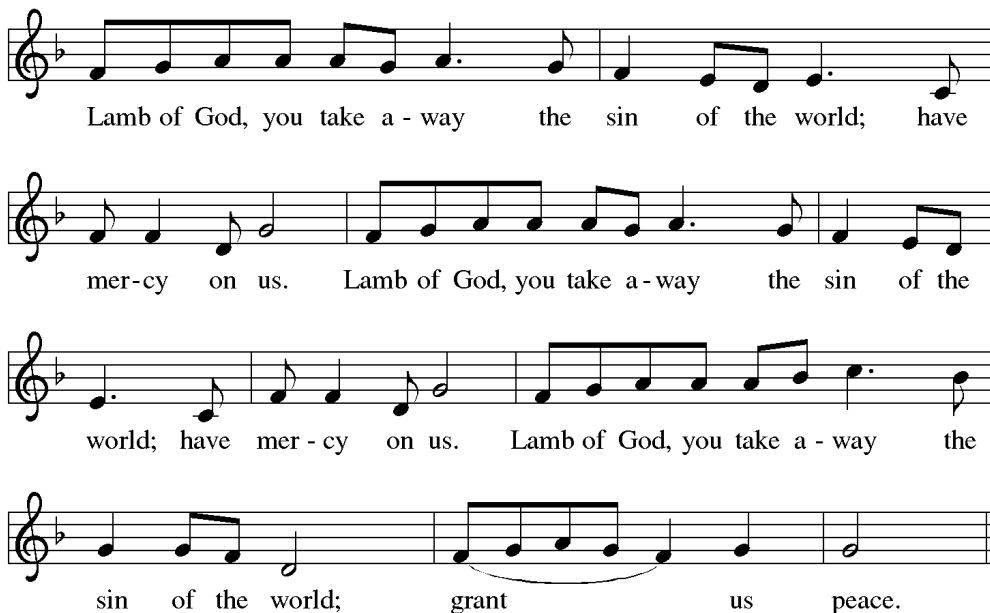
THE DISTRIBUTION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

AGNUS DEI

ELW Setting 3



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN: *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness*

ELW 488

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

NUNC DIMITTIS



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourishing God,
at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink.
Strengthen us for service,
and send us out to embody your good news
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray, **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor †
And give you peace. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Today's Altar Flowers are provided for the glory of God!

MANY THANKS FOR TODAY'S VOLUNTEER WORSHIP LEADERS

Altar Guild: Kathy Alsgaard & Robin Lindquist

Acolyte: Matthew Yanke

Assisting Minister: Kathy Alsgaard

Lector: George Reider

Ushers: Kevin Reichler

Live Stream: John Pearson

STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Rajcok – pastorbrian@stmatthewavon.org

Associate Pastor: The Rev. Ryan Heckman – revryan@stmatthewavon.org

Director of Music: Sarah Schiener-Redenz – music@stmatthewavon.org

Office Administrator: Paul Martin – office@stmatthewavon.org or (860) 673-3301

Sexton: Roy Zurell – contact the office

VISIT US ONLINE

Website: www.stmatthewavon.org

YouTube: @StMatthewAvon

Facebook: [com/SaintMatthewLutheranChurch](https://www.facebook.com/SaintMatthewLutheranChurch) **Instagram:** @stmatthewlutheranavon

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday	9am: Sanctuary Worship w/ Holy Communion	10:20am: Sunday School	10:20am: SMLC Annual Meeting
Monday	Office Closed		
Tuesday	10am: A.A. (Open to All)	2pm: Choir Rehearsal	7pm: Church Council Mtg.
Wednesday	9:30am & 5:15pm: W.W	7pm: O.A.	
Thursday	2pm: Centering Prayer		
Sunday	9am: Sanctuary Worship w/ Holy Communion	10:20am: Sunday School & Adult Forum	10:30am: Confirmation Class

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Today is our Annual Meeting, immediately following worship service. Join us as we review and discuss the Annual Reports, providing valuable insights into the milestones and accomplishments of the past year. Your active participation is crucial as we come together to shape the future of our community. We look forward to your presence and engagement at this important gathering.

2025 ALTAR FLOWER SIGN-UP

The sign-up sheet for 2025 Altar Flowers is now available outside the Sanctuary. **Please note that the price will be increasing to \$50 this year.**

Please write your dedication on the lines provided. If there is already a dedication on your desired Sunday, please try to choose another open date. Thank you.

ONLINE GIVING

Make a one-time gift, or set-up recurring donations, via Vanco! You may use the QR code below to access the website, or visit: stmatthewavon.org/online-giving

We ask those that wish to set-up recurring donations, please select the "GENERAL OPERATING FUND" and choose withdrawals to take place on either the 1st or 15th of the month. Thank you! If you have any difficulty, please contact the church office or see one of the Pastors after service!



St. Matthew Mission Statement:

St. Matthew Lutheran Church is a worshipping community called to proclaim God's love for all and to grow spiritually together. Challenged by Jesus' example, we strive to connect people of all ages, abilities, and needs, and to nurture them to be disciples of Christ. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we reach out to the wider community and welcome our neighbors to a life of worship, preaching, teaching, Christian care, service, and spiritual growth.

In Christ, We Are Digging Deep, Reaching Out, Changing Lives.