

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Baptism of Jack Roger Dickinson
Holy Communion
9:00 a.m., October 6, 2024



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: *Nun laßt uns Gott dem Herren*

Vincent Lübeck

WELCOME

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

I invite you into a prayerful posture of kneeling, standing, or sitting.

A brief silence is observed for self-reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy,

loved us even when we were dead in sin,

and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,

that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN: *All Are Welcome*

ELW 641 (v. 1 – 3)

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.

KYRIE

ELW Setting 8

Refrain

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for
 hun - gry and the poor; that
 friends and fam - i - ly; for
 wa - ter and the word; that you

this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
 we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
 life and for love, for our work and our play,
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Creator of the universe, your first covenant of mercy was with every living creature. When your beloved Son came among us, the waters of the river welcomed him, the heavens opened to greet his arrival, the animals of the wilderness drew near as his companions. With all the world's people, may we who are washed into new life through baptism seek the way of your new creation, the way of justice and care, mercy and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

TEMPLE TALK:

Fellowship Ministries – Anne Fenn

FIRST READING: First Corinthians 12:4-8, 12-14, 27-31

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians:

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, ⁵ and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good...

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many...

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work powerful deeds? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?

³¹ But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Setting 3

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 17:17-23

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus prayed]: ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth. ²⁰ I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON:

Pastor Brian

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters*

ELW 445

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

The baptismal party gathers at the font. Pastor addresses the assembly.

God, who is rich in mercy and love,
gives us a new birth
into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism.
By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death
and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ.
We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ,
anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit,
and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Pastor addresses the parents:

Kelley and Daniel, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God,
do you desire to have Jack baptized into Christ? If so, please respond "we do."

Response: We do.

As you bring Jack to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with
responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people,
bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in his hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture him in faith and prayer,
so that Jack may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Jack grow in the Christian faith and life?
Please respond "we do."

Response: We do.

Pastor addresses sponsors:

Robert and Joanna, you have been asked to fulfill the sacred responsibilities of
godparents, that is baptismal sponsors. Do you promise to nurture Jack in the
Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the
covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? Please respond "we do."

Response: We do.

Pastor addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support Jack and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Assisting minister addresses parents and sponsors:

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Water is poured into the font.

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, and 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 the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

BAPTISM

Water is poured on the candidate's head:

Jack Roger, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God,
that through water and the Holy Spirit
you give this your child, new birth,
cleansing him from sin, and raise him to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of the newly baptized, the pastor prays:

Sustain Jack with the gift of your Holy Spirit:
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the love of the Lord,
the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Pastor marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized saying:

Jack Roger, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the † cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

Assisting minister hands a lit candle to the sponsors, saying:

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Pastor addresses the congregation

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ
and into the mission we share:**

**join us in giving thanks and praise to God
and bearing God's creative and redeeming word
to all the world.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation. I invite you into a prayerful posture of kneeling, standing, or sitting.

A brief silence.

God of our ancestors, we give thanks for the church in all times. May we listen for the prophets of this age who bear messages that stir the church toward renewal and justice. Lead us all to experience oneness with each other and oneness with you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creator of every creature on earth, direct our lives toward the renewal and sustaining of the earth. Reveal the ways we can work alongside creation for the health and well-being of all. Inspire us to have the vision of St. Francis and see all people, all animals, and all creation as our sisters and brothers in Christ. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, we give thanks that you are mindful and benevolent to us. Accompany us when hardness of heart gets in the way of justice between people and nations. Endow leaders with minds for justice and hearts for compassion. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Restoring Lord, grant healing and wholeness to those who are sick and suffering. Work through medical professionals to diagnose, ease pain, and give life to all who seek their wisdom and care. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of life, shepherd those who are newly baptized. Especially we pray for Jack Roger Dickinson and his family. May his life be filled with your blessings, may he grow up to know and love you, and may he be a blessing to the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Unifying God, may your love inspire us to build supportive communities of faith where all are cherished. Bless the fellowship ministries of this congregation: St. Matthew's fellowship committee and events, coffee hour ministry, women's group, men's group, church historians, and all gatherings where members are able to be the Body of Christ together. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever. **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 the bulletin, or mailed directly to the church. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithfulness!

OFFERTORY: *We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus*

Jacob B. Weber

DOXOLOGY

All rise as the gifts are brought forward.

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God,
source of every gift of your creation.
By these gifts and with our lives,
help us to serve one another and all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.
Lift up your hearts.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**And also with you.
We lift them to the Lord.
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;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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 4



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



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.
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.

Christ invites you to this table. Come taste and see!

THE DISTRIBUTION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

AGNUS DEI

ELW Setting 4



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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN: *For the Beauty of the Earth*

ELW 879

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God,
you have welcomed us to this meal
and fed us with dignity at your table.
Send us now to welcome others
and to be at peace with one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

As you go on your way may Christ go with you.
May he go before you to show you the way,
Behind you to encourage you,
Beside you to befriend you,
Above you to watch over, And within you to give you peace. † Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: *All Creatures, Worship God Most High!* ELW 835 (v. 1 – 3, 6)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

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Today's Altar Flowers are given in celebration of Jack's Holy Baptism!

**If you'd like to learn more about our Fellowship Ministries, please contact the
Committee Head: Anne Fenn
Phone: 860-379-1286
Email: journeywriting8@gmail.com**

MANY THANKS FOR TODAY'S VOLUNTEER WORSHIP LEADERS

Assisting Minister: Rick Hanson **Lector:** George Reider
Ushers: Kevin Reichler **Altar Guild:** Doreen O'Leary & Mj Bennett-Sandell
Live Stream: Greg Boyd **Coffee Hour:** Carol Reider & Anne Fenn

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 **Instagram:** @stmatthewlutheranavon

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday	9am: Sanctuary Worship w/ Holy Communion	10:20am: Adult Forum & Sunday School	10:30am: Confirmation Class	11:30am: Blessing of the Animals
Tuesday	10am: A.A. (Open to All)	7pm: Finance Committee Mtg.		7pm: Avon Land Trust
Wednesday	9:30am & 5:15pm: W.W		7pm: O.A.	7pm: Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	2pm: Centering Prayer			
Sunday	9am: Sanctuary Worship w/ Holy Communion	10:20am: Adult Forum & Sunday School		10:30am: Confirmation Class

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, Oct. 6th @ 11:30 am

Join us at 11:30 am, Sunday, October 6, on the front lawn for a blessing of the animals in honor of St. Francis Day! After morning worship, go home and return with your pets, or their picture, for a special blessing. Invite your friends and their pets too!

If your pet experiences anxiety in new or crowded spaces, or when introduced to new animals, please bring a photo so we can bless your pet more comfortably.

NEW HORIZONS VILLAGE - BOOK DONATIONS

New Horizons Village is looking for book donations for a new library that they are creating on their campus. New Horizons Village is home to 101 adults with physical disabilities. Many of their residents prefer large print books since some have vision challenges. These types of books can be difficult to find in regular libraries. **If anyone**

is interested in donating a large print book, puzzle, or a Barnes & Noble gift card to this life-enriching initiative, please bring them to the church and place them in the donation box located opposite the office before October 16th. For a list of desired books, please check our weekly emails for a link, or contact the office.

"Thank you for your continued support of New Horizons Village - we are truly grateful for all that you have done for our community!" - New Horizons

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday, October 15th, 1:00 to 3:00 Hall of the Evangelists

Our first Women's Fellowship, with 30 women in attendance, was a big success, and now we are looking ahead to the next one.

The October gathering will feature a mixture of women sharing a craft they love - knitting and theorem stenciling - which will be interspersed with poetry reading. And if that doesn't make you want to come, just think about warm apple crisp with real whipped cream, pumpkin bread, and molasses cookies, in honor of fall! All SMLC women are invited!

HARVEST DINNER DATE CHANGE: Thursday, October 17th, 6:00 PM

Pennsylvania Dutch-themed harvest dinner and hymn sing

Please sign-up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space if you plan on attending. This will give our Fellowship Committee much needed help with their preparation and planning.

Stay tuned for more details!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The men's group will meet for our monthly breakfast on Saturday October 19th at 8:30 a.m. Join us in the Hall of the Evangelists for a time of food and fellowship!

SMLC TRUNK OR TREAT: SAVE THE DATE: Friday, Oct. 25th @ 6:00 pm

Time to get ready for some spooktacular fun at our Third Annual St. Matthew Trunk or Treat event on Friday, October 25th at 6:00 pm! Bring your little ghouls, ghosts, and goblins, for an evening of candy, costumes, and community. All are welcome—invite your friends and family for a frightfully good time!

ADULTS: We will need volunteers to decorate their cars and fill them with candy! Look out for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in October, and contact the office if you'd like to get involved. Thank you!

TAG SALE

This year's Tag Sale will be held on Friday evening from 5 to 8pm Nov. 1st with a \$5 admission fee and Saturday, Nov. 2nd from 9am to 3pm. Our recipient this year will be the Grace Lutheran Meals program.

We do not plan to accept and sell clothing including hats. Clothing may be donated to Gifts of Love in Avon. Please do not donate items that no longer work, VHS tapes, no bedding (pillows, sheets) and please clean the dirty dusty items prior to donation. So start getting your donations ready.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD | SAVE THE DATE: NOV. 17TH

We will hold our annual intergenerational event, building boxes for Operation Christmas Child on Sunday November 17 beginning right after service.

Bring your friends and family. This year we will put together special boxes for **boys and girls 10-14 year old** around the world. These are the age groups that could use more boxes to hand out. If you are interested in donating items please drop them off to the main office with Paul. Also, if you are interested in helping to set up the event the day before or morning of, please reach out to Paul and he will let Melissa know.

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.