



Saint Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

New Milford, New Jersey

A Congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

www.smelcnewmilford.org



Remembering 9/11

Do Not Forget!

Sunday, September 11, 2011

**Saint Matthew's
Evangelical Lutheran
Church**

A New Jersey District
congregation of the Lutheran
Church -
Missouri Synod

225 Center Street
New Milford, NJ 07646
www.smelcnewmilford.org
stmatthewsnj@gmail.com
(201) 262-5092

Pastor Anthony J. Iovine

Phone: (201) 338-0049
ajiovine@gmail.com

Twitter: reviovine

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/ajiovine

Blog: www.reviovine.com

The Pastor's Blog:
www.stmatthewsnj.org/blog



Lee Bigbee
Voters Body President

Edwin Geiger
**Voters' Body Vice-
President**

Deborah Bigbee
Scott Helming
Robert Hille
Channing Wilson
Board of Elders

Warren Born
Minister of Music

Christina Rottinger
Secretary
Approx. hours
Tues., Weds.,
THURS 9am-3pm

As We Gather This Sunday
Do Not Forget!

In today's Psalm, David tells himself to "bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits." On this tenth anniversary of the attacks on our nation, it is easy to remember the threats we still face. Unfortunately, we too often forget the promises of God to bring good from evil. Joseph in Egypt reminded his brothers of God's gracious plans; Paul reminded a fracturing Church that we all belong to Jesus; and our Lord reminded His disciples that God's forgiveness is so great that we cannot keep it to ourselves. Today, in Word and Sacrament our Lord comes to remind us of His sacrifice for us, which assures us of an eternity with God.



Saint Matthew's Mission Statement

We are a congregation of Christians who worship, pray, hear the Word of God, receive the sacraments, give thanks, grow through Christian education, serve others, and witness to God's love because God has commanded it and we believe this. We attempt to follow this commandment at all times and in all aspects of our lives, especially in church where the fellowship of believers is reinforced. We rely on the work of the Holy Spirit to guide our thoughts, words, and deeds in our daily relationships; and to lead us in the use of our time, talent, and treasure.

Our Worship Service This Week: Special Worship Service of Remembrance

Words of Welcome

At this time, Pastor Iovine will outline some parish news and information. For further information on these announcements, please look in the "Saint Matthew's Matters" insert in your bulletin AND on our church's website, www.smelcnewmilford.org and click the "Saint Matthew's Matters" under the "About Us" tab.

Prelude - Pre-Service Prayer & Meditation

"Delay Not, Delay Not, O Sinner, Draw Near," arr. Edward Meyer

↑ Moment of Silence

As we begin our worship service this Sunday, we rise in a moment of silent prayer to remember those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001 and for their families and friends who still mourn their loss.

Prayer

P: Gracious Father, ten years ago this morning our nation was struck by a senseless act of terrorism that cost thousands of country men and women their lives and many families the loss of loved ones. During these many years, we've all cried to You to ease the pain in our hearts so that the love of Christ, our Savior, can reign in our scarred hearts. As we remember that tragic day, wipe away our tears and direct our hearts to You, our God and Creator. Build our lives with the sure confidence that by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, these lives of ours are not empty, but are lived in sure and fervent hope of life eternal with You. Grant us the strength to meet the days ahead with a great understanding of Your love that emanates from You through Your holy Word and blessed Sacraments, that the forgiveness Jesus won for us at the cross would be that in which our hopes are centered. We pray this in Your most holy name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Responsive Reading

P: Who rises up for me against the wicked? Who stands for me against evildoers?

C: **If the Lord had not been my help, my soul would soon have lived in the land of silence.**

P: When I thought, "My foot slips," your steadfast love, O Lord, held me up.

C: **When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.**

(Ps. 94:16-19)

P: For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.

C: **On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God.** (Ps. 62:1, 7)

P: My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. (Ps. 73:26)
C: **It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect.** (Ps. 18:32 NIV)
P: Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.
C: **For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.**
P: Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
C: **even as we hope in You.** (Ps. 33:20–22)

Opening Hymn

“A Mighty Fortress,” Lutheran Worship #297

A mighty fortress is our God, A sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor’s rod And wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe Has sworn to work us woe.
With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might. we would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight, Whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he,
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God’s only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

Though hordes of devils fill the land All threat’ning to devour us,
We tremble not, unmoved we stand; They cannot overpower us.
Let this world’s tyrant rage; In battle we’ll engage.
His might is doomed to fail; God’s judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him

God’s Word forever shall abide, No thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God himself fights by our side With weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house, Good honor, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away, They cannot win the day.
The Kingdom’s ours forever!

Text; Martin Luther, 1483-1546, tr. Lutheran Book of Worship 1978

Tune: Martin Luther, 1483-1546

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray: Almighty God, whose compassion never fails and who invites us to call upon You in prayer,

- C:** hear the heartfelt confession of our sins and receive our humble supplication for Your mercy. Spare us from the just punishment of sin, which our Lord Jesus Christ has borne for us, and enable us to serve You in holiness and purity of life;
- P:** through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C:** **Amen.**

↓ Old Testament

Genesis 50:15-21

(Joseph forgives his brothers.)

- L:** The Old Testament Reading for this Day of Remembrance is taken from Genesis, Chapter 50:

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

- L:** This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Confession and Forgiveness

Part 1

- P:** God brings about good, even from the tragic circumstance when Joseph was sold into slavery. Let us confess our fears when evil situations overwhelm us.
- C:** **We confess, Lord God, that we have failed to recognize that You sustain us and bring about good in the midst of evil. We are sometimes stymied at the violent attacks of ten years ago and our ability to understand religious extremists and other terrorist groups. We readily forget Your promises. Strengthen our faith; forgive our weaknesses; restore hope and joy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**
- P:** Even the execution of Jesus on the cross, has meant eternal blessings from our gracious God. Satan could claim no victory, even at the death of Jesus. God, in Christ does not forget His promise for abundant life including victory over sin, death, and the power of the devil. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of

Christ and by His authority I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Epistle Reading

Romans 14:1-12

(Saint Paul warns against judging fellow believers.)

L: The Epistle Reading is taken from Romans, Chapter 14:

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God.”

So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

↑ Confession and Forgiveness

Part 2

P: Saint Paul chastised people in the Early Church for judging one another for eating or abstaining, for observing special holidays or not.

C: We confess that we have unjustly diminished our brothers and sisters in Christ who differ from us by considering them foolish or worse. We have forgotten to look beyond externals to their inner baptismal faith in our one Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Open our arms, heavenly Father, to embrace them; forgive our judging hearts; and restore within us a vision for the one true Church in heaven and earth.

P: Every person with faith in Christ belongs to Him! He has purchased us all with His blood, forgiving every one of us. He has not forgotten you! Therefore, as His servant I announce His forgiveness to you in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

(Jesus teaches about passing on His forgiveness.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 18th Chapter:

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

Then Peter came up and said to (Jesus), "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Confession and Forgiveness

Part 3

P: Jesus has forgiven all our sins---great and small.

C: We confess that we have failed to fathom the greatness of God's mercy. We have not freely forgiven the people who have sinned against us. We have thought their faults to be greater than our own, and forgotten that we are totally reliant on God's grace for our salvation. Forgive us, gracious Lord, and give us new and contrite hearts; fill us with Your love divine.

P: God's grace is boundless and eternal, freely available for you to share! He has not forgotten you! May God, who began this good work in you, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Go in peace.

C: **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

↓ Hymn of the Day

"Rock of Ages," Lutheran Worship hymnal #361

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hid myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood, From thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure; Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow;
All for sin could not atone; Though must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to thy cross I cling,
Naked, come to thee for dress; Helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, See thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee.

Text: Augustus Toplady, 1740-78
Tune: Thomas Hastings, 1784-1872

Sermon

↑ Creed

The Apostles Creed

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

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

From thence 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.**

Offering

Voluntary

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need," arr. Peter Pindar Stearns

Prayer of the Church

Our weekly prayers are responsive in nature. At the end of each petition, "Lord, in Your mercy," is spoken, to which the congregation responds, "Hear our prayer."

P Since our Father in heaven has promised to hear whatever we ask in the name of His Son, our living Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, let us lift up our voices to the God of all mercy, praying for the needs of all people.

E For the holy Church, that the gates of hell would not prevail against her. For all the baptized, that they may daily repent of their sins and live in the grace of Christ's forgiveness. For those who do not know Christ, that God would turn their hearts, using us to tell them the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection, Lord, in Your mercy:

C **Hear our prayer.**

P For our nation, that God would continue to defend us from our enemies. For our president and the Congress, that they may govern wisely as they strive both to defend our liberties and to protect us from harm. For those whose vocation it is to protect our nation and our communities, that God would watch over them as they carry out their duties. For those who continue to bear the scars of the attacks upon our country ten years ago, that God would grant them rest, refreshment, and peace, Lord, in Your mercy:

C **hear our prayer.**

E For a spirit of forgiveness and forbearance, that God would remove far from us the personal desire for vengeance. For the millions around the world who live under repressive regimes, that God would ease their suffering and grant them rulers who deal honestly and with compassion. For those in every part of the world who suffer violence at the hands of terrorists, that God would rescue the innocent from the never-ending threat of violence; Lord, in Your mercy:

C **Hear our prayer.**

P For those who know the pangs of hunger because of famine and lawlessness, especially the people of Somalia, that God would rescue them in their time of need, using us to give of our bounty to serve them. For our enemies, those close to home and those scattered around the world, that God would both thwart their wicked plans and, through His Word and Spirit, turn their hearts so that they might live. For all those in need, that God would grant healing, strength, comfort, and hope, Lord, in Your mercy:

C **Hear our prayer.**

E *Finally,
Grant peace, we pray, in mercy, Lord
 Peace in our time, oh, send us!
For there is none on earth but You,
 None other to defend us.
You only, Lord, can fight for us.

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

*Note: the prayer for peace is taken from Lutheran Service Book 777 or 778.

Preface

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the same, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy” -

Sung to the tune from the Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service Setting One, page 161

Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth or full of Your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

P: Blessed are You, Lord our God, for You did not forget us in our sin, but kept all Your promises, sending Your Son to be our Savior. Born of a woman, He entered our fallen world to redeem us from it. Grant us now to eat and drink His body and blood in remembrance of Him, as He commanded us. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all praise and glory now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Matthew 26: 26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26

This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

A: **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.**

Peace of the Lord

John 20:19

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

P: We share a sign of that peace with one another.

Agnus Dei

“Lamb of God”

Sung to the tune from the Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service Setting One, page 163

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.

↓ Communion Distribution

“I Received the Living Lord,” arr. Melvin Rotermund

The Lord’s Supper will be distributed from the floor of the sanctuary this morning.

↑ Prayer of Thanksgiving

E: Let us pray: We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. Accompany us on our homeward way that by our life and conduct we may bear witness to all Your grace and mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

"We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God," Lutheran Service Book hymn #941



1 We praise You and ac-knowl-edge You, O God, to be the Lord,
2 The band of the a-pos-tles in glo-ry sing Your praise;
3 You, Christ, are King of glo-ry, the ev-er-last-ing Son,
4 You sit in splen-did glo-ry, en-throned at God's right hand,



The Fa-ther ev-er-last-ing, by all the earth a-dored.
The fel-low-ship of proph-ets their death-less voic-es raise.
Yet You, with bound-less love, sought to res-cue ev-'ry-one:
Up-hold-ing earth and heav-en by forc-es You com-mand.



To You all an-gel pow-ers cry a-loud, the heav-ens sing,
The mar-tyrs of Your king-dom, a great and no-ble throng,
You laid a-side Your glo-ry, were born of vir-gin's womb,
We know that You will come as our Judge that fi-nal day,



The cher-u-bim and ser-a-phim their prais-es to You bring:
Sing with the ho-ly Church through-out all the world this song:
Were cru-ci-fied for us and were placed in-to a tomb;
So help Your ser-vants You have re-deemed by blood, we pray;



"O ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord God of Sab-a-oth;
"O all-ma-jes-tic Fa-ther, Your true and on-ly Son,
Then by Your res-ur-rec-tion You won for us re-prieve—
May we with saints be num-bered where prais-es nev-er end,



Your maj-es-ty and glo-ry fill the heav-ens and the earth!"
And Ho-ly Spir-it, Com-fort-er— for-ev-er Three in One!"
You o-pened heav-en's king-dom to all who would be-lieve.
In glo-ry ev-er-last-ing. A-men, O Lord, a-men!

Musical Benediction

“Let There Be Peace on Earth,” Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

Dismissal

Postlude

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,” arr. John Behnke

Copyright Notice: Scripture quotations and readings are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Copyright Notice: Liturgy (or appropriate portion thereof) from Lutheran Service Book (c) 2006 Concordia Publishing House, Saint Louis. Used by permission. License #00010073.

Copyright Notice: Portions of our liturgy today are used by permission from Creative Worship (c) 2010 Concordia Publishing House, Saint Louis.