

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

*Time for Silent prayer*

Hymn

Confession and Absolution

**Service of the Word**

Introit

Kyrie

Hymn of Praise

Salutation and Collect of the Day

Old Testament

Gradual

Epistle

Alleluia and Verse

Holy Gospel

Nicene Creed

Hymn of the Day

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

**Service of the Sacrament**

The Preface and Sanctus

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Pax Domini and Agnus Dei

Communion Hymns

Post-Communion Canticle

Prayer

Benediction

Hymn

**Matters of Importance**

**LSB Divine Service Setting Four, p. 203**

*In the sanctuary* (prayers on inside front cover of hymnal)

*“O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is”* # 372

p. 203

(on insert)

p. 204

*“Gloria in Excelsis”* p. 204

p. 205

Isaiah 61:10–62:3 (*readings on inside of insert*)

(on insert)

Galatians 4:4-7

p. 205

Luke 2:22-40

p. 206 (*or inside back cover*)

*“Let all together praise our God”* # 389

*“Waiting for God”* Isaiah 61:10–62:3

(*responses on insert*)

p. 208

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p. 209-210

*“The Infant Priest Was Holy Born”* # 624

*“Of the Father's love begotten”* # 384

*“Angels from the realms of glory”* # 367

*“O Savior of our fallen race”* # 403

*“Nunc Dimittis”* p. 211

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p. 212

*“Joy to the World”* # 387



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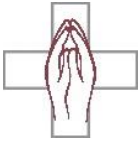
*Welcome*

**Welcome to all our Guests and Visitors worshipping with us today!** Whoever

you are and from whatever walk of life you come -- we welcome you in Jesus' name. May you find in Him, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Do come again! If you have no Church home, we invite you to join our fellowship. The Pastor will

be pleased to discuss membership with you. **Please take a moment to introduce yourself and to sign our guest register in the narthex** (*please include full mailing address or email address*). May the Lord bless your worship with us today. We would be pleased to have you return again!

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**Remember in your prayers:**

- all who are sick, hospitalized, or shut in, especially all members of our church family, including: Grace Bowley, Doreen Doering, Wilma Kroll, Marlene Miller, Ruth Zimmer;
- all who are dealing with various health issues;
- our organists as they serve God’s people;
- the leaders of our congregations and parish;
- the pastor of our parish and all pastors of the synod;
- Gladys Timoruski and her family, as they adjust to the absence of Don in their lives;
- all who are experiencing and feeling the absence of loved ones this Christmas, that the Prince of Peace may comfort all with the hope of life with Him;
- our neighbours and friends – that they might respond favourably to our invitation to come meet Jesus in our midst.

**Holy Communion is celebrated today.**



The Sacrament of the Altar is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, for us Christians to eat and to drink, instituted by Christ Himself.

Jesus Christ is present in the sacrament by His Word and we receive His gifts through faith for the assurance of the forgiveness of our sins and for strength to live new life in Him.

Our practice of closed communion is the historic practice of the church. It is prompted by love, both for God’s Word and God’s people. It does not deny that members of other denominations are Christians. Rather, it acknowledges God’s deep concern for doctrinal truth (Rom. 16:17) and the Bible’s witness that doctrinal unity is central to the common reception of this sacrament.

*For this reason, guests who desire to commune*

*are asked to speak with the pastor before the service.*

**Please mark the registration sheet for communion and worship attendance in the narthex.** Those who are not yet confirmed are welcome to come to receive a blessing, but are asked to keep their hands folded.

*Thank you to all who have remembered us with cards and/or gifts this Advent/Christmas. Thank you also to the parish for the most generous gift.*

*- Pastor Barry & Yvonne and Caitlin*

Next Sunday is **Food Bank Sunday** and **LWMLC Mite Box Sunday** at St. Matthew’s.

Pastor Wood will be (tentatively) leading service for the residents at **Crocus Court** on Thursday at 9:30 A.M. If you would like to assist with singing etc. you are invited to do so. A brief communion service will follow for our Lutheran residents.

The St. Matthew’s Prayer Pal/Mug exchange will be on January 14<sup>th</sup> after service.

*Dr. Michael Zeigler discusses forgiveness--what it is and what it isn't.* Hear Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler’s message entitled **“As We Forgive”** based on Matthew 6:12 and Luke 11:4 next Sunday on The Lutheran Hour on 620/am at 7:30 AM (SK) or 940/am at 9:00 AM (SK) or 1250/am at 10:30 AM (MB) or Streaming audio and pod-casts at [www.lutheranhour.ca](http://www.lutheranhour.ca).

<u>At Jesus’ feet last week</u>	Grace	St. Matthew’s
Divine Service		18
Communion		17
Christmas Eve		~60
Christmas Day	22	48
Communion	21	37

**May you have a blessed New Year in the Lord!!**

### **This Week in the Grace - St. Matthew's Parish:**

Today	- Divine Service (with Holy Communion) at Grace	9:30 A.M.
	- Divine Service (with Holy Communion) at St. Matthew's	11:30 A.M.
Monday	<b>The Circumcision and Name of Jesus/ New Year's Day</b>	
Saturday	<b>Epiphany</b>	
Next Sunday	<b>First Sunday after Epiphany – The Baptism of our Lord</b>	
	- Divine Service (with Holy Communion) at Grace	9:30 A.M.
	- Divine Service (with Holy Communion) at St. Matthew's	11:30 A.M.

### **A READING FROM THE BOOK OF CONCORD**

#### FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

#### FORMULA OF CONCORD, SOLID DECLARATION

#### ARTICLE III, THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF FAITH

Controversy has arisen among some theologians of the Augsburg Confession about the righteousness of Christ or of faith, which God credits by grace, through faith, to poor sinners for righteousness.

One side contends that the righteousness of faith, which the apostle calls God's righteousness, is God's essential righteousness. They say this is Christ Himself as God's true, and essential Son, who dwells in the elect by faith and moves them to do right. And so He is their righteousness.

Against this, others have held and taught that Christ is our righteousness according to His human nature alone.

In opposition to both these groups it has been unanimously taught by the other teachers of the Augsburg Confession that Christ is our righteousness not according to His divine nature alone, nor according to His human nature alone, but according to both natures. For He has redeemed, justified, and saved us from our sins as God and man, through His complete obedience. The righteousness of faith is the forgiveness of sins, reconciliation with God, and our adoption as God's children only on account of Christ's obedience. Christ's obedience alone—out of pure grace—is credited for righteousness through faith alone to all true believers. They are absolved from all their unrighteousness by this obedience. (paragraphs 1-4)

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### **Life Quotes**

“While it is true that we need to be good stewards of God's earthly gifts, it is sinful to think that we are in full control of preserving this world. It is sinful to fret about the destruction of this world before the Last Day. This world will not run out of natural resources. We will not be wiped out by climate change, a worldwide pandemic, or a meteor shower if and when those things happen. God says that as long as this earth endures—until Judgment Day—seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease. God is in control. God will protect, provide, and preserve this world. Trust in God and see His grace and mercy, especially when sin affects this world. Trust that He gives you what you don't deserve and more than you could imagine.”

*Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota*

**A “Life Quote” is from Lutherans For Life – [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org).**



**About the Cover:** The unseen is seen. In the year of the Lord's favor, Isaiah compares a planted seed shooting forth above ground to the sprouting of the Lord's righteousness. The Christ Child is the righteousness of God made known to the nations. Simeon and Anna could do nothing but rejoice and praise the Lord when they saw the Savior of the world, who sprouts forth righteousness and freely gives it by forgiving sins.

**Grace**

Evangelical=Lutheran Congregation  
Highway #8, ½ km South of Highway #10  
Zorra, Saskatchewan



**St. Matthew's**

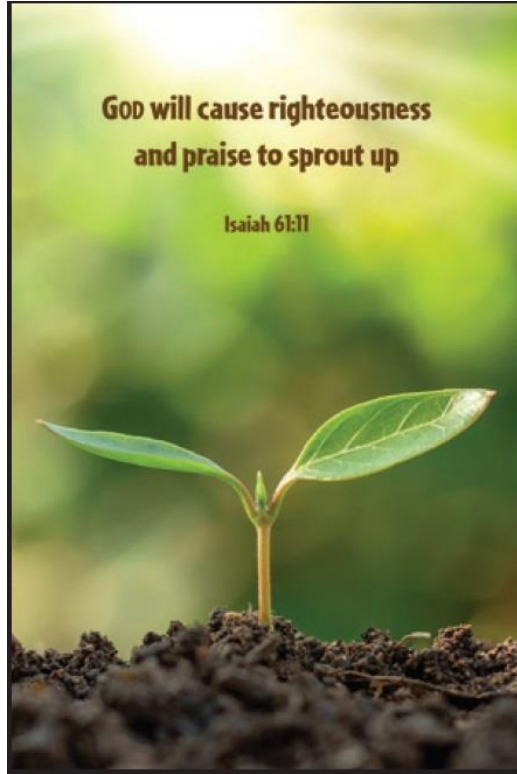
Evangelical=Lutheran Congregation  
Highway #5, at Park Street  
Roblin, Manitoba

Members of Lutheran Church Canada



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**DECEMBER 31 ANNO DOMINI 2023**  
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS  
*PROCLAIMING CHRIST AND HIM CRUCIFIED,  
RISEN, ASCENDED, AND RETURNING*

**St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Roblin, MB**  
**Divine Service – 11:30 A.M.**

*March 10, 2024 - November 3, 2024: Divine Service 9:30 A.M. (MB)*

**Grace Lutheran Church, Zorra, SK**  
**Divine Service – 9:30 A.M.**

*March 10, 2024 - November 3, 2024: Divine Service 10:30 A.M. (SK)*



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Roblin, MB  
Grace Lutheran Church, Zorra, SK  
The Cross-Border Lutheran Parish