

St. Matthew's

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 7, 2025

WELS

Christ's Love, Our Calling.

Welcome to St. Matthew's!

We are delighted that you have joined us for worship today! It is our prayer that God would fill you with His grace and peace as we worship our Lord and Savior Jesus. If you have questions about St. Matthew's or would like to speak to one of the pastors, please feel free to reach out to us using the contact information on the back cover.

WOUNDS THAT HEAL

COUNT THE COST

This week Jesus' sharp words expose our desire to pursue comfort and avoid pain at all costs. Jesus explains that following him will be hard. Jesus' disciples will be called to let go of things they love and embrace things we naturally loathe. Jesus promises that discipleship comes with crosses—a unique type of pain.

So, Jesus tells us that we must count the cost of following him. He wants us to do that now, ahead of time, rather than waiting until we are in the heat of the moment and emotions are running high. However, our calculations must not only consider what we might give up for Jesus. They also entail calculating what we get through him! When we perceive the infinite blessings we find in Christ, the decisions we just make, while difficult, will be clear. Whatever is lost as we follow Jesus pales in comparison to what we gain.

We thank Pastor Aaron Christie for sharing God's Word with us today. Pastor Christie serves at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary as Professor of Worship and Homiletics, Dean of Chapel and Directs the Seminary Choir. For this year, he will also be serving as our Preaching Assistant on a once-a-month basis. There is an information sheet in the Gathering Space that shares the rationale for the Preaching Assistant Position.

For Your Convenience

- ◊ Restrooms are located down the hallway on the left.
- ◊ A Parents' room is available in the back of the sanctuary for those with small children.
- ◊ A Mother's room, located in the parents' room, offers privacy for nursing mothers.
- ◊ Large Print Service Folders are available from an usher upon request.
- ◊ Please silence your cell phones before worship.
- ◊ View services on Charter 985 on Thursdays at 12PM and 7PM or Sundays at 10AM. You can also visit https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=st+matthews+oconomowoc
- ◊ St. Matthew's is on Instagram. You can follow us @St.MatthewsOconomowoc.

The Order of Worship for
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 7, 2025

THE SERVICE: SETTING ONE

You may follow along starting on page 154 in the hymnal.

Hymn 631 **Speak, O Savior, I Am Listening**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

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.

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.

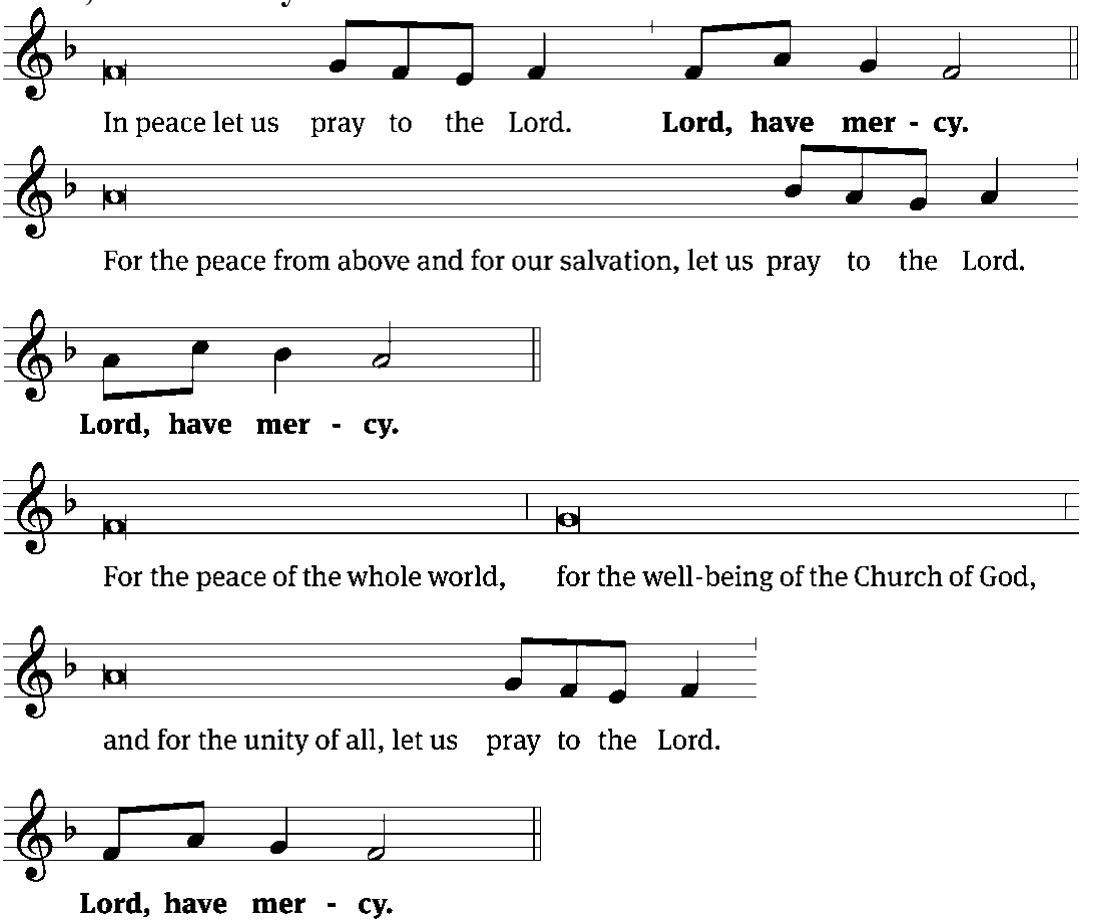
Silence for meditation and reflection

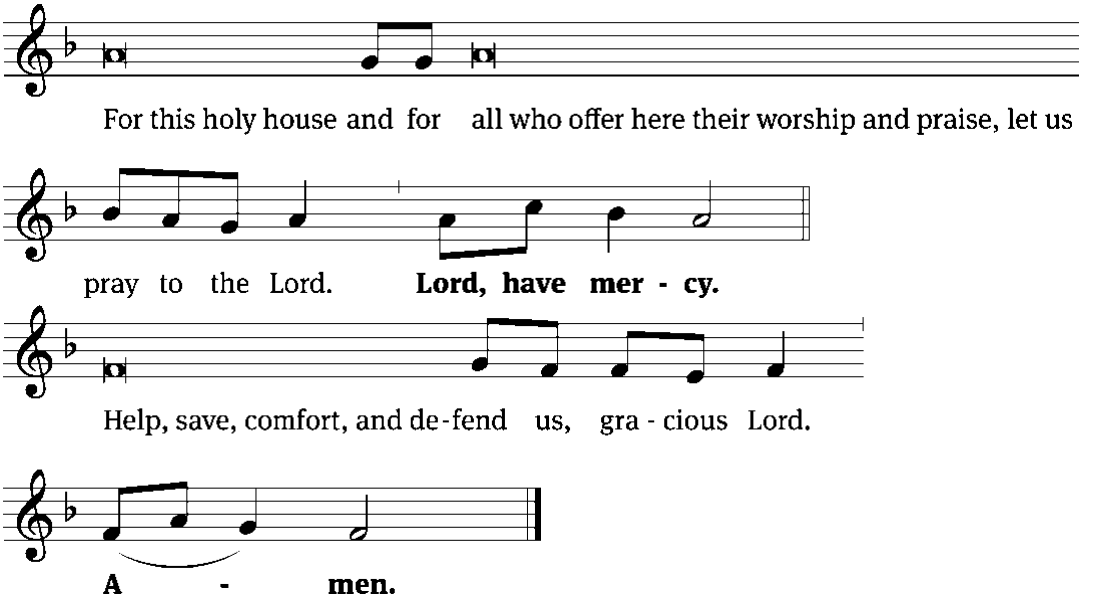
Absolution

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 Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy





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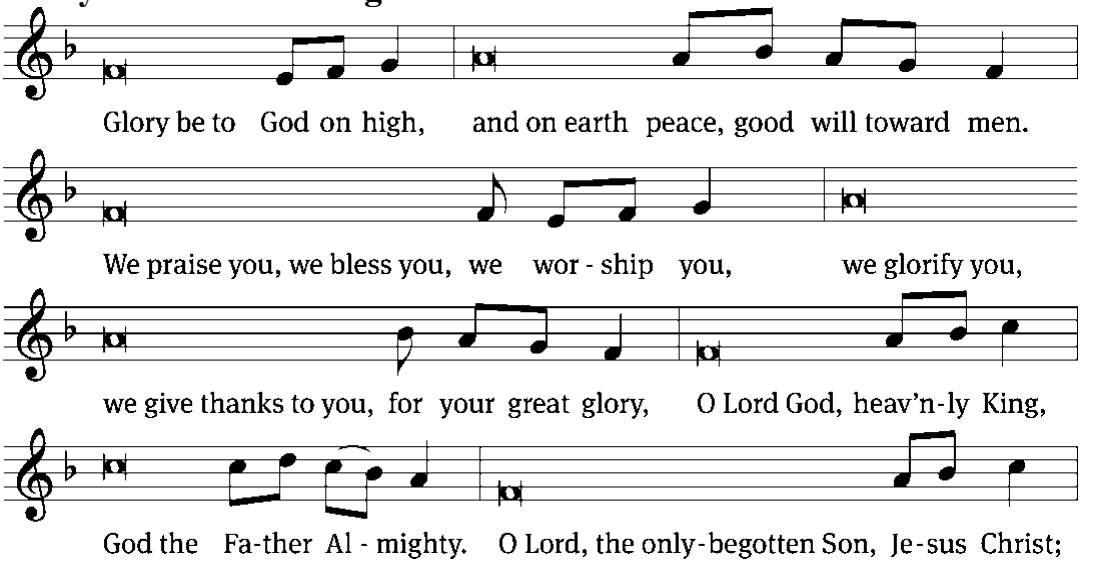
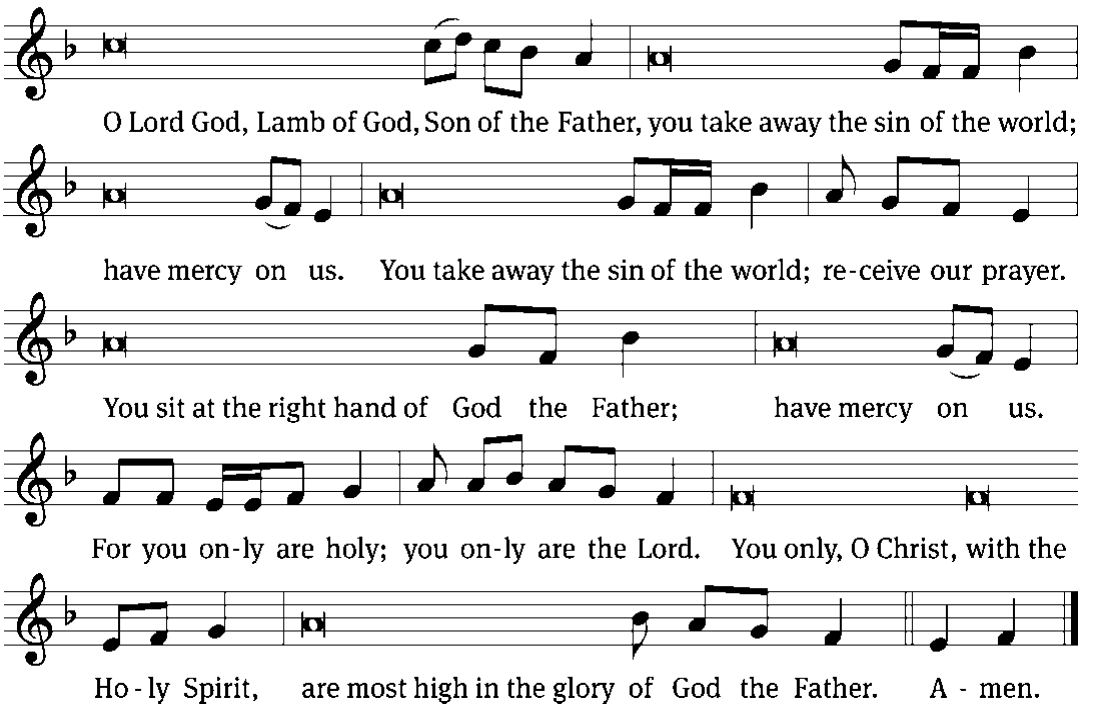
Glory Be to God on High





The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

O merciful Lord, you did not spare your only Son but delivered him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Children's Message / Baptism (10:30am)

We rejoice with Tim and Santasha Hoeft as their daughter, Ellie is baptized during our 10:30 service this Sunday!

First Reading *Deuteronomy 30:15-20*

Prior to settling within the Promised Land, the LORD wants his people to calculate carefully the choice between life and death.

15 See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. 16 For I command
you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his
commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will
bless you in the land you are entering to possess.
17 But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to
bow down to other gods and worship them, 18 I declare to you this day that you will
certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to
enter and possess.
19 This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before
you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children
may live 20 and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to
him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to
give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem (Sunday 10:30am) Cling Tightly to the Word of God

Grades 4-5

Psalm 1B (Saturday and Sunday 8am) How Truly Blest Are They

1 How truly blest are they
who shun the sinners' ways,
among their counsels never stand,
nor take the scorners' place,

2 But make the law of God
their study and delight
amid the labors of the day
and watches of the night.

3 They like a tree shall thrive
with waters near the root.
Fresh as the leaf their name shall live;
their works are heav'nly fruit.

4 The wicked are not so!
They no such blessing find.
Their hopes shall flee like empty chaff
before the driving wind.

5 How will they bear to stand
before that judgment seat
where all the saints at Christ's right hand
in full assembly meet?

6 God knows and he approves
the way the righteous go,
but sinners and their works shall meet
a dreadful overthrow.

Text: Isaac Watts, alt.
Text: Public domain

Second Reading *Philemon 1, 7-21*

The case of the escaped slave, Onesimus, returning to his owner, Philemon, is a perfect example of the cost in following Jesus. Paul encourages Philemon to free Onesimus and embrace him as a brother.

[1]Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker—
[7]Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.
[8]Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, [9]yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus— [10]that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. [11]Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.
[12]I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. [13]I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the

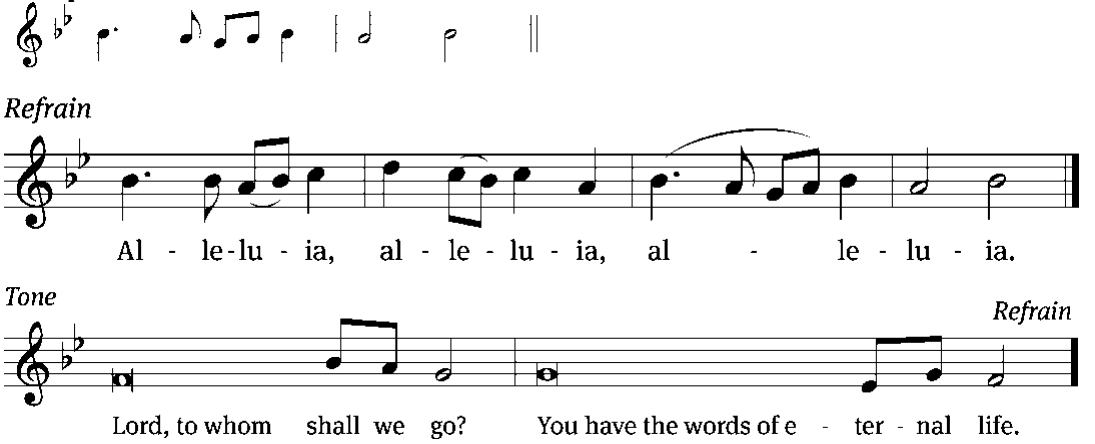
gospel. [14]But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary. [15]Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever— [16]no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.

[17]So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. [18]If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. [19]I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. [20]I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. [21]Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 6:68



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Gospel (Sermon Text) *Luke 14:25-35*

Jesus teaches us that following him closely will come at a cost.

25 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: 26 "If anyone
comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and
sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. 27 And
whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.
28 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate
the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? 29 For if you lay the
foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you,
30 saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'
31 "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit
down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one
coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 If he is not able, he will send a delegation
while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. 33 In the same
way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.
34 "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? 35 It is fit
neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.
"Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn 694 Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

Sermon Count Carefully!

Professor Aaron Christie

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.

Connection Cards and Offerings

We are delighted you have joined us for worship today and we would love to stay connected with you. To help us do so, please fill out the Connection Card in the seat back. You may place it in the offering plate as the offering is gathered or hand it to one of the ushers. You also have the ability to record your worship or give a gift using the appropriate QR code below. Those who have downloaded the St. Matthew's App can check-in and give offerings directly through the app. You may also text GIVE to 833-921-6451.

Guest Form



St. Matthew's App



Give Online



WELS Connection Video

Prayer of the Church

The 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 give you peace.
Amen.

Closing Hymn 695 Take My Life and Let It Be

In Our Prayers: May our Gracious Lord bless and keep **Tyler Schuh and Hannah Brooks** who were united in marriage this Saturday. We give thanks to the Lord with **Rudy and Chris Dovnik** who are celebrating their 40th Anniversary, as well as with **Lewis and Robin Mueller** who were married at St. Matthew's 50 years ago. We rejoice with **Josef and Stephanie Lesniewski** who were blessed with a baby girl on Monday, **Joyella Blake**. May the Lord be with **George Zaferos**, our business administrator, who will be having hip replacement surgery on Tuesday. May our gracious Lord watch over **Simone Korb's mother** who is now in hospice care. **Holly Mueller, Sandy Weiss' daughter** will be having cancer surgery on Friday Sept. 12. God's peace rest upon **Cindy Griggs and her family as her husband, Jim Griggs** was called home to heaven on Friday. (Jim's Funeral will be on Wednesday at church).

Acknowledgments
Setting One from Christian Worship
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Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Adult Bible Study @ 9:15am
This Sunday our Sunday Adult Bible Class hour will share highlights from our Youth Mission Trip to WA. Following that we will examine the topic of the Mission of the Church, with a brief overview of our own Mission Statement.

Sunday School and Teen Study Starting Soon
Sunday School and Teen Bible Study will resume next Sunday, September 7. Sunday School is for children in PreK-6th grade. Teen Bible Study is open to 7th-12th grade. All are welcome so please invite your children's friends to join us as well! Sunday School will be working through the Christ Light curriculum, supplementing what is being taught in St. Matthew's school. We thank Dan Taubenheim and Mariah Kneser for lead teaching again. Teen Bible Study will be looking at apologetics which will equip our teens to defend the Christian faith as taught in the Bible. Pastor Voss will be leading the Teen Bible Study.

Thursday "Women in the Word" Bible Class
Our first series will look at "How to Study the Bible". For many the Bible can seem intimidating. Where do I start? How do I start? How do I approach it? How can I understand what it is saying? If this describes you or you have ever asked those questions this study is for you! We will look at what God promises us when we read his Word and equip you with the necessary tools for reading the Bible. If you have studied the Bible for years this is a great refresher and will provide some new insights into studying Scripture. Join us on Thursday mornings starting on September 4th at 8:30 a.m. in the Gathering Space.

Men's Bible Breakfast – 2nd Saturdays of the Month
Calling all fellows to come for a great breakfast and a study of God's Word. Breakfast starts at 7:30am on the second Saturday of each month. Pastor Bigelow is leading a topic called, "Connecting Sinai to Calvary."

Grounded in God
SHINE Women's Ministry would like to invite all St. Matthew's women and friends to join us for Coffee and Devotion, "Grounded in God". Join us in the Gathering Space at Church starting September 9th at 7:45 a.m., conveniently after school drop-off. Children are welcome!

Wednesday Women's Bible Study: *Living a Chocolate Life*
Join us **Wednesdays, Sept 24, Oct 8 & 22, Nov 5 at 6:30 PM in the Gathering Space** for this chocolate-themed study! Savor God's abundant grace, explore life's bittersweet moments, and discover how the Holy Spirit fills us with faith in Christ—the only true source of lasting satisfaction.

Thank you for Serving our Savior and Us

	This Weekend	Next Weekend – September 13 & 14
Ushers	**Saturday –** Tony Kobussen **Early –** Jason Cox **Late –** Todd Helwig	**Saturday** – Tom Plitzuweit **Early –** Joel Watson **Late –** Chad Lauersdorf
Greeters	**Early** – Jim & Bev Fulmer **Late** – Mike & Joy Lenz	**Early** – Harry & Marlene Redfield **Late** – Mary Beth Williams
Hospitality	**Saturday** – Kyle Bence **Early –** Ralph & Tracy Schmidt **Late –** Rudy & Chris Dovnik	**Saturday** – Char Bouche **Early –** Gary & Karen Haertel **Late –** Kyle & Robin Koltz
Flowers	Rudy & Chris Dovnik – 40th Anniversary Lewis & Robin Mueller – 50th Anniversary	
Organist	Char Bouche	Becky Aldinger
Special Music	Grades 4-5	Rejoice!
Projection	**Saturday** – Molly Kalma **Early –** Kylee Glorioso **Late –** Harper Gerczak	**Saturday** – Dan Metzger **Early –** Ethan Bergh **Late –** Kendra Lauersdorf
Sound	**Saturday** – Scott Heins **Early –** Julia Watson **Late –** Jacob Kopplin	**Saturday** – Vickie Bence **Early –** Rik Krahn **Late –** Rik Krahn
Livestream	Mike Bouche	Nathan Bergh

This Week at St. Matthew's

Saturday	5:30 pm	Worship Service
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am	Worship Service Adult Bible Study / Sunday School
Monday	6:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Rejoice! Board of Elders Board of Education
Tuesday	7:45 am	Grounded in God
Wednesday	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Shorehaven Service Non-School Catechism Class
Thursday	8:00 am 8:30 am 6:00 pm 8:00 pm	SCRIP Orders Due Women in the Word Mayor's Park Update Men's Chorus
Saturday	7:30 am 5:30 pm	Men's Bible Breakfast Communion Service
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am	Communion Service Adult Bible Study / Sunday School

Highlights and Announcements

Fall Mediations Available
Meditations is an inspiring, personal devotional booklet offering daily Scripture based studies of God's Word. *Meditations* booklets can be found on the information table.

NPH Book Fair – This Weekend & Next!
Northwestern Publishing House is bringing a book fair to St. Matthew's! Browse and purchase a wide selection of Christian books and resources for all ages before and after worship on **September 6–7 and 13–14** in the Gathering Space near our church library. School families will also have a chance to shop on **September 8–9 from 7:30–8:15 AM and 3:00–3:45 PM**.

PAYMENT: All books displayed will be offered at a 20% discount. Payments may be made by cash or check (payable to St. Matthew's). A QR code will also be provided at the fair for those who wish to pay online with a credit card. Books purchased online will be shipped directly to your home, while books purchased with cash or check will be delivered to St. Matthew's for distribution.

LWMS Fall Rally Offering | Sept 6–7 & 13–14
The LWMS Fall Rally on **October 18 will be at Immanuel, Farmington**. Our congregation will join others in the Rock River Circuit in supporting two special mission projects. Offerings will be collected the **first two weekends of September** to support **WELS Campus Ministry** (helping students stay connected to God's Word while at college) and the **International Missionary Wives Conference** (strengthening and encouraging missionary wives). Gifts may be placed in the offering box near the entryway or given online.

OWLS
The Rock River Area OWLS will meet Tuesday, September 16 at 1:30 pm at St. Mark's, 215 N 6th St., Watertown. St. Mark's is served by Pastors James Backus, Michael Jensen, Karl Walther, and Peter Wells; and Staff Minister David Hochmuth. Pastor Karl Walther from St. Mark's will tell us how they are celebrating their 170th Anniversary. OWLS meetings are handicapped accessible, last about two hours, with refreshments and time to socialize with others. Seniors who are retired and/or 55+ years old are invited; guests are always welcome!

Boy Pioneers
All St. Matthew's boys 1st grade and up are invited to join Lutheran Boy Pioneers. We meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8:00pm. Our first meeting is on Tuesday, Sept. 9. Lutheran Boy Pioneers focuses on practical skills, leadership and fun outdoor activities centered around our Faith in Christ. Questions? Email us at jbfeutz@gmail.com Please register at https://bit.ly/41VsnVJ

Girl Pioneers
All St. Matthew's girls in grades 1–8 are invited to join! We meet on the **second and fourth Tuesdays** of each month from **6:30–8:00 PM**, beginning **Tuesday, September 9**. Lutheran Girl Pioneers helps girls grow in faith, leadership, and friendship through Christ-centered activities and meaningful service projects.
Register at https://bit.ly/LGPregistration | Questions? Email us at girlpioneers@smls.org

Shorehaven Helpers
We need volunteers to help gather residents at Shorehaven for WELS/ELS chapel services. Currently we have enough regular volunteers but need more people who can substitute when a regular volunteer is unavailable. For the months of January through April, there will be a need on a more regular basis as some of our regular volunteers are away on travels. Services are at 10:00am each Wednesday morning. Volunteers can gather in the volunteer office on 2nd floor around 9:30am. Services are finished around 10:30am and residents are returned to their rooms. At most it's about a 2-hour commitment. Please contact Debby Kuklinski (414-520-6642) for more information.

Blue Butterfly Work Nights
We're excited to offer a monthly Blue Butterfly Work Night for our members! Join us on September 15, October 13, and November 10 (skipping December) from 4–7 PM. Please contact Bev Fullmer by call or text at 262-569-1969 to let her know you're coming.

New ACTS Kickoff Event!

Calling all teens, 7th grade through high school, to attend our **ACTS Kickoff Event of paddleboarding, kayaking, and/or swimming on Fowler Lake!** The date is **Sunday, Sept 14th from 1- 4 pm.** We'll meet at Spiegelberg's house, start with a devotion and then enjoy an afternoon on the water. Spiegelberg's address is 559 Greenland Ave. Oconomowoc 53066. Snacks/drinks will be provided. Sign up on our ACTS sign up using the QR Code. Questions? Contact Heather Bigelow at heatherbigelow3@gmail.com





REGISTER TODAY for the Everyone Outreach Workshop!
St. Matthew's is participating in an exciting new program called *Everyone Outreach*. The program will help us build a culture of outreach so that every ministry and every member is encouraged and equipped to reach the lost in our community.

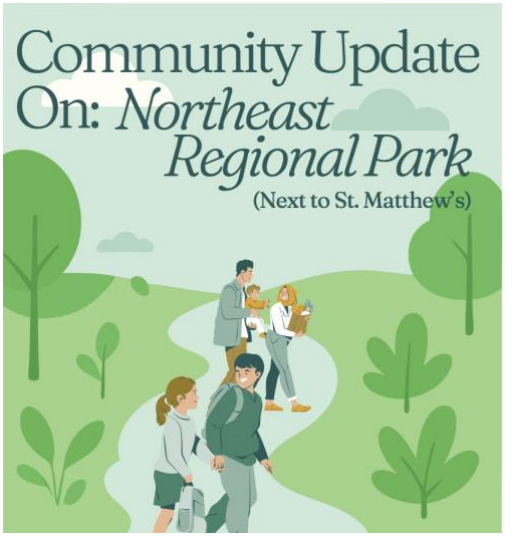
Everyone Outreach Workshop will be Saturday, October 4th from 8:00-1:30 (lunch included). The interactive workshop will help us discover some of our hidden thought habits that may keep us from being active in outreach. Then, we will learn ways to change those thought habits so that, as a result, our outreach actions change as well. Each participant will leave the workshop with sustainable ways to personally help build our congregation's outreach culture.

To register, go to https://bit.ly/SMEOWorkshop or click on this QR code.

For questions visit everyoneoutreach.com or contact Pastor Bigelow or Tom Thiele. We encourage all members to attend—greater participation increases the chance of a successful culture shift!

COMMUNITY UPDATE: Mayor Magnus at St. Matthew's

You're invited on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 6:30 PM to hear from Mayor Robert Magnus and Alderman Karen Spiegelberg as they share exciting updates about the Northeast Regional Park project next to our campus. Come learn more, ask questions, and enjoy fellowship with neighbors over light refreshments following the presentation.





OUR MISSION *COMPELLED BY THE LOVE OF CHRIST,*

St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church and School seek to reach out to our families, community and world, using Law and Gospel to make disciples, growing and nurturing them in their Christian faith and life.

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St. Matthew's
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

First Steps
CHILD CARE CENTER

WORSHIP SERVICES SATURDAY: 5:30 PM
SUNDAY: 8:00 & 10:30 AM

Christian Education For All
SUNDAY 9:15 AM

Phone :

Church:	262.912.6060
School:	262.912.6364
First Steps:	262.912.6338

Welcome Visitors:
Please fill out the connection card in pew or scan

SCAN ME

Location :
1650 Brown St, Oconomowoc

Social Media:
@StMatthewsOconomowoc

Website : SMLS.ORG