

St. Matthew's

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 5, 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

INCREASED FAITH INCREASES DUTY

As someone rises through the ranks at work, there are typically benefits: higher salary, more authority, better benefits. However, there is often a corresponding increase in responsibility: longer hours, more meetings, raised expectations. So, if someone is offered a promotion, they might ask, "Is this worth it?" It is similar in God's kingdom. As our faith grows, there are obvious benefits: the comfort of knowing you are a redeemed and loved child of God, the peace of knowing your eternity is secure. However, increased faith also increases duty. There are ever more opportunities for service.

This week, Jesus has sharp words for those who want the benefits of being Christian but would shirk those responsibilities. However, to lead us to take up those responsibilities, our Savior doesn't threaten or cajole. He helps us see that while increased faith increases duty, increased duty increases delight. The believer knows he serves the One who came to serve us first. Just as Christ's service brought him great joy, so does our service to others.

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
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 5, 2025

THE SERVICE: SETTING THREE

You may follow along starting on page 188 in the hymnal.

Hymn 918 **Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now**

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.

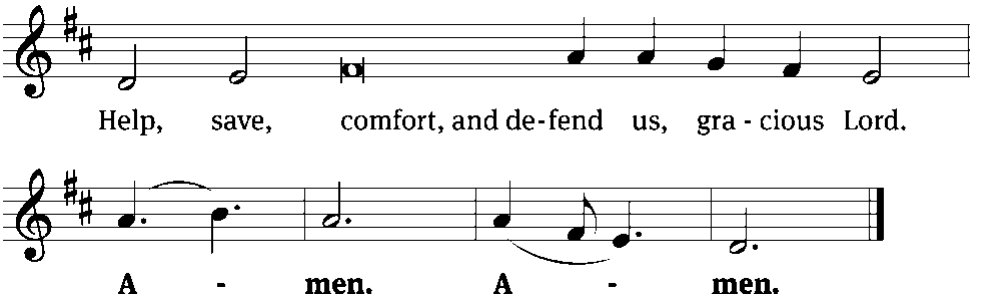
Silence for meditation and reflection

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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 190

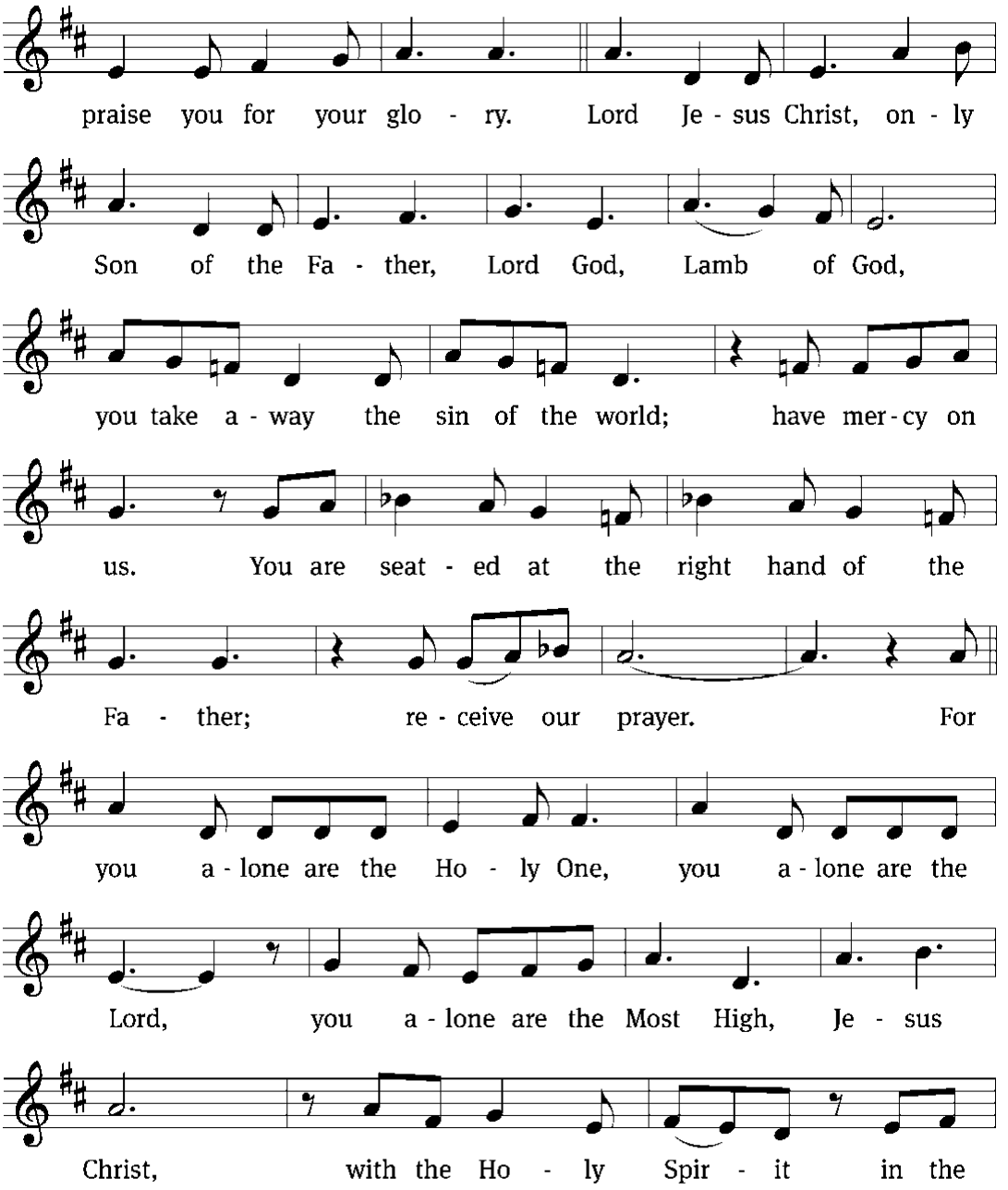


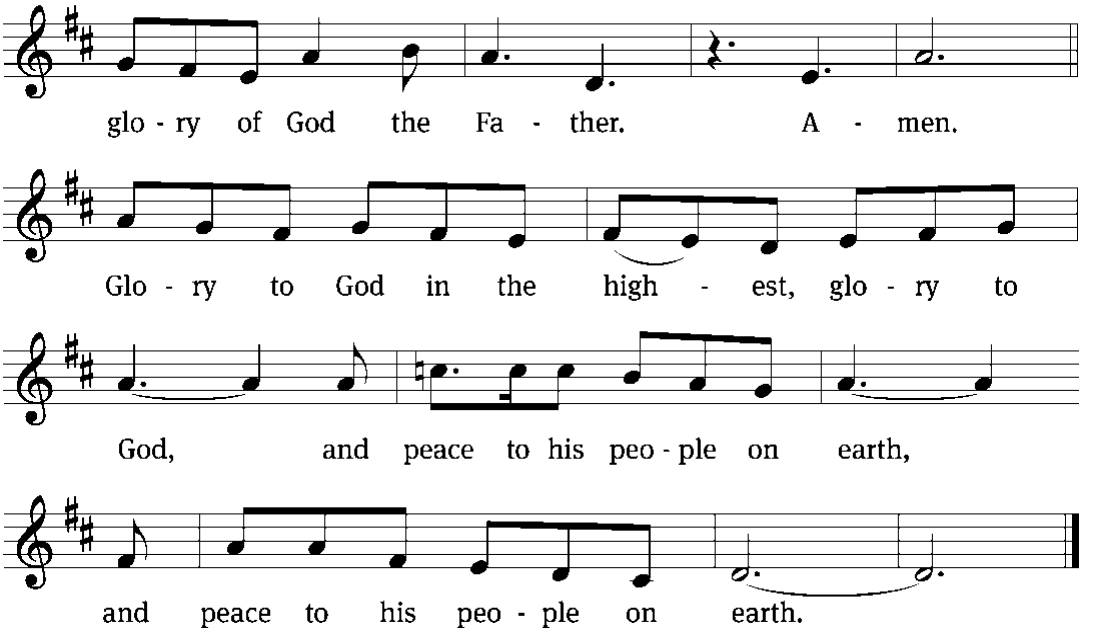


Tune: William Gokelman; David Kauffman
Tune: © 2021 GFTSMUSIC Publishing Company, Inc., admin. Music Services. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716690

Glory to God in the Highest




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



Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman
Tune: © 2010, 2021 GFTSMUSIC Publishing Company, Inc., admin. Music Services. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716690

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness, keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Anthem (Sunday 10:30) — Come with a Grateful Heart

Grades 5K-1

Children's Message

First Reading *1 Chronicles 29:1-2,10-18*

In faith, the people of Israel understood that all their wealth came from the LORD. So, they joyfully embraced the privilege of donating generously to the construction of the LORD's temple.

[1]Then King David said to the whole assembly: "My son Solomon, the one whom God
has chosen, is young and inexperienced. The task is great, because this palatial structure is
not for man but for the LORD God. [2]With all my resources I have provided for the temple
of my God—gold for the gold work, silver for the silver, bronze for the bronze, iron for
the iron and wood for the wood, as well as onyx for the settings, turquoise, stones of
various colors, and all kinds of fine stone and marble—all of these in large quantities.

[10]David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying,

"Praise be to you, LORD,
the God of our father Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.
[11]Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power
and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,
for everything in heaven and earth is yours.
Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.
[12]Wealth and honor come from you;
you are the ruler of all things.
In your hands are strength and power
to exalt and give strength to all.
[13]Now, our God, we give you thanks,
and praise your glorious name.

[14]"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously
as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your
hand. [15]We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days
on earth are like a shadow, without hope. [16]LORD our God, all this abundance that we have
provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of
it belongs to you. [17]I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity.
All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with
joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you. [18]LORD, the God of our
fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep these desires and thoughts in the hearts of your
people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 62B — Rest in God Alone

Refrain



Tone



Truly my soul finds / rest in God;
my salvation / comes from him.
Truly he is my rock and my sal- / vation;
he is my fortress, I will never be / shaken.
Yes, my soul, find / rest in God;
my hope / comes from him. *Refrain*

Though your rich- / es increase,
do not set your / heart on them.
My salvation and my honor de- / pend on God;
he is my mighty rock, my / refuge.
Trust in him at all times, you / people;
pour out your hearts to him, for God is our / refuge.
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

Text: Lectionary for Mass
Tune: Luke Mayernik
Text: © 1969, 1981, 1997 ICEL (refrain). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716690
Tune: © 2017 Birnamwood Publications, a division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716690
Setting: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716690

Second Reading *2 Thessalonians 1:1-5,11-12*

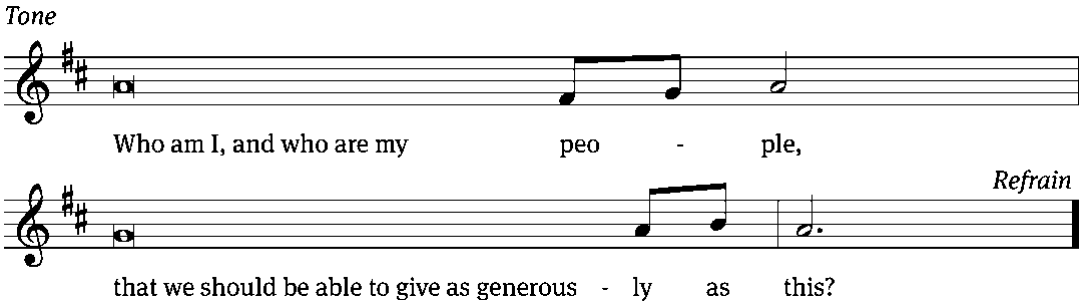
St. Paul thanks God for increasing the faith of the Thessalonians, enabling them to better love one another and to persevere even during persecution.

[1]Paul, Silas and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
[2]Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
[3]We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. [4]Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.
[5]All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering.
[11]With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. [12]We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation 1 Chronicles 29:14





Tune: © 2010, 2021 GFTSMUSIC Publishing Company, Inc., admin. Music Services. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716690

Gospel *(Sermon Text)* Luke 17:1-10

With the apostles, we pray, "Lord, increase our faith," then joyfully embrace the opportunities to serve that come along with that blessing.

[1]Jesus said to his disciples: "Things that cause people to stumble are bound to come, but
woe to anyone through whom they come. [2]It would be better for them to be thrown into
the sea with a millstone tied around their neck than to cause one of these little ones to
stumble. [3]So watch yourselves.

"If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive
them. [4]Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you
saying 'I repent,' you must forgive them." [5]The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our
faith!" [6]He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this
mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you.

[7]"Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to
the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'?
[8]Won't he rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat
and drink; after that you may eat and drink'? [9]Will he thank the servant because he did
what he was told to do? [10]So you also, when you have done everything you were told to
do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.' "

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

Hymn of the Day 748 Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly

Sermon Lord, Increase our Faith

Pastor Steven Hillmer

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 & 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

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 697 May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill

In Our Prayers: May our Lord watch over **Scott Olson** who is having shoulder replacement surgery; **Karen Hartel** who is having knee replacement surgery; **Harry Redfield** who is having a procedure on his heal to repair his Achilles tendon; **Bonnie Garm's daughter, Bobbie Jo**, who was hospitalized dealing with chest pains, and **Bonnie's bother, Allen and his wife Debbie Zabel** who will both undergo tests this week.

The Delie family would like to extend a warm thank you for all the prayers, support and friendship that we received from our Pastors and fellow Christians at St. Matthew's, at the unexpected passing of our dear Carol. While this is an extremely difficult time for us, we know that Carol is with Jesus now and forever. Joy in Jesus!

Acknowledgments
Setting Three from Christian Worship
Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.TM Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.
Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.
Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Adult Bible Study @ 9:15am
During our Sunday Adult Bible Classes, we are looking at the Mission of the Church through the lens of Jonah, Elijah and Stephen, with a brief overview of our own Mission Statement.

Sunday School and Teen Study
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 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 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, 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 –** October 11 & 12
Ushers	**Saturday** – Tony Kobussen **Early –** Josh Strassburg **Late –** Bill Neubauer	**Saturday** – Tom Plitzuweit **Early –** Jim Fulmer **Late –** Toby Brandenstein
Greeters	**Early** – Joe & Jill Sharp **Late** – Mike & Jeanne Ward	**Early** – **Late** – Brenda Broege-Nagel
Hospitality	**Saturday** – Tom & Mary Thiele **Early –** Kyle & Robin Koltz **Late –** Brian & Kari Winkelman	**Saturday** – Kyle Bence **Early –** Ralph & Tracy Schmidt **Late –** David & LeeAndra Dodge
Flowers		Paul & Jennifer Manssen – 30th Anniversary
Organist	Pastor Jon Kehren	Linda Smith
Special Music	Grades 5K-1	Handbells, Grades 6-8
Projection	**Saturday** – Dan Metzger **Early –** Ethan Bergh **Late –** Toby Brandenstein	**Saturday** – Emily Stewart **Early –** Jon/Henry Peterson **Late –** Grace Heins
Sound	**Saturday** – Char Bouche **Early –** Karen Haertel **Late –** Jacob Kopplin	**Saturday** – John Stewart **Early –** Steve Vasatko **Late** – Kathy Goggins
Livestream	Jason Cox	Tim Taubenheim

This Week at St. Matthew's		
Saturday	5:30 pm	Worship Service
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am 6:30 pm	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; Teen Bible Study Laudate Dominum Rehearsal
Monday	5:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Childcare Committee Meeting Board of Stewardship Board of Education
Tuesday	7:45 am 6:00 pm 6:30 pm 6:30 pm	Grounded in God Bible Study Board of Trustees Board of Outreach Board of Elders
Wednesday	9:00 am 10:00 am 5:00 pm 6:30 pm	Preschool Power Hour Shorehaven Service Non-School Catechism Women's Bible Study
Thursday	8:00 am 8:30 am 6:00 pm 6:00 pm 8:00 pm	SCRIP Orders Due Women in the Word Rejoice! Handbell Choir Men's Chorus

Saturday	7:30 am 5:30 pm	Men's Bible Breakfast Communion Service
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am 6:30 pm	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; Teen Bible Study Laudate Dominum Rehearsal

Highlights and Announcements

Call Meeting – Oct. 19
Following Late Service on **Sunday, October 19** we will have a Call meeting to extend three calls. 1) A 6th Grade teacher to replace Mr. Torgerson who is retiring at the end of this school year; 2) An additional 4th Grade teacher as we follow our Ministry Plan of offering two classes per grade; 3) A Lead Teacher for the Toddlers at FirstSteps.

Blue Butterfly Work Nights
We're excited to offer a monthly Blue Butterfly Work Night for our members! Join us on 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.

Save the Date– Annual Packer Barn Party at the Klug's!
Mark your calendars for **Sunday, October 19** and join us for an afternoon of football, fellowship, and fun at the **Klug's Barn**. Festivities begin at **2:30pm**, with **kickoff at 3:25pm**. Bring a snack to share and your favorite beverages. All are welcome—don't miss this great tradition!

ACTS Teen Fall Barn Party!
Saturday, October 18 | 5–8 PM | Klug's Barn
Teens in grades 7–12 (and friends) are invited to a fun-filled evening at Klug's Barn! Enjoy karaoke, music, food, pumpkin carving (bring your own pumpkin!), bonfire games, and lots of fall fun. Sign up using the QR Code **and join the fun!**

Save the Date! 8th Annual Trunk or Treat
Saturday, October 25 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Join us for a morning of free family fun—door prizes, a photo booth, coffee, snacks, a petting zoo, and trunk or treating! Together we can make this community event a success! **How you can HELP –** Sign up today to donate treats/snacks or to decorate a trunk using the QR Code.

LWMS Fall Rally – Saturday, October 18 | 8:00 AM–1:00 PM
Join us at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Farmington, for the LWMS Fall Rally. Guest speaker Missionary Abe Degner will share about his work with the One Latin America Team in Paraguay and supporting new church plants across South America.

Register by Tuesday, September 30 with Sally Schliewe (schliewe4@yahoo.com) or Michelle Cox (mcox21@wi.rr.com). Please indicate if you will stay for lunch or need childcare.

Usher Captain Meeting
Captain usher meeting in Chapel between services on Sunday October 19th 2025
If you are unable to attend please send a representative.

Save the Date – Friday, October 24!
Grades 1–4 present "The Granny Awards," a showbiz-themed award ceremony for fairy tale characters. Join us at 6 PM in the gym—all are welcome!

2025 Blue Butterfly Ministries' Gala | *Following Jesus in a Me-First World*
Join us Saturday, October 25, at the Wisconsin Brewing Company in Oconomowoc, home of the Lake Country Dockhounds. Doors open at 3:00 pm for the silent auction, raffles, wine pull, and Christmas Pop-up shop, with dinner at 5:00 pm. This year's keynote speaker, **Amber Albee Swenson** (Time of Grace podcast *Little Things*), will share biblical wisdom on prioritizing soul care in today's noisy world. Tickets are $50/person or $375/table of 8. **Register by October 18 at** givebutter.com/2025BBGala. Can't attend? Donations are welcome online or by mail to 2 E. Main Street, Watertown, WI 53094.

The Rock River Area OWLS will meet Tuesday October 21 at 1:30 pm at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 615 Jones Street, Watertown. St. Mark's is served by Pastors James Backus, Michael Jensen, Karl Walther, and Peter Wells. Mr. Dave Hochmuth will give us information on his work as St. Mark's staff minister . 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 are invited and guests are always welcome.

Taco 'bout a Good Cause! Feed your appetite. Fund their adventure! Join us for Tacos for Teens on **Wednesday, October 29, from 4–8 PM** at **Contento Mexican Restaurant** (627 Genesee St., Delafield). When you mention St. Matthew's, a portion of your meal will support our youth attending the **WELS National Youth Rally** in Bowling Green, Ohio, July 14–17.
Good to know:

- Take-out orders count, too!
- Dine in early or later in the evening to avoid the dinner rush.
- Contento's owner, *Manolo Ramirez,* is a proud parent of two St. Matthew's students. Thank you for his generous partnership!

New Website Launch!

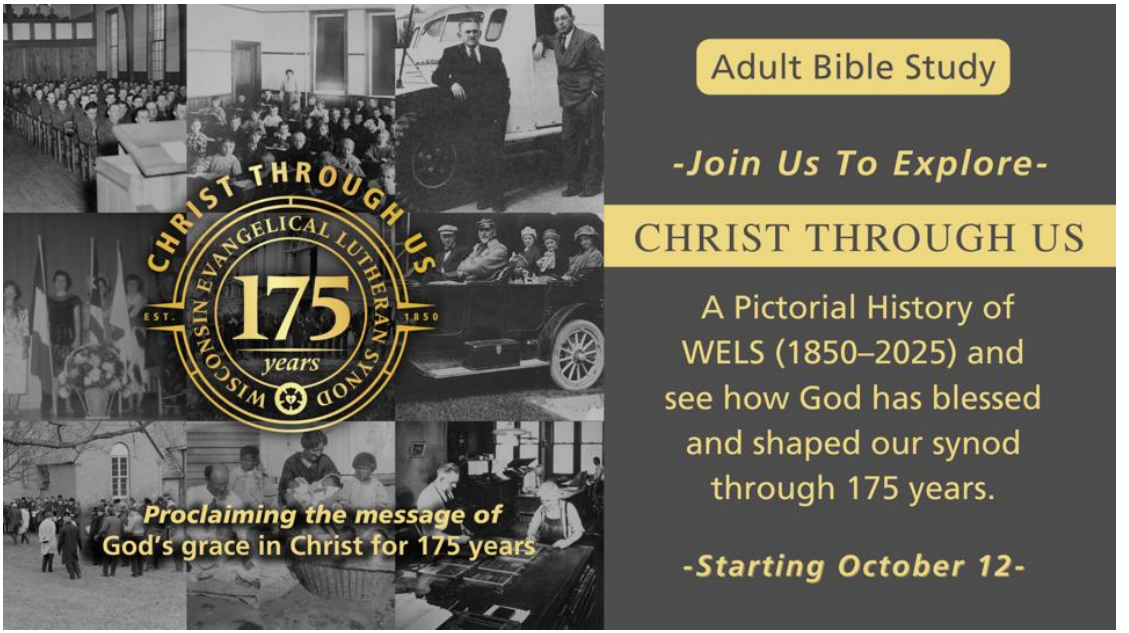
We're excited to announce that St. Matthew's has launched our brand-new website!

With a fresh, clean design and a more user-friendly layout, our new site makes it easier than ever to explore and connect with St. Matthew's Church, School, and First Steps.

Whether you're a longtime member or a first-time visitor, we welcome you to discover all that God is doing here at St. Matthew's through our updated online home.



Celebrating 175 Years!



2025 marks the year that WELS turns 175 years old. For three Sundays, Oct. 12, 19, and 26, we will join with our fellow churches across the nation and around the world in giving thanks to God with three special services. See the outline below. Next week, we will have flyers that you can take home. If you would like to participate in a Thank Offering, an envelope is included in that flyer. Next Sunday our Adult Bible Class will begin a 7 week study, looking generation by generation, seeing how God has blessed us so richly!

Sermon Series
Oct 12 – Christ For Us
Oct 19 – Christ Through Us
Oct 26 – Christ With Us

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.

PHILIP BIGELOW
Pastor
pbigelow@smls.org

STEVEN HILLMER
Pastor
shillmer@smls.org

MARK VOSS
Pastor
mvoss@smls.org

TOM PLITZUWEIT
Principal
tplitzuweit@smls.org

JULIE NEHR
School Admin Assistant
jnehr@smls.org

JENNIFER MANSSEN
Church Office Manager
jmanssen@smls.org

GEORGE ZAFEROS
Business Administrator
gzaferos@smls.org

CONNIE ABRAM
Communication Manager
cabram@smls.org

AMBER TERRY
First Steps Director
aterry@smls.org

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