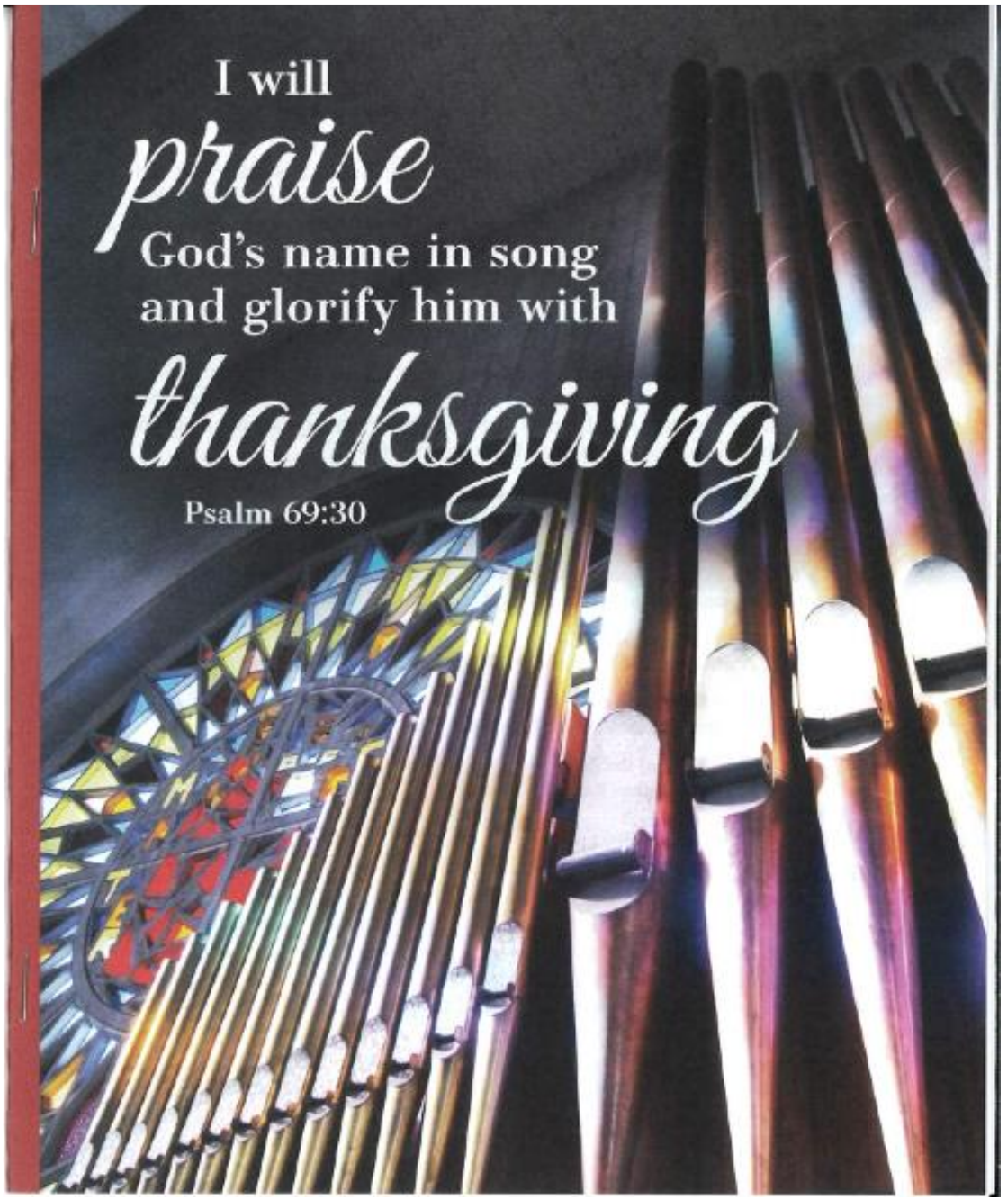

I will
praise
God's name in song
and glorify him with
thanksgiving
Psalm 69:30

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.

Worship Focus

Today we gather together to offer our thanks and praise to our loving Lord for all the blessings he showers upon us. Year after year, the Lord shows us that "his love endures forever." Day after day, the Lord shows us that "he is good." In response to his goodness to us, motivated by his love for us, we "give thanks to the LORD."

Join us Next Week for our Wednesday Advent Services – 4pm & 6:30pm

The season of Advent is a special time to prepare our hearts for our Savior's coming. This year our theme will focus on the Bible Songs of Advent. Come and rejoice with Mary, Zechariah and the Angels who proclaimed the greatness of God who has fulfilled his promise to send Jesus, the Savior of the World. A meal will be served between services.

The Song of Mary
Pastor Aaron Christie ~ Dec. 3

The Song of Zechariah
Pastor Charles Vannieuwenhoven ~ Dec. 10

The Song of the Angels
Pastor Jonathan Kehren ~ Dec. 17



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.

Thanksgiving Worship Service

November 26 & 27, 2025

Hymn 623:1-3 **O Bless the Lord, My Soul**

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

Dialogue of Thanks

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness;
Come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his;
We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him and praise his name.

The LORD is good and his love endures forever;
His faithfulness continues through all generations.

Confession

Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

Almighty God, merciful Father,
I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart.
In what I have done and left undone,
I have pursued my ways instead of your ways.
I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself.
I have failed to give you thanks for your many blessings.
For all of this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.
I am truly sorry for my sins.

I repent of them.
I beg for your mercy, O Lord.

Moment of silence for self-reflection and repentance

Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.
Cleanse me from my sins.
Release me from my guilt.
Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.

Absolution

The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. 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.

Hymn 623:4-5 O Bless the Lord, My Soul

Prayer of the Day

O Lord, maker of all things, you open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature. We praise you for crowning the fields with your blessings and enabling us once more to gather in the fruits of the earth. Teach us to use your gifts carefully, that our land may continue to yield its increase; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Word

First Reading *(Sermon Text)* ***Genesis 8:13-22***

In the most miraculous way, the Lord saved Noah and his family. Noah responds with thanksgiving.

13 By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water
had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw
that the surface of the ground was dry. 14 By the twenty-seventh day of the second
month the earth was completely dry.

15 Then God said to Noah, 16 "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons
and their wives. 17 Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds,
the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on
the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it."
18 So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. 19 All
the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds—
everything that moves on land—came out of the ark, one kind after another.
20 Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and
clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. 21 The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma
and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even
though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again
will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

22 "As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat,
summer and winter,
day and night
will never cease."

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Anthem — "Rejoice"

Choir

Second Reading — *James 1:16-18*

James reminds us that God is the source and giver of all, giving us the greatest gift – that of faith in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior.

16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. 17 Every good and perfect gift is
from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not
change like shifting shadows. 18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth,
that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Hymn Response: 624:2 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning,
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen how all that's needful has been
Sent by his gracious ordaining.

Gospel *Matthew 15:29-38*

The Lord Jesus supplies for all our needs, and very often in ways that far exceed our needs. What a gracious and compassionate God we have.

29 Jesus left there and went along the Sea of Galilee. Then he went up on a mountainside
and sat down. 30 Great crowds came to him, bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the
mute and many others, and laid them at his feet; and he healed them. 31 The people were
amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled made well, the lame walking and
the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel.
32 Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for these people; they
have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them
away hungry, or they may collapse on the way."
33 His disciples answered, "Where could we get enough bread in this remote place to
feed such a crowd?"
34 "How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked.
"Seven," they replied, "and a few small fish."
35 He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. 36 Then he took the seven loaves and the
fish, and when he had given thanks, he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and
they in turn to the people. 37 They all ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked
up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. 38 The number of those who ate
was four thousand men, besides women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Hymn 603 All Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Sermon Give Thanks to the Lord with Noah

Pastor Steven Hillmer

In what God wisely takes away
In what God graciously gives

Stand

Confession of Faith

First Article of the Apostle's Creed with Explanation

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

What does this mean?

I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.
And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life.
God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil.
All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserve it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him.

This is most certainly true.

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

Prayer of the Church

Lord of heaven and earth, you made all things beautiful. You have provided green forests and refreshing streams. You have arranged the orderly procession of day and night for our work and rest.

Thank you for the mountains and the prairies, the roaring sea, and the gentle breeze.

Thank you for roofs that shelter us, for clothing that protects us, and for food and drink. Thank you for our work, for projects that are done well, and for the approval of supervisors and teachers. Thank you for all who serve at night to make our days more pleasant.

Thank you for associates at work, for their encouragement and praise, and for the joys of human friendships.

Thank you for our cities and our countrysides, for farms and factories, for streets and highways, and for all of life that flows so swiftly before us.

Thank you for children at play, their boundless energy, and their shouts of joy and laughter.

Thank you for the morning greetings we receive, and for all the smiles that come from faces loved by you.

Thank you for Christian parents, for their affection and their care.

Thank you for the healing you bring when we are sick, the protection you send when we are in danger, and the comfort you offer when we are sad. Lead us to be thankful as we believe that in all things you work for the good of those who love you.

Thank you for those who help and encourage us in difficult times.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, for his coming to us in Word and sacraments, for his giving and forgiving, and for listening to our prayers. Receive our gifts and offerings as our sacrifice of praise.

Lead us in thankful living today and always. Amen.

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.

Hymn 598 Now Thanks We All Our God

Announcements

1. Due to a funeral at church on Saturday, **Church Decorating for Christmas has been moved up to this Friday.** Join us at 8:30am.
2. We are in need of volunteers for **Live Nativity**: **Saturday, December 20.** There are 3 performances: 5pm, 5:45pm and 6:3pm. You can sign up by using the QR code or you may write down your name and phone number on the clipboard and Dawn Lauterbach will contact you.
3. Fontanini Christmas figurines and religious artwork available on the table. Please feel free to help yourself. Remaining items will be donated to Blue Butterfly.

Serving Us Today

Pastor Steven Hillmer
Organist: Becky Aldinger
Special Music: Rejoice! / Choir

Acknowledgments
Setting One from Christian Worship
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Highlights and Announcements

OPEN FORUM– Sunday, December 7 at 9:15 AM *Celebrating 2025 • Preparing for 2026*
Join us for our final Open Forum of the year as we look back on the blessings of 2025 and share an end-of-year overview of our ministry, finances, and Forward initiatives. We'll also look ahead to what's next in 2026—the opportunities and direction God is placing before St. Matthew's. We hope you'll join us!

Recycle Your Aluminum Cans – FINAL COLLECTION
Our **last aluminum can collection** will be on **December 6–7, 2025**, with the trailer in the parking lot from **8 AM Saturday to 5 PM Sunday**. **Please:** aluminum cans only (no tin or foil); crushing cans is appreciated. Proceeds have been dwindling, but we want to give you one final chance to contribute. Thank you for your support over the years!

Thank You
A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in our recent Ministry Support Event, Soups & Sweets Fundraiser, by donating your time, talents and treasure. Special thanks to all the soup makers - there were 24 different kinds totaling 126 containers and we still ran out before 2nd service! A reminder that you may still donate online to the cost of the historical timeline display for our church until November 30. The total amount raised will be shared in a few weeks. Thank you for your incredible support of another successful event!

Lift Up Our Cardinals: DONATE TO SOAR 2026!
St. Matthew's School is looking forward to **Soar: A Night Benefiting Cardinal Scholars on Saturday, March 7, 2026**! This special evening supports our students through a fun night of fellowship and giving. Make sure to mark your calendars! We're currently seeking **donations** such as gift baskets, event tickets, unique experiences, or services that can be featured in our fundraising activities. Every contribution helps our Cardinals continue to learn, grow, and thrive. If you or your business would like to donate or sponsor the event, please contact us at soar@smls.org. Thank you!

Tickets to SOAR are Now on Sale!
Spend a festive evening at *Rustic Manor on Saturday, March 7,* enjoying complimentary beer, wine, and savory small plates — all in support of our Cardinal Scholars and the St. Matthew's community. *Purchase your tickets by December 1* for a chance to win a relaxing overnight getaway at the Rustic Manor! Each purchased ticket includes one entry into our licensed raffle for a chance to win a luxury overnight stay for two at the Rustic Manor's bed-and-breakfast on Saturday, March 7, immediately following the Soar event. **Space is limited. Reserve your spot today!** https://auctria.events/SOAR2026 The overnight getaway drawing will be held on December 2, 2025. Raffle License ##R0041464B-46141.

Save the Date: 2026 Women's Retreat
Mark your calendars for the 6th Annual St. Matthew's Women's Retreat on February 28, 2026, from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Join us for a day of faith, fellowship, and inspiration for women of all ages. Early-bird registration opens January 1!

Christmas 4 Kids
Join us for *Christmas 4 Kids* on Saturday, December 13 from 1–4 PM at St. Matthew's. Children in 3K–4th grade will enjoy a fun afternoon of crafts, games, and hands-on learning about the true meaning of Christmas.
A *Birthday Party for Jesus* for children ages 0–3 will take place from 3–4 PM, followed by a brief closing service for parents at 4:00 PM. You can register at smls.org. Use the QR Code to sign up to volunteer.

Live Nativity: **Saturday, December 20**
Experience the story of Christ's birth at St. Matthew's Live Nativity on Saturday, December 20, with performances at 5:00, 5:45, and 6:30 PM. Enjoy live animals, a heartfelt Nativity reenactment, and festive music, followed by cookies and hot cocoa in the Commons. Bring your family and friends to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas! Use the QR Code to sign up to volunteer or donate.

KOINE Christmas Concert
Celebrate the birth of Jesus with **Koine** on **Friday, December 5 at 6:30 PM**. This community concert is open to everyone—bring your friends and family to experience an evening of worship through music, reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas. Join us as we honor the gift of our Savior this holiday season!

St. Matthew's Christmas Project
This year, St. Matthew's is partnering with **Make-A-Wish Wisconsin**! We're collecting **new, unwrapped toys** to help bring joy to children's wish journeys. Donation boxes are located at the church and school **now through January 5**.
Let's share the hope and excitement of the season with those who need it most! Use the QR Code for the wish list or to donate online.

St Matthew's Ski Club 2025-26 Season
Ski Club is back! Students ages **7–18** can join our Alpine Valley ski club. A **$30 Club Card** includes one free lesson and discounts on lift tickets, rentals, and lessons.
Sign up for **St. Matthew's Ski Club 2025–2026:** https://bit.ly/SMski
Club Nights (3 PM): Dec 5 & 19, Jan 5 & 19, Feb 9 & 27
December Orders Now Open: Friday, Dec 5 – Order by Dec 1 | Friday, Dec 19 – Order by Dec 15 Questions? Contact **Kristi Albert** **kalbert74@gmail.com** | **262-617-6468**