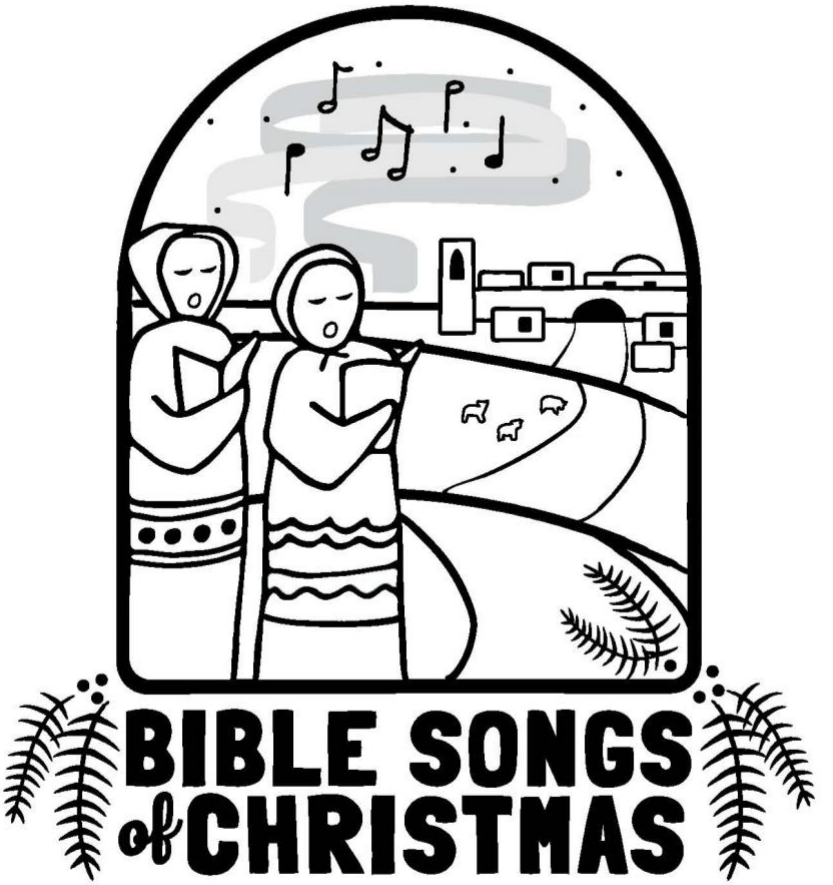


Midweek Advent One

December 3, 2025

St. Matthew's
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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.

BIBLE SONGS OF CHRISTMAS

THE SONG OF MARY

When the Bible was translated into Latin, "Magnificat" was the first word of the song that the Virgin Mary sang when she was telling her relative Elizabeth about being chosen to be the mother of Jesus. The "Song of Mary" beautifully reflects key themes of God's grace, mercy, and the reversal of worldly power. Mary begins by glorifying God for choosing her, a humble servant, to bear the Savior, a sign of God's gracious action toward the lowly. This is a picture of how God works, not through the proud or powerful, but through the humble and weak.

Mary praises God's faithfulness to his promises, especially the covenant made with Abraham and his descendants. God has an unchanging commitment to his people and to the fulfillment of his promises through Christ.

Martin Luther emphasized that the "Magnificat" is not about Mary's greatness, but about God's action through her. It's a confession of faith in God's grace alone. Mary trusts God's Word and rejoices in his mercy, an admirable response to the Gospel.

Preservice Christmas Carol sing-a-long.
Join us for 15 minutes of singing your favorite Christmas carols before each service.

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
Midweek Advent One

December 3, 2025

EVENING PRAYER ~ COMPLINE

Adapted from Evening Prayer, page 225 in the hymnal.

Call to Worship **Twinkle, Twinkle Christmas Star**

Early Childhood Choir - 4pm

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.
Amen.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praise to your name, O Most High,

to herald your love in the morning,
your truth at the close of day.

Hymn 313 **Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes**

Confession of Sins

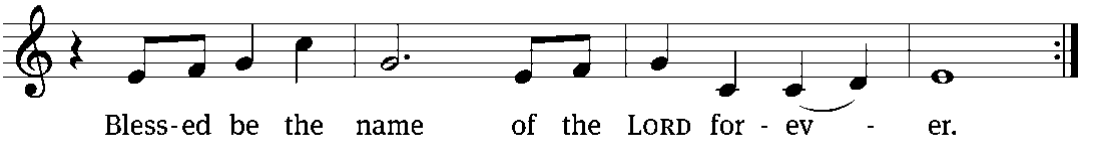
Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
in our thoughts, in our words, in our deeds,
and in all that we have not done.
Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Deliver and restore us, that we may rest in peace.

By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiven. Let us rest in his peace until the rising of the sun, when we shall serve him in newness of life.

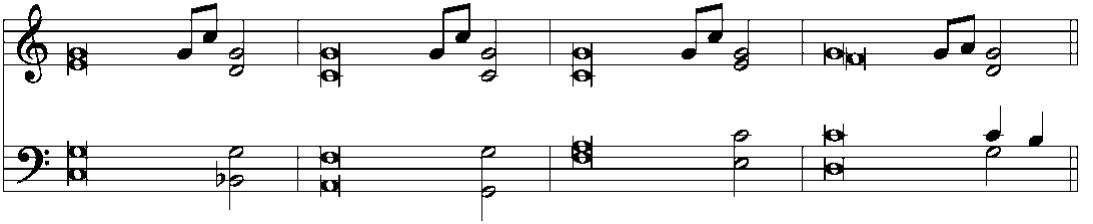
Amen.

Psalm 113D — Blessed Be the Name of the LORD

Refrain



Tone



From the rising of the sun to the place / where it sets,
the name of the LORD is / to be praised.
The LORD is exalted over all the / nations,
his glory above the / heavens.

Who is like the / LORD our God,
the One who sits en- / throned on high,
who stoops / down to look
on the heavens / and the earth? *Refrain*

He raises the poor / from the dust;
he seats them with the princes of his / people.
He settles the childless woman / in her home
as a happy mother of children. / Praise the LORD.

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*

Tune: Mark Haas
Setting: Mark Haas
Music: © 2014 Mark Haas. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716690

Psalm Prayer

O Lord our God, you rule over all things by your powerful word. Lift up all those who have been beaten down by the trials of life, and remember all of us as we call on the name of Jesus, who lives and rules with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Anthem — O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Handbells – 6:30pm

Gospel — *Luke 1:39-56*

On a visit to her relative, Elizabeth, the Virgin Mary praises God with a joyful song..

39 At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, 40 where
she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's
greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 In
a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you
will bear! 43 But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
44 As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for
joy. 45 Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"
46 And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
48 for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.

50 His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
51 He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.
52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.
53 He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.
54 He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
55 to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors."

56 Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn 328 — The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Sermon — The Song of Mary

Professor Aaron Christie

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



Prayer

Hear my prayer, O Lord;
listen to my cry.

Keep me as the apple of your eye;
hide me in the shadow of your wings.

In righteousness I shall see you;
when I awake, your presence will give me joy.

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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.

Song of Simeon

In peace, Lord, you let your servant now depart
according to your word.
For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared for every people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles
and the glory of your people Israel.

Let us praise the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Blessing

The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless us and keep us.
Amen.

Closing Hymn 623 O Bless the Lord, My Soul

Serving us today:
Liturgy: Pastor Steve Hillmer
Sermon: Professor Aaron Christie
Organist: Joy Elowski

Join us each 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



Advent Meals

Dec 3 - ACTS - Soups
Dec 10 - Men's Bible Study - Spaghetti and meatballs
Dec 17 - SHINE Serving Circle - Turkey sandwiches, cheesy potatoes, salads

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!

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!

First Steps Christmas Service & Family Night
Join us on **Monday, December 8 at 6:15 PM** at St. Matthew's for a heartwarming Christmas service led by our First Steps children. Stay afterward for Family Night with fellowship and refreshments as we celebrate the gift of Jesus together!

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.

Bring the Nativity to Your Neighborhood

Celebrate the season! **Live Nativity yard signs** will be ready for pick-up at the Guest Center beginning Thanksgiving. Place one in your yard and share the message of Christ's birth.

Upcoming Special Services

SERVICES	TIMES
MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES Arrive 15 minutes early to sing Christmas hymns!	WEDNESDAYS (Dec 3,10,17): 4:00 & 6:30PM
CHRISTMAS EVE	DEC 24: 1:00 3:30 & 6:30PM
CHRISTMAS DAY	DEC 25: 9:00AM

-Take Note-

***There will be NO SATURDAY SERVICE ON DEC 20**
due to Live Nativity

Acknowledgments

Close of Day (Compline) from Christian Worship

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Upcoming Services, Concerts and Events

Dec. 5,6	**WLC's Christmas Concerts** *(see website)*	**7:30pm**
Dec. 5	**Koine Christmas Concert** *(in the sanctuary)*	**6:30pm**
Dec. 7	**WLC's Christmas Concerts** *(see website)*	**2:30pm**
Dec. 8	**First Steps Christmas Program** *(in the sanctuary)*	**6:15pm**
Dec. 13	**Christmas 4 Kids**	**1:00pm**
Dec. 13	**Martin Luther College**	**7:30pm**
Dec. 14	**Children's Christmas Service Grades 3K-2**	**1:00pm**
Dec. 14	**WI Lutheran Seminary Christmas Concert**	**3:00pm: 7:00pm**
Dec. 14	**Luther Prep's Christmas Concert** **Lakeside's Christmas Concert** **Martin Luther College** *(see website)*	**3:00pm** **4:00pm** **4:00pm**
Dec. 18	**Luther Prep's Christmas Concert**	**10:00am**
Dec. 20	**Live Nativity** *No regular Saturday church service this night.*	**5:00; 5:45; 6:30pm**
Dec. 21	**SMLS Children's Christmas Service Grades 3-8**	**1:00pm**
Dec. 24	**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**	**1:00, 3:30 & 6:30pm**
Dec. 25	**Christmas Day Worship w/ Communion**	**9:00am**
Dec. 27	**Saturday Worship – Christmas 1**	**5:30pm**
Dec. 28	**Sunday Morning – Christmas 1** *No Bible classes this Sunday*	**8:00 & 10:30am**

No New Year's Eve / Day Services

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