

St. Matthew's

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Second Sunday in Advent

December 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.

IMMINENT ARRIVAL

IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF THE JUDGE

The judge is an important person. You stand when he enters the courtroom. What he says must be obeyed. If you are the one on trial, his determinations make a big difference in how your life will continue.

You might be quite nervous if the judge is about to arrive. John invited people to turn their nervousness to repentance. He says that the arrival of the Judge is imminent, and the kingdom of heaven is near! You are invited to hear John, repent, and believe the good news of the coming Savior.

ADVENT WREATH

The **Advent Wreath** is a blessed tradition of Advent. Each week we will light one more candle to represent a different aspect of the Advent and Christmas story. The candle in the center is called the Christ Candle and will be lit on Christmas Day.



The second candle is often called **The Bethlehem Candle**. It reminds us how the promised Messiah was prophesied by the prophet Micah to be born in Bethlehem, the town of David. God's people looked with great anticipation and hope for the Savior to come. At the exact time, in the exact place, and in the exact way in which God foretold, the Savior came.

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.

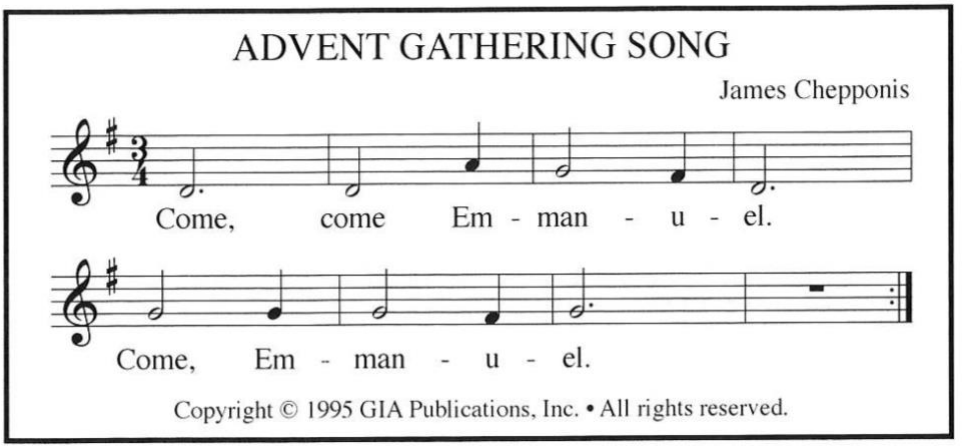
The Order of Worship for
Second Sunday in Advent
December 7, 2025

Preservice My Soul in Stillness Waits
Advent Hymn

Advent Gathering Rite

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
And also with you.

The following refrain repeats as the cantor sings the verses below.



1. For a shoot from Jesse will *come*…
2. He will judge with justice and *come*…
3. For the source of all patience will *come*…
4. Now accept one another and *come*…
5. Oh reform, for God's reign has *come*…
6. Oh prepare the way and *come*…

Confession

We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as our dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

Congregation sings refrain once before cantor sings

Cantor sings Lord, have mercy upon us and *come*…
Christ have mercy upon us and *come*…
Lord, have mercy upon us and *come*…

Absolution

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will. **Amen.**

All sing the refrain one final time together

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Children's Message

The Word

First Reading — Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah gives the credentials of the one who would come to judge.

[1]A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
[2]The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—
[3]and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;
[4]but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.
[5]Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

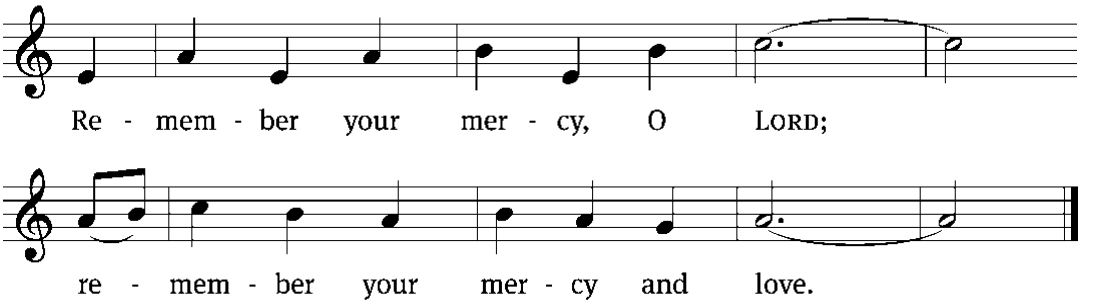
[6]The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.
[7]The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.
[8]The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.
[9]They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

[10]In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 130B — Remember Your Mercy, O LORD

Refrain



Tone



Out of the depths I cry to / you, LORD;
Lord, / hear my voice.
Let your ears be at- / tentive
to my cry for / mercy.
If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, / who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, / serve you. *Refrain*

I wait for the LORD, my whole / being waits,
and in his word I / put my hope.
I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the / morning,
more than watchmen wait for the / morning.
Israel, put your hope / in the LORD,
for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full re- / demption.
He himself will redeem / Israel
from / all their sins.
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*

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Second Reading *Romans 15:4-13*

God's people face the coming judgment with hope, not fear.

4For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

5May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, 6so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. 8For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed 9and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:

"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles;
I will sing the praises of your name."

10Again, it says,

"Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people."

11And again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles;
let all the peoples extol him."

12And again, Isaiah says,

"The Root of Jesse will spring up,
one who will arise to rule over the nations;
in him the Gentiles will hope."

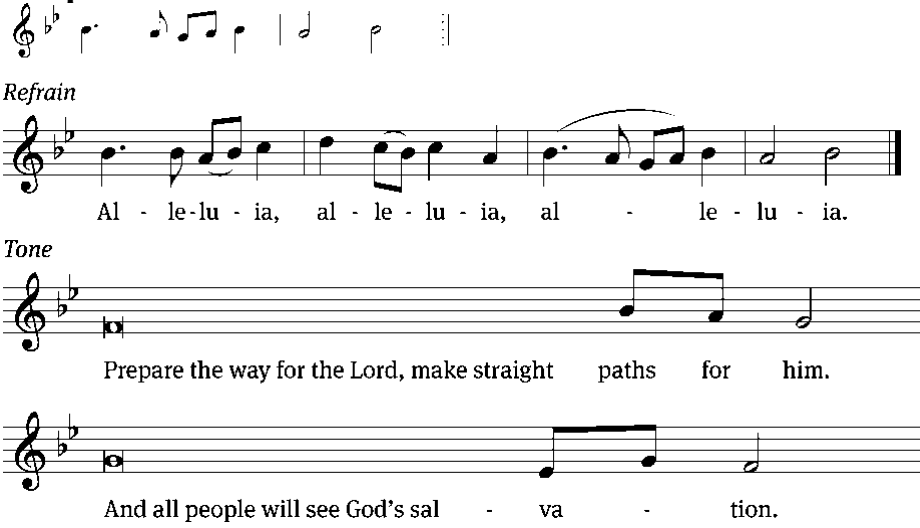
13May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem (Sunday) O Bride of Christ Rejoice

Men's Chorus

Gospel Acclamation *Luke 3:4,6*



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Gospel (Sermon Text) ***Matthew 3:1-12***

John prepared people for the arrival of the Judge by emphasizing the nearness of the kingdom of God.

[1]In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea [2]and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." [3]This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.' "

[4]John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. [5]People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. [6]Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

[7]But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? [8]Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. [9]And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. [10]The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

[11]"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. [12]His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

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

Hymn 316 **On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry**

Sermon **Ready or Not, Here Comes the Judge!**
Pastor Philip Bigelow

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 318 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

In our Prayers: We rejoice with **Vince and Diane Neuman,** who are celebrating their 53rd wedding anniversary.

Acknowledgments
Setting One from Christian Worship
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Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Adult Bible Study @ 9:15am
Our Adult Bible Class is on a historical journey generation by generation, seeing how God has blessed WELS over these past 175 years! For parents with young children, childcare is available for children ages 0-3 in the Pre-K2 room so that those parents can attend class.

Sunday School and Teen Study @ 9:15am
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 is taking a look at one last Old Testament story (Jonah) before having a two-week series on Christmas. The Teen Study is discussing Jesus, the Light of the world, and how various lights around this time of the year remind us of the true Light.

Thursday "Women in the Word" Bible Class
We are looking at "How to Study 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 men 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 the topic, "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!

Thank you for Serving our Savior and Us		
	This Weekend	**Next Weekend – December 13 & 14**
Ushers	**Saturday** – Tom Plitzuweit **Early –** Joel Watson **Late –** Sam Weiss	**Wednesday 4pm –** Toby Brandenstein **Wednesday 6:30 pm –** Bill Neubauer **Saturday** – Andy Andress **Early –** Eric Wegner **Late –** Eric Ziel
Greeters	**Early** – Tim & Sandy Torgerson **Late** – Noah & Lindsay Schultz	**Early** – Stu & Deb Schramm **Late** – Andy & Carrie Rosenau
Hospitality	**Saturday** – Dan & Liz Schmidt **Early –** Kyle & Robin Koltz **Late –** Jon & Kessia Boche	**Saturday** – Dan & Liz Schmidt **Early –** Tim & Carolyn Thiele **Late –** Jon & Ginny Kehren **LES 1pm –** Char Bouche
Organist	Melody Ryan	**Wednesday –** Becky Aldinger **Sunday –** Char Bouche
Special Music	Aleah Dovnik, Emily Knoelke, Mariah Kneser / Men's Chorus	**Wednesday –** Choir **Sunday –** Rejoice!
Projection	**Saturday** – Krista/Sam D'Amore **Early –** Kylee Glorioso **Late –** Kendra Lauersdorf	**Wednesday 4pm –** Ava Hillmann **Wednesday 6:30 pm –** **Saturday** – Emily Stewart **Early –** Ethan Bergh **Late –** Grace Heins
Sound	**Saturday** – Scott Heins **Early –** Rik Krahn **Late –** Kathy Goggins	**Wednesday 4pm –** Vickie Bence **Wednesday 6:30 pm –** Kathy Goggins **Saturday** – John Stewart **Early –** Rik Krahn **Late –** Rik Krahn
Livestream	Tim Taubenheim	**Wednesday –** Andy Hiloman **Sunday –** Nathan Bergh

This Week at St. Matthew's		
Saturday	5:30 pm	Worship Service
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am	Worship Service Open Forum Sunday School; Teen Bible Study
Monday	9:00 am 6:15 pm 6:30 pm	Pastor Circuit Meeting First Steps Christmas Program Board of Stewardship
Tuesday	7:45 am	Grounded in God
Wednesday	10:00 am 4 & 6:30 pm 5:00 pm 5:00 pm	Shorehaven Services Advent Services Advent Meal Non-School Catechism
Thursday	8:00 am	SCRIP Orders Due

	8:30 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm 8:00 pm 8:00 pm	Women in the Word Rejoice! Choir Handbell Choir Men's Choir
Saturday	7:30 am 1:00 pm 5:30 pm	Men's Bible Breakfast Christmas 4 Kids Communion Service
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am 1:00 pm	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; Teen Bible Study LES Christmas Service (Grades PreK – 2nd)

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!

Christmas 4 Kids – Register by this Sunday!
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.

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!

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!

NEW ONLINE STORE—Pick Up Before Christmas!
Get ready for Christmas with St. Matthew's! We've teamed up with EZ Promotions to bring you an extra online store option—*20% of all purchases* go back to St. Matthew's. Find St. Matthew's, Cardinal, and First Steps gear for the whole family!

- **Order by DECEMBER 10** to receive your items on **Friday, December 19** at the school
- **Gift orders?** Email **info@smls.org** to let us know (otherwise it will go home with your child)
- **No shipping fees** if you select **"Pickup at St. Matthew's" by DEC 10**
- **ORDER HERE!** https://bit.ly/SMezstore

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.

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.
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.

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**

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.

Senior Fellowship
Senior Fellowship will meet on **Wednesday, December 17 at noon** for our annual Christmas potluck followed by devotion and games. We meet in the church Gathering Area. Enjoy an afternoon of fun and fellowship! Questions? Contact Dan Feuerstahler at 920-245-3006.

Registration Open for Marriage Retreat!
Give your marriage the gift of time together. St. Matthew's Marriage Retreat will be held on **Saturday, February 14, 2026.** This year's retreat features Grace In Action leading members through the CliftonStrengths assessment to discover and grow in your God-given strengths. **Mark your calendars** and register at https://bit.ly/SMmarriage or use the QR Code.

Save the Date: Women's Retreat – February 28, 2026
Join us for a day of fellowship and spiritual growth at our annual Women's Retreat! This year's theme, **"Renewed Minds, Transformed Lives"** (Romans 12:2), invites us to experience God's transformative power. **Early Bird Registration opens January 1, 2026.** More details coming soon!

Support Central Africa Medical Mission (CAMM)
Donate empty, clean pill bottles with labels removed. They will be sent by LWMS to CAMM in Malawi and Zambia. **Drop-off box:** Located on the table near the church office. *Learn more at www.camm.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.

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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