

St. Matthew's

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 18, 2026

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.

IDENTITY REVEALED

Jesus is the Lamb of God

For centuries Israel offered sacrifices to God for sin. Over and over, a substitute shed its blood to earn forgiveness. Then Jesus appeared, the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world. He died as the substitute for sinful mankind. Connected to him by faith, you have new perspective and new motivation for living a Christian life.

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. He also serves as our Preaching Assistant on a once-a-month basis.

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 after Epiphany

January 18, 2026

THE SERVICE: SETTING TWO

You may follow along starting on page 172 in the hymnal.

Preservice Anthem (Sunday) **Precious Gift of Love**
Matthea Lenz

Hymn 374 **The Star Proclaims the King Is Here**

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.

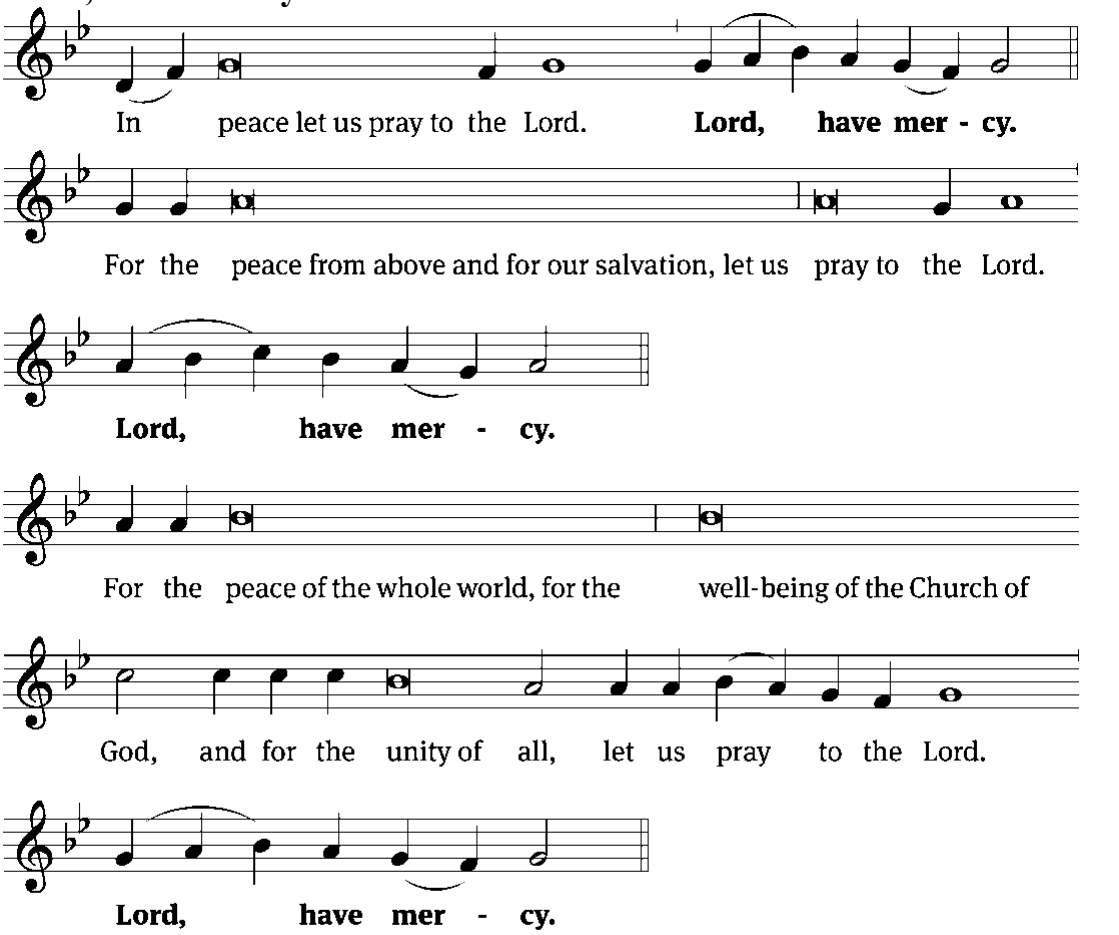
Silence for meditation and reflection

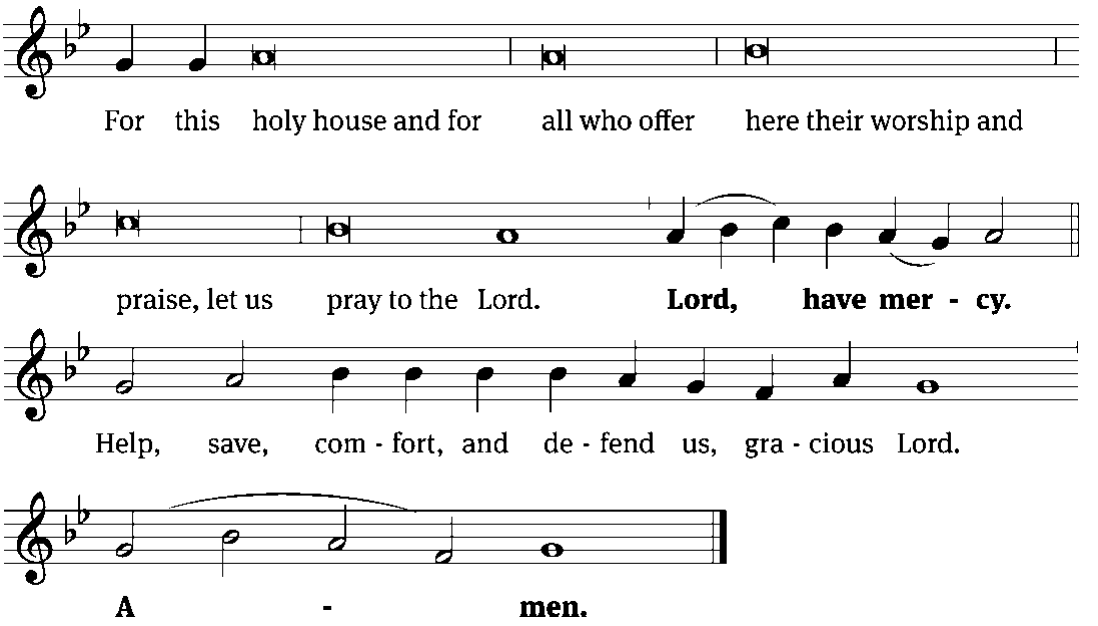
Absolution

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

CW 174



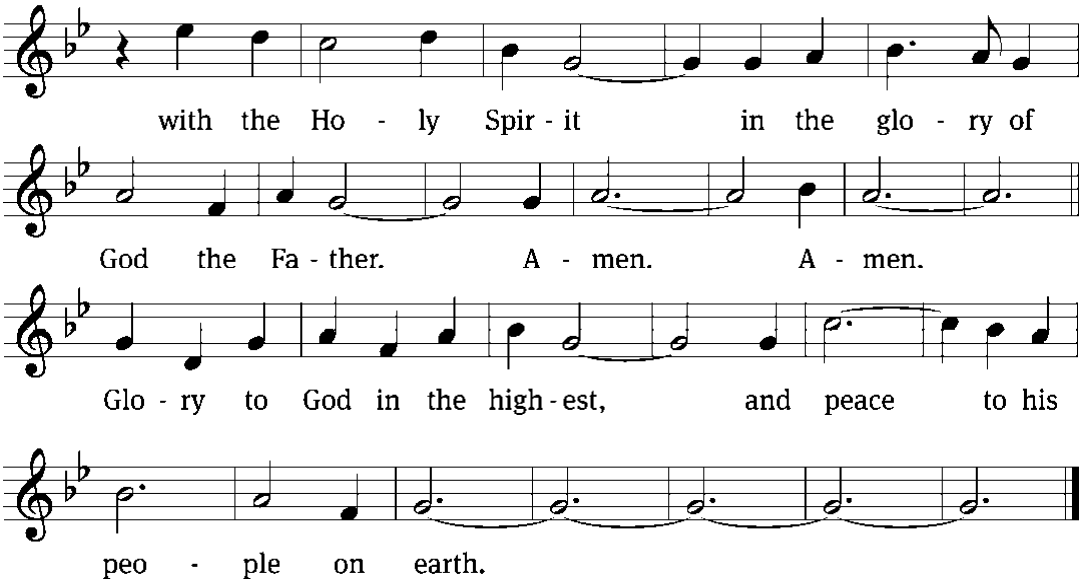


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Glory to God in the Highest *CW 176*




glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth.
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.
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his
peo - ple on earth. 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,



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The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you gave your one and only Son to be the light of the world. Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and believed to the ends of the earth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading — Isaiah 49:1-6

God would display his splendor by the suffering of the Servant of the Lord.

[1]Listen to me, you islands;
hear this, you distant nations:
Before I was born the LORD called me;
from my mother's womb he has spoken my name.
[2]He made my mouth like a sharpened sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me into a polished arrow
and concealed me in his quiver.
[3]He said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will display my splendor."
[4]But I said, "I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing at all.
Yet what is due me is in the LORD's hand,
and my reward is with my God."

[5]And now the LORD says—
he who formed me in the womb to be his servant
to bring Jacob back to him
and gather Israel to himself,
for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD
and my God has been my strength—
[6]he says:
"It is too small a thing for you to be my servant
to restore the tribes of Jacob
and bring back those of Israel I have kept.
I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem (Saturday) **Precious Gift of Love**
Matthea Lenz

Anthem (Sunday) **Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart**
Men's Chorus

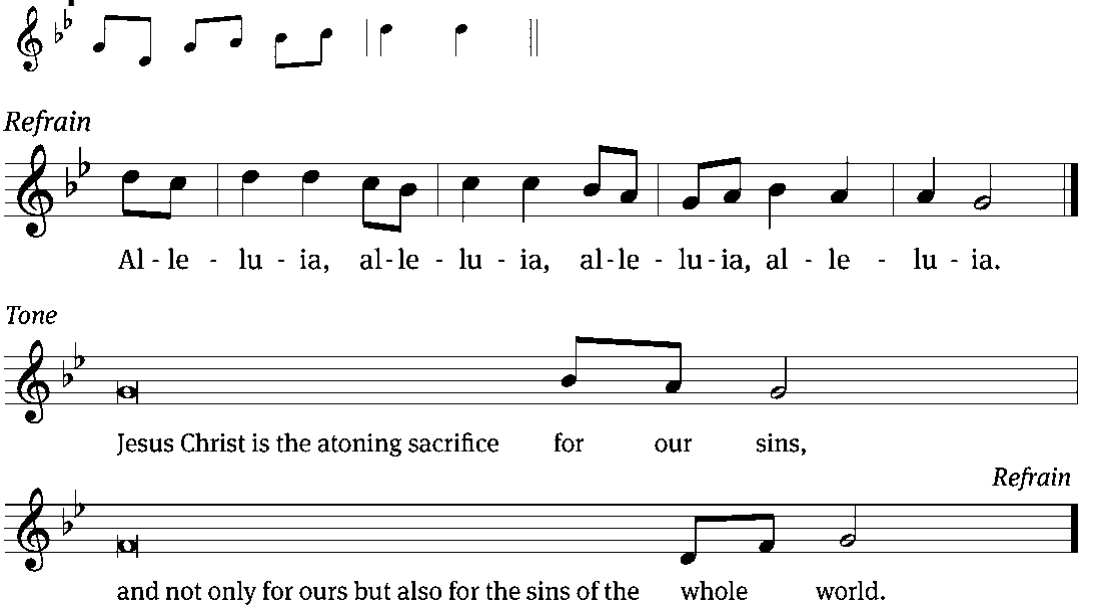
Second Reading *Colossians 2:6-15*

The Lamb of God was flesh and blood so he could be sacrificed to win forgiveness of all our sins.

6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in
him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and
overflowing with thankfulness.
8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy,
which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world
rather than on Christ.
9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and in Christ you
have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. 11 In him
you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your
whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ,
12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him
through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.
13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God
made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the charge of
our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it
away, nailing it to the cross. 15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he
made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *1 John 2:2*



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Gospel (Sermon Text) ***John 1:29-41***

As the last and greatest of the prophets, John beautifully summarizes God's plan of salvation by pointing to Jesus and calling him the Lamb of God.

[29]The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin of the world! [30]This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who
comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' [31]I myself did not know
him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."
[32]Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove
and remain on him. [33]And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize
with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the
one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' [34]I have seen and I testify that this is God's
Chosen One."
[35]The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. [36]When he saw Jesus
passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"
[37]When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. [38]Turning around,
Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"
They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

[39]"Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

[40]Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. [41]The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ).

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

Hymn 375 — Arise and Shine In Splendor

Sermon — What Do You Want?

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



Forward for the Next Generation Video

We encourage you to refer to turn to Page 19 in the Worship Folder for more information pertaining to this 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 385:1-2 — Christ Begins

Verses sung by Matthea Lenz, Congregation sings refrain

In Our Prayers: May our gracious Lord watch over **Boyd Peterson** who is having shoulder surgery this coming Thursday

Update on Teacher Calls
St. Matthew's has extended a call to **Jon Ziesemer** for the 8th grade teacher position. Jon is currently serving a one-year call as our 8th grade teacher, and we are grateful for his faithful service. Please keep Jon in your prayers as he considers this call and seeks the Lord's guidance.

Paul Habermann has returned the call to St. Marcus Lutheran School in Milwaukee. We rejoice to have him continue his ministry among us.

Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Adult Bible Study
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
Sunday School will be studying the account of Daniel in the Lions' Den. The teens will be studying the joy and contentment we have in Jesus. The devil tempts us that happiness is found in the things of this world. While God blesses us with worldly things, we must keep in mind that true joy and happiness is kept steady when we keep Jesus first in our hearts.

Thursday "Women in the Word" Bible Class
Join us in January as we begin a new study of God's Word, specifically examining the book of Daniel. Most people recall that he was in the Lion's Den, but there so much more! 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!

Acknowledgments
Setting Two 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.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.

Thank you for Serving our Savior and Us		
	This Weekend	**Next Weekend – January 24 & 25**
Ushers	**Saturday** – Tony Kobussen **Early –** Josh Strassburg **Late –** Sam Weiss	**Saturday –** Tom Plitzuweit **Early –** Jim Fulmer **Late –** Toby Brandenstein
Greeters	**Early** – Shepherd's Staff **Late** – Shepherd's Staff	**Early** – Mary Beth Williams **Late** – Mike & Jeanne Ward
Hospitality	**Saturday** – Jim & Karen Spiegelberg **Early –** Ralph & Tracy Schmidt **Late –** Jon & Ginny Kehren	**Saturday** – Dan & Liz Schmidt **Early –** Kyle & Robin Koltz **Late –** Allen & Karen Andreasen
Organist	Melody Ryan	Becky Aldinger
Special Music	Matthea Lenz / Men's Chorus	LLHS A Cappella Choir / Grades 4-8
Projection	**Saturday** – Molly Kalma **Early –** Ava Hillmann **Late –** Matthias Uttech	**Saturday** – Dan Metzger **Early –** Jon/Henry Peterson **Late –** Nolan Bagdassian
Sound	**Saturday** – John Stewart **Early –** Steve Vasatko **Late –** Kathy Goggins	**Saturday** – Scott Heins **Early –** Rik Krahn **Late –** Charlie Bagdassian
Livestream	Andy Hillmann	John Schuh

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, Teen Bible Study
Monday		WELS Lutheran Leadership Conference
Tuesday	 7:45 am	WELS Lutheran Leadership Conference Grounded in God
Wednesday	 10:00 am 1:30 pm 5:00 pm	WELS Lutheran Leadership Conference Shorehaven Service Senior Fellowship Non-school Catechism
Thursday	8:00 am 8:30 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm 8:00 pm	SCRIP Orders Due Women in the Word Rejoice! Handbell Choir Men's Chorus
Saturday	5:30 pm	Communion Service
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am 1:00 pm	Communion Service Adult Bible Study, Sunday School, Teen Bible Study SHINE Board & Brush

Highlights and Announcements

Special Voter's Meeting – January 18th
St. Matthew's will hold a **Special Voter's Meeting on Sunday, January 18,** following the late service to discuss some infrastructure improvements being made to the north of our property. Please plan to attend as we prayerfully make this important decision for our school community.

Giving Statements
Giving statements will be emailed in the next couple of weeks. If we do not have an email address on file for you, a printed copy will be mailed instead. If you would like an additional printed copy, please contact Jennifer in the church office at jmanssen@smls.org or 262-912-6350.

St. Matthew's Blood Drive
Give the gift of life! Join us for a blood drive on **Saturday, January 31, 2026, from 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM** in the School Entryway. Your donation can make a life-saving difference—schedule your appointment today!

Women's Retreat – Saturday, February 28, 8:00 to 3:00
Open to women of St. Matthew's and their family and friends. *Early-Bird rate of $40 ends January 31st!* Register at smls.org/events
All high school and college students are $15

Board & Brush Event – Registration closes Jan 18
Women and girls ages 12+ are invited to a DIY Board & Brush event on **Sunday, January 25, from 1–3 pm.** Choose from two projects: an 18" round outdoor door hanger (adults) $40 or a 12" bedroom door hanger (teens)$25. Registration and advance payment are required—participants will select stains and patterns when signing up. Questions? Contact Bev Fulmer at 262-569-1969 (call or text). Register using the QR Code or at https://forms.gle/hqfHWSofiGCVWVwb6

Mark your Calendars! Nourish to Flourish
St. Matthew's women and friends, mark your calendar for **Monday, February 16 at 6:30 PM** in the **Church Commons**. Joy Lenz, Registered Dietitian, will share nutrition tips, lifestyle strategies, and a holistic approach to honoring your body in faith.
Registration is open: Jan 16 – Feb 7

Altar Flowers
Fresh floral arrangements may be placed on the altar in memory of a loved one, to honor a special occasion, or simply to beautify the sanctuary. Sign up on the clipboard in the church office or contact Jennifer Manssen at 262-912-6350 or jmanssen@smls.org. Arrangements are $45 each through Rhodee Floral, with two available per week. Please make checks payable to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church (include your envelope number) and drop them in the church office marked for flowers. Color requests may be shared with Jennifer when you sign up.

Preschool Registration: Registration for the 3K and 4K classes for the 2026-2027 school year opens on Monday, January 12. For more information regarding our preschool programs please contact Mrs. Beth Plitzuweit (bplitzuweit@smls.org).

Preschool Power Hour Winter Session
The winter session of PPH begins again on Wednesday, February 4. Registration information is available at www.smls.org under the Preschool tab. This unique preschool program involves children ages 0-4 and their caregivers in a variety of learning activities. During each one-hour class the children enjoy a Bible lesson, music, large motor experiences, art exploration and centers time. The cost for nine classes is $20, and the winter session runs from February 4 – April 8. Classes are held each Wednesday during that time from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. in the Flex room at First Steps. There will be no class on Wednesday, March 18 due to Spring Break. Contact Beth Plitzuweit (bplitzuweit@smls.org) with any questions.

Rock River Area OWLS
The Rock River Area OWLS will meet Tuesday January 20 at 1:30 pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church, W4095 County Rd. B., Johnson Creek. Immanuel is served by Pastors Joseph Fricke and Mark Bartsch. Rev. John Braun will tell us about the 175th Anniversary of WELS. Rev, Braun in retired from Northwestern Publishing House and is one of the writers of the *Christ Through Us: A Pictorial History of the Wisconsin Synod, 1850 - 2025.*

Lenten Meal Volunteers Needed
We are seeking volunteers to *provide two Lenten meals* for approximately 200 people. Gather a group to prepare and serve a meal and help support our Lenten fellowship. Thank you for your willingness to serve! **Open dates: February 18 and March 18**
Contact Jenny Gnewuch at schoollunch@smls.org to sign up.

Soups & Sweets Fundraiser Update
Thank you to everyone who supported our Soups & Sweets Ministry Support Event held in late November. Through your generosity, $4,631 was raised toward our $12,000 goal for the Historical Wall Timeline, reaching 39% of our goal. We are grateful for all who shared their time, talents, and treasures, and we look forward to seeing our history wall come alive as this project continues.

Blue Butterfly Work Nights
We're excited to offer a monthly Blue Butterfly Work Night for our members! Join us on January 26, and February 9 from 4–6:30 PM. Please contact Bev Fullmer by call or text at 262-569-1969 to let her know you're coming.

Join Us For SOAR!
Spend a festive evening at **Rustic Manor on Saturday, March 7, 2026**, featuring complimentary beer, wine, and savory small plates — all while supporting Cardinal Scholars and helping fund campus security improvements to keep our students and staff safe. This event is also a chance to celebrate our growing St. Matthew's community and enjoy a fun night out with friends. **Space is limited. Reserve your spot today!** https://auctria.events/SOAR2026

Grow Together in Faith: Marriage Retreat REGISTRATION EXTENDED
Don't miss this opportunity to invest in your marriage this Valentine's Day! Registration for the St. Matthew's Marriage Retreat on February 14 has been **extended through Sunday, January 25**. We already have 10 couples signed up and still have room for more! Join us for a meaningful day of discovering your strengths and growing together in faith and connection.

Winter Wonderland Dance
All St. Matthew's School girls in 5K-8th grade are invited to the Winter Wonderland Dance! **On Friday, February 13 from 6:30-8:00pm**, the Lutheran Girl Pioneers are hosting a dance in the school gym! Girls do not need to be members of Girl Pioneers to attend, but they must be *accompanied by their father, grandpa, or father-figure.*
RSVP HERE by February 6. https://bit.ly/3LLl7XJ

Fred Behrend Called Home to Heaven
Fred Behrend was called home to heaven on Tuesday, January 6. The visitation will be Monday, January 19th from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. and the memorial service will be at 11:00 a.m. at St. Matthew's. Please keep the family in your prayers as they are comforted with the gospel of Jesus at this time.

David Radke Called Home to Heaven
David Radke, the father of Kim Italiano, was called home to heaven. A visitation will be Friday, January 23 from 10:00 – Noon; the memorial service will be at noon at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, W1568 Evergreen Lane, Montello.
The family will also host a visitation at St. Matthew's on Saturday, January 24 from 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. Please keep the family in your prayers as they are comforted with the gospel of Jesus at this time.



Shepherd's Staff Sunday: Shepherd's Staff is a Compassion Ministry that seeks to provide encouraging, compassionate, and loving care in aiding the physical, emotional or spiritual needs of the members of our congregation. There are three areas of serving that you can get involved in:

1. **The FOCUS Ministry Committee** encourages fellow members after the loss of a loved one. For information, contact Beth Knoelke at bknoelke@gmail.com or 262-490-3691.

2. **The Visitation Committee** makes monthly telephone calls or in-person visits and provides annual cheer baskets to homebound members. Contact Dawn Lauterbach at lauterb@sbcglobal.net or 262-313-7651 to volunteer.

3. **The Home Care and Transportation Committee** provides help around the house and/or transportation to church services or doctor appointments. To serve as a volunteer, contact Kathleen Everson at k_everson@hotmail.com or 262-617-9492.

If you see a need, or perhaps are in need, please let us know so that we can help. Shepherd's Staff can be contacted through the Pastors, the church office, Kathleen, Dawn, or Beth.

Shepherd's Staff also provides an orderly way to give monetary assistance to St. Matthew's members faced with critical financial situations. **To support Shepherd's Staff ministry, we are gathering a Door Offering on the table by the church office. You can also donate online through our church website or use the QR Code.**

FORWARD
FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

January
2026 Edition

Spotlight: Growing Together in Faith & Learning

This month's episode of *Forward...for the Next Generation* video series introduces Jason Dahl, St. Matthew's new Assistant Principal / Dean of Students. Jason joined St. Matthew's this year to support our growing school community of over 290 students. His role goes beyond administration—he partners with teachers, students, and families to ensure every child is supported, valued, and able to thrive. In the video, Jason shares how he builds meaningful relationships, helps teachers navigate classroom challenges, and fosters a Christ-centered school culture.

Why This Role Matters

- Supports teachers and families in navigating daily school life.
- Provides guidance and encouragement to students while fostering a positive school culture.
- Helps students discover and use their God-given gifts academically, socially, and spiritually.
- Enhances the overall Christ-centered environment of St. Matthew's school.

Watch & Reflect

A Lasting Impact

"It's about making relationships with kids....being there as a support if they need to come talk to you about something."
- Jason Dahl

Ways This Role Supports Students & Staff

- Checks in with classrooms to offer support during lessons or projects.
- Connects with students individually to help with challenges, questions, or conflicts.
- Attends recess and other activities to build relationships and stay connected to students.
- Coaches teachers on handling situations proactively and creating positive learning experiences.
- Encourages students to grow in faith, character, and academics every day.

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
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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