St. Matthew's
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 1, 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.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY

It has been our practice at St. Matthew's to designate the first Sunday in February to celebrate Christian Education. We give thanks for the treasure of God's Word. What a high calling and privilege it is to pass on God's love and truth to the next generation!

Staff Appreciation and Anniversaries

Today we give thanks to our gracious God for bestowing upon his Church faithful workers in his harvest fields. As we recognize the years of service for our called workers, we give all glory, thanks and praise to the Lord of the Church who has blessed us so richly through the labors of these his servants. Join us between in the Commons for a special time of recognition, celebration and fellowship together.

Joy Elowski - 40
Becky Aldinger - 30
Pastor Bigelow - 20
Amy Vannieuwenhoven - 15
Katie Schlomer - 15
Amber Terry - 10

Thank You to Pastor Dustin Yahnke for sharing God's Word of encouragement with us today. Pastor Yahnke serves as a teacher of Theology at Lakeside Lutheran High School.

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
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 1, 2026

THE SERVICE: SETTING FOUR

(This setting uses some of the melodies from Divine Service 1)

745 **Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying**

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

In peace let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest




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, 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,
with the Ho - ly Spir-it in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.
Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo-ple on earth.
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, look with mercy on our weaknesses, and in all our dangers and needs stretch out the right hand of your majesty to help and defend us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

First Reading *(Sermon Text)* ***Acts 9:1-22***

Jesus appears to Saul, later named Paul, on the road to Damascus.

[1]Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest [2]and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. [3]As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. [4]He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

[5]"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. [6]"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

[7]The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. [8]Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. [9]For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

[10]In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

[11]The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. [12]In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

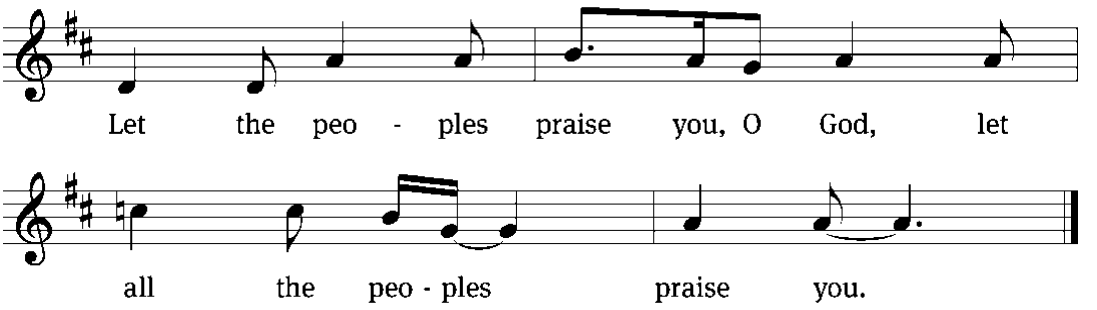
[13]"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. [14]And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

[15]But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my
name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. [16]I will show him how
much he must suffer for my name.”
[17]Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said,
“Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming
here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”
[18]Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got
up and was baptized, [19]and after taking some food, he regained his strength.
Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. [20]At once he began to preach in
the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. [21]All those who heard him were astonished
and asked, “Isn’t he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this
name? And hasn’t he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?” [22]Yet Saul
grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that
Jesus is the Messiah.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 67A — Let the Peoples Praise You

Refrain



Tone



May God be gracious to us and / bless us
and make his face / shine on us—
so that your ways may be / known on earth,
your salvation among all / nations.

May the peoples / praise you, God;
may all the peoples / praise you.
May the nations be glad and / sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations / of the earth. *Refrain*

The land yields its / harvest;
God, our God, / blesses us.
May God / bless us still,
so that all the ends of the earth will / fear him.

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 *Galatians 1:11-24*

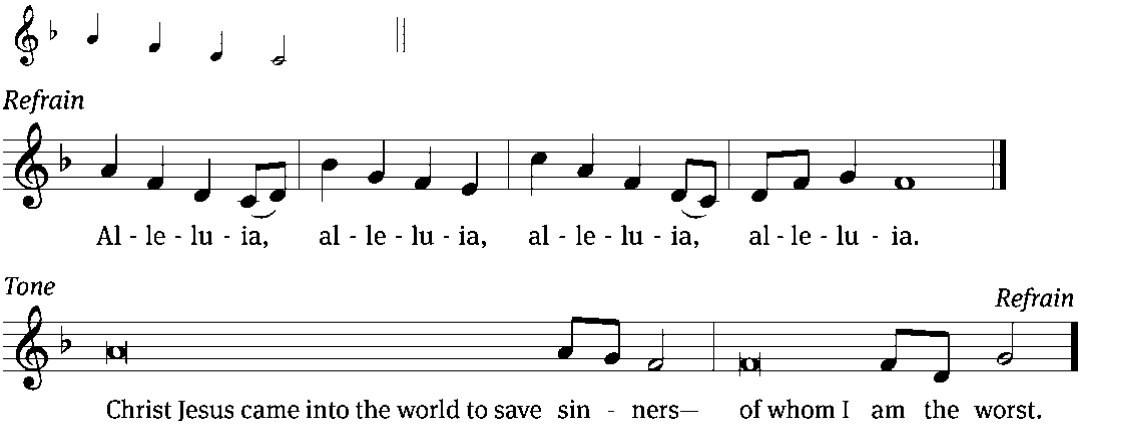
Paul describes what happened before and after his conversion.

11 I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human
origin. 12 I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by
revelation from Jesus Christ.
13 For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted
the church of God and tried to destroy it. 14 I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of
my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers.
15 But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace,
was pleased 16 to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my
immediate response was not to consult any human being. 17 I did not go up to Jerusalem to
see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to
Damascus.
18 Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas and
stayed with him fifteen days. 19 I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord's
brother. 20 I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie.
21 Then I went to Syria and Cilicia. 22 I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea
that are in Christ. 23 They only heard the report: "The man who formerly persecuted us is
now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." 24 And they praised God because of me.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

1 Timothy 1:15



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Gospel

Matthew 19:27-30

Converting to Christianity changes lives for eternity

[27]Peter answered him, "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?"

[28]Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. [29]And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. [30]But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.

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

Children's Message

Hymn 549

Across the Lands

Sunday sung by 5K-8

Sermon

Christian Education Matters
…for our children
…for yourself
…for others
Pastor Dustin Yahnke

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



Ministry Anniversaries

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 713 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Please keep **Pastor Hillmer** in your prayers as he deliberates the call he received to serve at Winnebago Lutheran Academy, Fond du Lac, WI (Religion and Coaching) as well as **Pastor Bigelow** as he deliberates the call he received to serve as Pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church, Lake City, MN.

Today's preservice and post service music is based entirely on the favorite hymns of our anniversary honorees today. Take a look thru your hymnal at these numbers as you listen. 385, 486, 526, 550, 552, 612, 633, 675, 803, 813, 821, 828, 867, 873, 889. Ask your teachers and Pastor Bigelow which ones they chose!

Acknowledgments
Setting Four from Christian Worship
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Thank you for Serving our Savior and Us		
	This Weekend	**Next Weekend – February 7 & 8**
Ushers	**Saturday** – Andy Andress **Early –** Jason Cox **Late –** Todd Helwig	**Saturday** – Scott Heins **Early –** Joel Watson **Late –** Sam Wiess
Greeters	**Early** – Tim & Sandy Torgerson **Late** – Brenda Broege-Nagel	**Early** – Dave & Betty Reul **Late** – Dave & Betty Reul
Hospitality	**Saturday** – Char Bouche **Early –** Tom & Mary Thiele **Late** – Ginny Kehren	**Saturday** – Jon & Kessia Boche **Early –** Tom & Beth Plitzuweit **Late** – Brian & Kari Winkelman
Organist	Char Bouche	Pastor Jon Kehren
Flowers	Helen Rupnow – In Memory of Roger	Don & Marilyn Bence – 70th Wedding Ann.
Special Music	5K – 8 Grade	Handbells
Projection	**Saturday** – Dan Shaw **Early –** Lily Winkelman **Late** – Grace Heins	**Saturday** – Emily Stewart **Early –** Leila Glorioso **Late –** Kendra Lauersdorf
Sound	**Saturday** – Scott Heins **Early –** Joel Aldinger **Late** – Jacob Kopplin	**Saturday** – John Stewart **Early –** Julia Watson **Late –** Kathy Goggins
Livestream	Mike Bouche	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 Ministry Anniversaries Presentation; Sunday School Laudate Dominum Rehearsal
Monday	6:30 pm	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 Elders Board of Outreach
Wednesday	10:00 am 1:30 pm 5:00 pm 6:30 pm	Shorehaven Service Senior Fellowship Non-School Catechism Board of Stewardship
Thursday	8:00 am 8:30 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm 8:00 pm	SCRIP Orders Due Women in the Word Rejoice! Choir Men's Chorus / Handbells
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 Laudate Dominum Rehearsal

Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Adult Bible Study
No Adult Bible Study this week. Africa Mission Presentation: Pastor Mark Ununda from Kenya, Africa is tentatively scheduled (there may be Visa issues) to join us for a special mission presentation on Sunday, February 8th during the Bible study hour. The St. Matthew's mission trip is going to Kenya and Tanzania in March where Pastor Ununda serves and has helped build a new church there. Come listen to the exciting gospel work being done in Africa and how we can continue supporting it.
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 Jesus interacting with the woman at the well. Both age groups will be meeting in the Flex Room. The teens are not meeting today for Bible study.

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!

Highlights and Announcements

Women's Retreat – Saturday, February 28, 8:00 to 3:00
Open to women of St. Matthew's and their family and friends. Register at smls.org/events
All high school and college students are $15

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***

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.

ACTS Snow Tubing & Lunch
Sunday, Feb 22 | 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Teens (grades 7–12) are invited for snow tubing at Sunburst followed by lunch at Culver's! We'll meet at St. Matthew's and travel together. A fun way to hang out, make friends, and enjoy the winter. *Cost: $25 (group rate for 15+).*
Registration & Sign-Up Details:
1. **RSVP by Feb 15 to save your spot** (in SignUpGenius)
2. **Sunburst Registration:** Use the QR Code and follow the instructions to register and sign the waiver. Please read all instructions carefully.

St. Matthew's Ski Club – Club Updates
Our next Ski Club night is **Monday, February 9**. Students, parents, siblings, and friends are welcome to order using our link and receive discounted club pricing.
Upcoming Future Dates: Friday, February 27
Student ID Cards: Optional for students ages 7–high school. Includes one free lesson and discounted rates Sunday–Friday after 3 PM. Available for purchase anytime. More info: *St. Matthew's Ski Club 2025–2026*

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

Berres Brothers Coffee Roasters FUNDRAISER!!
St. Matthew's School is raising money to purchase new lighting for our theater productions! When you use **discount code "Nest"** at check out, you'll receive 15% off your order and St. Matthew's School will also receive 15% of your purchase! Visit the link and start shopping! https://www.berresbrothers.com/

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

"HEART STRONG" Winter Teen Retreat @ St. Peter's, Helenville
7th–12th grade teens are invited to a 24-hour retreat of games, sports, Bible sessions, and campfire fellowship. The retreat runs **Saturday, Feb. 7 at 3 PM to Sunday, Feb. 8 at 3 PM** at St. Peter's Lutheran School (W3255 HWY 18, Helenville, WI). Sign up by going to https://www.stpeterslutheran-helenville.org/page/youth-group
Email **pastor@stpetershelenville.com** or call 417-388-4334 with questions.

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.

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