

St. Matthew's
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Palm Sunday
March 29, 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.

Palm Sunday ~ Holy Week

Palm Sunday begins the seven days known as Holy Week. On this day, Jesus rode triumphantly into Jerusalem. He had come to be the Savior of the world. However, that meant his journey to Jerusalem did not end at a king's throne, but at a criminal's cross.

Today we also cry out ***Hosanna*** with Christians of ages past. The word hosanna is a transliteration of the Hebrew phrase that expresses the plea, "Lord, save us" (Psalm 118:25), a cry of joyous hope. Such joy is echoed in the use of palms branches themselves which believers have incorporated into worship as symbols of victory, life, and hope.

Worship Focus: Look Up to See Your King You are going about your daily business. There is a crowd. You are easily distracted by all the activity. It's a holiday, and there are extra things to prepare. It is easy to focus on your personal task at hand and lose sight of the bigger picture. Focus! Look up! There is a King who presents himself so humbly that you might miss the importance of his arrival. Hail the King who humbly comes to save us!

The initials, **INRI**, in the center parament stand for "**J**esus of **N**azareth **K**ing of the **J**ews." This was the sign that hung above Jesus on the cross. Latin uses an "I" instead of a "J" and the word for King is "Rex."

After our 10:30am service this week, we will have a Private Baptism for **Iiya June Carlson**, the daughter of James and Abigail Carlson. God rich blessings to Iiya!

For Your Convenience

- ◊ Hearing Loop is available.
- ◊ 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
Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026

Teen Ministry Sunday – This weekend our teens are using their God-given gifts in many aspects of worship: reading, playing music, ushering, operating the A/V, serving refreshments. We are collecting a door offering to support those attending the 2026 WELS Youth Rally trip to Bowling Green, OH. Donations are also welcome online anytime.

Ensemble – Sunday **A Childhood Hymn**
Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound
Abide With Me

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

Dear friends in Christ, during the weeks of Lent we have been preparing to commemorate our Lord's suffering, death, and resurrection. Today we come together to begin the journey of Holy Week. Christ entered in triumph into his own city to complete his work as our Savior and to gain for us the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. We follow him in faith and praise him with joy.

Sunday only: The procession of palms begins. During the procession, the hymn "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" is sung.

Hymn 412 All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,
we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.
We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.
We have done those things that we should not have done,
and we have not done those things that we should have done.
Have mercy on us, Lord!
Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,
according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Absolution

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.
Amen.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

We praise you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ. As he was acclaimed by those who scattered their garments and branches of palms in his path, so may we always hail him as our King and follow him with perfect confidence; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

First Reading *(Sermon Text)* *Zechariah 9:9-10*

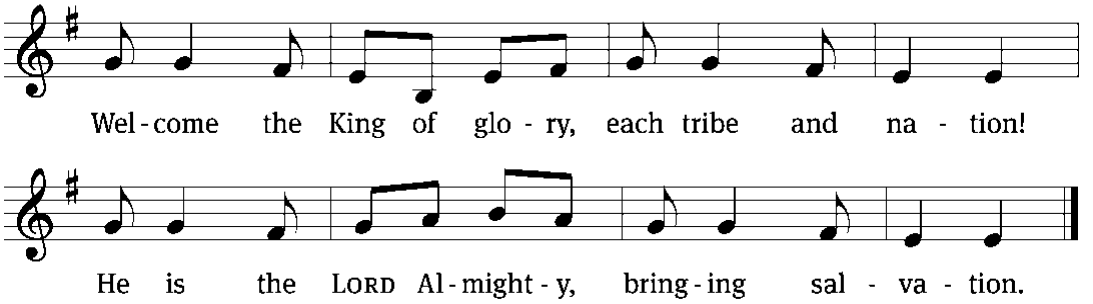
The prophet Zechariah draws our attention to a Savior King who will rule with gentleness and bring peace.

9 Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!
Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you,
righteous and victorious,
lowly and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
10 I will take away the chariots from Ephraim
and the warhorses from Jerusalem,
and the battle bow will be broken.
He will proclaim peace to the nations.
His rule will extend from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
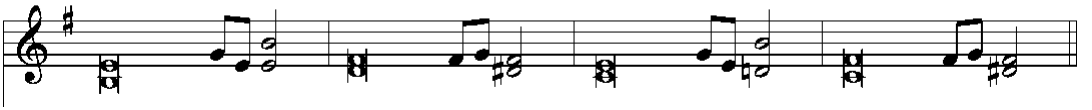
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 24A — Welcome the King of Glory

Refrain



Tone



The earth is the LORD's, and every- / thing in it,
the world, and all who / live in it;
for he founded it / on the seas
and established it on the / waters.

Who may ascend the mountain / of the LORD?
Who may stand in his / holy place?
The one who has clean hands and a / pure heart,
they will receive blessing from God their / Savior. *Refrain*

Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you / ancient doors,
that the King of glory / may come in.
Who is this King of / glory?
The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in / battle.

Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you / ancient doors,
that the King of glory / may come in.
Who is he, this King of / glory?
The LORD Almighty—he is the King of / glory.

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: Israeli
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Second Reading *Philippians 2:5-11*

Every eye will see Jesus exalted.

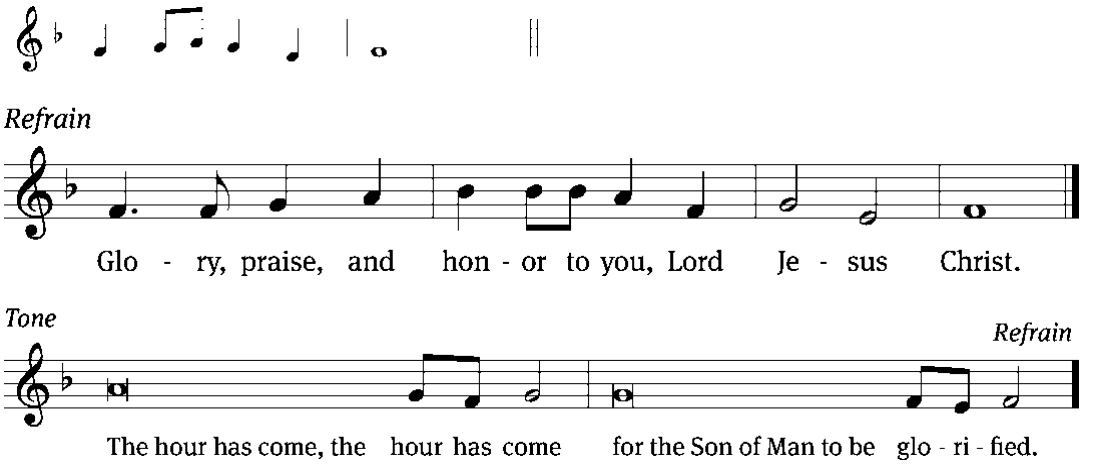
5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
7 rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.
8 And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *John 12:23*



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Gospel *Matthew 21:1-11*

Lift up your head to join the chorus of praise for King Jesus.

[1]As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives,
Jesus sent two disciples, [2]saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once
you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to
me. [3]If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send
them right away."

[4]This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

[5]"Say to Daughter Zion,
'See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.' "

[6]The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. [7]They brought the donkey
and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. [8]A very large crowd
spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread
them on the road. [9]The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

[10]When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is
this?"

[11]The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

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

Hymn 413 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Sermon The King Is Coming! Rejoice and Shout!

Pastor Mark Voss

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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

The Sacrament

Preface

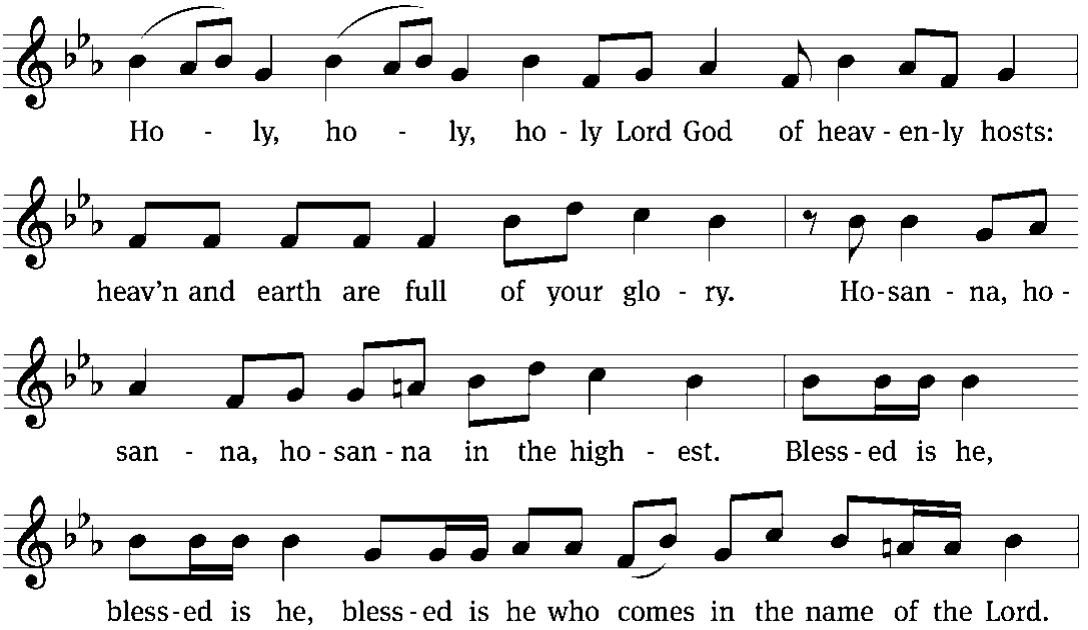
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

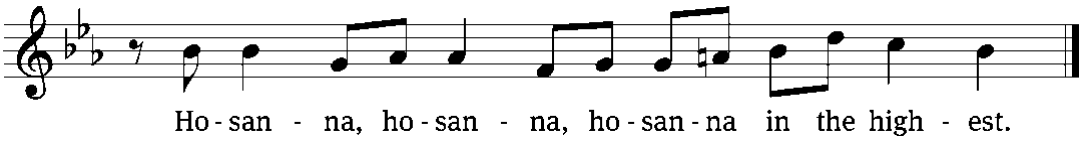
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy *CW 167*





Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
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.

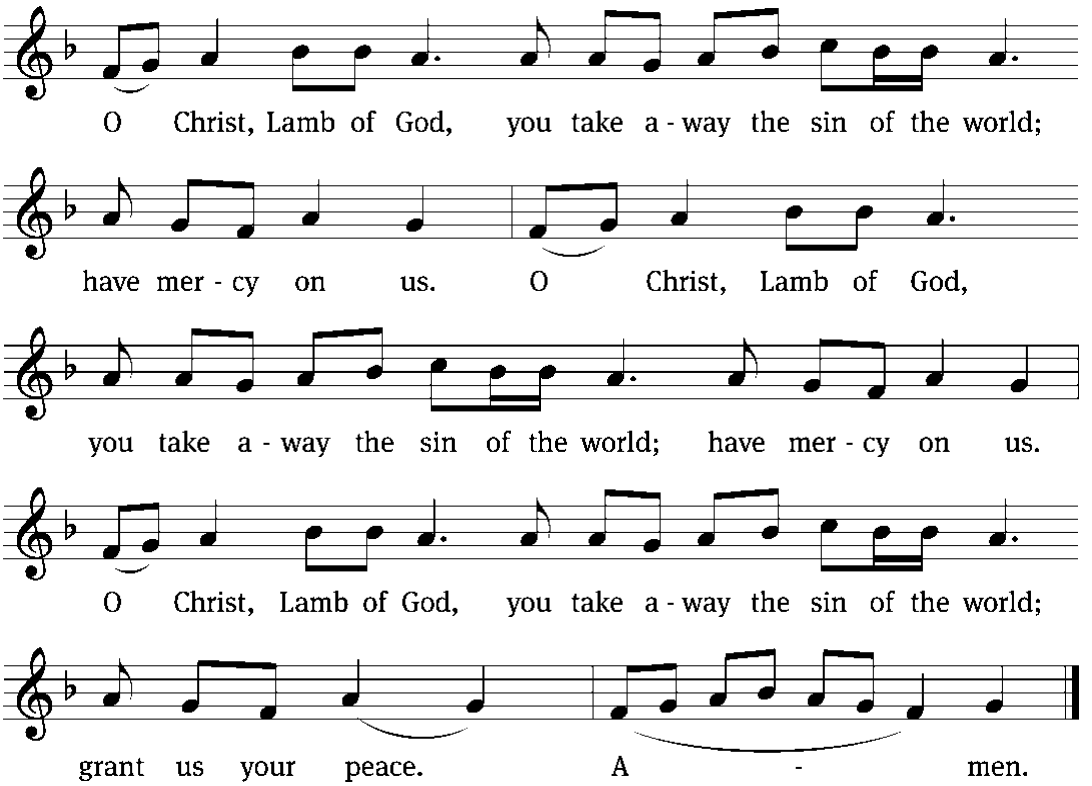
Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God *CW 169*



We celebrate the Lord's Supper today. In his Word, God makes it clear that Holy Communion is to be shared by people who proclaim a common faith (1 Corinthians 11:26; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17). Without judging anyone's hearts, we invite those who share in our confession by their membership in our congregation or another congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) and who are properly prepared (1 Corinthians 11:27-29) to receive the Sacrament. See page 295 in the front of Christian Worship for a guide for preparation. Guests, please speak with one of the pastors about instruction in our Christian faith and this Sacrament so you will be ready to partake of this wonderful meal in full unity with us after that instruction. Thank you for respecting the way we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

Distribution – Communion distribution procedures will be announced by the Pastor. Please follow the direction of the ushers. Cups of non-alcoholic wine (light in color) are in the center of each tray.

Distribution Hymn 411 Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

Distribution Hymn 676 Take and Eat

Personal Prayer after communion: *Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.*

Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Prayer

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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 414:3-4 No Tramp of Soldiers' Marching Feet

Acknowledgments
Palm Sunday Procession with Palms from Christian Worship
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Thank you for Serving our Savior and Us

	This Weekend	Next Weekend – April 2, 3 & 5
Ushers	**Saturday** – Andy Andress **Early –** Josh Strassburg **Late –** Eric Ziel	**Thursday 4pm** – Joel Watson **Thursday 6:30pm** – Eric Ziel **Friday 1:00 pm** – Josh Strassburg **Friday 6:30 pm** – Andy Rosenau **Sonrise 6:00 am** – Jim Fulmer **Early –** Eric Wegner **Late** – Toby Brandenstein
Greeters	**Early** – Curt Delie **Late** – Tom & Mary Thiele	**6am –** Ralph & Tracy Schmidt **Early** – John & Jill Fields **Late** –
Organist	Linda Smith	Char Bouche, Joy Elowski
Special Music	Ensemble	Rejoice, Choir, Brass
Projection	**Saturday** – Dan Metzger **Early –** Leila Glorioso **Late –** Toby Brandenstein	**Thursday 4pm** – Eli Bigelow **Thursday 6:30 pm** – Lily Winkelman **Friday 1:00 pm** – Grace Heins **Friday 6:30 pm** – Kylee/Leila Glorioso **Sonrise 6:00 am** – Dan Shaw **Early –** Leila Glorioso **Late** – Matthias Uttech
Sound	**Saturday** – Vickie Bence **Early –** Karen Haertel **Late –** Jacob Kopplin	**Thursday 4pm** – Joel Aldinger **Thursday 6:30pm** – Rik Krahn **Friday 1:00 pm** – Scott Heins **Friday 6:30 pm** – Steve Vasatko **Sonrise 6:00 am** – Joel Aldinger **Early –** Scott Heins **Late** – Heather Bigelow
Livestream	**Sunday** – John Schuh	**Thursday** – Jason Cox **Friday** – John Schuh **Sunday Sonrise**– Mike Bouche **Sunday 8am** – John Schuh

Thank you to all our teens who served us this weekend. Those serving as readers are:

Saturday	Sunday 8:00	Sunday 10:30
Declan Johnson Lucas Stammen Andrew Stammen	Cayden Schliewe Malakai Kaesermann Ephraim Strohm	Jude Hillmer Nathan Charais Josh Charais

Holy Week Worship Information

April 2 Holy Thursday ~ worship at 4:00pm and 6:30pm with communion

April 3 Good Friday Tenebrae ~ worship at 1:00pm and 6:30pm

April 4 No Saturday Service

April 5 Easter Sunrise ~ 6:00am

April 5 Easter Festival ~ 8:00am and 10:30am *Easter breakfast served from 7am - 10am*

Easter Breakfast – 1 More Volunteer Needed!
Join us Sunday, April 5, from 7–10 AM in the Commons for a light Easter continental breakfast. We're looking for 1 **helper from 8:00–10:30 AM** to assist with serving and clean-up. Sign-up at smls.org

Workers for the Lord 2026 Application.
Applications for the 2026 Workers for the Lord program are now available for students attending Martin Luther College, Luther Prep and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. This program provides financial support and encouragement for students preparing for public ministry and training to serve the Lord in their future vocations. Eligible students are encouraged to apply for the 2026 cycle. **Please complete your submission by May 1.**

LWMS Spring Rally – Saturday, April 18
Registration is now open for the LWMS Spring Rally! Join us on **Saturday, April 18th, 2026**, hosted by **St. John's Whitewater** at *The Fuzzy Pig, N8660 Clover Valley Rd, Whitewater*, from **8:00 AM to 1:00 PM**. Our guest speaker will be *Pastor Dan Lindner* from Campus Ministries. To attend, contact **Sally Schliewe** at or **Michelle Cox** at by **Friday, April 3**. Please indicate if you'll stay for lunch or need childcare.

Save the Date: Laudate Dominum Concert: *Sinners and Saints*
You're invited to *Sinners and Saints*, a choral concert featuring 33 singers from 17 area congregations. Through music that challenges, comforts, and inspires, the program explores our identity as both sinners and saints—and the powerful truth of whose we are in Christ.
Join us Sunday, April 19 at 7:00 PM at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. A freewill offering will be gathered.

FORWARD IN CHRIST Subscriptions
Sign up for the congregation's *Forward in Christ* subscription (starting in June). Complete an envelope available on the table near the church office and submit it by mail or drop it off at the church office (mailing address required). All current subscribers must renew. Make checks payable to *St. Matthew's Lutheran Church.*
Sign up by May 1st

Blue Butterfly Work Night: MAR 30
Join us FOR Blue Butterfly Work Night on **MARCH 30** and **APRIL 20** from 4–6:30 PM. Please contact Bev Fulmer by phone or text at 262-569-1969 to let her know you're coming.

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