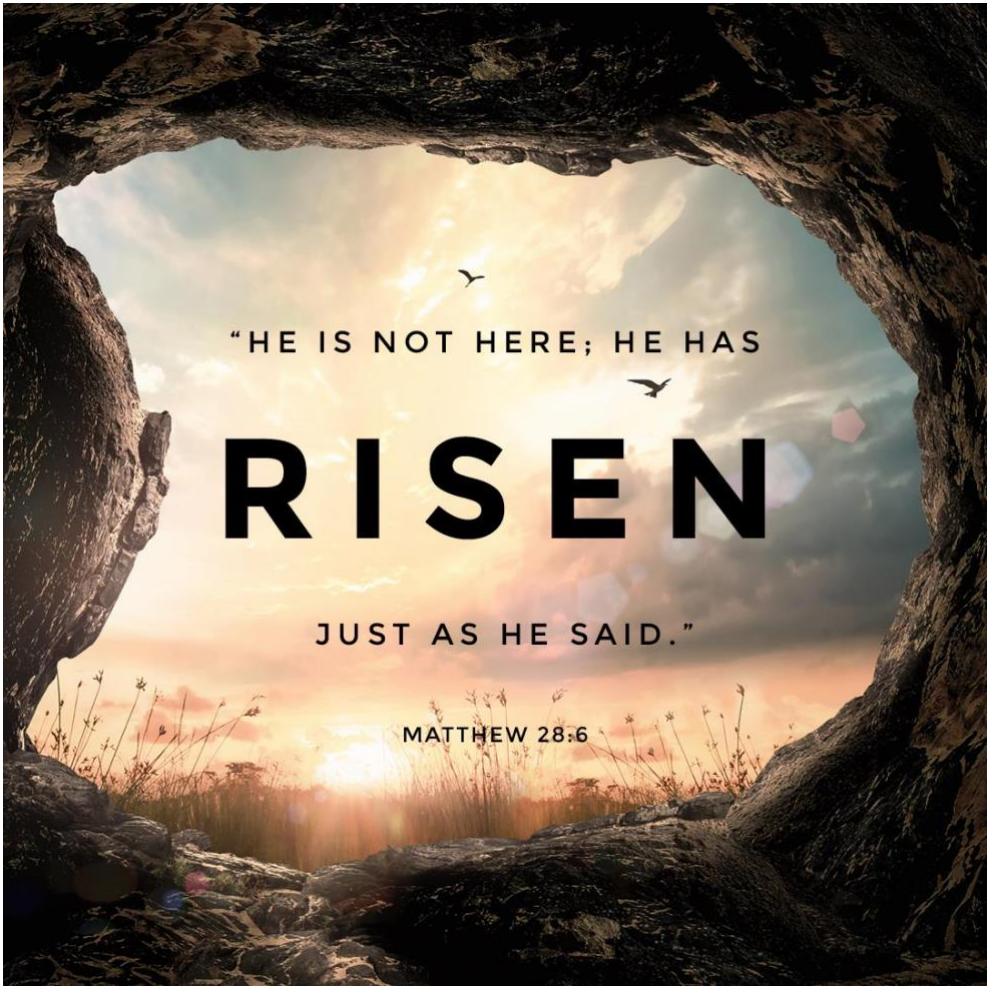


Easter Son-Rise Service

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church and School
Oconomowoc, WI

Sunday, April 5, 2026 ✠ 6:00 a.m.

Welcome to St. Matthew's!

Welcome to the house of the Lord! This morning we gather to hear the greatest news of all – "Jesus, our Savior, Lives!" We gather to celebrate His victory, which through faith is also our Victory! Join us each week as fills us with his peace! If you currently do not have a church home and 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.

"CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!"

For nearly 2000 years, Christians have been joyfully greeting one another with this phrase - and today we greet you in the same fashion.

Can you imagine being the first to the tomb on Easter Sunday! What emotions would there be? Certainly you would have set out with sadness and fear, expecting only somber death and decay. Yet, how Easter changes everything! Jesus is not there! Jesus lives! His resurrection dries our tears and fills us with the peace and joy knowing that all his promises are true! Rejoice—your Savior Lives!

The words "Alleluia" and "Hallelujah," both variations of a Hebrew word that means "Praise the Lord," are traditionally omitted during the season of Lent. As we focus on Jesus' suffering during Lent, this custom is viewed as an expression of sorrow and repentance over our sin. On Easter Sunday, "Alleluia" and "Hallelujah" return to worship generously in speech and song.

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
Easter SonRise

April 5, 2026

The service begins at the back of the Sanctuary.
At the invitation of the minister, please stand and face the back of the church.

The Tomb is Empty! Matthew 28:1-6

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. **3** His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. **4** The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. **6** He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia! *Liturgical statement*

This is the day the Lord has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it. *Psalm 118:24*

I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted.
The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. *Exodus 15:1-2*
Let us come before him with thanksgiving,
and extol him with music and song. *Psalm 95:2*

During the introduction of the hymn, continue facing the Cross as it is processed forth.

Hymn 449 This Joyful Eastertide

Easter Proclamation *Adapted from the Ancient Easter Vigil*

Rejoice now, all you heavenly choirs of angels! Rejoice now, all creation!
Sound forth, trumpet of salvation, and proclaim the triumph of our King.

Rejoice, all the earth, in the radiance of the light now poured upon you and made brilliant by the brightness of the everlasting King.
Know that the ancient darkness has been forever banished.

Rejoice, O Church of Christ, clothed in the brightness of this light.
Let all this house of God ring out with rejoicing, with the praises of all God's faithful people.

This is the day when all who believe in Christ are delivered from bondage to sin and are restored to life and immortality.
This is the day when Christ, the Life, arose from the dead. The seal of the grave is broken and the morning of the new creation breaks forth out of night.

How holy is this day when all wickedness is put to flight and sin is washed away.
How holy is this day when innocence is restored to the fallen and joy is given to those downcast.

How blessed is this day when man is reconciled to God in Christ.
Let Christ, the true Light and Morning Star, shine in our hearts, he who gives light to all creation.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, through your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, you overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. We humbly pray that we may live before you in righteousness and purity forever; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

THE WORD

First Reading — Isaiah 12:1-6

We rightly feared what our sins have done. But when Jesus rose, he proved that the payment for sins is complete. The time for crying is over.

[1]In that day you will say:

"I will praise you, LORD.
Although you were angry with me,
your anger has turned away
and you have comforted me.
[2]Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust and not be afraid.
The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense;
he has become my salvation."
[3]With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

[4]In that day you will say:

"Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done,
and proclaim that his name is exalted.
[5]Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things;
let this be known to all the world.
[6]Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion,
for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem — The First Song of Isaiah

The Choir sings the verses; Congregation joins in the refrain.

Second Reading — 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

In response to the forgiveness won by our Passover Lamb, we make our entire Christian lives into an Easter celebration.

Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? 7Get rid of the
old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ,
our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 8Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with
the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of
sincerity and truth.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn 450 — The Day of Resurrection

Gospel (Sermon Text) — John 20:1-18

The living Lord appears to Mary to dry her tears and take away her fears.

1Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the
tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. 2So she came running to
Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the
Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"
3So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. 4Both were running, but the
other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5He bent over and looked in at the
strips of linen lying there but did not go in. 6Then Simon Peter came along behind him and
went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, 7as well as the cloth that
had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from
the linen. 8Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He
saw and believed. 9(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise
from the dead.) 10Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.
11Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into
the tomb 12and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the
head and the other at the foot.
13They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." [14]At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

[15]He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

[16]Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

[17]Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' "

[18]Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

Hymn 443 — Awake, My Heart with Gladness

Sermon Theme — Jesus Lives To Wipe Away Your Tears

Pastor Mark Voss

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

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.

Dialogue and Blessing

If Christ had not been raised our preaching and faith would be useless.
If Christ had not been raised our faith would be futile, we would still be in our sins.

If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.
But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since death comes through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.
For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

But each in his own turn; Christ the firstfruits, then, when he comes, those who belong to him.
Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

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.

Hymn 471 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

Serving God and God's People This Easter Dawn

Minister:	Pastor Mark Voss
Organist:	Char Bouche
Special Music:	Choir
Instrumentalists:	Jon Kehren, Tim Torgerson, Tim Anderson, Ethan Schuh Jenny Hillmer, Silas Hillmer
Easter Lilies:	Provided by the Nancy Peregrine Beautification Fund

Highlights and Announcements

Church Office
The church office will be closed on Monday.

Special Voter's Meeting – April 12
All voting members are encouraged to attend a Special Voters' Meeting on Sunday, April 12, immediately following the late service. Please plan to stay and be part of this important discussion.

20/30S Group | 3 Minute Mingles
Looking to connect with others in a similar stage of life? All 20/30s adults, join us for *3 Minute Mingles* on **Saturday, April 25 from 3:00–5:00 PM** in the Commons! You'll rotate through short, guided conversations—no awkward small talk required.
Bring an appetizer or snack to share. Childcare may be available based on need.
RSVP to Emily Stewart at estewart@smls.org **or** Marissa Krogmann. at marissakrogmann@gmail.com

WELS Mission Festival – April 25 & 26 at St. Matthew's
Join us at St. Matthew's for a special WELS Mission Festival on Saturday & Sunday, April 25–26, during all services. This year, we'll be focusing on the incredible mission work happening in the **Asia-Oceania region**—a powerful opportunity to see how the gospel is reaching people across cultures and continents.
We welcome **Pastor Leon Ehlert,** who serves part-time with the Asia-Oceania mission team and at Beautiful Savior in Green Bay, WI. **He will be presenting between services on Sunday** as our featured presenter. He will share insights and stories from the mission field and how God's Word is reaching people around the world.

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.

Campus Grounds Volunteers
Warmer weather is a great opportunity to help care for our St. Matthew's grounds. Our gardens are divided into sections so anyone can help—even with a busy schedule. Each volunteer (or team) cares for one area from **May 1–September 30**, working on your own time as needed.
To sign up use the QR Code. You may sign up with a friend or group. Some areas are already filled by returning volunteers, so please choose an available area or a substitute option. Wisconsin Master Gardeners may count this site for volunteer hours. Questions? Contact Debby Kuklinski at 414-520-6642.

ACTS: Gourmet Girls Flourish Night
As part of our ACTS teens ministry, Joy Lenz will be hosting two Gourmet Girls Flourish Nights this April—an evening of devotion, cooking, and connection. It's a great opportunity for girls to spend time together, grow in faith, and enjoy a fun night in the kitchen.
- April 17 – High School Girls (6–9 PM)
- April 25 – Grades 7–8 (6–9 PM)
Sign up at **smls.org/events**

Crafting for Hope Day – April 26
Join SHINE Women's Ministry for a **Craft Day on Sunday, April 26, from 1–3 PM in the Commons.** Women and girls age 10+ are invited to help cut and prepare felt pieces for a storyboard set for Hope Lutheran Church in Houston, TX. Bring fabric scissors and join us! Offerings collected during the Easter Breakfast helped purchase this storyboard set, making this a meaningful opportunity to support the project both financially and hands-on. These materials will be used by Emilee Nemmers, a former member and teacher, to launch an early childhood Sunday school program this August.

Worker's 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.** Use the QR Code to find the application and additional details.

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**

LWMS Mission Offering
Twice a year, each LWMS Circuit Rally provides an opportunity for women from every church in the circuit to give an offering supporting two mission projects - **Home Mission:** *WELS Campus Ministry* | **World Mission:** *International Missionary Wives Conference.*
Give: ***Now - April 5th,*** offerings can be dropped at the church office or **given online.** (Checks should be made payable to *St. Matthew's with LWMS* in the memo line.)

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