

St. Matthew's
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 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.

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

HE LIVES TO RESTORE MY HOPE

Without the resurrection of Jesus, I would have little hope for the future. That's how the disciples felt after this death. "We hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel" (Luke 24:19). Their hope for a better life had died along with Jesus.

But he lives, and it makes a difference. My hope for the future is restored. I have victory over the feeling of hopelessness, because the one who heals me and gives me a better life is himself alive. He lives to restore my hope.

During the Easter Season of the Church Year, the **Christ Candle** resides at the "head of the altar" and is lit for every service. This reminds us of the Visible Presence of Jesus among his disciples for the 40 days. During the Gospel reading in the Ascension service, the candle is extinguished as our Lord takes his place at the Right Hand of God the Father Almighty.



For Your Convenience

- ◊ A Hearing Loop system is available; switch your device to the "T" (telecoil) program to connect. Further instructions are available in the Church Office.
- ◊ 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
Third Sunday of Easter
April 19, 2026

THE SERVICE: SETTING ONE

You may follow along starting on page 154 in the hymnal.

Hymn 455 **Alleluia! Jesus Lives**

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.

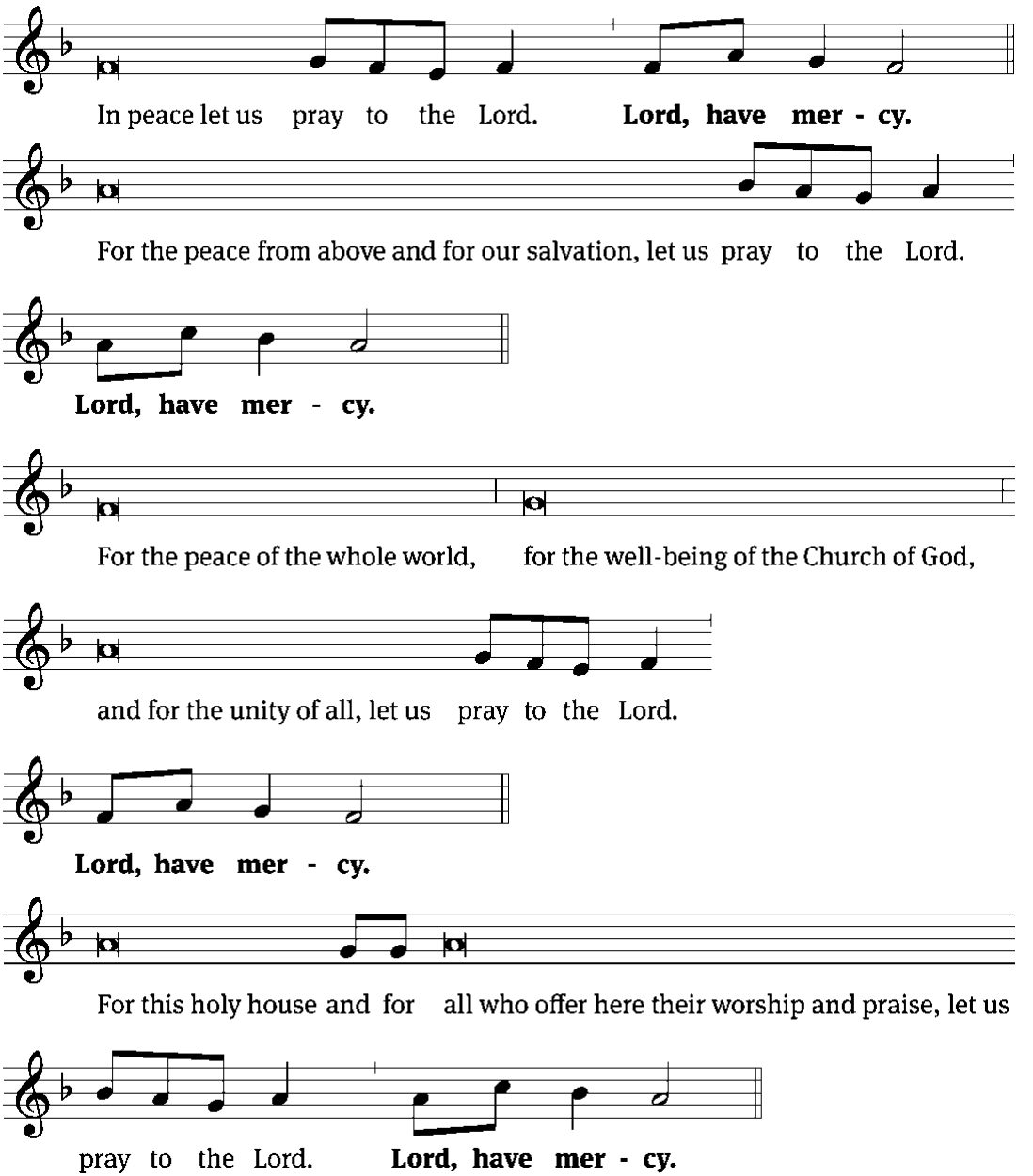
Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

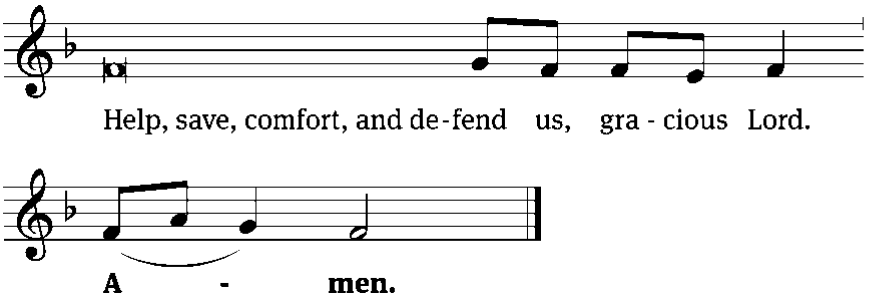
Silence for meditation and reflection

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.

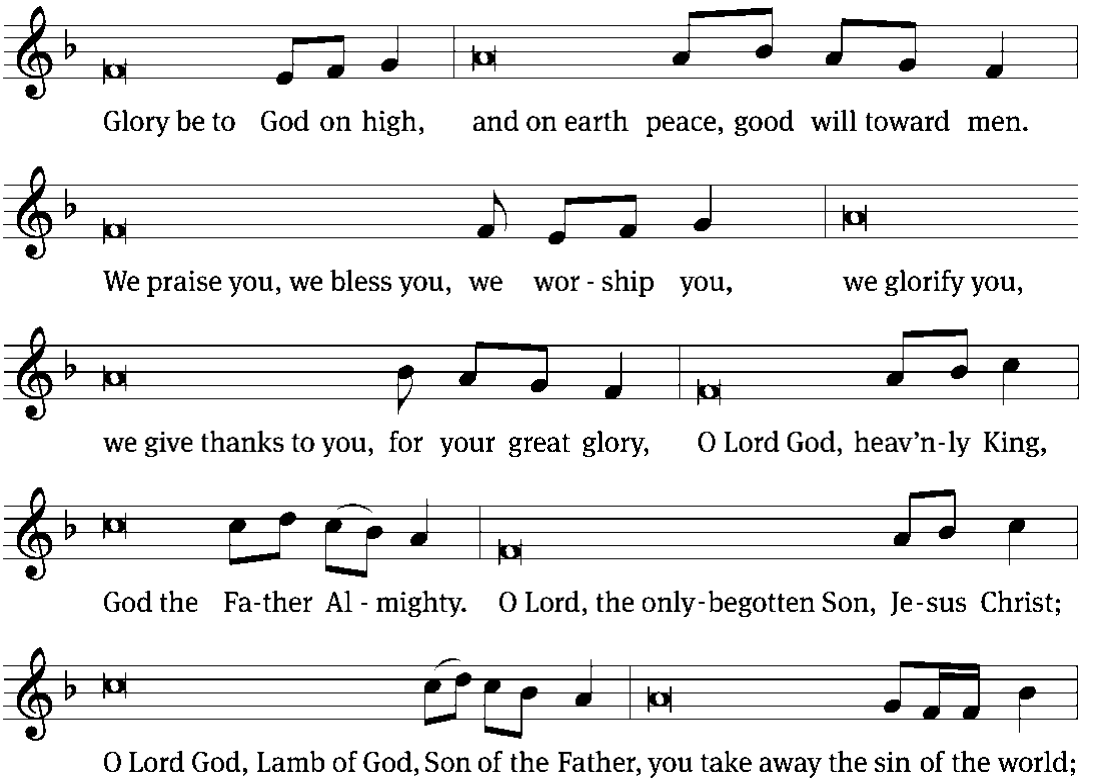
Lord, Have Mercy





Tune: Kevin Becker
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Glory Be to God on High





The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

O God, by the humiliation of your Son, you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; 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 2:14a,32-41**

The message of Christ crucified and risen gives the certain hope of forgiveness to sinners.

[14]Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

[32]God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. [33]Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. [34]For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

" 'The Lord said to my Lord:
"Sit at my right hand
[35]until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet." '

[36]"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

[37]When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

[38]Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. [39]The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

[40]With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." [41]Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

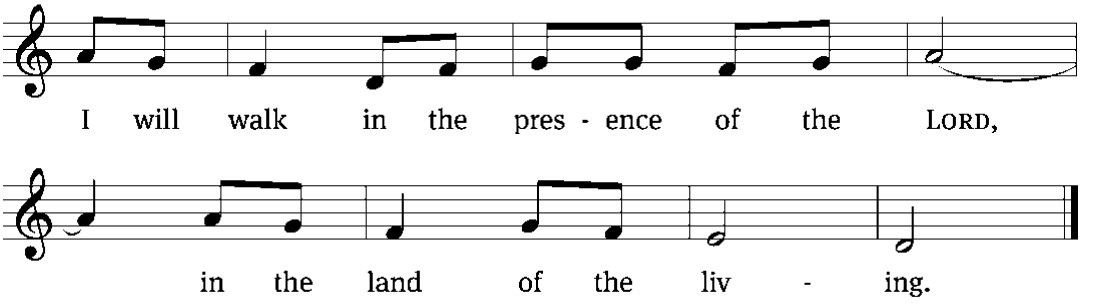
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem (Sunday) **Christ Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed!**

Rejoice! / Grades 4-5

Psalm 116B (Saturday) I Will Walk in the Presence of the Lord

Refrain



Tone



I love the LORD, for he / heard my voice;
he heard my cry for / mercy.
Because he turned his / ear to me,
I will call on him as long / as I live.
The LORD is gracious and / righteous;
when I was brought low, he / saved me. *Refrain*

What shall I return / to the LORD
for all his good- / ness to me?
I will lift up the cup of sal- / vation
and call on the name / of the LORD.
Precious in the sight / of the LORD
is the death of his faithful / servants.
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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Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer
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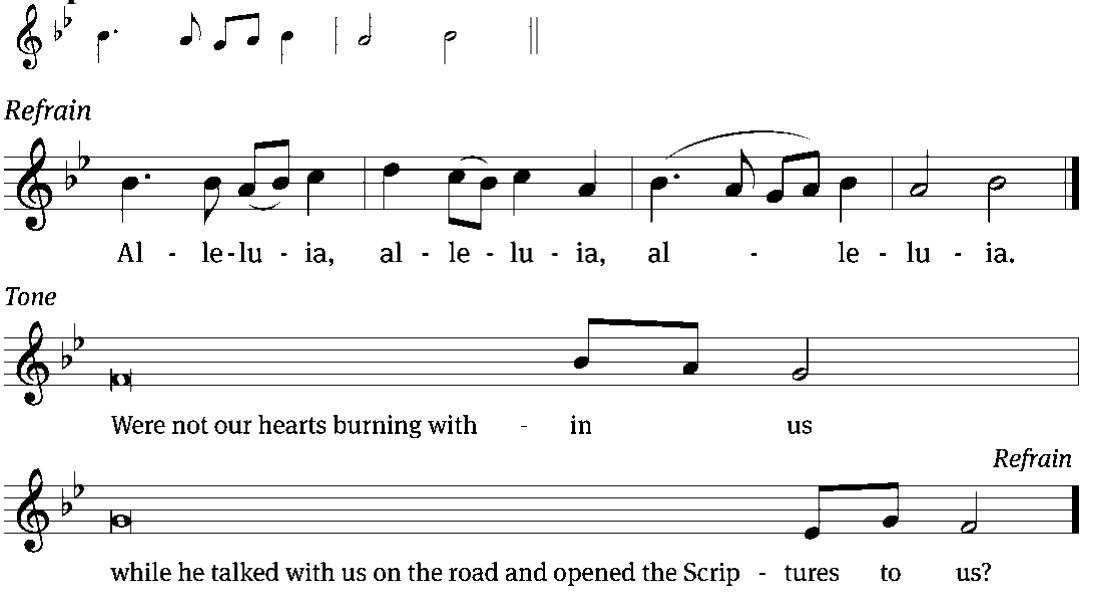
Second Reading *1 Peter 1:17-21*

Our hope and expectation is joining our Savior in the glory of heaven. Until that day, we live as pilgrims heading toward home.

17 Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out
your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. 18 For you know that it was not with
perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of
life handed down to you from your ancestors, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a
lamb without blemish or defect. 20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but
was revealed in these last times for your sake. 21 Through him you believe in God, who
raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *Luke 24:32*



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Gospel *Luke 24:13-35*

Jesus restored the hope of two disciples as he explained the Scriptures.

13 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven
miles from Jerusalem. 14 They were talking with each other about everything that had
happened. 15 As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came
up and walked along with them; 16 but they were kept from recognizing him.

17 He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. 18 One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are
you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened
there in these days?" 19 "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed
before God and all the people. 20 The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be
sentenced to death, and they crucified him; 21 but we had hoped that he was the one who
was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place.
22 In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning
23 but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels,
who said he was alive. 24 Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just
as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

25 He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets
have spoken! 26 Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?"
27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in
all the Scriptures concerning himself.

28 As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he
were going farther. 29 But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening;
the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to
give it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he
disappeared from their sight. 32 They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning
within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

33 They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those
with them, assembled together 34 and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has
appeared to Simon." 35 Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus
was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

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

Hymn 459 **Christ the Lord Is Risen Again**

Sermon **Jesus Provides Pure Easter Energy**

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 17 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 460:1-2 Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

In our Prayers: May our gracious God be with **Beth Grasser** who suffered a fall and underwent successful hip surgery last week, and may he be with **Paul Habermann** who underwent a successful Appendectomy on Friday.

Bible Study Opportunities

New Sunday Adult Bible Study – *Joyful Generosity*
We have begun a 5-week study entitled Joyful Generosity. Join us as we share both many of the Biblical principles concerning stewardship as well as many practical resources for you to consider your joy-filled response to God's Grace. This will prepare our congregation for this year's Commitment Sunday on May 31st as we present our plans to the Lord. This also coincides nicely with the adoption of next year's Ministry Plan to support the Gospel Ministry here at St. Matthew's and around the world!

Sunday School and Teen Study
Sunday School will be studying the account of Jesus appearing to the disciples on the first Easter Sunday evening. PreK-K meet in the Flex Room (over halfway down the school hallway). Grades 1-6 meet in a Sunday School Room across from the Band Room. Teen study meets in the Teen Room across from the Band Room and is studying Jesus' resurrection appearances.

Thursday "Women in the Word" Bible Class
This Thursday we will begin a study of the Book of Esther. 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 for a great breakfast and a study of God's Word. Breakfast starts at 7:30am on the 2nd Saturday each month. Pastor Bigelow is leading as we "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 –** April 25 & 26
Ushers	**Saturday** – Tom Plitzuweit **Early –** Tim Taubenheim **Late –** Andy Rosenau	**Saturday** – Andy Andress **Early –** Jason Cox **Late –** Todd Helwig
Greeters	**Early** – Tim & Sandy Torgerson **Late** – Mike & Joy Lenz	**Early** – Stu & Deb Schramm **Late** – Eric & Beth Ziel
Hospitality	**Saturday** – Jim & Karen Spiegelberg **Early –** Tom & Beth Plitzuweit **Late** – David & LeeAndra Dodge	**Saturday** – Jon & Kessia Boche **Early –** Kyle & Robin Koltz **Late –** Rudy & Chris Dovnik
Organist	Becky Aldinger	Becky Aldinger
Flowers		
Special Music	Rejoice!, Grades 4-5	3K-4K
Projection	**Saturday** – Dan Metzger **Early –** Ava Hillmann **Late –** Grace Heins	**Saturday** – Emily Stewart **Early –** Jon/Henry Peterson **Late** – Eli Bigelow
Sound	**Saturday** – Vickie Bence **Early –** Joel Aldinger **Late –** Rik Krahn	**Saturday** – John Stewart **Early –** Rik Krahn **Late –** Jacob Kopplin
Livestream	Andy Hillmann	Mike Bouche

This Week at St. Matthew's

Saturday	5:30 pm	Worship Service
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am 7:00 pm	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; Teen Bible Study Laudate Dominum Concert
Tuesday	7:45 am	Grounded in God
Wednesday	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Shorehaven Services 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! Choir Men's Choir
Saturday	3:00 pm 5:30 pm	20-30's Group 3 Minute Mingles Communion Service
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am 1:00 pm	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; Teen Bible Study SHINE Craft Day

Highlights and Announcements

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.** 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**

Laudate Dominum Concert— This Sunday, April 19 at 7:00PM
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 at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church; a freewill offering will be gathered.

Thank You For Supporting Our Youth!
We're grateful to share that we've met—and exceeded—our goal for sending teens to the Youth Rally this July in Bowling Green, Ohio! Your prayers and financial support have made it possible for our youth to grow in their faith, build meaningful connections, and experience this special opportunity together. What a blessing it is to be part of a congregation that so faithfully invests in the next generation. Thank you for your continued encouragement and support of our youth ministry!

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** 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.

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.

OWLS
The Rock River Area OWLS will meet Tuesday, April 21st at 1:30 pm at Bethany Lutheran Church, 269 N Lake St., Hustisford. Bethany is served by Pastor Jonathan Loescher. Prof. Souk Phetsanghane from Luther Prep will tell us about his journey from Laos to Christianity. OWLS meetings are handicapped accessible, last about two hours with refreshments and time to socialize with others. Seniors who are retired and/or 55+ years old are encouraged to attend. Everyone is invited and guests are always welcome!

Blue Butterfly Work Night: April 20
Join us for our monthly Blue Butterfly Work Night on **April 20 from 4:00–6:30 PM.** We look forward to time together serving and supporting this important work! Please contact Bev Fulmer by call or text at 262-569-1969 to let her know you plan to attend.

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.
Use the QR Code to sign up. 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.

LLHS Spring Musical "Matilda" April 24-26
Roald Dahl's "Matilda The Musical" is an inspirational story of a brilliant young girl who uses her imagination, sharp mind, and bravery to overcome struggles and change her story. Choose your own seating through ticket purchases at**llhs.org/drama**. Performances include Friday & Saturday, April 24-25 @ 7 pm and Sunday, April 26 @ 2 pm.

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Setting One from Christian Worship
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FORWARD
FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

April
2026 Edition

Women's Retreat: Rooted & Strengthened

This month's *Forward for the Next Generation* video highlights our annual Women's Retreat—an opportunity for women to step away from the busyness of life, spend time in God's Word, and be strengthened through Christ-centered community.

Why It Matters

Events like the Women's Retreat go beyond a single day.

They help women:

- Grow deeper in God's Word
- Build meaningful, faith-centered relationships
- Find encouragement for everyday life

"Our friendships strengthen our faith and encourage us in life." – Karen Vasatko

A Day of Renewal

Life moves quickly, and it's easy to feel stretched thin. This retreat creates space to pause and be filled, refocused, and renewed in God's Word.

"A one-day retreat is huge for me... I look forward to this every year."
– Christine Zuleger

"This is a time to recalibrate our compass with God's Word."
– Rhoda Wolle

"It just fills my soul... a day like this—being together, in the Word—it's so fulfilling."
– Sally Heins

Stronger Together

Time in Scripture is central and connection is important. Women gather to encourage one another, pray together, and build relationships rooted in a shared faith—because we're not meant to walk through life alone.

"We're designed to do hard things—but not alone."
– Rhoda Wolle

"It's different when you have someone who shares your faith."
– Grace Heins

Looking Ahead

The Women's Retreat is held annually each February—a time to step away, be renewed, and grow in faith. Consider inviting a friend, neighbor, or family member to join you in 2027!

Watch for details this November about next year's retreat!

Watch & Reflect

RISE

"...RISE with healing..."



Helping The Hurting

Trauma Informed Ministry Training

What You'll Learn:

- **The Dynamics of Trauma & Abuse**
  How abuse patterns and trauma impact the brain and behavior, helping to better understand why survivors may struggle to recognize, leave, or respond to abuse in expected ways.
- **How to Walk Alongside Someone Who Is Hurting**
  How to safely respond when someone shares their story
- **How to Care for Those Whose Faith Has Been Wounded**
  Understanding the impact of abuse on faith. Sharing Scripture in a safe, trauma-informed way
- **What is the Ministry of Presence**
  Learn how to listen well, validate others, ask supportive questions, and offer advice appropriately.

Event Details:

April 18, 2026

09:00- 4:00

St. Luke's
Watertown, WI

Reserve Your Spot Now!

+414-771-6848 kingdomworkers.com

kingdom workers


LAUDATE DOMINUM
LUTHERAN VOICES OF WISCONSIN
~Laudate Dominum Invites You To~
SINNERS
&
SAINTS
A Sacred Choral Concert
Sunday, April 19, 7 PM
St. Matthew's Church | Freewill Offering


Please Join Us For
ST. MATTHEW'S ADULT BIBLE STUDY
Joyful Generosity
SUNDAYS | 9:15AM | COMMONS
St. Matthew's
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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

SCHOOL OFFICE
schooloffice@smls.org

CHURCH OFFICE
churchoffice@smls.org

FIRST STEPS
firststepsoffice@smls.org

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