

St. Matthew's
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Mission Festival Sunday

April 26, 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.

Mission Festival Sunday

Today we have the very special opportunity to consider the Great Commission that our Savior has given to all believers. As a united church body, WELS works together to send out missionaries at home and around the world. Today we will hear about some of the work WELS is doing in the Far East – Asia-Oceana.

We welcome **Pastor Leon Ehlert** who presently serves as part of the ministry team at Beautiful Savior, Green Bay, Wis. He has previously served at St. Stephen's in Beaver Dam and Fox Valley Lutheran High School. He also serves on the North America Hmong Committee and is one of the diaspora ministry facilitators for Asian groups living in the US. He is responsible for directing mission work in two countries in South Asia and is currently scouting opportunities for outreach in Dubai and the Persian Gulf. He serves on the Explore Committee of the Asia One Team, which looks for new places to start missions in Asia, including United Arab Emirates. He and his wife, Krystie, have been married for more than 30 years and have four children and four grandchildren

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
Mission Festival Sunday
April 26, 2026

Call to Worship (Sunday 8am) **I Can't See Jesus**
Grades 3K & 4K

Hymn 900:1,3,4 **Lift High the Cross**

In the name of the Father
whose glory is declared by the heavens,

and of the Son
who calls us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth,

and of the Holy Spirit
who empowers us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. Amen.

Confession of Sins
Gracious Lord, we come before you now confessing our sins. Through your Word you have revealed to us again and again the unsearchable riches of Christ, but again and again we have failed to recognize how richly we have been blessed.

754:1 **Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness**

1 Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness,
for dull content with warmth and sheltered care,
for songs of praise for worldly wealthiness,
while of your richer gifts we're unaware:

We have often failed to fully appreciate all you have done for us in Christ, and therefore we have failed to share the message of your love and grace with others as we should. Forgive us for the dullness of our faith and love for you.

2 Teach us to thank you, Lord, for love and grace,
for life and vision, for a purpose clear,
for Christ, your Son, and for each human face
that shows your message ever new and near.

So often we have overlooked the needs of those who live near us and have shown so little concern for those who are far away. There is always so much more we could do to bring others the Good News of their Savior, Jesus Christ.

3 Forgive us, Lord, for selfish thanks and praise,
for words that speak at variance with deeds;
forgive our thanks for walking pleasant ways,
unmindful of a broken brother's needs:

Gracious Lord, we confess that we are in dire need of your Spirit's help. We need a heart that loves you more, a faith that trusts you more, a life that reflects more clearly the vast riches of your love.

6 Open our eyes to see your love's intent,
to know with mind and heart its depth and height;
let thankful days in loving labor spent
reflect the truly Christlike life and light.

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Forgiveness of Sins

After his resurrection, Jesus breathed on his disciples and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake has forgiven you all your sins. 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.

605:1 From All That Dwell below the Skies

1 From all that dwell below the skies
let the Creator's praise arise.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
through ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Text: Public domain

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Heavenly Father, You have called us from many races and tongues to be witnesses of the Good News of Your Son to every nation, tribe, language and people. Help us to share your precious Gospel with all who have not heard of your great love for them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

First Reading Romans 10:11-17

There is only one name by which we can be saved, the name of Jesus Christ. There is only one way for people to come to Jesus, through his gospel. There is only one people called to proclaim it – we who already believe it.

11 As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame."
12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all
and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the
Lord will be saved."
14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they
believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without

someone preaching to them? [15]And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

[16]But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" [17]Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem — Go Forth in the Three in One

Grades 1- 3

Gospel — *John 17:18-21*

Jesus Christ has sent us to bring the good news to the nations.

18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. **19** For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. **20** "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, **21** that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

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

Hymn 908:1,3 — Go Forth and Preach the Gospel

Sermon Text — Revelation 22:20

20 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

The Message to God's Missionary People

"Mission Work: Giving the Confidence to Walk Through the Door"

Rev. Leon Ehlert

The Creed – Second Article

As God's witnesses, let us confess the message he has entrusted to us:

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord,
who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature,
purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the
power of the devil;
not with gold or silver,
but with His holy, precious blood
and with His innocent suffering and death,
that I may be His own,
and live under Him in His kingdom,
and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,
even as He is risen from the dead,
lives and reigns to all eternity.
This is most certainly true.

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



Prayer of the Church

O Almighty God, whose Son died on the cross to redeem all the people of the earth,
open our eyes to see that the harvest of souls is plentiful but the workers are few.

Open our hearts to a sincere concern for the souls of those who will be lost without you.
Open our wallets to support the preaching of your Word in all the earth, and hear our prayer for your help and blessing.

Look with compassion on the millions of people who are still sitting in spiritual darkness under the shadow of death – both those near at hand and those far away.
Wherever your consecrated workers are proclaiming your message of salvation support them in their efforts and bless the labors of their hands.

O Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit on us that we also might be active in sharing your Word with others.
Help us personally to speak your message of salvation to others and help us overcome our fear of witnessing to your holy name.

Bless our Wisconsin Synod and our ministerial education schools to prepare pastors, teachers, and staff ministers who see themselves as missionaries.
Touch the hearts of many young people with a deep love for you. Move many of them to commit their lives to a career in the public ministry.

On this Mission Festival we pray that you bless your missions, as you have promised.
Let the workers be sent out, supported, and sustained. Let the communion of saints grow and expand in all the earth, and use each and every one of us in this blessed harvest.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions for the successful sharing of your Word in all the world.

Silent prayer.

These things we ask in Jesus' name, as we also pray:

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.
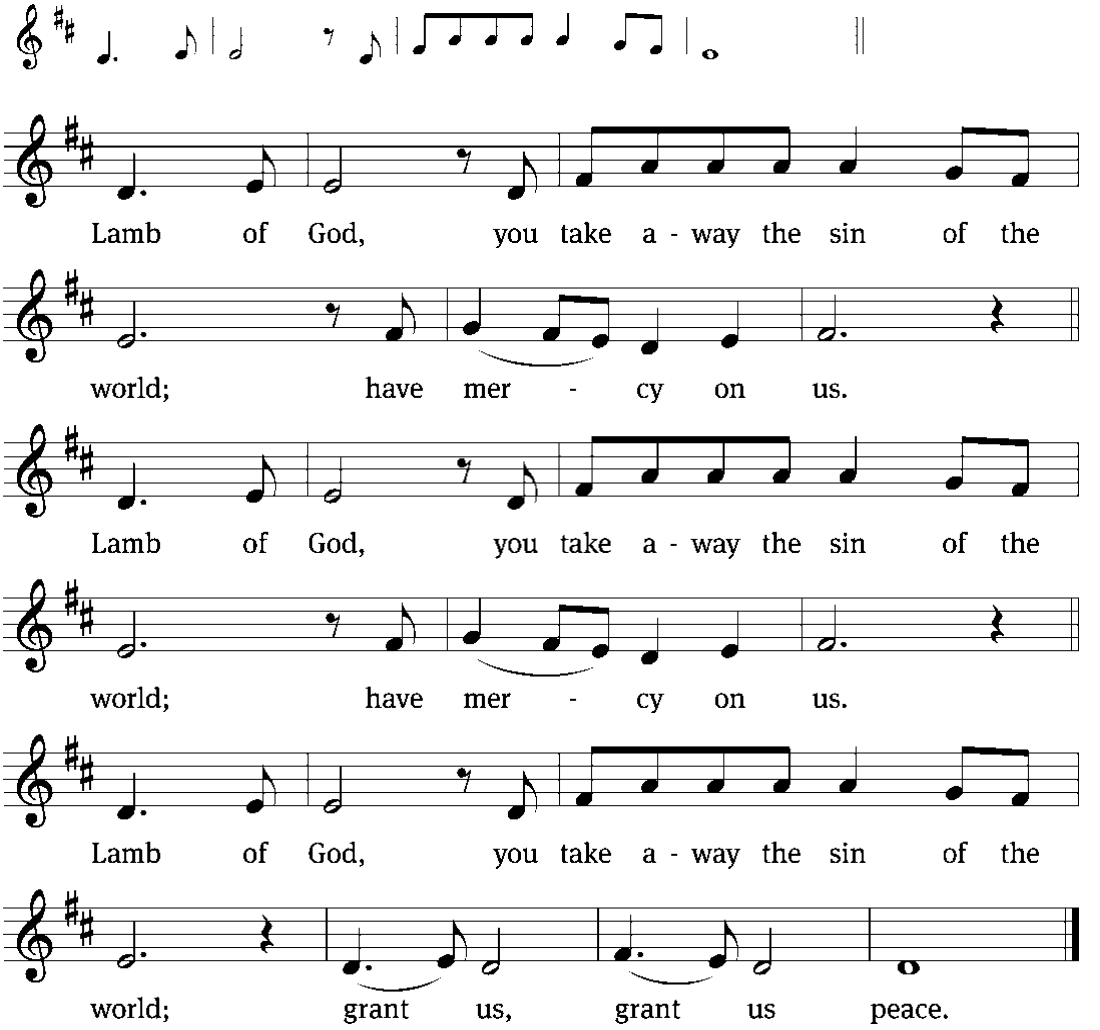
Words of Institution

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.

Lamb of God



Tune: William Gokelman; David Kauffman
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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 667 Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

Distribution Hymn 938 This Is the Feast

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.*

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go in peace.
Amen

Blessing

Now may the God who gives endurance and encouragement give a spirit of unity among you, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The blessing of almighty God – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – be with you and uphold you forever.
Amen.

Closing Hymn 902:1,6 Spread Abroad, O Mighty Word

Please keep both **Tom and Beth Plitzuweit** in your prayers as they deliberate the calls they received to Bethlehem Lutheran School in Menominee Falls, WI; Tom – Principal; Beth – Early Childcare Director.



Crafting for Hope Day – This Sunday afternoon

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.

Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Adult Bible Study
Join us today between services to hear Pastor Ehlert give a special presentation of the Gospel work being done on our behalf. 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 appearing to the disciples, especially Thomas, a week after his resurrection. 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. Teens will be attending the mission presentation with the adults in the school commons.

Thursday "Women in the Word" Bible Class
Our group has begun a new study; join us as we look at the Book of Esther. The fun begins at 8:30am on Thursday mornings 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 –** May 2 & 3
Ushers	**Saturday** – Andy Andress **Early –** Jason Cox **Late –** Todd Helwig	**Saturday** – Scott Heins **Early –** Joel Watson **Late –** Sam Weiss
Greeters	**Early** – Stu & Deb Schramm **Late** – Eric & Beth Ziel	**Early** – Curt Delie & Mary Beth Williams **Late** –
Hospitality	**Saturday** – Jon & Kessia Boche **Early –** Kyle & Robin Koltz **Late** – Rudy & Chris Dovnik	**Saturday** – Char Bouche **Early –** Paul & Brenda Pillard **Late –** Jon & Ginny Kehren
Organist	Becky Aldinger	Lucas Krogmann
Flowers		Confirmation
Special Music	3K/4K & Grades 1-3	Joel Aldinger / Choir
Projection	**Saturday** – Emily Stewart **Early –** Jon/Henry Peterson **Late –** Eli Bigelow	**Saturday** – Dan Shaw **Early –** Lily Winkelman **Late** – Kendra Lauersdorf
Sound	**Saturday** – John Stewart **Early –** Rik Krahn **Late –** Jacob Kopplin	**Saturday** – Kathy Goggins **Early –** Julia Watson **Late –** Heather Bigelow
Livestream	Mike Bouche	Jason Cox

This Week at St. Matthew's		
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 Craft Day
Tuesday	7:45 am	Grounded in God
Wednesday	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Shorehaven Services Examination Practice
Thursday	8:00 am 8:30 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm 8:00 pm	SCRIP Orders Due Women in the Word Examination Choir Men's Choir
Saturday	5:30 pm	Worship Service
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am	Worship Service Sunday School

Highlights and Announcements

St. Matthew's Blood Drive - May 16th

Give the gift of life! Join us for a blood drive on Saturday May 16, 2026, from 7:30 AM to 12:00 PM in the School Entry. Your donation can make a life-saving difference—schedule your appointment by using the QR Code or you may call Jennifer in the church office at 262-912-6350.

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.

Blue Butterfly Work Night: May 4

We're excited to offer a monthly Blue Butterfly Work Night for our members! Join us on **May 4 from 4:00–6:30 PM.** Please contact Bev Fulmer by call or text at 262-569-1969 to let her know you're coming.

Fellowship Committee – May 5 at 6:00 PM

Come share your ideas and help plan fun events for St. Matthew's! We're welcoming new members and would especially love input from those who have ideas or experiences from other churches. Join us for a relaxed time of brainstorming—everyone is welcome!

2026 LWMS Convention

Theme: "Cast Out Your Nets" – Matthew 4:18–19

Join St. Matthew's women June 25–28, 2026 in Madison, WI for the LWMS Convention—a gathering of Lutheran women for worship, fellowship, and encouragement as we support mission work near and far. Rooted in *"Cast Out Your Nets,"* we are reminded of Christ's call to follow Him and share the Gospel. Registration is open through June 1—don't miss this opportunity to be refreshed and inspired. To register use the QR Code.

LLHS CAMPAIGN: By His Design: Building for His Purpose

As Lakeside Lutheran High School celebrates nearly 70 years of God's faithfulness, it is launching a $9.2 million campaign to enhance learning spaces and expand opportunities in academics, athletics, and the arts. With a lead matching gift already secured, we invite you to partner through prayer, support, and sharing this vision. For information or to donate use the QR Code.

VBS - Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for 2026 VBS at St. Matthew's! Children entering 4K–6th grade are invited to join us for an exciting week of faith and fun with our theme **Ride the Wave**, based on Isaiah 43:2. Partnering with Camp Phillip, this week-long experience brings the joy of summer camp right to our campus. **Registration opens Monday, May 4!**

Acknowledgments
Setting Three from Christian Worship
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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
Pastor
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STEVEN HILLMER
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MARK VOSS
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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