

St. Matthew's
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Fifth Sunday of Easter – Youth Confirmation

May 3, 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 BE THE ONLY WAY TO HEAVEN

Without the resurrection of Jesus, I would have to wonder if he wasn't just a human being. If my last view of him is a criminal crucified on a cross, he would look like someone to be rejected. He couldn't even help himself, much less anyone else!

But he lives, and it makes a difference. He is the only way to heaven. This gospel message is the most inclusive message in the world. The benefits of the resurrection of Jesus are meant for every man, woman, and child who has ever lived.

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter – Youth Confirmation

May 3, 2026

THE SERVICE: SETTING ONE

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

Hymn 469 **Welcome, Happy Morning**

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

Confession

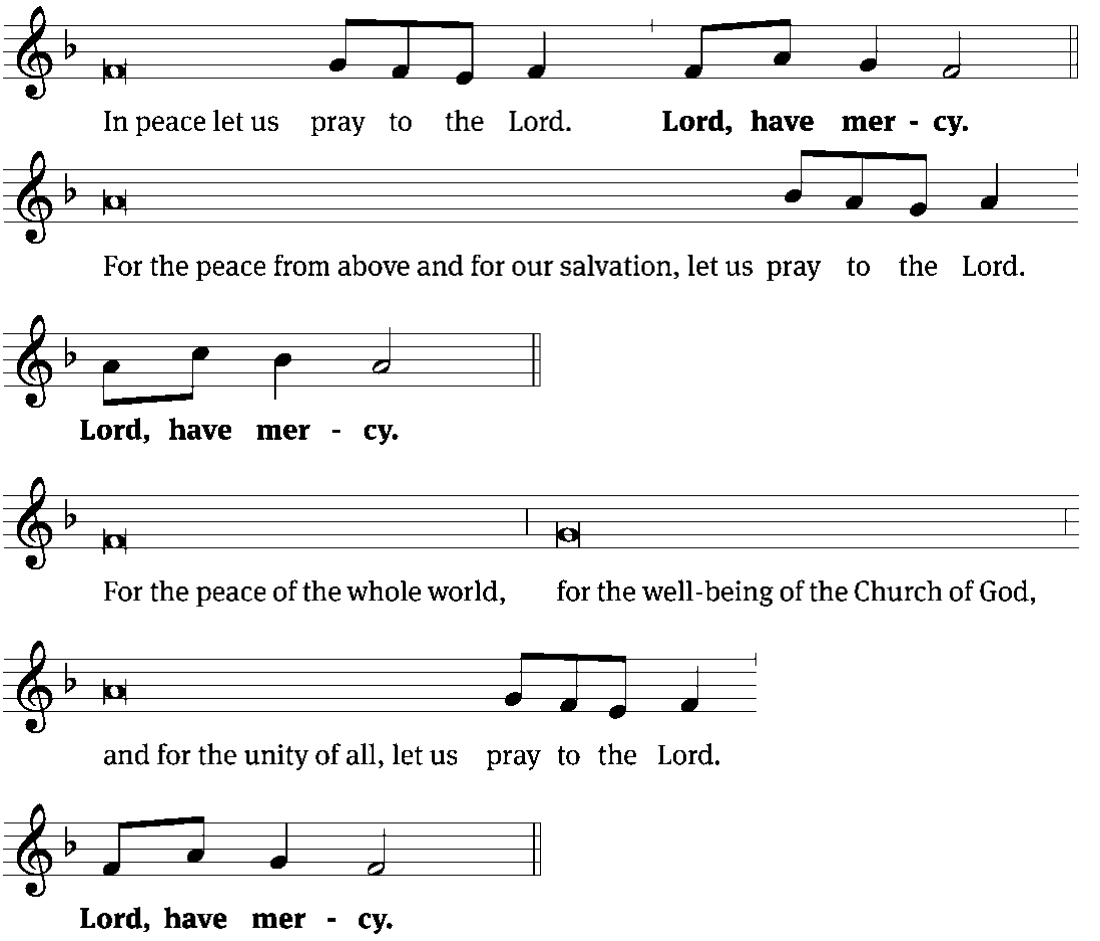
If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.

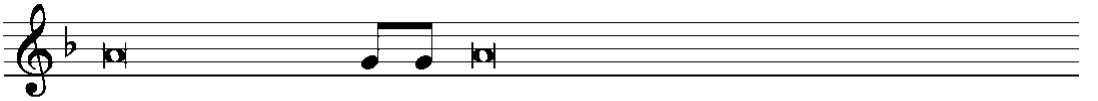
Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid 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

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





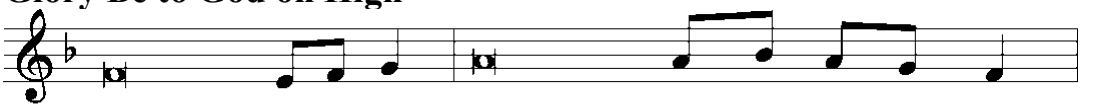






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Glory Be to God on High











The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; 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 4:8-12*

St. Peter explains that Jesus is the only person in whom salvation is found.

[8]Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people!
[9]If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was
lame and are being asked how he was healed, [10]then know this, you and all the people of
Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God
raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. [11]Jesus is

" 'the stone you builders rejected,
which has become the cornerstone.'

[12]Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to
mankind by which we must be saved."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem **Jesus Is the Living Stone**

Choir

Gospel *John 14:1-11*

Jesus teaches that the only way to draw near to God the Father is through God the Son.

[1]"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. [2]My
Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going
there to prepare a place for you? [3]And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back
and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. [4]You know the way to the
place where I am going."

[5]Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know
the way?"

[6]Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father
except through me. [7]If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now
on, you do know him and have seen him."

[8]Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

[9]Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a
long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the

Father’? [10]Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. [11]Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.

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

Hymn 521 — Christ the Eternal Lord

Sermon — A Name Worth Remembering

Pastor Mark Voss

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



WELS Connection Video

Prayer of the Church

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Brothers and sisters in Christ, our Lord Jesus said to his disciples, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

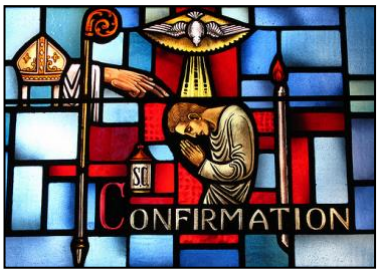
In obedience to the Lord’s command, you have been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. You have been taught the precious truths of the Christian faith as confessed by St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. You know what God has given you by his grace and what he expects of you as his dear child. You now have the privilege of receiving the Lord’s body and blood in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

You are here to make a public profession of your Christian faith. The apostle Paul, writing to the Romans, said, “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Therefore, lift up your hearts to the God of all grace and joyfully answer these questions.

Do you this day, in the presence of God and of this congregation, acknowledge that in Baptism, God gave you forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation?
I do.

Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?
I do.



Do you believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit?
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.

Do you believe all the books of the Bible to be the inspired Word of God?
I do.

Do you believe that the teaching of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as you have learned to know it from Luther's Small Catechism, is faithful and true to the Word of God?
I do.

Do you intend to continue steadfast in this teaching and to endure all things, even death, rather than fall away from it?
I do, and I ask God to help me.

Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the teachings of God's Word, to be faithful in the use of the Word and Sacrament, and in faith and action remain true to God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – as long as you live?
I do, and I ask God to help me.

Since it is God alone who enables us both to will and to do his good pleasure, it is right for us, dear friends in Christ, to call on him for these Confirmands, that he would graciously complete the good work which he has begun in them. Let us bow our heads and pray:
Almighty God, in baptism you made these brothers and sisters members of body of your dear Son, Jesus Christ. You washed them by his blood, buried them with him in his death, and gave them a new life in his resurrection. Renew them by the Holy Spirit which you have poured out on them generously through Jesus Christ our Savior. Let them live out their lives as heirs of eternal life. Lead them to serve your church in holiness and righteousness all their days. Keep them in the fellowship of those who love and wait for the return of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

Dear Members of the Confirmation Class: What we as a Christian congregation have here asked our heavenly Father to confer on you all, we will now ask him to grant to each of you personally.

Confirmands will come forward to receive the blessing and speak their Confirmation Verse. *See pages 15-18.*

Your church now invites you to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's body and blood. Accept this invitation with deep reverence and holy joy. Regard your communing at the Lord's table as a precious privilege given to you by God through his Church. Receive this Sacrament thankfully and often. The almighty and most merciful God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – bless and keep you.

Communion for Confirmands

Words of Institution
Distribution of Communion to Confirmands

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 Anthem — Walk with the Lord

Choir

In Our Prayers: May our gracious Lord comfort the family of **Maddie Palmer whose brother, Paul Werth**, was called home to heaven this past week.

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.

Thank you for Serving our Savior and Us

	This Weekend	Next Weekend – May 9 & 10
Ushers	**Saturday** – Scott Heins **Early –** Joel Watson **Late –** Sam Weiss	**Saturday** – Tony Kobussen **Early –** Jason Cox **Late –** Eric Ziel
Greeters	**Early** – Curt Delie & Mary Beth Williams **Late** –	**Early** – Joe & Jill Sharp **Late** – Mike & Joy Lenz
Hospitality	**Saturday** – Char Bouche **Early –** Paul & Brenda Pillard **Late** – Jon & Ginny Kehren	**Saturday** – Kyle Bence **Early –** Kyle & Robin Koltz **Late –** Allen & Karen Andreasen
Organist	Lucas Krogmann	Lucas Krogmann
Flowers	Confirmation	
Special Music	Joel Aldinger / Choir	Men's Chorus
Projection	**Saturday** – Dan Shaw **Early –** Lily Winkelman **Late –** Kendra Lauersdorf	**Saturday** – Molly Kalma **Early –** Kylee Glorioso **Late** – Nolan Bagdassian
Sound	**Saturday** – Kathy Goggins **Early –** Julia Watson **Late –** Heather Bigelow	**Saturday** – Scott Heins **Early –** Steve Vasatko **Late –** Charlie Bagdassian
Livestream	Jason Cox	Tim Taubenheim

This Week at St. Matthew's

Saturday	5:30 pm	Worship Service
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am	Worship Service Sunday School
Monday	5:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Childcare Committee Board of Education Men's Chorus
Tuesday	7:45 am 6:30 pm 6:30 pm	Grounded in God Board of Outreach Board of Elders
Wednesday	10:00 am 1:30 pm 5:00 pm 6:30 pm	Shorehaven Services Senior Fellowship Non-School Catechism Board of Stewardship
Thursday	8:00 am 8:30 am 6:00 pm 6:30 pm	SCRIP Orders Due Women in the Word Rejoice! Spring Music Concert
Saturday	7:30 am 5:30 pm	Men's Bible Breakfast Communion Service
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Teen Bible Study

Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Adult Bible Study @ 9:15am
Join us next Sunday in the school commons as we continue our 5-Lesson study entitled ***Joyful Generosity.*** We are discussing the Biblical principles concerning stewardship and sharing many practical resources for you to consider your joy-filled response to God's Grace. This prepares 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 is not meeting next Sunday, May 10. On Sunday, May 17, Sunday School will resume and will study the account of Jesus ascending into heaven. Teen study will meet the next three Sundays before taking a summer break beginning on May 31.

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!

Acknowledgments
Setting One from Christian Worship
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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.

NEW Shaped to Serve Workshop Dates for 2026!

We're excited to offer another year of our *Shaped to Serve Workshops*—a meaningful opportunity to discover how God has uniquely gifted you to serve. Enjoy fellowship, coffee, and a free Go, Serve, Love T-shirt as you explore your gifts.

Each series includes **three 1-hour sessions between worship services in the small chapel**. Choose from:

- June 7, 14, 21
- September 13, 20, 27
- November 8, 15, 22

Visit **smls.org/events** to sign up.
Questions? Email Eric Ziel at eric.w.ziel@gmail.com.

VBS ~ "Ride the Wave"

July 20–24 | 8:30 AM–12:30 PM
Get ready for an exciting week at **St. Matthew's Vacation Bible School**, where kids will "Ride the Wave" and discover how God is with us through every challenge and joy, based on **Isaiah 43:2**. This fun-filled experience includes Bible stories, music, games, crafts, and friendship—all in a welcoming, faith-filled environment. We can't wait to ride the wave with your family this summer!
Registration opens Monday, May 4th!

Confirmation Class 2026

OLIVER RAY BEHLING

The Lord stood at my side and gave me strength.
2 Timothy 4:17

WILFRED JONATHAN BOCHE

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.
John 8:12

OWEN DEREK DAHL

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.
1 Peter 5:7

EMILY ROSE DEVINE

I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 8:38-39

LEILA MARIE GLORIOSO

I can do all this through him who gives me strength.
Philippians 4:13

CHARLIE LOUANN GNEWUCH

Commit to the LORD whatever you do,
and he will establish your plans.
Proverbs 16:3

AVALEEN SOPHIA HILLMANN

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.
Deuteronomy 31:6

BRAYDEN JAMES JACKS

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

Deuteronomy 31:6

NOAH CHARLES JAHNKE

Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Matthew 28:20

DECLAN ROBERT JOHNSON

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this.

Psalm 37:5

LUCAS BRODY JUMP

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

John 8:12

ARABELLA KATHLEEN KAESERMANN

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

LOGAN ROBERT KIEDROWSKI

The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

SOFIA LUCILLE SURENA KORB

Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23

ARIANNA BRIELLE LATZKE

I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Philippians 4:13

KAILA LYN MORRIS

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

BRYCE ROBERT NIMM

Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Matthew 28:19-20

LAILA ROSE NIMM

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

Matthew 7:7

JOSHUA JOHN PERNAT

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

KIERSTEN FAITHE PETERSON

I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Philippians 4:13

EVAN ANDREW RENNICKE

Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Matthew 28:20

CAYDEN MICHAEL SCHLIEWE

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

ISAIAH MICHAEL SCHUSTER

The Lord stood at my side and gave me strength.

2 Timothy 4:17

SAVANNAH JEAN SCHUSTER

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this.

Psalm 37:5

ELIAS JAMES SCHWEFEL

The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Psalm 18:2

GRAYSON LEE STRASSBURG

I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Psalm 16:8

EPHRAIM GEDDY STROHM

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

ADALYN RUTH UTTECH

I have told you these things, so that you may have peace in me. In this world you are going to have trouble. But be courageous! I have overcome the world.

John 16:33

LUCAS CHRISTIAN WIDMAR

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

Graduation and Call Services

God's rich blessings be with all our students who will be graduating in the coming weeks. As you continue in a new chapter in life, know that the promises of our gracious Lord go with you! "Surely I am with you always to the very end of the age!"

To those who will be receiving Calls into the Public Ministry, we pray that God would bless you as you share the Good News of Jesus.

Below are the listings of those graduation services at our Lutheran schools. Many of these schools will be livestreaming their services. Check the schools' websites for exact times, as well for the Commencement Concert times.

Thur. May 7 – Commencement Vespers @ Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, MN 7:30pm

Fri. May 8 – Commencement Service @ Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, MN 10:30am

Sat. May 9 – Graduation @ Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, WI 1:00pm

Fri. May 15 – Commencement Concert @ Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN 7:30pm

Sat. May 16 – Graduation & Call Service @ Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN 10:00am

Sun. May 17 – Commencement Concert @ Lakeside Lutheran High School, Lake Mills, WI 2:00pm

Wed. May 20 – Vicar Assignment @ Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, WI 7:00pm

Thurs. May 21 – Pastoral Assignment @ Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, WI 10:00am

Thurs. May 21 – Graduation Concert @ Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, WI 7:00pm

Thurs. May 21 – 8th Grade Graduation @ St. Matthew's Lutheran School 6:30pm

Fri. May 22 – Graduation @ Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, WI 10:00am

Fri. May 22 – Commencement Concert @ Luther Preparatory School, Watertown, WI 7:00pm

Sat. May 23 – Graduation @ Luther Preparatory School, Watertown, WI 10:00am

Sat. May 23 – Graduation @ Lakeside Lutheran High School, Lake Mills, WI 11:00 am

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
pbigelow@smls.org

STEVEN HILLMER
Pastor
shillmer@smls.org

MARK VOSS
Pastor
mvoss@smls.org

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