

St. Matthew's

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

**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.

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## *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*
*May 3, 2026*

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## 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.**

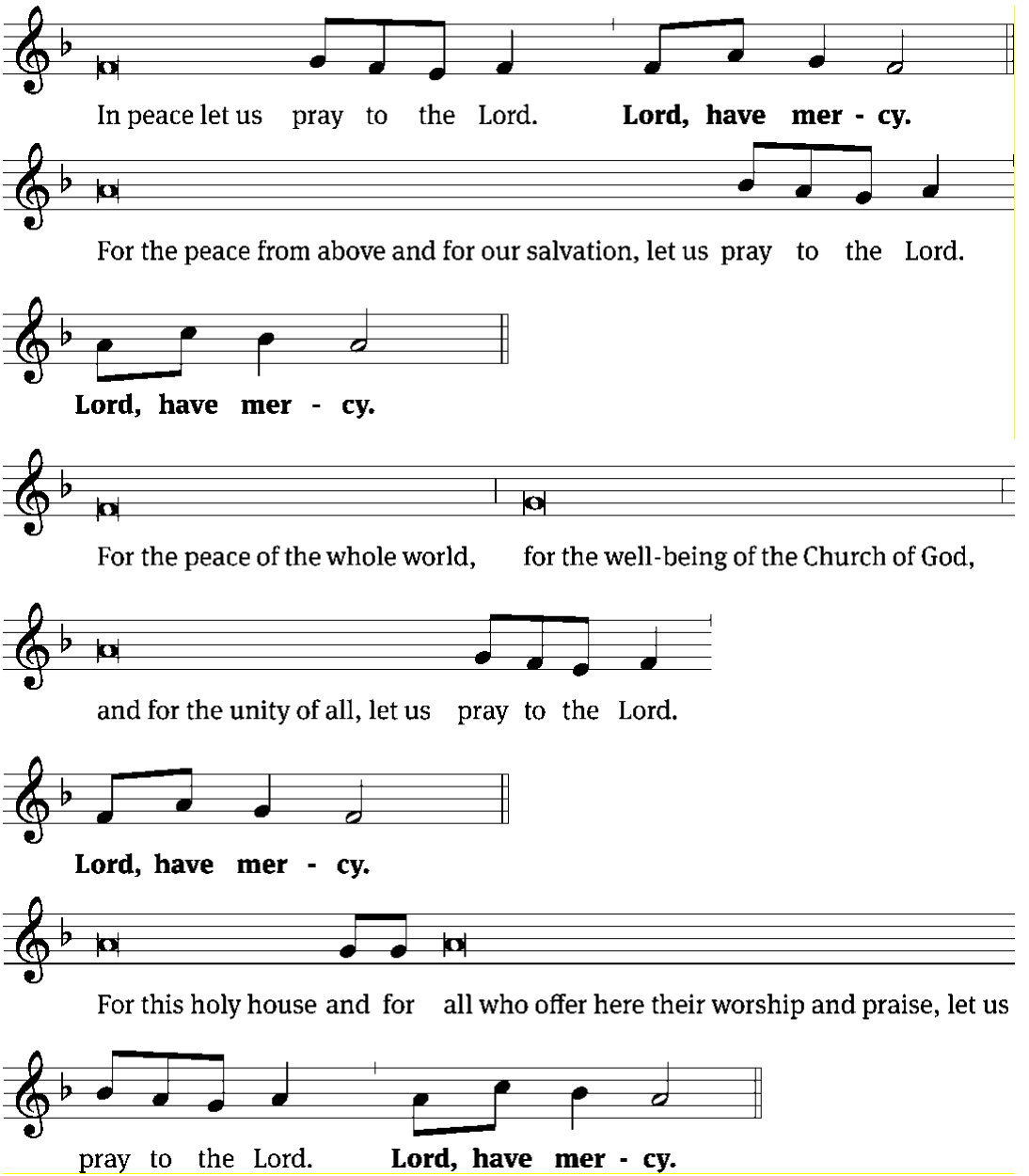
Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
**Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior,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

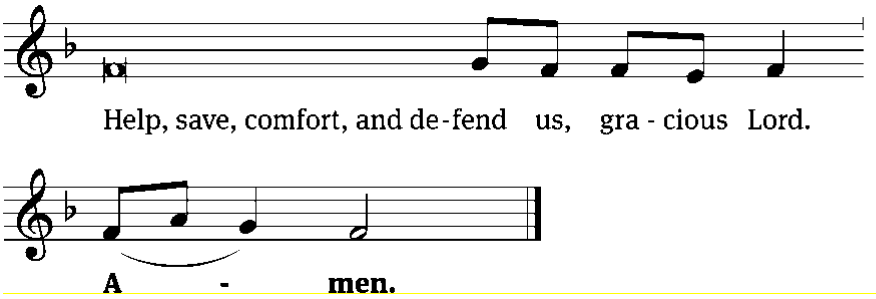
*Silence for meditation and reflection*

### 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.**

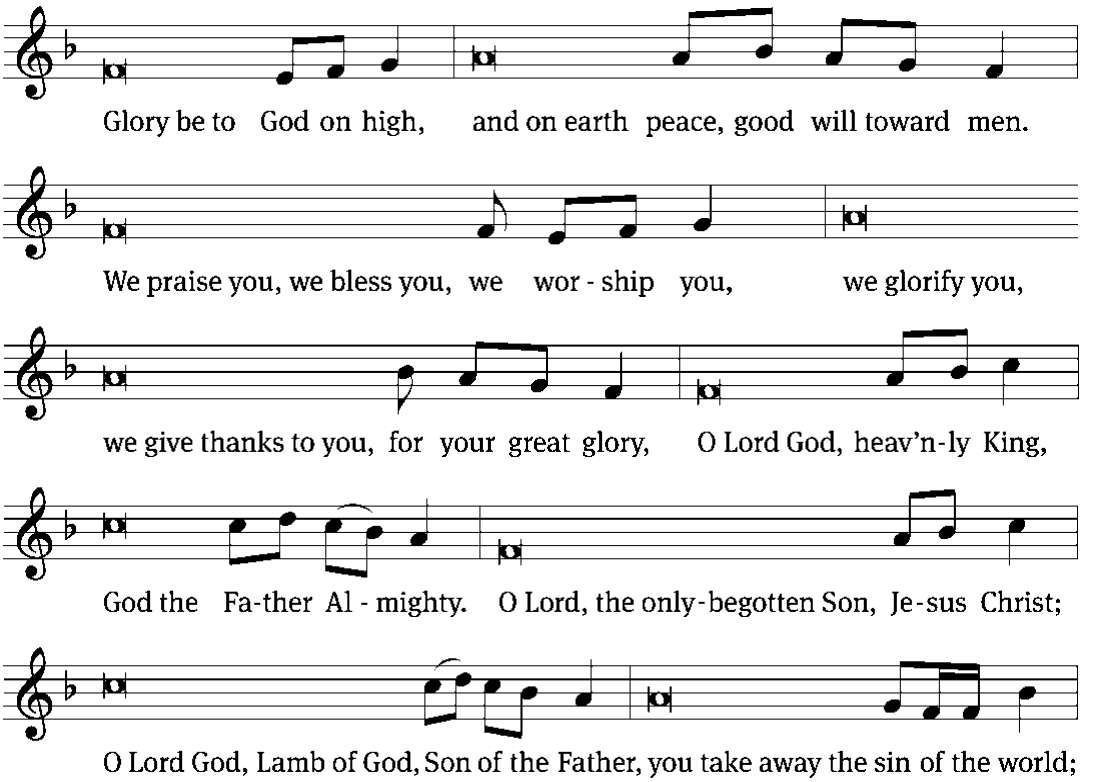
## Lord, Have Mercy
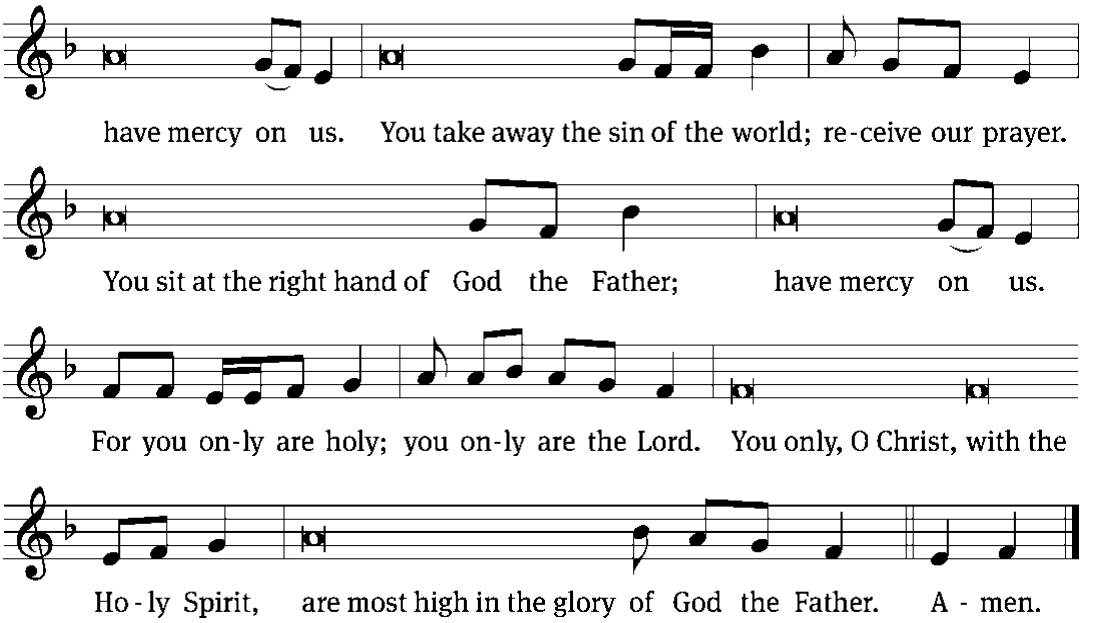





Tune: Kevin Becker
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## Glory Be to God on High






# The Word

The Lord be with you.
**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

O God, 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.**

## Children's Message

## 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

*Soloist*

## Second Reading *1 Peter 2:4-10*

*People stumble over the claim that Jesus is the only way to heaven. But that truth is the cornerstone on which Christ builds his Church.*

4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and
precious to him— 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a
holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For
in Scripture it says:

"See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame."

7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

"The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,"

[8]and,

"A stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall."

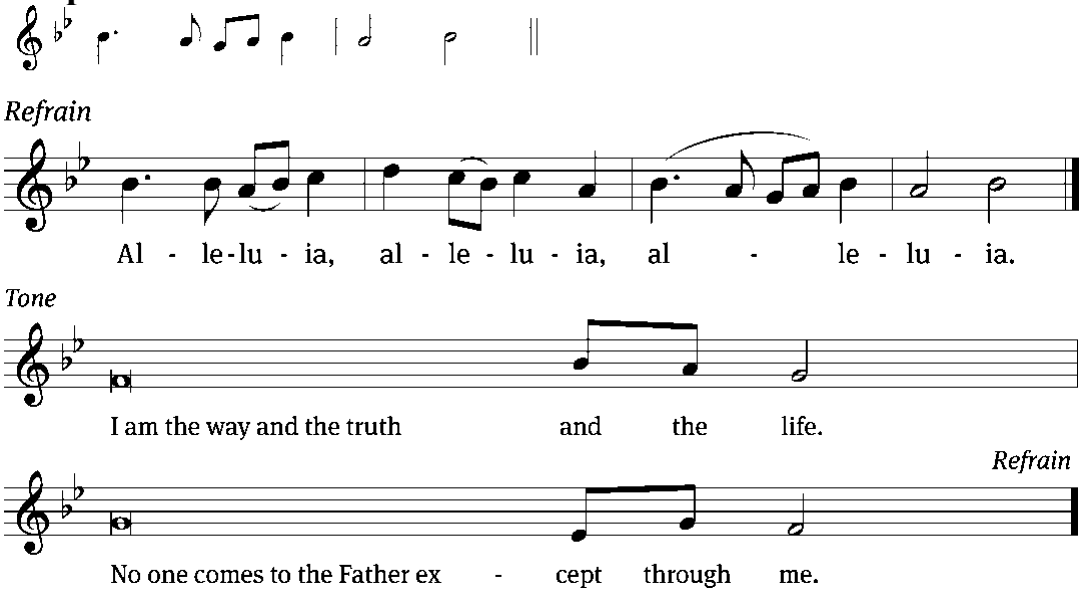
They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

[9]But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. [10]Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The Word of the Lord.
**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

*John 14:6*




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## 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*

## 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



## WELS Connection 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 809 Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled

**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.

# Bible Study Opportunities

**Sunday Adult Bible Study**
Due to the logistics of Confirmation Sunday, Adult Bible Study will not meet today. 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 will be studying the account of Jesus appearing to the disciples in Galilee. 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 will not be meeting today.

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**
Join us on Thursdays at 8:30am as we journey through the Book of Esther. See God's amazing wisdom as he works all things for the good of His Kingdom and the salvation of souls.

**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 9 & 10 |
| **Ushers** | **Saturday** – Scott Heins<br>**Early –** Joel Watson<br>**Late –** Sam Weiss | **Saturday** – Tony Kobussen<br>**Early –** Jason Cox<br>**Late –** Eric Ziel |
| **Greeters** | **Early** – Curt Delie & Mary Beth Williams<br>**Late** – | **Early** – Joe & Jill Sharp<br>**Late** – Mike & Joy Lenz |
| **Hospitality** | **Saturday** – Char Bouche<br>**Early –** Paul & Brenda Pillard<br>**Late** – Jon & Ginny Kehren | **Saturday** – Kyle Bence<br>**Early –** Kyle & Robin Koltz<br>**Late –** Allen & Karen Andreasen |
| **Organist** | Lucas Krogmann | Lucas Krogmann |
| **Flowers** | Confirmation | |
| **Special Music** | Joel Aldinger / Choir | Men's Chorus |
| **Projection** | **Saturday** – Dan Shaw<br>**Early –** Lily Winkelman<br>**Late –** Kendra Lauersdorf | **Saturday** – Molly Kalma<br>**Early –** Kylee Glorioso<br>**Late** – Nolan Bagdassian |
| **Sound** | **Saturday** – Kathy Goggins<br>**Early –** Julia Watson<br>**Late –** Heather Bigelow | **Saturday** – Scott Heins<br>**Early –** Steve Vasatko<br>**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<br>9:15 am | Worship Service<br>Sunday School |
| Monday | 5:30 pm<br>6:30 pm<br>7:00 pm | Childcare Committee<br>Board of Education<br>Men's Chorus |
| Tuesday | 7:45 am<br>6:30 pm<br>6:30 pm | Grounded in God<br>Board of Outreach<br>Board of Elders |
| Wednesday | 10:00 am<br>1:30 pm<br>5:00 pm<br>6:30 pm | Shorehaven Services<br>Senior Fellowship<br>Non-School Catechism<br>Board of Stewardship |
| Thursday | 8:00 am<br>8:30 am<br>6:00 pm<br>6:30 pm | SCRIP Orders Due<br>Women in the Word<br>Rejoice!<br>Spring Music Concert |
| Saturday | 7:30 am<br>5:30 pm | Men's Bible Breakfast<br>Communion Service |
| Sunday | 8 & 10:30 am<br>9:15 am | Communion Service<br>Adult Bible Study; Teen Bible Study |

# 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: One Area Still Open**

We have one more garden area that still needs to be covered! Volunteers (or teams) care for a designated section of St. Matthew's grounds from May 1–Sept. 30, working on your own schedule. Use the QR Code to sign up or contact the church office. Wisconsin Master Gardeners may count hours. Questions? Contact Debby Kuklinski at 414-520-6642.

**Fellowship Event Planning Meeting – 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!

**Senior Ministry**

Our Senior Ministry program will be meeting on the first and third Wednesdays of May, May 6th and 20th. We meet in the Gathering Area of the church. Our May 6th meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. with a devotion followed by cards and other games until about 4:00 p.m. Our May 20th meeting will begin **at 12:00 noon.** We will begin with an end-of-the-year potluck followed by a devotion and games until about 3:00 p.m. **Please sign up for the potluck ahead of time.** Come and enjoy an afternoon of fun and fellowship with others. If you have any questions, please contact Dan Feuerstahler at 920-245-3006.

**OWLS**

The Rock River Area OWLS will meet Tuesday, May 19 at 1:30 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, Watertown. Retired Pastor Gary Johnson will give us information on how God used him to rescue several WELS congregations. 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 are encouraged to attend and guests are always welcome!

**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!**

**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. Use the QR Code to register.

**Acknowledgments**
Setting One from Christian Worship
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# 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 HS, 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**