

St. Matthew's

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 17, 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.



Joyful Generosity ~ Week Two: Joyful and Generous!

The Lord's Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians, *"God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." (*2 Cor. 9:8) There is real, true, lasting joy that comes from participating in the work of the Lord. While the Lord did not allow King David to build the Temple, David gladly rejoiced in the privilege to share in the bounty the Lord had given him, that the name of the Lord would be glorified. David understood the true meaning and purpose behind "possessions" - to Glorify the Lord.



During the Easter Season, the **Christ Candle** resides at the "head of the altar" and is lit for 40 days. This reminds us of the Visible Presence of Jesus among his disciples for the 40 days until his Ascension (which was observed this past Thursday). 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 Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2026

THE SERVICE: SETTING TWO

You may follow along starting on page 172 in the hymnal.

Hymn 748 **Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly**

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.

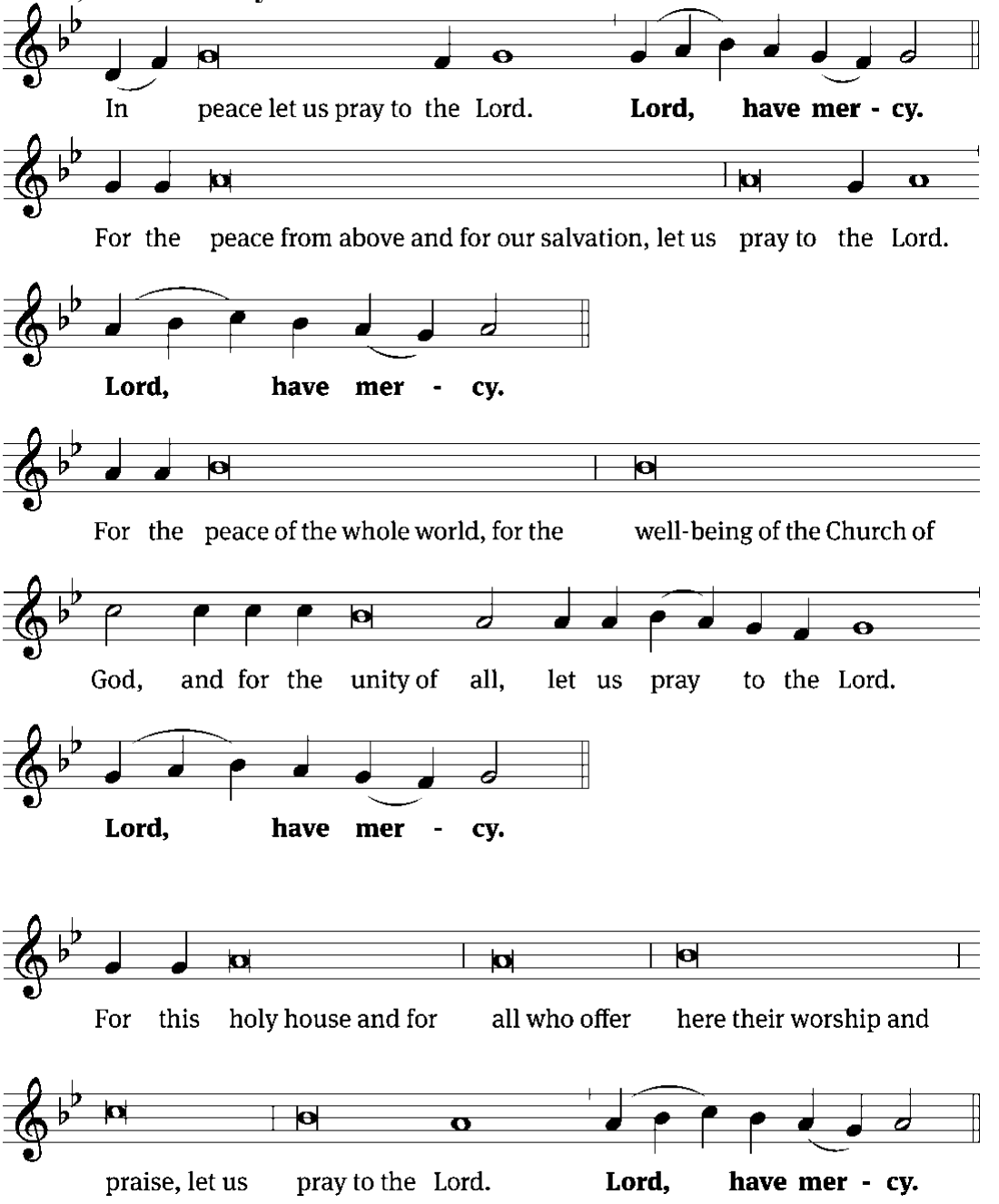
Silence for meditation and reflection

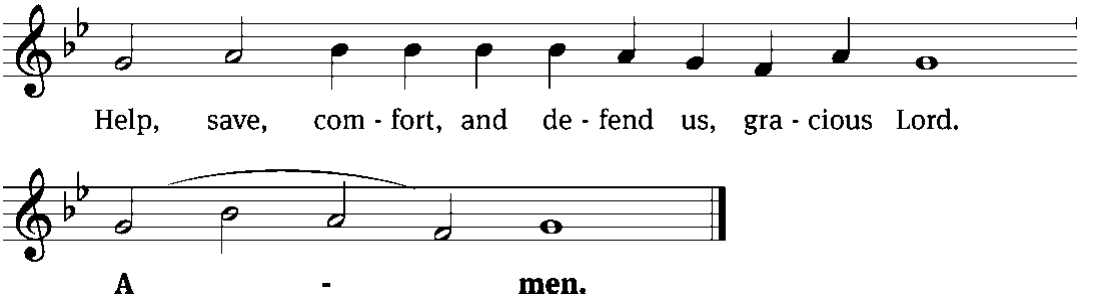
Absolution

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

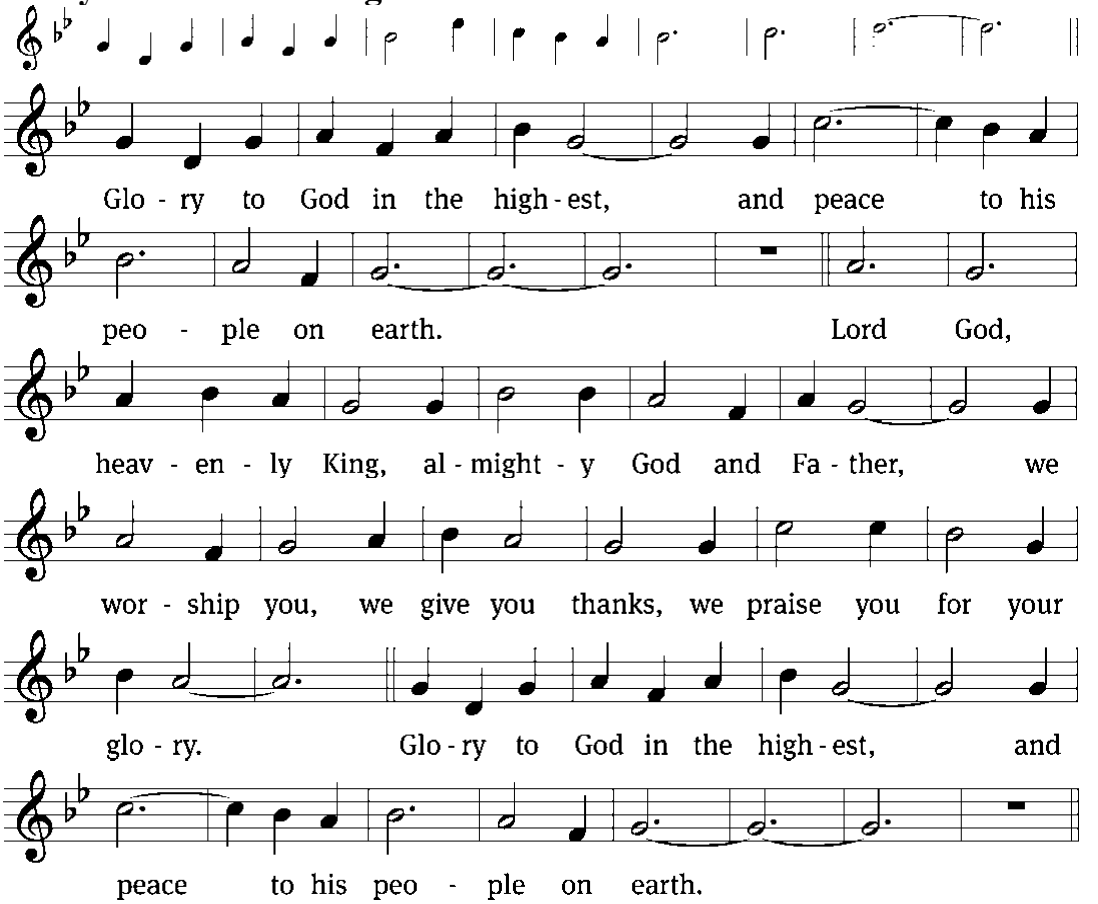
CW 174

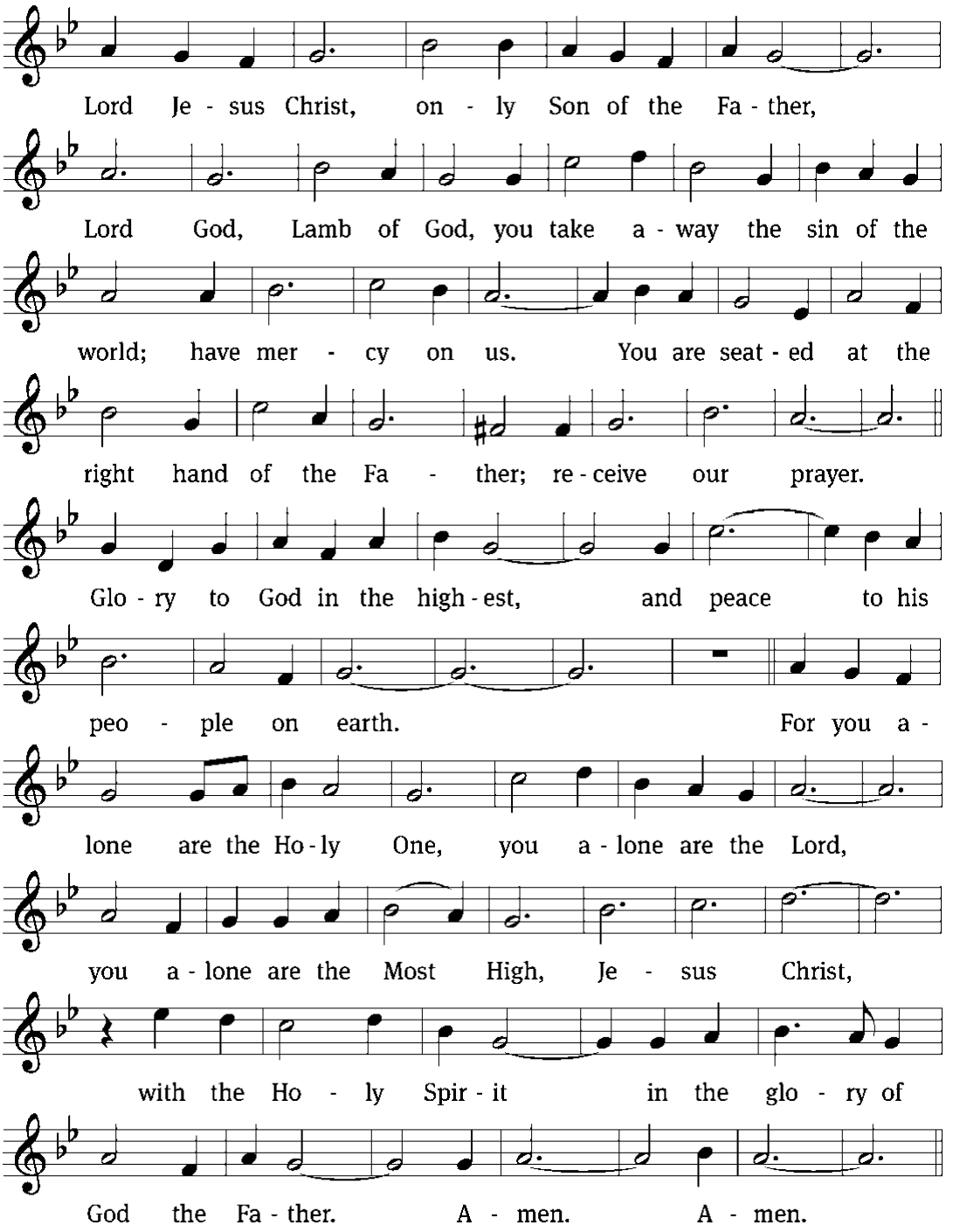


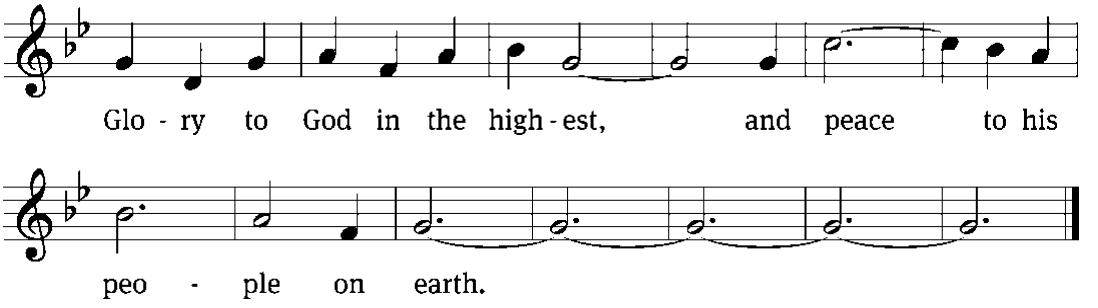


Tune: Marty Haugen
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Glory to God in the Highest *CW 176*




Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the
right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his
peo - ple on earth. For you a -
lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,
with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of
God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.



Tune: Marty Haugen
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The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, as you so graciously receive our prayers, we ask that you also receive the gifts and offerings we bring to you as tokens of our love for you. Use them to cause the saving name of Jesus Christ to be known throughout the world that many more may worship Him, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

First Reading 1 Chronicles 29:1-20

David humbly supplies for the construction of the Temple, knowing that all he has comes from the Lord.

[1]Then King David said to the whole assembly: "My son Solomon, the one whom God
has chosen, is young and inexperienced. The task is great, because this palatial structure is
not for man but for the LORD God. [2]With all my resources I have provided for the temple
of my God—gold for the gold work, silver for the silver, bronze for the bronze, iron for
the iron and wood for the wood, as well as onyx for the settings, turquoise, stones of
various colors, and all kinds of fine stone and marble—all of these in large quantities.
[3]Besides, in my devotion to the temple of my God I now give my personal treasures of
gold and silver for the temple of my God, over and above everything I have provided for

this holy temple: [4]three thousand talents of gold (gold of Ophir) and seven thousand talents of refined silver, for the overlaying of the walls of the buildings, [5]for the gold work and the silver work, and for all the work to be done by the craftsmen. Now, who is willing to consecrate themselves to the LORD today?"

[6]Then the leaders of families, the officers of the tribes of Israel, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of the king's work gave willingly. [7]They gave toward the work on the temple of God five thousand talents and ten thousand darics of gold, ten thousand talents of silver, eighteen thousand talents of bronze and a hundred thousand talents of iron. [8]Anyone who had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the temple of the LORD in the custody of Jehiel the Gershonite. [9]The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the LORD. David the king also rejoiced greatly.

[10]David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying,

"Praise be to you, LORD,
the God of our father Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.
[11]Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power
and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,
for everything in heaven and earth is yours.
Yours, LORD, is the kingdom;
you are exalted as head over all.
[12]Wealth and honor come from you;
you are the ruler of all things.
In your hands are strength and power
to exalt and give strength to all.
[13]Now, our God, we give you thanks,
and praise your glorious name.

[14]"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. [15]We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. [16]LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. [17]I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you. [18]LORD, the God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep these desires and thoughts in the hearts of your

people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you. [19]And give my son Solomon the wholehearted devotion to keep your commands, statutes and decrees and to do everything to build the palatial structure for which I have provided."

[20]Then David said to the whole assembly, "Praise the LORD your God." So they all praised the LORD, the God of their fathers; they bowed down, prostrating themselves before the LORD and the king.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 100B — All People That on Earth Do Dwell

1 All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the LORD with cheerful voice.
Him serve with fear; his praise forthtell;
come ye before him and rejoice!

2 Know that the LORD is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make.
We are his folk; he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.

3 O enter then his gates with praise;
approach with joy his courts unto.
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

4 For why? The LORD our God is good;
his mercy is forever sure.
His truth at all times firmly stood
and shall from age to age endure.

Text: William Kethe, alt.

Second Reading *2 Corinthians 9:6-8*

A generous heart comes from knowing just how generous God has been to us!

6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever
sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each of you should give what you have
decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a
cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all
times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem (Sunday 10:30am) For the Cause

Grades 6-8

Gospel (Sermon Text) *Mark 12:41-44*

The widow's gift is beyond generous, for she gives from her heart, trusting in the Lord.

41 Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the
crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large
amounts. 42 But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only
a few cents.
43 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put
more into the treasury than all the others. 44 They all gave out of their wealth; but she,
out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

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

Hymn Lord, You Love the Cheerful Giver

Sermon Should Jesus Really Be Watching My Wealth?

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 19 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 612:1,3,4 How Great Thou Art

In Our Prayers: May our gracious Lord watch over **Nancy Berg** who was hospitalized this past week. May our Lord bless the household of **Ashley Valerio and Zach Millpointer** who were married on Saturday.

May God pour out His Spirit and blessing upon our Graduates: 8th Graders from St. Matthew's (May 20); Graduates from Martin Luther College (May 16); and from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (Vicars – May 20; Pastors – May 21).

Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Adult Bible Study – *Joyful Generosity*
Join us Sundays at 9:15 as we dive into the topic of ***Joyful Generosity.*** We'll share Biblical principles of stewardship as well as practical resources for your joy-filled response to God's Grace. This prepares us for Commitment Sunday on May 31st as we present our plans to the Lord. It also coincides with the adoption of next year's Ministry Plan to support our Gospel Ministry.

Sunday School and Teen Study
Sunday School will be studying the account of Jesus ascending into heaven. 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, meeting in the room across from the band room, will be studying what it's like to have focused living in Christ.

Thursday "Women in the Word" Bible Class – *No Class this Thursday*
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.

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!

Men's Bible Breakfast – 2nd Saturdays of the Month
Calling all men to come for a great breakfast and a study of God's Word. Breakfast starts at 7:30am on the second Saturday of each month. Pastor Bigelow is leading the topic, "Connecting Sinai to Calvary."

Acknowledgments
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Thank you for Serving our Savior and Us		
	This Weekend	**Next Weekend –** May 23 & 24
Ushers	**Saturday** – Tom Plitzuweit **Early –** Tim Taubenheim **Late –** Andy Rosenau	**Saturday –** Andy Andress **Early –** Jim Fulmer **Late –** Todd Helwig
Greeters	**Early** – John & Jill Fields **Late** – Andy & Carrie Rosenau	**Early** – Ralph & Tracy Schmidt **Late** – Mike & Jeanne Ward
Hospitality	**Saturday** – Dwight & Janet Sandvold **Early –** Tim & Carolyn Thiele **Late –** David & LeeAndra Dodge	**Saturday** – Kyle Bence **Early –** Gary & Karen Haertel **Late –** Rudy & Chris Dovnik
Organist	Char Bouche	Diane Erdman
Special Music	Grades 6-8	Rejoice!
Projection	**Saturday** – Krista / Sam D'Amore **Early –** Ethan Bergh **Late –** Toby Brandenstein	**Saturday** – Emily Stewart **Early –** Ava Hillmann **Late –** Harper Gerczak
Sound	**Saturday** – Vickie Wilson **Early –** Joel Aldinger **Late –** Jacob Kopplin	**Saturday** – John Stewart **Early –** Rik Krahn **Late –** Rik Krahn
Livestream	Nathan Bergh	Tim Taubenheim

This Week at St. Matthew's		
Saturday	5:30 pm	Worship Service
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am	Worship Service Adult Bible Study, Sunday School, Teen Bible Study
Monday	6:30 pm	SHINE Activities Meeting
Wednesday	10:00 am 1:30 pm	Shorehaven Service Senior Fellowship
Thursday	8:00 am 8:30 am 6:00 pm	SCRIP Orders Due Women in the Word – NO CLASS THIS WEEK Graduation
Friday		Last Day of School
Saturday	5:30 pm	Worship Service
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am	Worship Service Adult Bible Study, Sunday School, Teen Bible Study

Highlights and Announcements

Scam Email Reminder
Please be aware of scam emails that appear to come from St. Matthew's pastors or staff. **No St. Matthew's pastor or staff member will ever ask you for money or gift cards.**
A quick check: *hover over the sender's email **and** review the reply-to address.* If either does not end in **@smls.org**, it is not from us. Some scam emails can appear to come from an SMLS address but the reply goes elsewhere. When in doubt, call the person directly or contact the church or school office to confirm.

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 church 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.

Voters' Meeting – Tuesday, June 9; Open Forum – June 5 & 6
Our Spring Voters meeting date has been pushed back to Tuesday June 9 at 7pm. In preparation for that meeting, we will hold brief presentations after the worship services on the weekend of June 5 and 6. We will also hold and Open Forum between Sunday services. The topic will be our Ministry Plan for 2026-27.

Senior Fellowship
Join us for Senior Fellowship in the Gathering Space on Wednesday, **May 20 | 12:00–3:00 PM** for the end-of-year potluck, devotion, and games (please sign up in advance). Come enjoy an afternoon of fun and fellowship! Questions? Contact Dan Feuerstahler at 920-245-3006.

ACTS Pool Party
All teens in 7th–12th grade are invited to an afternoon of summer fun at the **Lenz's house on Sunday, June 7 from 12–3 PM!** Come enjoy lunch, swimming, yard games, and time with friends. Please RSVP on Sign-up Genius to let us know you're coming!

Save the Date: 20/30s Bonfire & Bible Study
All St. Matthew's 20s/30s adults, join us for three Friday evenings this summer—June 12, July 31, and August 21—at 6:00 PM for bonfires, Bible study, fellowship, and conversation. Locations and topics are still being finalized, but we wanted to share the dates so you can plan ahead. Whether you've joined us before or this would be your first time, we'd love to have you there. Feel free to bring your own beverage and a snack to share if you'd like. More details coming soon!

Help Needed!
Help serve behind the scenes! We are need of help across all three of our A/V teams—livestream, soundboard, and projection. Students in 7th grade and up are welcome to join the projection team! If you're interested in learning more about soundboard, livestream, or assisting with projection, please contact the church office at jmanssen@smls.org. All volunteers will receive training and will serve alongside an experienced team member for their first two services.

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 Registration is Open!
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. Join us to "Ride the Wave" this summer! **Registration is open now - June 29**

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!

Family Night at the DockHounds
Join St. Matthew's families for a fun night at the ballpark as the DockHounds take on the Milwaukee Milkmen on **Tuesday, June 23 at 6:35 PM** at DockHounds Ballpark. Tickets are $20 each, with $10 supporting St. Matthew's School. To purchase tickets go to https://www.gofevo.com/event/StMatthewsHC26

Note: The Fellowship Committee will also be planning their annual DockHounds Night at a separate date (TBD), providing another opportunity for St. Matthew's church and school families to enjoy a summer evening together at a game.

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.

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


Discover how God has shaped you to serve.
June Sign-Up!
SHAPED
to Serve Workshop
Between Services
June 7 | 14 | 21
SMLS.org/Events
PERSONAL MEMBER MINISTRY
Serving God. Serving Others.


20 ST MATTHEW'S 30s
Save the Date
All St. Matthew's 20/30s Adults
-Join Us For-
BIBLE by THE FIRE
FRIDAYS: JUN 12 | JUL 31 | AUG 21
6:00PM & Location will vary, see website for details.
SMLS.ORG/events

FORWARD
FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

May
2026 Edition

Spotlight: A Camp Experience Students Never Forget

This month's *Forward for the Next Generation* video highlights one of St. Matthew's favorite seventh grade traditions: the annual trip to Camp Phillip. Each spring, students take part in an overnight retreat filled with faith, friendship, and outdoor adventure, growing through Bible study, team-building activities, campfire worship, and time in God's creation. The experience shows St. Matthew's commitment to upper grade "life lessons," building confidence, strengthening relationships, and growing faith through real-world experiences.

Growing in Faith

- At the center of the experience is God's Word, shared through Bible study, worship, singing, and devotions led by camp staff.

"You get to listen to God's Word and do all these fun activities."
– Jax Hendershot

"We're here to grow in faith through God's Word."
– Paul Habermann

Friendship & Memories

- With no phones or screens, students focus fully on relationships and shared experiences in God's creation.

"It's really fun just to be out in God's nature and have fun with all my friends."
– Kate Dahl

"This is one of the trips I've been looking forward to for a long time."
– Isabelle Charais

Building Confidence

Outdoor activities challenge students to go beyond their comfort zones while developing teamwork and perseverance. The ropes course is a highlight as students support each other through new experiences.

- Hiking and geocaching
- High ropes course and zip line
- Encouraging one another through challenges

Watch Here

A Lasting Tradition

For generations, Camp Phillip has been part of the St. Matthew's experience that shapes students spiritually, socially, and personally through faith-filled adventure, community, and lasting memories.

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