

St. Matthew's

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

June 28, 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.

UNEXPECTED TRUTHS

CROSS COMES BEFORE CROWN

Some churches teach that if a person follows God, God responds by granting prosperity and peace, as would only be expected. Today we see how that is nonsense. The Bible explains that if we are part of the Church of God, we will have bear crosses. Believers suffer in this world, sometimes just because they are believers. Why bother? We carry our crosses in gratitude for Jesus carrying his cross, one too heavy for us because it was weighted down with our sin. We carry our crosses because we know that in those moments of struggle, we are forced to turn to Christ and rely on his strength. This is the unexpected path, the one Jesus himself walked: the cross comes before the crown.

We welcome **Seminarian Luke Schlomer** and thank him for sharing God's Word with us this weekend. Luke will begin his second year at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, WI this fall.

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 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

June 28, 2026

THE SERVICE: SETTING ONE

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

Hymn 831 Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me

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

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
Almighty and merciful Father,
we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.
We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.
We have done those things that we should not have done,
and we have not done those things that we should have done.
Have mercy on us, Lord!
Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,
according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Absolution

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.
Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

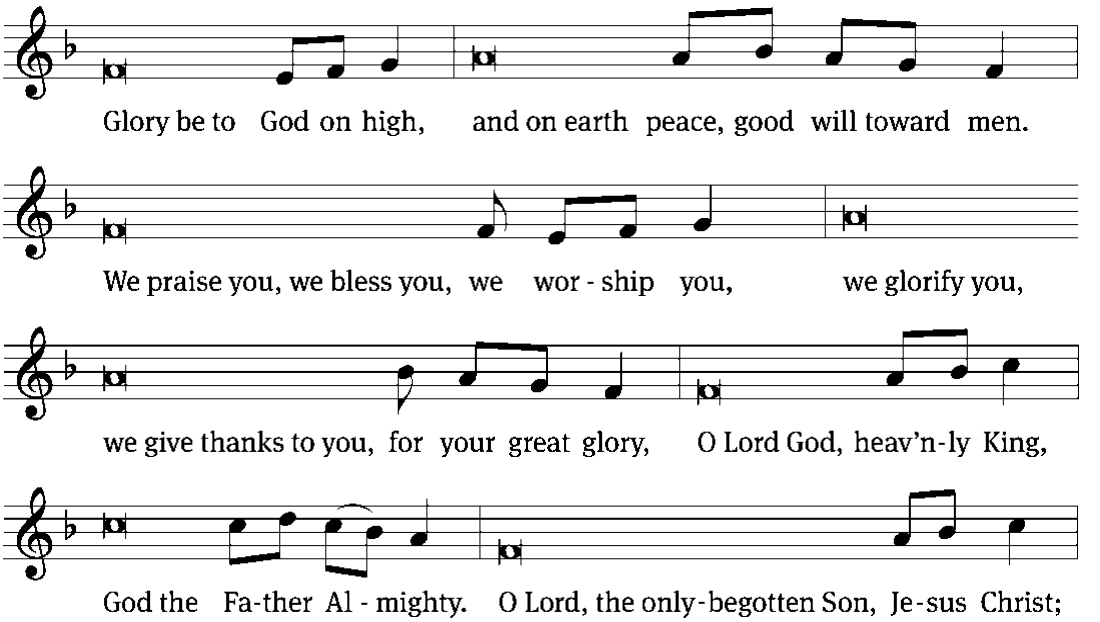
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.
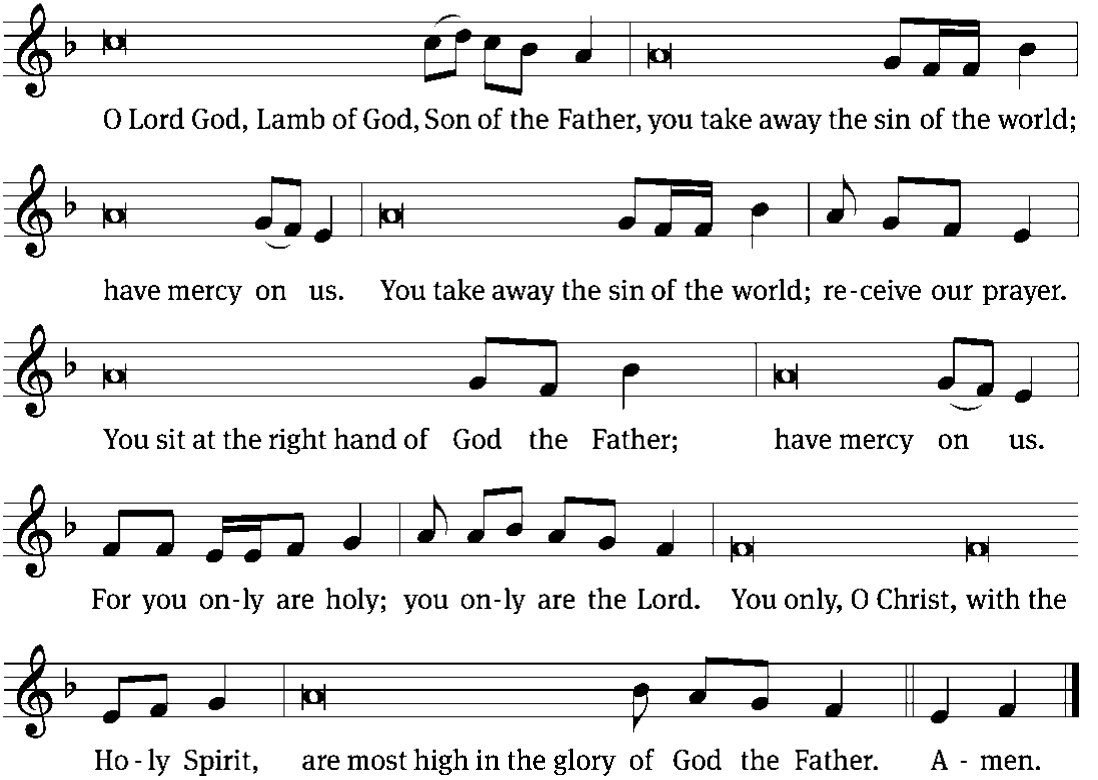
For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
Amen.

Glory Be to God on High

CW 157





The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

God of all power and might, you are the giver of all that is good. Help us love you with all our heart, strengthen us in true faith, provide us with all we need, and keep us safe in your care; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Holy Baptism

*During our 10:30am service this week, we will have the **Baptism** for **Hadley Olivia VanWormer**, the daughter of Jacob and Megan VanWormer. We also rejoice with Eric Hines & Lynette Schliewe who son, **Emmanuel Wayne**, along with Brandon & Katherine Danielewski who son **Liam James** will be baptized privately. God rich blessings to Hadley, Emmanuel and Liam!*

The Word

First Reading — Jeremiah 15:15-21

No cross can compare with the crown of glory that is waiting.

15 LORD, you understand;
remember me and care for me.
Avenge me on my persecutors.
You are long-suffering—do not take me away;
think of how I suffer reproach for your sake.
16 When your words came, I ate them;
they were my joy and my heart's delight,
for I bear your name,
LORD God Almighty.
17 I never sat in the company of revelers,
never made merry with them;
I sat alone because your hand was on me
and you had filled me with indignation.
18 Why is my pain unending
and my wound grievous and incurable?
You are to me like a deceptive brook,
like a spring that fails.

19 Therefore this is what the LORD says:
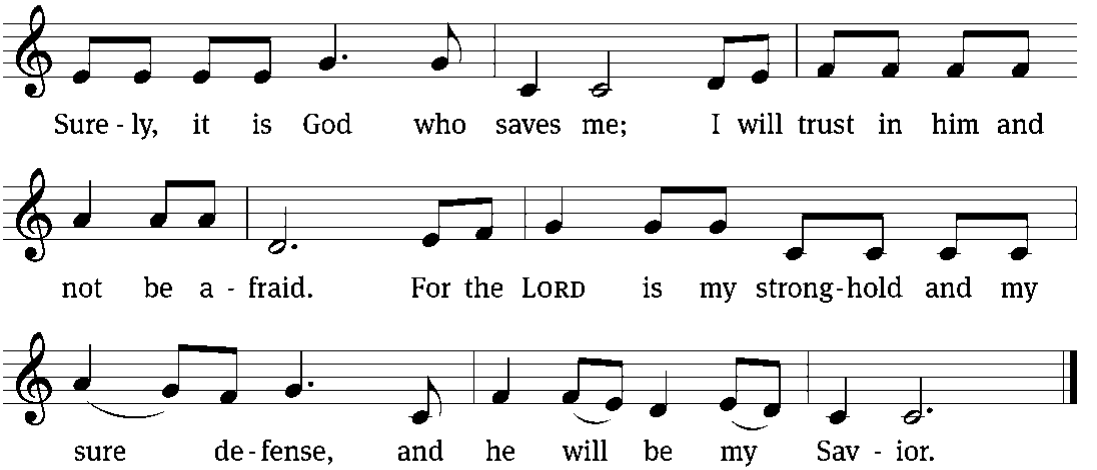
"If you repent, I will restore you
that you may serve me;
if you utter worthy, not worthless, words,
you will be my spokesman.
Let this people turn to you,

but you must not turn to them.
[20]I will make you a wall to this people,
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you
but will not overcome you,
for I am with you
to rescue and save you,”
declares the LORD.
[21]“I will save you from the hands of the wicked
and deliver you from the grasp of the cruel.”
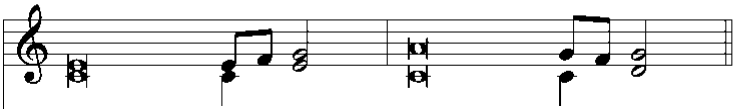
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31E — Surely It Is God Who Saves Me

Refrain



Tone



In you, LORD, I have taken / refuge;
let me never be / put to shame.

Be my rock of / refuge,
a strong fortress to / save me.
Into your hands I commit my / spirit;
deliver me, LORD, my / faithful God. *Refrain*

My times are / in your hands;
save me in your un- / failing love.
How abundant are the / good things
that you have stored up for those who / fear you.
Be strong and / take heart,
all you who hope / in the LORD.
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

Text: The Draft Proposed Book of Common Prayer
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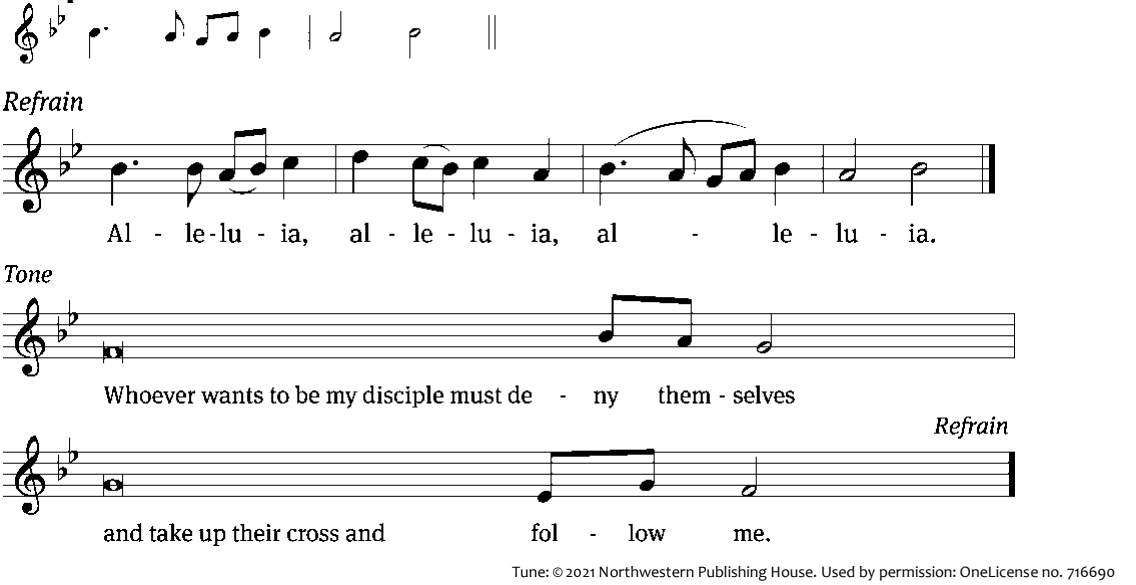
Second Reading — *Romans 8:18-25*

No cross can compare with the crown of glory that is waiting.

18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will
be revealed in us. 19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to
be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by
the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from
its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.
22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right
up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the
Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of
our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who
hopes for what they already have? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait
for it patiently.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *Mark 8:34*



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Gospel (Sermon Text) *Matthew 16:21-26*

Jesus calls his Church to walk in his path. First comes the cross, then comes the crown.

21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to
Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the
teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.
22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall
never happen to you!"
23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to
me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."
24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny
themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save their life
will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. 26 What good will it be for
someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in
exchange for their soul?"

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

Hymn 694 Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

Sermon — What Does it Take to be a True Disciple of Jesus?

1. Accepting His Cross

2. Embracing our cross

Seminarian Luke Schlomer

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. 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

Prayer of the Church

The Sacrament

Preface

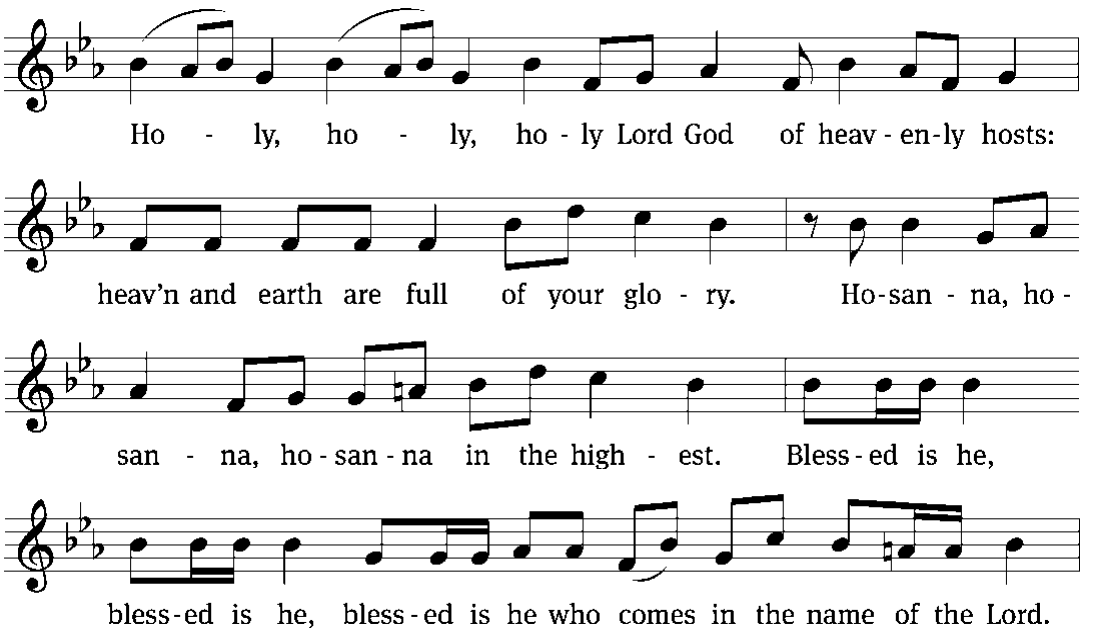
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

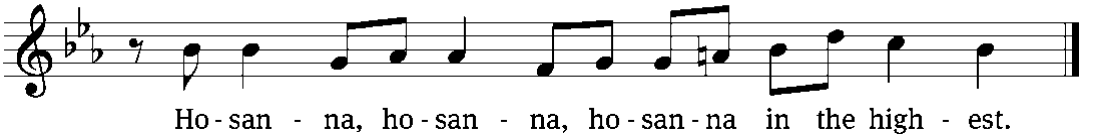
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy *CW 167*





Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

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.

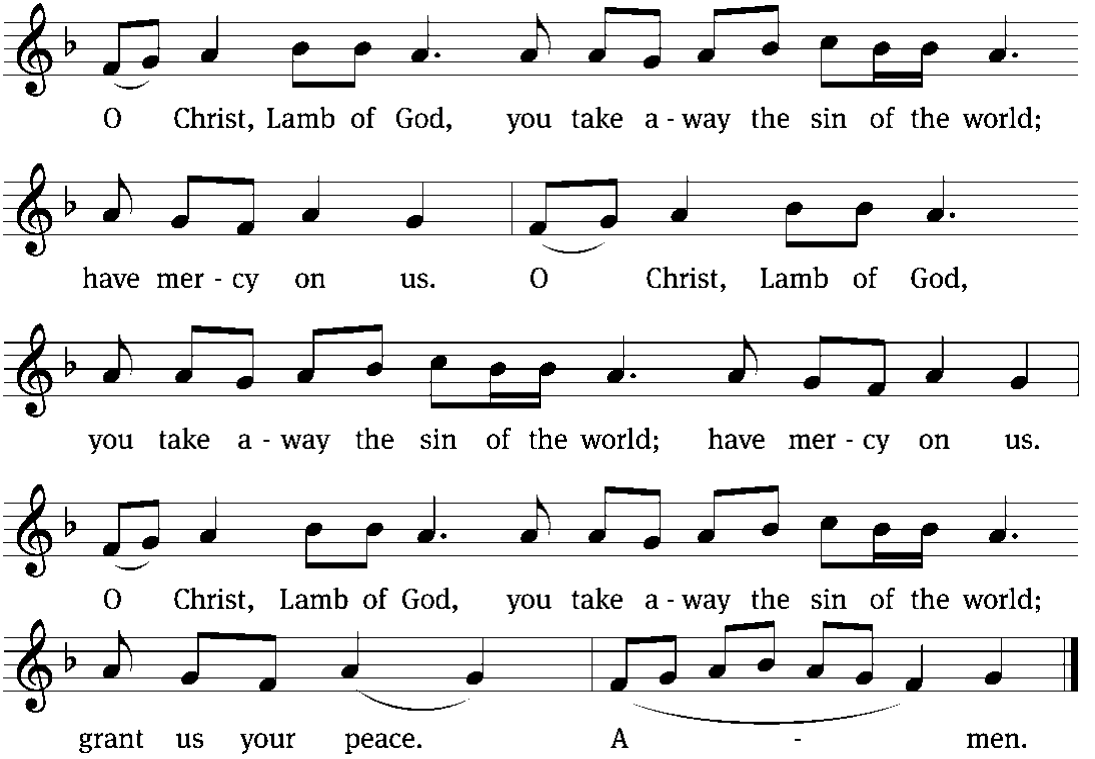
Words of Institution

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.

O Christ, Lamb of God



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 660 Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face

Distribution Hymn 665 What Is This Bread

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.*

Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Prayer

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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 405 On My Heart Imprint Your Image

In our Prayers: We rejoice with **Mike and Jeanne Ward** as they celebrate their 58th Wedding Anniversary.

Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Adult Bible Study – *The Ten Commandments*
Starting June 21, join us Sundays at 9:15 a.m. between services as we study the Ten Commandments and their relevance for our faith and daily lives. Students entering 5th grade and older are welcome to join the class. All are welcome!

Summer Childcare Available During Adult Bible Study
Sunday School and Teen Study are on summer break. Childcare is available for infants through 4th grade and will meet in the 3K classroom, located in the farthest wing of the school building. Children in 5th grade and older are welcome to join the Adult Bible Study.

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."

***"Bible by the Fire"* - Bible Study on Friday evenings— July 31 and Aug. 21—at 6:00 PM.**
We'll gather around bonfires for Scripture, fellowship, and conversation in a welcoming, relaxed setting. This summer, we'll be studying the book of Habakkuk. Please bring along a Bible. Whether you're new or have attended before, you are invited to come as you are. Feel free to bring a beverage and a snack to share. **For more details and the latest updates, *visit SMLS.org/Events.***

Women's Wednesday Bible Study – in July
Join us this summer for a four-lesson Women's Bible Study based on the WELS Women's Ministry resource ***Rejoice in the Lord!*,** exploring how the message of Philippians applies to 21st-century life. We will meet on **Wednesdays, July 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 6:00 p.m. in the Gathering Space.** You do not need to attend all four sessions—come as you are able and be encouraged by God's Word.

Thank you for Serving our Savior and Us		
	This Weekend	**Next Weekend –** July 4 & 5
Ushers	**Saturday** – Scott Heins **Early –** Tim Taubenheim **Late –** Andy Rosenau	**Saturday** – Tony Kobussen **Early –** Josh Strassburg **Late –** Toby Brandenstein
Greeters	**Early** – Joe & Jill Sharp **Late** –	**Early** – Curt Delie & Mary Beth Williams **Late** – Eric & Beth Ziel
Hospitality	**Saturday** – Char Bouche **Early –** Ralph & Tracy Schmidt **Late** –	**Saturday** – Dwight & Janet Sandvold **Early –** Tim & Carolyn Thiele **Late –** David & LeeAndra Dodge
Organist	Linda Smith	Becky Aldinger
Flowers	Mike & Jeanne Ward – 58th Anniversary	
Special Music		
Projection	**Saturday** – Emily Stewart **Early –** Ava Hillmann **Late –** Harper Gerczak	**Saturday** – **Early –** Evan Bergh **Late** – Eli Bigelow
Sound	**Saturday** – John Stewart **Early –** Jennifer Manssen **Late –** Kathy Goggins	**Saturday** – Scott Heins **Early –** Karen Haertel **Late –** Heather Bigelow
Livestream	Andy Hillmann	John Schuh

This Week at St. Matthew's		
Saturday	5:30 pm	Communion Service
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Childcare
Wednesday	10:00 am	Shorehaven Services
Saturday	5:30 pm	Worship Service
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Childcare

Acknowledgments
Setting One from Christian Worship
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Highlights and Announcements

VBS Donations
We are looking for craft, food and gift card donations for our upcoming Vacation Bible School. If you would like to donate, use the Sign Up Genius link https://bit.ly/SMVBSdonate All donated items can be **dropped off at First Steps**. Craft items should be dropped off by Friday, July 10**.** Food Donations can be dropped off the week of July 13. Please contact Beth Plitzuweit (bplitzuweit@smls.org) with any questions. Thank you!

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.

VBS Registration Closes Monday June 29th
VBS will be held 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**

VBS Teen Volunteers
We are looking for volunteers to be *Cabin Leaders for Vacation Bible School the week of July 20 - 24 from 8:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.* This is a super fun week and we would love for you to be a part of it. If you are interested in helping or have any questions please email Beth Plitzuweit at bplitzuweit@smls.org.

Dockhounds Fellowship Night – Round 2!
Missed Tuesday's game or had so much fun you want to do it again? Join us on Thursday, July 24, at 6:35 PM as the Lake Country DockHounds take on the Chicago Dogs! We've reserved three cabanas for our group, making it a great opportunity to enjoy baseball, fellowship, and time with friends. Space is limited, and tickets must be purchased by **July 10**. Cost: $30 per person (includes your game ticket and two drinks) **Ready to join us?** Sign up today at SMLS.org/events to reserve your spot!

Early Sign UP: Fall Planting Event at Ebert's
Join us for a hands-on workshop on **Saturday, September 13 at 2:00 PM** where we'll learn how to design and plant beautiful fall planters together at Ebert's Greenhouse. St. Matthew's members may sign up early—only 15 spots are available. Once Ebert's releases pricing and the official registration link, participants will receive full details by email. Sign up at smls.org/events.

NEW! Shape Up with SHINE – First Class Free!
All women are invited to join the SHINE Activities Team for **Shape Up with SHINE** on Saturday, July 18 at 9:00 AM. Led by St. Matthew's member and personal trainer Dwight Sandvold, this new fitness and fellowship opportunity features gentle movement, light strength training, and stretching, with modifications available for all fitness levels. Come give it a try—your first class is free!
Bring a family member or friend, and visit **SMLS.org/Events** for details or to sign up.

St. Matthew's Blood Drive - July 11
Give the gift of life! Join us for a blood drive on *Saturday July 11, 2026, from 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM in the School Entry*. Your donation can make a life-saving difference—to schedule a time use the QR Code or contact Jennifer in the church office at 262-912-6350.

OWLS
The Rock River Area OWLS will be meeting at Aero Park, 984 Boomer St., Watertown on Tuesday July 21 at 12 noon for our annual picnic. Please bring your own place settings, silverware, beverage, and a dish to pass. Coffee and meat for sandwiches will be provided. Everyone is invited and guests are always welcome. Aero Park is handicapped accessible. Also, the Vietnam Memorial Wall is available for viewing.

WELS Women's Ministry
WELS Women's Ministry exists to nurture, encourage, and equip women to faithfully use their gifts for service in God's kingdom. Join the mailing list to receive their newsletter: https://wels.net/wmnewsletter/ This newsletter arrives in your inbox twice a month, filled with encouraging stories, edifying devotionals, and the latest news on upcoming events and new resources from Women's Ministry, including upcoming webinars and devotions.
On-line bible study starting July 11th - Our Bible Sisters: Despite a separation of thousands of years and miles, we're much more like them than we first realize. This summer, you're invited to join Women's Ministry for an online Bible study focusing on "Our Bible Sisters." Throughout this five-week series, we'll look at more than just the heroic actions of biblical women. We'll also consider how our unchanging God met these flawed, real women in their daily struggles and learn to find his grace, faithfulness, and purpose in our own daily realities. Please join us this summer as we get to know five of our Bible sisters better! The study is offered twice each week—8:00 a.m. (Central) on Saturday mornings and 7:00 p.m. (Central) on Monday evenings—starting July 11. Register at https://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/womens-ministry/

Youth Confirmation Classes
Confirmation classes for our public school and homeschool students begin for those in 6th grade. Initial information has been sent out to parents whom we know have children entering 6th-8th grade. If you didn't receive information and have a rising 6th-8th grader in public school or homeschool, please contact Pastor Voss at mvoss@smls.org with the name(s) or your child(ren) and with your contact info. Thanks! Tentatively, we're looking at having an informational meeting for parents and students on **Wednesday, August 26 at 5 pm** in the school commons.

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