

St. Matthew's

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 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.

A Service of Song and Thanksgiving to God as We Celebrate our Dual Citizenship in this 250th Year of Our Nation

Christians live in Two Kingdoms. By our birth, we are citizens of this country and by our rebirth, through the work of the Holy Spirit, we are citizens of heaven with Christ as our King.

In the 250th anniversary year of the signing of the Declaration of the Independence of the United States of America, Christians are realizing that our freedoms are not guaranteed forever. What can we do with the limited time we have left to preach the gospel and administer the sacraments without governmental interference?

We can do exactly what Jesus advised: honor our God and the leaders he's established, live in thankfulness to Jesus for fulfilling all righteousness for us, and utilize the freedoms we have as God's children to serve our neighbors with the Gospel that gives true and lasting freedom.

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 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 2026

Hymn 775 **Before You, Lord, We Bow**

Invocation

In the name of God the Father, who, with His almighty power, created all things,
May His Name be forever praised!

In the name of Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of the Father, our one Lord and Savior,
May His Name be forever praised!

In the name of the Holy Spirit, who has called us to faith and sanctified us through Word and Sacrament,
May His Name be forever praised!

Acknowledgement and Confession of our Sin

We gather this weekend to glorify our Triune God, who, in His infinite wisdom, has granted us life in this country and at this time. As our nation commemorates 250 years since the singing of the Declaration of Independence, we give thanks for all the blessings that flow from the hand of our gracious God: the freedom to worship, the prosperity of land and industry, the rule of law that governs this land, and all other gifts of grace that we need for body and life.

For the times we have taken for granted our earthly liberties, for the times we have dishonored and disobeyed the leadership God has established, for the times we have squandered or abused God's gifts of time, skill and ability, employing them only for ourselves while ignoring the needs of our fellow citizen – for these and all other sins we have committed, we confess to you, pleading with humble and contrite hearts, Lord have Mercy.

Hymn of Confession – 652 Lord, Have Mercy

Verse one and refrain by a song leader, Congregation joins with verse 2

God's Announcement of Forgiveness

Brothers and sisters in Christ, our gracious Lord has heard your penitent cry and has shown his grace and mercy in the sending of his Son Jesus Christ, who lived in our place without any sin and who shed his blood on the cross to make atonement for the sin 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. Thanks be to God!

Hymn of Praise – 770:1,2,4 God of Grace and God of Glory

Prayer of the Day

Father, we thank you for the privilege of living in a country that guarantees freedom of religious beliefs and worship to its people. Preserve this heritage to us and our children. Stir us up to make good use of this freedom by living out our Christian faith boldly so that our lives are witness to the love of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reign with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Children's Message

Part One: Understanding Our Dual Citizenship

Reading Daniel 1:3-21

We learn from Daniel how to live in two kingdoms.

3 Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's
service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility— 4 young men
without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well
informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach
them the language and literature of the Babylonians. 5 The king assigned them a daily
amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years,
and after that they were to enter the king's service.

6 Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and
Azariah. 7 The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to
Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

8 But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked
the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. 9 Now God had caused the

official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, [10]but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you."

[11]Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, [12]"Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. [13]Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see." [14]So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.

[15]At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. [16]So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.

[17]To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

[18]At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. [19]The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. [20]In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

[21]And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

Hymn Response – 705 Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

Part Two: Remembering Who is Truly in Charge

Reading Romans 13:1-7

God has established governmental authority

[1]Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. [2]Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. [3]For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. [4]For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's

servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. [5]Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

[6]This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. [7]Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

Psalm 146D **Praise the Almighty, My Soul, Adore Him**

This arrangement is a wonderful metrical paraphrase of Psalm 146 as it drives home the point that we dare not put our hope and trust in mere mortal men and princes… they cannot save. They, too, will die and their plans will come to nothing. Only the True God is worthy of eternal praise.

Part Three: Honoring God and Caesar

Reading ***Matthew 22:15-22***

Give to the government what is the government's and give to God what is God's.

[15]Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. [16]They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. [17]Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?"

[18]But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? [19]Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, [20]and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?"

[21]"Caesar's," they replied.

Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

[22]When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

Creedal Hymn Response - 805 **Eternal Father Strong to Save**

Note how this hymn clearly confesses our Triune God who holds dominion over all and who alone is worthy of our praise and thanksgiving. In our Triune God we put our hope, our trust and our confidence.

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 for the Nation

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for the establishment of our nation and granting us your grace and patience over these 250 years. Look upon our nation and behold our many needs. Do not, because of our flagrant sins, turn away from us; rather be merciful and grant your aid in all matters that distress us.
Increase the faith of all Christians, that they may not fall prey to the sins that have so badly eroded our society, nor yield to the many antichristian forces which boldly demand acceptance.

Enable Christians, by fearless professions of faith and godly lives, to be guiding lights leading others to glorify you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent to save us.
Give all who preach and teach the gospel in this nation a double measure of your Spirit, that they will not depart from the simple saving message of the cross.

Make your churches across this great land havens of rest for sin-weary souls.
Turn many hearts from unbelief, sin, and false gods to Jesus, their one and only Savior.

Almighty Lord, give the ability and will to rule well to the President and Congress, to the cabinet members, to the governors and legislators of the various states, and to judges, magistrates, and law enforcement personnel.
As our Supreme Ruler, grant health, safety, honesty, wisdom, fairness and devotion to duty to all who are in authority.

Special prayers and intercessions

Hear us Lord as we bring you our personal petitions in a moment of silent prayer.

Gracious Lord, help us obey the laws of our land that as peaceful citizens and model Christians we may always set a proper example for others. We pray for all these blessings in the name of Jesus Christ, who is the Light of Salvation for every people, and in whose name we also join to pray the prayer he taught us:

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 774 God Bless Our Native Land

Acknowledgments
Setting One from Christian Worship
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Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Adult Bible Study – *The Ten Commandments*
Join us Sundays at 9:15 am 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.

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. 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
We invite all women to join our Bible Study in July entitled, ***"Rejoice in the Lord – a study of the Book of Philippians."*** We'll meet in the Gathering Space at 6pm.

Thank you for Serving our Savior and Us

	This Weekend	**Next Weekend –** July 11 & 12
Ushers	**Saturday** – Tony Kobussen **Early –** Josh Strassburg **Late –** Toby Brandenstein	**Saturday –** Tom Plitzuweit **Early –** Jim Fulmer **Late –** Eric Ziel
Greeters	**Early** – Curt Delie & Mary Beth Williams **Late** – Eric & Beth Ziel	**Early** – Ralph & Tracy Schmidt **Late** – Andy & Carrie Rosenau
Hospitality	**Saturday** – Dwight & Janet Sandvold **Early –** Tim & Carolyn Thiele **Late –** David & LeeAndra Dodge	**Saturday** – Kyle Bence **Early –** Gary & Karen Haertel **Late –** Jon & Ginny Kehren
Organist	Becky Aldinger	Char Bouche
Special Music		
Flowers		John & Elsie Lemke – 60th Anniversary
Projection	**Saturday** – Vickie Wilson **Early –** Evan Bergh **Late –** Eli Bigelow	**Saturday** – Grace Heins **Early –** Kylee Glorioso **Late –** Nolan Bagdassian

Sound	**Saturday** – Scott Heins **Early –** Karen Haertel **Late –** Heather Bigelow	**Saturday** – Kathy Goggins **Early –** Joel Aldinger **Late –** Charlie Bagdassian
Livestream	John Schuh	Nathan Bergh

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; Child Care
Monday	5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Childcare Committee Board of Education
Tuesday	6:00 pm 6:30 pm 6:30 pm	Board of Trustees Board of Outreach Board of Elders
Wednesday	10:00 am 5:30 pm 6:00 pm	Shorehaven Service Board of Stewardship Women's Bible Study
Thursday	8:00 am	SCRIP Orders Due
Saturday	7:30 am 7:30 am 5:30 pm	Blood Drive Men's Bible Breakfast Communion Service
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Child Care

Highlights and Announcements

VBS Donations
We are looking for craft, food and gift card donations for our upcoming Vacation Bible School. Please use the Sign Up Genius 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!

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.* If you are interested in helping or have any questions please email Beth Plitzuweit at bplitzuweit@smls.org.

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.

Dockhounds Fellowship Night – Round 2!
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. Sign up today at SMLS.org/events

Early Childhood Summer Events
Early childhood families are invited to join us at Imagination Station on the following Fridays - July 10, 17 from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. We will have play time at the park, a Bible lesson, songs and a craft. Then join us at St. Matthew's for Water Day on Wednesday, July 15 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. There will be water sensory tables, slip and slide, sprinklers, water balloons, popsicles and more! These are FREE events and you do not need to pre-register. For more information please contact Beth Plitzuweit (bplitzuweit@smls.org).

Shepherd's Staff: VISITATION TEAM
This month we highlight the **Shepherd's Staff: Visitation Team,** which serves homebound members of our church family through regular visits, friendship, and encouragement. A simple conversation, shared time, or caring presence helps remind our homebound members that they remain a valued and cherished part of the St. Matthew's family.

To learn more about this ministry, watch our *Forward in God's Grace* video from January 2025, which briefly highlights the Visitation Team in action with a homebound member.

If you or someone you know could benefit from a visit, or if you would like to serve on the Visitation Team, please contact the Church Office.

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.

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.

OUR MISSION *COMPELLED BY THE LOVE OF CHRIST,*

St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church and School seek to reach out to our families, community and world, using Law and Gospel to make disciples, growing and nurturing them in their Christian faith and life.

PHILIP BIGELOW
Pastor
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STEVEN HILLMER
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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