

St. Matthew's

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 29, 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.

SAY IT OUT LOUD

LOVE GOD ABOVE ALL

Not all love is good. It is self-destructive to love bad things. It is just as harmful to love good things in a bad order. For example, it would seem to be a good thing for a man to love his dog. But if he loves his dog more than he loves his wife, his "love" for both is disordered. For love to be healthy, it needs to be properly ordered.

Christians love the people whom God has placed into their lives. But when those people desire something that God does not desire, Christians love and serve God above all. Properly ordered love leads us to be faithful to God and his Word. We love God above all because he first loved us.

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 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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THE SERVICE: SETTING ONE

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

Hymn 876 — Fight the Good Fight

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.

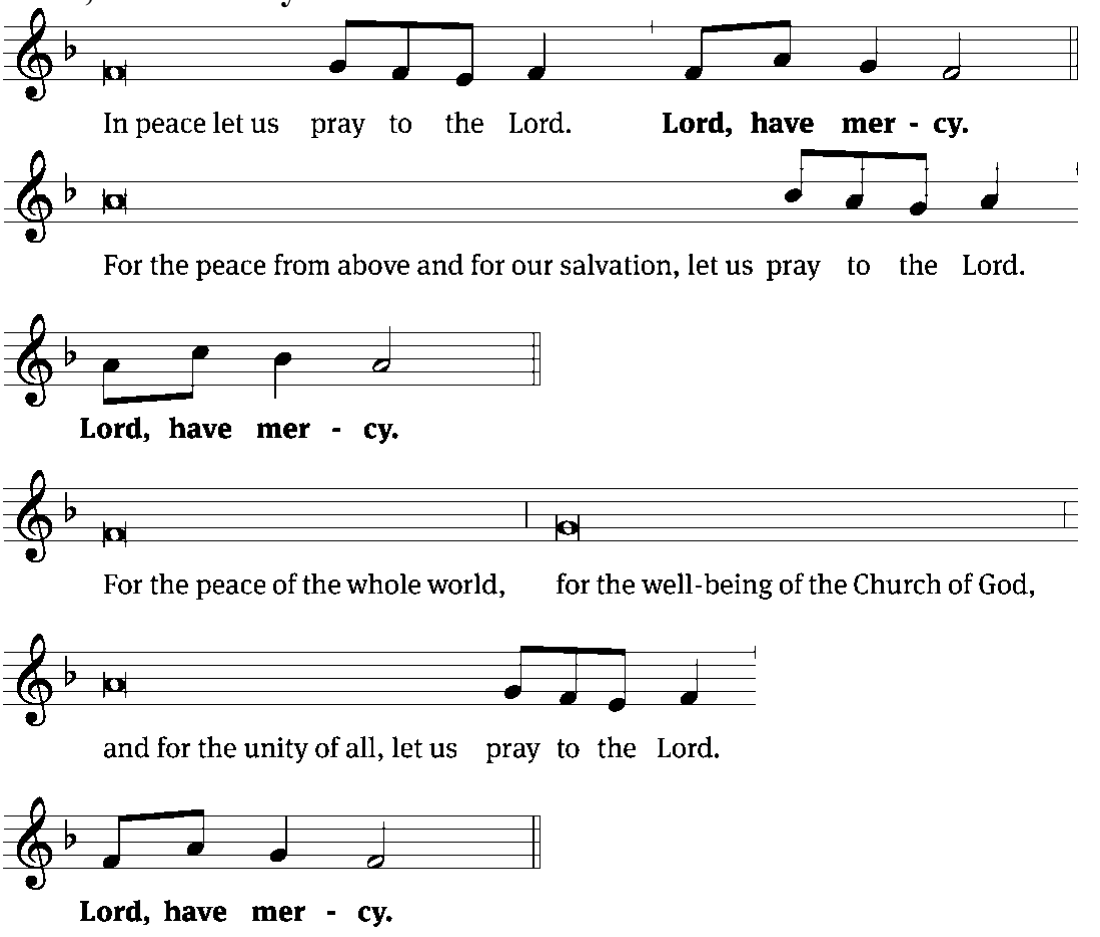
Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid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

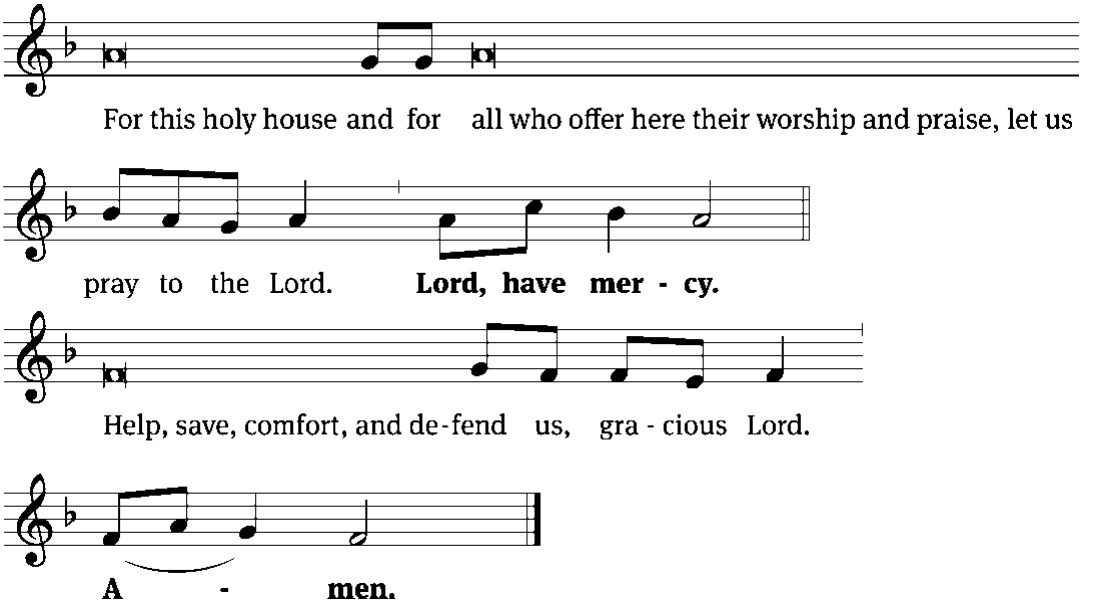
Silence for meditation and reflection

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

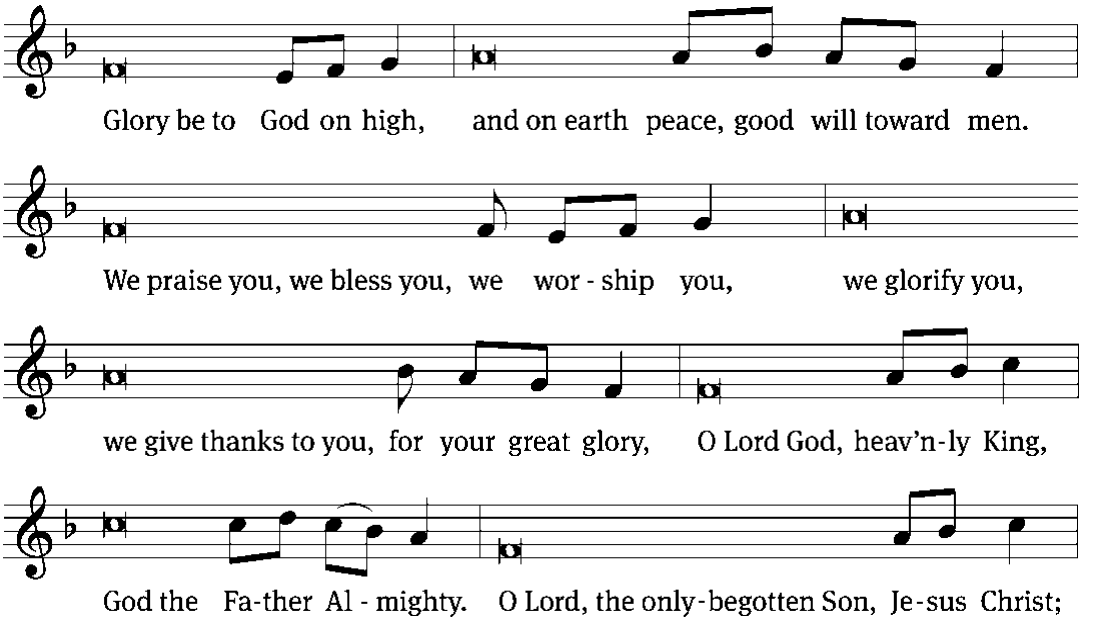


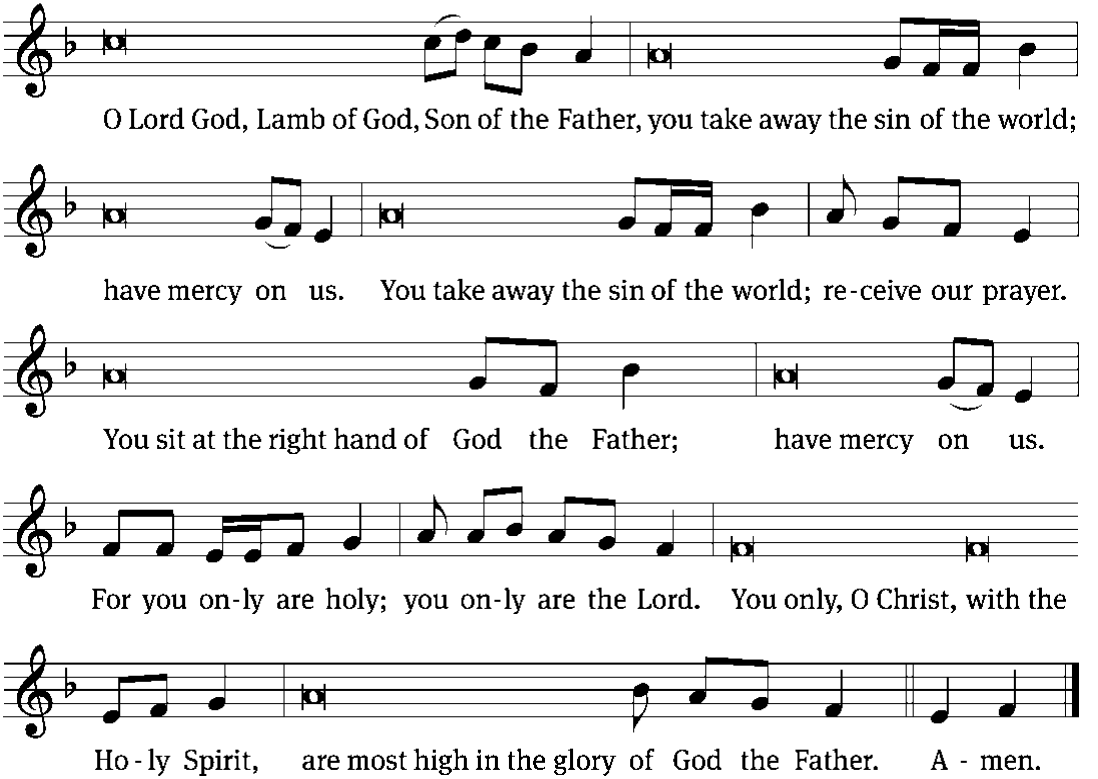


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Glory Be to God on High

CW 157





The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow him wherever he leads; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The Word

First Reading *(Sermon Text)* Exodus 32:15-29

When we hear Aaron's excuses, we recognize our own rationalizations.

15 Moses turned and went down the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant law in
his hands. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back. 16 The tablets were the work
of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.
17 When Joshua heard the noise of the people shouting, he said to Moses, "There is the
sound of war in the camp."
18 Moses replied:

"It is not the sound of victory, it is not the sound of defeat;
it is the sound of singing that I hear."

19 When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned
and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the
mountain. 20 And he took the calf the people had made and burned it in the fire; then he
ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it.
21 He said to Aaron, "What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great
sin?"
22 "Do not be angry, my lord," Aaron answered. "You know how prone these people are
to evil. 23 They said to me, 'Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses
who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.' 24 So I told
them, 'Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.' Then they gave me the gold, and I
threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!"
25 Moses saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of
control and so become a laughingstock to their enemies. 26 So he stood at the entrance to
the camp and said, "Whoever is for the LORD, come to me." And all the Levites rallied to
him.
27 Then he said to them, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Each man strap
a sword to his side. Go back and forth through the camp from one end to the other, each
killing his brother and friend and neighbor.' " 28 The Levites did as Moses commanded,
and that day about three thousand of the people died. 29 Then Moses said, "You have been
set apart to the LORD today, for you were against your own sons and brothers, and he has
blessed you this day."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 27C The LORD Is My Light and My Salvation

Refrain
The LORD is my light and my salvation— of whom shall I be afraid, of whom shall I be afraid?

Hear my voice when I / call, LORD;
be merciful to me and / answer me.
Do not hide your / face from me,
do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my / helper.
Do not reject me or for- / sake me,
God my / Savior. *Refrain*

Though my father and mother for- / sake me,
the LORD will re- / ceive me.
I remain confi- / dent of this:
I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the / living.
Wait / for the LORD;
be strong and take heart and wait / for 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*

Second Reading *1 Timothy 6:11-16*

St. Paul describes the good fight of faith.

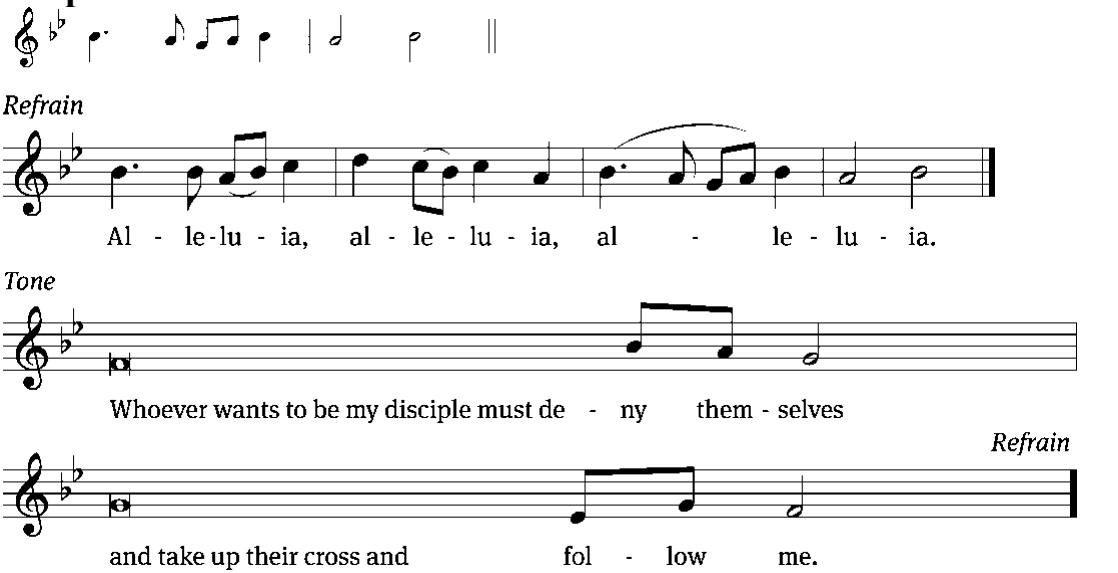
[11]But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. [12]Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. [13]In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you [14]to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, [15]which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, [16]who alone is immortal and who

lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 8:34



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Gospel

Matthew 10:34-42

Jesus calls us to love him above all.

34 "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring
peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to turn

" 'a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—
36 a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.'

37 "Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone
who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 Whoever does not

take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. [39]Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

[40]"Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. [41]Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. [42]And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."

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

Hymn 702 — Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake

Sermon — God > < Everything Else?

Pastor Philip Bigelow

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



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 869 Onward, Christian Soldiers

In our Prayers: We rejoice with **Pastor and Liz Schmidt** as they rejoice with the birth and baptism of their granddaughter, **Teegan Renae Schmidt**, and with **Jeff and Lis Olson** with the birth of their daughter **Eleanor Grace**.

Thank you for Serving our Savior and Us		
	This Weekend	**Next Weekend –** September 5 & 6
Ushers	**Saturday** – Tony Kobussen **Picnic –** Jason Cox & Todd Helwig	**Saturday** – Tom Plitzuweit **Early –** Joel Watson **Late –** Sam Weiss
Greeters	**Picnic** – Dave & Betty Reul, Joe & Jill Sharp, Eric & Beth Ziel	**Early** – Harry & Marlene Redfield **Late** – Mike & Joy Lenz
Hospitality	**Saturday** – Jon & Kessia Boche **Picnic –** Tim & Carolyn Theiel, Rudy & Chris Dovnik	**Saturday** – Dwight & Janet Sandvold **Early –** Paul & Brenda Pillard **Late –** Tom & Mary Thiele
Organist	Becky Aldinger	Char Bouche
Flowers		
Special Music	Brass	
Projection	**Saturday** – Krista/Sam D'Amore	**Saturday** – Emily Stewart **Early –** Kylee Glorioso **Late** – Matthias Uttech
Sound	**Saturday** – Vickie Wilson	**Saturday** – John Stewart **Early –** Rik Krahn **Late –** Jacob Kopplin
Livestream	Mike Bouche	Jason Cox

This Week at St. Matthew's		
Saturday	5:30 pm	Worship Service
Sunday	10:00 am	Worship Service
Tuesday	6:30 pm	Board of Outreach
Wednesday	9:30 am 10:00 am 1:30 pm	First Steps Chapel Shorehaven Services Senior Fellowship
Thursday	8:00 am	SCRIP Orders Due
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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Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Adult Bible Study – *The Ten Commandments*
Join us Sundays at 9:15 a.m. Next week we will conclude our study of the Ten Commandments. On **September 13,** our new study is entitled, **God's Faithfulness**. A promise is only as good as the person making it and the ability to keep it. Eternity depends on God's promises made to us in his Word and his faithfulness in keeping those promises. We are lost for eternity without them. We'll take a look at God's promises throughout Scripture and his faithfulness to them both in the lives of those in the Bible and our lives.

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."

Women in the Word – Thursdays at 8:30am
Join us **September 3 in the Gathering Space** for a new study "**Equipped: The Armor of God for Everyday Struggles."** The devil works every day to turn us away from our faith. Sometimes it's not in grand, blatant temptations, but in small ones we encounter every day. The devil works through exhaustion, temptation, worry, frustration, and many other ways that are all daily occurrences. God gives us the strength and equips us to stand against the devil's schemes. We will take an in depth look at Ephesians 6 and discover how God equips us to battle against the devil.

Sunday School and Teen Study Resuming Soon!
Sunday School for children in PreK through 6th grade will resume on Sunday, September 13. Sunday School will once again study various Bible stories, using the Christ Light curriculum. Teen study will resume the same day and is for students in 7th through 12th grade. Teens will study Lutheran Worship, taking a look at our services from beginning to end and answer the question, "Why do we do that in worship?"

New Bible Information Class Starting
We are starting a new Bible Information Class "**Your Questions? God's Answers!"** on **Monday, September 28 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Church Conference room. The class will run about 10 weeks. Should I come? If you are interested in exploring membership at St. Matthew's, *this class is designed for you!* If you have questions about God and the Bible and want to learn more, *this class is designed for you!* Contact Pastor Bigelow to register and we'll see you there!

Highlights and Announcements

St. Matthew's Blood Drive - September 19
Give the gift of life! Join us for a blood drive on *Saturday September 19, 2026, from 7:30 AM to 12:00 PM in the School Entry*. Your donation can make a life-saving difference—schedule your appointment today!

Senior Fellowship
Our Senior Fellowship group will meet on **Wednesday, September 2 and Wednesday, September 16** in the Gathering Area of the church. Please enter through the main church doors. We meet at **1:30 p.m.** and begin with an opening devotion, followed by cards and other games until 4:00 p.m. Come enjoy an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and time together with fellow Christians! Questions? Contact **Dan Feuerstahler t 920-245-3006**.

Shaped to Serve – September Sessions
Have you ever wondered how God has uniquely gifted you to serve? Join our **Shaped to Serve Workshops** to discover your spiritual gifts, connect with meaningful opportunities to serve at St. Matthew's, and enjoy fellowship, coffee, and a free Go, Serve, Love T-shirt.
SEPT 13, 20 & 27: Three 1-hour sessions between worship services in the Small Chapel.
Can't make September? A second workshop series will be offered NOV 8, 15 & 22**.**
Sign up today at smls.org/events!
Questions? Contact Eric Ziel or click **SHAPED Workshops** to learn more.

Attention Music Lovers!
A new season of Handbell Choir is being prepared for the coming weeks. Please consider joining this special activity for praising God and edifying our worship services. Rehearsals are generally at **8 p.m. on Thursday evenings.** Contact Linda Smith or Jennifer in the office for more information.

Preschool Power Hour Begins SEPT. 9!
Come join us for Preschool Power Hour! This unique preschool program involves children ages 0-4 and their caregivers in a variety of learning activities. During each one-hour class the children enjoy a Bible lesson, music, large motor experiences, art exploration and centers time.

For children 18 months–4 years (infant siblings welcome free).
When: Wednesdays, 9–10 AM | **Fall:** Sept. 9- Nov. 4
Location: First Steps Childcare, Flex Room | **Cost:** $20/child for all 9 classes
REGISTER: https://smls.org/preschool-power-hour/
Miss a class? No problem! You're welcome to join us at any time during the session.
Questions? Contact **Beth Plitzuweit**

Walk in the Word: Two More Dates Added!
Due to the great interest, we're adding two more opportunities for ladies to join us for Walk in the Word on **Wednesday, September 2 and 9 at 6:30 p.m.** We'll meet at the dog statue on the Oconomowoc Boardwalk for a walk around Fowler Lake, along with a brief devotion and Christian fellowship. Moms with strollers and friends are always welcome! For more information, contact Angie Gabb at angiegabb@gmail.com

Men's Retreat: "Courage Under Fire"
Are you brave? Life can put us under fire. Where do we find the courage and strength to stand firm as godly men? Join us at the **3rd Annual Milwaukee Men of His Word Conference** on **Saturday, October 17** at the Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel. Hear from keynote speaker Pastor Michael Zarling, author of *Resisting the Dragon's Beast*, and worship with His Way Band.
To register go to https://mohwmke.zohobackstage.com/2026 and use code **COURAGE** for $10 off, expires AUG 31st.

OWLS - Rock River Area Meeting
Join the Rock River Area OWLS **Tuesday, September 15, at 1:30 p.m.** at the Watertown ROC Youth Center, 213 N. Third St. ROC Director Matt Schultz will share about the ROC, followed by a business meeting discussing the future of RRA OWLS. Pizza and fellowship will follow—please bring a side dish to share. Retired adults and those 55+ are welcome, and guests are always invited!

Blue Butterfly Work Night: More flexibility!
St. Matthew's members are invited to volunteer at the Blue Butterfly Thrift Store **any Wednesday from 5:00–7:30 p.m.** Arrive when convenient and stay for an hour or two. Someone will always be available to assist volunteers in what to do. You will have the opportunity to work alongside other volunteers in a task you enjoy doing. Your help will be greatly appreciated in furthering this ministry!

Treasure Life Events
Friday, September 25, 2026
Brookfield Conference Center | 325 S Moorland Rd, Brookfield, WI 53005
12:00 PM Luncheon or **6:30 PM Dinner**

The *Treasure Life Luncheon* and *Treasure Life Dinner* fundraising events support APS Medical, operated by WELS Lutherans for Life. You and your guests will be given an opportunity to financially support the ministry during the afternoon luncheon or evening dinner. More information and to register go to treasure-life.org. RVSP by September 10th.

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