

St. Matthew's

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 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

I AM MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

When danger strikes, most people instinctively move away from it. Fire, violence, accidents, and disasters trigger a natural desire to find protection and safety. Yet first responders do the opposite. Firefighters, police officers, and paramedics run toward the very scenes others are fleeing. They enter burning buildings, approach violent situations, and kneel beside the injured in chaotic moments. This response is unexpected because it goes against basic human instinct.

Today God calls us to be spiritual first responders when we see people in trouble because of sin. Instead of self-preservation and comfort, we choose service to them and to our Lord. Our motive is the grace of God and his desire for the salvation of all mankind.

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 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2026

THE SERVICE: SETTING TWO

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

Hymn 839 **Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me**

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.

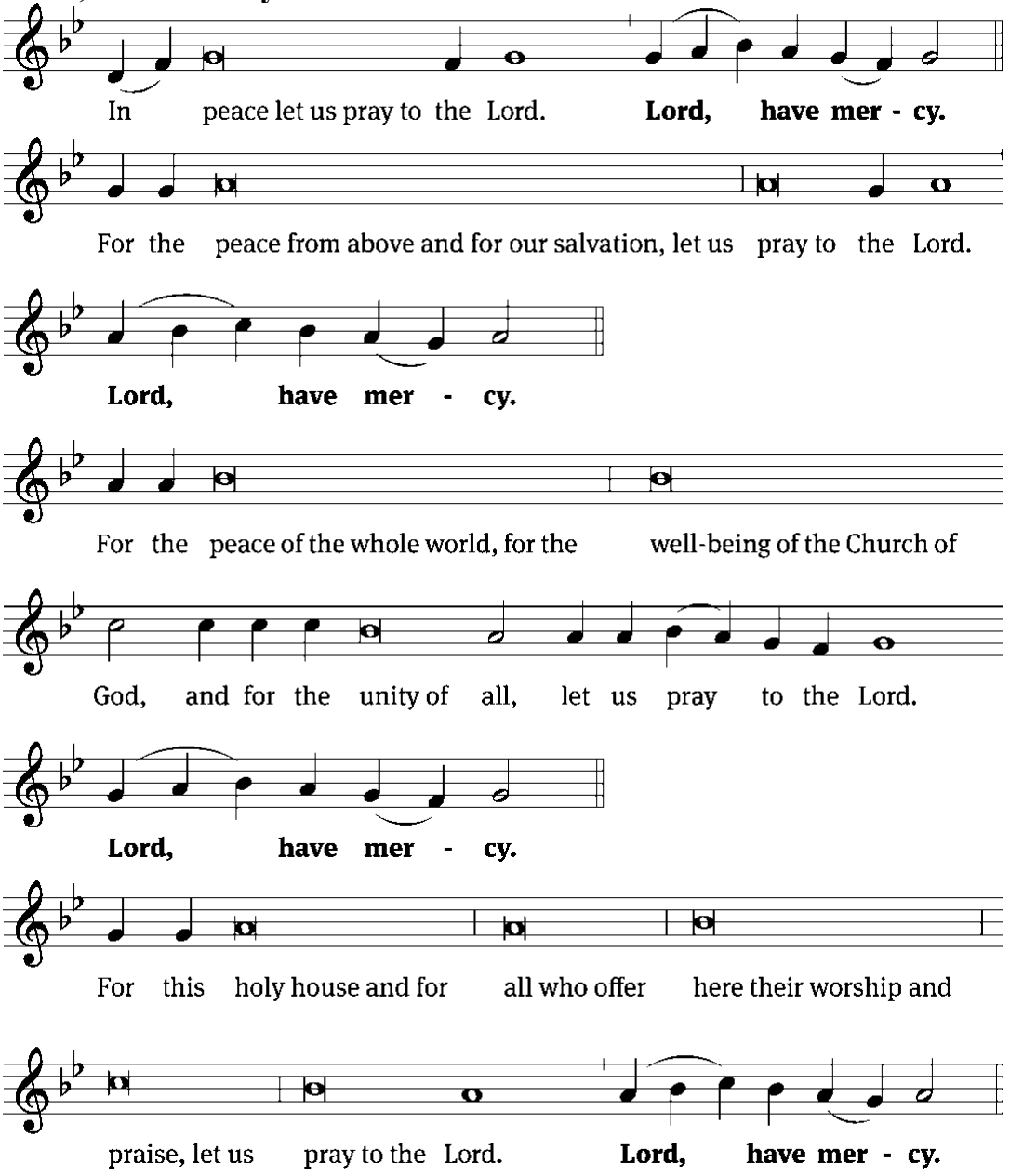
Silence for meditation and reflection

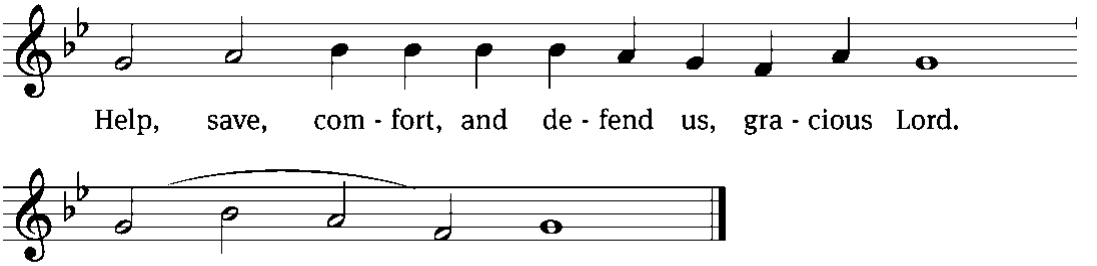
Absolution

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

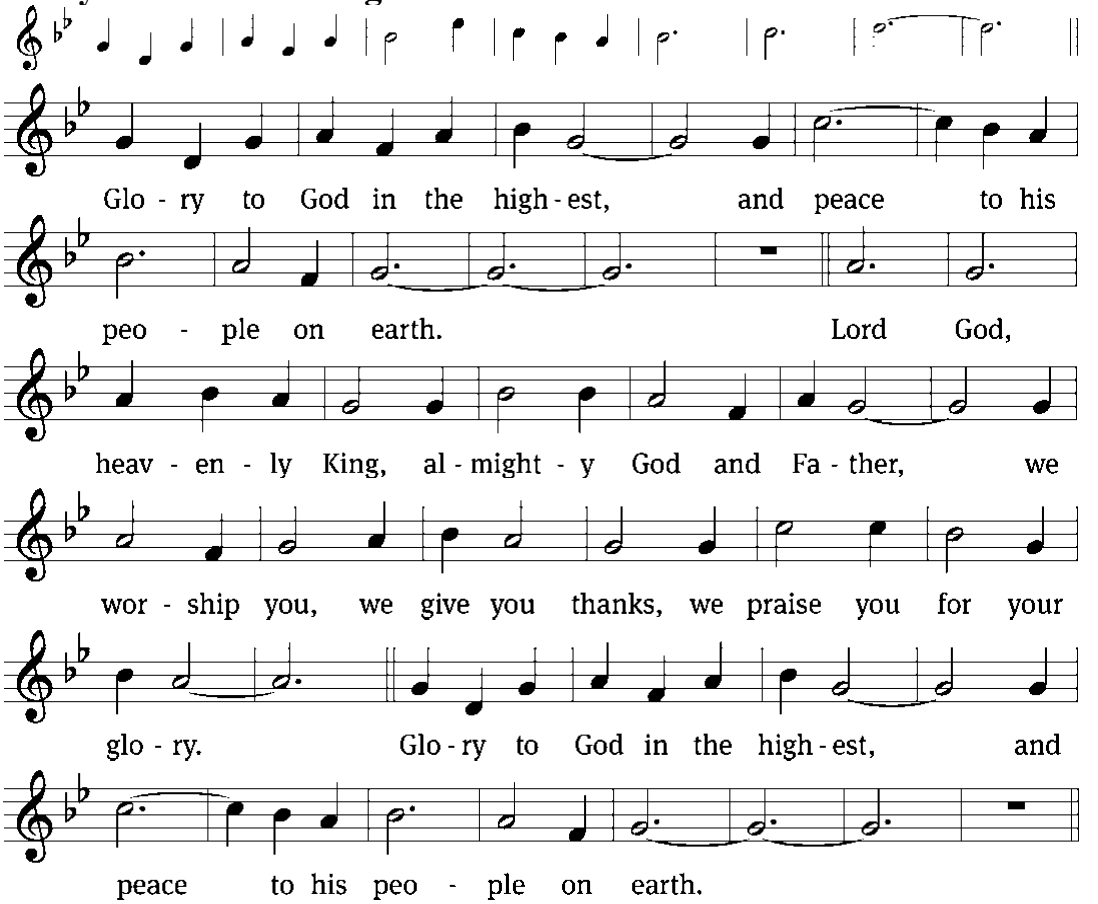
CW 174

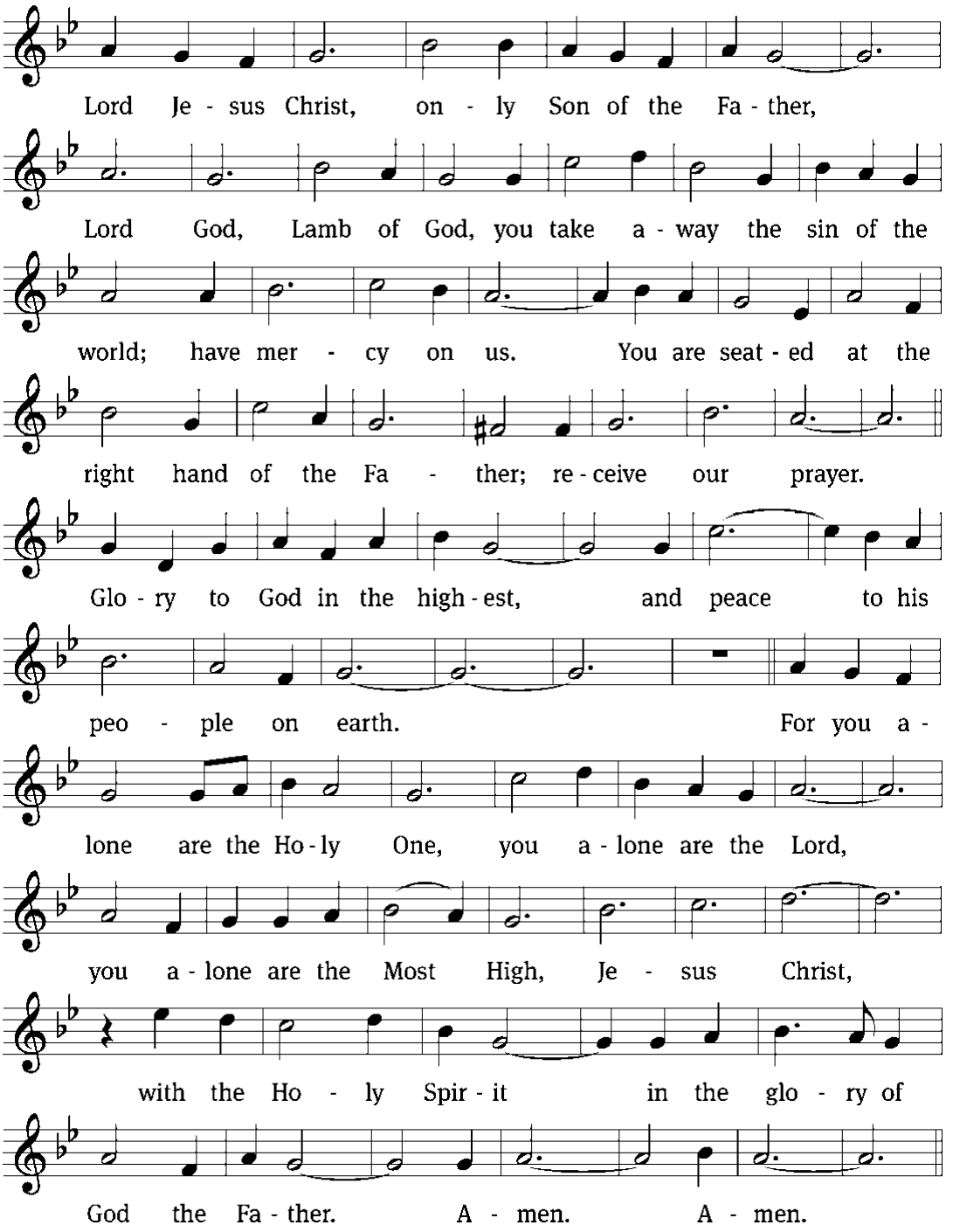


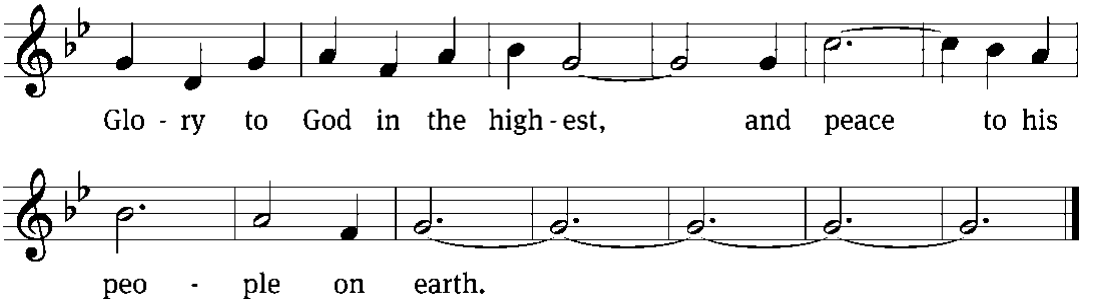


Tune: Marty Haugen
Tune: © 1984, 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716690

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
Tune: © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716690

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Children's Message

First Reading — Ezekiel 33:7-11

The Lord told Ezekiel if he didn't warn the Israelites about their sin, he was going to hold Ezekiel accountable.

7 "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I
speak and give them warning from me. 8 When I say to the wicked, 'You wicked person,
you will surely die,' and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that
wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. 9 But if
you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will
die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved.

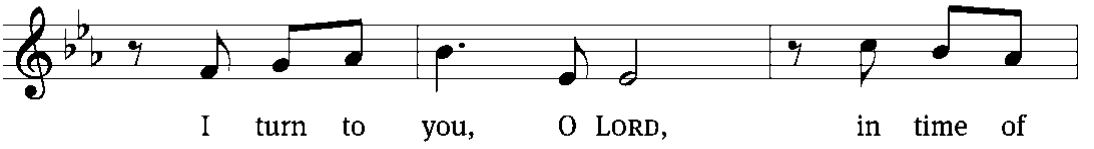
10 "Son of man, say to the Israelites, 'This is what you are saying: "Our offenses and sins
weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?" '

[11]Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?’

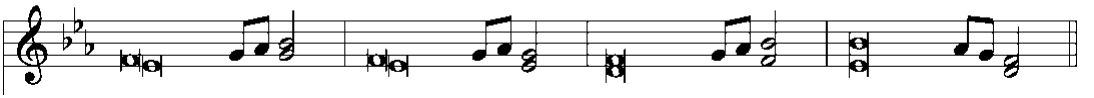
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 32A — I Turn to You, O LORD

Refrain



Tone



Blessed is the one whose transgressions are for- / given,
whose sins are / covered.
Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count a- / gainst them
and in whose spirit is / no deceit.

When I kept silent, my bones wast- / ed away
through my groaning / all day long.
For day and night your hand was heav- / y on me;
my strength was sapped as in the heat of / summer.

Then I acknowledged my / sin to you
and did not cover up my in- / iquity.
I said, “I will confess my transgressions / to the LORD.”
And you forgave the guilt / of my sin. *Refrain*

You are my / hiding place;
you will protect me from / trouble.
Many are the woes of the / wicked,
but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the one who / trusts in him.

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: Michael Guimont; Tune: Michel Guimont; Setting: Michel Guimont
Text: © 1998 GIA Publications, Inc. (refrain). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716690
Music: © 1998 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716690

Second Reading *Galatians 2:11-16*

Paul wins his brother Cephas (Peter) over to the truth of the gospel.

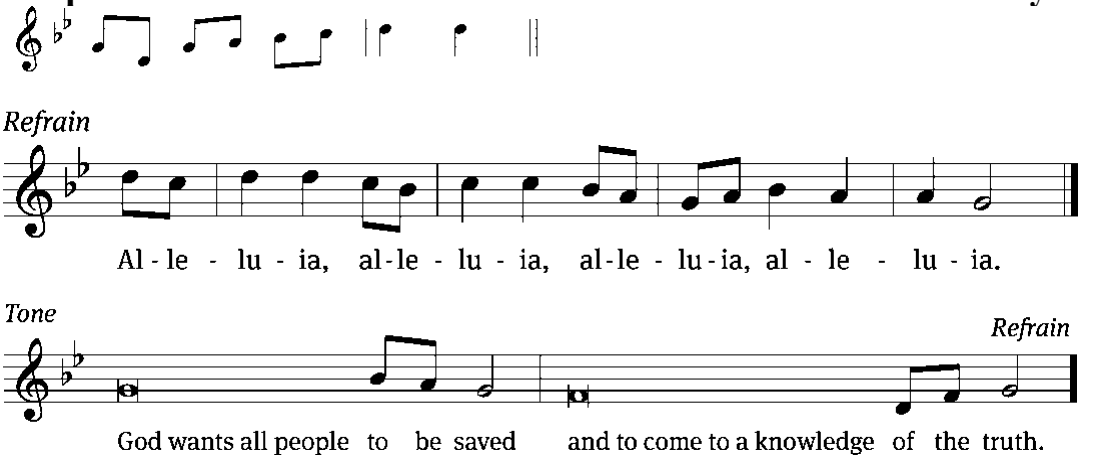
11 When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood
condemned. 12 For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the
Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the
Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group.
13 The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas
was led astray.

14 When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to
Cephas in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a
Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?

15 "We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles 16 know that a person is not
justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our
faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of
the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation — 1 Timothy 2:4



Tune: © 2010 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716690

Gospel (Sermon Text) — *Matthew 18:15-20*

Jesus teaches us how to practice Christian discipline lovingly.

15 "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you.
If they listen to you, you have won them over. 16 But if they will not listen, take one or two
others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three
witnesses.' 17 If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen
even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.
18 "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever
you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.
19 "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it
will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three gather in my
name, there am I with them."

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

Hymn 654 — Jesus Sinners Does Receive

Sermon — My Brother's Keeper? Are you sure?

Pastor Steven Hillmer

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Connection Cards and Offerings

We are delighted you have joined us for worship today and we would love to stay connected with you. To help us do so, please fill out the Connection Card in the seat back. You may place it in the offering plate as the offering is gathered or hand it to one of the ushers. You also have the ability to record your worship or give a gift using the appropriate QR code below. Those who have downloaded the St. Matthew's App can check-in and give offerings directly through the app. You may also text GIVE to 833-921-6451.

Guest Form



St. Matthew's App



Give Online



WELS Connection Video

Prayer of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.
Amen.

Closing Hymn 570 God Loved the World So That He Gave

In Our Prayers: May God's rich blessings rest up **Jacob Ziel and Maddy Spurgin** who were married on Saturday. Prayers of thanksgiving and God's continued healing for: **Tim Torgerson** (home from hospital, now in 3 month isolation); **Tim Thiele** (recovering from back surgery); **Kris Christie** (making good progress, moving to a rehabilitation center in Chicago). God's peace and comfort be with **Carol Koblitz** who is on hospice care.

Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Adult Bible Study at 9:15am
This week we 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 10 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 resumes 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!

Thank you for Serving our Savior and Us

	This Weekend	**Next Weekend –** September 12 & 13
Ushers	**Saturday** – Tom Plitzuweit **Early –** Joel Watson **Late –** Sam Weiss	**Saturday –** Andy Andress **Early –** Eric Wegner **Late –** Toby Brandenstein
Greeters	**Early** – Harry & Marlene Redfield **Late** – Mike & Joy Lenz	**Early** – Jim Darkow & Dan Heiden **Late** –
Hospitality	**Saturday** – Dwight & Janet Sandvold **Early –** Paul & Brenda Pillard **Late –** Tom & Mary Thiele	**Saturday** – Char Bouche **Early –** Ralph & Tracy Schmidt **Late –** Bob & Dorlene Schroeder
Organist	Char Bouche	Pastor Jon Kehren
Special Music		Grades 2-3
Flowers		
Projection	**Saturday** – Emily Stewart **Early –** Andy/Ava Hillmann **Late –** Eli Bigelow	**Saturday** – Ethan/Evan Bergh **Early –** Dan Metzger **Late –** Josh Charais
Sound	**Saturday** – John Stewart **Early –** Scott Heins **Late –** Jacob Kopplin	**Saturday** – Scott Heins **Early –** Joel Aldinger **Late –** Rik Krahn
Livestream	Jason Cox	Mike Bouche

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
Wednesday	10:00 am 5:00 pm 5:30 pm	Shorehaven Service Non-School Catechism Board of Stewardship
Thursday	8:00 am 6:00 pm	SCRIP Orders Due Board of Trustees
Friday	5:30 pm	Early Childhood Family Night
Saturday	7:30 am 5:30 pm	Men's Bible Breakfast Communion Service

Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Teen Bible Study; Sunday School; Child Care

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 using the QR Code or contact Jennifer in the church office.

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.

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 continued interest, we will have 1 more opportunity for ladies to join us for Walk in the Word on **Wednesday, September 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!

Sunday Bible School: Teacher Installation & Kickoff – September 13!
Join us during our September 13 worship services as we install and pray for our Sunday Bible School teachers, beginning another year of serving our children and sharing God's Word. **2026–27 Sunday Bible School Teachers:** *Lead Teachers:* Dan Taubenheim (younger grades) and Mariah Kneser (older grades) | *Substitute Teachers:* Deb Schramm, Anna Prost, Amy Brandenstein, and Beth Ziel.

Outreach Opportunity to Welcome our New Neighbors!
You may notice we have many new neighbors moving in to the west and north, how exciting! We would love to welcome them to the neighborhood and invite them to St. Matthew's. If you would love to be a part of this effort please join us on **Saturday, October 3 at 9:30 am** to distribute welcome bags to our new neighbors. We will meet at 9:30 to assemble the bags and distribute them in the neighborhood at 10:00. Please reach out to Pastor Bigelow if you plan on helping welcome our neighbors!

Mission Journeys Opportunity
We were recently asked to help **Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, a mission congregation in Crown Point, Indiana,**with their annual Pumpkin Patch on **October 15–18**. A large number of community members attend each year, making this a great opportunity to support their fall outreach efforts, serve alongside a mission congregation, and connect with the community. If you are interested in learning more or participating in this Mission Journeys opportunity, please reach out to Pastor Bigelow as soon as possible due to the short notice.

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!

Acknowledgments
Setting Two from Christian Worship Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.

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