

St. Matthew's

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 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: GRACE IS AMAZING

Give a single bag of M&Ms to siblings in middle school and tell them to share. You will witness counting done with accounting-like precision. Each child will get an equal amount of candy because that is fair. That's what's expected! Human beings have an incredibly strong sense of fairness.

That is why it can be so amazing when we see how God unexpectedly dispenses blessing and grace. King David learned about God's grace first hand, treating him not as his sins deserved but with mercy and compassion. God blotted out his sin and restored his soul. Grace truly renews and refreshes our spirit, leading us to sharing with others God's Amazing Grace!

Thank you to Seminarian Cooper Knoll for sharing God's Word with us this weekend. Cooper is a Senior at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon.

Rejoicing in God's gift of Baptism! This Sunday in our 10:30 service we rejoice with **Isaac Freeland** as he is baptized. Following our 10:30 service we rejoice with **Matt & Alyse Weinheimer as their daughter, Molly,** is baptized. God's rich blessings to these families!



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 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026

THE SERVICE: SETTING TWO

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

Hymn **Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone**

Lead by Rejoice!

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

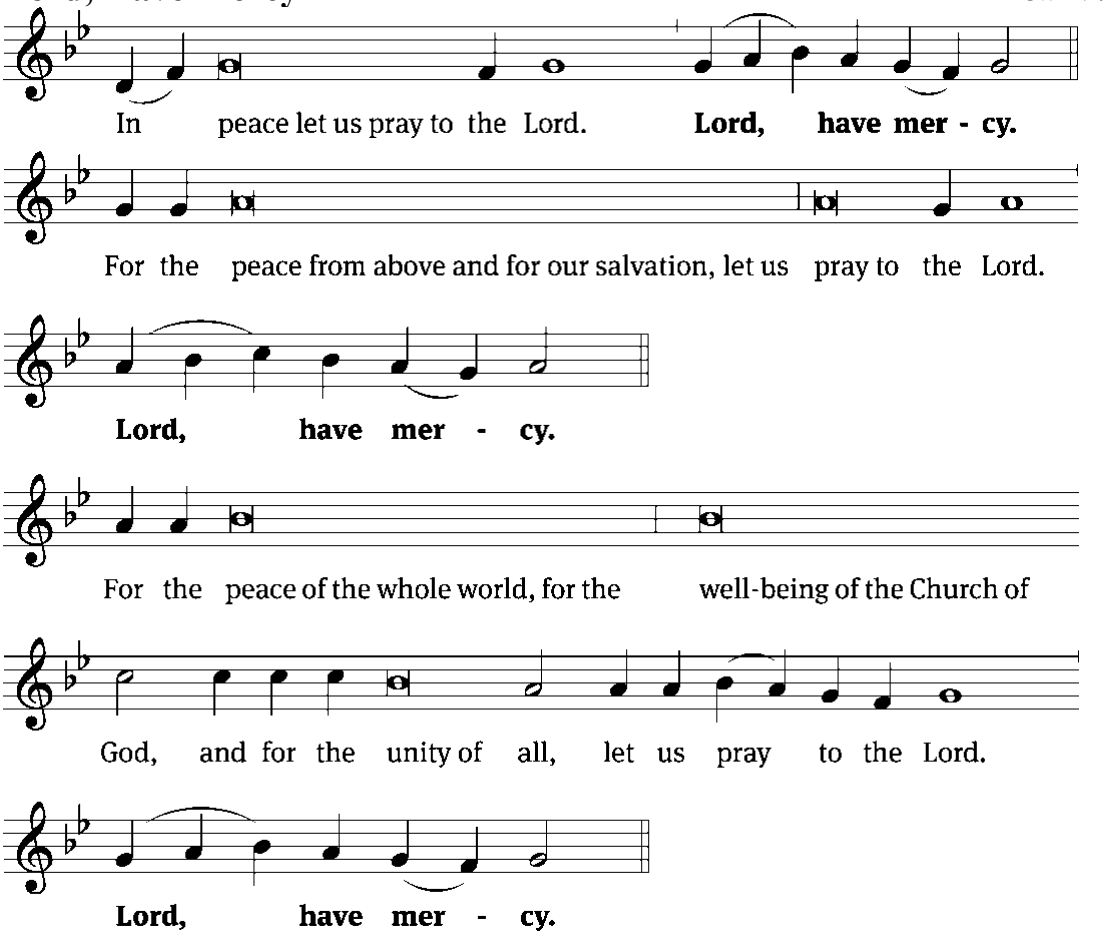
Absolution

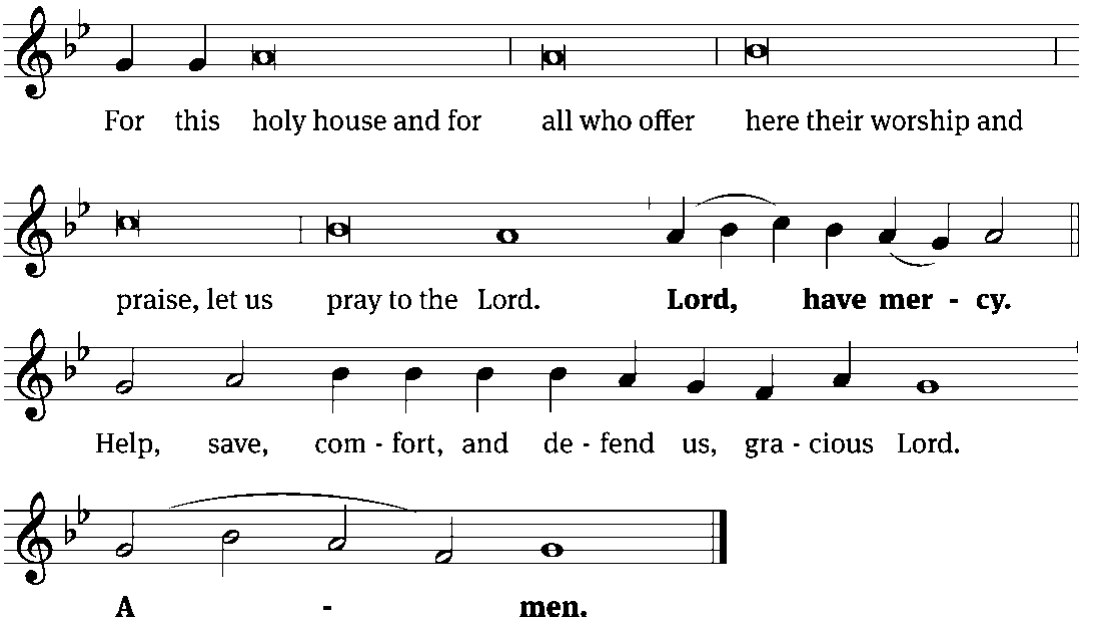
Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

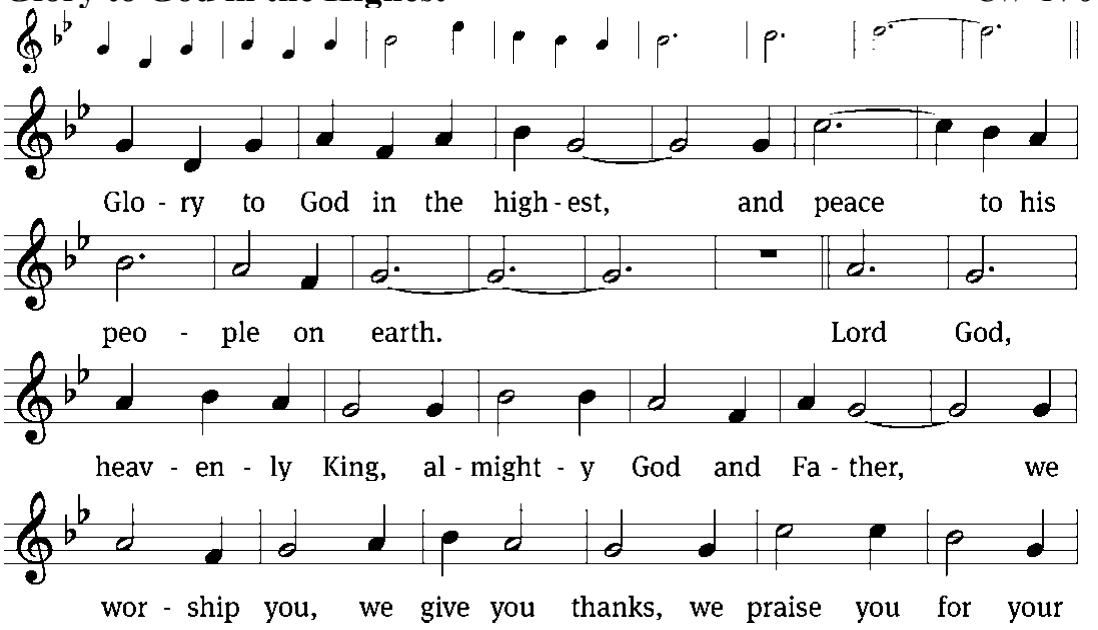
CW 174

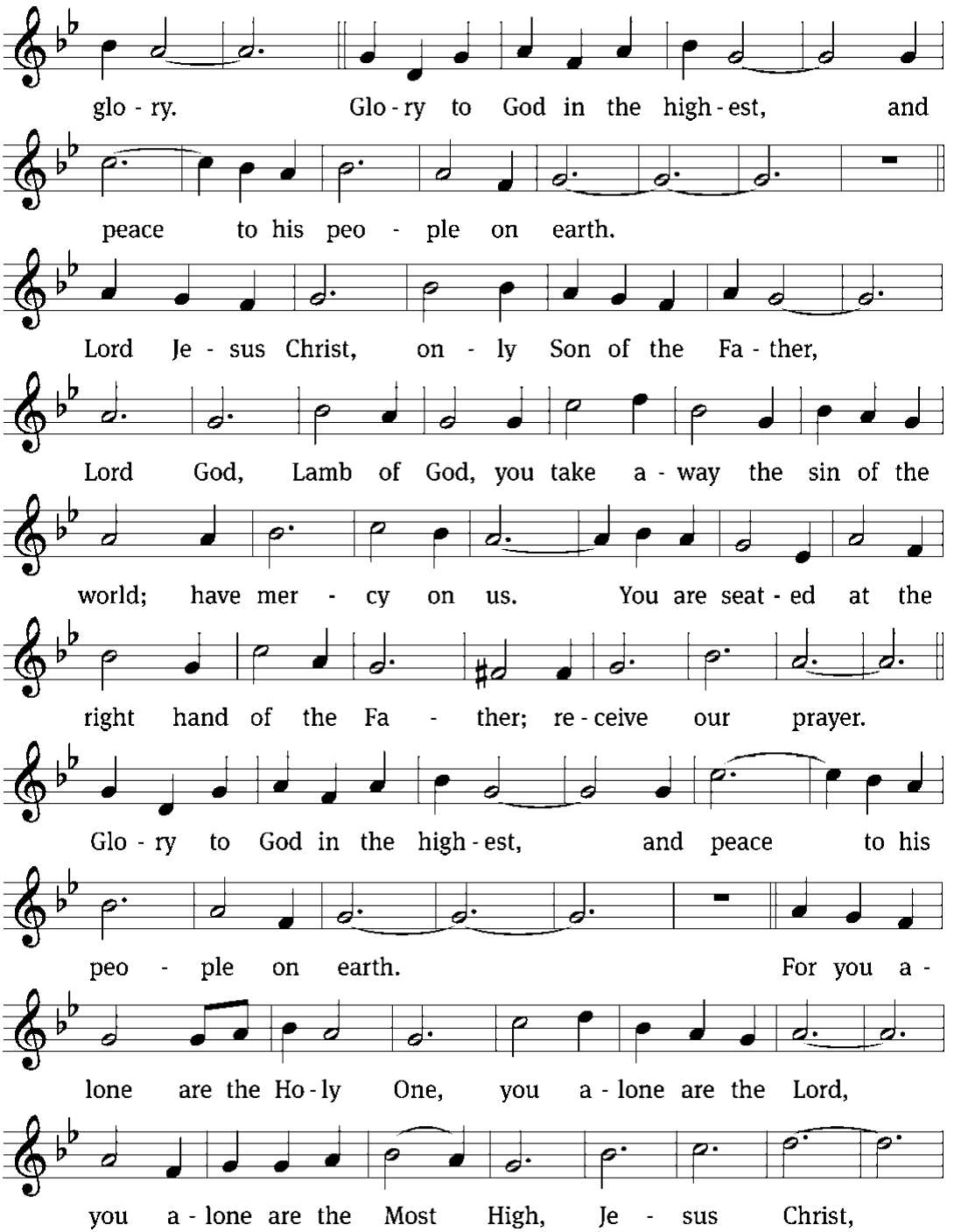


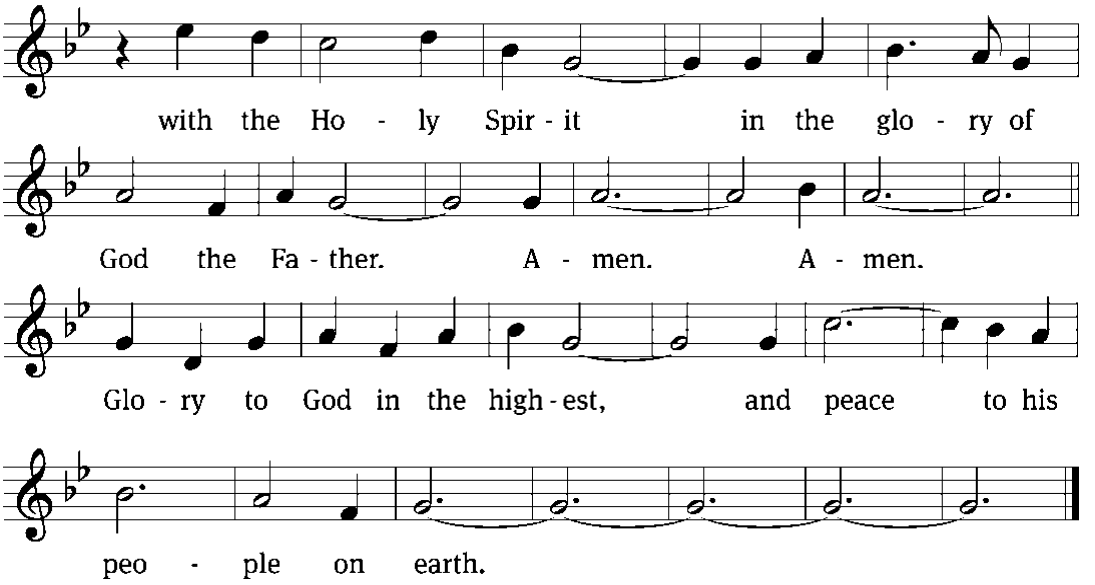


Tune: Marty Haugen
Tune: © 1984, 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716690

Glory to God in the Highest *CW 176*




glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth.
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,



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

Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and promise to reward us according to your grace. Help us to rid our minds of worldly expectations and rejoice that you freely pour out the blessings of salvation to all people; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Holy Baptism

We rejoice as Isaac Freeland is baptized in the name of our Triune God during our 10:30 service.

First Reading *(Sermon Text)* Psalm 51:1-14

David confesses his sin and rejoiced in God's forgiveness.

[1] Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great
compassion blot out my transgressions. [2] Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from
my sin.

[3] For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. [4] Against you, you
only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and
justified when you judge. [5] Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother
conceived me. [6] Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in
that secret place.

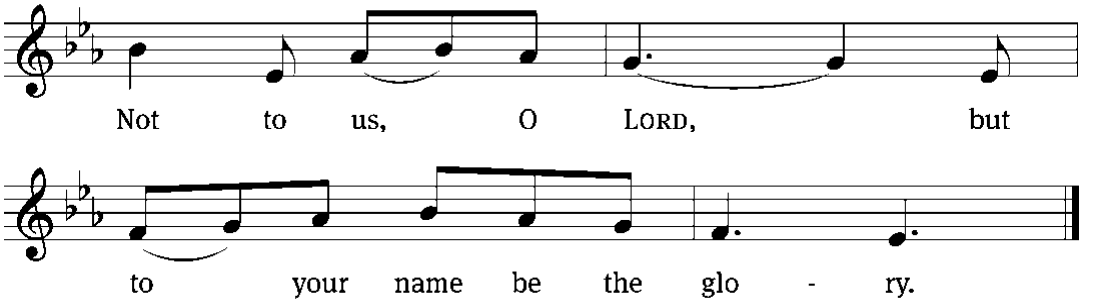
[7] Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than
snow. [8] Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. [9] Hide your
face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

[10] Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. [11] Do not
cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. [12] Restore to me the joy of
your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. [13] Then I will teach
transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you. [14] Deliver me from the guilt
of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your
righteousness.

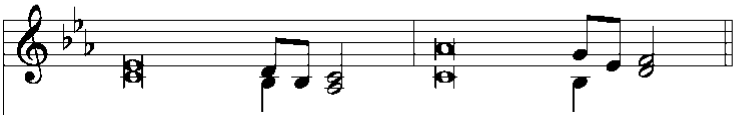
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 115A (Saturday & 8am) Not to Us, O LORD

Refrain



Tone



Why do the nations say, "Where / is their God?"
Our God is in heaven; he does whatever / pleases him.
The LORD remembers us and will / bless us:
He will bless his people / Israel,
he will bless those who / fear the LORD—
small and / great alike. *Refrain*

All you Israelites, trust / in the LORD—
he is their / help and shield.
House of Aaron, trust / in the LORD—
he is their / help and shield.
You who fear him, trust / in the LORD—
he is their / help and shield.
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*

Setting and Tune: Michael D. Schultz
Music: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716690

Anthem (Sunday 10:30am)

Father Welcome

Grades 4-5

Second Reading

Romans 9:6-16

God shows mercy and grace to those he chooses.

[6]It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. [7]Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." [8]In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring. [9]For this was how the promise was stated: "At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son."

[10]Not only that, but Rebekah's children were conceived at the same time by our father
Isaac. [11]Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that
God's purpose in election might stand: [12]not by works but by him who calls—she was
told, "The older will serve the younger." [13]Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I
hated."

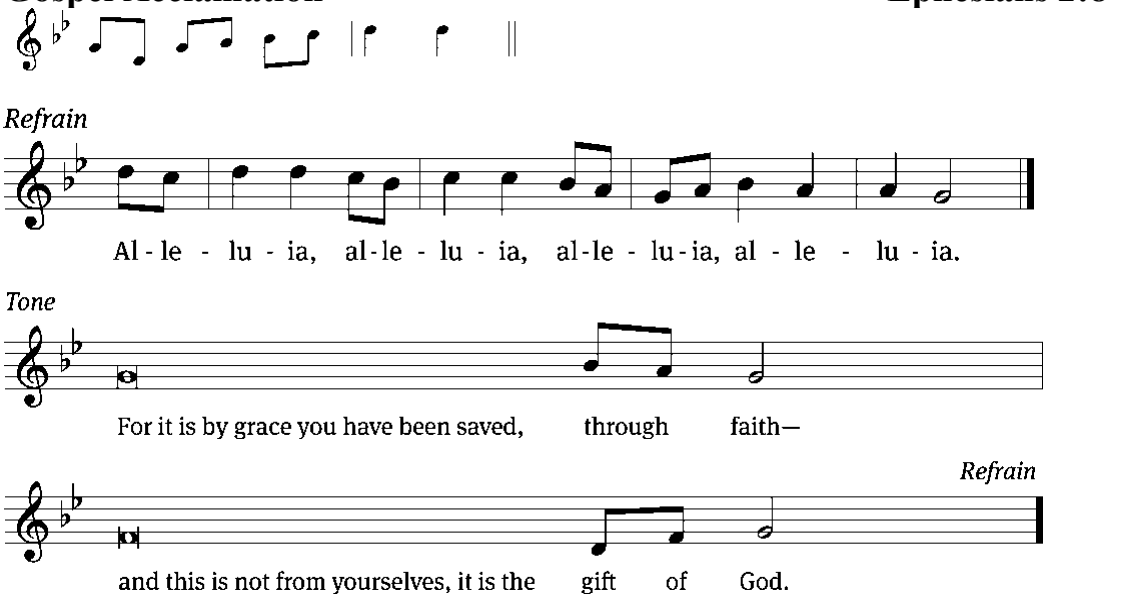
[14]What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! [15]For he says to Moses,

"I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."

[16]It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation — Ephesians 2:8



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

Gospel *Matthew 20:1-16*

Jesus tells a story of God's amazing generosity.

[1]"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to
hire workers for his vineyard. [2]He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them
into his vineyard.
[3]"About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace
doing nothing. [4]He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you
whatever is right.' [5]So they went.
"He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing.
[6]About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked
them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?'
[7]" 'Because no one has hired us,' they answered.
"He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.'
[8]"When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers
and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.'
[9]"The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a
denarius. [10]So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But
each one of them also received a denarius. [11]When they received it, they began to grumble
against the landowner. [12]'These who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said,
'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat
of the day.'
[13]"But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree
to work for a denarius? [14]Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last
the same as I gave you. [15]Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money?
Or are you envious because I am generous?'
[16]"So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

Hymn 575 By Grace I'm Saved

Sermon A Song When I Feel Guilty

Seminarian Cooper Knoll

Apostles' Creed

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

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

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

Connection Cards and Offerings

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

Guest Form



St. Matthew's App



Give Online



Forward for the Next Generation Video

Please see page 18 for more information about today's 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 581 Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose You

In Our Prayers: May our gracious Lord comfort the family of **Pastor Karl Gurgel** who was called home to heaven on Sept. 13; (he served as WELS President from 1993-2007.) May our Lord be with **Pastor Mark Onunda**, who serves as bishop of our sister church body in Kenya, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, and is hospitalized.

Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Adult Bible Study at 9:15am
Today we being a new study 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 examine God's promises in 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 **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 at 9:15am
Sunday School is once again studying various Bible stories, using the Christ Light curriculum. Parents, please drop off your children in the sanctuary at 9:15am. You can pick up your children in their respective classrooms. There is no formal Teen Study today. Teens are welcome to join the adult study or discuss the questions on the whiteboard in the teen room.

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!

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.

Thank you for Serving our Savior and Us

	This Weekend	**Next Weekend –** September 26 & 27
Ushers	**Saturday** – Scott Heins **Early –** Tim Taubenheim **Late –** Todd Helwig	**Saturday –** Tony Kobussen **Early –** Josh Strassburg **Late –** Andy Rosenau
Greeters	**Early** – SHINE **Late** – SHINE	**Early** – Dennis & Sandy Bratz **Late** – Andy & Carrie Rosenau
Hospitality	**Saturday** – Jim & Karen Spiegelberg **Early –** Kyle & Robin Koltz **Late –** Rudy & Chris Dovnik	**Saturday** – Dan & Liz Schmidt **Early –** Tob & Beth Plitzuweit **Late –** Brian & Kari Winkelman
Organist	Joy Elowski	Diane Erdmann
Special Music	Rejoice! / 4-5 Grades	Handbell Choir
Flowers		
Projection	**Saturday** – Krista/Sam D'Amore **Early –** Ava Hillmann **Late –** Nolan Bagdassian	**Saturday** – Dan Metzger **Early –** Ethan Bergh **Late –** Harper Gerczak
Sound	**Saturday** – Kathy Goggins **Early –** Steve Vasatko **Late –** Joel Aldinger	**Saturday** – **Early –** Karen Haertel **Late –** Heather Bigelow
Livestream	Andy Hillmann	Nathan Bergh

This Week at St. Matthew's

Saturday	5:30 pm	Worship Service
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am 6:30 pm	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School, Teen Bible Study Laudate Dominum Rehearsal
Tuesday	7:45 am	Grounded in God
Wednesday	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Shorehaven Service Non School Catechism
Thursday	8:00 am 8:30 am	SCRIP Orders Due Women in the Word

	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Rejoice! Handbell Choir
Saturday	5:30 pm	Communion Service
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am 6:30 pm	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School, Teen Bible Study Laudate Dominum Rehearsal

Highlights and Announcements

Outreach Opportunity to Welcome our New Neighbors!
We would love to welcome our newest neighbors to join us for worship. 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 in our new local neighborhood. We will meet at 9:30 to assemble the bags and distribute them in the neighborhood at 10:00. 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.

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.

Annual Packer Barn Party at the Klug's!
Mark your calendars for **Sunday, October 4** and join us for an afternoon of football, fellowship, and fun at the **Klug's Barn**. Festivities begin at **11:30 AM,** with Packers vs. Buccaneers **kickoff at 12:00 PM.** Bring a snack to share and your favorite beverage. *All are welcome—come enjoy this annual tradition! More info at smls.org/events.*

ACTS Teen Fall Barn Party!
Saturday, October 3 | 5–8 PM | Klug's Barn
Teens in grades 7–12 (and friends) are invited to a fun-filled evening at Klug's Barn! Enjoy karaoke, music, food, pumpkin carving (bring your own pumpkin!), bonfire games, and lots of fall fun. **SIGNUP TODAY and join the fun!**

20/30s Pudgy Pie Night
Saturday, October 10 | 4:00 p.m.
Hosted by: Ray & Kelly Boknevitz's
Join the St. Matthew's 20s/30s group for a fun evening around the fire! Bring a pudgy pie maker if you have one, plus toppings and a side or snack to share. Kids are welcome!
RSVP: Text Marissa Krogmann at 920-645-4519.

LWMS Mission Offering & Fall Rally
The **LWMS Fall Rally** will be held **Saturday, October 10, at 8:00 a.m.** at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Brodhead, WI. Professor Harland "Skip" Goetzinger will share about the WELS Pastoral Studies Institute and its role in supporting theological education around the world. A luncheon and short Bible study will follow.

In preparation for the rally, churches throughout the circuit collect an offering to support two mission projects:
Home Mission: Children & Family Ministry Outreach – Gifts help home mission congregations reach their communities through special events and programs that build relationships and share Jesus.
World Mission: Portugal – Gifts will support worship and outreach in Portugal, where the Lutheran Church of Portugal is receiving more contacts than its two pastors can currently serve.
To Support & Learn More: An LWMS offering box will be available in the gathering area September 12–20. Checks payable to St. Matthew's with "LWMS" in the memo line. **Give online through September 30.**

To attend the Fall Rally: Contact Sally Schliewe at schliewe4@yahoo.com or Michelle Cox at mcox21@wi.rr.com by **September 25**. Please indicate if you need lunch or childcare. Carpooling will be available.
For more information, visit **SMLS.org/Events!**

Mission Festival: OCT 3 & 4
Join us for Mission Festival on **October 3 & 4** as we welcome **Pastor Paul Schupmann**, a member of the Western Wisconsin District Mission Board. During worship and between services, Pastor Schupmann will share how WELS Home Missions is working to reach more people with the Gospel through the **"100 Missions in 10 Years"** initiative**.** Come learn how God is blessing this work to share Christ's saving message with more people and places. Learn more at https://wels100in10.net/.

Lutheran Pioneers 75th Anniversary Celebration
For 75 years, Lutheran Pioneers has helped boys grow in faith, develop leadership skills, build friendships, and enjoy Christian fellowship. Join us on Saturday, October 10, 2026, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Burlington, WI (198 Westridge Ave), for a 75th Anniversary Celebration. The day includes a 3pm worship service, historical displays, fellowship, a 5pm meal, and an anniversary program. Whether you were a Pioneer, leader, parent, grandparent, or supporter of the ministry, we invite you to celebrate God's blessings with us. Please RSVP to help us plan for the event and share this invitation with others connected to Lutheran Pioneers.
RSVP link: https://form.jotform.com/221233377594156 RSVP QR:

2026 Blue Butterfly Ministries Gala
Saturday, October 10, at the **Lake Country DockHounds Stadium** in Oconomowoc to support Blue Butterfly Ministries as they offer hope to individuals and families in crisis through care, counseling, and Christ-centered support. **Doors open at 3:00 p.m.** for the silent auction, wine pull, 50/50 raffle, and purse raffle, with a **buffet dinner at 5:00 p.m.**
Register: https://givebutter.com/2026BBGala through *October 3.*
*Early-bird pricing through **September 25**:* $75/person or $600/table of 8
September 26–October 3: $85/person or $640/table of 8

Save the Date!
9th Annual Trunk or Treat
Saturday, October 31 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Join us for a morning of free family fun—door prizes, a photo booth, coffee, snacks, a petting zoo, and trunk or treating! Together we can make this community event a success!
How you can HELP - Sign Up Today to Donate Snacks/Treats or Decorate a Trunk! https://bit.ly/SM2026TT

FORWARD
FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

September
2026 Edition

Spotlight: New Teachers: Preparing the Next Generation in Faith

This month's episode of our *Forward...for the Next Generation* video, meet the new teachers serving at St. Matthew's and First Steps and hear what excites them about the year ahead. Each brings experience, enthusiasm, and a shared commitment to teaching children about their Savior.

Meet Our New Teachers

ANNA PROST· First Steps Lead Toddler Teacher
After completing her WELS Ministry Certification, Anna stepped into a called teaching role. She is passionate about helping even the youngest children know **Jesus loves them and forgives them.**

JASON RUPNOW · 6th Grade
After years of teaching middle grades and serving as a principal, Jason is excited to focus directly on students again. He looks forward to helping prepare **the next generation of young Christian adults.**

ALISSA SCHROEDER · 4th Grade
Alissa brings experience teaching several grade levels and is excited to help fourth graders **dig deeper, apply what they've learned, and grow in their faith.**

JON ZIESEMER · 8th Grade & ELA
John enjoys helping students prepare for their next chapter. His goal is to help them become **grounded in God's Word, committed to Christ, and prepared for Christian service.**

Teachers Called to Serve

The Forward for the Next Generation vision comes to life each day through the teachers who serve our children. They have the privilege of planting seeds of faith, helping students grow in knowledge and faith, and pointing them to Jesus, truths that will stay with them far beyond their years at St. Matthew's.

Watch Video Here

Learn More About Our Teachers


The members of
St. Paul Lutheran Church
invite you to the retirement celebration of
Pastor Bruce McKenney
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026
Following worship at 10:30 AM, please join us for a reception and meal. Please RSVP by Sept. 30 to office@stpaullakemills.org or call 920-648-2918.
St. Paul Lutheran | 1530 S. Main St. Lake Mills, WI

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