

St. Matthew's
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Festival of St Luke the Evangelist

October 18, 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.

The Minor Festival of St. Luke, the Evangelist

In Hebrews 13:7, we read, "Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith." Throughout the Church Year, certain days have been set aside that we might do just that. October 18 is set aside as the Festival of St. Luke, one of Jesus' disciples who faithfully endeavored to share the Gospel. Not only was he the author of the Gospel of Luke, but also penned the book of Acts, often travelling with Paul on his Mission Journeys.

Today we not only give thanks to God for the Gospel Ministry of St. Luke, but we also take time to encourage our youth to consider serving in fulltime Gospel Ministry. Sharing God's Word with us today will be **Pastor Ethan Carter**, who serves as a Tutor at Luther Preparatory School in Watertown. Fun fact – historically 50% of the graduates from Luther Prep go on to Martin Luther College to continue their education to serve as a pastor, teacher, staff minister or in early childhood ministry.

We also welcome the **Luther Prep Singers** on Sunday under the direction of **Prof. Randy Bode.** Thank you for sharing God's gifts of music with us today as you proclaim the Gospel.

If you would like to support the choir with a gift, we will be collecting a Door Offering on the table by the display. You can also use this QR Code to give a gift directly.

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.

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Opening Hymn with Choir **Christ Is Our Cornerstone**
Follow along on the screen *Arr. James Engel*

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.

Prep Singers **I Will Praise Thee, O Lord**
Knut Nystedt

Day By Day
Oscar Ahnfelt; setting by Donald Busarow

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

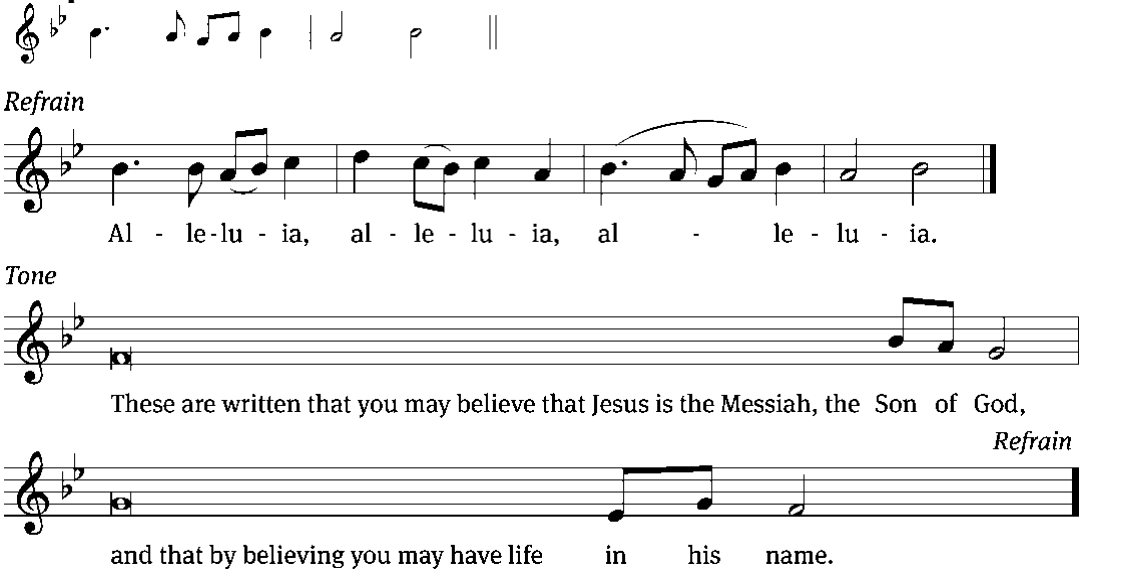
Prayer of the Day
Almighty God, you called Luke the physician to reveal in his gospel the love and healing power of your Son. Grant that, by hearing and believing your Word, we may be healed of all sin and serve you with willing hearts; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

First Reading (Sermon Text) *1 Timothy 1:12-17*
Paul gives thanks to God who called him into Gospel Ministry, even as unworthy as he was

12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me
trustworthy, appointing me to his service. 13 Even though I was once a blasphemer and
a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and
unbelief. 14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the
faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.
15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came
into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. 16 But for that very reason I
was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his
immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive
eternal life. 17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor
and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *John 20:31*



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Gospel ***Luke 1:1-4;24:44-53***

The evangelist Luke summarizes the message of the Christian faith as "repentance and forgiveness of sins."

[1]Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled
among us, [2]just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were
eyewitnesses and servants of the word. [3]With this in mind, since I myself have carefully
investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for
you, most excellent Theophilus, [4]so that you may know the certainty of the things you
have been taught.

[44]He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must
be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."
[45]Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. [46]He told them,
"This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,
[47]and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations,
beginning at Jerusalem. [48]You are witnesses of these things. [49]I am going to send you what
my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from
on high."

[50]When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. [51]While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. [52]Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. [53]And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

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

Prep Singers

How Sweet the Sound
John Newton; music by Christi Jones

Commit Thy Way Unto the Lord
Arr. Liebhold

Secure
Susan Bentall Boersma; music by Craig Courtney

Sermon

God Loves Sinners
Pastor Ethan Carter, Tutor at Luther Prep School

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



New Member Sunday

David Anderson; Ben Edmundson; Dean & Karen Fredrick; Rev. Ron & Mary Heins; Dougan, Marie, Reagen & Harper Hettich; Scott & Debra Hoeft; Krystal, Hollynn, & Bryton Honeycutt; Trace, Shelby, Porter & Palmer Hummel; Philip Kussmann; Matt, Kristin, Gracelynn & Colton Lange; Sally Marsalek; Adam, Hannah, Stella & Turner Moranchek; Chris & Debbie Neitzel; Christian Neitzel; Garrett, Meaghan, Madelynn & Finley Post; Shawn Rossmann; Austin, Halle, Lilyana, Ella Rupers; Carolyn Rupnow; Jameson & Carly Schmidt; Chad Schraufnagel; Rev. Mark, Allisa, Lydia, Elijah & Mya Schroeder; Christian, Emily, Adrienne & Isaiah Shepley; Dan, Erin, Chase & Eden Silkey; Weston & Annaliese Sterwald; Zack, Nicole, Primrose & Conrad Sukys; Nicole Ulrich; Andrew, Alicia, Aurora & Liam Westphal; Matt, Katy & Emery Wick; Jan Widas; David Wilson; Alexis & Finley Zwieg

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.

Prep Singers (8am) **Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See**

Paul Gerhardt; melody Carl Schalk; Arr. Carl Schalk and Dale Witte

Hymn 892:1,25,3 (10:30am) **By All Your Saints Still Striving**

In our Prayers: We ask for God's healing to be with **Marilyn Bence** who was hospitalized this week with pneumonia; to bless **Mike Friedli** who has come through kidney transplant surgery; and **Paul Manssen** who has returned home from the hospital. We rejoice with **Myron & Darlene Sankey** as they celebrate their wedding anniversary.

Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Adult Bible Study at 9:15am
Join us as we look at **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.

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. Discover how God equips us for the battle.

Sunday School and Teen Study
Our Children will meet in the sanctuary at 9:15am. You can pick up your children in their respective classrooms. Teen study is for students in 7th through 12th grade. Teens are studying 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 – Monday, Sept 28, at 6:30pm
"Your Questions? God's Answers!" 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!

NEW! Women's Wednesday Bible Study: *Bad Girls of the Bible*
Women's Ministry invites you to *Bad Girls of the Bible: And What We Can Learn from Them* by Liz Higgs, being led by Angie Gabb. We'll explore the stories of Eve, Potiphar's wife, and Lot's wife and the lessons they offer for our lives of faith. **Wednesdays, Oct. 14 & 28 and Nov. 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Gathering Space.** Books are available for $5 in the church office. *The study resumes in January.*

Thank you for Serving our Savior and Us		
	This Weekend	**Next Weekend –** October 24 & 25
Ushers	**Saturday** – Scott Heins **Early –** Joel Watson **Late –** Sam Weiss	**Saturday** – Tony Kobussen **Early –** Eric Wegner **Late –** Eric Ziel
Greeters	**Early** – John & Jill Fields **Late** – Eric & Beth Ziel	**Early** – Dave & Betty Reul **Late** – Andy & Carrie Rosenau
Hospitality	**Saturday** – Jon & Kessia Boche **Early –** Gary & Karen Haertel **Late** – Kyle & Robin Koltz	**Saturday** – Jim & Karen Spiegelberg **Early –** Tim & Carolyn Thiele **Late –** Jon & Ginny Kehren
Organist	Linda Smith	Melody Ryan
Flowers	Myron & Darlene Sankey - Anniversary	
Special Music	Luther Prep Singers	Handbells / Choir
Projection	**Saturday** – **Early –** Jon & Henry Peterson **Late –** Kendra Lauersdorf	**Saturday** – Emily Stewart **Early –** Dan Metzger **Late** – Toby Brandenstein
Sound	**Saturday** – Vickie Wilson **Early –** Julia Watson **Late –** Charlie Bagdassian	**Saturday** – John Stewart **Early –** Karen Haertel **Late –** Heather Bigelow
Livestream	Tim Taubenheim	Jason Cox

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
Monday	4:30 pm 6:30 pm	Bible Information Class SHINE Activities Team Meeting
Tuesday	7:45 am	Grounded in God
Wednesday	10:00 am 1:30 pm 5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Shorehaven Services Senior Ministry Non-School Catechism Bible Information Class
Thursday	8:00 am 8:30 am 6:00 pm 7:30 pm 8:00 pm	SCRIP Orders Due Women in the Word Rejoice! Choir Handbell Choir / Men's Choir
Saturday	5:30 pm	Communion Service
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 6:30 pm	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School, Teen Bible Study 20/30's Bible Study Laudate Dominum Rehearsal

Highlights and Announcements

This Sunday: Call Meeting
A Call Meeting will be held following the **10:30 a.m. service this Sunday, October 18, in the Chapel.** The congregation will be asked to issue three calls: **two teachers** to replace Mrs. Joy Elowski and Mrs. Cynthia Lange, who are retiring at the end of the school year, and a **Music Coordinator**, with a start date of July 1, 2027.

Senior Fellowship
Senior Fellowship will meet on **October 21 at 1:30 p.m.** in the Gathering Area of the church. Please enter through the main church doors. Following an opening devotion, enjoy an afternoon of cards, games, fun, and fellowship with fellow Christians until 4:00 p.m. If you have questions, please contact Dan Feuerstahler at 920-245-3006.

ACTS Teen Movie Night
Join ACTS for a fun evening of movies, tacos, and fellowship on **Saturday, November 7, from 5–8 PM** at the Jump's House! We'll make tacos together, and each teen is asked to bring a side dish to share. Come ready for a great night of food, friends, and fun! **SIGN UP TODAY!**

Kids Winter Coat Drive: Help keep kids warm!
Cold weather will be here before we know it! As you're cleaning out closets and finding children's winter coats and gear that no longer fit, consider donating them to our **Kids Coat Drive** from **OCT 19–NOV 1** to support **New Beginnings – A Home for Mothers**.
SHINE Activities Team is collecting new or gently used washed children's:
Jackets & Coats | Hats | Gloves & Mittens in sizes **2T–Youth XL.**
Donation boxes will be available at **St. Matthew's Church, School, and First Steps**. *Thank you for helping provide warm winter clothing to children in need!*

Save the Date! - 9th Annual Trunk or Treat
Saturday, October 31 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Join us for free family fun with door prizes, a photo booth, coffee, snacks, a petting zoo, and trunk or treating! We are looking for **6 more families to decorate trunks**! Sign up to be part of the fun and help 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

20s/30s Sunday Bible Study
A new monthly Sunday Bible study this fall for adults in their 20s and 30s!
Join us between services in the School Library on **Oct. 25, and Nov. 29** as we spend time in God's Word and connect with others in the same stage of life. We'll explore *Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?: 12 False Christs* and consider who Jesus truly is.

THE PREP SINGERS

Prof. Randy Bode, director

SOPRANO		ALTO	
Lily Bassett	Verona, WI	Claire Bortulin	Mukwonago, WI
Anna Frey	Lees Summit, MO	Kirsi Foxen	Tanzania, Africa
Ruth Schaefer	New Ulm, MN	Evangeline Gumm	Watertown, WI
Mia Schmoller	New Ulm, MN	Natalia Haakenson	Beach Park, IL
Cora Stangl	Watertown, WI	Jerusha Mittelstadt	Watertown, WI
Ashlynn Wagner	Kiel, WI	Natalie Schoeneck	College Station, TX
Bethany Wendland	Mequon, WI	Addelyn Schmidt	Hartford, WI
Olivia Zaferos	Gilbert, AZ	Xaris Sellnow	Glendale, AZ

TENOR		BASS	
Benjamin Berg	West Bend, WI	Micaiah Backus	Watertown, WI
Luke Gumm	Cincinnati, OH	Owen Bode	Coon Rapids, MN
Matthias Gumm	Milwaukee, WI	Caleb Bondow	Palm Coast, FL
Roman Hanson	Watertown, WI	Elijah Ewings	Anchorage, AK
Zeke Hefti	Richmond Hill, GA	Henry Horn	San Diego, CA
Micah Kurbis	Erie, CO	Elijah Schroeder	Watertown, WI
Gabriel Sulzle	Cottonwood, AZ	Josiah Sulzle	Cottonwood, AZ
Cashton Zivkovich	Van Dyne, WI	Caleb Zahn	Myrtle Beach, SC

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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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
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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

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@StMatthewsOconomowoc

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