

St. Matthew's
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 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 BEGINNING OF THE END

It's Time to – Keep Wide Awake!

Waiting isn't easy. It can be boring. You could easily get distracted and lose focus. You can get tired, drusy, sleepy… just waiting for… that "big buck" to come by your tree stand. Better not be dosing off when that happens!

As we wait for Christ to return, as day after day passes, it can be easy to get distracted, to lose vigilance, to become spiritually drowsy. It's the beginning of the end. Why does it have to take so long? God forbid that Christ should return and find us spiritually asleep. Today we are reminded that the time between Christ's first and second coming is a time for watchfulness, keeping wide awake!

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 Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2026

Handbells (Sunday) **Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying**

Hymn 486:1-2 **Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Absolution

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

Hymn 486:3 **Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying**

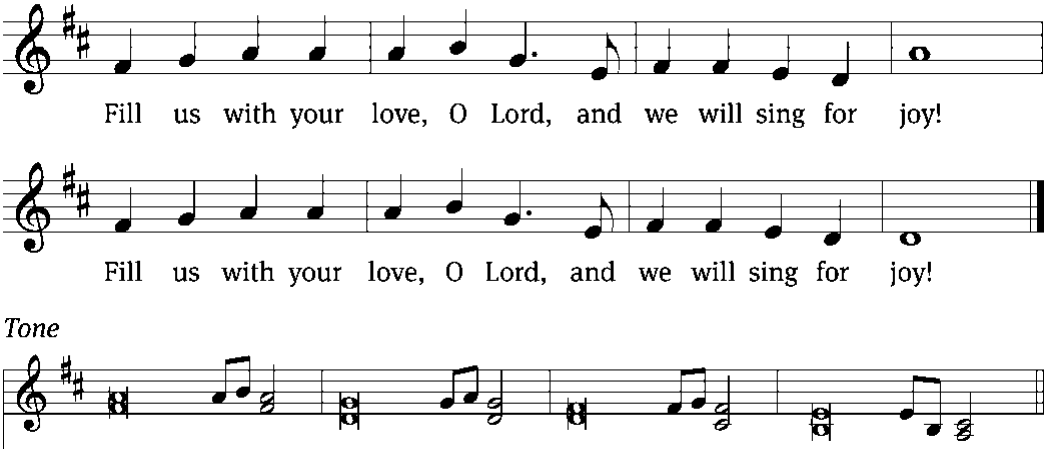
The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Psalm 90A (Saturday) — Fill Us with Your Love, O Lord



Lord, you have been our / dwelling place
throughout all gener- / ations.
Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the / whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting / you are God.

You turn people / back to dust,
saying, "Return to dust, you / mortals."
A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has / just gone by,
or like a watch / in the night. *Refrain*

Teach us to number / our days,
that we may gain a heart of / wisdom.
May the favor of the Lord our God / rest on us;
establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work / of our hands.

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*

Tune, Text, Setting: Mark Haas, alt.
Music: © 2015 Mark Haas. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716690

Anthem (Sunday) — E'en So, Lord Jesus Quickly Come

Men's Choir

Gospel Acclamation — *Matthew 24:42*

All: Alleluia! Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. Alleluia!

Gospel — *Matthew 25:1-13*

Those who are watching and ready for the Bridegroom will enter into the great wedding banquet.

1 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and
went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3 The
foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4 The wise ones, however,
took oil in jars along with their lamps. 5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and
they all became drowsy and fell asleep.
6 "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'
7 "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the
wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'
9 " 'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those
who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'
10 "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins
who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.
11 "Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!'
12 "But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.'

[13]"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

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

Hymn 713 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Sermon Text *1 Thessalonians 5:1-11*

Be watchful for Jesus to return. Live as children of light.

[1]Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, [2]for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3]While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

[4]But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. [5]You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. [6]So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. [7]For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. [8]But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. [9]For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. [10]He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. [11]Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Sermon Wachet auf! (Wake, Awake!)

Pastor Steven Hillmer

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third

day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. 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

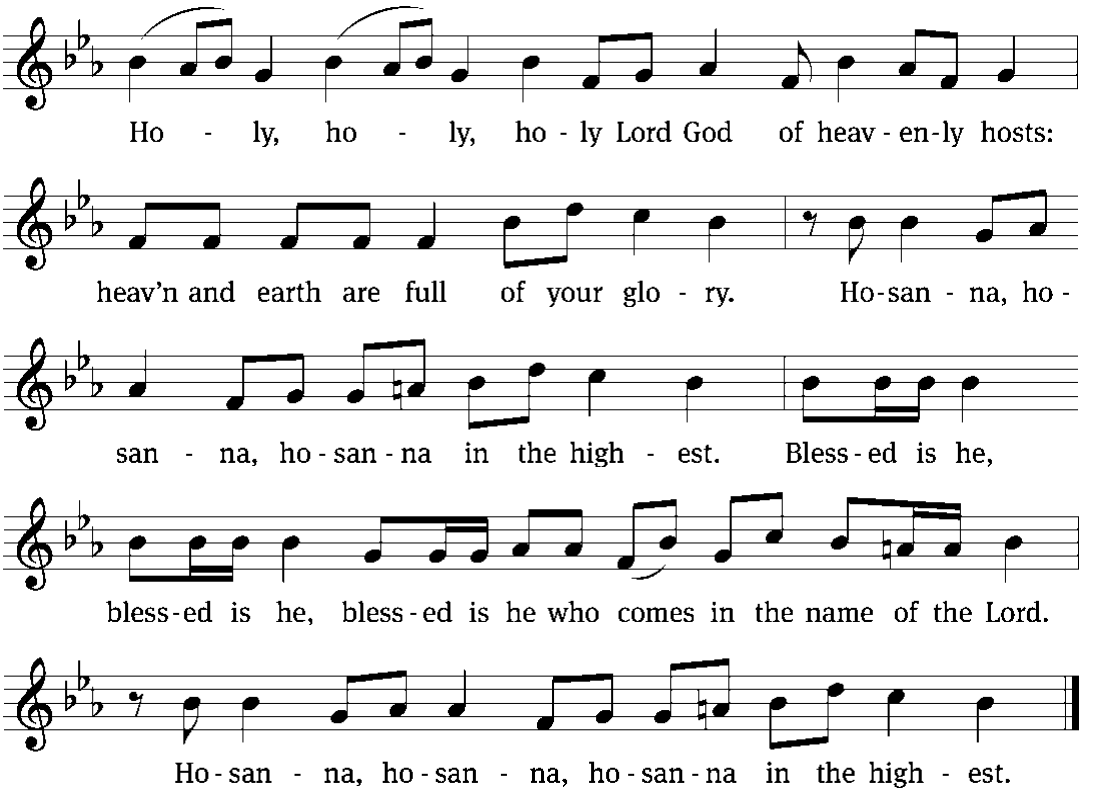
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours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

The Sacrament

Exhortation

Our Lord Jesus has given us a Holy Supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper, we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the followship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns. Let us celebrate and receive this Sacrament in Christ's name and according to his command.

Holy, Holy, Holy *CW 167*



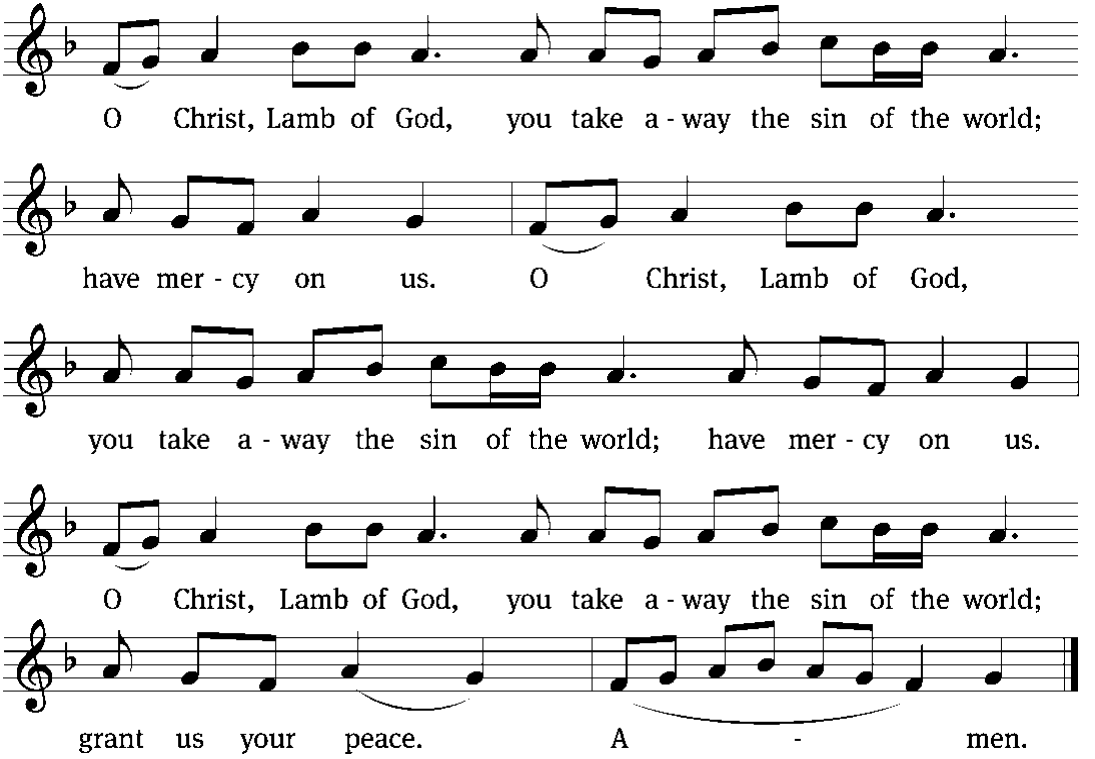
Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God



We celebrate the Lord's Supper today. In his Word, God makes it clear that Holy Communion is to be shared by people who proclaim a common faith (1 Corinthians 11:26; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17). Without judging anyone's hearts, we invite those who share in our confession by their membership in our congregation or another congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) and who are properly prepared (1 Corinthians 11:27-29) to receive the Sacrament. See page 295 in the front of Christian Worship for a guide for preparation. Guests, please speak with one of the pastors about instruction in our Christian faith and this Sacrament so you will be ready to partake of this wonderful meal in full unity with us after that instruction. Thank you for respecting the way we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

Distribution – Communion distribution procedures will be announced by the Pastor. Please follow the direction of the ushers. Cups of non-alcoholic wine (light in color) are in the center of each tray.

Distribution Hymn 676 — Take and Eat

Distribution Hymn 870 — O Church, Arise

Personal Prayer after communion: *Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.*

Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Prayer

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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 820:1-2 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

In our Prayers: May our gracious Lord be with **Luther Jacobson** who will be having kidney and bladder surgery this coming Friday. We give thanks to our Lord for all our **Military Veterans** and their service to the Lord and our nation.

St. Matthew's Calls Issued
Two weeks ago, St. Matthew's issued three divine calls. **Miss Alexandria Conrad returned our 2nd Grade call and Miss Anna Hemmelman returned our 4th Grade call. Mr. Kevin Bode continues to deliberate our Music Coordinator call.**

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 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. Discover how God equips us for the battle.

Sunday School and Teen Study
Parents, please drop off your children 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, Nov. 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Gathering Space and Tuesdays Dec. 1 & 15 in the commons.** Books are available for $5 in the church office.

Thank you for Serving our Savior and Us		
	This Weekend	**Next Weekend –** November 14 & 15
Ushers	**Saturday** – Andy Andress **Early –** Eric Wegner **Late –** Eric Ziel	**Saturday** – Scott Heins **Early –** Jim Fulmer **Late –** Toby Brandenstein
Greeters	**Early** – **Late** – Walter & Beth Gross	**Early** – Dave & Betty Reul **Late** – Andy & Carrie Rosenau
Hospitality	**Saturday** – Kyle Bence **Early –** Tom & Beth Plitzuweit **Late** – Tom & Mary Thiele	**Saturday** – Dan & Liz Schmidt **Early –** Ralph Schmidt **Late –** Bob & Dorlene Schroeder
Organist	Pastor Jon Kehren	Diane Erdman
Flowers		
Special Music	Handbell Choir / Men's Choir	5K-Grade 1 / Ring Praise
Projection	**Saturday** – Dan Metzger **Early –** Lily Winkelman **Late –** Matthias Uttech	**Saturday** – Dan Metzger **Early –** Kylee Glorioso **Late** – Nolan Bagdassian
Sound	**Saturday** – Scott Heins **Early –** Rik Krahn **Late –** Jacob Kopplin	**Saturday** – Vickie Wilson **Early –** Julia Watson **Late –** Charlie Bagdassian
Livestream	Mike Bouche	Jason Cox

This Week at St. Matthew's		
Saturday	5:30 pm	Communion Service
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am 9:15 am 4:00 pm	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; Teen Bible Study Shaped to Serve Workshop Laudate Dominum Rehearsal
Monday	5:30 pm 6:30 pm	First Steps Staff Meeting Bible Information Class
Tuesday	7:45 am	Grounded in God
Wednesday	10:00 am 5:00 pm 6:30 pm 6:30 pm	Shorehaven Services Non School Catechism Bible Information Class Women's Wednesday Bible Study
Thursday	8:00 am 8:30 am 6:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm 8:00 pm	SCRIP Orders Due Women in the Word Board of Trustees Rejoice! Choir Men's Choir / Handbell Choir
Saturday	7:30 am 7:30 am 5:30 pm	Blood Drive Men's Bible Breakfast Worship Service
Sunday	8 & 10:30 am	Worship Service

	9:15 am 6:30 pm	Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; Teen Bible Study Shaped to Serve Workshop Laudate Dominum Rehearsal

Acknowledgments
Setting One 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.TM Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.TM Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House. The following are used by permission under CCLI Church Copyright License no. 2688981 and CCLI Streaming License no. CSPL055104.

Highlights and Announcements

St. Matthew's Blood Drive - November 14
Give the gift of life! Join us for a blood drive on *Saturday November 14, 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! Please use the QR code to register or you may contact Jennifer in the church office at 262-912-6350 or jmanssen@smls.org.

Voter's Meeting - Tuesday, Nov. 24
St. Matthew's members are invited to attend the Voters' Meeting on **Tuesday, November 24, at 7:00 p.m. in the Small Chapel.**

Help Decorate Our Church for Christmas!
Help us get our church ready for Christmas! Join us **Friday, November 27, at 8:30 AM** as we set up and decorate our Christmas trees. We need 5 men to set up the trees and 8 women to decorate them. Many hands make light work as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior! Sign up at smls.org/events.

Soups & Sweets Fundraiser: NOV 21 & 22!
Join the SHINE Activities Team after services on November 21 & 22 in the Commons for soups, sweets, and crafts! Proceeds will support St. Matthew's new historical timeline wall.
Donating? Crafts, soup, and baked goods can be dropped off Saturday morning, November 21. Soup containers with event and donation details are available in the Gathering Space.
Can you Help? Three volunteers are needed to help box cookies!
Sign Up to Volunteer at smls.org/events
Can't Attend? Monetary donations are welcome throughout November.
http://bit.ly/SoupVol

Concert Announcement Laudate Dominum
You're cordially invited to ***Give Me Jesus,*** an evening of sacred music featuring singers from area congregations. Be assured that through life's joys and challenges, Jesus offers the comfort, hope, and peace our hearts need. **Sunday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m.** St. Matthew's Lutheran Church 1650 Brown Street, Oconomowoc. A freewill offering will be received.
Please find us on Facebook/Instagram for additional updates.

Advent by Candlelight - *Questions of Christmas*
Join us **Sunday, November 29, at 3:00 PM** for an afternoon of reflection and fellowship as we explore the familiar moments of the Christmas story and prepare our hearts for the celebration of Jesus' birth. Table decorations will be provided, and bringing a dessert to share is completely optional. Register at smls.org/events by NOV 15.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN: Christmas 4 Kids!
NEW TIME: 9 AM - 12PM!
Join us **Saturday, December 12,** at St. Matthew's for *Christmas 4 Kids!* Children in 3K–4th grade will enjoy crafts, games, and hands-on learning about the true meaning of Christmas. A special *Birthday Party for Jesus* for children ages 0–3 will be held from 9–10 AM.
Register today http://bit.ly/C4K2026Reg (Ends Dec 4)

Volunteer Here bit.ly/C4K2026Vol

Save the Date – Live Nativity
Saturday, DEC 19 | Performances: 5:00 & 6:00 PM
Experience the story of Christ's birth at St. Matthew's Live Nativity! Enjoy live animals, a heartfelt Nativity reenactment, and festive music, followed by cookies and hot cocoa in the Commons. Bring your family and friends to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas! Help make the Live Nativity special! ***SIGN UP to Volunteer or Donate*** http://bit.ly/LNHelp

Parents' Education Night Series
How can parents recognize when kids need support? Join Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Laura Reinke for three evenings focused on helping kids navigate bullying (Nov 18), disappointment and failure (Jan 20), and friendship challenges (Feb 3). All sessions begin at 6:30 PM. Free childcare is available. RSVP: bit.ly/SMEdNight

GRIEFSHARE: Surviving the Holidays
The holidays can be especially difficult after the loss of a loved one. GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays seminar offers encouragement and support for navigating this season of grief. Join us **Sunday, November 22, from 2:00–4:00 p.m. at St. Luke's Church in Watertown.** The **cost is $7**; child care is not available.
~Please register at griefshare.org/holidays.



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