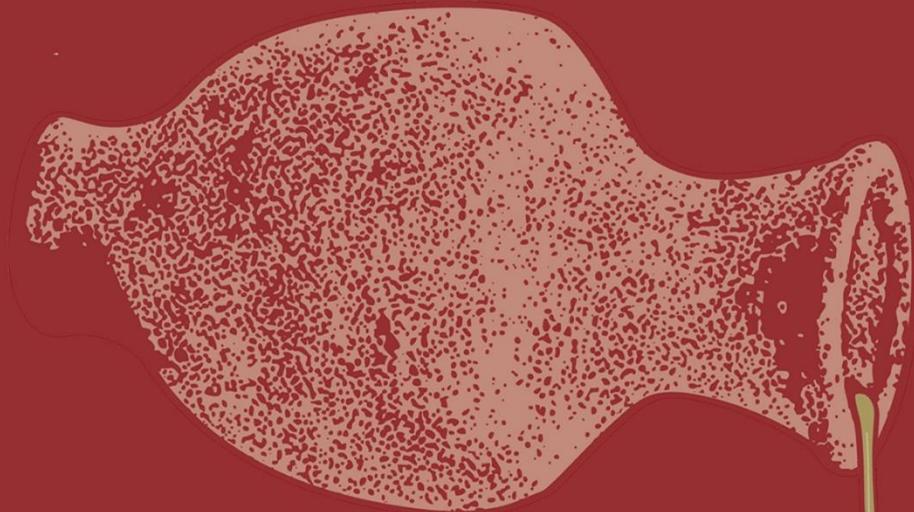


GOD ANOINTED
JESUS *of* NAZARETH
with the
HOLY SPIRIT
and with
POWER ...



Acts 10:38, NRSV

Welcome to St. Matthew's!

VISITING TODAY?

Welcome to worship! We are very glad you are here, and we pray that you enjoy your visit here with us today. I hope that you will be encouraged in trusting Jesus, better equipped to serve him, and more aware of his grace in your life every day. We're glad you're here!

Pastor Silas Schmitzer



Theme of Today's Service: "Jesus Takes Away the Sin of the Whole World."

Prayer Upon Entering Worship:

Oh, Lord, I thank you that you became like me in every way except for my sin. For me, you perfectly obeyed your heavenly Father's will. May my own baptism that unites me with your redeeming work fill my heart with joy and thankfulness today and always as I am reminded of everything you did for me in my place to save me eternally.

God's Word for This Week:

It doesn't make sense that our Savior, who was perfectly sinless, would need to be baptized, and yet he was. Why? Because Jesus had come to be our perfect substitute. His baptism showed that is what he is. God laid on him the sin of the world. Even from birth, he endured the effects of our sin. Jesus wasn't a sinner himself, but he was carrying our sin, pain, and sorrow. He needed the assurance of God's love and forgiveness, just as if he were a sinner himself. Jesus received those promises in baptism, just like we do.

Pastor Silas Schmitzer

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Phone: (608) 498-3448

Please visit us as: www.stmatthews-wels.com

At our website you'll find audio sermons, daily devotions, our church calendar, and more information about our church, our teachings and our Christian Day School.

The Lord's Instructions for His Table

If you are a visitor with us this morning, our communion practices may need some explanation. The Bible says partaking of Holy Communion involves two things: first, understanding what Communion is: a receiving of the body and blood of Christ for our forgiveness along with the bread and wine (1 Corinthians 11:27-30). Second, Communion is an expression of agreement or unity in beliefs with everyone you are communing (1 Corinthians 10:17; Romans 16:17; 2 John 10,11). Receiving communion with others is a public expression of fellowship and unity of faith.

Partaking of communion only with those who share this unity of faith and practice is called "close communion." Years ago, nearly all churches held this practice. In recent years, many have abandoned this teaching because it is often misunderstood. This is how God commands us to show love to him and to you, and honor real unity in his Word.

We are eager to celebrate the Lord's Supper with you according to his commands. If you are a guest and would like to commune with us at St. Matthew's, please speak with our pastor or one of the ushers, that way we can all be confident that we truly are united in faith and honoring the Lord's instructions for his sacred meal.

OUR THANKS

We thank the following people for serving us in worship today:

Worship Accompanist: Sue Wrobel

Greeter: Kris Shepard

Ushers: John Shepherd, Jerry Shepard, Tim Stellick, Ted Sommerfeld

Audio/Video: Dan Wiese, Carl Piper

Announcements

Church Announcements

Church Service Recording

Our Sunday worship services are regularly video recorded and posted online. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Pastor.

Sunday School and Bible Study

No Bible Study again this week because of the voters meeting. All children, age 4-10 are invited and encouraged to attend Sunday School.

Church Announcements

Have an announcement that you want to see in the bulletin? Have some information to spread on the pre-service PowerPoint? Need an activity added to the church calendar? Send an email with your important information to

secretary@stmatthews-wels.com

Bible Study - Concerning Spiritual Gifts (6 Lessons)

Many Christians shy away from the topic of spiritual gifts because some of them seem so extraordinary and strange. Perhaps you are unsure of what to do or say about speaking in tongues, prophesying, teaching, comforting, leading, being generous and serving others. This course takes seriously what the Bible says about the gifts of the Spirit. Making the time to study this important topic will help you find and rejoice in your niche among God's people as we all work together to glorify Christ, our Head.

OFF TO THE RACES!

St. Matthew's CES presents our first ever pine car derby & chili cookoff. Finally! A chance to show off your prize pot of chili & pine block carving skills in one afternoon. Car kits & race guidelines will be provided to you one week before the races, registration is required by January 10th. Prizes will be awarded to the chili & racing champions. hungry spectators are welcome.

Saturday January 18TH from 11AM- 1PM

Text Karen Schmitzer @ 608-304-7034 to reserve your spot today!

Get Your Scrip Cards!

Buying Scrip gift cards helps support our school. You buy the gift cards for your favorite restaurants and stores at face value, and a percentage of the cost of the card is given to St. Matthew's School Scrip fund. Over the past 10 years, the Scrip program has raised over \$11,000 for our school. The Protsman family runs our Scrip program and they have the Scrip cards out by the door after every Sunday service. If you don't see a business that you're looking for, just ask Jan or Kristie, there are many more that they can order for you

Call Meeting

Last week January 5th we extended a call to Mr. Daniel Johnson. Please pray for him and his family as he considers the call to be our principal and upper grades teacher.

Otto's Gift Card "Baby Shower"

In joyous anticipation of the Baby Otto's arrival next month, we would like to "shower" James & Jackie with gift cards. The members of St. Matthew's, St. Peter's, & our St. Matthew's school families are invited to participate, really anyone who loves the Ottos- the more the merrier! Please drop your gifts in the white box at the back of church, or return in any way shape or form to Karen Schmitzer. We will plan to present our collective gift to the Otto's after church on Sunday the 19th. Questions? Text Karen @ 608-304-7034.

Semi-Annual Voters Meeting

Each year in January the members of our congregation gather for a special meeting to get updates, ask questions about how our congregation is doing, discuss and make plans for the coming year(s) for our congregation. This year, our meeting will be this Sunday, January 12th, during the Bible Study hour.

School Announcements

College Care Package Drive

In Christ Light class, the upper grade students brainstormed care package ideas for our congregation's college students which we would like to put together and mail in January. Our ideas included snacks, candy, Fuji water, coffee/tea, fuzzy socks/blankets, gum, and laundry supplies. You are welcome to purchase any of these items (Dollar Tree, Walmart, etc) and drop them off in the bin by Mr. Otto's office between now and January 13. We will begin to collect everything into care packages then. If you are moved to support the cost of postage for sending the packages, you may drop money in Mr. Otto's mailbox. Thank you!

Basketball 2020

Grades 4-8 have their next basketball games on Friday, January 17 at First Lutheran in La Crosse. B Boys tip off at 6 PM, then A Girls at around 7 PM, and finally A Boys to finish the night beginning no later than 8 PM. Come on out and cheer on our teams!

Little Caesar's Pizza Kit Fundraiser

This year's Little Caesar's Pizza Fundraiser begins Monday, January 13! Our students have demonstrated incredible drive with these fundraisers, earning over \$6,000 in our first three years doing it! These funds have helped us to purchase our K-8 math curriculum, the blue-top playground, and the aluminum sign on the school's exterior. This year's fundraiser helps us purchase brand new Chromebooks in grades 2-4.

The top 3 sellers will get to choose from a bucket of prizes that will include *wireless bluetooth earbuds*, a *Kwik Trip gift card*, or the *super rare plush seahorse keychain*! Just tally your orders using the catalogs stacked in the fellowship hall, or buy from one of our students! Sellers submit their completed order forms with payment checks (made out to St. Matthew's School) to school by Monday, January 27. Due to weather difficulties last year, we are waiting to schedule the pickup day until the forecast becomes clearer, but plan to pick up orders the following week. Thank you!

Area Announcements

Food Pantry

Looking for a way to directly impact our community? The Stoddard Area Food Pantry located in our Church basement can use your help. To Volunteer contact Paulette Ross (Site Manager) at 608-518-6839 or email her at pross.54632@gmail.com

Recovery in Christ:

Two Opportunities: Recovery in Christ will continue to meet Sundays, 6:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Onalaska. A new session will be held at La Crosse's Coulee Recovery Center, 933 Ferry St, 1:00, Wednesdays). Call 608-567-3038 to verify schedule for either session. Recovery in Christ points to Jesus as the answer for recovery from substance abuse.

LAST WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

 St. Matthew's <small>CHURCH OF THE SOUTHWEST</small>	SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	BIBLE CLASS	SUNDAY SCHOOL
JAN. 5	130	—	18
LIVE STREAMING	7	TOTAL BUDGETARY GIFTS	

OUR WEEK IN THE LORD

JANUARY 12 - JANUARY 19, 2020

Sunday

9:00 AM – Worship

10:30 AM – Sunday School

10:30 AM – Semi-Annual Meeting

Monday

5:30 PM – School Board Meeting

6:30 PM – Church Council

Tuesday

2:30 PM – Food Pantry Open

Wednesday

4:00 PM – Ladies Aid Meeting

4:45 PM – Catechism Class

Thursday

10:00 AM – Pastor's Circuit Meeting

7:00 PM – Worship

Friday

5:00 PM – Basketball @ First La Crosse

Saturday

Sunday

9:00 AM – Worship

10:30 AM – Sunday School

10:30 AM – Bible Class