

“Whoever **drinks** the **water** I give him
will **never thirst.**”



John 4:14

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:

“The Gift of God Comes by Faith to All Nations”

Prayer Upon Entering Worship:

Lord Jesus, as we follow you through Lent into the most difficult days of your suffering, help me to remember that it was the penalty for my sins that took you there. But may I never forget the joy of the gospel: that it was your great love for me that made you do it. Forgive me for my unwillingness to experience discomfort for your sake. Help me to carry my cross willingly, and boast proudly that I bear your name. Amen.

God's Word for This Week:

For most of us who have been acquainted with Christian teachings for many years, it's an easy question. How are we saved? Answer: Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved. But for thousands of years, people didn't have the knowledge of Jesus Christ. They knew only of a Messiah to come. Nonetheless, their faith was placed in the promise of God to send a Savior, and that faith—a forward-looking faith—was credited to them as the righteousness that God demands to enter heaven.

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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:

Organist: Bill Ross

Greeter: Ardelle Helke

Ushers: Kilmer Family

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

We will be having bible study this week in the Adult Education Room. All children, age 4-10 are invited and encouraged to attend Sunday School.

Principal Call

We have extended a call to Mr. Daniel Bush. Please pray for him and his family as they consider our call to be the principal at St. Matthew's Lutheran 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 or place your announcement in Carl Piper's box in the fellowship hall.

Want to give a gift?

All donations & offerings designated "150th Anniversary Gift" will go towards fresh landscaping on the church property.

Sunday School Holds Val Pal Event

On February 16th, 19 students participated in a special event during Sunday School Class. Students were introduced (by pictures) to a senior member of our congregation, currently a shut-in. Each child was assigned a "Val Pal" (shut-in) to create a Valentine gift for. Students were divided into 3 groups: Pillow Makers, Mug Fillers and Card Creators. Once the gifts were made, students bagged the items up for delivery the following week.

This event was designed to let the Sunday School students put their faith into action by showing their Christian love for the shut-ins. Special thanks to the 6 volunteers who helped with this special event, to those who delivered the Valentine gifts to the shut-ins and for the donation that made this event possible.

Member Family Pictures

Did you see your picture scrolling on our new display screen in the fellowship hall? Was your picture a little bit outdated? Not your favorite shot of your family? If you'd like to update your family picture, simply email a new one to Carl at secretary@stmatthews-wels.com, or ask Karen Fischer if she would be willing to snap a new one for your family. You can help make sure that those photos are an accurate and up-to-date representation of our congregation. Thank You!

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.

Lenten Services

During Lent we have multiple opportunities to prepare our hearts for the remembrance of Jesus' death and resurrection at Easter. The victory of Jesus' resurrection is the high point of our year. These Lenten services give us a chance to savor Jesus' victory and better appreciate his sacrifice for us. This year's theme is "The Son of God Goes Forth to War." Jesus gave his life for us, but not as a helpless victim. He came as our conqueror to defeat our enemy, the Devil, and liberate us from bondage to sin. Join us for these meditation services each Wednesday 1:30 and 7:00pm.

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

1, 2, 3, 4...We declare a Penny War!

The 150th Anniversary committee is challenging a battle of the sexes to help raise funds for our October anniversary celebration.

The Guys ended up with a score of 705. The Gals had a score of 4986. Congratulations Gals you beat the guys by 4281 points. The penny war raised a total of \$191.21 which will be split between the 150th Anniversary Celebration and the 150th Anniversary Gift. Thank you to all who participated.

School Announcements

School Choice Application Window Now Open!

The application window for parents to apply for a school choice voucher at St. Matthew's next school year is February 3 through April 16, 2020. After that, new applications can no longer be accepted. This program allows your child(ren) or someone you know to attend our school at no cost to the family if they fall within the income limit. To apply, go to our school's website, go to "Programs," then click "Wisconsin Parental School Choice." For help contact Mr. Otto, Mr. Carl Piper (608-799-9318), or Mr. Phil Uebelher (608-483-2080).

School Kids Sing

Next week the School Kids sing at St. Peter's in Chaseburg at 10 AM.

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.

The Coulee Region OWLS

The Coulee Region OWLS will be holding their monthly meeting on Thursday, March 12, 2020 at First Ev. Lutheran Church, 400 West Avenue South, La Crosse at 12:00 Noon for a Potluck Luncheon. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Coffee will be provided. The program will be a Sing A-Long with Linda Berg leading the group. Please bring names of your favorite hymns to share. All church members – men and women age 55 or older – are welcome. Please come for a visit, enjoy the friends you meet, a good lunch, and an excellent program. There will be a free will offering.

Luther High School's Spring Musical "Hello Dolly"

Luther High School's spring musical *Hello Dolly* will be held March 13-15, 2020. Tickets are available online through the link noted below. On Thursdays from 3:00-5:00 PM you can purchase them by phone at (608) 783-5435 x1303 or in person at the box office.

To purchase tickets:

<http://lutherhigh.org/arts/box-office>. For more information about the play:
<http://lutherhigh.org/student-life/special-events>.

Luther High School Calls

Mr. Engelbrecht has returned the call to serve as principal and will continue to serve at Luther High School as the Dean of Students. The Luther High School Board of Control will meet on March 10th to extend another call for principal.

Ms. Georgson has returned the call to serve at Neenah Lutheran School and will continue to serve as Spanish instructor. Please keep Luther High School and Neenah Lutheran School in your prayers as they continue to seek the Lord's guidance on filling their calls.

We give thanks for the faithful work of Mr. Engelbrecht and Ms. Georgson and pray that God continues to their Christ-centered service.

Mr. Paul Wichmann
Principal

Stoddard Community Blood Drive

St. Matthew's will again host the Stoddard Community Blood Drive on March 23rd from 12:30 – 5:00 PM. Walkins are welcome but if you would like to schedule an appointment please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org sponsor code: "stoddard"

LAST WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

 150 YEARS 1863 - 2013 ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH	WEEKEND WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	BIBLE CLASS	SUNDAY SCHOOL	LIVE STREAM
MAR. 1	137	13	16	5
WEDNESDAY LENT	134	TOTAL BUDGETARY GIFTS		

OUR WEEK IN THE LORD

MARCH 8 - MARCH 15, 2020

Sunday

- 9:00 AM – Worship
- 10:00 AM – LHS Presentation
- 10:30 AM – Sunday School
- 10:30 AM – Bible Study

Monday

- 5:30 PM – School Board Meeting
- 6:30 PM – Church Council

Tuesday

- 2:30 PM – Food Pantry Open

Wednesday

- 1:30 PM – Lenten Worship Service
- 4:15 PM – Catechism
- 7:00 PM – Lenten Worship Service

Thursday

Friday

- 9:00 AM – Luther High School's spring musical
- 7:00 PM – Luther High School's spring musical

Saturday

- 8:00 AM – Spring Science & Fine Arts Fair
- 7:00 PM – Luther High School's spring musical

Sunday

- 9:00 AM – Worship
- 10:00 AM – School Kids Sing at St. Peter's
- 10:30 AM – Bible Study
- 2:00 PM – Luther High School's spring musical