

OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW IN THE WORD

Our Lord Jesus in his Great Commission told his church to “go and make disciples of all nations baptizing . . . and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” So much of what we do at St. Matthew’s revolves around the Word of God in Holy Scripture where the Lord expresses his holy will for our lives and reveals his gracious plan of salvation to us. It is our sincere prayer that all members, young and old, will take advantage of the opportunities provided to learn more about that Word through which the Lord speaks to us. For in his Word we find our hope and joy, our comfort and our salvation.

WORSHIP

Sunday mornings at 8:00 and 10:30am and on Monday evenings at 7:00pm; mid-week services during Lent and Advent at 7:00pm on Wednesday evenings.

SUNDAY BIBLE SCHOOL

Each Sunday at 9:15am we offer the basic truths of God’s holy Word for children from 4 years old to those in 8th grade.

BIBLE CLASSES

Weekly Bible classes meet on Sunday and Wednesday mornings and periodically throughout the year at other times during the week. Several times a year Bible Information Classes are offered to present the basics of Bible truths for those who are new to our faith and those interested in learning more about the Savior.

SUMMERTIME GROWTH

During the summer we offer Bible study for young children to help them grow in the knowledge and love of God’s Son, Jesus Christ, through our Vacation Bible School



CONFIRMATION CLASSES

These classes are for youth in seventh and eighth grade. For those in our Lutheran elementary school, time is taken during the school day for the classes. For children in the public schools classes are held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm. Using the Small Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther as their guide, students explore God’s Word (law and gospel), getting to know God better and learning what it means to be his disciple.

TEENS’ BIBLE STUDY

Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:15 in the Youth Ministry House. Topics of study are geared to the interests of the teens.

SYNOD WEB SITE

Our congregation is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The WELS web site provides a treasure trove of Bible study opportunities for those who are familiar with the workings of the internet. Through the WELS web site the eager inquirer can link to the web site of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and a myriad of Christian knowledge and insight shared by Seminary professors and students.

www.wels.net

LUTHERAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A full scope of education in the light of Christ is offered to children from pre-kindergarten through 8th grade.

POWERHOUR

For children ages 0-4, accompanied by an adult. Classes meet on the first and third Wednesdays from September through April for a Bible lesson, music, gym activities and crafts.

ST. MATTHEW'S ORGANIZATIONS

LADIES' GUILD

The Ladies' Guild is an organization for the women of the congregation. Regular meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm. The Guild looks for opportunities of service to the congregation, supervising the kitchen for potluck activities and other congregational functions. Committees of the Guild prepare the altar for communion, change the paraments in church, and tend the flowers for church services. Upon request, members of the Guild serve a meal or refreshments after funerals. Monthly meetings feature a topic discussion or a Bible study and a business meeting. Contact the president, Mrs. Dawn Lauterbach (262) 569-7784.



MISSION SOCIETY



“Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”
(Mark 16:18)

This is what the Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society (LWMS), the Rock River LWMS Circuit and St. Matthew’s Mission Society are all about. For over forty years women from over 900 congregations in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) have joined together to “increase interest in and support the mission endeavors” of the WELS.

The year of 2004 was a busy one providing many opportunities to learn, be inspired, and support mission work over and beyond our normal personal and congregational involvement. The national convention held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota had a registered attendance of 1482 (including several from St. Matthew’s: delegate, alternate and others), with an estimated 1600+ at the opening worship service. There were 15 missionary presentations, Bible studies and workshops all giving so much inspiring information, in addition to the worship services and devotion sessions. What a wealth of information in three days!

The Rock River Circuit provided two opportunities to learn about Project Timothy in the Dominican Republic and the R.O.C. in Watertown (Recreation and Outreach Center) which serves almost 100 young people in the seventh to twelfth grade age group in the Watertown area.

Here at St. Matthew’s we held six meetings which covered study topics in our mission fields from Communist China, Puerto Rico, Central Africa Medical Mission, Mission to the Mormons, Mission to the Children (Mexico), Malawi (Pastor John Janosek served there for 40 years), to Brazil. In addition there were many “home” missions, here in the United States, also studied.

As we look forward to 2005, we realize the many opportunities that again await us. The national LWMS convention (#42) will be held in Minneapolis (Bloomington), Minnesota on June 23-26: “All Seasons With Jesus”. (The 2006 convention will be a farther drive to Seattle, Washington.) There will also be two opportunities to attend circuit meetings in our area.

Here at St. Matthew’s we will again be holding meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 1:30pm. In addition to our regular study meetings we will continue with our various on-

monthly newsletter and other materials, gather and disburse the mission box offerings, assist with cards to visitors, to name just a few.

We invite all ladies of St. Matthew's to participate in any or all of the activities of the Mission Society. The congregational LWMS membership makes all of us "members". Participation is encouraged – at meetings (local, circuit and national), through your gifts (mission boxes and others), through personal study of materials made available, and most especially with your prayers. Let us all share the Gospel of Jesus our Savior! Contact Sola Millett, Chairman (262) 567-5643, or Mary Lou Schmidt, LWMS Reporter (262) 567-5643, or Mary Lou Schmidt, LWMS Reporter (262) 567-3859 for more information.



ST. MATTHEW'S MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The purpose of this committee is to provide administration and guidance for the purchase, maintenance, display and loaning of books and other audio/visual materials to adults, teenagers, children and guests of St. Matthew's congregation which will promote Christian living and foster Christian growth. Items are acquired through donations or purchased with funds from gifts and memorials of congregational members.

All items are available for checkout whenever the church is open and circulated on an honor system. Directions for checkout are listed in the library with a drop slot for returned items.

St. Matthew's Memorial Library has over 1200 items available for checkout. This includes 1074 books, 130 videos and 13 CD's. Cassette tapes of each week's church service for the past year are also available for checkout. There were 210 items checked out in 2004, an average of about 18 items per month. The library committee has recently added three DVD's and will likely be adding more in the coming year. The committee has recently complete entering library data into a computer program and, after doing an inventory, plans to have a complete card catalog available to help you find items by looking up a title, author or subject heading. Please use the resources in your church library to help you keep your focus on Jesus in all you do.

The Library Committee is also responsible for making large print copies of hymns and the liturgy for Sunday/Monday services. Committee members occasionally address day school classes of the upper grades regarding use of the Library.

We continue to be members of WELS-CLO, our synod's organization of church libraries with meetings offered twice yearly.

Committee members meet as a group for work sessions and business meetings throughout the year and work individually on assigned tasks as needed. Contact the president, Nancy Jones, for more information.



MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

Bev Fulmer serves our congregation and its organizations by serving as the link between us and the print news media. Groups and organizations can get the word out through the public press with Bev's assistance. *Activity/Event Newspaper Report* forms are available at the Information Center in the church narthex. Contact: Bev Fulmer (262) 569-1969 or by email bjfulmer@wi.rr.com

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE



We encourage everyone to participate in the fellowship opportunities scheduled throughout the year. The Fellowship Committee coordinates the serving of coffee and donuts in the Fireside Room between our worship services on Sunday mornings. The Fellowship Committee seeks to provide fellowship opportunities that are of benefit to all. Plans are underway to provide welcome baskets for people who are new to our congregation. Fresh ideas are always welcome, so if you have any suggestions for fellowship events, share those ideas with the committee.

PARENT-TEACHER LEAGUE



(262) 560-0083.

The Parent-Teacher League is made up of the parents of our St. Matthew's Lutheran elementary school children and our teachers. Meetings are held during the school year as announced in the school newsletter and on the church calendar. These meetings are planned to provide opportunity for parents and teachers to discuss matters of mutual concern and maintain a constructive relationship between parents and teachers. The P.T.L. seeks to encourage a Christian attitude among the students of St. Matthew's; and to promote the school within our congregation and in the community. The P.T.L. tries to provide items needed by the school, but not provided for by the congregation's budget. Contact the president, Mrs. Robin Koltz



POWER HOUR

Preschool Power is a parent/child class offered to our church members and the member of our community from September through April. The bi-monthly experience consists of a Bible lesson, gym time, creative art experience, and music and rhythm fun. Classes meet on Wednesday mornings. The cost is \$20.00 per semester (Sept. – Dec. and Jan. through April). Six women from St. Matthew's volunteer their time to teach the classes. For more information, contact Bev Fulmer (262-569-1969) or Beth Ziel (920-206-9453), or visit the official PPH web site: www.smls.org/powerhour.

SOFTBALL

Men of the congregation who are beyond the age of confirmation have an opportunity for recreation and fellowship through the softball teams fielded by our congregation for competition in a community league. Games are scheduled on Tuesday nights throughout the spring and summer. For more information, contact: Mr. Todd Helwig (262-560-9682).



CHURCH CHOIR

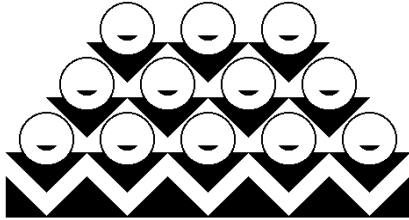
The Church Choir provides members with the opportunity to raise their voices in song and make music unto the Lord of our salvation.

The choir regularly adds a touch of beauty to our worship services throughout the school year. Special effort is made to provide distinctive music during the holidays. Rehearsals are held on



Thursday evening at 7:00pm during the school year. A high degree of musical talent is not a prerequisite for membership in the choir; only a desire to use your voice in praise of God. For more information, contact the director, Mrs. Joy Elowski (262) 560-9531.

YOUTH PRAISE



The YOUTH Praise choir is made up of upper graders of our Lutheran elementary school who have a desire to be involved in singing that goes beyond that offered in the regular music classes in the school. Church services provide the most frequent opportunities to sing. But YOUTH Praise also engages in competition with choirs from other schools in the spring at the Fine Arts Fair at Lakeside Lutheran High School. in Lake Mills.

Occasionally the choir performs at community events in Oconomowoc. Our congregation always enjoys seeing the young people of our YOUTH Praise choir using their voices and their musical talents to beautify our worship services. Contact the director, Mrs. Joy Elowski (262) 560-9531.

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

The Shepherd's Staff provides assistance to people experiencing special needs in their lives, helping members of our congregation, but occasionally seeing opportunities in the community to give evidence of Christian love and concern. The Visitation Committee tries to maintain a congregational presence with the shut-in members of our congregation through home visits made by volunteers. The Home

Care Committee provides help for those who need short-term assistance with various tasks in the home. Our third area of interest is the Shepherd's Staff's "FOCUS Ministry". "FOCUS" is an acronym for: Friends Offering Christ-centered Understanding and Support. The goals of the FOCUS Ministry are to: assist church members and their families in the affirmation of their faith when they encounter the crossroads of change in their lives, to walk along with those individuals, providing emotional and spiritual support during those periods of loss, crisis or change. The FOCUS Ministry works closely with the other committees because individuals may need support in more than one area at the same time. 1) The Worship Services Transportation Committee's goal is to provide transportation to worship services on a regular basis to members or prospective members of St. Matthew's who are unable to drive. 2) If you'd like to know more about the Shepherd's Staff, or could use the help of the Shepherd's Staff, contact one of the pastors or one of the people listed under the Shepherd's Staff in the Directory pages at the beginning of this Annual Report.



The Shepherd's Staff correspondent, as part of the FOCUS Ministry, sends notes of encouragement to members of our church and informs them of the services the Shepherd's Staff provides.

In 2004, the Shepherd's Staff made 216 visits to our shut-in members, provided 12 meals to 7 family units, sponsored 2 congregational meals, served 2 luncheons for our senior members (1 coordinated with the ACTS youth group), hosted a Shepherd's Staff volunteer luncheon, provided 25 rides to worship services, made 10 FOCUS Ministry visits helping 3 individuals/families in difficult situations, and sent over 90 cards and notes to more than 55 members in need of encouragement.



STAFF MINISTER

Dennis Fletcher has been serving as a staff minister at St. Matthew's on a volunteer basis during the past year, while he completes his studies at Martin Luther College. Dennis has been assigned responsibility for the Sunday Bible School program, assists in visits to church members and to outreach prospects, and helped in VBS. He also helps with chapel services for the Lutheran Elementary School and whatever and when ever the Pastors need additional help.

This past year 853 hours (March 1-December 31, 2004) were spread out in the following manner:

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| Class work | 301 hours | Teaching | 79 hours |
| Visits | 7 hours | Committee work | 51 hours |
| Sunday Bible School | 127 hours | Staff work | 262 hours |
| Staff meetings | 26 hours | Total | 853 hours |

This past year was a learning experience for the Pastors and Staff Minister as we ascertain how best to make use of the additional staff time available.

CHURCH HISTORIAN



Joan Fletcher is our congregation's church historian. Her task is to gather, organize and archive things from throughout our congregation's existence that are of historical interest and significance. If you run across materials like old pictures of congregational activity, confirmation photos or other important printed materials, please contact Joan. (262) 567-1475.

A.C.T.S. YOUTH GROUP

ACTS (Active Christian Teens Sing, Serve, Socialize)

The mission of the St. Matthew's Youth Ministry is to assist parents in keeping their teens in God's Word and equipping them with the skills and encouragement to live God-pleasing lives through: Bible study, worship service, fellowship, outreach.



ACTS accomplishes this mission in a multitude of exciting ways. We have weekly topical Bible studies, short devotions before activities, write a worship service from start to end and lead that service here at St. Matthew's and at our mission Hope Lutheran. We do community service projects like helping families with special needs children, or helping the free clinic to name a few. We serve God in our home church by running and helping with several church functions. Fellowship is achieved with social activities offered in a wide array of entertainment from open gyms. To water parks, to online WELS chats, to attending regional and international WELS youth rallies. We reach out with God's Good News when we work with WELS Kingdom Workers, run our own VBS, plan and execute TEEN reach out activities and more.

All teens 8th-12th grade are automatically made aware of all ACTS activities via mail, calling lists, announcements. They may attend one special event or everything – whatever works in their family schedule. AT ALL ACTS events we welcome friends of our church teens and often have visitors. Email acts@smls.org if you want more information!

The 2004 leaders were: Janelle Zastrow, Mike and Joy Lenz, and Debbie Rothe. Janelle is getting married and Shelley Myers has replaced her as a new ACTS leader.

LUTHERAN PIONEERS and BUCKAROOS



Lutheran Pioneers is a Youth Ministry providing boys a Christ-Centered program with many activities. The program is divided into Buckaroos (Grades 1 & 2), Recruits (Grades 3 & 4), Campers (Grades 5th and up), and Troopers (Advanced Campers). Lutheran Pioneers meet every 2nd, 4th and 5th Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:00pm during the school year. Benefits from Lutheran Pioneers include: useful skills for living in God's world, Christian leadership skills, Fellowship with other Christians, service to the church and it's members and interesting activities fro today's youth. Contact Dan Taubenheim at 262-966-2430 for more information.

LUTHERAN GIRL PIONEERS and SUNBEAMS

Girls of our congregation in the elementary school years are provided opportunities for recreation, learning and Christian fellowship in the Lutheran Girl Pioneers and Sunbeams. The Sunbeams are the girls in grades 1 and 2; the Lutheran Girl Pioneers include the girls from grade 3 and up. Outdoor activities, as well as opportunities for growth in skills that will be needed as adults are important elements of the program. Government is studied, and the practice of good citizenship is encouraged and promoted. The program provides these experiences to our girls in a Christian setting, led by Christian women. Meetings are held twice a month on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm. Contact the president, Mrs. Betty Morgan (262) 567-3360; or the Caravan Counselor, Mrs. Amy Bence (262) 567-0716.

