



ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH & EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Boundless Need - Boundless Love - Boundless Hope

24500 N. Old McHenry Rd., Hawthorn Woods, IL 60047—Church: 847/438-7709 - ECC: 847/438-6103

Website: www.stmatts.net / Email: smlcs@stmattsonline.com

The Rev. Edward A. Blonski, Pastor & The Rev. Ryan Ferguson, Associate Pastor

Brittany Johnson, Youth and Family Minister

Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00am - 3:00pm

Calendar For The Week

C.O.O.L. Food Item for April: Peanut butter

****Bread for Life Weekend—4/26/2026**

Friday, April 3 - Good Friday

Good Friday Worship Service - Sanctuary	Noon
Michael Gagne Private Lesson - CL	3:45pm
GIO Basketball Camp - GYM	4:30pm
Choir Practice - CL	6:00pm
Good Friday Tenebrae Worship Service - Sanctuary	7:00pm

Saturday, April 4 - Holy Saturday

Sharing the Joy Easter Egg Hunt - GYM	10:00am
Brass Rehearsal - CL	10:00am
Easter Breakfast Setup - KH	11:00am
Bell Practice - CL	3:00pm
Holy Saturday Worship Service - Sanctuary	4:00pm

Sunday, April 5 - Easter Sunday

Easter Sunrise Worship Service - Historic Chapel	6:00am
Easter Breakfast - KH	7:00am
Choir Practice - CR	7:15am
Easter Classic Worship Service - Sanctuary	8:00am
Choir Practice - CR	9:20am
Easter Contemporary Worship Service - Sanctuary	10:45am

Monday, April 6

Church & School Offices Closed

Please remember in prayer:

- *Karen Basler, Patricia Trapp, Mary Tiedmann, John & Audrey Lahr, Susan Hutchins, Darlene Meyer, Bruce Formeller, Faye Prather, Maria Collard, Ginger Mueller, David Schilf, Beverly Eastep, Michael Finzel, Florence Behrens, James Grund*
- **Our military personnel currently serving our country:** *Justin Brown, Adam Imaoka, Scott Karas, Elise Neilson, Steve & Ice Sandy, Bob Hamilton, Chandler McClain, Christopher Carr, Alex Hope*
- **Our Missionaries,** *Pastor Ross Shaver, Kris, Easton and Ryan*
- **Friends of St. Matthew:** *Owen Foster, Jerry Thode, Carl Denny, Tom Anderson, Donna McGowean, John, Mary Richter, Pam Wilson, Laureen Castagna, Kathy, Karen, Mike, Donna Owens, Jeff Kiddey, Ewan Gorman, Jean Doorman, Timothy Johnson, Greg Englehardt, Michelle Gagne, Bill Zenk, Tim, Peter Lara, Craig Galus, Barb Polk, Steve, Fay, Sheila, Ben Mui, Peter, Matt, Prisilla, Todd Hanson, Duane Usa, Don Hahn, Don, Terry Skaggs, Mary Petersen*

It's that time of year!
Early Childhood Center Enrollment is open
for the 2026-2027 school year
 Visit www.stmatts.net
for more details



Upcoming Events

April

- 11 – Lake Zurich Expo | Foglia YMCA
- 12 – Women’s Ministry Meeting & Lunch | Noon
- 19 -Rite of Confirmation | 8:00am
- 25 – Senior Adult Ministry (S.A.M.) Trivia & Potluck Night, Adults and Kids | 5:00pm

May

- 7 – National Day of Prayer
- 10 – Mother’s Day
- 14 – Ascension Day Service | 7:00pm
- 16 – Keeping Families Covered Event | 5:00pm
- 17 – Women’s Ministry Meeting & Lunch | Noon

Save The Date

- June 27 – Celebrate America’s 250th Birthday | 4:00pm
- July 20-24 – Vacation Bible School – Registration Open
- July 26 – Early Childhood Center
- Golf “FORE” the Kids Golf Outing – Registration Open
- September 19 – Pig & Corn Roast

The Board of Deacons are currently reviewing our worship service format and schedule. We invite you to take a short survey to share your thoughts. Your feedback is important and will help guide our decisions as we plan for the future of our worship life together. All responses are anonymous unless you choose to provide your contact information at the end of the survey. Thank you for taking the time to participate.



Scan the QR Code for the Online Survey.

Hard copies of the survey are located on the church office counter.

All hard copy surveys can be returned to the church office and placed in the GOLD box that is on the church counter.

Survey Closes on Monday, April 6, 2026



The St. Matthew Women's Ministry is actively involved in providing assistance with funeral lunches, offering a comforting space for families. Volunteers help with set-up, serving, and clean-up of these meals. We are actively looking for additional volunteers. We welcome all women and men, retired and working, and college students who enjoy serving the Lord. If you are interested in this ministry, please sign up in the church office or call Sally Henning at 847/508-8993. *“Blessed are those that mourn, for they shall be comforted”.*

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Go to: www.stmatts.net/bible-study for all current Bible Study information

St. Matthew thanks the Donna Grund family for providing materials for our Ladies’, Men’s & Sunday Morning Bible Studies.

PLEASE notify the church office if you would like a pastoral visit or call.

Hospitals and rehabilitation centers do not contact us directly. If you or a loved one is receiving medical treatment, kindly reach out to the church office so we can provide support.

C.O.O.L. (Christian Outreach of Lutherans) - a food pantry for some of the neediest families in Lake County.

April food item is Peanut Butter.

This past Tuesday, our COOL Volunteers made a trip to COOL to deliver food. In total, St. Matthew families donated: 135 loaves of bread and 496 pounds of food. Thank you for supporting this outreach ministry.



Easter Breakfast

April 5, 2026

7:00am - 10:30am | Krueger Hall

Details

Join us for a hot Easter morning breakfast!

Enjoy a delicious spread featuring egg casseroles, bacon, sausage, and lots of pastries! Bring your family to church and start the day with good food and great fellowship to celebrate Christ Risen!

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH & EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
APRIL 3 - GOOD FRIDAY - 7:00PM—TENEBRAE SERVICE

Welcome to St. Matthew Lutheran Church!

We're delighted that you've joined us to worship the Lord today. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to those around you—especially anyone wearing a St. Matthew Family badge. They'll be happy to assist you with any questions.

Prelude	April 3 - 7:00pm Service “Adagio for Strings” “God so Loved the World” “Light in the Darkness mvt 1 Prelude”	<i>Samuel Barber</i> <i>John Stainer</i> <i>Patrick Liebergen</i>
<i>As we gather for worship today, we continue the service begun last night with Maundy Thursday. Following Jesus' celebration of Passover, He was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. From there, our Savior fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah's Suffering Servant. “He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5). Jesus willingly subjected Himself to abuse, ridicule, mocking, flogging, and finally death. He died the death we deserve, so that just as He lives we shall live also.</i>		
Processional Hymn	“O Sacred Head Now Wounded”	LSB 449
Choir Anthem	“Beautiful Savior” - The Chancel Choir	<i>Patrick Liebergen</i>
Reading Isaiah 52:13-53:12		
Hymn	“Christ, the Life of All the Living”	LSB 420
Sermon - The Gospel in Seven Words: - Jesus is Lord, Even Over My Death		<i>Colossians 1:13-14</i>
Offering		
Voluntary	“What Wondrous Love Is This?” - The Chancel Choir & Fae Seimverth	<i>Lani Smith</i>
The Seven “Words” of Jesus from the Cross		
Pastoral Introduction		
<i>The sun has set and in this darkened hour, we are once again reminded of the darkness of that first Good Friday as Jesus hung nailed to the cross for our sins. We gather in the quiet embrace of this sacred moment at the foot of the cross, where Jesus, in His final hours, spoke seven words—each a word of divine love, forgiveness, and surrender. The voice of Christ voice echoes through the centuries, and now calls us closer, inviting us to rest in the shadow of His sacrifice. Let us ponder the weight of His words and find peace in their eternal promise. Let us walk this hallowed ground together, hearts open to the grace that flows from His lips as Jesus speaks to us from the old rugged cross.</i>		
Hymn	“The Old Rugged Cross”	
The First Word - Luke 23:33-34		<i>Read by, Elizabeth Imhoff</i>
Choir Anthem	“Crucify Him!”	<i>Patrick Liebergen</i>
<i>Extinguish Candle 1</i>		
The Second Word - Luke 23:39-43		<i>Read by, Abree Aseltine</i>
Choir Anthem	“O Lamb of God Most Holy”	<i>Patrick Liebergen</i>
<i>Extinguish Candle 2</i>		
The Third Word - John 19:25-27		<i>Read by, Oliver Bacher</i>
Choir Anthem & Hymn	“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”	<i>Patrick Liebergen</i>
<i>Extinguish Candle 3</i>		
The Fourth Word - Mark 15:33-34		<i>Read by, Robert Imhoff</i>
Choir Anthem	“Final Prayer at the Cross”	<i>Patrick Liebergen</i>
<i>Extinguish Candle 4</i>		
The Fifth Word - John 19:28		<i>Read by, Reed Bacher</i>
Organ Meditation	Improvisation on “Ah, Holy Jesus”	<i>Michael Gagne</i>
<i>Extinguish Candle 5</i>		
The Sixth Word - John 19:29-30		<i>Read by, Caroline Carson</i>
Choir Anthem	“Lord We Adore and Bless You”	<i>Patrick Liebergen</i>
<i>Extinguish Candle 6</i>		
The Seventh Word - Luke 23:46		<i>Read by, Robert Imhoff</i>
<i>Extinguish Candle 7</i>		
The Christ Candle Leaves the Sanctuary		
Streptitus (Loud Noise)		
The Christ Candle Returns to the Sanctuary		
Dismissal		

You are invited to tarry as long as you like at the conclusion of the service to meditate and contemplate the depth of Christ's love that drove Him to the cross. Please observe silence upon leaving the sanctuary.

✠ To GOD Alone Be All The Glory ✠