

**Palmyra Area Chamber of Commerce Business Spotlight**  
**St Matthew Lutheran Church, Celebrating 175 Anniversary in August**

The Palmyra Area Chamber of Commerce Business Spotlight for April/May 2019 is St Matthew Lutheran Church. Located at 313 Main St, the church is Pastored by Rev. Steven M.D. Blyth. The congregation is 175 years old, founded in 1844, but its' message is still current. "We continue to look for ways we can minister to the Palmyra community and to share the scriptural message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and that message hasn't changed much in the last 2,000 years" stated Pastor Blyth.

'We are one of the first ten Lutheran congregations organized in the State of Wisconsin. Originally the congregation was called Skoponong Lutheran Congregation. The church began with members meeting in each other's homes until some land could be bought and a church built on Young Road. Every Memorial weekend, weather permitting, we celebrate an outdoor service at that original location. That church was completely destroyed by fire when it was struck by lightning July 11, 1936. Nothing could be saved.

A group of Lutherans who had been holding services in Palmyra in the Congregational Church invited Skoponong to worship with them and expressed a desire to join them. The church building was purchased from the Congregational Conference in August 1937. In those early years we shared a Pastor with other local congregations in Sugar Creek and Whitewater. It was July 5, 1953 that we called our first full-time Pastor. The name of our church was changed to St. Matthew Lutheran Church in 1960."

The current mission of St Matthew's is "to grow in our relationship to Jesus Christ and to one another and empowered by God through the Holy Spirit, to share the love of Christ throughout our community and the world." Pastor Blyth further shared that "we offer a safe place for members of the Palmyra community to gather for Worship and fellowship." Their compassion for the community is exemplified by housing the local Food Pantry, which is a combined ministry of the Palmyra area churches.

They currently have 267 members, but more are always welcome! A newsletter is published monthly. Services are held Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Upcoming events include a rummage and brat sale in May, a Youth Mission Trip to Colorado in June, Vacation Bible School in August, and the celebration of our 175th anniversary!

For more information, please visit or contact the church office at 262-495-4540.