

June & July 2010 Newsletter

NOTES FROM THE PASTER

Our Faith Story

Every great story has a great opening line, a hook, a compelling out-of-the-gate statement that captures the interest of the audience and holds it until the last page, the last line. Here are a few examples to consider: Charles Dickens, in his famous story, “A Tale of Two Cities,” begins with the words; “It was the best of times; it was the worst of times...” C.S. Lewis got it right when he wrote the opening thoughts in his great adventure, “The Voyage of the Dawn Treader.” The story begins with this description of one of the main characters: “There was a boy called Eustace Clarence Scrubb, and he almost deserved it.” And then there’s George Orwell’s famous novel “1984” which begins with this: “It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen.”

The Apostle Paul, in the opening words of the Book of Romans, was inspired to write these words, *“Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him and for his name’s sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith. And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.” Romans 1:1-6*

Later on in that same chapter he reaffirmed his mission when he was inspired to write, *“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.” Romans 1:16*

These words of Romans 1 show Paul's mission and purpose in life. Even though we are not apostles, is our mission in life any different than Paul's? Can we say with Paul, "I am not ashamed of the gospel?"

We know and believe what Jesus Christ has done for us. He gave His life on the Cross of Calvary for the sins of all people. He rose from the dead to give us a new and eternal life with Him. He has called us by the gospel to share that good news and love with other people. By the power of the Holy Spirit we, too, are able to say, "I am not ashamed of the gospel!" May that be our daily theme as we share that gospel of Jesus in our daily lives!

In Christ,
Pastor Braun

Youth and Family News ***Roxann Leckband***

Family Night for June will be June 20th from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Grilled burgers and hotdogs will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. Childcare will be provided. Please join us for a fun evening. **Family Night for July will be on July 25th** from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. This is one week later as Roxie will be at the National Youth Gathering. Menu to be announced at a later date. Child care, as usual, will be provided. Please contact the church for any questions 376-6168.

Mom's Group will be held on the 4th, 11th, and 25th in June from 10:00-11:30 am. Moms please come to the Fireside room. Your child will have a Bible story lesson, craft, games, and snacks in the classroom across the hall. **Mom's Group in July will be held on the 2nd, 9th, 23rd, and 30th** from 10:00-11:30 am.

Senior Fellowship Dinner will be held on June 21st (*note date change*), at 12:00 noon. Grilled hamburgers, calico bean casserole and chips will be provided. You may bring a dish to share, give a free-will offering or neither, it is up to you. We would like you to join us. If you know for certain or just think you will be attending, please phone Roxie or the office and let us know. If you have not phoned and realize you can attend please join us. We would love to have you!

Senior Fellowship for July will be held on July 12th. Grilled hamburgers, potato salad and watermelon will be provided. Please join us at 12:00 noon in the Fireside Room. You may bring a dish to pass, give a free-will offering or neither. Please phone ahead if you can.

Vacation Bible School will be held on June 14th-18th. This Day Camp is for grades 1-5 from 9 am to 3 pm on June 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th. On June 18th they will have a field trip from 9 am to 12 pm at Pioneer Village. Preschool through Kindergarten age children will attend on June 14th and 16th from 5:30-7:00 pm. The Closing Program will be on Thursday, June 17th from 5:30-7:00 pm. A light kid-friendly supper will be provided. This year's theme is "The Heart Project". *We will take registrations at the door on June 14th. Please be prepared to provide your child/children's immunization dates.*

High School Graduates – one of our high school graduates was inadvertently missed when we listed them in our May newsletter – Cody Melendrez. Sorry for this mistake.

★ Thank You! ★ ★

Thank you to Deb Langford (graduate quilt coordinator) who so graciously gave of her time to help make a lasting memory for our St. Matthew High School graduates.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR UPDATE

We thank and praise God for our new associate pastor, Pastor Joe Behnke, and his wife Katie! Tentative plans are that he will be ordained and installed at St. Matthew Lutheran Church on Sunday, August 8, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

Pastor Joe and Katie have been married for three years. Pastor Joe enjoys football and other active outdoor sports. Katie enjoys reading and photography. Both of them graduated from Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota. Katie received a BA in Early Childhood Education. She currently works as a preschool teacher. We welcome them to our family!

SUMMER WORSHIP at ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN

It's that time of year again! Here's the schedule for the summer months, *June – August*.

Sunday Worship

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship

Saturday Worship

6:00 p.m. Informal Traditional Worship
in the Chapel

Monday Night Worship

6:30 p.m. Blended Worship (hymns and praise songs) in the Chapel. Communion will be on the 1st and 3rd Mondays. *This service begins on June 7th.*

OFFERING REMINDER

Your FAITHFUL – REGULAR – WEEKLY offering commitment enables your congregation to meet important summer ministry commitments. If you intend to be away for several weeks, please consider mailing your offering to the Church Office. Your consideration will help our Treasurer to be faithful in her duties too! Thank you for your generosity. It's such a delight to see how God works through each one of us to be a blessing here in Worthington and around the world!

*Summer... a GREAT time to
GROW in the Lord!*

YOUTH NEWS

by Kim Rogers

May God continue to bless each of our 2010 graduates in their future endeavors. We look forward to welcoming the new freshmen who have just been confirmed. **A fellowship event has been planned for June 9th for just that purpose.** We will meet at St. Matthews at 5:00 pm and proceed to the Langseth cabin for fun, food, devotion, relaxation and fellowship. We will return to the church by 10:00 pm.??

We will again be making hoagies for the Regatta. Meet at the church at 9:00 am on June 12 to assemble the sandwiches. We will then set up at the Regatta for the lunch. Any time you have to offer will be a great help. We should be done by 2:00 pm. at the latest.

Any youth willing to help with Vacation Bible School please contact Roxie ASAP.

National Youth Gathering Update:

Our final payment is due on June 1st. If you haven't already done so please get your \$275.00 to Kim or Karen.

The following dates are mandatory bible studies for the National Youth Gathering:

June 6 @ 9:15am

June 27 @ 9:15am

July 11 @ 9:15am

If you cannot make it on Sunday morning we will hold a makeup study on Monday at 7:15 pm following the church service. We plan to leave St. Matthews on July 15th for the National Youth Gathering and return on July 22. It's right around the corner!! I hope you are all as excited as I am!!

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Miriam Circle will meet on Monday, June 21st at 1:30 p.m. at Dorothy J.'s home (Okabena Towers). In July, the Miriam Circle will meet on Monday, July 19th at 1:30 p.m. at Helen S.'s home. The Hope Circle will meet on Tuesdays, June 15th and July 20th at 6 p.m. in the Youth Room. The Sarah Circle will meet on Tuesdays, June 15th and July 20th at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Martha Circle will meet on Thursday, June 17th at 1:30 p.m. at Phyllis Henderson's home. The Mary Circle will meet on June 17th and July 15th at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

LWML NEWS

The monthly meeting of St. Matthew's LWML will be on **Thursday, June 3rd at 7 p.m.** in the basement fellowship hall. Mary Circle will be your hostess. We will plan the Ladies Night Out for July. The Sunday, June 20th coffee hour will be hosted by the Miriam Circle. The July meeting will be a **"Ladies Night Out" potluck on Thursday, July 8th at 6:00 p.m. in the basement fellowship hall.** ALL LADIES are invited to attend! Watch for more information in the Sunday

bulletins. The Sunday, July 18th coffee hour will be hosted by the Martha Circle. The LWML will also be doing devotions at Crossroads Care Center during the month of July on Wednesdays at 2 p.m. (30 minutes long). The schedule is as follows:

July 7 – Miriam Circle
July 14 – Sarah Circle
July 20 – Martha Circle
July 28 – Mary Circle

There will be NO regular meeting in August. The August 15th coffee hour will be hosted by the Sarah Circle.



ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Serving in June will be Sue F. and Carol O. at the 8 a.m. services and Alice W. and Marge R. at the 10:30 a.m. services. Serving in July will be Evelyn L. and Iva B. at the 8 a.m. services and Alice W. and Barb H. at the 10:30 a.m. services.

There will be NO meetings in June or July. If you would like to be a part of the Altar Guild; please contact Ilona B. at 376-5069.

MISSION SEWING

Do you like to quilt? Or would you like to learn how to quilt? Then join the ladies on Thursday, June 24th and/or July 22nd around 10 a.m. in the downstairs large classroom. If you have an hour or two, stop by and help out! There's always good fellowship!

Thanks to our Mission Sewing Quilters as they impact many lives with the gifts of quilts distributed through Orphan Grain Train.

HUMAN CARE COMMITTEE NEWS

Thank you to Ryan Schroeder (April) and Jeanette & Gordon Varuska (May) for driving the church van for the 10:30 worship service. Please contact Rita S., 376-9833 or the church office if

you would like to **help drive the van for the month of July.**

Thank you to Keith and Margaret Schroeder for driving twice to Sheldon, Iowa to deliver the donated shoes for Haiti for the Soles for Souls program. This project is on-going and thank you for the donations! One church van full of shoes plus 13 more boxes have been sent to date. Thanks to Bill Knigge for his help with securing boxes and packing shoes.

Our committee will meet on Wednesday, June 16th at 6 p.m. to organize packages to be sent to our soldiers for July 4th. Committee members please mark your calendars.

Please read the enclosed letter (in the center of this newsletter) from Village Northwest Unlimited.

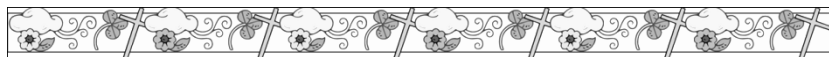
SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Every Sunday you are invited to join fellow worshippers following the 8 a.m. service for coffee, rolls and fellowship in the basement Fellowship Hall. A free-will donation is received to cover the expenses and benefit the various projects.

Maybe you or your church group would like to host a Sunday morning coffee fellowship? The first and second Sundays of the month there is opportunity for your group to host the coffee hour. Please see the sign-up sheet located on the wall, by the door in the basement fellowship hall. **Please sign-up at least two weeks in advance.**

Every third Sunday of the month, the LWML hosts the coffee hour with proceeds going to Seminary Students, Joel & Candy Brassfield.

Every fourth Sunday of the month the Youth (YPOGs) host the coffee hour, with proceeds going to support their various projects.



MUSIC NEWS

An accompanist/pianist is needed for the Senior Choir beginning in September. This is a paid position. The weekly rehearsals, led by Louise Clausen, Director, are Wednesdays from 7:00-8:00 pm. Please contact Colleen Braun for more information at 507-376-6168 (press 5) or braunc@frontier.com.

Shut-In Calls

During the months of June and July the Elders and Pastor Braun are attempting to visit all the shut-ins until Pastor Joe Behnke is installed on August 8th. If our shut-ins have a special need during those months, please contact Pastor Braun at 376-6168, ext. 3.

Dear St. Matthews Friends and Members,

In late February of this year I auditioned for Minnesota All-State Lutheran Choir (MASLC). Hundreds of high school students from the state of Minnesota audition for a place in this choir, and this year about 50 students were picked. I was very excited when I got my letter in the mail and found out that I will be singing as an alto in MASLC. This choir, established in 1969, is celebrating 41 years of serving God, and sharing the word through music, and talents. I will start the tour on June 11th and sing at Mount Carmel Ministries Camp in Alexandria, and learn the music for 6 days. Then after that I will tour throughout the state, traveling on charter bus, and staying with host families until June 30th. We will be singing 13 songs along with a musical entitled, "He's a Story Tellin' Man." Please share your support for the choir and me by keeping us in your

prayers. A complete list of my tour and performances can be found at the entrances of the church. Please attend if you are able, it would be nice to see a familiar face in the crowd.

In Christ,
Kayli Kuhl

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

The youth of St. Matthew's are still **collecting used inkjet cartridges** as a fundraiser. Please bring your used cartridges and deposit them in the box located by the youth room (in the basement across from the pop machine). What an easy way to help support the youth!

DONATION BOX

Do you have some eyeglasses to donate to the Lions Club? Or would you like to drop off a donation for the Food Shelf? You may place all these donations into "THE DONATION BOX" located in the north entryway! Just lift the lid and make your deposit!

REMINDER: St. Matthew's will **NOT be publishing a July Newsletter**. You will not receive a monthly newsletter until August. A conclusion was made that not enough information or activities are happening to include in the July Newsletter to warrant the postage cost. Please feel free to contact the church office if you have any questions about upcoming events. Also, check the weekly service bulletins for information on upcoming events.

NEW No. 2 lead pencils are needed for an orphanage in Tanzania. Please place these pencils in the boxes located at either entrance to the church by Sunday, June 20th. Thank you.

MONTHLY SUDANESE WORSHIP SERVICE

A monthly Sudanese service, in their native language, is held the **third Sunday of every month** in our Chapel at 12 noon.

ATTENTION YOUTH WORSHIP HELPERS

JUNE & JULY ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>8 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
June 6	Jessica A	Torey R
June 13	Eric F	Shelby F
June 20	Alexandra S	Caleb K
June 27	Morgan S	Austin S
July 4	Joshua VW	Stephen D
July 11	Amber P	Tyree M
July 18	Brendan S	Mason K
July 25	Michael P	Torey R
August 1	Jessica A	Shelby F

JUNE & JULY NURSERY SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>8 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
June 6	Joshua VW	Stephen D
June 13	Amber P	Tyree M
June 20	Jessica A	Mason K
June 27	Michael P	Torey R
July 4	Brendan S	Shelby F
July 11	Eric F	Austin S
July 18	Morgan S	Caleb K
July 25	Alexandra S	Stephen D
August 1	Joshua VW	Tyree M

Please remember to arrive at least 15 minutes before the service begins. If you cannot fulfill your scheduled date, please find a

replacement and call the church office with the change, 376-6168. Thank You

*PARENTS - thank you for supervising in the nursery when your student is scheduled. It is so important that we have an adult in the nursery as well. If you are unable to be with your child, please contact the church. Thanks Again!

JUNE & JULY GREETERS SCHEDULE

Please Note: If you are unable to fulfill your scheduled time, please find someone to switch with and then let the church office know of the change. Thank You.

****If you would like to be a Greeter, please contact Bev in the church office and she will add you to the list!***

June 6	8:00 am	Stan & Betty H; Dan & Ruth R
	10:30 am	Helen S; Carol C
June 13	8:00 am	Elden P; Deloris L
	10:30 am	Marvin & Corky S; Crystal B
June 20	8:00 am	YOUTH
	10:30 am	YOUTH
June 27	8:00 am	Gary & Velma C; Bob W
	10:30 am	Chris & Stacy H; Joel & Kim R
July 4	8:00 am	Harold & Berdina H; Robert O
	10:30 am	George & Bonnie H; Arlene B
July 11	8:00 am	John & Janice G; David & LaVonne H
	10:30 am	Byron & Marlene B; Marlene J
July 14	8:00 am	Myron & Sandy M; Paul & Kelly K
	10:30 am	Ken & Eunice K; Don & Lorna B
July 25	8:00 am	YOUTH
	10:30 am	YOUTH

Aug. 1 8:00 am Keith & Margaret S;
Dave & LuAnn P
10:30 am Don & Lorna B; Don & Emma F

