

# March 2010

## **FROM THE PASTOR**

“I Am Sorry”: The Way to Life

It has been said that the three most meaningful words a woman can hear from her husband are “I love you!” While that is definitely true, I would add three more words that not only every woman, but also all spouses should hear from each other: “I am sorry.”

I recently read about an experience another pastor had when a parishioner came into his office. This woman confided in the pastor by telling him that in almost forty years of marriage her husband had never said, “I’m sorry,” even once. The woman went on to say that her husband was a good man, never raised his voice to her, never struck her, and on the whole, was a loving husband. But when he was definitely wrong about either big or small things, he never admitted that he was sorry. The woman concluded by saying, “We’ve had a good marriage for almost forty years. But if he had said those three words-‘I am sorry’-we would have experienced a great marriage!”

In 1 John chapter one, under the subtitle “Walking in the Light” we find these words, “*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*” 1 John 1:7-9.”

The love of Jesus for us at Calvary...His death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins...and His triumphant resurrection from the dead enables us to confess our sins to God and to one another. Christ’s love, and only that love of Jesus, enables us to say “I am sorry.” Repentance is not just to be a way of life; it is the way to life, a great life in Christ!

In Christ,

*Pastor Braun*



**There are FREE 2010 Lenten Devotional booklets available at either entrance to the church. Stop by and pick up a copy today!**

## **WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN SERVICES**

Ash Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> began our Lenten worship services. Services will be held each Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Supper is served beginning at 5:30 p.m. (free-will donations will be received). In the main sanctuary, a short hymn-sing will help prepare hearts for worship, beginning at ten minutes to seven. Following the evening service a light dessert will be served in the church basement.

## ***Youth and Family News***

***By Roxann Leckband***

**Grades Pre-school through 3<sup>rd</sup>** will be participating in the Palm Sunday service on **March 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.** The children may remain with their classroom teachers until it is time to process into the 10:30 service with their palm branches. If your child is in need of transportation to Sunday school please contact Roxie at the church 376-6168; this is so very important that every child be blessed with the opportunity to learn about Jesus their Lord and Savior. I look forward to seeing all of our children in Sunday School.

**Grades 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>** will be participating in the **April 11<sup>th</sup> 10:30 a.m.** worship service. The youth will be

telling the Easter story through song and word. The title of the musical is Alive Forever by Gambill and Rhonda Frazier. This musical shares the Easter story in a fun and exciting kid-friendly way. We would like to see ALL children in grades 4-8 participating. If your child needs transportation please contact Roxie at 376-6168. We will make every effort to get your child/children here.

Let us work together to follow our Lord's command of bringing our children unto Him.

**Rehearsal Times** for the Alive Forever musical will be:

- March 27<sup>th</sup> (*speaking parts only*) 10-11 a.m.
- April 10<sup>th</sup> (*ALL students participating*) 10-11 a.m.

Meet in the main Sanctuary for rehearsal.



**Journey to the Cross** will take place on March 28<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-5:00 p.m. with a light, kid friendly meal served at 5:30. Journey to the Cross will lead you down the road to Calvary and the path to the empty tomb. This experiential Easter event will deepen your appreciation for the Passion of Christ. Touch, taste, smell, see, hear and experience Bible events in real and memorable ways. Meet your tour guide and a small group of travelers at the Customs Station. Get your Passport, your finger prints done and check in. Go with your guide to Holy Land stations to meet people portraying Bible characters who describe Passion events. Get actively involved by waving Palm branches, tasting Passover foods, and doing crafts. Collect *Passport Stickers* to create a souvenir book that recalls Holy Week and this experience. Journey to the Cross is intended to be a family activity. *Adults should accompany their child/children and assist them throughout the adventure.* Journey to the Cross is **an event for everyone of all ages**, with or without children, come and join us.

**Board of Education** meets on March 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. for the regular monthly meeting. Board of Education will also meet on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. to prepare for Journey to the Cross. Plan to meet in the church basement. Please make every effort to attend!

**National Youth Gathering** leaders' meeting will be hosted by St. Matthew's for our neighboring congregations. The meeting will be held on March 20<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

**Family Ministry:** Young Family Night will be postponed from March 21<sup>st</sup> to March 28<sup>th</sup> from 4-5 p.m. with a "light, kid friendly" meal to follow. We encourage the young families to participate in the Journey to the Cross. A great family event!

**Mom's Group** for March will be held on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Come enjoy Christian fellowship with other moms raising their children in today's society. Moms share the joys, and the struggles they have raising their children in the Christian faith. The moms will be in the "Word" with study and devotion. The children will have fun with a story from the Bible, crafts, singing, snacks and play! Come join us for the entire time or for part of the time. Flexibility is very important. Please contact Roxie with any questions you may have, 376-6168.



**F.Y.I.** for you who plan many months ahead **VBS Day Camp** is scheduled for **June 14-18 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m.-12 p.m. on Friday**. This Day Camp is for children who have completed Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. *Pre-school and those children entering Kindergarten in the fall will be held on Monday and Wednesday evenings (June 14 and 16) from 5:30-7:00 p.m.*

**Senior (mature adult) Fellowship Dinner** will be held on Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon in the Fireside Room. Salisbury steak, cole slaw, dinner roll, mashed potatoes and gravy will be served. Come and enjoy! You may bring a dessert or salad if you wish although, it is not necessary. A free-will donation is taken if you desire. Please call Roxie if you think or know for sure you will be coming; we look forward to seeing you.

## YOUTH NEWS (YPOGs)

**Sweetheart Banquet** – Thank you to all who supported the youth with the sweetheart banquet held on February 21<sup>st</sup>. The youth board and youth of St. Matthew's would like to thank all who supported the youth in volunteering to work, providing donations for the silent auction, purchasing items from the silent auction and for attending the Sweetheart Banquet. Our youth is blessed to have such a supportive congregation. We look forward to the National Youth Gathering with great anticipation and excitement as we see how God works through the event to build and strengthen their faith, thanks be to God.

**Youth Meetings** – the youth will be meeting on Wednesdays, March 3, 10, 17, and 24 **at 8 p.m.** in the youth room. The youth will be preparing for the National Youth Gathering with devotion, fellowship and hand ministry rehearsals.

**Youth Board Meeting** will be on Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m. in the youth room.

**Butterbraid Fundraiser** – the youth will be selling butterbraids for \$10 each. Sales will begin on Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> and run until March 10<sup>th</sup>. The braids will arrive on March 17<sup>th</sup>, just in time for Easter. Plan your Easter menu to include a delicious butterbraid and help support the youth at the same time!



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup>!**

### Human Care Committee

Thank you to Duane Rogers for driving the church van for February. **We still need drivers for April, June and August.** Please contact Rita S. (376-9833) or the church office (376-6168) if you are interested in helping with this task. **No special driver's license is required.**

We sent packages to three overseas soldiers for Valentine's Day.

**March is Minnesota Food Share month.** Please consider this project. You may place your donations in the wooden box in our north entrance by the elevator. Monetary donations can be mailed to the **Worthington Christian Church Food Shelf, 1501 N. Douglas Ave., Worthington, MN 56187.**

### WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Miriam Circle will meet on Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. at Lela H.'s home (The Homestead). The

Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in the Youth Room. The Sarah Circle will host the "Friendship Supper" on March 16<sup>th</sup> for those persons with disabilities in the Worthington area. The Martha Circle will meet on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. at Ilona B.'s home. The Mary Circle will meet on Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

### LWML NEWS

The LWML will meet on March 4<sup>th</sup> in the Chapel for a special "Prayer Service" at 7 p.m. The regular meeting of the LWML will follow the service. Hostesses will be the Miriam Circle. The March 21<sup>st</sup> coffee hour will also be hosted by the Miriam Circle. On March 16<sup>th</sup> we will be serving the annual Friendship Supper for persons with disabilities in the Worthington area.

### ALTAR GUILD

Serving in March will be Deloris L. and Jean B. at the 8 a.m. services; and Berdina H. and Marge R. at the 10:30 a.m. services. Our next monthly meeting of the Altar Guild will take place on Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. If you would like to be a part of the Altar Guild, please come to the meeting or contact Ilona B., 376-5069.



If you know when you would like to put flowers on the Altar throughout the year, please sign-up right away. **The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please make sure you sign up at least 2 weeks in advance (minimum).** Please contact Iva B. at 727-4381 if you have any questions. Thank You.

### MISSION SEWING

The monthly Mission Sewing group will be meeting on Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. in the downstairs large room of the education wing. The loyal ladies would love to add some new members to their group. If you have always wanted to learn how to quilt, come down for an hour or two and give it a try!

### SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Would you like to host one of the Sunday morning coffee fellowship hours? The sign-up sheet is on the wall in the basement close to the kitchen.

Each Sunday morning you are invited to join fellow worshippers, following the 8 a.m. service, in the basement for coffee and fellowship. A free will donation is received to cover the costs and benefit the various projects.

The first and second Sundays of the month, there is opportunity for those church committees/groups wishing to host a coffee hour. Please see the sign-up sheet in the basement. **Please sign-up at least two weeks in advance.**

The third Sunday of the month, the LWML sponsors the coffee hour as a fundraiser to help support Seminary Students, Joel & Candy Brassfield. *On that Sunday there is also a door offering following the church services, which also goes to support our Seminary students.*

The fourth Sunday of the month, the YOUTH (YPOGs) sponsor the coffee hour. Free-will donations are

received to help support their trip to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July, 2010.

## **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

The Men's Bible Study group that usually meets every other Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Youth room - will NOT be meeting during March. They will start again on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **MISSION MATTERS**

An after-school program is tentatively being planned for the first week of April through the last week of May. All children in the 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades are invited to attend. A change being made this year is that the program will probably run two days per week, Wednesday and Friday. This year's study entitled, "*Firm Foundation*" will actively engage the children in learning God's character and personality. Please refer to future Sunday bulletins for all the final details.

## ***THANK YOU NOTES***

*A sincere thank you to Pastor Braun for his phone calls and prayer after my "visit" to the hospital emergency room on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>; and to Jodi Schroeder for her help and assistance in church on that Sunday. It was very much appreciated. God bless you both.*

*Bill Henderson*

*Thank you so very much to all who sent me cards for my "80<sup>th</sup>" birthday and for all of the happy birthday wishes I received. Thank you and God bless all of you.*

*Bill Henderson*

*Thank you to Pastor Braun for his prayers and visits and to my friends for the prayers, cards, and phone calls during my stay in the hospital and when I returned home. God bless you all.*

*Lorraine Buss*

*A special thank you to our church family for the cards, food, hugs, memorials and comfort you have given upon the sudden death of Andrea. We continue to need your prayers and hugs as we heal.*

*God's blessings,*

*Lennie & Marge Ruesch & family*

*Curt Chergosky*

*We thank the members of St. Matthew's for their prayers and acknowledgements following Orville's surgery, our anniversary and the passing of Orville's father. God Bless!*

*Orville & Joyce Baumann*

*I would like to express my sincere thanks to the members of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church and to Rev. Tom Braun for the prayers for my mother, Dorothy E. Petrich, and for the support and prayers for me and my family. Your cards and sympathy for her loss were greatly appreciated.*

*Kathy Rockney and family*

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS March 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Remember to set your clocks ahead!**



### **Annual Voters' Meeting Notes**

*All Committee Reports from the Annual Voters' Meeting held on Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> will be included in the 2010 Annual Report/Directory – due to be published and made available to all congregation members in March.*

### **Special Voters' Meeting Note**

The Voting Assembly of St. Matthew Lutheran Church on February 21, 2010 issued a divine call for a Seminary graduate who would serve as Associate Pastor beginning in August, 2010.



### **MISCELLANEOUS NOTES**

The 2010 Annual Report/Directory will be completed soon – watch for more information in the weekly bulletins for when you can pick up your copy.

*Please remember that with the enactment of the **Patient Privacy Laws**, hospitals are no longer able to release any patient information. That includes admittance for any reason. In that regard, if you or a loved one are hospitalized or are anticipating hospitalization, please call the church office so that visitations can be arranged.*

**Please help the church to reduce our postage costs.** If you move, or know someone who has moved, please contact the church office with the **new address** as soon as possible. The post office charges us between \$.50 - \$1.50 per piece of undeliverable mail.

We have also noticed that many of the **phone numbers** we have on record for our members are no longer in service. If you have a change in your phone number, please also contact the church office with that change. Thank you.

### **YELLOW CARING CARDS**

When filling out the yellow caring cards in the pews, please fill them out completely (include all first names of those attending) and every time you are at worship.

Volunteers may help with entering the data on these cards and may not be familiar with all members. Encourage guests seated next to you to use them as well. Your help in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

## ***SENIOR CHOIR REHEARSALS***

During Lent, Senior Choir Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays from 6-6:45 p.m. until March 24<sup>th</sup>, regular rehearsal times will resume on March 31<sup>st</sup> (7-8 p.m.).

### Additional Senior Choir Rehearsals include:

Sundays – March 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

*(short rehearsals from 9-9:15 a.m. in the church balcony)*

Senior Choir is singing for service on March 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, so there will be a pre-service run through at 7:30 a.m.

Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup> the Senior Choir, handbells and instruments will participate in the service on the hymn, “*When You Woke That Thursday Morning.*”



## ***LOOKING AHEAD... HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE***

### ***PALM SUNDAY (Sunday, March 28)***

For Christians, the events of the first Holy Week hold extraordinary importance. Listen to the Apostle Paul's concise summary of the Gospel's good news, reflected in the all that we celebrate: “*He (Jesus) was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification*” (Romans 4:25). Our Holy Week services remind us of the great cost of our redemption and the wonder of our forgiveness.

### ***MAUNDY THURSDAY (Thursday, April 1 at 7 p.m.)***

*A special service of worship and prayer, remembering "the night Christ was betrayed" and the institution of the blessed Sacrament of*

*Holy Communion. The service concludes with the somber "stripping of the altar," reminding us of the humiliation Jesus suffered at the hands of his enemies.*

### ***GOOD FRIDAY (Friday, April 2 at 7 p.m.)***

*We mark the day of Christ's crucifixion with a service called "Tenebrae" (a service of progressive darkness remembering the awesome sacrifice of Christ). The Word of God combined with great hymns of faith portray the great cost of the cross, and the amazing grace of God.*

### ***VIGIL OF EASTER (Saturday, April 3 at 6 p.m.)***

*Historically, the service of the Easter Vigil, beginning on Easter Eve, was the greatest of the Church year. This was the night when the Paschal candle was lighted, a symbol of Christ as the Light of the World. On this night, those who were to*

*be baptized assembled with the faithful to celebrate Christ's resurrection.*

*We will gather in the main sanctuary for a service of light, of prayer and the Word, and of Baptismal remembrance, as we anticipate the glad "Hosannas" of Easter morn!*

*EASTER SUNDAY (Sunday, April 4, at 7a.m. and 10:30 a.m.!)*

*Celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord! Proclaim "Christ is risen; He is risen indeed!" Recall the impact of the Empty Tomb. NOTHING can ever be the same again.*

## MARCH WORSHIP HELPERS

### ACOLYTES

	<u>8 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
March 3	7 p.m. – Amber P.	
March 7	Jessica A.	Stephen D.
March 10	7 p.m. – Eric F.	
March 14	Brendan S.	Tyree M.
March 17	7 p.m. – Caleb K.	
March 21	Summer R.	Torey R.
March 24	7 p.m. – Joshua VanW.	
March 28	Alexandra S.	Shelby F.
April 1	7 p.m. – Morgan S.	
April 2	7 p.m. – Michael P.	
April 3	6 p.m. – Tyree M.	
April 4	(7 AM) Jessica A.	Stephen D.

### NURSERY

	<u>8 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
March 3	7 p.m. – Torey R.	
March 7	Eric F.	Shelby F.
March 10	7 p.m. – Austin S.	
March 14	Summer R.	Stephen D.
March 17	7 p.m. – Alexandra S.	
March 21	Morgan S.	Tyree M.
March 24	7 p.m. – Mason K.	
March 28	Joshua VanW.	Torey R.
April 1	7 p.m. – Brighid H.	
April 2	7 p.m. – Jessica A.	
April 3	7 p.m. – Caleb K.	
April 4	(7 AM) Brendan S.	Shelby F.

***If you are unable to fulfill your scheduled time, please find a replacement and then phone the church office with the change. Thank You!***

\*PARENTS – Thank you for supervising in the nursery while your student is scheduled for that service. If you cannot be with your student, please contact the church office, we have a list of substitute adults willing to fill-in for supervising. THANK YOU

## MARCH GREETERS SCHEDULE

**DATE      TIME**

March 3	7 PM	George & Bonnie H.; Bob P.
March 7	8 AM 10:30	Barry & Kerry S.; Dave & LuAnn P. LaDean & Lori F.; Arlene B.
March 10	7 PM	Joel & Kim R.; Deloris L.
March 14	8 AM 10:30	Allen & Connie R.; Dean & Phyllis L. Helen S.; Carol C.
March 17	7 PM	Clarence & Twyla M.; Byron & Marlene B.
March 21	8 AM 10:30	Lee & Elaine J.; Virgil & Donna R. Chris & Stacy H.; Marlene J.
March 24	7 PM	Alan & Gail D.; Donna L.
March 28		YOUTH (both services)
April 1	7 PM	Henry & LaVonne P.; Don & Emma F.
April 2	7 PM	Doug & Rhona K.; Marvin & Corky S.
April 3	6 PM	Ken & Eunice K.; Karen M.
April 4	7 AM 10:30	Gene & Iva B.; Ray & Vernice K. Joel & Julie L.; Bruce & Bev K.

***If you are unable to fulfill your scheduled time, please try to switch with someone and then phone the church office with the change. Thank You!***