

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN
April 2015 Newsletter

Dear Members of St. Matthews,

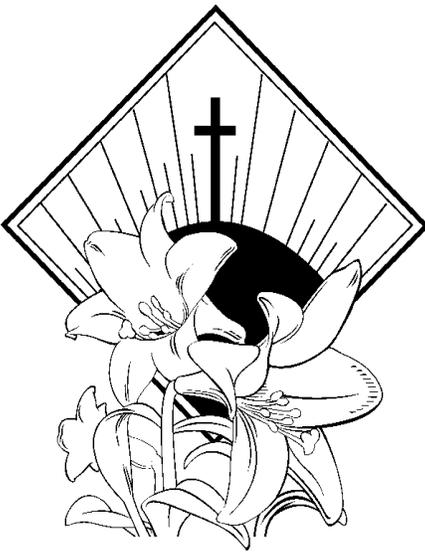
It is with a sense of excitement and joy towards what lies ahead, and with gratitude for what has been, I accept the call to serve as Administrative Pastor of St. Matthews Lutheran Church of Worthington, Minnesota. I look forward to ministering among you in Christ's name and toward our shared purpose of proclaiming God's grace in word and deed. Please, hold us in prayer, as we hold you in ours during this time of transition. We look forward to being with you in a few months.

May our gracious God continue to bless your Lenten pilgrimage, as we journey to the cross and empty tomb. "Come let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" Hebrews 12:2.

In the Love of Christ,
Pastor Mark Schreiber

***We are working towards a May 31 Installation Date for Pastor Schreiber. Please watch for more information.**

**HOLY WEEK WORSHIP
SERVICE SCHEDULE**



April 2- **Maundy Thursday** worship service with communion at 6:30PM

April 3 – **Good Friday** worship service at 6:30PM

April 5 – EASTER SUNDAY

7:00AM Sunrise worship service with communion

8:30AM Traditional worship service with communion

10:30AM Contemporary worship service

***Easter Breakfast will be served from 8:00-10:00AM in the basement.*

From Pastor Brech

THE EASTER ANGEL'S MESSAGE

"And he said to them, 'Be not afraid: You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified:

He is risen; He is not here:

Behold the place where they laid Him. But go your way, tell His disciples and Peter that He goes before you into Galilee:

There shall you see Him, as He said to you." --Mark 16:6-7

On Easter Sunday we Christians mark once again, as we do each and every year, the most significant, the most essential, the most glorious, and to be sure the most comforting festival on our church calendar: The Festival of the *Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, from the Dead*. Indeed, the event we commemorate on Easter Day is absolutely central to our entire Christian faith, as central as the hub is to a wheel; for virtually every fundamental doctrine of Holy Scripture is inseparably linked to the *fact* of Christ's resurrection --either pointing to it, stemming from it, or depending upon it! In fact, Jesus' life here on earth, His entire public ministry, and His death on the cross for the sins of the world --all would be for NOTHING if He had not truly risen from His grave on Easter morning! For Jesus of Nazareth would have been the greatest fool, fraud, and "flim-flam" con-artist the world had ever seen, a liar and deceiver without equal in the annals of history! And WE, His disciples, would be fools as well to have fallen for His "line" and placed our confidence in Him! The devil, of course, would have us, and all men for that matter, believe precisely that very thing about the Savior and His mighty resurrection; for Satan deeply resents that final and ultimate victory which Jesus won over him when He rose from the dead on the third day! And so the Foe's adherents have, from that very moment, sought to discredit, disprove, and even poke fun at the resurrection account in hopes of destroying our most holy faith and leading us to everlasting destruction! But these enemies of Christ and His Word are doomed to failure from the outset, for they fly in the face of the TRUTH, of established FACT, of incontrovertible EVIDENCE and eye-witness TESTIMONY. For *Jesus of Nazareth did in fact rise from His grave* on Easter Sunday morning after having *died* the previous Friday afternoon! His true death was certified by *objective medical evidence* and by *professional evaluation*, and His true life after His resurrection was amply demonstrated "*by many infallible proofs*" (Acts 1:3). Consequently, the claims of unbelieving scoffers notwithstanding, the FACT of the Lord's resurrection speaks for itself!

Family and Youth News

By Roxann Leckband

Mom's/young women's group will be on April 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th from 10:00-11:30AM. On April 3rd - Good Friday we will be decorating Easter eggs so moms please bring some hard boiled eggs. You may bring as many as you would like to assist your child in decorating. I will have the dye etc. If you would like to bring something special or favorite colors feel free to do so. If your children are older or you do not have any children join us anyway for a time in the Word and Christian fellowship, we have a great time!

The April Family Night will be on Sunday April 19th from 5:00 to 6:30PM. We will grill at Mallard Walker Park (across from the church). In case of rain, we will meet in the church. It should be fun. We will have an adult/parent topic to discuss and the children will have fun with a devotion and games.

Young Adult Night will be on Monday, April 27th at 6:30PM. Let's meet at the Hickory Lodge for Christian fellowship, a Biblical devotion and of course great food! Invite a friend we look forward to seeing you.

Attention Parents there will be NO Sunday school on Easter Sunday April 5th.

Attention Confirmation youth there will be NO Confirmation on Wednesday, April 1st. The expectation is you will be attending Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter worship services. These worship services will give you a great opportunity to get some extra sermon notes done along with worshipping your Lord. Have a very blessed Holy Week.

The Confirmand Reception and Faith Statements will be on Wednesday, April 29th at 6:00PM. Please be praying for our Confirmands during this very important time in their lives.

The Rite of Confirmation service will be on Sunday, May 3rd at 2:00pm. Please note that this will be a worship service, everyone is invited.

Noon Fellowship will be on Monday, April 13th at 12:00PM. Ham and cheesy hash browns will be the main entrée' and dinner rolls will also be provided. Please join us for our Easter meal and celebration. You may bring a dish to pass, a monetary donation or just bring yourself. We will enjoy good friends, good food and a time in God's Word. We hope you will join us!

Mark your calendars for VBS June 15th-19th from 9:00AM-3:00PM.

Please note the lime green insert in this newsletter for our youth happenings.



FARMERS AND GARDENERS

Every spring we pause to ask God's blessing on the seed to be planted, those who labor in the fields, and the timely weather so necessary for abundant growth. This year we will observe the annual "*Blessing of the Seed*" at each of our 3 services the weekend of April 18 & 19, 2014.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 21st at 5:15 p.m. in the youth room. The Sarah Circle will also meet on Tuesday, April 21st at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Miriam Circle will meet on Monday, April 20th at Lela Haller's (the Homestead). The Martha Circle will meet on Thursday, April 16th at 1:30 p.m. at Deloris Lohr's home.

CHURCH RECORDS

Wedding

- Becky Duehn and Reid Strand were united in marriage on March 7, 2015.

New Members

- Ryan & Sarah Kesler; Dale & Laura Bosma; Pat & Teresa Riley and children Jasmine, Ashley & Calah Ling; Tyler Engelkes; Amanda Nasers.
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ALTAR GUILD

Serving in April will be Velma Cortright and LaVonne Holt at the 8 a.m. services and the Maundy Thursday, April 2nd service. If you would like to be a part of the Altar Guild please contact Velma Cortright, 376-5600 or Sandy Meyer 376-6290.

Music and Worship News

“Adoring praises now we bring. And with the heavenly blessed sing: “Christ has triumphed, Alleluia”.
LSB 465 “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”

We will joyfully sing our Alleluias in praise to our risen Lord and Savior on Easter Sunday, April 5.
Please join us for our Sunrise Worship at 7:00 AM, Traditional Worship with Festival Choir and Brass
at 8:30 AM, and our Contemporary Worship at 10:30.

Please don't overlook our other worship services during Holy Week--for without the suffering of the
cross there would be no Easter resurrection. We celebrate the institution of the Lord's Supper on
Maundy Thursday, April 2, where Christ offers His disciples--and all of us--His true Body and Blood
for the forgiveness of our sins. Our Maundy Thursday worship service is at 6:30 PM and will include
our worship band as well as traditional hymns and special music.

We remember Christ's bitter suffering and death at our Good Friday service at 6:30 PM, April 3.
Through worship, word, and song, we remember Jesus' ultimate sacrifice as he walked the “Via
Dolorosa”--the way of suffering-- for you and me.

The music staff appreciates all who have participated musically in our Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter
services. This includes all who chose hymns and participated in our weekly hymn sings! We appreciate
your willingness to share your musical gifts, large or small.

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

God's Blessings,

Lorenda Glade, Interim Director of Traditional Music

Susan Hansberger, Amy Khamphanh, Interim Directors of Contemporary Music

FLOWER CALENDAR

The 2015 Flower Calendar is on the bulletin board in the Narthex (back of the church). If you would
like to beautify our church on a specific Sunday with a bouquet of flowers, please sign up on the
designated date on the calendar. **Please sign-up at least two weeks in advance.** You will be
contacted as to what kind of flowers you would like and how you would like it printed in the bulletin.
If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Ramert, 372-7225 or the church office.

LWML NEWS

There will not be an LWML Meeting in April. However, all are invited to attend the Worthington
Zone LWML Spring Rally HERE at St. Matthew Lutheran Church on Saturday, April 18. Registration
and coffee begins at 8:30 a.m. The Guest Speaker is Reverend John Grein. He will speak on Christians
in a Secular World. Lunch will be served after the program. In-gathering is cleaning supplies for Love
INC. Supplies such as paper towels, toilet bowl cleaner and brush, shower cleaner, window cleaner,
furniture polish wipes, etc. may be brought for a donation to Love INC. Registration cost is \$5.00.
ALL ladies of the congregation are welcome to attend.

Ladies please note: the Sunday, April 19th coffee hour will be hosted by the Hope Circle.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church - VOTERS MEETING

Sunday, April 26 at 11:45 a.m.

All active, Confirmed Members who are 18 years of age or older are considered voting members and are encouraged to attend.

Y.I. Club Stamp Program

Thank you again to all who participated in the Y. I. Challenge. Trinity Lone Oak School in Eagan were the winners, but St. Matthew placed two weeks in a row! I'd say that was something to be proud of!

April 26th will be the last Sunday for Y. I. Stamp sales for this school year. We will continue again in the fall when Sunday School begins. Letters will be sent to all current stamp savers letting you know how many more stamps are needed to fill your current sheet. Don't forget, you can always send LCEF a check along with the child's name and account number to add funds to their account. Keep track of the dollar amount sent in and I will add a brick to our church bulletin board for each \$25 added to their account. I hope everyone has a great summer, and I will see you again in the fall!

God bless,
LaVonne Berglund

EVANGELISM NEWS

We welcome anyone who is interested to please join our committee. We also welcome any ideas and suggestions.

THANK YOU to the volunteers who helped serve 307 meals at the Banquet in Sioux Falls, on January 31st. Our service event was a blessing to many! We are continuing with the Banquet collection of used silverware, Cool Whip containers, plastic grocery bags, hotel shampoo/lotion – the collection box is the basement.

The PRAYER INTERCESSORS for the 7-8th grade Confirmation students are invited and encouraged to attend the Confirmation Reception/Faith Statements on Wednesday, April 29th at 6 PM in the church basement. Both the 7th and 8th grade students, for whom you have been praying, will be present at the Confirmation Reception. During the reception, the Prayer Intercessors will be introduced to the student, they have been praying for. A card, for your student, is welcomed, NO GIFTS, please. The Evangelism Board would like to thank each of you for your commitment to pray for the youth of St. Matthew. *Ruth 2:12 "May the Lord repay you for what you have done."*

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



You are invited to join fellow worshippers, following the 8 a.m. service for coffee and fellowship each Sunday morning. A free-will donation is received to cover the costs and benefit the various projects. **Would your church group like to host one of the Sunday morning coffee fellowship hours?** The sign-up sheet is hung on the wall in the basement close to the kitchen. The first, second and fifth Sundays of the month, there is opportunity for your church group/committee to host the coffee hour. The third Sunday of the month, the LWML sponsors the coffee hour. The fourth Sunday of the month, the Youth (YPOGs) sponsor the coffee hour. **Please sign-up at least two weeks in advance.**

THANK YOU NOTES

Many thanks for your prayers and thoughts for me on my recent surgery. You will be blessed. Thanks again.

Phyl Leistico

A special thank you to Dean Leistico for making us more beautiful flower stands to match our current stands.

St. Matthew's Altar Guild

Thank you to everyone that helped with the Friendship Supper that we hosted on March 18th for our local disabled community. Your help was very much appreciated.

St. Matthew's LWML Members

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

With high school graduation approaching, the need for tables and chairs arises. Just a reminder, if you would like to borrow something from the church, **you must check with the church office FIRST**. Please do NOT remove any tables or chairs from the bus garage or church without first checking the "borrow schedule" in the church office! Arrangements must be made through the church office for pickup and return times. We have already received a few borrow requests – **get your name on the list early!** Thank you.

CABLE 3 TV – There have been some technical difficulties being experienced with the Cable 3 TV broadcast of our worship services. Please be aware the Cable 3 TV personnel are working on correcting the problem. Our 8AM worship service is now broadcast twice per week – Sundays at 11AM and Mondays at 11AM. For the best viewing, please use the following cable channels: for WOW customers – use channel 95 and for Mediacom customers use channel 17. Channel 3 also has the service on it – but you are not able to see the whole screen due to the weather information being on that channel.

TECHNICAL CREW NEEDED: We are in need of some additional tech crew people. Are you interested in running the sound board, doing the camera or running the projector for the screen? "*Many hands make less work!*" We are very flexible with the scheduling; and the training isn't difficult either! Please contact Bev in the church office, or pop up to the balcony during a service to see what it all involves and ask questions of the current operators!

CHURCH DIRECTORY: We will be printing a 2015 Church Directory soon. Do we have your correct mailing address and phone number to include in our directory? Please contact the church office to make any changes necessary. Thank you for keeping your contact information up to date!

ATTENTION SOFTBALL PLAYERS: St. Matthew Lutheran Church will be having a softball team this year! So, please sign up for the St. Matthew Lutheran team and support our church! This would allow the teams to be more equally skilled and make it more competitive when playing other teams with greater experience. We are looking for 15 year olds and up to be a part of the team. The team will have matching T-shirts this year! I look forward to a great year! Watch for the sign-up sheet to be in the Great Hall SOON.



NEWS FROM BEHIND THE SCENES

Here are "highlights" from the monthly Council Meeting, March 10, 2014.

Special Presentation – Camp Omega: Gayle & Cort Baumgard of Round Lake shared a video presentation on a proposed addition of an adult and family retreat center to Camp Omega in Waterville, MN. The estimated cost of the project is \$3.3 million. More information will be given at our Voters Meeting in April.

Treasurer's Report: Expenses for February of \$28,995.35; income of \$32,094.61 for net income for the month of \$3,099.26. Building Loan balance at \$147,023.73. Memorial Fund balance at \$25,005.77. Scholarship Fund is at \$639,099.74.

Pastor Brech: Currently have 7 adult confirmands attending classes. Classes should be completed by Easter. Lenten season is going well. Conducting hospital calls and shut-in visits.

Roxann Leckband: Pastor James Ruey will lead our Sudanese worship on March 15. Confirmation Sunday will be May 3rd with the Rite of Confirmation in the afternoon. Sunday school students are working on preparations for Palm Sunday. Mom's/Young Women's Group continues with one new member and potentially another new member.

Board of Elders: Elders conducting questioning of confirmands. If a confirmand does not appear to know the information, letters will be sent to their parents. There are still some 2015 offering envelopes to be delivered. Suggested that these be hand-delivered by the Elders and used as an evangelism tool.

Trustees: Considering the purchase of an additional canoe for BSA Troop 134. Church service broadcasts are still having issues and continues to be worked on.

Board of Education: Vacation Bible School, staffed by Camp Omega, will be conducted June 15-19. May 17 will be the last day of Sunday School. Sunday school attendance has declined since Christmas.

Board of Evangelism: Hosted the Lenten supper on March 4th and took in donations of \$358. Prayer Intercissors for 7th & 8th graders will be invited to the Confirmation Reception/Faith Statements on April 29th.

Board of Human Care: GAP ministry work continues.

Other Business: Nominating Committee of Bob Westphal, Bryon Spittle, Bev Kness, Arnie Ihrke and LaDean Fletcher will meet soon to develop a list of candidates to be posted by March 26th. President Mike Traphagen to appoint a new Stewardship Chair Elect and a new President of the Congregation. Council members updated President Traphagen on the presentation made in February by Brian Froderman of Love INC.

New Business: New Administrative Pastor Schreiber will be joining St. Matthew in mid-May.

Other: Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 13 at 7 p.m. Please note date change.

Announcing Vine and Branches 2015 An Annual Conference for Lutherans in Southern Minnesota April 11, 2015 from 9:30am – 3:30pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 604 Bush St, Lakefield, MN

The theme *Broken: If we can just....* will be addressed at this year's Vine and Branches Conference. This year's speaker is Rev. Jonathan Fisk of www.worldvieweverlasting.com. The cost is free and the meal is included if you register by April 6. To register, or for more information, visit www.vineandbranchesconference.org or call 507-839-3086.

APRIL WORSHIP HELPERS

****Please take note of the service times, especially on Easter Sunday – April 5th.***

*****You should arrive 15 minutes before service is scheduled to begin.***

ACOLYTES

April 2 – Maundy Thursday – 6:30 p.m. = Faith Arnt

April 3 – Good Friday – 6:30 p.m. = Laci Boomgarden

April 5 – EASTER Sunrise **7:00 a.m.** – Hunter Buntjer

April 5 – EASTER **8:30 a.m.** – Austin Heimgartner

April 5 – EASTER **10:30 a.m.** – Jessalyn Broesder

NURSERY

No Nursery

No Nursery

No Nursery

No Nursery

Autumn Drahota, Gail Holinka

	<u>8 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM NURSERY</u>
April 12	Carter Hokeness	MacKenzie Meyeraan	Turner Rogers, Kham HOLETON
April 19	Bailey Sounthala	Alexis Bosma	Alyssa Bosma, Alexie Cross
April 26	Jennifer Preuss	Ruby Cardenas	Nayeli Perez-Blas, Heather Knigge
May 3	Jasmine Ling	Ivy Paplow	Faith Arnt, Beth White

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

APRIL GREETERS SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	
April 2 – Maundy Thursday	6:30 p.m.	= Sue Flesner; Ilona Benson
April 3 – Good Friday	6:30 p.m.	= Clarence & Twyla Mess
April 5 – EASTER Sunrise	7:00 a.m.	– Myron & Sandy Meyer
April 5 – EASTER	8:30 a.m.	– Gary & Velma Cortright
April 5 – EASTER	10:30 a.m.	– John & Marlene Moberg
April 12	(8 AM)	Dan & Laurita Roos
	(10:30)	Greg & Roxie Leckband
April 19	(8AM)	Don & Lorna Buntjer
	(10:30)	Joel & Kim Rogers
April 26	(8AM)	Tom & Eileen Schultz
	(10:30)	Kevin & Danika Schmidt
May 3	(8AM)	Keith & Margaret Schroeder
	(10:30)	Bruce & Shawn Boomgarden

If you are unable to greet on your scheduled time, please try to switch with someone and contact the church office with the change. Thank you for serving!

WE ARE IN NEED OF GREETERS FOR OUR WORSHIP SERVICES – if you would like to be added to the Greeter Rotation please contact the church office. Thank You!