

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN
April 2018 Newsletter



EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES
April 1st at 7:00 AM and 9:30 AM
Easter Breakfast will be served from 7:45-9:15 a.m.



Spring will Come, I Promise!

After a long winter, spring brings new life. You can see it in the buds on the trees, feel it in the warmth of the sun, and hear it in the exuberant song of the birds. Spring provides the perfect setting for Easter, symbolizing all the newness, renewal, and birth that make this celebration so significant to Christians.

While we know Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ, how often do we stop and think about the deeper, richer meaning for our lives? Easter is a life victory for Christians, representing a joy in living that can only be experienced in union with Christ. There is significance for our lives as we remember His wounds, take comfort in their legacy of grace and forgiveness, and rejoice in His love and the certain hope of eternal life.

On a recent talk show I heard a prominent psychologist state that: The stupendous forces of violence unleashed in today's world have changed the very meaning of being human. I disagree.

For a Christian, it is the revelation of Jesus as Christ that changes the meaning of being human. This faith opens heaven in our hearts and in our history, and reveals infinite love pouring into what sometimes feels like a finite existence. Here is the gateway to the experience of full humanity, and no power can close it. Here is the way, the truth, the light, and the fullness of life.

Christ Jesus, who lay dormant in that cold wintry tomb stirred to life again on the third day. As we breathe in that sweet resurrection message we are invigorated with renewed life. Jesus offers to each and every one of us this new life, a new beginning, a fresh start with Him.

As we prepare for our Easter celebration may you continue to find newness of life in the resurrected and victorious Christ. May God bless your spring, and all of your new beginnings.

In Christ,
Pastor Mark



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 "Rogation Sunday (Blessing of the Seed)" at each of our services on April 22nd.**

HUMAN CARE MINISTRY & PARISH NURSE NEWS

By Roxie Leckband

Greetings in our Risen Lord Jesus Christ,

Happy Spring! As the weather warms we get the urge to be outside after a long winter. We still need to use caution as we engage in outdoor activities. If your activity level has been minimal during the Winter months gradually ease into your physical activities. Remember to consult your physician/health care provider before beginning a new physical fitness routine. Enjoy and give praise for the Lord's creation as you are out and about!

As wonderful the season of Spring is for some, it can be a time of sadness, frustration and grief depending on an individual's circumstances. When our health fails or when we experience the loss of family and friends or when physically our stamina creates difficulty for us to move about and even care for ourselves and our spouse, the feelings of grief can overshadow us. If you or someone you know is struggling with limitations caused by health challenges (physical, mental or spiritual) please contact me, 376-6168 or stmatthumancare@gmail.com. There are resources here at St. Matthews and also in the community to assist you.

- St. Matthew **Health Cabinet** will not meet in April. The next meeting will be on May 21, 2018 at 12 noon in the Fireside Room.
- There will be an **AED training for Elders and Ushers** on April 9th at 5:30 p.m. We will initially meet in the Fireside Room.
- **Faithfully Fit** exercise (mod to low impact exercise class to music) will be on Mondays at 5:15 p.m. and on Saturdays at 8:00 a.m. I would love to see more people joining us. It is a lot of fun and a good work out. We will NOT meet on April 2nd.
- The St. Matthew **Walking path** continues and is open for business from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Remember if we do not use it, we lose it!
- The **Noon Fellowship** will be on April 9th from 12:00 to 1:00. There will be a blood pressure clinic beginning at 11:30 a.m. The main entrée is ham and baby red skin potatoes. You may bring a dish to go along with the meal, leave a free-will offering or just bring yourself.
- Please note if anyone wants to meet for instruction on **Advanced Care** planning and/or setting up their Advanced Directive please let me know. I can set up a time that works for you, just call 376-6168 or e-mail stmatthumancare@gmail.com.
- **Mom's Group** will meet on April 6th, 13th and 27th from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Moms meet in the Fireside Room and children across the hall in the pre-school class room.
- **Please note our LAST DAY of Sunday school will be May 20th.**
- **Confirmation Classes** are April 4, 11, 18 and 25. The Faith Statements & Reception will be May 2nd at 5:30 p.m. The Rite of Confirmation will be May 6th at the 10:30 service.
- **Vacation Bible School** will be June 18th – June 22nd.

Attention 5th & 6th Graders: We will be having our Spring Confirmation Retreat on Friday, April 6th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the YMCA. There will be pizza, swimming, games and devotion.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 17th at 5:15 p.m. in the Youth Room. The Sarah Circle will also meet on Tuesday, April 17th at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Martha Circle will meet on Thursday, April 19th at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

CHURCH RECORDS

Baptisms

- Cade Robert Keller, son of Ian & Michael Keller was baptized March 11, 2018
- Tate Ruyter Wintz, son of Trevor & Chelsea Wintz was baptized March 25, 2018.

Transfer

- Melissa DeGroot

New Member

- Kayla Markus
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ALTAR GUILD

Serving in April will be Kathy Roslansky & Alice White at the 8 a.m. services. 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

“The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon” Luke 24:34

As we have been sharing with you various portions of the Lutheran worship service the past few months, it is fitting that we turn our attention to the Paschal Greeting we share on Easter Sunday, and some of the Sundays following. The traditional Easter greeting in our Lutheran Church is the exclamation “Christ is risen!” followed by the traditional response “He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!”

The greeting is ultimately based on Luke 24:34: “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” The Good News of the resurrection was first proclaimed by the angel to the women at the tomb. The women in turn shared this glorious news with the disciples. It is only fitting that we continue to proclaim with joy that “Christ is Risen”.

We have shouted our loud Hosannas on Palm Sunday as Jesus triumphantly entered Jerusalem. We have heard His new commandment to love one another, and have shared in His Body and Blood on Maundy Thursday. And we have witnessed the Lamb of God betrayed, beaten, and crucified for the sins of all of us on Good Friday.

But on Easter morning, we will joyfully offer in Word and song our Alleluias to our risen Lord and Savior. The first words we will hear from our Pastor are “Christ is Risen!” to which we will gratefully respond “He is risen indeed! Alleluia!”

Our Easter greeting is more than an empty tradition. It’s a proclamation of the Gospel--the Good News. It proclaims life and salvation to all who are saved by grace through faith in the death and resurrection of Lord and Savior. Through our Easter proclamation, we participate in that first announcement of Easter. We proclaim to one another that death has been swallowed up by the death of Jesus, and we shall live forever because Jesus is risen. Saying “Christ is risen!” allows us to share this incredible truth with each other. Jesus lives, and the victory is won! Thanks be to God!

Say and sing this glorious truth with joy and thankfulness as we worship our risen Lord and Savior together on Easter Sunday, and the Sundays to follow.

“Christ is risen!” “He is risen indeed! Alleluia!”

Lorenda Glade and Joy Schreiber, Directors of Music

LWML NEWS

Please note the change of date for the LWML Zone Spring Rally. It will be on April 7th, not on the 14th. The Rally will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Sioux Valley. If you would like to attend and would like to ride with someone, please be at St. Matthew's north parking lot by 8:00 a.m. on April 7th. Also, please call Kathy Roslansky (360-1831) by April 2 so an RSVP can be given to Trinity. There is a poster on the bulletin board in the north/elevator entrance with information for Gifts from the Heart.

There will NOT be an LWML meeting in April. Sarah Circle will host the April 15 coffee hour.

FLOWER CALENDAR



The 2017 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.

If you have graciously provided altar flowers, but have not yet returned the plastic vases to the church, please do so! We reuse the vases and our supply is very low! Just place the vase(s) on the wooden cabinet in the north entrance, or place them by the office door. Thank You!

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.**



Interview with Paige Barber

Paige is the 10 year old daughter of Jeff & Susan Barber. She has two brothers, Austin and Caleb. Paige is a fourth grader at Prairie Elementary where she enjoys "Art" above all other subjects because she likes creating things. She also enjoys orchestra where she is in her first year of playing the violin. She really likes listening to music. Some of her hobbies include playing with her five cats, playing the violin, and doing lyrical dance. At church she participates in Sunday School and KFC. Her favorite Bible story is "The Birth of Jesus" because it shows just how special He is! Her grandparents opened a Y.I. Club account for her back in 2009 and she is saving for college. She gets along well with people and is nice to the other kids.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

VOTERS MEETING in April

Watch the weekly bulletins for more information.

EVANGELISM NEWS

INTENTIONAL EVANGELISM MOMENT – With the help of the Lord, we can be a model of generosity for all those we come in contact with. If we are a giver in life rather than a taker, it won't take long before people realize you are quite different from what they are accustomed to. As they witness your joy, they will see a thankful heart and a generous spirit make a person happier than being selfish. Pray...Father, let me do good deeds so people will recognize my love for You and give glory to You!

LOVE INC CHALLENGE – Spring is in the air! Get together with family and friends and plan a service event in your community or town. Clean a park or road ditch, do lawn care for the elderly in your neighborhood, plant trees and flowers in honor of Earth day, etc.

CAMP MINNEBOJI

The camp is in their 70th year and is held at Camp Okoboji – LCMS on the west side of West Lake Okoboji in northwest Iowa (not “Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp ELCA”, that is nearby, just to the north of Camp Okoboji – LCMS). Camp dates for 2018 are June 17-23. The theme this year is “iLife” based on 1 Peter, chapter 1. Camp Minneboji is for all students who have completed grades 4 through 9. The capacity of the camp (available cabin space) is 325. **The camp will fill early – Register early! Registration cut-off is June 1 (or when camp is full).** For more information about Camp Minneboji, including pictures and maps, check out the website at: www.minneboji.com or Facebook: [campminneboji](#). You may also download the registration and medical forms from the website. Every registration must be signed by your Pastor.

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! We only loan out our older tables and chairs that are stored in the bus garage. Arrangements must be made through the church office for pickup and return times. Pickup and return times must be during regular office hours of the church. The roasters, coffee carafes, and etc. in the kitchen are NOT to leave the church. Thank you.

Do you enjoy using the big screen for our worship service liturgy and hymns/ songs? Then become a part of the Technical Crew as a projector operator. The screen shows (projector) are very easy to run – you just need to be able to move your finger, and follow along with the service! **We also need operators for the camera recording and the sound board.** *“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, any current tech operator, or go up to the balcony during a service to see what it all involves and ask questions of the current operators!

APRIL WORSHIP HELPERS

***You should arrive 15 minutes before service is scheduled to begin. If you are unable to fulfill your scheduled time, please find a replacement and then phone the church office with the change. Thank You!*

<u>ACOLYTES</u>	<u>8 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
April 1 – 7:00AM	– Luke Gordon	9:30AM – Damien Leckband
April 8	Nia Iverson	Carson Wolford
April 15	Hannah Henning	Dimitri DeNoble
April 22	Austin Barber	Eli Hansberger
April 29	Brandon Arzu-Bustad	Maelie Holt
May 6	Jordis Weber	Kyle Ahrenstorff

10:30 AM NURSERY

April 1 = 9:30AM service =	Evan Hansberger, Gail Holinka
April 8	Logan Meyeraan, Danika Schmidt
April 15	Presley Sieve, Jennifer & Christine Preuss
April 22	Jake Ahrenstorff, Jessica Larson
April 29	Carson Wolford, Marlis Rohwer
May 6	Mark Geertsema, Beth White

APRIL GREETERS SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	
April 1	(7:00am)	Daryl & Karen Doeden; Jim & Eloise Langseth
	(9:30am)	Bill & Karen Knigge; John & Jessica Widvey
April 8	(8am)	Al & Connie Reitmeier
	(10:30)	Greg & Roxie Leckband Family
April 15	(8am)	Dean & Phyllis Leistico
	(10:30)	Alice White; Mike & Cindy Froderman
April 22	(8am)	Sandy Cuperus; Donna Lee
	(10:30)	Virgil & Donna Reed
April 29	(8am)	Lisa Busswitz; Barry & Kerry Sauer
	(10:30)	DuWayne & Carol Oberloh
May 6	(8am)	Bill & Jeanette Smrcka
	(10:30)	John & Marlene Moberg

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!