

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN

April 2019 Newsletter



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

Palm Sunday, April 14th – one worship service at 9:30 AM

No service on Wednesday, April 17th

Maundy Thursday, April 18th – service at 6:30 PM

Good Friday, April 19th – service at 6:30 PM

**includes the drama, "Watch the Lamb"*

EASTER SUNDAY - April 21st

Worship services at 7:00 AM and 9:30 AM

Easter Breakfast will be served from 7:45-9:15 a.m.



REMAINING MID-WEEK LENT WORSHIP SERVICES

We continue with our Lenten Theme of "Behold The Man!" The remaining themes include:

April 3 – "A God with a Mother"

April 10 – "A God Who Thirsts"

Then, we finish up the series during Holy Week:

Maundy Thursday – "A God Who Loves"

Good Friday – "A God Who Bleeds, a God Who Dies"

Easter – "A God Who Rises"



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 14th.



QUARTERLY VOTERS MEETING

Our next Quarterly Voters Meeting will take place on **Sunday, April 28th**

- watch the weekly bulletins for the time to be announced.

This meeting will include the “Election of Officers” for the July 1, 2019-June 30, 2021 term. A Slate of Nominations will be posted on the north entrance bulletin board by March 28th. All active, confirmed members ages 18 and older are encouraged to attend and vote.

FROM THE PASTOR:

“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16.

I have always tried to live my life by this insightful verse from 1 Thessalonians. I say try, because this may be God’s will for our lives, yet at the same time it is not always easy to keep this perspective. When life throws its curve balls at us and wears us down it doesn’t always seem possible or reasonable to be always joyful, prayerful, and thankful in all circumstances. Because let’s be honest, life just sometimes stinks.

When St. Paul first wrote this verse, he was writing to a church that was experiencing persecution, even coming under physical attacks. Yet, in the midst of persecution, trials, and hardships Paul could remind them of the joy and thanks that was theirs as Christians. Paul reminded them of Christ who is their hope and salvation now and for eternity, who would never abandon them. These Thessalonian believers took the message of the gospel to heart and became a beautiful example of faith to all the surrounding congregations, despite less than ideal circumstances.

God wants us to be joyful always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances too. This is possible for each one of us, but only through Christ who has become our new life and salvation. We can always have joy as a follower of Christ.

People are naturally happy on some occasions, especially when it is smooth sailing, and things are going great. However, joy for a Christian is not dependent on the circumstances that are going on around us. It comes from what Christ has done, and it is a constant. You see there is a difference between happiness and joy—joy comes from outside of us and given to us by God. Joy comes from the fact that you are constantly cared for, thought about, and nurtured by your heavenly Father.

We can pray continually, because we know that we have a Father in heaven who hears us. Plus, we have the certain knowledge that even when we don’t know what to pray for the Spirit that lives inside of us intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. What a privilege we have to go to God anytime, and he has promised to listen and understand.

We can give thanks in all circumstances; in fact, it is foundational to the Christian life. Thankfulness is a response that comes from looking beyond our blessings to their source. As Christians, we have been forgiven, saved from death, and adopted as God’s children. There could be no better reason for a grateful heart! Even in situations that seem hard, painful, or even hurtful God can work even through those situations for our good.

God only wants the best for us in this life. When we grow in our understanding of what constant joy, prayer, and thanksgiving is all about we can start living the life our creator intended us to live.

God’s Blessings,
Pastor Mark

HUMAN CARE MINISTRY & PARISH NURSE NEWS

By Roxie Leckband

Well, hopefully we will be seeing our world start to “green-up” again! I look forward to this time of year as we can relate the color green to life. As we once again will be celebrating our Lord’s death and resurrection, let us reflect on His great sacrifice in order that we may have life in Him. We rejoice that through God’s love we will live a life in heaven for an eternity.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

Please note; if you or someone you know would like a home ministry visit whether lonely, unable to get to worship or having health concerns, please contact the church at 376-6168. We have a great food ministry if you would like some home cooking besides your own!

MINISTRIES IN APRIL:

Noon Fellowship will be on Monday, April 8th at 12:00 p.m. We will be serving hamburgers and potato salad. Please bring a dish to share, a free-will offering, or just come and join us. Blood pressure screening will be done at 11:30 and 1:00 p.m. or immediately after our devotion.

Blood pressure screening will be done on Sunday, April 28th at 9:00 a.m. and at 10:15a.m. at one of the small tables in the Great Hall.

Mom’s Group will be on Fridays - April 5th, 12th and 19th from 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. **On April 19th we will do our annual Easter egg dying and Easter egg hunt.** I look forward to seeing everyone!

Widow’s Group will meet on Wednesday, April 10th at 10:00a.m. We will be introduced to a publication titled, Postcards from the Widows’ Path. *Postcards from the Widows’ Path – gleaning hope and purpose from the Book of Ruth*. Please share with others the website, **Widow’s Christian Place**. It is a very helpful resource.

PLEASE NOTE: there will be **NO Confirmation Classes** on Wednesday, April 17th. We are strongly encouraging the youth to attend the Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter worship services. A sermon note from these services would also be very helpful!

The 5th & 6th grade Confirmation youth will have a YMCA Event on Friday, April 12th from 5:30-7:30p.m. There will be pizza and group games. The youth may also bring their swimsuits to swim in the pool.

The 7th & 8th grade Confirmation Retreat will be April 26 & 27 from approximately 5p.m. on the 26th to 9:00a.m. on Saturday morning, April 27th. We will be sending out more specific information.

ATTENTION PARENTS: The LAST DAY OF KFC was March 27th.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be June 17-21 so mark your calendars! It will once again be an all day camp with Camp Omega doing the programming.

A life-long member of St. Matthew’s, Dolores Meier, will celebrate her 100th birthday on April 8th. Dolores was baptized here on May 11, 1919. The coffee hour on Sunday, April 7th will be in honor of Dolores. We thank God for Dolores and the blessings she shares with her family and friends. **Dolores’ family will have an Open House for her from 2-4pm on Sunday, April 7th in the basement Fellowship Hall.** No gifts needed.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Hope Circle will NOT meet in April. The Sarah Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 16th at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Martha Circle will meet on Thursday, April 18th at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS

“Were you there when they crucified my Lord?” “Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?” “Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?” “Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?” (The 4 verses of LSB 456)

Our Holy Week services at St. Matthew bless us with the opportunity to worship together and to remember what Jesus has done for us through His suffering, death, and resurrection. On Palm Sunday, we will sing Hosanna as Jesus makes His triumphant entry into Jerusalem--but we will also see the shadow of the cross to come. On Maundy Thursday we will celebrate the institution of our Lord’s Supper and His new commandment that we love one another. On Good Friday, we will worship together and remember the suffering and death of our Lord. And on Easter morning, we will once again exclaim, “Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!”

As we prepare for Holy Week, we invite you to share your musical talents in our worship services. Please prayerfully consider one or more of the following opportunities to serve:

Our Sunday School students will participate in our Palm Sunday service. Songs will be sung by our Preschool-Grade 2 students and our Grade 3-8 students. We will send further details to the parents soon. .

The musical drama “Passion and the Crown” has been a part of our Good Friday service the past few years. People interested in singing and acting in this are welcome! Practices are held on Wednesdays around 5:10 and on Sundays following 2nd service. Please contact Joy Schreiber if interested in participating.

Our adult choir, directed by Louise Clausen, will sing on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and on Easter Sunday. Choir practice is at 5:30 on Wednesday evenings. All singers are invited to join us in preparation for our Holy Week services, even if you are not participating regularly in choir.

Brass players are invited to play for our hymns at our Easter Sunday services. The brass adds so much to our joyful worship on Easter! Please contact Lorenda Glade if you are interested in participating. We will practice following our Good Friday service.

Handel’s Hallelujah Chorus has also been a part of our Easter services the past few years. We are considering doing this again this year. Please let Joy Schreiber or Lorenda Glade know if you are interested in participating.

Please watch the bulletins and screen shows for further information on rehearsals for our services. We pray that you will join us for all of our services throughout Holy Week.

Lorenda Glade and Joy Schreiber, Directors of Music

CHURCH RECORDS

Death

- Tamara “Tammy” Metteer passed away March 1; funeral service was held March 6, 2019.
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LWML SPRING FLING

Saturday, April 6th is the Worthington Zone LWML Spring Fling.

This spring it will be held here at St. Matthew's.

Registration is 8:30 a.m. There is a \$5.00 registration fee. The Rally begins at 9:00 a.m.

Rob Lutz from Fulda, MN grew up in a LCMS Missionary Family, living in Papua, New Guinea. He previously served 33 years as a LCMS educator. After he retired as a teacher, Rob worked with the Lutheran Church of South Sudan, doing various projects, most recently building the House of Hope Orphanage. Please join us as Rob and his wife, Paula, share their experiences in Yambio, Sudan.

Lunch will follow. **Both men and women are invited to hear this presentation.** Childcare will be available upon request. Please contact the church office, 376-6168, by April 1st if you would need childcare services.

“Gifts from the Heart” will go to the Helping Hands Pregnancy Center. Items needed include: anything for a baby under 1 year old; diapers sizes 3, 4, 5; small containers of laundry soap; bath lotions; baby shampoo; baby brushes and combs; white washcloths; teething rings; baby clothes under 24 months; and always in need of more for boys than girls!



There will NOT be an LWML meeting in April. Sarah Circle will host the April 14 coffee hour.

FLOWER CALENDAR



The 2019 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.**

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



Join us!

ALTAR GUILD

Serving in April will be Lynn Dierks & LaVonne Berglund at the 8 a.m. services. Maundy Thursday, April 18th will be Sue Koob and _____. If you would like to be a part of the Altar Guild please contact Velma Cortright, 376-5600 or Sandy Meyer 376-6290.

CAMP MINNEBOJI

Calling all 4th-9th graders: Registration is open for Minneboji 2019! Minneboji is a summer camp program sponsored by South Dakota District LCMS, to encourage young people to grow in Lutheran faith and friendship. Going strong since 1949, Minneboji is held at Camp Okoboji in Milford, Iowa. This year's camp will be June 16-22, exploring the theme "Delivered! A study of God saving his people in the book of Judges." Cost for 4th-8th graders is \$380. Cost for 9th graders (Honors) is \$410. A few booklets are available with more information are available on the bulletin board by the Chapel, across from the church office. For more information about Camp Minneboji, including pictures and maps, check out the website at: www.minneboji.com or email minneboji@gmail.com. You may also download the forms from their website. Every registration must be signed by your Pastor.

Table & Chair Use

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. Thanks.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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!

Thank you for serving lunch on January 26th. Your group served 225 adults and 39 children. The guests of The Banquet are grateful for your ongoing support. God Bless!
The Banquet – Sioux Falls, SD

Mark your calendars for our NEXT Pictorial Directory.

We want our ENTIRE Church Family to be photographed for this directory. Scheduled dates for the photography are: **August 20-24, 2019 and September 3-7, 2019.** There is NO cost to you or your family to have your picture photographed for the directory. We will have more information available as the date gets closer.

“Always leave your campsite in better shape than it was when you found it.” This is a good saying to abide by in our daily lives. Therefore, if you use a room at the church, you may move the furnishings around to work for you (*please be careful when doing this*); however, **PLEASE RETURN the room to its original setting before you leave. Thank You for your attention to this.**

Highlights from the March 12th Council Meeting:

Treasurer: Income for February was \$17,061.90 with expenses of \$35,219.47 for a net income for February of -\$18,082.57. Balance as of 2/28/19 in the checking account was: \$7,519.76. The Youth Account report showed a balance in checking account of \$15,902.82. The Scholarship Fund balance is \$445,086.28. Memorial Fund balance is \$69,924.19.

Pastor: Average weekend attendance in February was 215 (services cancelled on Feb. 24 and slippery roads on Feb. 10); average Wednesday attendance was 21 (service cancelled on Feb. 20).

Roxie: Have provided a week of meals to the Marten family and will be providing another week. Metteer family has also been given meals and gift cards. St. Matthew's is scheduled to deliver furniture for Love INC March 29-31, looking for volunteers for this.

Jenna: HS Senior night will be March 31st at Bents' Home. Looking at doing a weekend service event for Jr. High kids in the summer. Youth board is discussing starting a park ministry for a couple weeks in the summer time – taking what the kids learned in Alaska and bringing it to our neighborhood.

Elders: Worked on the Elder Manual.

Trustees: Small Boiler Replacement – boiler is here, just need to wait for warmer weather to install it, as it heats the elevator addition of the church. Portable Sound System – checking out costs and what would be best for us, \$2,000 has been donated for this. Kitchen counters – feel we need to wait until finances are better or money is raised before we get the front one redone; stainless steel will be put under the coffee pot area. Light ballasts in preschool classroom have been replaced. Electronic lock for north entrance door has been put on hold, due to finances.

Christian Education: Children will sing at the Palm Sunday service. Two Action Team Grants were donated and are available to help with VBS expenses. Collecting non-perishable food items for the area food shelves during Lent as a service project.

Building Committee: down to final bills, still remain under budget.

Nominating Committee: Slate of candidates will be posted by March 28th.

Other Business: Going forward, will do separate Agendas for Executive Meeting and Ministry Planning Meetings. Next Council Meeting is April 9th at 5:30 p.m.



Did you know you can receive your monthly newsletter via email? If you would like this option, please email Bev in the church office at stmattchurchoffice@gmail.com **This will help the church save in several ways – less printing costs (less paper & ink used, less wear & tear on copy machine) and less postage costs.** Convenience to you – you can either read the newsletter on your computer or phone screen, or print it out to read at your convenience. **THANK YOU!**

A special THANK YOU to everyone who has already helped and those who will be helping with the Mid-Week Lent Meals! Your service is very much appreciated!

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 3 – Lent Worship - 6:30PM – Dalton Larson		
April 7	Paige Barber	Natya Khamphanh
April 10 – Lent Worship - 6:30PM –Tethlouch Gach		
April 14 – PALM SUNDAY - 9:30AM – Ryker Thier		
April 18 – Maundy Thursday - 6:30PM –Tavin Miller		
<i>April 19 – Good Friday - 6:30PM – may not need anyone</i>		
April 21 – EASTER - 7:00AM –Anna Gordon 9:30AM –Madison Sieve		
April 28	Jordis Weber	Maelie Holt
May 5	Faith Leinen	Alexa Kilker

10:30 AM NURSERY

April 7	Kyle Ahrenstorff, Gail Holinka	
April 14 – PALM SUNDAY - 9:30AM – Sierra Goedtke, Jessica Larson		
April 21 – EASTER - 9:30AM – Hunter Echternach, Marlis Rohwer, Kasen White		
April 28	Mark Geertsema, Val Wolford	
May 5	Lance Gordon, Beth White	

APRIL GREETERS SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	
April 3	6:30PM	Clarence & Twyla Mess
April 7	8am	David & LaVonne Holt
	10:30am	Bruce & Shawn Boomgarden
April 10	6:30PM	Marlene Jurgensen; Ruth Ramert
April 14	9:30AM	Margaret Schroeder; Vern & Marilyn Meyer
April 18	6:30PM	Daryl & Karen Doeden
April 19	6:30PM	Voris & Sandie Spittle
April 21	7:00AM	Mark Schwarz; Dale & Bonnie Schroeder
	9:30AM	Virgil & Donna Reed; Lee & Karen Meyer
April 28	8am	Barry & Kerry Sauer
	10:30am	Joel & Julie Lorenz
May 5	8am	Bonnie Tille; Al & Connie Reitmeier
	10:30am	David & Alexie Cross; DuWayne & Carol Oberloh

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!