

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN

August 2015 Newsletter

Thoughtfully Composed

“You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all; and you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the Living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from God, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant” 2 Cor. 3:2-6

In this email, texting, Face Book, and tweeting world into which we have moved, I wonder (along with the postman) what is to become of the letter. Not that I have great fondness in my heart for letters having always dreaded those lessons in English class. I am not really sure if it was my terrible handwriting or all the rules and guidelines that had to be followed for the letter to be “perfect” that made it difficult.

While the letter is a means of correspondence, the ancient Greeks developed the letter into an art form. We see some of that beauty in our New Testament Epistles (letters). But that is too much trouble, as I just want my letters to be like what I do with email. I just want to sit down at my computer, type out a few sentences, hit send, and get my reply in a few minutes. I don’t want to take the time to develop thoughts and sentences, let alone wait for more than a few minutes for the response with what I want.

People today want church to be like email. They don’t want to take the time to develop thoughts. They don’t want to spend more than a few minutes waiting for a reply, but church is like a letter; composed and thoughtful, full of ideas and revelations. Just as letters can be some of the most profound pieces of art, so too can the communities we create.

God calls us to be letters, letters of a new covenant written on our hearts by the Spirit of the Living God. This is a new covenant of hope and love in God’s promise and desire for our return to wholeness in Christ Jesus our Lord. Having been written on our hearts, such a promise is impossible to hide and can be seen, known and read by all. What we do and say as professing Christians speaks volumes to a world that is seeking truth about a living God. When people read the letter that composes our life, what are they reading? Is it love, sacrifice, hope, or confidences in a gracious God?

As precious and redeemed children of God by the blood of Christ, God has composed us into letters of life for all people. The Spirit of the Living God witnesses through us, as we share in our communities our composition and thoughtfulness, even as we write our own letters of Christ living in us.

In Christ,
Pastor Mark

Mid-Week Worship Opportunity

If you have to miss the weekend worship services, please join us on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel. This mid-week worship service will continue through August 31st.

DIRECTOR OF FAMILY & YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

by Roxann Leckband

Mom's Group will be meeting on August 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 10:00-11:30AM. Moms will continue with the Power of a Praying Parent and will be making plans for Fall when we will move to another study source. The children will be having fun with Bible stories, crafts, games and snacks. Please join us in the Fireside room and invite a friend!

Family Night will be on Sunday, August 16th from 5:00-6:30PM. Let's do a taco bar. Meat and shells will be provided. Please bring the other goodies to make a great taco! If you could text me what you are planning to bring this will help so we get all the ingredients covered. My cell is 712-260-3820. The children will have fun playing and doing a craft. Any questions please contact Roxie.

The" New Bible" Class for our 3rd graders and their parents /guardians will be on August 3 and 4 from 6:00-6:45 p.m. We will meet in the Fireside Room. This is a fun way for the parents and children to be in God's Word together. The Bible that your child will use will have very special meaning in the years to them. The Bible will be presented with a special blessing at the 8:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. worship service (which ever works best for you and your family) on Sunday, August 9. If you are unable to make both nights or you or a grandparent etc. is not able to attend with your child please contact Roxie and we can make an arrangement for someone to assist and be with your child. We want every 3rd grade child to receive a Bible. If your child is in 4th grade and was not able to attend last year please contact Roxie we would like to include your child in this class as well. Please call Roxie at 376-6168 to register your child, if you have any questions or you are not able to attend with your child. Please pre-register so we are sure to have a Bible for your child. God be with you and your Christian parenting.

In August we will once again have an opportunity to serve at the **Community Garden**. Please contact Roxie at 376-6168 if you are able to help with this great ministry which provides for our Community food banks.

Confirmation Parent meeting for our 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade youth will be on Monday, August 17th at 7:15 p.m. in the church basement. You will be sent a registration packet prior to this meeting. Please return the completed forms at this meeting. Please contact Roxie at 376-6168 with any questions or if you are unable to attend and we will set up an individual time to meet.

Noon Fellowship will be on August 10th. The main entrée will be chicken noodle hot dish. Coleslaw and a dinner roll will also be provided. Please bring a dish to share, provide an offering or just come we would love to see you. If you are retired or not, single or married, everyone is welcome!

Young Adult Night will be on Tuesday, August 18th at 6:30 p.m. at the Hickory Lodge. *Please note the day change from Monday to Tuesday.* Come and join us!

NEW MEMBER CLASS

It's not too late to join Pastor Mark's New Member Class. It meets on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. This class will meet until August 19th.

ALTAR GUILD

Serving in August for the 8 a.m. services is Carol Oberloh and Ruth Ramert. If you would like to be a part of the Altar Guild; please contact Sandy Meyer, 376-6290 or Velma Cortright, 376-5600.

CHURCH RECORDS

Deaths

- Oscar Stene passed away May 28, 2015. Funeral service was held June 3rd in Fulda, MN.

Baptisms

- Presley Evelyn Hansen was baptized July 19, 2015. Parents are Neil & Katie Hansen. Sponsors were David & Chandra Soderholm.
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NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

A New Women's Bible Study just began on July 21st! It meets from 12:00-1:00 p.m. in the church basement on Tuesdays. We are starting with the book of Genesis. Come join us!

MUSIC & WORSHIP NEWS

"You are the body of Christ. Each one of you has a part in it." 1 Corinthians 12:27

There are many ways in which each of you can be part of our church body here at St. Matthew's. As we look forward to more church activities resuming in September, please consider the many music and worship opportunities available and how you might be able to share your gifts and talents.

Our Adult Choir, directed by Louise Clausen and accompanied by Linda Lang, welcomes additional singers. Louise also directs our handbell choir--players and substitutes are always welcome. Some music reading and counting skills are needed, but can be learned.

Our worship band is in need of additional vocalists, drummers, and substitute guitarists. Please contact Susan Hansberger or Joy Schreiber if you are interested in auditioning.

Our sound techs and projection people are an invaluable part of our team at St. Matthew's. Additional help for our services is greatly needed. If you have technical talents, please consider sharing them.

Our young children enjoy singing at the beginning of Sunday School. If you have keyboard skills, please consider playing for our youngsters for about 15 minutes at the beginning of the Sunday School hour.

There is always room for additional vocalists and instrumentalists to share their talents for special music during our worship services.

As you can see, there are many opportunities available for our members to share their musical gifts. Even if you feel you are not talented enough to participate in special music, strong congregational singing is very encouraging to our Pastor, the musicians leading our worship services, and is glorifying to God. Lastly, and most importantly, please continue to pray for our congregation. That is the best way we can build the body of Christ here at St. Matthew's.

God's Blessings,

Lorenda Glade, Interim Director of Traditional Music

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Hope and Sarah Circles will not meet in August. The Miriam Circle will meet on Monday, August 17th at 1:30 p.m. at Lela Haller's home. The Martha Circle will meet on Thursday, August 20 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Please watch the weekly bulletins for more information.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

You are invited to the Coffee Fellowship each Sunday morning following the 8 a.m. service. A free-will donation is received to cover the expenses and benefit the various missions of the church. On the first and second Sundays of the month, there is opportunity for your church group to host a coffee hour. Please sign up **at least 2 weeks in advance** on the "sign up sheet" in the church basement.

The third Sunday of the month, the LWML sponsor the coffee hour and the Youth host the coffee hour on the fourth Sunday of the month.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) News

There will NOT be a meeting for LWML in August. Coffee Hour on Sunday, August 16th will be hosted by the Hope Circle. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 4 at 1:30 p.m. How about some of you that have never attended and are now retired come to our meeting! We sure would like to see you attend. Actually, you just might enjoy it!

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL FESTIVAL

This year's Sunday School kick-off Fall Festival will take place on Sunday, September 13th beginning at 11:30 am. We will once again serve a light lunch along with having inflatables, games, and prizes.

We are looking for church organizations and individuals to man a booth or a game. You are welcome to come up with your own idea or we can help you out with an idea. Prizes will be furnished. If you are willing to help please contact a Board of Education Member or call the church office.

Y. I. CLUB STAMPS

Y. I. Club stamps will go on sale beginning Sunday, September 13th during the Fall Festival. What a great way to learn about Christian stewardship while saving for the future! Once again we will have a bonus Sunday each month where you get a free stamp when you purchase stamps that day. For Y. I. Club members, a free stamp will be given to them on their birthday.

We know it's important to teach our children to give thanks for God's many blessings and to use those blessings to serve Him by helping others. LCEF's Y. I. Club stamp program is a great way to start as those dollars will help someone else learn about Jesus. See you on the 13th!!

LaVonne Berglund

Y. I. Club Stamp Coordinator

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

Did you know you can receive your monthly church newsletter via email? If you would like this option, please email Bev at stmatth@frontiernet.net. It will be a PDF file. You will need Adobe Reader to open the document.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church Quarterly Voters Meeting August 2nd at 11:45 a.m.

All active, confirmed members at least 18 years of age are encouraged to attend.

An agenda is posted on the north/elevator entrance bulletin board.

EVANGELISM NEWS

We are planning a service project again at The Banquet in Sioux Falls. We plan to serve the noon meal on Saturday, January 23, 2016. Please watch for more information as the time gets closer.

Thank you to everyone at St. Matthew's for your thoughts, prayers, cards and gifts during my cancer treatment and surgery. Special thanks to Pastor Mark for his visit while I was in the hospital. God truly hears and answers our prayers. God's blessings to all of you.

Jerry Vogt

July 14, 2015 Church Council Meeting Highlights

Treasurer's Report: General Fund expenses for June of \$36,666.15; income of \$36,668.10. Building fund income of \$1,706 and expenses of \$4,079.46 for net income for the month of (\$2,395.40). General Fund checking balance is at \$118,752.99. Building Loan Balance at \$132,594.26. Memorial Fund Balance is \$37,215.47. Scholarship Fund is at \$627,745.23.

Pastor Mark: Average attendance during June was 316. Hoping to establish a Long Range Committee to develop recommendations for presentation to Church Council of long range goals for St. Matthew. President Nathan will appoint a committee.

Roxann Leckband: Made 2 new baby contacts in July. New baby quilts are being given to families as part of the family ministry gifts. Average attendance of 10-15 at Young Adult Nights. Family Nights continue. High School Mission Trip to Idaho was a success. Will begin planning for the National Youth Gathering next year by the end of November. Continue to recruit Sunday School teachers. VBS went very well.

Lorenda Glade: Joy Schreiber is assuming some of the contemporary music director duties. We still need more sound techs for all services along with drummers for the 10:30 service. Amy Khamphanh has stepped back from duties as interim contemporary worship coordinator. She will continue to be a vocalist. We greatly appreciate her leadership over the past two years. Piano from choir room as been temporarily moved to the Chapel. Researching keyboards and hope to have a recommendation for purchase by August. Obtaining costs for dry cleaning the choir robes. Researching costs for hand chimes for bell choir.

Elders: New Leadership elected - Ron Iverson is Elder Chairman; Arnie Ihrke is Vice Chair; Tim Hansberger is Secretary. Elders will begin working on list of members with limited attendance.

Trustees: Surveillance camera has been installed in the north entry. It records/saves for 160 days. Office locks were repaired by Burns Lock & Key. Bob Westphal is checking on carpet for the exterior east entry.

Christian Education: Fall Sunday School Kick-off will be September 13 after the 10:30 service.

Evangelism: Will be doing a servant event at The Banquet in Sioux Falls on January 23, 2016.

Human Care: Slower GAP Ministry deliveries this past month.

Youth: 20 Students and 8 adults traveled to Idaho for the Senior High Mission trip. Ten-fifteen 7th and 8th grade students will leave for their Latreia Mission Trip on July 26th.

New Business: Love INC is in need of donations as they have experienced delays in receiving grant money, along with reduced giving. St. Matthew Pictorial Directory is scheduled! Picture taking dates are October 7-10 and 13-17. We still need someone to head up the committee for this process.

NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Our church will be producing a new pictorial directory with Lifetouch. **Our photo dates are: October 7-10 and 13-17, 2015.** Hours are 2:00-9:00PM Tuesday-Friday and 9:00AM-4:00PM on Saturday. Look for more information to come. You will receive a complimentary portrait session, 8x10 portrait, and directory for participating. **Remember our directory won't be complete without you!**

We are in need of members to be a part of our Pictorial Directory Committee! Please contact the church office, or Nathan Holt, 372-5862 for more information!

AUGUST WORSHIP HELPERS SCHEDULES

ACOLYTES:

	<u>8 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
August 2	Jasmine Ling	Eli Hansberger
August 9	Brandon Arzu-Bustad	Carson Wolford
August 16	Ashley Ling	Faith Arnt
August 23	Chad Buntjer	Laci Boomgarden
August 30	Brynne White	Jessalyn Broesder
September 6	Kaylee Gerdes	MacKenzie Meyeraan

NURSERY (10:30 service only)

August 2	Zach Ahrenstorff, Gail Holinka
August 9	Alyssa Bosma, Alexie Cross
August 16	Traeton Holt, Jessica Larson
August 23	Hunter Boomgarden, Val Wolford
August 30	Jace Paplow, Heather Knigge
September 6	Tyler Wolford, Beth White

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.

GREETERS SCHEDULE

August 2	(8 am) (10:30)	Bill & Jeanette Smrcka Mike & Cindy Froderman
August 9	(8 am) (10:30)	Elden Ponto; Ron Markman Roger Bakkene; Alice White
August 16	(8 am) (10:30)	Dale & Bonnie Schroeder Bill & Karen Knigge
August 23	(8 am) (10:30)	Cindy Brunk; Kent Brunk John & Jessica Widvey
August 30	(8 am) (10:30)	John & Bonnie Tille Lisa Busswitz; Sandy Dixon
September 6	(8 am) (10:30)	Leonard & Marjorie Ruesch Voris & Sandie Spittle



*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. **Please contact the church office if you would like to be added to the greeter's rotation schedule.***