

*St. Matthew  
Lutheran Church  
1505 Dover Street,  
Worthington, MN*



### **Why am I a Christian?**

Why am I a Christian? It's amazing how such a complex question can be contained within such a simple five-word sentence! The answer to the question is difficult. It's like saying "why do I love my wife?" There are many levels of response and some of them are difficult to articulate. This is because the reasons go beyond the basic facts of life and into the realms of spiritual thought. Another way of saying it is the heart has reasons that reason doesn't know.

I am a Christian simply because he has called me through his tenderness and love. Even though I have a heart that is prone to wander far and wide in the false delights of this world, I know he has never left my side. He continually tells me, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your soul."

I am a Christian because it was in the Church that I first heard the proclamation that my sin has been wiped away by the blood of Jesus Christ, and by God's Grace, I responded to that proclamation. It is my delight to be continually drawn into the community of the faithful, the community founded by Christ for the purpose of proclaiming His message, of bringing people to Him, and of presenting Him bodily in the sacraments. I am a Christian because I know I am standing in a tradition that transcends my meager existence, something bigger than me, that gives my life meaning and purpose.

The great Christian apologist, G. K. Chesterton once wrote: "In the last analysis, the reason why I am a Christian is that the Church is living and not a dead teacher." That pretty much sums it up for me. I'm a Christian because it is in the Christian Church that I continually discover the presence and activity of God in my life through Christ Jesus.

Someone has said that the best reason for becoming a Christian is other Christians, and the best reason for not becoming a Christian is other Christians. In my life I have come to learn that it is the first statement of that paradox that is the most truthful. God has called me by his gospel, yet it is the church that keeps me in the faith. What a blessing it is to be part of a loving and nurturing church body that proclaims the love of Christ to each other and the world.

Why are you a Christian? Your answers might vary somewhat, and be expressed differently than my response. Yet all of us individual Christians have been called together to be Christ's one body here on earth. As quoted above, "The church is living and not a dead teacher." It is here we continually learn to love, forgive, and serve. St. Matthew needs each and every one of you with your unique gifts and talents to carry out Christ's mission to this community, and the world. It is a marvelous thing to be a Christian, and even more amazing that God has chosen us to be part of his mission here on earth. "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" *Galatians 6:9*.

In Christ,  
*Pastor Mark*

## MUSIC & WORSHIP NEWS

*“The final aim and reason of all music is nothing other than the glorification of God and the refreshment of the spirit.” J.S. Bach*

During the months of July and August we are having one blended worship service at 9:00 AM. Our Sunday morning service includes both traditional hymns--some led on the organ, and some led by the worship band, and some contemporary Christian songs. Whether you prefer traditional hymns or new Christian music, a pipe organ or guitar and drums, please remember that while our music at St. Matthew is a part of our worship, it is not the point of our worship. The point of our worship is to gather together with our brothers and sisters in Christ to worship and glorify our risen Lord and Savior. We confess our sins and receive full forgiveness, we hear God’s Holy Word, and we receive the very Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Word and Sacrament, we are strengthened in our faith to go forth and **be** the Church during the coming week. Music is a part of our worship, but its intent is to bring praise and glory to God, not entertainment for us. Music that places the focus on what Christ has done for us brings glory to God, no matter the instrumentation or style. We can certainly feel the Holy Spirit moving us through beautiful and meaningful music, but still the primary purpose of our music is to praise and worship God.

Hymn 796 puts it this way:

*“When in our music God is glorified and adoration leaves no room for pride,  
It is as though the whole creation cried, “Alleluia”!  
Let every instrument be tuned for praise! Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!  
And may God give us faith to sing always, “Alleluia”!”*

And contemporary Christian song artist Michael W. Smith writes:

*“I’m coming back to the heart of worship. And it’s all about you, It’s all about you, Jesus.  
I’m sorry, Lord, for the thing I’ve made it, When it’s all about you, It’s all about you, Jesus”*

Come and sing praises to God at our worship services this summer!

*Lorenda Glade and Joy Schreiber, Directors of Music*

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## CHURCH RECORDS

### Baptisms

- Kobie Joy Hansen, daughter of Neil & Katie Hansen was baptized on July 22, 2018.

### Transfer/Releases

- Barbara Anderson to Westminster.
- Phyllis Malenke to Sioux Falls, SD.

### New Members

- Isaac Hedstrom

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## WORSHIP AT ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN

**Sunday Worship** - 9:00 a.m. Blended Worship through August 26.

*Beginning September 2 we will return to our 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services.*

**Wednesday Worship** - 6:00 p.m. Worship through August 29.

*Beginning September 5 we will return to our 6:30 p.m. worship service.*

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## ALTAR GUILD

Those scheduled to do communion set-up for August are Marilyn Meyer and LaVonne Berglund. If you would like to be a part of the Altar Guild; please contact Sandy Meyer, 376-6290 or Velma Cortright, 376-5600.

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### DIRECTOR OF HUMAN CARE MINISTRIES/PARISH NURSE NEWS

*by Roxann Leckband*

As August is upon us we begin to reflect on the months of summer that has passed and to try and fit in everything we wanted to do during the summer that we have not yet completed. We begin to think of what lays ahead all the transitions, with transitions can come stress. Let us remember, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8

Looking ahead to ministries that transition us into the beginning of our children and youths' Christian educational programming there will be:

- A VBS Reunion on August 8.
- A New Bible Class for those going into the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade on August 21 and 22.
- Presentation and blessing of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Bibles will take place on August 26.

Please see the specific details on these events below.

**VBS REUNION** will be on August 8 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. A snack and lunch will be provided. Come and join us for singing, skits, Bible stories, crafts and games. Come even if you did NOT attend VBS. We would love to have you. Please RSVP to 376-6168, email to [stmatthumancare@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthumancare@gmail.com) or message on Facebook if you are planning to attend by August 7<sup>th</sup>. Letting us know is very helpful in having enough food and supplies.

**"New Bible classes"** for those going into 3<sup>rd</sup> grade or have not yet taken the class. The classes will be on **August 21 and 22 from 5:15 to 6:00PM**. Let's have fun learning about the best book you will ever have! This is so exciting as you can use your "New Bible" at home and in Sunday school. This is the Bible you will also be using when you participate in Confirmation classes. Please call Roxie at 376-6168 to let her know you are coming in order to make sure we have enough Bibles. We will have a **"New Bible" blessing and presentation of your "New Bible" on Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at the 9:00 a.m. worship service.**

**Transitions will be affecting all the children going into 5<sup>th</sup> grade.** Please mark your calendars for the **"Early Communion Classes"** on September 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:15 p.m. Parents, one or both, are requested to accompany their child during these classes to make an informed decision as to if they feel their child is ready to participate in Holy Communion. **There will be a blessing for the Early Communion Class, and at that time they will also have the opportunity to take their first Holy Communion with their parents, at the worship services on September 16<sup>th</sup>.** Regular Confirmation classes will begin on September 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. for the 5<sup>th</sup> graders. A meal will be served each week from 5:15-5:30 p.m. Please – parents if your child cannot make it by 5:15 to eat provide for him or her before you bring them to church. Also, for the safety of your children, **please do NOT drop your children off before 5:15**, as we do not have adult supervision until 5:15 p.m.

**Attention Confirmation youth in grades 6, 7, & 8 and their parents: there will be a brief informational time at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>.** We will be completing registration forms at this time as well. **Please make every effort to be at this meeting and have ALL the paperwork completed by the end of the evening.** This is so very helpful. If you are unable to make the meeting

## **6, 7, 8 grade Confirmation continued:**

please pick up the paperwork or print it from our website and return it by September 5<sup>th</sup>. I thank you so much for helping us out with this registration process. **Regular confirmation classes will begin on September 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.** A meal will be served each week from 5:15-5:30 p.m. Please – parents if your child cannot make it by 5:15 to eat provide for him or her before you bring them to church. Also, for the safety of your children, **please do NOT drop your children off before 5:15**, as we do not have adult supervision until 5:15 p.m.

**Mark your calendars: the first day of Sunday school will be September 9<sup>th</sup>.** The Sunday School hour is from 9:15-10:15AM. There will also be an opportunity to register your children during this time. You may print off the Sunday School Registration form from our church website, fill it out and return it on the 9<sup>th</sup>. We will be having a really fun new curriculum this year. Watch for more details.

**Attention parents of 3 and 4 year olds:** An exciting time is approaching as our “little ones” leave our Cradle Roll and now begin Sunday school. **There will be a special blessing during the services on September 9<sup>th</sup>.** We will ask the children and their parents to participate in this. This blessing will happen at both the 8:00 and 10:30 services.

**Christian Education Volunteers** (Confirmation Guides, Sunday School Teachers, and After-School KFC Program Teachers & Helpers) – there will be an installation on September 9<sup>th</sup> at the worship services and on Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at the worship service for those who cannot make it September 9<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars!

## **HUMAN CARE MINISTRY**

We now have a **small food ministry available** for those who are experiencing challenges with getting a meal prepared. For example if someone has been discharged from the hospital or is experiencing an illness that has created a difficult situation for them. If someone has experienced a death of a loved one, a family with a new baby – these are a few examples who may benefit from a meal. We have frozen hot dishes available. Along with the meal comes the support of their St. Matthew Church family as God blesses them in their time of need. Please notify the church if you know of someone that we can bless.

**Noon Fellowship** will meet on **Monday, August 13<sup>th</sup>**. The menu will be grilled hamburgers and potato salad. Does this sound familiar? Yes, we are keeping with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July theme as Marlis did not get to decorate the Fireside Room as it was not user friendly that day. We hope that Marlis can decorate for us! Please bring a dish to pass or a free will offering. We will be taking blood pressures prior to the dinner for those who would like this. We look forward to seeing you. **A Health Education Hour** will be offered after the Noon Fellowship time. A nurse will be available to answer questions and provide education on medications, advanced directives, community services to assist individuals in their home. Blood pressures will be taken with education regarding signs and symptoms of blood pressure abnormalities.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Please note that prayer shawls and lap robes are continuing to be made. So please let us know if you know of someone who would be blessed by these. Shawls and robes are prayed over by the individual making them for the individual who will receive them.

**Widows Grief Ministry:** Please join us on August 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m. for a Widows Support Ministry. It does not matter how long ago you have lost your husband, 10+ years or 2 months ago, we join to support one another with the love that Christ has shown us. *“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” Matthew 5:4*

**The Health Cabinet/Human Care Ministry** is very interested and involved in meeting the emotional, spiritual and physical needs of our church family. We need your assistance in determining the needs for ministries to be started. **If you did not see the brief survey we had in our weekly bulletins recently, you may download it from our website** and bring it to the church office, place it in the offering plate, or scan and email it to the church office. The survey asks who would like to participate in **support group ministries** such as: cancer, widows/widowers, and caregivers. If there are any questions, please contact Roxie Leckband at the church office or email [stmatthumancare@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthumancare@gmail.com)

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### **WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN**

The Martha Circle will meet on Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. The Sarah and Hope Circles will not meet in August.

### **Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) News**

There will NOT be a meeting for LWML in August. Coffee Hour on Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup> will be hosted by the Martha Circle.

We will have our September meeting on September 6<sup>th</sup>. Watch the weekly bulletins for more information.

### **Service Opportunity!**

Are you looking for a way to serve your church? Do you like the opportunity to use the screen during our worship services? Then consider volunteering to be the projector operator, camera person, or sound person during our worship services. This is a very important ministry to the congregation and help is needed for our services! If you are interested, please contact Bev in the church office or one of our current tech crew. This is for ADULTS and YOUTH. Training is provided and scheduling is flexible!

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### **The Passion Play of Oberammergau 2020**

The 2020 Passion Play of Oberammergau brings to Christian travelers some of the most spiritually deep and meaningful opportunities of any trip possible. It comes only once every 10 years! The Passion Play has become a ministry of Nawas International Travel and they have done their very best to ensure affordable pricing and leading quality on all of their Passion Play tours. **Our church has received information on these tours and are looking to see if there is interest amongst our congregation members.** Please contact the church office if you'd be interested in obtaining more information and/or possibly planning this travel opportunity for 2020. **If we have enough interest, we will set up an informational meeting date and time.**

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### **Church Officers for July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019**

Congregation President – Nathan Holt; Vice President – Ron Iverson; Secretary – Nancy Ihrke; Elders – Tim Hansberger, Mike Dierks, Chris Luther, Joel Lorenz, Arnie Ihrke, Kevin Schmidt; Trustees – Bryon Spittle, Kirk Feit, Clarence Mess, Lynn Brunk, Jerry Vogt. The other Board positions will be filled after we finalize our By-Law Changes. A listing is posted on the bulletin boards in the north/elevator entrance and Narthex/south entrance.

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### **Church Council Meeting Highlights**

There are No Council Meeting Highlights available, as a meeting was not held in July.

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# AUGUST WORSHIP HELPERS SCHEDULES

*We will have the one service at 9am on Sundays through August 26.*

## ACOLYTES:

August 5	Austin Barber	
August 12	Eli Hansberger	
August 19	Hannah Henning	
August 26	Calah Ling	
September 2	(8am) Jordis Weber	(10:30am) Alexa Kilker

## NURSERY:

August 5	Brandon Bosma, Marlis Rohwer
August 12	Mark Geertsema, Angie Kopplow
August 19	Sierra Goedtke, _____
August 26	Evan Hansberger, Tammy Markus
September 2	(10:30) Logan Meyeraan, 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 5	(9 am)	Keith & Margaret Schroeder; Karen Schwartz
August 12	(9 am)	DuWayne & Carol Oberloh; Sandy Cuperus
August 19	(9 am)	David & LaVonne Holt; Donna Lee
August 26	(9 am)	Vern & Marilyn Meyer; Lisa Buschwitz
September 2	(8 am) (10:30)	Stan & Betty Hotzler; Mark Schwarz David & Alexie Cross; Mike & Cindy Froderman



*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.***