

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN
August 2020 Newsletter

Worship Schedule August 2 – August 30, 2020

August 2nd – two worship services, 8am & 10:30am

August 9th – one worship service at 9:00am

**August 16th – Worship Service at Chautauqua Park Band Shell
at 9:30 a.m. (Voters Meeting to follow the service)**

In case of rain, service & meeting will be at the church.

August 23rd – one worship service at 9:00am

**August 30th – we go back to our regular schedule of two worship
services: 8:00am Traditional and 10:30am Contemporary**

**Please note – NO Van transportation until further notice, due to Covid-19.
MASKS ARE NOW REQUIRED due to MN Executive Order 20-81.*

Prayer & Praise in the Park

August 16 – 9:30 a.m.

Chautauqua Park Band Shell

We will follow the MN Mandated Executive Orders.

Voters Meeting to follow the worship service.

Election of Officers will take place.

In case of rain, we will have service & meeting at the church.



**Bring your lawn chairs and
remember to social-distance!**

**Watch our Facebook Page and
our Website (the News section)
for any updates.**

CHURCH RECORDS

Baptisms

- Dahlia Raye and Ember Faye Keller, twin daughters of Ian & Michael Keller baptized on July 12
- Cash Grelin Sandersfeld, son of Adam & Ashley Sandersfeld was baptized on July 26.

Deaths

- Damien Leckband passed away June 16; funeral service was held June 26.
- Barb Hagen passed away July 14; funeral service was held July 21.

OFFERING REMINDER

Your FAITHFUL – REGULAR – WEEKLY offering commitment enables your congregation to meet important summer ministry commitments. If you intend to be away for several weeks, please consider mailing your offering to the Church Office. Your consideration will help our Treasurer to be faithful in her duties too! Thank you for your generosity. It's such a delight to see how God works through each one of us to be a blessing here in Worthington and around the world!

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Serving in August will be LaVonne Berglund & Velma Cortright for 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.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE (LWML) NEWS

For the near term, all LWML activities are suspended. Watch the bulletin for any changes. Looking ahead: there is a day-long District Get Together on October 10. More information will be in the next newsletter. The most recent Quarterly and Summer WOW are available and can be picked up in the rack outside the church office during the week.

THANK YOU

The family of Doyle Moore would like to thank everyone for the cards and kind words upon his passing. Thanks to Pastor Mark for his comforting sermon, Roxie for helping to plan the funeral, and Bob Westphal for helping also.

A special thank you to these angels: Jen Iverson, Jenna & Samuel Bents, Mark, Anne & Ashley Wagner, JR & Autumn Arnt for delivering Mobile Meals the entire month of June! A big thank you to: Deb Wieneke, Jessica Peterson, Richele Newkirk Staples, Bob Westphal, Jolinn Seegers, Bill & Karen Knigge, LaVonne & Dave Holt, John & Marlene Moberg and Natya Khamphanh, Alvin Sachen, Myron Meyer, David & Kathy Roslansky, Neveah, Isaac & Ben Schreiber, Greg & John Leckband, Laci Boomgarden, Olivia Hayenga, Brooklyn Scheitel-Taylor, Casey & Mary Ingenthron, and Josie & Margaret Schroeder. May God bless you all for your kindness!

Dear St. Matthew Church Family,

Words cannot express the gratitude we have felt as a result of all the kind words, prayers, food visits, memorials and a tree from the congregation given in memory of Damien. We thank everyone who helped in any way with Damien's funeral service and lunch. It was all very much appreciated. Our hearts are deeply saddened as a result of Damien's death, yet we know he is at home with Jesus, a journey we are all on. God has been good as he has blessed us with so much love and support. WE are humbled and continue to be so. A portion of Scripture that continues to ring true in our hearts as all of you continued with meals, visits and prayers is, "Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted." Matthew 5:4 Again, thank you and may Our Lord of comfort bless and keep each and every one of you.

In Christian Love,

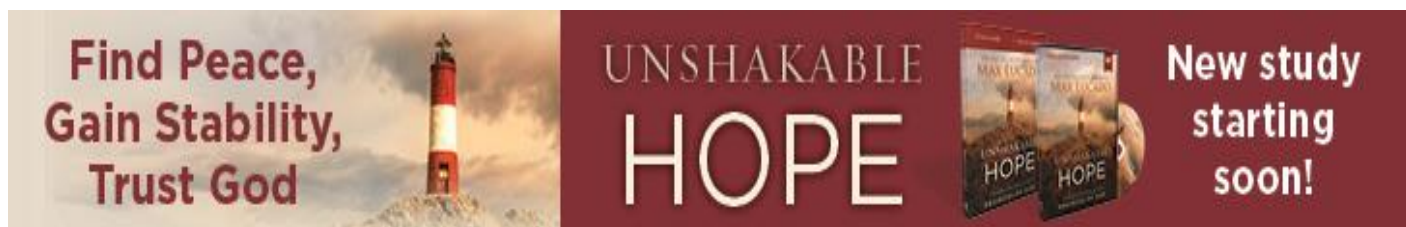
*Greg, Roxie, Lacey & Dominic, Laura & Curtis and Pax Braun,
Kayla, Jonathan, Chris, Dimitri and John Leckband*

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Quarterly Voters Meeting (rescheduled from July)

will take place following our worship service in Chautauqua Park on August 16th. Service at 9:30 a.m. with meeting to follow.

Election of Officers for the 2020-2022 term is on the Agenda.



Unshakable Hope is a 12-week whole-church experience! We plan to begin this campaign on September 20th. Please watch for more information. There will be Adult Bible studies and our Sunday School classes and youth will be using this material – so it is a whole family experience! This study will open participants’ eyes as to how they can view their problems in light of God’s many promises in Scripture.

From Max Lucado the author of *Unshakable Hope*:

After forty years of ministry, I’ve discovered that nothing lifts the weary soul of the people of God like the promises of God.

Whenever world events (or even home events) pull the rug out, when hope is in short supply, when times have been tough, these promises have sustained my congregation. I think they will bless yours, too.

Unshakable Hope, a Bible study for your whole church, contains a few of my go-to promises from Scripture, the ones to which I’ve repeatedly turned throughout the years. Why? Because people desperately need them. When people feel as though they’re standing on sinking sand, when all around them seems to shake to the very foundation, they do not need more opinions or hunches; they need the definitive declarations of our mighty and loving God who governs the world according to his great and precious promises.

God’s promises lead us into a new reality, a holy environment. They are direction signs intended to guide us away from the toxic swampland into the clean air of heaven. They sit like stones in the golden pathway to God’s world. They form the bridge over which we walk from our sin to salvation. Promises are the stitching in the spine of the Bible. *We are building our lives on the promises of God. Because his Word is unbreakable, our hope is unshakable. We do not stand on the problems of life or the pain in life. We stand on the great and precious promises of God.*

Any college students or anyone else in need of some good used furniture? We have a blue plaid sleeper sofa, 2 blue chairs, coffee table and 2 end tables with lamps available to anyone who would like them. We only ask for a free-will donation to the church. Contact Bev in the church office to set up a time to look at the furniture.

CURRENT GUIDELINES DUE TO COVID-19

We understand that there will be many different opinions about attending worship service during this pandemic time. At this moment, the devil could easily use the opportunity to divide us against ourselves. Please, let us not allow that to occur. Respect both those who desire to attend worship and those who chose to continue to worship with us online. **The protocols we have put in place have been developed based on current guidance issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and MN Executive Orders.** If leadership becomes aware of a clear, immediate, imminent threat to the safety of the attendance or determines that the protocols listed below cannot be observed, the gathering will be cancelled until the protocols can be observed. Please read through the list below, detailing the precautionary measures that are put into place at this time:

- Anyone showing any sickness, or anyone who has a household member who is sick or showing symptoms of sickness should not attend.
- **FACE MASKS ARE NOW REQUIRED – due to the recent MN Governor Executive Order 20-81.**
- Please follow the 6 ft. social distancing guideline. Pews are marked off to allow for the 6 ft. social distancing requirement. One family unit per space please.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided and required upon entering and leaving the church.
- The only outside door that will be open to enter the church is the newer U-drive door on the east side of the building. Please enter the church through this door.
- People are instructed to greet each other without touching, maintaining 6 feet of social distancing.
- All will enter the sanctuary through the narthex door, and ushers will be available to assist in locating a seat.
- Ushers will be counting the number of people who enter, so we do not exceed our capacity of approximately 150 persons.
- The restrooms in the Great Hall will be available for use before or during the church service.
- Communion will be offered, and the process will adhere to special sanitary procedures. Please dispose of the wine and wafer cups in the recycle bins provided as you return to your pew. The altar guild preparing communion and those distributing communion will wear proper PPE and will follow sanitary procedures.
- Offering plates will be at the front of the sanctuary and your offering may be placed in the plate as you come up for communion or as you exit the church service.
- **At the end of the service, please wait for the usher to release your pew.** Everyone will exit the sanctuary through the front door, and then exit the church via the north parking lot door.
- Please take your bulletin home with you or dispose of it in the recycle bin as you leave.
- After the service, the restrooms available for use are the single-stall restrooms by the kitchen door in the basement.
- The elevator is available for use after the service, please adhere to limiting one family at a time.
- High traffic items such as doors, pews, etc. will be cleaned after each service.
- Hymnals, Bibles, and disposable papers have been removed from all pews.
- The nursery will be closed. Changing tables are available in the restrooms.

Groups meeting at the church: beginning in August, we are allowing small groups to meet at the church. **MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED - we also have written guidelines and those participating in the groups will be asked to read the guidelines and sign the form acknowledging that you have read and will abide by the guidelines and release the church from any liability.** All groups will need to contact Bev in the church office to set up dates, times, and room(s) they would like to use. Groups will need to abide by the signs posted as to that room's capacity and will need to wipe down, with sanitizing cloths, all surfaces, doorknobs, etc. before they leave. Contact Bev in the church office with any questions, or to reserve a room for your group. **The church reserves the right to cancel at any time.**

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN CARE/PARISH NURSE NEWS

By Roxann Leckband

Widow's Group will be meeting on Monday, August 17th at 5:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. We will meet for a time in God's Word as we continue to work through the book, Postcards from the Widows' Path, focusing on the book of Ruth. We will have food delivered in or we will go out for supper.

The "My New Bible Class" for our 3rd and 4th graders is scheduled for August 18th and 19th. The Bible presentation and blessing will then be done on August 23rd at the 9 a.m. worship service. Please note, due to the unpredictability of our current situation we may have to change this. There will be more information going forward. Please contact Roxie with any questions or concerns you may have. Roxie will be contacting the families of our 3rd graders and the 4th graders who have not taken the class yet.

The July-September Portals of Prayer devotion books are available in the north entrance. Please stop by and pick-up a copy for your daily devotions.

Please remember we are still in a fluid situation with the Covid-19 pandemic. Guidelines and procedures can change from week-to-week or even day-to-day! We will post updates on our church's Facebook page and website when needed.

Highlights from the June 9, 2020 Church Council Meeting

The actual Minutes cannot be printed because they have not yet been approved.

Treasurer: May expenses were \$28,888.30. Income was \$58,642.00. Income included SBA loan funds that were used for payroll expenses. Building Fund income was \$75.00. Net Income for the month was \$29,830.70. Balance in the General Fund Checking Account on May 31 was \$58,408.91. Memorial Fund balance is \$41,669.85. Building Loan balance is \$168,400 and the Bridge Loan balance is \$15,000. Scholarship Fund balance is \$452,908.98. Youth Account monthly report was \$12,634.54. Paid \$14,000 towards expense of new balcony technology, which is approximately ½ cost of the recording and livestreaming equipment. Will still need to cover expenses of the projection system. Will be receiving \$10,000 from our Thrivent funds and will have more donations from members. SBA Loan update: paid May payroll expenses of \$20,330.60 from it. Still have available balance to use of \$27,809.40. Nathan Holt will work with Tammy to make sure that the 8-week deadline to use these funds is met.

Staff Reports: *Pastor Mark* - Continuing to record services and they are available on our YouTube channel. Technology equipment has arrived, and installation started today. Need to get tech committee together to decide on other equipment that needs to be ordered. Would like to have all of the new system functioning well before fall. Will not be having Wednesday evening services for now as have visited with some members that usually would attend that service and most were not ready to start coming to a service yet. Elders also discussed this issue and will wait until attendance at Sunday services improves. Discussed that it has been stressful trying to get members back into attending services. There are new MN regulations with the Covid-19. We will need to continue to be creative with how we conduct our services. *Roxie* – continue to make visits and phone contacts with members and delivering some newsletters and devotional materials. Assisting Pastor Mark as the needs arise.

Board of Elders: Sunday services have gone well with numbers attending slowly increasing. Have received comments thanking us for being cautious and following guidelines suggested. Discussed that with the use of more digital equipment some things won't be going back to the way they used to be.

New Business: Discussed Finance Board and how these positions are filled. Nominating committee discussed as we need to have election of officers for open positions and a voters meeting. Discussed having our annual outdoor service in the park. Will need to check on a few things for that.

Next meeting is July 14^h at 5:30 p.m.