

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



Rise Above the Din

Every year I am amazed again of the mystery of Christmas that God descended from his heavenly glory, took on our flesh, and became as meek and lowly as a newborn infant for the salvation of the world.

Unfortunately though, it seems for me anyway that it takes longer and longer for the mystery of Christmas to dawn upon my everyday routine, and grasp my full attention. I know the reason for this unfortunate malady in my life, it can be summoned up in one little word *din*. Din is a loud, continuing, overwhelming noise. It is the sound you hear when you walk into a noisy stadium or convention hall and are assaulted by the distracting bumble of noise—that is din.

These days din comes in a variety of forms, we are bombarded with messages in a vast number of ways: TV, radio, internet, flyers, catalogues, billboard signs, and telemarketers, just to name a few. Yes, our lives can be a din of noise, and often December can be the worst month of all. On top of the normal routines of life we have to add the entire holiday bustle of shopping, extra school obligations, and the preparations for celebrations, and you have a recipe for a kind of disharmony that can drive you to distraction. That is the problem—distraction.

When God gave us the message of his love, he didn't send us a din of confusing noise and conflicting messages. His message came in the still, small voice of a child. His message came in the form of communication itself, a human child destined not to just tell of God's love, but to be God's love for us. This Advent season join us as we "stop", "look", and "listen" to that wonderful message of love that is the Christmas story.

This Advent and Christmas season let us prepare our hearts to receive the Christ child into our lives. Please take advantage of our Advent Midweek services in December; it is a great way to focus our hearts and minds and rise above the din of this holiday season, and focus on the true message of the season.

Remember, there was no room for the baby Jesus in the inn, that's okay, because he wanted to make his home in your heart anyway. Have wonderful Christmas season!

In Christ,
Pastor Mark



SOUTH ENTRANCE (Dover Street) WILL NOT BE USED

Due to the upcoming snow and ice of our Minnesota winters, we will NOT use the front door (*south entrance-Dover Street side*) of the church. Please use the north entrance, drive-up entrance or the side entrance off of Burlington Street. **This will start with our first snow fall and continue until next Spring**, after all the snow and ice has melted. Thank You.

St. Matthew's Board of Trustees



Wednesday evening Advent Worship Services will take place on **December 5, 12, 19 at 6:30 p.m.** Each service will be preceded by a supper served from 5:10-6:00 pm in the basement. A free-will offering will be received for the suppers. **Devotion books, “God With Us” are available at each entrance to the church.**

CHURCH RECORDS

Deaths

- Dean Leistico passed away October 21; funeral service was held October 25.
- Thomas Peters passed away October 12; graveside service was held October 30.
- Leatha Kunze passed away November 4; funeral service was held November 7.

Wedding

- Brittany Boomgarden & Jesse Raudenbush were united in marriage November 17.
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MUSIC NEWS

*“The advent of our King, Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing In strains of holy joy.” LSB 331*

In this final newsletter article of 2018, our music directors extend a thank you to all who have shared their talents during this past year. Your willingness to share your musical gifts at our worship services is greatly appreciated!

December is filled with worship and music opportunities, including:

- Blended Midweek Advent services on December 5, 12, and 19 at 6:30 PM
- Our Sunday School Christmas Program, “*A Service of Lessons and Carols*” at 9:30 AM on Sunday, December 16.
- Usual Sunday morning worship at 8:00 and 10:30 on December 2, 9, 23, and 30.
- Christmas Eve services at 5:00 PM and 10:00 PM
- Christmas morning service at 9:30 AM

Just a reminder, there is no Wednesday evening worship on December 26.
God’s Blessings as we prepare to welcome our Lord and Savior.

Lorenda Glade & Joy Schreiber, Directors of Music

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS

Andrew, Jenna, and Samuel Bents are in the process of adopting a little girl from Thailand.

What a blessing! You are invited to come show your support of this family and enjoy an authentic Thai meal on Sunday, December 9th at 11:30 a.m. in the church basement. A free-will donation will be taken to help with the expenses of this adoption process. Any donations with names on them will get their name written on the back of a puzzle piece. The puzzle will be put together and hung in their daughter's room when it is finished. **RSVP's are requested, but not required, to Amy at 360-5360.** If you are unable to attend the event but would like to make a donation, please call or text Amy as well. Thank you for your support as Andrew and Jenna grow their family.

Daeng and Amy Khamphanh



LWML NEWS

All women from the church are invited to our annual Christmas Party on Thursday, **December 6, 2018 at 6:00 pm.** We will begin with a Soup Supper and potluck Christmas goodies. Please bring a favorite Christmas Treat! (Soup will be provided.) A program by Sarah Circle will follow the meal. If you want to be involved in the gift exchange, please bring a \$5.00 gift to the party. We look forward to celebrating Christ's birth! Bring a friend! If you have any questions, call Kathy Roslansky 360-1831.

Other Notes: The December 9 coffee hour will be hosted by the Hope Circle. There will be No LWML Meeting in January 2019. Coffee hour on January 20 will be hosted by the Sarah Circle.



Please Note: The January Church Newsletter will NOT be mailed out until the first week of January!

Have you heard the saying – *“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; however, PLEASE return the room to its original setting before you leave. Thank You for your attention to this.



BENEFIT FOR TAMMY METTEER

Spaghetti Feed - Friday, December 7th

from 5:00-9:00 p.m.

at the Elks Lodge in Worthington.



Tammy Metteer, daughter of Terry & Pam Fletcher was baptized, confirmed and married here at St. Matthew's. Tammy is a 27-year-old mother of two boys ages 4 and 7 and the wife of Mike Metteer. Tammy had just won her fight with breast cancer in August of 2018, in October 2018 they found cancer in her brain. A benefit is being held to raise money to help pay for bills, while she fights cancer. 100% of the proceeds will go to Tammy. A free-will donation will be received for the meal of spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic toast, jello salad, cupcake and drink. **There will also be a Silent Auction and a Dessert Raffle.**

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Serving in December will be: Velma Cortright and ??? 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.

ALTAR FLOWERS – if you would like to provide flowers for the altar on a specific Sunday please sign up on the flower calendar in the Narthex. **Please sign up at least 2 weeks in advance.** If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Ramert, 372-7225. **Altar flowers are ordered from McCarthy's Floral for \$25.** McCarthy's has the containers that our church uses. In those containers, and for the \$25 cost, you may pick from the following flowers: carnations, mini carnations, daisies, austromarias and mums. If you choose to have other flowers, the cost would be more. McCarthy's will deliver the bouquets to church on Saturdays. Anyone wishing to order flowers from Hy-Vee will have to place their own order with Hy-Vee and you will have to bring the flowers to church, or make sure the church will be open for Hy-Vee to deliver. **Thank you for providing the beautiful flower arrangements for our altar.**

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you to all who served as the hands and feet of Jesus delivering mobile meals during the month of November: Parker Stevens, Mary Meyer, Keith and Margaret Schroeder, DuWayne and Carol Oberloh, Vern and Marilyn Meyer, Gary and Velma Cortright, Virgil and Donna Reed, Daryl and Karen Doeden, Steve Rubis, Jen Iverson, Linda Lindemann, LaVonne Holt, Dave and Kathy Roslansky, Deb Meyer, Gary Obermoller, John Galstad, Alvin Sachen, John and Marlene Moberg, Marlene Jurgensen, Marianne Behrens, Pat and Terri Riley and Rita Shirkey. May God bless you for your kindness!

Thank you to everyone that attended the Veterans Recognition Breakfast on November 4th. "Got Freedom? – Thank a Vet!"

Cindy Brunk

Thank you to Pastor Mark for his prayers, visits, help and kindness to my family, and for the wonderful sermon at Dean's funeral. Also to Tammy for her solo, the boys and I thought it was beautiful. Thanks to the ladies for the lunch, Benson's for their support and to St. Matthew's for being there when I needed them. You all will be blessed.

Phyllis Leistico

Thank you to everyone who purchased and/or helped with the LWML eggroll fundraiser. We had a total of 19 volunteers, and we rolled just over 1,400 eggrolls. We raised \$1,763 for Mites! Thanks to a Thrivent Action Grant, all supplies and ingredients were paid for so the full amount is able to be used for local, district, and national mission grants.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: WHEN THE WINTER WEATHER IS QUESTIONABLE - HOW DO I FIND OUT IF CHURCH SERVICES/ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED?

To find out if worship services have been cancelled, please tune into the following local radio stations for announcements: FM Stations 95.1 (KUSQ), 93.5 (KITN) and 104.3 (KZTP)

You may also check our Facebook page – [facebook.com/stmattworthington](https://www.facebook.com/stmattworthington) or download our App – St Matthew Worthington MN (allow for push notifications).

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Martha Circle will meet on December 13th at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Sarah Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 18th at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 18th at 5:15 p.m. in the Youth Room.

2018 GIVING – Please remember, all offerings to the church to be counted as 2018 giving, **MUST PHYSICALLY BE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE by December 31st**. Anything received after that time must be counted towards 2019 giving. THANK YOU!

The 2019 Offering Envelopes will arrive in December – watch for more information! It was decided that boxes of envelopes will be printed for all families. The boxes include envelopes that provide “special giving opportunities” throughout the year in addition to regular weekly envelopes.

LOOKING AHEAD – St. Matthew’s will be serving at The Banquet in Sioux Falls, SD on Saturday, January 26, 2019. Please watch for more information, and mark your calendars now!

ELECTRONIC GIVING AVAILABLE

A convenient, consistent way to help our church grow!

Our church offers electronic giving, which allows you to make donations on a scheduled, automatic basis. If you are writing checks and preparing envelopes every week, you will especially appreciate electronic giving. It is convenient for you and provides much-needed donation consistency for our church. To set up electronic donations, simply complete the authorization form available at each entrance to the church and on our website, www.stmatthewworthington.com and return it to the church office. Donations can be debited automatically from either a checking or savings account.

Help us grow!

GRAIN OFFERINGS - Any farmers that would like to make a donation using loads of grain may do so by simply telling the grain elevator, and then calling the place you are doing the donation for, so they may contact the elevator. You may make your donations this way to the following organizations: St. Matthew Lutheran Church; Worthington Christian School; Love INC of Worthington. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

An update on a member of St. Matthew’s - Coral Owens-Riley has been living and working in Idaho since 2015. She is at Lutherhaven Ministries in Couer d’Alene, Idaho. Her first year there she worked at Shoshone Creek Ranch as a counselor and helped kids learn how to ride horses and look after God’s creatures, and worked in the Outdoor Education Program and as a Hospitality Associate. Her second year consisted and consists of working as a Camp Counselor at Beautiful Lutherhaven. **A note from Coral:** *It was still evident that God wanted me to keep growing here when on the last week of camp I was asked to apply to be an intern for Lutherhaven Ministries. I accepted and was hired! Learning more about God and how amazing he is and being able to reach out to kids who possibly do not know Jesus as their Savior. Working here has been an amazing opportunity that God has opened up for me and I couldn’t be more thankful enough for the amazing congregation back home who has constantly been supporting me. You can reach me by: Email – coralowensriley99@gmail.com; Address: 3258 West Lutherhaven Rd, Couer d’Alene, ID 83814.*

Coral would enjoy receiving notes/cards/letters from her home congregation.

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN CARE MINISTRIES

By Roxie Leckband

Noon Fellowship will be on December 10th. There will be blood pressures taken from 11:30-12:00 for anyone who would like their blood pressure taken. We will then feast on our Christmas meal of ham, cheesy hash browns, green bean casserole and dinner rolls. You may bring a side dish to compliment the meal, provide a free-will offering or just come. We would love to have you. Following our meal we will have a time in God's Word. **Please note at 1:00 there will be a medication management opportunity.** There will be a sign-up sheet in the Great Hall with instructions to bring a list of medications and or the pill bottles in order for medication to reviewed and current list of medications be made. This list will assist with taking your medication accurately, and also that you may have a current list to take along to your medical provider the next time you go to see him /her. If you have any questions please call Roxie at 507-376-6168.

Tammy Metteer Benefit will be on December 7th from 5:00-9:00 at the Elks. St Matthew Lutheran is partnering with the Boy Scouts to help defray medical costs that have been accrued as Tammy has been undergoing cancer treatment. The benefit will also support Tammy and her family with love and support. **The St. Matthew Lutheran Church Family has been asked to bring cupcakes, powdered drink mix and coffee, along with Styrofoam cups.** I will have a signup sheet for cupcakes. The cupcakes may be brought to the Elks on Friday, December 7th from 3:00-6:00 (please note there will need to be cupcakes brought in by 5:00pm). I will have a box for anyone who would like to donate drink mix, coffee, a Styrofoam cups. Please have these items in the box by 12 noon on Friday, December 7th for delivery to the Elks. The organizers of the benefit are planning to serve approximately 400 people. Praise God servant hearts.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church Family will once again have the opportunity to bless a family this Christmas season. **A Gift Card Giving Tree** will be up in the Great Hall with ornaments corresponding with a gift card to be purchased. Please take the ornament, purchase the gift card, and return it to Roxie or Bev. The cards will then be given to the family that was chosen. **Please have the gift card you have chosen back the church by December 17th.** Thank you for your help and support.

A Family Event will be on December 9th to get us all in the Christmas spirit. Our event will begin with caroling at 3:00pm, followed by cookie decorating and a light supper. The event keeps getting better! There will be Christmas cookies for sale to help support our youth ministry.

Mom's Group will be held on December 7th, 14th and 28th at 10:30AM.

Please note St. Matthew Lutheran is **in need of a representative** to assist with Love INC Furniture Delivery. St. Matthew's is in a rotation with other congregations in the community. We have an opportunity to deliver furniture three times a year. This position does not necessarily mean you deliver the furniture yourself, but help find people willing to help with this once Love INC has contacted you. I would like to see a group of individuals willing and we rotate and trade off even amongst the volunteers at St. Matthew Lutheran. Contact Roxie if you are interested or have any questions.

Please note our Pre-school through 8th grade Christmas program will be December 16 at 9:30 a.m. For details about the program refer to Lorenda Glades music section.

**Please note there is NO Sunday School on December 16th, 23rd or 30th
and NO Confirmation on December 26th and January 2nd.**

HIGHLIGHTS from the November 13 Council Meeting: October expenses were \$32,649.98; income was \$33,052.49. Building Fund income was \$75.00. Net Income for the month was \$447.51. Balance in the General Fund Checking Account on 10/31/18 was \$32,506.67. Memorial Fund balance is \$38,478.34. Scholarship Fund balance is \$570,091.02. Youth account balance is \$12,291.97. Average weekend attendance in October was 273. Average Wednesday attendance was 21. Lifetouch Photography contacted us about doing a directory again. Will contact them about a possible September 2019 date. Pastor attended a conference on November 8-10th on LCMS Rural Small-Town Ministry held in Kansas City. We are collecting hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for the Community Christmas Baskets. Prayer Shawls are available for anyone in need. Our Food Ministry is also available. "Walking with Jesus" ministry will begin on November 19th. Medication Management Ministry will be available on December 10th. Blood pressures will be taken in conjunction with Noon Fellowship and on the 1st and 3rd Sundays between services. Pocket Pals for cold & flu education are available at the entrances to the church. Jenna and Roxie attended the LCMS Educator Conference in Mankato and had a great session on cyber bullying and risk management. Wednesday night youth have started the "Life on a Mission" video series. High School Seniors are going through the "Sticky Faith: 10 Lessons to Nurture Faith Beyond High School." We have 31 youth and 7 chaperones signed up for the National Youth Gathering next summer in Minneapolis. Jenna would like to take a small group of youth to the LCMS Youth Leadership training event in St. Louis, MO on March 14-17. We are looking for adult mentors for our youth in grades 9-12. Contact Jenna with more information. Jenna has finished her first semester at Concordia University, Irvine, CA. Elders are planning to have someone from the Police Department attend their December meeting and look at possible security issues throughout the building – Trustees will be asked to attend also. Trustees installed 2 new garage door openers, need to look into getting scaffolding to fix chancel lights prior to Advent season. Sunday School is going well, have an awesome group of new and returning teachers. Working on finding a new keyboard for Sunday school music. Thrivent Choice funds would purchase this. Two chrome books were purchased for teacher use. Need to purchase additional TVs for classrooms. Revitalization Project Update – flooring not finished yet, need to finish work in bathrooms, blinds will be installed in all office and the Fireside Room, no lights will be changed, East door needs panic bar replaced and Trustees have been looking into this issue. It's very expensive to replace just the panic bar. Discussed costs on both repair and replacing of the doors. Expenses have been on target. Expenses to date \$262,000 and have not had to use any of the contingency allocation. Goal is to have all work completed by Christmas. Bylaws changes are still being discussed. Will have a special voters meeting in January to vote on recommended changes. Will have copies of current language and proposed change available for members to review before this meeting. Donated \$60 to Worthington Fire Department for ongoing fire prevention training that they provide to youth at schools. Next Council meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 11 at 5:30 p.m.

October 21, 2018 Voters Meeting Highlights – For quarter ending 9/30/18 = Income: \$93,440.75; Expenses: \$107,281.83; Checkbook Balance: \$32,058.16. Building Fund Income: \$4,205.00. Scholarship Balance: \$595,064.63. Memorial Fund Balance: \$44,386.11. Youth account: \$12,291.97. There was a \$9,636.08 deficit overall for the third quarter. Roxie – Health Cabinet meets every other month to review, address and implement health and human care to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of our congregation and surrounding community. Jenna – started DCE courses through Concordia, Irvine in August. This is a 2-3 year online program. Helped with the Neighborhood Block Party in August. There are about 30 active youth that attend youth group regularly. Music – we have a number of youth participants in the 10:30 band, Gail Bogie is serving twice a month as organist for Wednesday evening services, beginning preparations for the Sunday School Christmas Program. Revitalization Update – have decided not to do anything to the Chapel at this time. New Business: 2019 Budget presented. Only few changes were made such as removed cost of an Associate Pastor, increased expense for snow removal, upkeep and insurance costs. Total Budget presented was \$501,886.0 Last year's budget was \$512,171.00. Next meeting will be in January – date TBD.

Worship Service Helpers for December 2018

ACOLYTES

Dec. 2 8am—Faith Leinen; 10:30--

Dec. 5 6:30 p.m. – Presley Sieve

Dec. 9 8am—Paige Barber; 10:30—Alaina Feit

Dec. 12 6:30 p.m. – Tethlouch Gach

Dec. 16 9:30 a.m. – Nia Iverson

Dec. 19 6:30 p.m. –Natya Khamphanh

Dec. 23 8am – Isaac Lowe ; 10:30 – Dalton Larson

Dec. 24 5 p.m. – Alaya Rowley

Dec. 24 10 p.m. – _____

Dec. 25 9:30 a.m. – Damien Leckband

Dec. 30 8am – Mersaydes Marten ; 10:30 – Madison Sieve

Jan. 6 8am—Tavin Miller; 10:30—Ryker Thier

NURSERY (10:30 ONLY)

Kyle Ahrenstorff, Kasen White

no nursery

Brandon Bosma, Gail Holinka

no nursery

Kasen White, Val Wolford

Sierra Goedtke, Jessica Larson

Marlis Rohwer, Kasen White

no nursery at 10pm

no nursery

Mark Geertsema, Angie Kopplow

Evan Hansberger, Beth White

** Please be sure to mark your calendars and **arrive 15 minutes before service begins.** If you cannot fulfill your scheduled date, please find a replacement and **call the church office with the change.** THANK YOU*

GREETER SCHEDULE

If you are unable to fulfill your scheduled time, please try to find a replacement and call the church office with the change. **If you can help fill in any of the open slots, please contact Bev in the church office. Thanks for serving.*

Dec. 2 8 a.m. – Dan & Laurita Roos
10:30 – LaDean & Lori Fletcher

Dec. 5 6:30 p.m. – David & LaVonne Holt

Dec. 9 8 a.m. – Lorna Buntjer; Julie Buntjer
10:30 – Virgil & Donna Reed

Dec. 12 6:30 p.m. – Jim & Eloise Langseth

Dec. 16- 9:30 a.m. – Mark Schwarz; Ruth Ramert

Dec. 19 6:30 p.m. – Karen Schwartz; Sue Koob

Dec. 23 8 a.m. – Barry & Kerry Sauer
10:30 a.m. – John & Marlene Moberg

Dec. 24 5 p.m. – Clarence & Twyla Mess
Dec. 24 10 p.m. – Gary & Velma Cortright

Dec. 25 9:30 a.m. – Greg Leckband Family

Dec. 30 8 a.m. – Al & Connie Reitmeier
10:30 – Chris & Stacy Heinrichs

Jan. 6 8 a.m.- Daryl & Karen Doeden
10:30 – Kevin & Danika Schmidt

Upcoming Worship Services at St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Mid-Week Advent Services

Wednesdays -Dec. 5, 12 and 19 at 6:30 p.m.

** Our midweek Advent Services are preceded by a delicious supper served from 5:10-6:00 p.m.*

Sunday, December 2nd

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

9:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Studies

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship

Sunday, December 9th

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

9:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Studies

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship

Sunday, December 16th

9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship Service

**Includes the Children's Christmas Program*

Sunday, December 23rd

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

9:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship

Christmas Eve

5 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service

10 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Christmas Day

9:30 a.m. Festival of Christmas Service

Wednesday, December 26th - NO Service

Sunday, December 30th

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

9:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship

