

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN
February 2015 Newsletter

FROM PASTOR BRECH

Greetings In Christ fellow Redeemed:

It won't be long and I will have been helping you for a year. This brings to mind the value of the art and music of the church. My goal will be to enlighten the congregation to the ties between the different music and art and the church year. I will only be able to scratch the surface of this study in the brief Lenten Season. There is such an awesome depth to the riches of the church in art and music.

As Christians we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, some living, others long since dead. A true picture of the church goes beyond congregation, denomination, or even time. One of the points of genius of the church year is that it is an on-going pageant, bringing to mind those historic events of two thousand years ago, connecting them with the history of the Jews which preceded, and the history of Christianity which resulted. The church year, in short, associates us with God's activity and with that mighty cloud of witnesses which has gone before us, inspiring us to be Christ's mighty arm against the foe in our own time. The church year is a pageant, yet more than a pageant. It is life itself – life in Christ unfolded before us in a comprehensible sequence packed with meaning. It stirs us to richer worship experiences and more effective action in our mandate to preach and sing the Good News to every person.

Further the church year guarantees a balanced emphasis throughout the year. Without it, there would be an unconscious tendency to lose that historical focus which may be locally appealing. Churches showing concern about the church year will find themselves in the mainstream of Christian life and thought.

Finally, but not least, the church year has a way of unifying Christendom in our own times. It is one significant bridge across the chasm between groups which otherwise find themselves on opposite slopes.

What I am going to do this Lenten season since it looks like I will be here for a good share of the season is to present some of the art of the church in its past. I will do this with a separate one page handout at each Wednesday night Lenten service. May this Lenten season be a rich experience for you as we walk with our Lord on the "via Delarosa" (the way of sorrows) to the cross to save us from sin, death, and the devil himself. These things are already conquered so we get to joyfully mop up the spoils of war in accepting the wonderful gifts from Jesus Himself. To God Be The Glory. TGBTG

MID-WEEK LENT SERVICES

Ash Wednesday, February 18 begins our Lent Season. Come enjoy a nice supper served by our youth from 5:15-6:00 p.m. **followed by our Worship Service at 6:30 p.m.** Then, every Wednesday evening following that (February 25, March 4, 11, 18 and 25) you may enjoy a nice meal served from 5:15-6:00 p.m. by several of our church groups, followed by worship at 6:30 p.m.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

by Roxann Leckband

Mom's/Young Women's Group will be meeting on February 6, 13, 20 and 27 from 10:00-11:30AM. For the children we will have a fun time with Bible stories, crafts, singing, playing and snacks. The women will meet in the Fireside room and the children in the classroom across the hall from the Fireside room. Come and enjoy Christian fellowship and a time in God's Word as we discuss the Power of Prayer in our children and families lives.

Family Night will be on February 15th from 5:00-6:30PM. We will be serving pizza as our main entrée. Please bring a dish to pass. There will be fun and fellowship for the children. The children will have adult and youth supervision.

Please continue to send Sunday school offerings with your child/children. They are learning good stewardship practices. It is also fun to see how many animals we can provide for our Sunday school mission project. The money goes to purchase animals for children and families in villages of countries where hunger and starvation are common place. Our Sunday school offerings have previously purchased goats for this mission. It is exciting to see the children's excitement as they realize how they are helping other children and families through their offerings.

The Sunday school children grades pre-school through 2nd will sing on Feb 22nd at the 10:30 service. The children may remain after Sunday school and will sing in the beginning of the 10:30 worship service. The children will be dismissed to their parents after they have sung.

The Sunday school children grades 3-8 will sing on March 1st at the 10:30 service. The children may remain after Sunday school and they will sing in the beginning of the worship service.

The Sunday school children pre-school through 8th grades will be singing on Palm Sunday, March 29th at the 8AM and 10:30AM worship services. There will be more information to follow.

Reminder to Confirmation Students and parents; please turn in your completed sermon notes for Pastor Brech, Roxie and Confirmation guides to read. The 5th and 6th graders need two sermon notes per month and 7th and 8th grade need 3 sermon notes per month. The sermon note sheets and a box to return completed forms are at the entrances of the Sanctuary.

Starting on February 22nd the Sunday school students will be viewing a drama set up to help prepare their hearts and minds for Christ's journey to the cross. A new drama is planned for each week. Every class will have an opportunity to visit the scene during the Sunday school hour. The Board of Education/ Family ministry/YPOGs will be preparing and presenting the scenes.

Thank you to the YPOGs in advance for providing our Lenten suppers on Ash Wednesday, February 18th and on February 25th.

Please see the YPOG (Youth) NEWS lime green insert in this newsletter.

CHURCH RECORDS

Death

Robert "Bob" Petrich passed away January 10, 2015; funeral services were held on January 17, 2015.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS

It seems like music for Advent and Christmas was just being planned, and already we are looking ahead to Lent, which begins with our Ash Wednesday service on February 18. Each of our subsequent Lenten services will include a Hymn Sing prior to the beginning of the service. Please come early for our services and choose one of your favorite hymns for us to sing. Lenten services with Hymn Sings will be on Wednesdays, February 25, and March 4, 11, 18, and 25. A special thank you to Ed Henning, Dan Roos, and Russ Glade for leading our hymn sings, and to our members of St. Matthews for participating in them.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

You are invited to enjoy coffee, snacks and good fellowship during the Coffee Fellowship held each Sunday morning following the 8 a.m. service. A free-will donation is received to benefit the various projects. **Hosts are needed for the coffee fellowship hour on the 1st, 2nd, and 5th Sundays of the month.** Please sign up on the sheet located in the church basement if your church group would like to help out. *Please sign-up at least two weeks in advance.*

The third Sunday of the month, the LWML sponsors the coffee hour. The proceeds go to Seminarian student, Anthony DiLiberto. The fourth Sunday of the month the youth (YPOGs) sponsor the coffee hour. Proceeds go to support their various activities and their summer mission trip.

ALTAR GUILD

Serving in February will be: Velma Cortright and Lynn Dierks at the 8 a.m. services and Ash Wednesday on February 18). If you would like to be a part of the Altar Guild, please contact Velma Cortright 376-5600, Sandy Meyer 376-6290 or the church office, 376-6168.

LWML NEWS

The February meeting of LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) will be on Thursday, February 5th at 1:30 p.m. in the church basement. We will need to begin planning the Spring Zone Rally which will be on April 18th at St. Matthews. Sarah Circle will be the hostess. The Sunday, February 15th coffee hour will be hosted by the Miriam Circle.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Miriam Circle will meet on Monday, February 16th at 1:30 p.m. at Iva Barber's home. The Sarah Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 17th at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 17th at 5:15 p.m. in the Youth Room. The Martha Circle will meet at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

EVANGELISM NEWS

A huge thank you to the volunteers who served the noon meal at the Banquet in Sioux Falls on January 31st. As an on-going outreach to the Banquet, we will continue to collect plastic grocery bags, used silverware, and hygiene items such as hotel shampoo, conditioner, and lotions. These donations can be placed in the wooden container located on the west wall in the church basement.

Prayer Intercessors: Now that we are in to the new year we want to again say **Thank You** to all who signed up to be Prayer Intercessors for our 7th and 8th grade Confirmation Students. Remember to PRAY daily for your specific youth, as well as SEND an ANONYMOUS CARD or note of encouragement monthly. No gifts need be given; only powerful prayer. Thank you for being part of this simple, yet powerful way to impact the lives of St. Matthew's youth. May God richly bless each of you!



THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you to everyone at St. Matthews for all your prayers while Hank was in the hospital in Sioux Falls and after he returned home. God bless you all.

Hank & Maureen Hellinga

I would like to thank Pastor Brech, my family, friends and my St. Matthew's family for their prayers and support during and after my hip replacement surgery. A special thanks to Pastor McDonald for coming to Maple Lawn Nursing Home in Fulda to have a prayer and communion with me as I completed my 5 weeks of therapy and rehab there. A very big thank you to my brother, cousins and wives for their visits and helping to get my house ready for me to come back home. May God Bless each and every one of you.

Norman Vogt

LCEF Y.I. CLUB CHALLENGE

Help Our Church Win \$1,000.00: This February, Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) will give away more than \$25,000 to LCMS ministries. You can help our church win \$1,000 by taking the "Young Investors (Y.I.) Club Challenge." **The 10 question online quiz covering personal finance and stewardship can be taken between January 25 and February 14, 2015.** At the end of the quiz, LCEF will award prizes up to \$1,000 to LCMS churches/schools based on quiz results. **Visit www.yichallenge.org to take the quiz.**

CHURCH VAN DRIVERS NEEDED

Van drivers are needed for our 10:30 worship service on Sundays. Would you like to be a part of this important ministry – getting our parishioners who cannot drive to worship service? Please contact Kent Brunk, 360-9863 or 842-0070. The scheduling is VERY FLEXIBLE. You may help out as often as you would like.

SOUND TECHNICIANS NEEDED

Sound Technicians are needed occasionally for our Saturday evening worship services. With just a tiny bit of training you can help out in this ministry. Please contact Bev in the church office if you have any questions, or would be interested in helping occasionally on Saturday evenings. **We could also use** one or two more sound techs and projector operators for the 8AM worship services. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, or have some questions, please contact the church office or go up to the balcony on a Sunday morning and ask the current operators what is involved! Thank you.

Notes from the January 13, 2015 Council Meeting

Please Note: *Actual Minutes from this Council Meeting will not be approved until the next meeting on February 10. However, so it will not be "old news" we have included the following notes for our members.*

Treasurer's Report: Income for December was \$48,830.49 with expenses of \$32,615.18 for a net income for the month of \$15, 480.85. Building Loan Balance at \$184,166.76. Memorial Fund Balance is \$19,708.41 and Scholarship Fund is at \$622,255.48.

Staff Reports: Pastor Brech – average weekend attendance was 279 in November and 268 in December.

Church Council Notes continued:

Roxie – Confirmation students will be confirmed this spring are working with Pastor Brech on completing the required material. Confirmation, Sunday School and all regular activities have resumed following the Christmas break. Feed My Starving Children service project is being coordinated and will be in Worthington on March 27 and 28. Lorenda – experienced some problems with the keyboard in the Sanctuary. Repairs are needed on the pipe organ and estimated at \$2,000. Linda Lang is serving as a second organist.

Board of Elders: Wednesday Lent services will be at 6:30 p.m. Nominating committee will be formed in February to begin work on a slate of candidates for the April Voters meeting.

Board of Education: November Sunday School offerings of \$200 were donated to Love INC for cleaning supplies. December and January offerings will be used to purchase goats and chickens through Samaritan's Purse. Beginning February 22nd, one station of the cross will be featured during the Sunday School hour as a Lenten activity. Looking into wall mats for safety and sound control in the recreation area in the basement.

Missions: Handed out flyers and invitations for a Birthday Party for Jesus on December 29, 11 kids and 1 mother attended.

Evangelism Committee: St. Matthews will deliver mobile meals in February.

Human Care: Caring Tree program well received this year. Grocery gift cards were given to shut-ins during the Christmas Season.

Board of Youth: Gift wrapping fundraiser and Silent Auction were conducted in December. Wednesday evening meetings resumed on January 14. So far received 15 registrations for the mission trip to Idaho this summer. Junior High Latreia Mission Trip will be July 26-29 – open to current 7-8th graders.

Call Committee: Hoping for new list of names next week.

New Business: David Roslansky has been appointed as the lay delegate for the MN South District Convention in June and John Galstad as the alternate. Sudanese Lutheran Pastor Simon Dup passed away in December. A one-time memorial donation will be given to his wife and 8 children in memory of Pastor Simon Dup and his service to the Sudanese community in Southwest Minnesota.

The next meeting of our Church Council will be on Tuesday, February 10, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: WHEN THE WINTER WEATHER IS QUESTIONABLE -

please tune into the following local radio stations for announcements: FM Stations 95.1, 93.5 and 104.3 and AM Station 730 (KWOA) to hear if services or activities have been cancelled.

Used Eyeglasses – We have a collection box in the north/elevator entrance of the church for you to place your used eyeglasses. A member of our congregation diligently checks the donation box and makes the delivery of the eyeglasses to the Lions Club.

Mission Sewing – A group of ladies meet the 4th Thursday of every month for Mission Sewing. Come and join them and see what all can be used to make a quilt. You can help make quilts even if you don't sew!

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 two weeks in advance. Bouquets are ordered from McCarthy's Floral for \$25. If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Ramert, 372-7225 or Bev in the church office, 376-6168.

Phone Numbers - We have noticed that many of our members' phone numbers are not accurate in our church records. Please contact the church office to update your information. Thank you.

Reminder – If you haven't already done so, please stop and pick up your **2015 Offering Envelopes**. They are on the table in the Great Hall.

Worship Service Helpers for February 2015

ACOLYTES

February 1	(8 AM) Jennifer Preuss	(10:30) Turner Rogers
February 8	(8 AM) Hunter Buntjer	(10:30) Jake Ahrenstorff
February 15	(8 AM) Jasmine Ling	(10:30) Christopher Leckband

ASH WEDNESDAY – February 18 (6:30PM) = Colin Smidt

February 22	(8 AM) Bailey Sounthala	(10:30) Ruby Cardenas
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Wednesday, February 25 (6:30PM) = Austin Barber

March 1	(8 AM) Ashley Ling	(10:30) Luke Gordon
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Wednesday, March 4 (6:30PM) = Brandon Arzu-Bustad

NURSERY (10:30 service only)

February 1	Mackenzie Meyeraan
February 8	Zach Ahrenstorff
February 15	Ivy Paplow
February 22	Nayeli Perez-Blas
March 1	Hunter Boomgarden

Nursery Adult Supervisor

Gail Holinka
Kham Holeton
Alexie Becker
Heather Knigge
Beth White

** Please be sure to mark your calendars. If you cannot fulfill your scheduled date, please find a replacement and **call the church office with the change.***

GREETER SCHEDULE for February 2015

If you cannot fulfill your scheduled date, please find a replacement and call the church office with the change. THANK YOU FOR SERVING!

February 1	8 AM - Dave & LuAnn Philipp 10:30 - John & Jessica Widvey
February 8	8 AM – Bob Westphal 10:30 – Alice White; Sandy Dixon
February 15	8 AM – Al & Connie Reitmeier 10:30 – Dave & Mary Krueger
February 18	6:30PM – Barry & Kerry Sauer; Dean & Phyllis Leistico
February 22	8 AM – YOUTH 10:30 - YOUTH
February 25	6:30PM – Daryl & Karen Doeden
March 1	8 AM – Karen Schwartz 10:30 – Lee & Karen Meyer
March 4	6:30PM – Leonard & Marge Ruesch

If you would like to be added to the Greeters Rotation Schedule please contact Bev in the church office, 376-6168.