

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN
February 2016 Newsletter

Places of the Passion

Dear Redeemed in the Lord,

The scenes of Lent are familiar. The Upper Room, the Garden of Gethsemane, the halls of Pontius Pilate, and the hill of Golgotha—these are the places we remember when we meditate on our Lord's Passion. Yet when Jesus enters a place, He never leaves it as He found it. The most troubling places in our lives become the most amazing places of God's grace when Jesus visits them.

For this reason, in our midweek Lenten series, we will read and contemplate Luke's account of our Lord's Passion. Each week, we will read a different section of the story; and each week, Luke will take us to a different place, the places of the Passion.

Our focus, however, will not be on these physical places. Instead, we will gaze in wonder on the spiritual work that our Lord does there. Jesus will share His strength in our times of weakness. He will fill us with His praise in the midst of our sorrow. Week after week, we will enter the places of the Passion only to discover our Lord . . . waiting for us . . . willing to share with us a love that was set in place before the foundations of the world.

Plan to come to our Lenten services this year. Prepare to enter into these places of devotion, for there, your Lord will meet you, sharing with you His wondrous love that saves a fallen world.

Sermon Titles and Texts

Ash Wednesday: "A Place at the Table for You" (Luke 22:1–13)
Midweek of Lent 1: "The Upper Room: A Place of Service" (Luke 22:14–38)
Midweek of Lent 2: "Gethsemane: A Place of Strength" (Luke 22:39–46)
Midweek of Lent 3: "The Betrayal: A Place of Eternal Love" (Luke 22:47–53)
Midweek of Lent 4: "The Courtyard: A Place of Renewal" (Luke 22:54–62)
Midweek of Lent 5: "The Trial: A Place of God's Will" (Luke 22:63–23:25)

MID-WEEK LENT SERVICES

Ash Wednesday, February 10 begins our Lent Season. Come enjoy a nice supper served by our Council Members from 5:15-6:00 p.m. **followed by our Worship Service at 6:30 p.m.** Then, every Wednesday evening following that (February 17, 24, March 2, 9, 16) 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. Free-will offerings will be received for the meal.

We are in NEED of volunteers to help host the following Mid-Week Lent Suppers: March 2, 9 and 16. If you or your church group can help out on one of these dates, please contact Bev in the church office. **THANKS FOR SERVING!**

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Pastor Mark will be doing a **four week** New Member Class **every Thursday in February**. Classes will be from 6:30-7:30p.m. in the Fireside Room. Please contact Pastor Mark for more information.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

by Roxann Leckband

Mom's/Young Women's Group will be meeting on February 5, 12, 19 and 26 from 10:00-11:30AM with moms meeting in the Fireside room and children across the hall in the preschool classroom. Moms will continue discussion on our study titled, When the Game is Over It All Goes Back In The Box. This study encourages us how to live our lives by identifying the most important parts of it. This study helps us look at the eternal perspective, keeping our eyes on the true prize –the one who unlocks the gate to the kingdom of God. The children will have a Bible study, games, crafts, singing, playing and snacks. I look forward to seeing you. Please feel free to phone Roxie at 376-6168 with any questions you may have.

Family Fellowship will be on February 21 from 11:30AM-1:00PM (right after the 10:30 worship). We will be enjoying an amazing game of Bible Bingo. Let see which family comes out on top! We will have pizza and chicken as the main entrée. Please bring a dish to share with group. Childcare will be provided allowing parents time for fellowship. **Please note: this is a new time** for “family night” to aide our out of town families and free up the afternoon/evening for at home family time.

Noon Fellowship (formerly senior fellowship) will be on Monday, February 8th. The menu this month is chicken noodle casserole, strawberry fluff salad and a dinner roll. Please bring a dish to pass, a free will donation or just bring yourself. **Everyone is welcome!**

Parents of Sunday School children pre-school through 8th grade students: the children will be singing on Palm Sunday (March 20) at the 8:00AM and 10:30AM worship services. We are beginning to rehearse songs during the Sunday School music time.

KFC Kids and Parents: Just as a reminder our last day of KFC is March 16th.

Confirmation Youth and Parents: Lent will be starting with Ash Wednesday on February 10th and going until March 16th. **Confirmation class will be 5:45PM until the end of the Lent worship service at 7:15PM or so.** This is a CHANGE from the original calendar at the beginning of the year.

Young Adults will meet on Monday, February 22nd at 6:00 p.m. at Hickory Lodge. Please join us!

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

CHURCH RECORDS

Baptism

- Remiley Marie Granstra, daughter of Kenneth & Erika Granstra was born on October 25, 2015 and was baptized on January 17, 2016. Sponsors for Remiley are Andrew & Shanna Altrichter and Eric & Marissa Marten.

New Members

- Paul & Dawn Kazemba and Brendan Kazemba

Transfers

- Tom & Eileen Schultz to Spearfish, SD



MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS

“What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.”

Lutheran Service Book Hymn 543

So very soon this year we will enter into the somber season of Lent where together we will visit the Places of the Passion. Our Lenten journey begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10 and continues through Good Friday on March 25. Our midweek services are each Wednesday at 6:30 from February 10 through March 16. Each service will include a preservice hymn sing, special music, some traditional hymns and some Worship Band songs. Please plan to attend these services.

There are many opportunities for you to participate musically in our Lenten services. Roxie and Lorenda are recruiting a group of middle school and high school students to sing a contemporary song for special music on Wednesday, March 2. We will practice during the singing time at Sunday school.

We have a number of string players amongst our young people. A string ensemble arrangement of “What Wondrous Love is This” is planned for special music at our midweek service on Wednesday, March 16. The string group will practice in the chapel immediately after Sunday School each week beginning February 14. If you play a violin, viola, cello, or bass you are invited to participate in this group. Please bring your instrument and a portable music stand if you have one. If you have questions, please contact Lorenda Glade, 712-330-1523.

Our Sunday school children will sing at the beginning of both of our Palm Sunday services, Sunday, March 20. Sunday school teachers will be sending home information as the date gets closer.

A women’s group will share special music at our Maundy Thursday service on March 24. All women who enjoy singing are invited and welcome to participate. We hope we will have to order MORE copies of the music! We will practice in the choir room after each midweek service, beginning February 10.

Finally, all singers are invited to participate in our Easter Festival Choir. Brass players are needed as well for our joyous Easter service. Watch for announcements in upcoming bulletins.

God’s Blessings,

Lorenda Glade, Director of Traditional Music

Joy Schreiber, Director of Contemporary Music

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 National Youth Gathering trip.

ALTAR GUILD

Serving in February will be: Sue Koob and Lynn Dierks at the 8 a.m. services. 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 (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) NEWS

The February meeting of LWML will be on Thursday, February 4 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us. Hostess is Sarah Circle. Coffee hour on February 21 will also be hosted by the Sarah Circle.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Sarah Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 16th at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 16th at 5:15 p.m. in the Youth Room. Information was not received from the other Circles. Please contact the members of your Circle for more information.

EVANGELISM NEWS

THANK YOU to the St. Matthew volunteers who helped serve at the Banquet in Sioux Falls on Saturday, January 23rd. The Lord has truly blessed our congregation through this servant event and many were blessed by our service. Our congregation's response to The Banquet's mission effort is heartwarming! May all glory and honor be to God.

THANK YOU to everyone for your support in prayer, monetary donations and volunteering to serve. The Banquet in Sioux Falls remains in need of items to continue their ministry. If you have silverware, cool whip containers, plastic bags, hotel sized shampoos etc., please consider donating these items by putting these items in the collection container along the west wall in the basement. Thank you.

SECRET PRAYER INTERCESSORS: The Evangelism Committee is asking you to continue to pray powerfully for your chosen student into the New Year. Thank you to each of you for being a blessing in the lives of our Confirmation students. *James 5:16: "the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."* May God richly bless each of you.

We welcome anyone who is interested to please join our committee. Please contact any of our committee members. We also welcome any ideas and suggestions.

Thank you,

Bev Kness, Chairman; Pat Arnt, Chairman-Elect;

Twila Henning, LaVonne Holt, Mary Krueger, Cheri Schmidt

LCEF Y.I. CLUB

Parents and teachers can instruct young people in the importance of investing, but without a fun and convenient program, children may soon lose interest. When children become savers in the Y. I. Stamp Program, they can see their savings grow as they collect their stamps. They can also take personal pride in knowing their investment helps build, expand, or renovate churches or schools - like those in their own community. Stop by the stamp table and start saving today! Receive a FREE stamp during your birthday month!

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you to all the members that helped with dismantling and storing the Christmas trees and decorations. You were all a big help! Thanks to everyone that helped with all the hours in decorating and taking it down and putting it away, for another year. All your help has been appreciated.

*God Bless,
Lori Fletcher*



Notes from the January 12, 2016 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: December expenses were \$40,300.96; income was \$43,173.61; Building Fund income was \$9,670.00 and expenses were \$14,079.46 for an overall negative of \$1,536.80. Building Loan Balance is \$73,125.88; Memorial Fund Balance is \$44,188.18; and Scholarship Fund Balance is \$605,005.80.

Staff Reports: Pastor Mark – Average weekend attendance in December was 259. A New Member class will be every Thursday evening in February. Pastor has been asked to be on the Love INC Board. Roxann – Comments on the Christmas program being a very nice service. Sunday school attendance has been good. Working on details for the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Lorenda & Joy – Plans are beginning for Ash Wednesday and Midweek Lenten services. New sound system is installed and training is done. Both of the keyboard problems were actually the sound board.

Board of Elders: Looking at expanding staffing responsibilities. We will be starting the process to have a DCE (Director of Christmas Ed.) at our church.

Trustees: The picture display rack has been received and assembled. We are now in the process of removing the confirmation pictures from their present location and getting them ready to install in the display rack. Looking at possibly placing the display in the south Narthex. A contract was issued to Frontier for them to provide high-speed internet. We will have 10 GB upload and 10 GB download speeds. This will make the recording of the 8AM service and transferring it to the TV station more efficient and quicker. The installation will be completed the first week of February.

Christian Education: Preparing and planning for VBS this summer in June. Working on Lent event for Sunday School kids.

Evangelism Committee: We have sufficient number of volunteers for The Banquet service evening on January 23. We sponsored the Coffee Hour last Sunday with the proceeds going to The Banquet.

Human Care: We had 6 family units for the Caring Tree this season. We took items given to the Mitten Tree to the Community Christmas Baskets. Our GAP Ministry of household cleaning products continues.

Unfinished Business: Council members will serve the first Lenten Supper on Ash Wednesday. The Youth will do the 2nd and 6th supper. Looking for 3 more hosts. 125th Anniversary Update – The Adopt A Day Fundraiser Kick-Off is January 24th. Plan to have t-shirts to order. Planning the meal for 11AM-12:30PM, with Voters meeting beginning at 12:30PM.

New Business: 2016 Annual Church Report – highlighting our year in review, is in the process of being put together. The last one was in 2010. Several reports have been turned in at this point. The remaining boards should turn in their reports, to the church office, as soon as possible.

The next meeting of our Church Council will be on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 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.

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.

Reminder –please pick up your **2016 Offering Envelopes**. They are on the table in the Great Hall.

Worship Service Helpers for February 2016

ACOLYTES

February 7 (8 AM) Carter Hokeness (10:30) Hunter Boomgarden

ASH WEDNESDAY – February 10 (6:30PM) = Traeton Holt

February 14 (8 AM) Jennifer Preuss (10:30) Bethany Dorschner

Wednesday, February 17 (6:30PM) = Jace Paplow

February 21 (8 AM) Jasmine Ling (10:30) Tyler Wolford

Wednesday, February 24 (6:30PM) = Jake Ahrenstorff

February 28 (8 AM) Austin Barber (10:30) Christopher Leckband

Wednesday, March 2 (6:30PM) = Eli Hansberger

March 6 (8 AM) Brandon Arzu-Bustad (10:30) Luke Gordon

NURSERY (10:30 service only)

February 7 Laci Boomgarden

February 14 MacKenzie Meyeraan

February 21 Ivy Paplow

February 28 Zach Ahrenstorff

March 6 Alyssa Bosma

Nursery Adult Supervisor

Gail Holinka

Kham Holeton

Alexie Cross

Val Wolford

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 2016

If you cannot fulfill your scheduled date, please find a replacement and call the church office with the change. THANK YOU FOR SERVING! If you would like to be added to the Greeters Rotation Schedule please contact Bev in the church office, 376-6168.

February 7 8 AM - Sue Koob; Ilona Benson
10:30 - Bill & Karen Knigge

February 10 6:30PM – John Glastad; Chad & Stacey Hokeness

February 14 8 AM – Don & Lorna Buntjer
10:30 – Sandy Dixon; Cheri Schmidt

February 17 6:30PM – Voris & Sandie Spittle

February 21 8 AM – Dan & Laurita Roos
10:30 – LaDean & Lori Fletcher

February 24 6:30PM – Marlene Jurgensen

February 28 8 AM – YOUTH
10:30 - YOUTH

March 2 6:30PM – Myron & Sandy Meyer

March 6 8 AM – David & LaVonne Holt
10:30 – John & Jessica Widvey