

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN
February 2020 Newsletter

Heavenly Choir

*I cried to him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue. If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. But truly God has listened; **he has attended to the voice of my prayer.***
Psalm 66:17-19

At the start of a new year or a birthday, or another annual milestone, most of us, if not all of us, go through a time of reevaluation of our place in this world. As we reevaluate we oftentimes ask ourselves questions like, “You mean I have to do THIS?” or, “I have to do it AGAIN?”, and “Is this the way my life is going to be FOREVER?” Someone describes it as the “Sunday Night Syndrome”—that sickening feeling you start to get late Sunday afternoon when you remember that you have to go to work tomorrow. It really has nothing at all to do with whether or not you like your job; it’s just the nature of being human before we go off into the next weeks’ adventures.

“What do I do with my life?” or “What am I doing with my life?” are questions – legitimate questions - that arise often at the beginning of a new year, a new chapter in our lives. It’s a reevaluation of our place in God’s kingdom, our world. Most of us who’ve been around awhile have been practicing our professions for some time. We’ve taken the courses, the training, gotten the degree, the certification, and/or gained the necessary experience. We have the abilities, the knowledge, and the wisdom that comes with practice. Yet we still suffer Sunday Night Syndrome wondering what on earth we’re supposed to do with all these talents, abilities and training? What does God have in mind? Is this all there is? No, certainly there’s more ... isn’t there?

It’s not easy finding our voice in a world of so many voices competing for our attention. And, sometimes when we think we’ve found our voice, we seem to lose it again in all the noise around us. But God has given us our voice. God promises us that our voice is not lost; God always hears us. God reminds us through Christ Jesus that not only do we have a voice, but that our voice is essential in creating the harmony in God’s world. We have a place in God’s choir. We may never know the contributions we make in creating that harmony, but our voice, our contribution, our work, our efforts, our love and attention to our world and to God’s people create such harmony.

So as we journey through a start of a new decade, as we prepare to enter the season of Lent, a season of self-examination and mediation on not only our place in God’s choir, but more importantly on what God does for us, we do so with new goals, new dreams, and hopefully a renewed commitment to use our voice as God gives us ability. Wherever we go and whatever we do, God is with us helping us sing!

In Christ,
Pastor Mark

WINTER IS HERE – In the event of bad weather, please tune into radio stations:
FM = 95.1, 93.5 and 104.3 and 730AM for updates about our services and/or activities.
Their website is updated quicker than their verbal announcements, www.us95.us.
Our Facebook page will be the first thing update – facebook.com/stmattworthington.
Reminder: if Worthington schools are Closed or Released Early, due to the weather, activities will not take place at church that evening either.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS

Epiphany: God in Man Made Manifest

“Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Present in Thy holy Word. Grace to imitate Thee now, and be pure, as pure art Thou. That we may become like Thee, at Thy great epiphany. And may praise Thee, ever blest, God in man made manifest” LSB 394 vs 5.

Don't overlook the wonderful season of Epiphany! Epiphany is the season between Christmas and Lent, beginning on January 6 and ending with the Transfiguration of our Lord just prior to Ash Wednesday. Epiphany means a “Shining forth, manifestation, or a revealing”. Throughout the Epiphany season we hear the Word of God reveal our Savior and King to us. It progresses from the bright star guiding the Magi to the young Christ Child, to the shining dove at the Baptism of Jesus, through His miracles and ministry, and concludes with the glory of His Transfiguration.

The day of Epiphany finds Magi from the East offering their gifts to the Christ Child. They fall on their knees and worship this King and return home by a different way.

The first Sunday after the Epiphany takes us to the waters of the Jordan. There John baptizes Jesus, who numbers Himself among sinners. The bright dove, the Holy Spirit, points out Christ in the water.

The remaining Sundays of Epiphany focus on the ministry of Jesus. He is the light of the world. He preaches, prays, and heals those in need.

The finale of the Epiphany season is the Transfiguration of our Lord. The light that pointed to Jesus at His Baptism now shines through Him in His Transfiguration.

Throughout the season of Epiphany, Christ is revealed to us. Epiphany begins with a small child being revealed to the Magi as King and ends with Jesus being revealed in glory as “My Son, whom I love” (Mark 9:7b)

In our Lutheran Service Book, hymns for the season of Epiphany can be found on pages 394-412, with hymns for Transfiguration Sunday on 413-417. As you prepare your heart and mind for worship on Sunday morning, read through and meditate on one of these hymns.

As God reveals His only Son to us throughout this season of Epiphany, may we also go out and reveal His gift of salvation to those around us.

“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

Lorenda Glade and Joy Schreiber, Directors of Music

CHURCH RECORDS

Deaths

- Margaret “Peg” Ruesch passed away December 30, 2019; funeral service was January 3, 2020.
- Marian Philipp passed away December 14, 2019; services will be held at a later date.

Transfer Out/Released

- Royce & Paula Boehrs
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ALTAR GUILD

Serving in February will be: Sandie Spittle and Bonnie Schroeder at the 8 a.m. services and for Ash Wednesday, February 26. If you would like to be a part of the Altar Guild, please contact Velma Cortright 376-5600 or Sandy Meyer 376-6290.

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN CARE MINISTRIES
PARISH NURSE NEWS
By Roxann Leckband

Greetings! As we continue to strive for optimum health, we need to be mindful that we are wonderfully created, and our bodies are a temple of the living God. We should honor our Lord with caring for our bodies to the best of our ability.

I will be doing a special day of walking on Monday, February 3rd. I apologize, I was ill on January 6th when I had previously scheduled this event. **Please join me on February 3rd between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. as we kick-off a new walking program.** I will have some special prizes for those who join me. I will also be taking blood pressures and regularly monitor them to determine if the regular walking has been beneficial for your blood pressure. There will be a time of fellowship and goodies (healthy of course).

- A) To enhance our walking experience please go to the American Heart Association Website of - <https://www.heart.org/en/healthy-living/fitness/walking/fit-in-walking-morning-noon-or-night>. The article states walking is one of the most versatile forms of exercise because you can do it just about anytime and anywhere.
- B) **The tips for walking begin with habits.** We need to get into a sequence of preparing ourselves in the evening for the morning. For example, preparing our walking clothes and shoes.
- C) Prior to walking in the morning have a light snack of yogurt or a granola bar for a quick fuel up.
- D) **Schedule your walk** as you plan your day.
- E) **Every Step Counts.** Most adults should try for at least 150 minutes (2.5 hours) a week of a moderate intensity activity - 30 minutes of brisk walking on at least five days a week is one way meet this goal. Be Creative with your time!!
- F) Please consult with your health care provider.
- G) You may come walk at the church on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00am -1:00pm. These are the times the church is normally open. If you are in the neighborhood and the church is open, you may also walk during hours not listed above.
- H) Walk as little or as much-whatever works for you!

I look forward to seeing many of our brothers and sisters enjoying those relaxing walks around our beautiful church.

Noon Fellowship - will be on Monday, February 10th from noon-1:00pm. The main entrée will be tator tot casserole, mixed vegetables and dinner rolls. Please bring a dish to pass, a free will offering or just yourself. We will have a blood pressure screening from 11:30 to 12:00 and if you want your blood pressure taken after 1:00 we can provide this also.

Widow's Ministry/ Group - In February there will be a change in the evening date. We will be meeting on February 10th at 5:15pm in the Fireside Room and then at Hickory Lodge around 6:10pm. The Wednesday morning group will meet on February 12th at 10:00am in the Fireside Room. The groups continue to work the book Postcards From the Widows' Path.

The GPS Hope Parent Bereavement group will meet on Sunday, February 23 from 4:30-5:30pm in the Fireside Room. There will be supper provided catered from Pizza Ranch. Childcare will be provided for those who need it.

Director of Human Care Ministries/Parish Nurse News continued:

Mom's Group - There will be Mom's Group on Sundays, February 9th, 16th and 23rd in the Fireside Room during the Sunday School hour. There will be moms and toddler Sunday school material that we will be trying in February. On February 2nd the Young Women in Mission will be meeting with Amy K. in the Koinonia Korner in the new basement area.

Prayer Intercessors Needed - There will be a Prayer Intercessor **sign-up sheet** for our 7th graders. We have done something new this year. If you sign up for a young person, and you so desire, you will be that young person's Prayer Intercessor until he/she is Confirmed. You may certainly continue to pray for him/her after Confirmation also. Watch the Sunday bulletins for more information.

Sunday School - The kids will be preparing for Palm Sunday as they will be a part of the worship service by singing. There will be information sent out to the parents about specific details.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Sarah Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 18 at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Martha Circle will meet on Thursday, February 20 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) NEWS

The next LWML Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 6th at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Martha Circle will host. Hope Circle will host the February 16th coffee hour.

The Young Women in Mission Group will be meeting on Sunday, February 2nd at 9:15 a.m. We will be in the kitchen working on food prep for a meal that we will be serving during Lent. Please come for fellowship as we work together on prepping food for the meal (which we will freeze). Also, mark your calendars for Wednesday, March 4th when we will be serving the Lenten meal. Young women volunteers will be needed to bring additional food items, to serve the meal, and to clean-up.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

You are invited to enjoy coffee, refreshments 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 you or 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 and proceeds are given to Seminary Student, Tanner Post. The fourth Sunday of the month the youth (YPOGs) sponsor the coffee hour. Proceeds go to support their various activities.



SERVANT OPPORTUNITY

St. Matthews will be serving at The Banquet in Sioux Falls on **Saturday, March 7th**. A sign-up sheet is posted on the north entrance bulletin board. You may also contact Bev in the church office. We need 8 cooks beginning at 8:30 a.m. and 40 servants beginning at 10:30 a.m. Please sign-up for this wonderful servant opportunity! Car-pooling may also be available.



**“Every One His Witness” will be
our Adult Bible Study
for the month of March, 2020.**

We thought this would be a good study to do during the Lent Season. We plan to have 3 groups doing this study on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:15 a.m. Watch the weekly

bulletins for more information on the rooms this will be taking place in.

The curriculum is a Lutheran evangelism study. It considers the real-world context in which Lutherans find themselves as witnesses of Jesus Christ. It puts sound doctrine into practical action for sharing the faith with the people whom God has placed alongside His witnesses in their everyday lives. Participants will learn:

- What is witnessing?
- Why do we witness?
- The “how-to’s” of witnessing, using the LASSIE approach: LISTEN – ASK – SEEK – SHARE – INVITE – ENCOURAGE.

Please plan to attend this wonderful study for 45 minutes each Sunday for 5 weeks!

If you are interested in attending, please sign-up on the sheet located in the Great Hall, or contact Bev in the church office, so we can order enough materials for everyone.

**Lent begins with Ash Wednesday
on February 26th.**

**Join us on Wednesday evenings at our
6:30 p.m. worship services for a special
series entitled, “Eyes on Jesus”,
for the season of Lent.**

**A free-will donation supper will be served each
Wednesday from 5:10-6:00 p.m. (see page 8 of this
newsletter for more information).*



O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. When the characters in the Passion narrative look at Jesus, what do they see? In most cases, people misunderstood who He is and what He was doing. In some cases, by faith, people recognized Him aright. Our Lenten series this year, based on the Gospel according to St. Mark, will examine how the various people around Jesus viewed Him – and how we should view Him. We will “fix our eyes” on what Jesus has done to save us from our sins by His holy, precious blood and innocent sufferings and death, and celebrate what God sees on account of His work: our justification for His sake. The weekly themes will be:

- February 26th – “Misjudging Eyes”
- March 4 – “Betraying Eyes”
- March 11 – “Sleepy Eyes”
- March 18 – “Denying Eyes”
- March 25 – “Murderous Eyes”
- April 1 – “Worldly Eyes”

Notes from the December 10, 2019 Council Meeting:

Treasurer's Report: November expenses were \$34,075.25; income was \$36,825.33, building income was \$75.00; net income for the month was \$2,825.08. Balance in the General Fund Checking Account on November 30, 2019 was \$25,247.90. Memorial Fund Balance is \$25,319.71. Building Loan Balance is \$171,400.00. Bridge loan balance is \$15,000.00. Scholarship Fund Balance is \$491,358.25. Youth account month report was \$8,887.24.

Staff Reports: Pastor - Average weekend attendance was 232. Average Wednesday evening attendance was 25. Roxie – The Widow's Support group and the Parent Bereavement Support Group (GPS Hope) meets monthly. Mom's Group has been meeting between services on Sundays instead of Friday mornings. This is working well. Jenna – Youth helped move furniture for Love INC in November. Youth and some parents helped serve at the Helping Hand Pregnancy Banquet. Youth made and decorated Christmas cookies for the Love INC Christmas Tree Forest.

Elders: Discussed weather policy. Decision about services to be held will be made by the head elder, head trustee, council president and Pastor Mark.

Trustees: Boiler installation for elevator area completed. Working on emergency lights and outside lights.

Ministry Planning Board: Discussion on revamping the Great Hall to be more of a "Welcoming Center." Discussed having greeters wear lanyards. Discussed the Tech/Social Media position. Discussed stewardship in 2020. Had a good response from the letter that was sent to members last fall. Have had a few more sign up for e-giving with Tammy's assistance.

*Minutes from the January 14, 2020 Council Meeting were not available at the time of this newsletter typing. **Next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11th, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.



WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS - in the event of bad weather, please tune into the following radio stations for information about church services and activities: FM Stations 95.1 and 93.5 and 104.3; AM Station 730. *The radio station's website is updated as soon as they receive announcements, so you may want to check that rather than having to listen for the announcements – www.us95.us*

However, our St. Matthew's Facebook page will be the first thing to be updated about weather cancellations, etc. be sure to follow our Facebook page – facebook.com/stmattworthington.

Reminder –please pick up your 2020 Offering Envelopes. They are on the table in the Great Hall. Even if you do “automatic giving”, please pick up your box of envelopes. **The box includes “Special Giving Opportunities” throughout the year! Thank You!** Call Bev in the church office if you'd like to pick up your box during the week.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

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.** You are responsible for ordering your bouquet(s) or bringing in your bouquets. If Hy-Vee delivers them, they must be delivered by noon on Friday. If you'd like your altar flowers listed in the Sunday bulletin, please contact Bev in the church office 2 weeks before the date. Thank you for helping to beautify our altar area.

Worship Service Helpers for February 2020

ACOLYTES

February 2	(8 AM) Maelie Holt	(10:30) Alaina Feit
February 9	(8 AM) Jordis Weber	(10:30) Dalton Larson
February 16	(8 AM) Caleb Barber	(10:30) Alaya Rowley
February 23	(8 AM) Faith Leinen	(10:30) Natya Khamphanh
February 26 – Ash Wednesday – 6:30 p.m. – Mersaydes Marten		
March 1	(8 AM) Sander Brunk	(10:30) Madison Sieve

NURSERY (10:30 service only)

February 2	Hunter Echternach
February 9	Mark Geertsema
February 16	Sierra Goedtke
February 23	Evan Hansberger
February 26 – 6:30 p.m. – Anna Gordon	
March 1	Damien Leckband

Nursery Adult Supervisor

Gail Holinka
Beth White
Tammy Markus
Angie Kopplow
Kasen White
Val Wolford

** 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.** Also, please arrive 15 minutes before service begins. Thank You.*

GREETER SCHEDULE for February 2019

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 2	8 AM - Al & Connie Reitmeier 10:30 – LaDean & Lori Fletcher
February 9	8 AM – Daryl & Karen Doeden 10:30 – Virgil & Donna Reed
February 16	8 AM – Sandy Cuperus, John Galstad 10:30 – John & Marlene Moberg
February 24	8 AM – Vern & Marilyn Meyer 10:30 – Chris & Stacy Heinrichs
February 26	6:30 p.m. – Dale & Bonnie Schroeder; Ilona Benson
March 2	8 AM – Kent Brunk, Sue Koob, Ruth Ramert 10:30 – Greg & Roxie Leckband Family



St. Matthew Lutheran Church Valentine Dinner

Friday, February 7

at 6:30 p.m.

Hosted by the YPOGs

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND!

Tickets are \$15 per individual.

Dinner Options are: White Chicken Lasagna & breadstick OR Ham & mashed potatoes. The meal will also include a side salad, hot vegetable, and dessert!

The evening will include supper served by the youth, entertainment, table games, and announcement of sweetheart couple.

Babysitting will be available, and those kids will also be fed supper.

Youth will be selling tickets in the Great Hall on Sunday mornings. You may also contact a youth or Jenna Bents, if you'd like to purchase tickets during the week.

Lenten Suppers on Wednesday Evenings

Each of our mid-week Lent worship services will be preceded by a delicious supper served from 5:10-6:00 p.m. A free-will donation will be received for the meals.

We are looking for “servants” to help organize and serve these meals. If you do not want to organize a meal, but would like to help serve, provide food or a monetary donation to purchase items for the meals that is also welcome. **The dates available to serve are: March 11, 18 and April 1.** Contact Bev in the church office if you can help out.



**Kitchen
Helpers**

- On February 26th the Church Council will host the supper.
- On March 4th the Young Women in Mission will host.
- On March 25th the Youth will host.