

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN
January 2017



Gifts More Precious than Frankincense and Myrrh

Just as Christmas is over, we come to Epiphany. It is a time when we remember and celebrate the appearing of God made in flesh to the Magi. It is a time when we remember the manifesting of God in the form of a child. In the cold dark days of winter we are reminded of the warm light the Christ child came to bring. The traditional reading for Epiphany is the story of the wise men that followed the bright light of the Christmas star.

“In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” - Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11

Just like the Magi, we bring gifts to the King of Kings. We give our time, our skills, and our resources. We give these gifts out of a response to the gift we have received in Jesus. We, like the Magi, are a searching people—a community of believers following a hunch and a star. We come to Christ, filled with belief and doubt, hopes and fears, triumphs and failures. We come as we are and give our gifts to our King. Some gifts are shiny and new. Some gifts are worn and mended. Some gifts are cracked, but beloved. Coming face to face with our Savior, we offer up what we can and find that together our gifts make a beautiful whole.

The gift received in the coming of Christ, the indwelling of Christ, is a gift of unmeasurable grace. A love without condition that comes to us whoever we are, and wherever we are at in this life’s journey. His love tells the story that we are created with care and we are redeemed. It is a love that calls us to share Christ’s love and his Epiphany light in this dark world.

This Epiphany I invite you to give thanks for the gift of Christ. I invite you to share that gift of love and light with family and friends, with neighbors, and even strangers.

In Christ,
Pastor Mark

Our next regular VOTERS MEETING will be Sunday - January 22, 2017 at 11:45 a.m. in the church basement. Our youth will host an Omelet Feed, with all proceeds going towards “Feed My Starving Children.” Watch the weekly bulletins for more information!

CHURCH RECORDS

Baptisms

- Eliana Grace Gonzalez, daughter of Adrian & Melissa Gonzalez was baptized December 11.
- Kally Lynn Strand, daughter of Reid & Becky Strand was baptized December 11.

Deaths

- Berdina Hogan passed away November 27. Funeral service was December 3.

New Members

- Melissa Tripp

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN CARE MINISTRIES

by Roxann Leckband

Mom's/young women's group will meet on January 6th, 13th, and 27th from 10:00 to 11:30 AM. The children will have activities of a Bible story, crafts, play time and snacks. Let's start the New Year with parenting strategies that have worked in correcting negative behaviors in our children. Snacks provided.

Family Night will be on January 15th from 5:00-6:30 PM. Let's have a taco night. Taco meat, lettuce and shells (hard and soft) will be provided. Please bring a dish or "fixings" for the tacos to share. Please also bring 2 non-perishable food items for our local food pantries. I would like for our group to participate in a "tip night" at Pizza Ranch. Our older children may take part in this as well. The proceeds from the "tip night" would go to the Feed My Starving Children event to be held in Worthington.

Noon Fellowship will be held on January 16th at 12:00 PM. The main entrée will be chicken casserole, corn, and dinner roll provided. Please join us by bringing a dish to pass, a monetary donation or just yourself. Please come for good food, fellowship, and a devotional time.

The regular schedule for Sunday School, KFC, and Confirmation will resume after January 1st.

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Serving in January will be: Kathy Roslansky and Ruth Ramert for the 8AM worship services. If you would like to be a part of the Altar Guild, please contact Velma Cortright, 376-5600 or Sandy Meyer, 376-6290.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

You are invited to the Coffee Fellowship each Sunday morning following the 8 a.m. service. A free-will donation is received to benefit the various church projects. **On the first and second Sundays of the month, there is opportunity for those church committees/groups wishing to host a coffee hour.** Please sign up on the sheet in the church basement when you plan to host the coffee hour. ***Please sign-up at least two weeks in advance.*** The third Sunday of the month, the LWML sponsors the coffee hour. Proceeds are given to a Seminary Student. The fourth Sunday of the month the youth sponsor the coffee hour. Proceeds go to support their various activities and their summer mission trip.





LWML NEWS

There will NOT be an LWML meeting in January. The January 15 coffee hour will be hosted by the Sarah Circle.

Also, pick up your Winter Lutheran Woman's Quarterly. The application to attend the 2017 Albuquerque LWML Convention is enclosed in the winter quarterly. This convention is a celebration of 75 years of LWML. It will be awesome!

EVANGELISM NEWS

BANQUET: St. Matthew's will be serving the noon meal at The Banquet in Sioux Falls, SD on January 21st. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the north/elevator entrance bulletin board soon. Volunteers must be at least 13 years of age. Watch for more information in the weekly bulletins. Be the hands and feet of Jesus and serve others! Contact Pat Arnt, 360-8717 with any questions.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Martha Circle will meet on January 19th at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Hope Circle will meet January 17th at 5:15 p.m. The Sarah Circle will meet January 17th at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

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 by Ruth Ramert. If you wish to order your flowers from Hy-Vee, you will need to place the order directly to Hy-Vee yourself and Hy-Vee will need to set up a delivery time with us to ensure someone is here when they deliver. If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Ramert at (507) 372-7225.

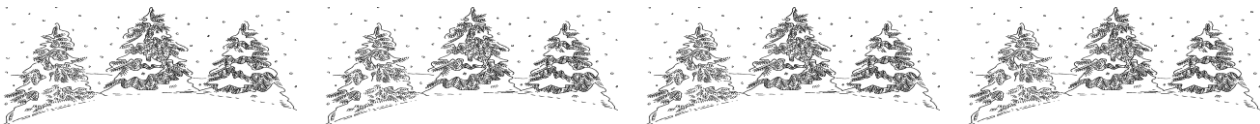


PLEASE TAKE NOTE: WHEN THE WINTER WEATHER IS QUESTIONABLE - HOW DO I FIND OUT IF CHURCH SERVICES/ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED?

To find out if worship services have been cancelled, please tune into the following radio stations for announcements:

- FM Stations 95.1; 93.5 and 104.3
- AM Station 730 (KWOA)

OR Check out our Facebook page – facebook.com/stmattworthington.



MUSIC NEWS

*“Christ, our Lord and Savior dear, Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year. Amen, Jesus, hear us.” LSB 390*

As this newsletter article is being written, we have had our final Midweek Advent service. We thank our Worship Band members, Praise team members, Hymn Sing leaders, musicians for special music, and instrumentalists for sharing their talents. Behind the scenes, we have had some outstanding sound techs juggling all of the various sound needs for these services. We appreciate each of them so much!

Our Sunday School Christmas program, “Joseph Dearest, Mary Mine”, originally scheduled for Sunday, December 18, was moved to the following Wednesday, due to the predicted extreme cold. We thank all of the teachers, parents, and students for their understanding. Special thanks to Roxie, Bev, Connie, Jen, Jeannette, our sound/projector crew, and all others who had a part in organizing this program.

Services were scheduled for 5:00 PM and 10:00 PM on Christmas Eve. Special music included small groups, Worship Band, Choir, and Bell Choir. Our Christmas Day service was scheduled for 9:30 AM, and included Brass on the hymns, a trumpet solo and keyboard solos.

2016 concluded with New Year’s Eve and Sunday New Year’s Day services. May we continue to use God’s wonderful gift of music to worship and glorify our Lord and Savior in the coming year.

God’s richest blessings in the year ahead.

Lorenda Glade & Joy Schreiber, Directors of Music



Y. I. Interview with Gabe Dorschner

Gabe Dorschner is 16 and a sophomore at Worthington High School. He is the son of Ron and Dawn Dorschner and has an older brother, Stephen, who is 19; and a younger sister, Bethany, who is 14.

Math is his favorite subject because there is a pattern to everything and math uses formulas and has ways to figure things out. His favorite extracurricular activity is band. He plays the saxophone and likes the positive environment of band. He says no one puts you down. As far as friends go, he likes to just hang out with them and talk. His hobbies include listening to Christian contemporary music.

He's a busy guy around church. He is involved with YPOGS, bells, choir, and the tech crew. He likes the tech crew best because working with them gives him a feeling of power. His favorite Bible story is "Noah's Ark" because of God's rainbow and His promise never to destroy the world using a flood again.

Gabe has been part of the Y. I. Stamp program since we started it at St. Matthew. He is saving to help with college expenses. He likes the fact that he can always get his money back and he is helping others.

Gabe wants people to know he is a hard worker and he tries to be outgoing. He feels being friendly is a lost art.

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN SHIPMENTS – 2016

Four trips were made to the Orphan Grain train in 2016. They were on February 22, June 13, August 22 and November 21. John Galstad made two trips, and Daryl & Karen Doeden made two trips.

Included were a total of 104 boxes ready for shipment. These boxes contained 279 quilts, blankets, baby blankets and throws that were shipped to Estonia, Latvia, and Ukraine. Orphan Grain Train is always very excited to receive these boxes ready for shipment. Quilts, blankets, and comforters are shipped year-round as the need is always great. This is also a year-round ministry at St. Matthew Lutheran Church so keep the mattress pads, old blankets, comforters, bed spreads, sheets, etc. coming in. If they are good, we ship them as is; if not so good, we use them as fillers. Every quilt that mission sewing makes needs a back, filler, and a top so we go through lots!

A total of 129 pillow case dresses were also delivered to Orphan Grain. We thank you and appreciate all the generous donations of pillow cases, bias tape, and trim. This also is an on-going project so please keep the supplies coming.

To make a donation or help with shipping costs, donated can be mailed to: Orphan Grain Train, P.O. Box 1466, Norfolk, NE 68702-1466. The average cost to ship a donated box is \$11; the average cost to ship a full container is \$9,000.

Highlights from the December 13, 2016 Council Meeting:

Treasurer's Report – November expenses were \$31,780.74. Income was \$31,239.31. Building Fund income was \$3,035.00 and expenses were \$4,000.00 for net income of -\$1,506.43. Balance in the General Fund Checking Account on November 30 was \$101,782.99. Building Loan balance at the end of November was \$136,154.15. Adopt-A-Day income was \$2,368.47 which was paid on the principal. Memorial Fund balance is \$31,555.91. Scholarship Fund balance is \$636,684.01. Y.I. Club report – church has qualified to receive a LCEF Loan Shared Blessings Rebate because there are 57 accounts established. This amount is currently \$325.57. If there are 55 new investors, St. Matthew would qualify for the next level and the amount would increase to \$488.38.

Pastor Mark – Average weekend attend was 278. Average Wednesday attendance was 38. Love INC is still seeking an applicant for Executive Director position. Attended a Christian concert on December 10th in Sioux Falls and got inspired on the theme to use for Christmas services.

Roxie Leckband – Have received the first Parish Nurse health committee referral. Have been doing new mom visits. Last family event was held together with youth and went well.

Jenna Bents – Youth hosted first Advent supper and delivered some meals to needy families afterwards. Parent prayer group is doing the 30-day challenge. Attended the 507 Event at American Reformed Church. St. Matthew will be hosting this event in February. Youth and young families went caroling to nursing homes. Youth will be putting together bags of clothing items to donate to Nobles County Family Services for kids that are taken from their homes and have to leave everything behind. Some youth will be ringing Salvation Army bells at Fareway. Will focus on raising funds in January to support “Feed My Starving Children” community event in March. Will be doing a fellowship event at Crossroads Care Center in January. Will be meeting with high school seniors monthly and going through a “college ready” series by Family Life. Will be starting in January a Donut & Fellowship Event after school on Mondays at Panaderia Mi Tierra. Have 18 youth and 5 adult chaperones signed up for the mission trip in July.

Lorenda Glade & Joy Schreiber – Organ was tuned. Working on Christmas Program and services. Would like to recruit additional piano accompanists.

Elders – Elder retreat will be held on February 4th in Mt. Lake. Supreme Court has denied the possibility of the lawsuit petition being heard.

Highlights from December Council Meeting continued:

Trustees – Had one thermostat replaced. Routine maintenance issues.

Board of Education – Assembled 112 Christmas goodie bags for the children. Sunday School offering donations will be divided between Samaritan's Purse, Missionary McDermott, and household cleaning supplies for our GAP ministry for Love INC. Camp Omega staff is booked for VBS.

Evangelism Committee – Serving at The Banquet in January. Prayer Intercessors program going well.

Human Care – Mitten tree donations of: 35 hats & scarves, 39 pairs of socks, 45 pairs of mittens were delivered to the Community Christmas Basket distribution site. Caring Tree gifts will be delivered.

Unfinished Business – Strategic Planning with Bill Gordon facilitating will try to have a meeting in January. Committee for Constitution Review has not been initiated yet. Council approval must be given when decision is made as to where youth will be going on their mission trip.

New Business – Quarterly Voters Meeting will be held on January 22nd at 11:45 a.m. with youth doing an omelet fundraiser prior to the meeting.

Stewardship Bulletin Sentences (from LCMS.org)

December 31/January 1 (Eve of the Name/Name of Jesus)

Luke 2:21 “And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.” There it is: the shortest Gospel lesson of the whole Church Year. It is for the festival of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus. What more do you need to know than the Name of Jesus? The Lord Saves. That's who Jesus is: the Lord who saves us sinners. That simple Gospel message is the foundation of our faith and the strength to live out our faith in action.

2016 Giving Statements will be ready for pickup by January 22nd – watch the weekly bulletins for updated information. Any statements not picked up by January 25th will be put in the mail to you. Please help us save on postage by picking up your statement – Thank You!

If you haven't already done so – please pick up your 2017 Offering Envelopes. They are located in the Great Hall. Thank You!!!!

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone – (507) 376-6168

Administrative Assistant, Bev Spittle – ext. 2

Administrative Pastor Mark Schreiber – ext. 3

Director of Youth Ministries, Jenna Bents – ext. 4

Director of Human Care Ministries, Roxann Leckband – ext. 5

Music Office – ext. 6

Email – stmatth@frontiernet.net

Website – www.stmatthewworthington.com

Facebook.com/stmattworthington





Worship Service Helpers for January 2017

ACOLYTES

Jan. 1	9:30AM – Sierra Goedtke	
Jan. 8	(8 AM) Hannah Henning	(10:30) Evan Hansberger
Jan. 15	(8 AM) Calah Ling	(10:30) Logan Meyeraan
Jan. 22	(8 AM) Chad Buntjer	(10:30) Ben Schreiber
Jan. 29	(8 AM) Caleb Barber	(10:30) Damien Stafford
Feb. 5	(8 AM) Lance Gordon	(10:30) Presley Sieve

NURSERY (10:30 service only)

Jan. 1	(9:30AM) - _____
Jan. 8	Zachary Veen
Jan. 15	Jake Ahrenstorff
Jan. 22	Luke Gordon
Jan. 29	Eli Hansberger
Feb. 5	Carson Wolford

Nursery Adult Supervisor

Beth White
Danika Schmidt
Kham Holeton
Jessica Larson
Gail Holinka

** Please be sure to mark your calendars. This is an important part of our church services. If you cannot fulfill your scheduled date, please find a replacement and **call the church office with the change.** THANK YOU*

GREETER SCHEDULE for January 2017

**If you are unable to fulfill your scheduled time, please try to find a replacement and call the church office with the change. Thanks for serving.*

Jan. 1	9:30 – _____ <i>please contact the church office to volunteer</i>
Jan. 8	8 a.m. – Dan & Laurita Roos 10:30 – LaDean & Lori Fletcher
Jan. 15	8 a.m. – Don & Lorna Buntjer 10:30 – John & Marlene Moberg
Jan. 22	8 a.m. – YOUTH 10:30 – YOUTH
Jan. 29	8 a.m. – Keith & Margaret Schroeder 10:30 – Chris & Stacy Heinrichs
Feb. 5	8 a.m. – Dave & LaVonne Holt 10:30 – Joe & Kim Rogers

