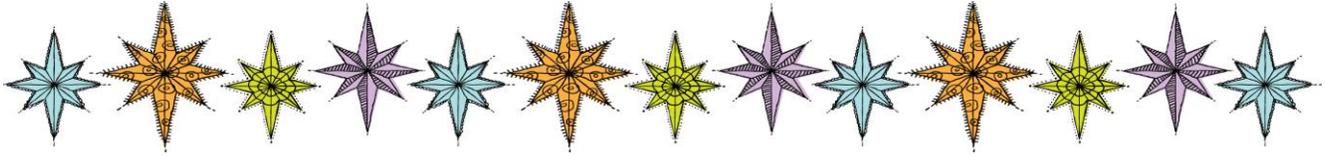


St. Matthew Lutheran Church

1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN

January 2019



Unchanging Hope for an Ever-changing World

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
Hebrews 13:8

As one year ends and another begins, columnists and commentators look back at the previous year. What changed? What stayed the same? Whose passing did we mourn? Whose new arrival did we celebrate?

At the same time, we make predictions about the coming year. What will the New Year hold? What will change? What will stay the same?

As fun and exciting as it may be to reminisce about the past and dream about the future, it can also be a little sad and scary. Things will likely never be what they used to be. Loved ones who have passed away don't come back. Jobs that are lost seldom reappear quickly. Even when broken dreams and broken relationships are repaired, they rarely return to their former glory. Many times our experiences in an ever-changing world are difficult.

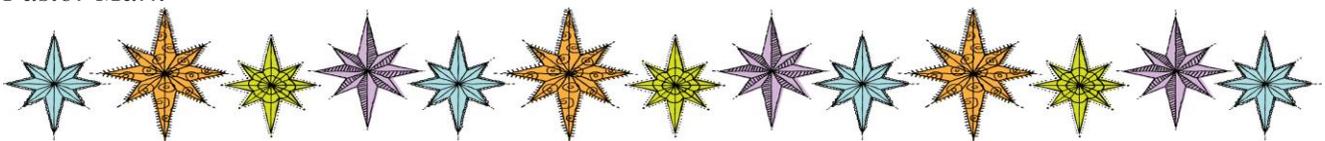
Yet we sometimes look at our lives and see a need for change. Many of us make New Year's resolutions: "I'm going to exercise more and eat less." "I'm going to save more and spend less." "I'm going to love more and hate less." But too often, our good intentions disappear, and only poor excuses remain.

No matter what (or who) changes from one year to the next, there is one who never changes-Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He existed before time, throughout the course of time, and at the end of time for eternity. Jesus loved you before you were born. He loves you today, and he will always love you.

That's what Christmas is all about. Jesus loved you so much that he wanted you to experience his unchanging love forever. So he came into the world to live up to God's perfect demands in your place. He took the punishment for your imperfection and gave you the reward for his perfection. That reward is an eternity far away from this world's sorrows and disappointments-the unchanging peace and joy of a place called heaven.

Jesus-the same yesterday, today, and forever promises to be with us, to love us, to care for us, and to give perfect peace with God to all who trust in him. Only Jesus offers unchanging hope to an ever-changing world.

In Christ,
Pastor Mark



VOTERS MEETING

Sunday - January 27, 2019

in the church basement

Watch the weekly bulletins for more information! The new By-law changes will be on the Agenda. The plan is to review these changes during the Adult Bible Study time on Sunday, January 20th. You can get a copy at that time.

CHURCH RECORDS

Deaths

- Donald Buntjer passed away November 19; funeral service was November 23, 2018.
 - Keith Schroeder passed away November 30; funeral service was December 10, 2018.
 - Milda Rients passed away December 6; funeral service was December 11, 2018.
 - Joe Welnetz passed away December 9; funeral service was December 14, 2018.
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ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Serving in January will be: Kathy Roslansky & Sandie Spittle 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.

EVANGELISM NEWS

THE BANQUET: St. Matthew's will be serving at the Banquet in Sioux Falls, SD on **January 26**. Please watch for more information in the weekly bulletins. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the north/elevator entrance bulletin board beginning January 6th.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

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

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY!

A Prayer Shawl is a soft, warm shawl, knitted or crocheted shawl, which are often given to people who are ill, have suffered a loss, or are in the midst of a crisis. However, anyone may receive a prayer shawl, if he or she desires. Some prayer shawls are knitted and others crocheted...each prayer shawl is different and created by those who offer their time and talent, thus each prayer shawl is a unique gift of love. Not handy with knitting or crocheting needles? You can still help! Here are a few other ideas to support the Prayer Shawl Ministry:

- 1) Donate Yarn
- 2) Donate money to buy yarn.
- 3) Pray for those making and receiving shawls.
- 4) Suggest names of people to receive shawls.
- 5) Volunteer to deliver a shawl.

If you are interested in receiving a prayer shawl or know someone who would benefit from a shawl, please contact Deb Thompson by emailing tantangus@frontiernet.net or call 360-3381, or contact the church office. If you are interested in making a prayer shawl, please contact Deb or join us at our next Prayer Shawl Meeting on January 12 at 9:30 a.m. in the basement Fellowship Hall.

THANK YOUS

We would like to thank the Khamphanh family for hosting and providing a wonderful Thai meal on December 9th for our Thailand adoption. Thank you to everyone who came to help support our growing family through donation, prayer, and encouragement. We are so unbelievably full of gratitude and feeling blessed to be a part of such a wonderful church family. Your continued prayers are appreciated as we wait patiently for God's timing in being matched with a child. Thank you again for the most gracious and loving support! In Christ,

Andrew, Jenna and Samuel Bents

Thank you so much for your prayers, concern and friendship shown to our family during the past month of Keith's hospitalization and death. Special thanks for Pastor Schreiber's knowing when we needed him and the comfort he gave to us. Thanks to Roxie for being there and lending a listening ear. Gratitude to the ladies and men who served the luncheon. I know what that takes. Velma was a great help with the flowers, and Bev with her helpful ways. Knowing that we have the congregation of St. Matthews sharing with us has helped so much. This was all so unexpected, but we know it is God's will.

Margaret Schroeder and Family

Thank you to Pastor Mark for the beautiful sermon, prayers and kindness shown as our family mourns the loss of a husband, dad, grandpa and great-grandpa. Thanks to organist Lorenda Glade, the ladies who worked in the kitchen and to our church family for the prayers, hugs, memorial gifts and cards. Thanks also for the prayers as I continue in my recovery from knee surgery.

Lorna Buntjer and Family

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: With Winter upon us, 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
- AM Station 730 (KWOA)

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

EMAILING NEWSLETTER – You can receive our church's monthly newsletter via email! Persons who do this get the email quicker than those who get it via the US Postal Service. Contact Bev in the church office if you'd like to get our news by email and help the church save on printing costs and postage costs!

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN CARE MINISTRY/PARISH NURSE

Roxann Leckband

Noon Fellowship will be on Monday, January 14th with our traditional Christmas meal of ham, cheesy hash browns and green bean casserole. Blood pressures will be taken at 11:30. We will have a time of fellowship, food and The Word. Please bring a dish to pass, a free will offering or just yourself. We would love to see everyone. We extend an invitation to everyone no matter the age. This is a time of fellowship for ALL ages.

Mom's Group will be held on January 4th, 11th, and 25th from 10:30-11:30AM. The moms will have a time in Christian fellowship and devotion while the children will have a Bible story, games and snacks. Please note we have a Facebook page - Mom's at St Matts. We will post updates (such as group being cancelled, etc.) on this Facebook page if something changes in the church such as a funeral etc. Please contact Roxie at 712-260-3820 with any questions you may have.

Start off the New Year with walking! We have a walking path here at St Matthews, "Walk With Jesus," there is no better place to be to walk as we focus our thoughts on Jesus. **The path is open for walking on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00-1:00.** If it is your first time there is a Registration form to be filled out and then a daily sign-in sheet. Please contact Roxie with any questions you may have.

St. Matthew's Health Cabinet will meet on Monday, January 21st at 12 noon in the Fireside Room.

In the hospital, experiencing hardship, having health problems, alone and you do not know what to cook? Please take advantage of our St. Matthew Food Ministry. There are prepared casseroles and chocolate chip cookies available. Contact Roxie if you could be blessed by this ministry.

Parents and Youth: Please note Confirmation and KFC will resume on January 9th following the Christmas break.

Secret Prayer Partners: We will be asking for Prayer Partners for our 7th and 8th grade Confirmation youth. There will be a sign-up sheet and you will receive an envelope with information about the person you signed up to pray for. The sign-up sheet will be out in the Great Hall on January 20th. Instructions will be posted. Thank you for participating in this Prayer Ministry.

Thank You:

A "Thank you" for the years of service and dedication that Marlis and Steve Rohwer gave to our "Noon Fellowship" here at St. Matthews. From the beautiful, festive decorations, to the moving of tables, making coffee and the warm welcome greetings, I cannot say thank you enough. You will be deeply missed, not just for your organization and decorating flare, but for demonstration of your love of the Lord through your serving of His children. You were not a volunteer - you provided a servant role. May the Lord Bless and Keep you always.

Thank-you to all of you who so generously gave to the Metteer benefit, the hats and gloves for the Community Christmas Baskets and the gift certificates for the Caring Tree. You are a blessing to many.

Thank-you to Karen and Ron Obermoller for the construction and preparation of the wooden Caring Tree. It was great! You both are talented. Thanks again.

Thank you to Mark Schwarz, Dale Schroeder and Greg Leckband for being the Hands and Feet of Jesus as they took St Matthew Lutheran Church's turn in delivering furniture for Love INC clients.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank-you so much for the warm wishes for my birthday and Christmas. Thank you for the special greetings, cards and gifts. I am very blessed to serve here at St. Matthew Lutheran. May our Lord of love shower you with many blessings in the New Year ahead.

In Christ,

Roxie Leckband

MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS

SOME QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

WHEN IS EPIPHANY?

The Epiphany of our Lord is the festival observed on January 6. It is the oldest of the Christmas festivals and originally the most important. Since January 6 is most often a weekday, Lutherans usually shift the celebration of Epiphany to the Sunday immediately following the 6th. Epiphany is a season that lasts until the beginning of Lent and encompasses four to nine Sundays, depending on the date of Easter.

WHAT DOES THE WORD “EPIPHANY” MEAN?

The word epiphany comes from the Greek noun epiphaneia, which means “shining forth,” “manifestation,” or “revelation.” The Epiphany of our Lord is the Christian festival that celebrates the many ways through signs, miracles, and preaching that Jesus revealed Himself to the world as Christ, God Incarnate, and King of kings.

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH COMMEMORATE DURING EPIPHANY?

The Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord originally commemorated three incidents that manifested the mission and divinity of Christ: the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12), the baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:9-11), and the miracle at Cana (John 2:1-11). Our Gospel readings for the first three Sundays of the Epiphany season focus on these events.

WHY IS EPIPHANY SUCH A SPECIAL DAY AND SEASON?

Epiphany is one of the most important festivals of the liturgical year because it shows the church how God comes to His people. We are so full of sin and deserving of divine punishment that we cannot hope to approach God. Knowing that we cannot come to Him, God took the initiative and came to us by becoming one of us. The most holy and almighty God took on human flesh in order to reveal His salvation to the world. This is the mystery of the Epiphany of our Lord ...

During the Sundays of the Epiphany season, the readings focus on several of the other incidents from Scripture that show how Jesus manifested God’s love to the world through His ministry of preaching, miracles, and healings. What is common to each of these epiphanies is that in one way or another they make known the identity and mission of Jesus Christ: True Man and True God, born into this sinful world to be the Lord and Savior of all humanity.

The above is taken from “Why the Epiphany is so Important, A Lutheran Perspective” To read the entire article, go to <https://churchmousec.wordpress.com/2014/01/04/why-the-epiphany-is-so-important-a-lutheran-perspective/>

*A very special “thank you” to all who assisted in **any** way with our music and worship services throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons. Thank you to our Sunday School students and their teachers for sharing the story of Christs’ birth in Word and song at the program on December 16. With practice delays due to construction and weather postponements, all of you are to be commended for a job well done on VERY limited rehearsal time!*

Blessings as we celebrate “God in man made manifest” (LSB 394)

Lorenda Glade, Joy Schreiber, Directors of Music and Worship

ELECTRONIC GIVING AVAILABLE – This is a convenient, consistent way to help our church grow! 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 church website, www.stmatthewworthington.com and return it to the church office.

2018 Giving Statements will be ready for pickup by January 20th – watch the weekly bulletins for updated information. Any statements not picked up by January 28th will be put in the mail to you.

The **2019 Offering Envelopes** are in the Great Hall. **Please pick up your box, even if you give electronically, the boxes provide “special giving opportunities” throughout the year. Thank You!**

A New Pictorial Directory in 2019

Dates have been set for photography for a New Pictorial Directory for St. Matthews. Please keep these dates in mind: August 20-24 and September 3-7, 2019. More information will be available in a few months. However, we wanted to get these dates to you so you could start planning. The photography and directory will once again be done by Lifetouch. They have changed things up a bit, so keep watch for more information to be published.

NOTES FROM THE DECEMBER 11, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING:

Treasurer Report: November expenses were: \$31,704.06 with income of \$33,697.73. Building Fund income was \$130.00. Net income for the month was \$2,123.67. Balance in the General Fund Checking Account on November 30 was \$34,629.34. Memorial Fund balance is \$50,994.46.

Scholarship Fund balance is \$538,699.49. Youth account monthly report was \$12,291.97. Advanced \$82,000 from SWS Financial. This should be the last amount needed for the Revitalization expenses.

Pastor Mark: Attended a workshop November 8-10 on LCMS Rural Small-Town Ministry held in Kansas City. 80% of congregations are at a plateau or declining memberships. **Presented a module entitled, “Every One His Witness”. Discussed at Elders meeting and have decided to offer this to all members on Saturday, February 2 from 9am-3pm. More information will be provided to all.**

Roxie: Confirmation classes going well. Delivered furniture for Love, INC to 3 homes. Collected hats/gloves for Community Christmas Baskets. Food Ministry meals have been depleted and will be making more soon. Medication Management Ministry had its first session and was well received. Widow’s Ministry has been meeting. Helped coordinate cupcakes for the Metteer family benefit.

Jenna: Youth hosted a Chili Feed and 13 church members provided a crockpot of chili for this event. 15 youth attended the Jr. High Prayer & Play. Wednesday night youth group has started the “Life on a Mission” video series. 507 event was held on December 5th at American Lutheran. There were 220 youth in attendance. February 6th the 507 event will be held here at St. Matthews. Lee Stover from RiseFest Ministries will be speaking and performing his music. Pastor Mark will move Wednesday evening service to the Chapel that night. Four girls have expressed interest in attending the LCMS Youth Leadership training event in St. Louis, MO on Mark 14-17. They each wrote an essay on why they wanted to attend. Valerie Wolford will be the adult chaperone with Jenna. Each youth has paid \$75 with total cost to attend of \$360 each. Church van will be used for transportation. Total cost is estimated at \$2,200. Youth families went caroling to nursing homes then returned to the church to decorate cookies. Thanks to Teresa Riley for baking the cookies.

Elders: Had a police officer attend meeting and they did a walk through the church to get input as to the security. Suggested that everyone needs to be more aware of their surroundings. Could have someone be present in the Great Hall during services to identify any potential situations. Have the security camera in the office, but suggested utilizing a buzzer system. Suggested some doors to have panic bars placed on them.

COUNCIL MEETING NOTES CONTINUED:

Trustees: Chancel lights project: will be looking at possibly replacing them with LED lights. The small boiler may need to be replaced soon.

Board of Education: VBS dates have been requested from Camp Omega of June 16-20, 2019.

Unfinished Business: Building Update – blinds have been installed. Cabinetry all completed. Flooring not finished yet. Plumbing work is done. New east door entrance will be installed as soon as it arrives with cost of \$6,800. Still need changing tables to be placed in family bathrooms. New signage to be done yet. Committee estimates will be approximately \$35,000 under budget. By-Laws committee has finalized the changes to be presented to the congregation. Proposed a 6-member Ministry Planning Committee that would be elected by the congregation. Will need to have the term of these positions be in line with current elections held yearly. Need to review employee handbook.

Next Council Meeting date is January 8, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

Worship Service Helpers for January 2019

ACOLYTES

Jan. 6	(8 AM) Tavin Miller	(10:30) Ryker Thier
Jan. 13	(8 AM) Faith Leinen	(10:30) Elizabeth Gerdes
Jan. 20	(8 AM) Jordis Weber	(10:30) Alexa Kilker
Jan. 27	(8 AM) Caleb Barber	(10:30) TJ Ostrem
Feb. 3	(8 AM) Aleksander Brunk	(10:30) Kenadie Thiner

NURSERY (10:30 service only)

Jan. 6	Evan Hansberger
Jan. 13	Logan Meyeraan
Jan. 20	Presley Sieve
Jan. 27	Olivia VanEde
Feb. 3	Alaina Feit

Nursery Adult Supervisor

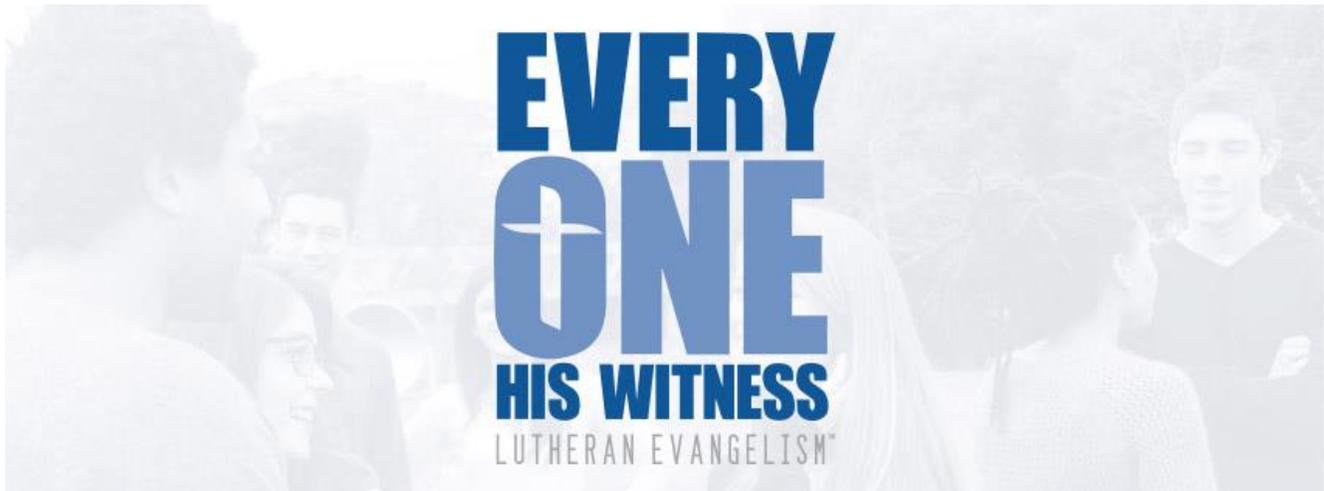
Beth White
Tammy Markus
Kasen White
Danika Schmidt
Gail Holinka

** 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.** THANK YOU*

GREETER SCHEDULE for January 2018

**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. 6	8 a.m. – Daryl & Karen Doeden 10:30 – Kevin & Danika Schmidt
Jan. 13	8 a.m. – Vern & Marilyn Meyer 10:30 – Lee & Karen Meyer
Jan. 20	8 a.m. – Bill & Jan Smrcka 10:30 – Kirk & Traci Feit
Jan. 27	8 a.m. – Dale & Bonnie Schroeder 10:30 – YOUTH
Feb. 3	8 a.m. – Kent Brunk; Cindy Brunk 10:30 – LaDean & Lori Fletcher



The *Every One His Witness* Lutheran evangelism program 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.

Here's what 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.

Join us here at St. Matthew's on Saturday, February 2nd from 9:00am-3:00pm. Lunch and childcare will be provided. Sign-up on the sheet in the Great Hall or contact Bev in the church office.



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Already love Amazon? How about using **AmazonSmile!** The same great Amazon you love but with .05% of the profits being automatically donated to us!

Have you heard of the AmazonSmile Foundation? Each quarter, the AmazonSmile Foundation makes donations to eligible charitable organizations. Donations will be transferred approximately 45 days after the end of each calendar quarter. St. Matthew's is now registered as a charitable foundation with AmazonSmile. Our church's unique charity link for AmazonSmile is <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-6009109>.

In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization.