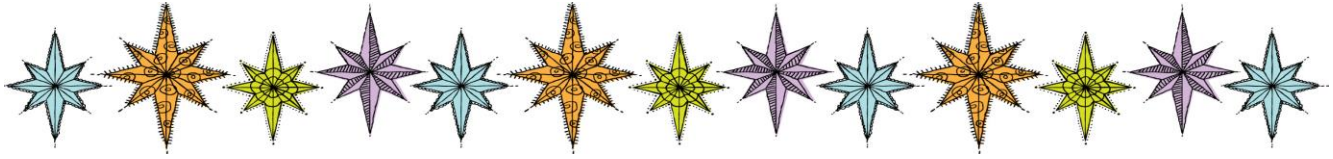


St. Matthew Lutheran Church

1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN

January 2020



A New Year's Resolution

I am sure one of the top resolutions this year, like many past years is to lose weight and become more physically fit. The battle of the bulge is a constant and weary battle for many of us in this country. This might be a good resolution to strive for at the start of the new year, but as Christians there is a better New Year's resolution that should be at the top of our list. Listen to the words of St. Paul:

“Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as **it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come”** (1 Tim. 4:7,8).

Any athlete who is going to perform well has to be well trained and equipped for the contest. The same holds true for the Christian. Our personal trainer is the Word of God, and our playing field is the game of life. The game of life can be rough and treacherous at times, so we need to be as well trained, and equipped as possible. The way I see it there are three places to get beefed up on godliness as we are trained by the Word of God in: regular worship attendance, Bible study, and daily devotions in our homes.

Make a New Year's resolution to attend worship at least once a week. At a minimum that would be 52 times in 2020. Is it a high goal? Yes! Is it worth the time and benefit? Absolutely! These are the times when God comes to us in his Son, Jesus Christ, to free us from our sin and guilt, and nurture and strengthen us with his precious body and blood. It **“holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.”**

Make a New Year's resolution to attend a Bible study here at St. Matthew or join a small group study. There will be a variety of different options that will be provided for you throughout this coming year. This is the time to see what God's Word has to say about your life. This also is a time to be refreshed by the mutual consolation of brothers and sisters. It **“holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.”**

Make a New Year's resolution to open the word of God up in your homes. Families who worship together and pray together are stronger families. Parents “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it” (proverbs 22:6). God wants to be present, and dwell in your homes through His Word. It **“holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.”**

I truly hope God blesses and keeps you all safe in 2020!

In Christ,
Pastor Mark

CHURCH RECORDS

Deaths

- Douglas Kluever passed away December 15; funeral service was held December 19, 2019.
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ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Serving in January will be: Ruth Ramert & Lynn Dierks 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.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Martha Circle will meet on January 16th at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Hope Circle will meet January 14th at 5:15 p.m. in the Youth room. The Sarah Circle will meet January 21st at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.



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 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.us94.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.

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.

2019 Giving Statements will be ready for pickup by January 19th – watch the weekly bulletins for updated information. Any statements not picked up by January 24th will be put in the mail to you.

The **2020 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!**

The Pictorial Directories are available for you to pick up, if you had your photo taken. Please stop into the church office during the week. The directories will be available in the Great Hall between the worship services on January 5th and 12th.

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN CARE MINISTRY/PARISH NURSE
Roxann Leckband

Happy New Year! Yes this is a perfect time of the year to make plans and resolutions. I would like to encourage each and every one of you to participate in some form of physical exercise. Now with this said if you have a health condition or have any questions about increased activity level check with your health care provider.

On January 6, 2020 I will be providing an opportunity to get started with a regular exercise program. Please join me at St Matthew Lutheran Church between 9:00 and 10:00 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). Please read the enclosed information on The 7 Health Benefits of Walking (located on the back of this newsletter's cover page).

Noon Fellowship will be on Monday, January 13th. The menu will be ham, mashed potatoes and gravy and green beans. Please bring a dish to pass, a free-will offering or just yourself.

Support Groups:

- The Widows Group will meet on January 15th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room and the evening group will meet on January 20th at 5:15 p.m. in the Fireside Room and then to the Hickory Lodge at 6:00. During our meeting time we read and discuss the *Postcards from the Widow's Path* by Ferree Hardy. The groups have found the book and discussion beneficial. If you know of a woman you feel could benefit from this group please invite them.
- GPS Hope (Grieving Parents Sharing –Hope), the parent bereavement group will meet on January 27th at 6:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. If you know of anyone who has experienced the death of a child please let them know about this group and my willingness to meet with them and talk if they have questions or need support. Please contact at 376-6168 or e-mail to stmattparishnurse@gmail.com.

Confirmation/Early Communion/Sunday School:

- **Attention 5th Grade Students & Parents** – on January 8th and 15th there will be Early Communion classes for our 5th graders from 5:30 until 6:15 p.m. Parents please note we encourage one or both parents to attend with their child.
- **Confirmation youth grades 6,7 and 8:** Confirmation resumes after the Christmas break on Wednesday, January 8th at 5:30 p.m. in the respective classrooms.
- **Sunday school resumes on January 5th.** We look forward to seeing your children and sharing the most important message they will ever have. The message of the Gospel, the great love of Jesus that is real and present in their life.

Sunday Morning Mom's Group - Young Moms please join us on the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Sundays of the month at 9:15 a.m. in the Fireside Room for related Christian Parenting topics of discussion. There will be goodies as well!

St. Matthew Lutheran Health Cabinet - The Health Cabinet will be meeting on January 20th at 12 noon in the Fireside Room.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” I Peter 4:10

As we begin a new year (and a new decade!) we want to thank the many people who have shared their gifts and talents to enhance our worship services during the past year.

- Our Adult Choir and Bell Choir, directed by Louise Clausen and accompanied by Linda Lang prepared seasonal music for our worship services. We appreciate each of you!
- Numerous vocal and instrumental soloists and groups shared their talents with special music during our 8:00 AM services as well as our midweek Lenten and Advent services.
- Our Sunday School children did an outstanding job on their Christmas program December 15. They also shared music for our Palm Sunday service.
- Our worship band members continued to do a great job leading our 10:30 contemporary service.
- Our brass players were a wonderful addition to our Easter, July 4, All Saints, Thanksgiving Eve, and Christmas Day services.
- Our vocal groups added much to our special services throughout the year--Festival Choir, small groups for Good Friday and Christmas Eve, and LWML and Veterans Day choruses.
- Our tech crew continued to do an excellent job helping all of our musicians sound their best and keeping our services running smoothly.
- Many hands helped to keep our sanctuary beautiful throughout the year, and especially during the Easter and Advent/Christmas season.
- Finally, our members continued to sing joyfully at our worship services, agreed to share their talents, and offered words of encouragement to our music staff as we worked to serve God and our church family.

We are truly blessed!

Wishing you God’s Blessings, Peace, and Joy in the year ahead.

Lorenda Glade, Joy Schreiber, Directors of Music and Worship

ALTAR FLOWERS

Thank you for providing bouquets for our Altar area. **If you would like to provide a bouquet(s) to beautify our altar area, you may contact HyVee individually to order your bouquet and arrange for delivery or pick-up.** *If being delivered by Hy-Vee, they MUST deliver by 12 noon on Fridays to ensure the church will be unlocked for delivery.* You may also provide flowers from your own garden.

We still have the **Flower Calendar on the Narthex bulletin board** to regular the number of bouquets provided weekly. Therefore, please continue to sign-up. If you would like your Altar flowers listed in the bulletin that information MUST be into the church office 2 weeks before the date you are providing the flowers. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Thank you for continuing to provide bouquets for our Altar area.

LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) NEWS

The coffee hour on Sunday, January 19th will be for our Seminary Student, Tanner Post. Please come for coffee and help us support this young man and his family. He is a student at LCMS Seminary in Ft. Wayne, IN. Sarah circle will host.

SOLES 4 SOULS MINISTRY

St. Matthew's supports the Soles4Souls all year long. We have a collection drawer in the cabinet located in our north entrance for you to place shoes you no longer need/wear. Here is a letter we received after Margaret Schroeder delivered to the collection site in late November:

Dear Friend,

Some people just know how to make big things happen. **You are absolutely one of those people.**

I didn't want to let another day go by without acknowledging all the hard work, time, and energy you invested in our work together. Your efforts made a real difference to people in that room – and a lasting difference to people all around the world.

Together with the help of generous, compassionate folks like you, last year we were able to distribute nearly 6.5 million pairs of shoes and articles of clothing to people all across the globe. And now, kids are in school and adults are at work. Families are rebuilding after natural disaster. Entrepreneurs in developing countries are launching meaningful businesses. Communities are protected from injury and disease.

It's amazing to think it all starts with shoes, isn't it? **Actually, it all starts with you.** And I'm so grateful.

With deepest thanks,

Buddy Teaster

CEO, Soles4Souls

Contribution date: 11/21/2019

Gently Worn Pair: 92

Total Pairs: 92

NOTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 12, 2019 COUNCIL MEETING:

Treasurer Report: October expenses were: \$33,167.69 with income of \$34,137.00. Building Fund income was \$75.00. Net income for the month was \$1,044.31. Balance in the General Fund Checking Account on October 31 was \$22,422.82. Memorial Fund balance is \$25,587.82. Building Loan balance is \$171,400.00. Paid \$10,000 on Bridge Loan for a current loan balance of \$15,000. Scholarship Fund balance is \$470,830.57. Youth account monthly report was \$12,298.34.

Pastor Mark: Average weekend attendance in October was 250. Average Wednesday attendance was 20. Have met with Jenna to complete several internship forms. There will be a training in May for 2 days in California that Pastor will have to attend with Jenna. Since the program that she is enrolled in is a DCE program, she will have to be called by our church to serve us. Jenna is planning to complete the program in January of 2021, but date may be affected by when she will have to travel to bring their adoptive daughter home.

Roxie: I have been providing shut-in and hospital ministry contacts. In doing these visits I can see more and more needs that the Parish Nurse ministry could fill. We are blessed to have another nurse join our Parish Nurse ministry. Ministries continue.

Jenna: Youth group made 225 dozen hoagies on October 16th. This was a great fundraiser. The youth group used a Thrivent Action grant and put together care packages for our college students and those

November 12, 2019 Council Meeting Highlights Continued:

who have graduated and are now working. We took 17 high school kids over to the Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp outreach night. The kids are going through “Life’s Big Questions God’s Big Answers” book during Wednesday night youth group. There are 25 kids and 7 adult chaperones signed up for this upcoming summer’s mission trip.

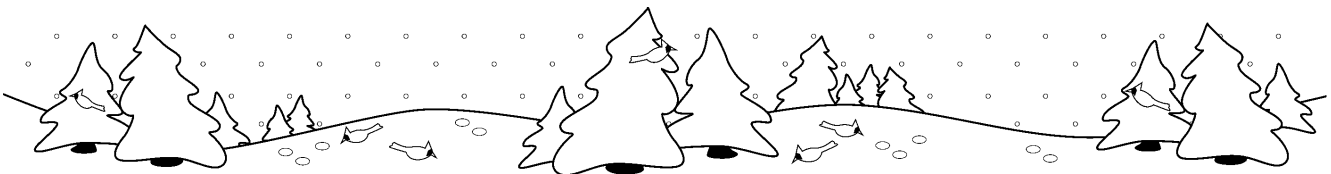
Music: The sanctuary and choir room pianos were tuned. A new keyboard for Sunday School has been purchased using Thrivent Choice funds.

Trustees: Sprinkler inspection was done and everything checked out okay. Working on emergency lights that are not working.

Board of Education: Meetings will be held December 3, March 3 and May 5. Extra meetings may be held if necessary.

Unfinished Business: Discussed the Tech/Social Media position. Need to pursue getting our App updated and we need to utilize various social media sites. Bev updated our Facebook site. Pastor would like to start livestreaming our services. Ministry planning board will advertise to see if anyone is willing to help. This could possibly be a paid 5-10 hour/week position. Discussion about utilizing the Great Hall to be a welcoming center. Ministry Planning Committee looking to establish a committee to develop this. Tim Hansberger will be contact person. “Koinonia Korner” is the name adopted for the new basement area.

New Business: St. Matthew’s will serve at the Banquet in Sioux Falls on March 7th. Trustees are working on updating computers.



Worship Service Helpers for January 2020

ACOLYTES

Jan. 5	(8 AM) Paige Barger	(10:30) Nevaeh Roesner
Jan. 12	(8 AM) Isaac Lowe	(10:30) Anna Gordon
Jan. 19	(8 AM) Mersaydes Marten	(10:30) Lucy Thier
Jan. 26	(8 AM) Tavin Miller	(10:30) Logan DeVries
Feb. 2	(8 AM) Maelie Holt	(10:30) Alaina Feit

NURSERY (10:30 service only)

Nursery Adult Supervisor

Jan. 5	TJ Ostrem	Angie Kopplow
Jan. 12	Kenadie Thiner	Val Wolford
Jan. 19	Kyle Ahrenstorff	Kasen White
Jan. 26	Brandon Bosma	Danika Schmidt
Feb. 2	Hunter Echternach	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 2020

**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. 5	8 a.m. – David & LaVonne Holt 10:30 – Mike & Cindy Froderman
Jan. 12	8 a.m. – Barry & Kerry Sauer 10:30 – Bill & Karen Knigge
Jan. 19	8 a.m. – Jim & Eloise Langseth 10:30 – Alice White, John & Jessica Widvey
Jan. 26	8 a.m. – Mark Schwarz, Ruth Ramert 10:30 – Kirk & Traci Feit
Feb. 2	8 a.m. – Al & Connie Reitmeier 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.

St. Matthew's will be doing a Bible Study on this curriculum for 6 weeks beginning January 12th. Make plans to join us on Sunday mornings, during the Adult Bible Study time, 9:30-10:15 a.m. in the basement Fellowship Hall.



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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.