

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

"Worst Case Scenario Mode"

One of the great temptations we face as Christians is to constantly live in what I would call, "Worst Case Scenario Mode" ("WCSM" for short). That is, ALWAYS living as though the worst possible thing is about to happen - living in fear of what MIGHT happen. We justify this to ourselves as "being cautious," but this often goes beyond such normal, prudent caution and right into something quite different and ultimately opposing to a life of faith. Living regularly in WCSM changes us. It preconditions us for failure, even for disaster, and even if the WCS doesn't happen, it might as well have because we have been living under the control of the fear of it.

Living in WCSM often virtually guarantees that it will happen because we have linked ourselves to a negative outcome. Fear, like hate, and even love, are in essence connections to people's emotions, states of mind and outcomes in life. If we are constantly looking for problems, that is what we will find most often. If we are on a team and expect to lose, we will likely lose. That isn't where Jesus intended to leave us.

In 1 John 4:16-19 we read, "So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us"

Jesus' victory over sin and death was also a victory over fear. It was a vindication of the power of love over hate, over fear and even death itself. How does that help us? Well... what if, instead of going through life expecting the worst (which may still happen), we live in hope and in love, expecting that, no matter what, God's love will prevail over all things. We are free, then, from the power of fear and loosed to live in hope. Instead of looking for the worst to happen (and thereby facilitating its arrival), what if we EXPECTED TO FIND THE BEST CASE? What if we actually believed that Jesus is alive? That he actually conquered sin? That he is with us each day? That he calls us into service in his kingdom - not to fail, but to joyously succeed in love and hope? What if we believed and trusted in a God whose normal mode of operation is to bring good out of evil, joy out of sorrow, hope out of fear, and life out of death.

In Christ,
Pastor Mark

SUMMER WORSHIP AT ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN

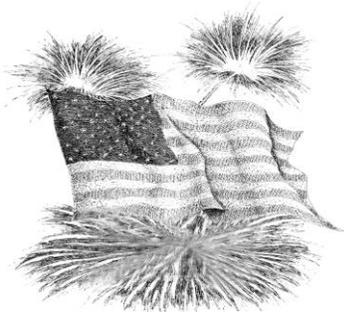
Sunday Worship

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship

Wednesday Worship (this service will continue through Labor Day)

6:00 p.m. Worship



**Make plans to attend the
“Red, White & Blue Coffee Hour”
Sunday – July 3rd at 9:15 a.m.
in the church basement.
Hosted by Cindy Brunk**

Youth and Family News
By Roxann Leckband

Praise be to God for a wonderful “God-filled” week of vacation Bible school June 13-17th. St. Matthew Lutheran Church was blessed with four amazing counselors from Camp Omega. We partnered with Camp Omega for our day camp VBS once again this year. The counselors were definitely gifted with the love of Christ and love for the children. The week was spent sharing God’s Word through telling of Bible stories, singing, crafts, games and fellowship between all those participating. There were approximately 50 in attendance plus our 6th-8th grade helpers. VBS could not have happened if it were not for all the volunteers. Those volunteering their time were: Lacey Leckband, Eric Fletcher, Brigid Hegarty, Bob Westphal, Dana Soleta, Dawn Dorschner, Bill & Karen Knigge, Sandy Meyer, Jeanette Varuska, Jessica Malcolm, Marlene Jurgensen, Kim Rogers, Al & Connie Reitmeier, and all the Middle & High School Youth that were here to help.

Mom’s group will be held on July 1st, 8th and 22nd from 10:00–11:30am. We look forward to a fun July in God’s Word and Christian fellowship. Moms meet in the Fireside Room and children meet across the hall in the pre-school classroom.

Young Adult Group will be meeting at the baseball diamonds by the Middle school on Tuesday nights. Field #1 is the south field and Field #2 is the north field. The week of July 5 is a make-up week, contact Roxie for information. The remaining July games are: July 12 at 6:30 and 9:00 p.m. on Field #2; July 19 at 9:00 p.m. on Field #2; and July 26 at 6:30 and 9:00 p.m. on Field #1. Schedules are available in the Great Hall on the small table. Playoffs are in August.

Noon Fellowship will be on July 11th with grilled hamburgers and potato salad as the main entrée . Come for great food and fellowship. Please bring a dish to pass, a free-will donation or just yourself.

“Family Night” will be a “family day” on July 24th as we join together with the outdoor worship and meal for St. Matthew Lutheran’s 125th Anniversary. We will have games and activities for the children.

Please note some of the St. Matthew youth will be attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana. We will be leaving July 15th and returning July 21st. See the lime green insert.

Attention Gardeners: St Matthew’s week to tend the community garden is July 3rd-9th. Anyone interested, whether young and “young at heart,” please contact Roxie. We can use the help with weeding and watering, depending on the rainfall of course.

Attention Parents/Guardians:

For youth who have completed 7th grade and older a Latreia mission trip is scheduled. We will leave on July 24th for Minneapolis and return to the church on July 26. The cost is \$70.00 plus spending money for the food to and from Minneapolis. The meals while on the Mission trip are included.

Sudanese worship service will be on July 17th at 12 noon in the Chapel. There were 19 in attendance at the Sudanese worship service here at St Matthew Lutheran on June 12th.

CHURCH RECORDS

Baptism

- Sydney Mae Bremer, daughter of Eric & Tammy Bremer was baptized on June 5, 2016. Sponsors were: Kimberly Aukes and Kasey Kolander.

Deaths/Funerals

- Deloris Lohr passed away May 30, 2016. Funeral service was held June 6, 2016.
- Elden Ponto passed away June 2, 2016. Funeral service was held June 11, 2016.
- Roger Heimensen passed away June 19, 2016. Funeral service was held June 24, 2016.

MUSIC & WORSHIP NEWS

Come celebrate the gift of freedom we have been given, both through Christ our Savior and our great nation, on Sunday July 3. Scripture readings, words from our Founding Fathers, and patriotic worship music will all be a part of both our 8:00 and 10:30 services.

Please join us on July 24 as we celebrate through Word, song, and Sacrament the 125th anniversary of St. Matthew Lutheran Church. Our main service that day will take place at Chautauqua Park at 10:00 AM, followed by a meal. If you do not wish to attend the outdoor worship service, please plan to attend our traditional 8:00 AM worship service at the church.

If you are out of town during the weekend, please join us for Wednesday evening worship throughout the summer months. Services begin at 6:00 PM in the sanctuary. Wednesday worshippers choose the hymns for the following Wednesday, and enjoy refreshments and fellowship following the service. Thank you to Darci Holt for sharing her talents as keyboard player for this midweek service.

Please consider joining our sound and projector team. We have had 3 of our techs move away from the area, so are in need of additional team members. Please prayerfully consider serving in this important ministry.

God's Blessings,

Lorenda Glade and Joy Schreiber, Directors of Music

Service Opportunity!

Are you looking for a way to serve your church? Then consider volunteering to be the projector operator, camera person, or sound person during one of our Sunday morning services. This is an important ministry to the congregation and help is needed for our services! If you are interested, please contact Bev in the church office or one of our tech crew. Training is provided!

OFFERING REMINDER

Your FAITHFUL – REGULAR – WEEKLY offering commitment enables your congregation to meet important summer ministry commitments. If you intend to be away for several weeks, please consider mailing your offering to the Church Office. Your consideration will help our Treasurer to be faithful in her duties too! Thank you for your generosity. It's such a delight to see how God works through each one of us to be a blessing here in Worthington and around the world!

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Hope Circle will not be meeting in July. The Martha Circle will meet July 21 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Sarah Circle will meet July 19 at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Serving in June will be Sandy Meyer and Marge Ruesch for the 8 a.m. services. If you would like to be a part of the Altar Guild; please contact Velma Cortright, 376-5600 or Sandy Meyer, 376-6290.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE (LWML) NEWS

There will not be an LWML meeting in July. Crossroads Care Center Devotions will be on: July 13th (Sarah & Hope Circles) and July 20th (Martha Circle). Coffee Hour on July 17 will be hosted by the Martha Circle. There will not be an LWML meeting in August.

Help is NEEDED for Communion Clean-up following the 10:30 worship service. Please contact Lori Fletcher, 478-4513, if you have any questions, or would like to help out in this ministry. Scheduling if flexible. Thank You.

THANK YOU

Thank you for all the help and support for the funeral and lunch for Steve Quist. You made this time easier for us, and also my mom Evelyn Luitjens.

Glenna Quist, Natalie, Heather, Erika, Kirstin

THE BANQUET

We continue to collect items for the Banquet in Sioux Falls, SD. Please deposit your donations in the wooden collection box along the west wall in the basement. They accept silverware, cool whip containers, plastic bags, hotel sized shampoos, etc. **ADVANCE NOTICE:** We have signed up to serve the noon meal at The Banquet on Saturday, January 21, 2017. We will need approximately 40 people to do this service project and anyone in 7th grade and up can help. **THANK YOU** to all who have been a part of this service in the past. We look forward to serving again.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Our **Prayer Chain** is in need of members. If you have any questions what is involved with being on the Prayer Chain, or would like to join our Prayer Chain, please contact LaVonne Holt at 372-2275.

Sole4Souls is an ongoing ministry that St. Matthew's participates in. **Are you cleaning closets and have shoes you no longer need or want?** You may place your shoes in the wooden donation cupboard, in the drawer labeled shoes, in the north/elevator entrance. Thank you.

Pastor Bob Schulze, former pastor of St. Matthew's, is retiring from the ministry after 41 years and taking a position as Executive Assistant to the District President MN South (Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy). He will begin his position on August 1st. Therefore, he will be leaving his Pastor position at Messiah Lutheran Church in Lakeville on July 10th. There will be a Pastor Appreciation for Pastor Bob from 9:15-10:15am (in between their services) at Messiah Lutheran Church in Lakeville, MN on July 10th. Please feel free to attend on behalf of St. Matthew.



EMAILING NEWSLETTER

Did you know that you can receive your monthly newsletter via email and help save the church in postage costs? If you would like this option, please email Bev in the church office at stmatth@frontiernet.net. It will be a PDF file – so you will need Adobe Reader to open the document.

Highlights from the June 14, 2016 Church Council Meeting

The actual Minutes cannot be printed because they have not yet been approved.

Treasurer: May expenses were \$37,952.54; income was \$44,153.94; Building Fund income was \$2,156.00 and expenses were \$4,079.46 for a net income for the month of \$4,277.94. Balance in the General Fund checking account at May 31, 2016 was \$111,411.83. Building Loan Balance at the end of May was approximately \$38,000. Donations from the Adopt-A-Day building loan repayment program are coming in steadily. Memorial Fund balance is \$36,274.64. Scholarship Fund total is \$620,183.36.

Staff Reports: Pastor Schreiber – Average attendance in May was 323. We have many pictorial directories that have not yet been picked up. Members may stop into the church office during the week to pick them up. Also, extra directories are available at a cost of \$25. Roxie – Preparation continues for the National Youth Gathering. VBS numbers are down this year as it is a week later than usual and summer school has also started. Will be looking for new volunteers for the Youth program. Lorenda & Joy – Members in attendance at the Wednesday evening worship services are asked to choose hymns for the next week's service. There is also a time of coffee and fellowship following each Wednesday service. We are looking for additional sound technicians as some of our sound techs have moved from the area.

Board of Elders: Joel Lorenz and Jim Arnt will be returning to the Board of Elders in July.

Board of Trustees: Have chosen to not renew our Yellow Pages advertising. The sewer in the Education Wing needed cleaning and had also been done two years ago. There will now be a scheduled cleaning annually at the end of May. Bids for new roof were received. The bid was awarded to Jaeger Associates, Inc. of Titonka, Iowa for \$130,652 with contingency amount if sheeting has to be replaced. This should be completed by August. Bids for the renovation of the stained glass windows were also received. Bid awarded to Cathedral Crafts for \$33,990. This work will be completed in September or October, after the roof repair. Discussion was held regarding the amount of the loan to be added to our current building loan to pay for the roof and stained glass window repair. Total amount to be borrowed will be \$170,000. We will continue to pay down the loan as we have in the recent past at 4,079 per month even though the required payment amount will be less. This will allow some flexibility in the budget. Received a rebate of \$7,100 for the LED light installation in the Sanctuary.

Board of Education: A big thank you to Al & Connie Reitmeier for hosting the Camp Omega Counselors for our VBS. The Board is developing a new curriculum for fall Sunday School.

Unfinished Business: Strategic planning on hold. DCE Update: Nathaniel Brewer has declined the call to serve as DCE, so the call committee will reconvene. Committee for Constitution review will be established at a later date.

Next meeting is July 12th at 7:00 p.m.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church Quarterly Voters' Meeting July 31st at 11:45 a.m.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend! Read the weekly bulletins for more information.

Church Officers for July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

President – Nathan Holt; Vice President – Greg Leckband; Secretary – Nancy Ihrke; Elders – Ron Iverson, Tim Hansberger, Mike Dierks, LaDean Fletcher, Joel Lorenz, Jim Arnt; Trustees – Dick Thompson, Kirk Feit, Clarence Mess, Bryon Spittle, Daryl Quiring; Human Care Chairman – Deb Thompson; Board of Education Chairman – Jeanette Varuska; Stewardship Chairman – Steve Rubis; Youth Board Chairman – Dana Soleta; Evangelism Chairman – Pat Arnt; Mission Chairman – John Holeton. A listing will be posted on the bulletin boards in the north/elevator entrance and Narthex (south entrance) bulletin boards beginning July 1st.

St. Matthew's Office Contact Information

Office Phone – (507) 376-6168 = Administrative Assistant, Bev Spittle – ext. 2; Administrative Pastor Mark Schreiber – ext. 3; Director of Family & Youth Ministry, Roxann Leckband – ext. 5; Music Office – ext. 6. Email addresses: Pastor Mark – pastorschreiber@yahoo.com; Roxie – rleckband@frontiernet.net; Lorenda – lorenda.glade@gmail.com; Bev – stmatth@frontiernet.net.

JULY 2015 WORSHIP HELPERS SCHEDULE

ACOLYTES

<u>Date</u>	<u>8 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
July 3	Brandon Arzu-Bustad	Christopher Leckband
July 10	Ashley Ling	Luke Gordon
July 17	Chad Buntjer	Eli Hansberger
July 24	Kaylee Gerdes	<i>*Service at 10am in the Park!</i>
July 31	Calah Ling	Carson Wolford
August 7	Austin Heimgartner	Faith Arnt

NURSERY (10:30 service only)

July 3	Alyssa Bosma, Beth White
July 10	Nathan Goedtke; Alexie Cross
July 17	Jace Paplow; Gail Holinka
July 24	<i>*Service at 10am in the Park – No Nursery!</i>
July 31	Neveah Schreiber; Marlis Rohwer or Val Wolford
August 7	Jake Ahrenstorff; Gail Holinka

Please remember to **arrive at least 15 minutes before the service begins**. If you cannot fulfill your scheduled date, please find a replacement and call the church office with the change, 376-6168.

JULY GREETERS SCHEDULE

Please Note: If you are unable to fulfill your scheduled time, please find someone to switch with and then let the church office know of the change. Thank You.

July 3	(8 am) (10:30)	Ron Markman, Karen Schwartz Cheri Schmidt, Marlene Jurgensen
July 10	(8 am) (10:30)	Myron & Sandy Meyer Joel & Julie Lorenz
July 17	(8 am) (10:30)	Dan & Laurita Roos Bruce & Bev Kness
July 24	(8 am) (10:30)	Don & Lorna Buntjer <i>*Service at 10am in the Park!</i>
July 31	(8 am) (10:30)	Keith & Margaret Schroeder Dale & Vickie Larson
August 7	(8 am) (10:30)	David & LaVonne Holt David & Alexie Cross

****If you would like to be a Greeter, please contact Bev in the church office and she will add you to the rotating list!***