

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN

June 2015 Newsletter

FROM PASTOR BRECH

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR

One month ago we confirmed a nice class of students. One of the questions they had to affirm for confirmation was: "Will you suffer even death rather than fall away from the Christian faith? That question required a thoughtful answer so I share with you some last words regarding who we are in the world in which we live.

"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. " (Revelation 2:10)

It is so difficult to see our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ suffer and die for their faith around the world. The Word of God from Revelation 2:10 is the voice of Jesus warning His Church of what is going to happen in the future. The Word of God is very clear about the forces of evil waging the war against God's children and it will be a real challenge for the believers.

It is amazing to see how our fellow believers are not abandoning their faith in order to save their lives. One story is very memorable. The ISIS captor asked the Egyptian Christian whether he was ready to deny Christ and embrace Allah. The Christian brother boldly confessed his faith in Jesus as his Savior and died the martyr's death.

The question is, can we be like that brother? Will we stay faithful to Jesus in the midst of persecution and the threat of death? On our own, we will falter and will be afraid for our lives. However, the important thing to remember is that we are never alone, our Savior is with us. He will give us courage to stand firm in our faith.

Those of us who have been confirmed have all made the following promise at the altar of our gracious Lord at our confirmation. The pastor asked, "Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?" We answered, "I do, by the grace of God."

My brothers and sisters, our faith relies on the power and love of our Savior. The One who had lived, died, and rose again from the grave will not abandon us. We can be faithful to our Savior because of His faithfulness to us.

During this month, why don't we pray for our brothers and sisters around the world that the Lord would strengthen their faith in the face of persecution? Let us also encourage one another with the Word of God here in America.

May the Lord bless and keep you.

In Christ,

HxBnPstr Brech

Youth and Family News

By Roxann Leckband

Young Women/Mom's Group will be Fridays - June 5th, 12th, and 26th from 10:00-11:30AM. Moms will have a fellowship time and devotion while the children have fun with Bible stories, crafts, singing, games and snacks.

Noon Fellowship Meal will be on Sunday, June 8th at 12:00. The main entrée will be chicken noodle hot dish, green beans almandine and a dinner roll. You may bring a dish to pass, a freewill offering or just yourself, whatever is best for you. Please join us for good food, good friends and a time in God's Word.

Please take note St. Matthew Lutheran has a softball team! Please refer to page 4 of this newsletter. Come and support our team. The team will be playing on Tuesday nights at the middle school diamonds.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL / DAY CAMP

VBS will be held **June 15 through June 19**. Everyone is welcome and we encourage your child to bring a friend. We will meet Monday through Thursday from 9:00am-3:00pm, and on Friday we will meet from 9:00am to 12:00 noon at Pioneer Village. Parents/guardians please note: On Friday, June 19 children are to be dropped off at Pioneer Village at 9am and picked up from Pioneer Village at 12 noon that day. Camp Omega will once again be providing the programming. Lunch will be provided every day for the children. This year's theme is "*More Than Conquerors...Romans 8:35, 37.*" **Please register by June 1st or shortly after that!** Registration forms are available on our church website, www.stmattheworthington.com and at the church entrances. It is a REQUIREMENT of Camp Omega that registrations are completed BEFORE your child may attend.

Ages of children that may attend our VBS are: Preschool age (must be potty trained) through children who have completed the 6th grade. **A note regarding the ages listed:** you as parents/guardians will need to decide if your child is age appropriate for VBS activities. If a child is very young and the staff feels he/she is too young, we will observe and contact the parent or guardian if needed.

Volunteers are needed for Vacation Bible School, anyone who can help 1 day or every day, 1 hour or 6 hours per day please contact Roxie.

Young Family Night will be on Sunday, June 7th from 5:00-6:30PM. We will be grilling hamburgers and hotdogs. The hamburgers, hot dogs and buns will be furnished. Please bring a dish to share. Come and enjoy some time at the park and a time in God's Word.

Community Garden – St. Matthew's youth and congregation members are asked to participate with the Worthington Community Garden. Please watch the weekly bulletins for the dates that our church is signed up to care for the garden. Contact Roxie if you have any questions.

YOUTH NEWS

Middle School Mission Trip to Minneapolis is July 26-29. Please note, youth who have completed 7th or 8th grade may be eligible to attend. Please contact Roxie if you are interested in attending 376-6168.

High School Youth Mission Trip to Idaho will be July 4-11. There still may be room if you are interested in attending. Please contact Roxie at 376-6168 if you have any questions.

High School Youth going on the Idaho Mission Trip: There will be 2 Bible Studies before we leave on the Mission Trip. Please mark your calendars and attend on Sundays – June 14th & 21st at 9:15 a.m. in the Youth Room.

MUSIC & WORSHIP NEWS

"All I have needed thy hand hath provided; Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me." LSB 809

We have waited for a full time administrative pastor for many months, and now look forward to the beginning of Pastor Schreiber's ministry at St. Matthews. God has richly provided for our worship needs during this time, and He will continue to do so.

We will continue to need faithful people to share their talents during our worship services. We especially are in need of additional drummers, singers, and leaders for our 10:30 Worship Band, sound and projection techs, as well as people willing to play or sing for special music at our Traditional services.

Thank you to all who have shared their musical talents so willingly during our time of transition at St. Matthews. God has truly been faithful to us, and we can continue to trust Him to provide for our needs.

In Christ,

Lorenda Glade, Interim Director of Traditional Music

Susan Hansberger, Amy Khamphanh, Interim Directors of Contemporary Music

THANK YOU

Thank you to Deb Langford, Jenola Dickman and Marvin Schroeder for all of your time and skills to make the "FAITH" quilts for our high school graduates. You gave so graciously of your time to help make a lasting memory for our St. Matthew High School graduates.

"Thank You" can in no way appropriately express the gratitude that we have for the support that we received after we lost our Wife/Mother, followed by the loss of a Sister/Aunt. The only way to move forward is with a continued faith in God, which is supported by our Christian family. So many members of St. Matthews offered words of encouragement and strength. These were great reminders that the members of the church family need to be there for each other. We truly appreciate all of the help that we received from Pastor & Jan Brech, Roxie, Bev, Lorenda, all of the people who helped to serve food and took care of things that we may not even be aware of. Your help, and the support of our church family, made it easier to deal with this extremely difficult time. We pray that God also bless all of you with such great support in your times of need.

Stephen & Austin Heimgartner

Ray Kuhl and his family extend their deepest thanks to St. Matthew's for the support and ministry received for the funeral of Vernice Kuhl. Special thanks go to those who served the funeral meal and gave memorial gifts. Memorials went to LWML, Building Fund, The Lutheran Hour, The Achievement Center of Worthington, The Red Cross Ladies, and Worthington Food Pantry.

Thank the Lord for a successful surgery! Thank you to my church family for all the cards, phone calls and prayers during my surgery and now while I am home recuperating.

Dorothy Jansen

CHURCH RECORDS

Deaths

- Sherri Heimgartner passed away April 25, 2015. Funeral services were held on April 30, 2015.
- Eldon Heetland passed away May 1, 2015. Funeral services were held on May 11, 2015.

New Members

- Reid Strand
 - Paul & Karen Olson
-



There will be hand bell rehearsal on Tuesday, June 2nd at American Lutheran Church. Our hand bell choir will join the hand bell choir from American Lutheran Church and **will be performing on Wednesday, June 3rd during the intermission of the summer band concert in Chautauqua Park.**

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 Miriam Circle will meet on Monday, June 15th at 1:30 p.m. at Maureen Hellinga's home. The Hope Circle will not be meeting in June, July or August. The Sarah Circle will meet on Tuesday, June 16th at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. No information was received from the Martha Circle.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE (LWML) NEWS

St. Matthew LWML is inviting **ALL ladies to our annual "Ladies' Night Out" on Thursday, June 11, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.** It will be held at St. Matthew Lutheran Fellowship Hall. The event will be a potluck salad and dessert meal. Please bring a dish to share. Following the meal, we will have a presentation from St. Matthew LWML Member, Cindy Brunk. Cindy is Retired from a career in the U.S. Navy. She will tell us about her military experiences, including her time in Afghanistan. Her talk "You're Never Alone" will inspire us and make us proud to be American. Please join us for an evening of great food, fellowship, and patriotic songs. Bring a friend!

Additional LWML news: The June 21 coffee hour will be hosted by the Miriam Circle.

ATTENTION YOUNG ADULTS

We had a GREAT turn out for our **Young Adult Night** in May – 11 attended! **We decided to meet again on Monday, June 22nd at 6:30 p.m. at Hickory Lodge.** Please join us and bring a friend! Contact Roxie with any questions, 376-6168.



Softball Team Schedule: It's not too late to join the St. Matthew's Church Softball Team! We are looking for players ages 15 and up. Games are played on Tuesday evenings at the Middle School fields. Please contact Kent Brunk (360-9863), John Holeton (425-2770), Teresa Riley (376-5938) or Roxie (376-6168). **Congregation – come cheer on our team!**

The game schedule is as follows – Field #1 (South Field) and Field #2 (North Field):

| | |
|--|---|
| June 2 at 6:15pm - Field #2 | June 9 at 8:15 and 9:15pm on Field #1 |
| June 16 at 8:15pm - Field #1 | June 23 at 8:15 and 9:15pm on Field #2 |
| June 30 at 6:15pm - Field #1 and 7:15 Field #2 | July 7 is a Make-up Week |
| July 14 at 7:15 and 8:15pm - Field #2 | July 21 at 6:15pm on Field #2 |
| July 28 at 8:15 and 9:15pm - Field #1 | August 4 at 8:15 and 9:15pm on Field #2 |

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Serving in June will be Kathy Roslansky and Alice White for the 8AM 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

Every Sunday you are invited to join fellow worshippers following the 8 a.m. service for coffee, refreshments and fellowship in the basement Fellowship Hall. A free-will donation is received to cover the expenses and benefit the various missions. Maybe you or your church group would like to host a Sunday morning coffee fellowship? The first and second Sundays of the month there is opportunity for hosting the coffee hour. Please see the sign-up sheet located on the wall, by the door in the basement fellowship hall. **Please sign-up at least two weeks in advance.** Every third Sunday of the month the LWML hosts the coffee hour and proceeds are given to Seminarian Student, Anthony DiLiberto and every fourth Sunday of the month the Youth (YPOGs) host the coffee hour.

MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS

Rev. Ryan & Emily McDermott serve the Lord as career missionaries through the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in Ghana, West Africa. In this role, Ryan is involved with deaf ministry in Accra and helps train Ghanaian pastors (of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana) to accomplish deaf ministry in their congregations and communities. Through the relationships formed, Ryan and Emily seek to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the people of Ghana.

At the April 26th Voter's meeting it was voted to send Pastor McDermott \$4000 for his first year in Ghana. This will be sent in before he leaves for Ghana in Oct. Each of you can also help support Pastor McDermott by praying for him and his family, and if you are willing by contributing individually to his ministry. Contribution sheets (found in the church office) need be filled out and sent to St. Louis along with your check or you can contribute online at lcms.org/mcdermott.

Check out his email and Face book pages to find out more about his ministry.

Email - ryan.mcdermott@lcmsintl.org

Face book - [facebook.com/mcdermottinghana](https://www.facebook.com/mcdermottinghana)



EMAILING NEWSLETTER

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

SOLES 4 SOULS

Are you cleaning out your closets and don't know what to do with shoes you no longer want? Donate them to "Soles4Souls". Your donation will enable individuals in the United States and around the world to step out of poverty. St. Matthew's participates in this wonderful ministry. You may place your shoe donations in the wooden cabinet, in the bin marked "Shoes" in the north/elevator entrance of the church. Keith & Margaret Schroeder are our faithful volunteers who box up the shoes and deliver them to Village Northwest in Sheldon. Village Northwest is a sorting facility for "Soles4Souls". To date we have delivered 384 boxes! **Please note: they do not accept flip flops or single shoes.** Not only will your donation help those in need of shoes, but you are also providing work for the employees/consumers of Village Northwest!

Highlights from the May 12, 2015 Church Council Meeting

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

Treasurer: April expenses were \$42,482.60; income was \$30,957.30. Building Loan Balance is \$139,833.00. Memorial Fund Balance is \$24,966.90 and Scholarship Fund Balance is \$641,326.06.

Staff Reports: Pastor Brech - Average weekend attendance in April, not including Easter was 296; Easter Sunday was 584. Reviewed Confirmation attendance and sermon notes. Lorenda – Contacting piano and organ tuners and hope to have completed before Pastor Schreiber’s installation service. The hearing impaired box in the balcony is now working properly. Looking for a person to schedule the sound crew for the 10:30 services, separate from the music department.

Board of Elders: Installation service for Pastor Schreiber will be May 31 at 1:30 p.m. A congregational dinner will be held following the 10:30 worship service that day. Coffee will be served following the installation service. Mike Dierks has been appointed to serve as a new Elder.

Board of Trustees: The carpet in the basement will be cleaned on May 12th. We have received a quote for refurbishing the stained glass windows. Will solicit additional quotes for comparison. A workers’ compensation audit was completed with assistance from Tammy Brunk.

Board of Evangelism: Prayer Intercessors have concluded for this year.

Old Business: Discussion on Camp Omega capital campaign has been tabled until the July Voters’ Meeting. Will send \$4,000 for one year to Pastor McDermott’s mission in Ghana, West Africa. Pastor Schreiber’s move-in date is June 3rd. More help is needed.

New Business: Need to select a new Stewardship Board Chairman Elect as John Galstad has resigned.



Highlights from the April 26th Voters Meeting

Treasurer: Quarterly income of \$98,678.07; expenses of \$74,794.85. Building Fund income was \$10,361.02 with expenses of \$42,238.38. Building Loan balance is at \$143,435.35 after an additional \$30,000 was paid on the loan in February from the general fund.

Staff Reports: **Pastor Brech** – Lenten season was successfully completed. Everything is going well with Confirmation coming soon. As today was Good Shepherd Sunday, the voters’ present thanked Pastor Brech for shepherding St. Matthew during the past 13 months. **Roxie** – Sudanese worship services have resumed and are held the third Sunday of each month at noon. Confirmation will be held May 3rd. A retreat was held for the 8th graders with 100% attendance. Family Night, Mom’s Group and Young Adult Groups are all meeting regularly. **Lorenda** – Repairs to the pipe organ were completed for \$1,150 less than the estimated \$2,000. With the upcoming graduations of Alicia Darling and Jessica Arnt, we are in need of drummers for the 10:30 worship service. We also need additional people for the sound tech crew. Choir members would like to use the choir robes more regularly and they need to be cleaned, so costs are being investigated. The Bell Choir would like to purchase hand chimes to supplement the bells they currently have. Thank you to the many talented musicians who helped to make Lenten, Holy Week and Easter services very special.

Elders: Confirmation will be held May 3rd at 2 p.m. Installation service for Pastor Schreiber will be May 31st at 1:30 p.m.

Trustees: We continue to have problems with the broadcast of church services on Sunday mornings on the local TV station. Due to the renewal of the church’s insurance policy, Trustees have checked on updating the replacement costs for three major items. The pipe organ is valued at \$475,000, the AV equipment at \$125,000 and the stained glass windows are valued at \$700,000.

Board of Education: VBS is scheduled for June 15-19 and will be staffed by Camp Omega. Average Sunday school attendance has been 40-50 per Sunday.

Highlights from the April 26th Voters Meeting continued:

Missions: Pastor Ryan McDermott will be sent to Ghana to work with the Deaf Ministry. In the past, St. Matthew contributed to the Mudge's when they were in Africa and the Missions Board would like to donate to Pastor McDermott. A \$4,000 annual contribution will be paid prior to October. Members can make personal contributions to the McDermott's also, through LCMS.

Human Care: Thanks to the LWML for collecting donations for the GAP ministry. Keith & Margaret Schroeder continue to handle the shoe ministry. They ask that all mud be removed from shoes when donating. Also, no single shoes and no flip flops please. \$50 gift cards were sent to soldiers from our congregation.

Youth: Average Wednesday night youth attendance has been 15-20 youth each week. Proceeds from recent fundraisers will go towards the Idaho Mission Trip. Latreia Mission Trip for 7th and 8th grade students is planned for July 26-29, 2015. Idaho Mission Trip dates are July 4-11, 2015 at Shoshone Base Camp in Wallace, Idaho. Currently have 30 youth and adults registered to attend. 25 youth and adults participated in the Feed My Starving Children Mobile pack in Worthington at the end of March and packed enough meals for 91 kids for one year in 1 ½ hours!

Election of Officers: Trustees elected were: Kirk Feit and Clarence Mess. Elders elected were: Ron Iverson and Tim Hansberger. A third Elder is needed and will be tabled until the July meeting.

TECH CREW PEOPLE NEEDED

If you possess, or would like to learn, computer, video camera or sound board skills and share your talent/skill for our worship services, please contact Bev in the church office, 376-6168, or talk with one of the current technicians. You may also go up to the balcony during any service and watch what they do! **We are looking for 9th graders and up to be a part of our tech crew.** A brief training and support are provided! We are in NEED of operators as we are losing a couple current volunteers that will be heading off to college.

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to provide flowers for the altar, please sign-up on the sheet located on the bulletin board in the back of the church (Narthex). **Please sign up at least 2 weeks in advance**, or contact Ruth Ramert, 372-7225. If you have graciously provided altar flowers for our worship services, please return the plastic pots to the church. We reuse these containers to provide us with beautiful bouquets each week. Flowers are ordered from McCarthy's Floral. If you would like your flowers ordered from Hy-Vee there are some extra instructions – please contact Ruth for more information. Thank You!

Stewardship Corner

1 John 5:12 "Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life." Jesus is the foundation, the bedrock, the beginning and the end. To have Him is to have it all. In Him we have life. And we are called to live in Him, to live this new life He has given us, to grow up into His image. This is a struggle in this sinful world! But His grace is sufficient as He refreshes us through Word and Sacrament.

Acts 2:1 "When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place." Pentecost was the Old Testament harvest festival: a time of thanksgiving, bounty, and the giving of gifts. How appropriate that in the New Testament it takes on the meaning of harvest the ripe fields of the nations, bringing in the elect of every tribe and tongue to sing the Lord's praise. Every farmer knows that it is God who gives the increase, that harvest calls for thanksgiving.

JUNE ACOLYTE & NURSERY SCHEDULE

ACOLYTES

| <u>Date</u> | <u>8 AM</u> | <u>10:30 AM</u> |
|-------------|--------------------|------------------|
| June 7 | Ashley Ling | Traeton Holt |
| June 14 | Chad Buntjer | Jace Paplow |
| June 21 | Kaylee Gerdes | Tyler Wolford |
| June 28 | Cayla Ling | Jake Ahrenstorff |
| July 5 | Austin Heimgartner | Brynne White |

NURSERY (10:30 service only)

| | |
|---------|---------------------------------|
| June 7 | Ivy Paplow, Gail Holinka |
| June 14 | Alyssa Bosma, Kham Holeton |
| June 21 | Hunter Boomgarden, Alexie Cross |
| June 28 | Faith Arnt, Heather Knigge |
| July 5 | Jacquelyn Banegas, Beth White |

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.

Thank You!

JUNE 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.

| | | |
|---------|-------------------|---|
| June 7 | (8 am) (10:30) | Jim & Eloise Langseth Joel & Julie Lorenz |
| June 14 | (8 am) (10:30) | Elden Ponto; Sandy Cuperus Virgil & Donna Reed |
| June 21 | (8 am) (10:30) | Al & Connie Reitmeier Byron & Marlene Baumgarn |
| June 28 | (8 am) (10:30) | Dean & Phyllis Leistico David & Mary Krueger |
| July 5 | (8 am) (10:30) | Daryl & Karen Doeden DuWayne & Carol Oberloh |

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