

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN

June 2019 Newsletter

Blessed To Be A Blessing

A man named Abram, at the grand age of 75 years young, was called by God to leave everything he knew, including his family and his country to be a nomad in a foreign country. This man of great faith, who would be latter named Abraham, was chosen by God to become the father of a new spiritual race. Religious seeds were planted in the garden of his heart from which were to spring wonderful results in the church of the future.

When God called Abraham out from his father's house in Haran, God made a covenant with Abraham. In this covenant he was promised the divine favor of God, great prosperity, and that he would become a blessing to all the families of the earth. God called and Abraham faithfully followed God's direction to leave the comforts of the city life into the hazardous perils of the wilderness.

God proved to be faithful to his servant Abraham. Throughout his wilderness journeys God kept his covenant with him and Abraham became prosperous in the Promised Land. But remember that there were two parts to the covenant that God made with Abraham—God promised to bless Abraham and Abraham was to be a blessing. A new spiritual race—the house of Israel—would be born, and from that lineage the world would be blessed. When Jesus was born hundreds of years later the world finally witnessed the fruit of Abraham's covenant with God.

Dear friends, your faithful God has called you into covenant not unlike the one He made with Abraham—it is called baptism. In this union He has joined Himself with you. Like Abraham you enjoy His divine favor because this baptismal covenant has been sealed with the blood of Jesus Christ. He has blessed all of us in our own unique ways in this divine union, and just as importantly God calls you then to be a blessing.

No doubt about it, God has blessed all of us, and daily He gives us opportunities to be a blessing to others that is if we are looking for those opportunities. The question we should ask ourselves daily is, "How can I help or lift up just one person this day, be it by a small gesture, or a big investment into their lives?" Not only should we be asking the question, it should be at the forefront of our prayer life. "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" Mt. 5:14, 16. Remember, we have been blessed to be a blessing!

In the love of Christ,
Pastor Mark

July & August will be one Combined Newsletter

We have decided to have a combined Newsletter for July and August. Since there are less activities taking place those two months, and we could save some \$ on postage costs. Please keep this in mind when you do your reports for the next newsletter. The deadline for this newsletter will be June 17th at 12 noon. We will mail out that newsletter around June 26th.



Effective May 26-September 1

We will have **Wednesday** evening services at **6 p.m.** On **Sundays** we will have our **8 a.m.** Traditional service and our **10:00 a.m.** Contemporary service.

**Please note the 2 time changes for services.*



We're having a Neighborhood Block Party!

When: Monday, June 10

Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Congregation members PLEASE join us to welcome and have fellowship with our community neighbors!

There will be FREE food, games, kid's bike drawings, Hy-Vee gift card drawings and lots of fun!

We will need helpers at each of the stations. Sign-up sheets are available in the Great Hall. Please consider how you can help with this ministry!



**LET'S ENJOY FELLOWSHIP
WITH OUR CHURCH NEIGHBORS!**

Director of Human Care Ministries

By Roxann Leckband

Happy June,

Wahoo! The sun is out and it is warm. As we look forward to the outdoor activities of recreation, gardening and of course relaxing, remember the sunscreen. God has blessed us with bodies to be able to function and live. Now we only have one earthly body and we need to care for it until the “last day” when we will receive our perfect bodies!

As we look at caring for our physical health it is always a good plan to have goals for our health. It seems fairly obvious as we think “well I just want to be healthy.” Our values may also play a part in setting practical goals for healthy lifestyles that will help us achieve long lasting health. Now, are there any guarantees that we will be free from challenges to our physical and emotional health? Of course not. Sin has entered the world and with that our lives are not without sickness and pain. Yet, we will certainly feel better and enjoy our life more if we care for our God created bodies. Scripture states “*Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?*” *1 Corinthians 3:16*

As a guide in thinking about and creating plans for healthy living I have included a resource in this newsletter (on the back of the cover), **My Medical - A Model for Healthy Living Worksheet**. On June 16th I will also have a Model for Healthy Living Assessment Wheel. I will also have available a resource bookmark for healthy living practices. There will be a blood pressure screening in the Fireside room between worship services on June 16th. We celebrate June as Men’s Heart Month. **Please wear something blue on June 16th in recognition of men’s heart month.** Happy Father’s Day!!

There will be a **7 week Bible study beginning in August** on the Model for Healthy Living. Utilizing information obtained from the My Medical Model for Health Living Worksheet and the Model for Healthy Living Assessment Wheel. Please watch the bulletins and July/August newsletter for a definite date. May God bless you on your journey to great health spiritually, physically and emotionally.

Noon Fellowship will be on June 10. There will be fried chicken and cheesy hash browns provided. Please join us for great food, great fellowship and God’s great gift of His Word. There will be blood pressure screening available at 11:30.

Mom’s group will be on June 7th and 14th from 10:30-11:30AM. We will have adults caring for the children. There will be children’s activities and a time of Christian fellowship and parenting support as moms come together to lift one another up!

New Baby Event! Moms of babies born in 2018 and up to now we will have a special time for you and your baby and older children (if applicable). We will meet on June 26th at 5:30PM. I will have a light supper, a fellowship time and a mother’s devotional. I am excited to see all the babies who have been born within the last several months. There will be a posting on the Mom’s Group at St Matthew’s Facebook page about a reminder and for a response as to if you are planning to attend. The response will be helpful to know how much food will be needed.

KFC (Kids for Christ afterschool program)...2019-2020. The KFC program this past year was attended by approximately 25 children. The children were about half our congregation members and the other half was from the community, which is great! The issue we see going forward to next year is the ability to staff the program, as volunteers we had this year are stepping down. We are so thankful for the service they have provided. **We would like to determine if the congregation would like this program to continue.** If we continue, will we have those servants to staff the program? If we continue, how many congregation members will be sending their children? We will have a survey available at the church entrances and on the website in June and July. Please take the time to fill it out and put in the offering plate or answer on line.

Director of Human Care Ministries continued:

Food Ministry - We continue to have meals for those individuals in need. If you have been hospitalized, you have lost a loved one, you had a new baby or you would like to have someone make a visit please contact Roxie 376-6168.

New Bible Class - Please mark your calendars for August 6th and 7th. **The children going into 3rd grade or those in 4th grade that have not participated in the New Bible Class are invited to attend.** Class will be held from 5:30-6:15PM both nights. The “New Bible” will be presented along with a blessing to the children on August 11th at either the 8:00 or 10:00 service, whichever the family prefers. Please RSVP to the church office if you plan to attend in order to have enough Bibles for the children. Contact Roxie with any questions you may have.



Day Camp is June 17 - 21

Greetings! Everyone is welcome and we encourage your child to bring a friend. We will meet Monday – Thursday (June 17-20) from 9:00am-3:00pm here at the church. On Friday, June 21 we will meet from 9:00am to 12:00 noon at Pioneer Village.

Parents/guardians please note: on Friday, June 21 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. The theme for this year’s **VBS/Day Camp** is “Refuge & Strength.” We are looking forward to a great week!

Registration forms are available on the table in the Great Hall and on our church website, www.stmattheworthington.com. A phone call is also acceptable notifying us your child will be attending; however, the registration form will then need to be completed when you drop your child off on Monday, June 17th. It is a REQUIREMENT of Camp Omega that registrations are completed BEFORE your child may attend. PLEASE PRE-REGISTER so we can plan on the correct amount of materials and food.

PRIZES – PRIZES – All registrations received by June 10th will be put into a drawing for an adult prize and a child prize! Get your registrations in for your chance to WIN!

Ages of children that may attend our VBS are: those children who are ages Preschool (3 years old) through 5th grade (preschoolers must be potty trained). Children in 6th grade are welcome to register and be helpers. ***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.***

We are looking forward to a lot of fun doing games, crafts, singing, and Bible stories. We can always use helpers, please let Roxie know if you would like to help. **We look forward to seeing the children!**

PRAYERS

We want to pray for those who request and would like prayers; however, we also **need to and want to stay updated on the prayer requests**. This is our procedure:

- * Once a prayer request is received, for public prayers in worship services, it will be printed in the bulletin under health concerns/healing for 2 weeks.
- * After 2 weeks, if no update is received, we will move that name to the long-term health concerns list.
- * After another 2 weeks, if no update is received from the person or family the name will no longer be printed in the bulletin.
- * For the cancer prayer list in the bulletin, we would also like to have regular updates. Those names will stay on the list as long as the person requests it.

Due to confidentiality, we can only accept prayer requests from the person themselves or a family member.

We also have a Prayer Chain and a Tuesday Prayer Group. If you would like more immediate prayers throughout the week, contact the office to be put on the Prayer Chain.

If you would like private prayers, not listed in the bulletin, contact the church office to be added to the Prayer Group, Staff or Prayer Chain lists.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Hope Circle will not be meeting in June, July or August. The Sarah Circle will meet on Tuesday, June 18th at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Martha Circle will meet on Thursday, June 20th at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

CHURCH RECORDS

Baptisms

- Aubrey Jade Pass, daughter of Alex & Jessica Pass was baptized on May 12.
- Briella Jisele Trejo, daughter of Oscar Trejo & Alison Meyer was baptized on May 12.
- Everett David Carlson, son of Nicholas & Tegan Carlson was baptized on May 19.

New Members

- Lance & Shari Dean
- Cody Dean
- Tyler & Tristen Olson & children
- Harlie Swanson
- Lance & Leah Baumann & children

Transfers Out

- Leroy & Karen Meyer
-

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Serving in June will be Marge Ruesch & Sandy Meyer 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.

MUSIC & WORSHIP NEWS

Lorenda Glade, Joy Schreiber, Directors of Music

A Hymn for Pentecost Sunday and a Hymn for Holy Trinity Sunday

*“God came to us then at Pentecost, His Spirit new life revealing,
That we might no more from Him be lost, All darkness for us dispelling.
His flame will the mark of sin efface, And bring to us all His healing.”*

“O Day Full of Grace” LSB 503 vs. 4

The day of Pentecost, the 50th day after Easter Sunday, is the birthday of the Christian Church. This year, Pentecost Sunday is on June 9. On that first Pentecost, God sent the Holy Spirit--just as Jesus had promised-- as a gift of grace. The grace of God is the theme of the Danish hymn for Pentecost, “O Day Full of Grace”. Versions of this hymn were actually sung prior to the Reformation, with the earliest manuscripts dating back to about 1450. The hymn tune used in our Lutheran Service Book, “Den Signede Dag”, was written in 1826 by Christoph Weyse. Just as the work of the Holy Spirit is to point us to Christ, so this Pentecost hymn focuses on Christ and His redemptive work. The first two verses focus on His incarnation and birth. Verse 3 brings us to the cross and to the empty tomb. The fourth verse specifically mentions Pentecost and the new life we receive in Christ through the gift of the Holy Spirit. The final stanza brings us to the end of our lives and into eternity. The Holy Spirit abides with us to strengthen and keep us steadfast in His Word and in faith until “we on that final journey go that Christ is for us preparing”.

The Sunday following Pentecost Sunday is Holy Trinity Sunday. Holy Trinity Sunday celebrates the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, the three Persons of God: The Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit. One of the most loved hymns sung on Trinity Sunday is “Holy, Holy, Holy”. The words to this hymn were written by Reginald Heber, born in Cheshire, England in 1783. In his mid-twenties, Heber was serving as vicar of Hodnet, Shropshire. He wrote numerous hymns while there, and specifically wrote “Holy, Holy, Holy” for Trinity Sunday. Heber intended for the hymn to be sung between the sermon and the creed by his parish in Hodnet. But hymn singing was prohibited in Church of England liturgies at that time, and Heber failed during his lifetime to persuade the Church of England authorities otherwise. Today, “Holy, Holy, Holy” is sung in Christian denominations throughout the world. The hymn tune we all recognize, NICAEA, was written by John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876), who worked most of his life as the choir director of the Durham Cathedral. Dykes’ hymn tune was named after the church council that met in 325 A.D. which formulated the Nicene Creed and affirmed the doctrine of the Trinity.

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!”

“Holy, Holy, Holy” LSB 507 vs. 4

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Every Sunday you are invited to join fellow worshippers in between the 2 worship services (usually 9:00-9:30 a.m.) for 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 a Seminarian Student and every fourth Sunday of the month the Youth (YPOGs) host the coffee hour.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

for our **“Worship in the Park” on July 21, 2019**

We will have a worship service and a picnic at Chautauqua Park. Please watch for more information in the weekly bulletins and the next Newsletter.

LADIES' NIGHT OUT

St. Matthew's LWML is **inviting all ladies to the annual “Ladies' Night Out” on Thursday, June 6th at 6:00 p.m.** It will be held in St. Matthew's Fellowship Hall. The event will be a potluck salad and dessert meal. Please bring a dish to share.

Our entertainment will be *“A Hit Parade of Broadway Musicals”* arranged and performed by Linda Lang.

Please join us for an evening of great food, fellowship and entertainment. Bring a friend!



Additional LWML news:

- The June 16 coffee hour will be hosted by the Martha Circle.



Mark your calendars - Church Pictorial Directory!

We want our ENTIRE Church Family to be photographed for this directory. It won't be the same without you! We want to make this a complete representation of our Church Family. Please be a part of it!

Scheduled dates for the photography are: **August 20-24, 2019 and September 3-7, 2019.** There is NO cost to you or your

family to have your picture photographed for the directory. You will receive a FREE 8x10 standard print and a church directory. We will have more information available as the date gets closer. **Please watch the weekly bulletins and the July/August Newsletter.** We will also put updates on our church website, and church Facebook page.

The Ministry Planning Board was created by restructuring our Church Council and combining several boards together. The purpose of this board and the Mission of St. Matthews is:

“Giving, sharing and serving our community through Christ”

The Ministry Planning Board will take a proactive approach in encouraging members of the congregation to get involved with activities, and working to accomplish goals focused around missions, evangelism, stewardship, young adult and family involvement, and neighborhood outreach.

The Lord has blessed us all with gifts, talents, and opportunities to help others. Prayerfully consider how YOU can “be the hands and feet of Jesus,” serving in our church and in our community.

Highlights from the April 28th Voters Meeting

Treasurer: For the first quarter ending on March 31, 2019 = Income \$85,242.90, Expenses \$110,242.90. Checkbook balance \$38,456.60. Building Fund Income \$225.00. Bridge Loan from unused funds previously allocated in Building Fund Loan to General Fund Checkbook \$25,000. This was transferred to the checkbook balance due to decrease in giving this past quarter. Without this amount the checkbook balance would only be \$13,456.60. Scholarship Fund Balance: \$450,926.73. Memorial Fund Balance: \$43,516.18. Youth Account: \$16,789.13.

Staff Reports: *Pastor Mark* – Attendance was significantly decreased this last quarter. We did have a couple of service cancellations due to the weather. Read a statement that is included in his report in the Church Yearbook (copies available at each entrance to the church) “The church is only as strong as those who come together to do God’s work.” Average weekly attendance decreased from last year and have been discussing what we can do to improve this. Commented that our church is not any different than the majority of any denomination of churches in our country. St. Matthews has been here for over 125 years and have seen many changes. We need to continue to focus on how we can reach out to others.

Roxie – The Chaplain of Compassionate Care Hospice did a presentation here in March with 25 members in attendance. St. Matthews was responsible for the March furniture delivery for Love Inc. Thanks to Greg Leckband, Dimitri Lobo, Nathan Goedtke, and James Glade for providing this service. Meals and gift cards were given to the Marten family. Honored Delores Meier’s 100th birthday on April 14th. She has been a lifelong member of our congregation. Health Cabinet is looking at a focus on “heart health.” Blood pressures will be taken between services every 3rd Sunday of the month in the Fireside Room. Health Cabinet will be participating in VBS by providing education on several topics. We have kid friendly books that have a physical and faith-based format on various topics. Participated in providing Sexual Abstinence training at the Wgtn. Middle School and at the Adrian 7th grade classes.

Jenna – Youth group made 160 dozen hoagies the end of January. The youth planned and served the Sweetheart Banquet in February. Jenna & Valerie Wolford took 4 junior girls to the LCMS Youth Leadership conference in St. Louis, Missouri in March. There are 30 youth and 7 adults going to the National Youth Gathering in July. They have been meeting once a month for pre-trip Bible studies. Creative Spirits came to St. Matthews to do an Easter painting event. There were 20 adults and 12 kids that attended. Youth served around 150 people for the Easter Breakfast. Jenna and a couple of adults took a van of youth to see the movie “Breakthrough” in Okoboji.

Lorenda – Very active this past quarter with the Lent season. We thank all of our musicians, Louise Clausen, Pastor Schreiber and all those working behind the scenes, including the sound/projection operators, props, extra secretarial and custodial work, church decorating and all others who contributed in any way to make our services meaningful for our worshippers. We are grateful for the many people of all ages that shared their talents.

Elders: Continue to work with doing more with the shepherding lists. Had the “Everyone His Witness” training in February. Will offer this again in the future. We will be doing a new Pictorial Directory watch for the dates in August and September. Are looking at the health insurance costs and benefits of staff. Will be evaluating current policies in comparison to similar coverage offered by other insurance companies. Will continue with the 2 Sunday services this summer – but change the times to 8AM and 10AM. Chris Luther will be the new Elder Chairman beginning July 1 and Kevin Schmidt will be the Elder Secretary. Discussed prayers listed in Sunday bulletins. Would like to get progress reports from the person/family once a name is added to the prayer list. (See the Prayer Procedure listed in this newsletter.)

Trustees: Increased cost of snow removal this past year. Will be replacing the boiler for the elevator entrance. Looking at updating computer systems to Windows 10, as Windows 7 will no longer be supported. Will be fixing the north entrance outside wall by the door.

(continued)

April 28th Voters Meeting Highlights continued:

Ministry Planning Board: Developed a mission statement, “Giving, Sharing and Serving Our Community Through Christ.” Initial focus during the Lenten season was on stewardship. Had members give testimonials about what St. Matthew Lutheran Church means to them. Encourage members to give more donations to get our financial status improved. Reminder that anyone can sign up for electronic giving. Will be hosting a neighborhood block party on June 10th. An ice cream social will be held the end of June. An outdoor service will be held at Chautauqua Park on July 21st. Will be asking members to volunteer to assist with planning these events. Encourage each of you to consider the opportunity to serve at one of these events.

Final Building Committee Report: Have a few minor touch ups to be finished. Started this project one year ago with a budget of \$366,000. Was able to keep total cost under budgeted amount by \$23,979.40. Have discussed repayment of loan from the scholarship account. Recommend paying \$1,000-2,000 each month. Any specified building fund donations given will go directly towards the loan repayment.

Election of Officers: Ballot was presented with no nominations from the floor. A unanimous ballot was passed and those filling upcoming opening spots are: Elders – Arnie Ihrke (incumbent), Andrew Bents and Craig Edwards. Trustees – Jeff Barber and Jesse Raudenbush. Board of Christian Education – Jeanette Varuska. Thank you to Mike Dierks, Tim Hansberger, Clarence Mess and Kirk Feit for their years of service. Ministry Planning Board members were appointed this year and elections will be held for these positions in the future. Current members are: Tim Hansberger, Karen Schwartz, Andrew Dierks, Amy Khamphanh, Jennie Geertsema, and John Galstad.

Next Voters Meeting will be July, 2019. Watch for the date and time to be announced.

Highlights from the May 14, 2019 Church Council Meeting

*Minutes were not available at the time of this newsletter typing.

TABLES & CHAIRS

*It's that time of year...high school graduations, garage sales, etc. If the need for tables and chairs arises, remember, you **MUST check with the church office FIRST before borrowing anything** from the church. **Arrangements must be made through the church office for pickup and return times.** **Roasters & kitchen items are NOT to leave the church.***

Thank You

ELECTRONIC DONATIONS INFORMATION

Thank you for your continued support financially to St. Matthew Lutheran Church. We appreciate your generosity. **Did you know St. Matthews has an electronic option for making regular offerings?** Electronic giving allows you to make donations on a scheduled, automatic basis. It is convenient for you and provides much-needed donation consistency for our church. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account on a weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly basis. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis. **Forms are available at each entrance to the church, or contact the church office for more information.**

JUNE ACOLYTE & NURSERY SCHEDULE

ACOLYTES

<u>Date</u>	<u>8 AM</u>	<u>10:00 AM</u>
June 2	Anna Gordon	Jonathan Banegas
June 9	Isaac Lowe	Brandon Bosma
June 16	Mersaydes Marten	Hunter Echternach
June 23	Tavin Miller	Mark Geertsema
June 30	Jordis Weber	Sierra Goedtke
July 7	Caleb Barber	Evan Hansberger

NURSERY – 10:00AM only

June 2	Presley Sieve and Gail Holinka
June 9	Alaina Feit an Kasen White
June 16	Natya Khamphanh and Marlis Rohwer
June 23	Alaya Rowley and Jessica Larson
June 30	Madison Sieve and Danika Schmidt
July 7	Ryker Thier and 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 2	(8 am) (10 am)	Gary & Velma Cortright John & Marlene Moberg
June 9	(8 am) (10 am)	Stan & Betty Hotzler Chris & Stacy Heinrichs
June 16	(8 am) (10 am)	Bonnie Tille and Ilona Benson Greg & Roxie Leckband Family
June 23	(8 am) (10 am)	Chad & Stacey Hokeness Kevin & Danika Schmidt
June 30	(8 am) (10 am)	Cindy Brunk and Ron Markman Joel & Kim Rogers
July 7	(8 am) (10 am)	John Galstad and Margaret Schroeder Dave & Mary Krueger

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