

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN

March 2015 Newsletter

GREETINGS FROM PASTOR BRECH

"Surely he has borne our grief and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed." (Isaiah 53:4-5)

We are in the season of Lent and hear the vivid descriptions of what Jesus had to go through for us. Whenever we encounter Jesus' physical, spiritual, and mental anguish, it is easy for us to feel sorry for Him. We all are familiar with Mel Gibson's movie, "The Passion of Christ" depicting the gory details of our Savior's suffering. Many people were shocked by the bloody condition of Jesus in that movie.

During this church season, it is important for us to look beyond the suffering of Jesus. We need to remember why He had to go through these painful steps to the cross. Whenever we examine ourselves, we soon realize that we are imperfect people who are selfish and greedy. We most often pursue what is contrary to the will and Law of God. By breaking God's Commandments, we truly deserved God's present and eternal punishment. Unfortunately, our righteous deeds could not satisfy the demands of a just God.

Jesus, God Himself: desired to rescue His creatures from God's impending punishment. God's wrath against sin had to be satisfied and that was an impossible task for sinful human beings. In order to ease God's anger, Jesus became our substitute. He got what we all deserved. The violent suffering of Jesus was not senseless, but it had a definite purpose--to redeem people from sin, death, and hell. Through the bloody sacrifice of Jesus, we have been forgiven. Instead of eternity in hell, now we can enjoy God's presence in heaven forever.

So, my brothers and sisters, please remember who we are. We used to be hopelessly doomed. Now we have been rescued to be God's children and servants. Jesus' road to the cross became our path to paradise. May our Lord be with us as we travel the 40-day journey of Lent with our Savior, Jesus.

Surveying the cross of Jesus with You,
Pastor Brech

WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN SERVICES

Our Mid-week Lenten services continue through the month of March. Services are at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday, March 4, 11, 18 and 25. A supper will be served on March 18th from 5:15-6:00 p.m. (free-will donations will be received).

We would love to have suppers on March 4, 11 and 25; however, we need groups to hosts these dates. Please contact the church office if your church group(s) could host a Lenten Supper. **Following EACH of the services, please join us in the basement fellowship hall for coffee, bars and fellowship.**

Youth and Family News

By Roxann Leckband

Family Night will be on March 15th at 5:00pm. Parents please meet in the Fireside room and the children will meet across the hall in the classrooms. There will be adult and youth supervision for the children. There will be activities for the children and a devotional time for the adults. The main entrée will be pizza please bring a complimentary dish to share.

ATTENTION SOFTBALL PLAYERS: St Matthew Lutheran Church will be having a softball team this year. So, please sign up for the St Matthew Lutheran team and support our church. This would allow the teams to be more equally skilled and make it more competitive when playing other teams with greater experience. We are looking for 15 year olds and up to be a part of the team. The team will have matching T-shirts this year. I look forward to a great year.

Parents of grades pre-school through 4th - a Lenten devotional activity was sent home with your child on February 15th from Sunday school. The devotion is to be used daily beginning with Ash Wednesday and ending with Easter Sunday. As you read the daily scripture with your child please discuss and reflect on Jesus sacrifice and love for "His Children." **The children in grades 5 through 8** will be getting a devotional calendar beginning with Ash Wednesday and ending with Easter Sunday. Parents please discuss and encourage daily use of these devotional materials. Please contact Roxie with any questions.

Parents of pre-school through 8th grade children: A special activity will take place on Sunday mornings during the Sunday school hour. There will be one station a week set up for the Sunday school children to experience. The weekly station will have a theme teaching and experiencing the events of Holy Week. Please pray for the program "*Rise Up With Jesus.*" Pray that the Holy Spirit will work through His Word so that the children will learn, remember and feel the great sacrifice Jesus gave and the amazing power in His Resurrection. Please keep your children in worship and Sunday school. God works through His word and Sacraments to keep our children's and our faith fed.

The 3-8th grade children will sing at the 10:30am service on March 1st. **The Confirmation age youth** will sing on Wednesday, March 4 during the 6:30pm Lenten worship. If there are kids grades 3/4 that are at the March 4th service, and can be ready to practice at 5:30 with the 5th/6th graders, please feel free to join us in the Sanctuary.

The 3rd-8th grade classes will be singing on Palm Sunday, March 29th at the 8am and 10:30am services. Please have your child/children at the church no later than 7:40am. The children will sing at the opening of the 8:00 a.m. service. The children may stay after Sunday school as we will go right from Sunday School to the 10:30 worship service. Your child will be dismissed to you after they sing at the opening of the worship service.

Young mom's/woman's group will be meeting on March 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th from 10:00-11:30am. The children will participate in a Bible story time, crafts, singing, playing and snacks. The women will be discussing and studying God's Word and how it applies to raising a Christian family.

Noon Fellowship will be March 9th at 12:00 noon. There will be goulash, a fluff salad and dinner roll provided. Please bring a dish to share, a freewill donation, or just yourself. There will be great fellowship and a time in God's Word. I hope to see you on March 9th.

A "**New Member/Refresher Course** is being offered on Saturday's from 4:00-5:00pm in the Fireside Room, please feel free to join at anytime. The course is taught on a continual rotation of the 6 Chief Parts of the Catechism so you can join at anytime. Please call Roxie if you are interested to make sure we have enough Catechisms.

Note a change in Confirmation class time: class begins at 5:30pm. If you plan to eat, serving is at 5:15 served by various ministries in the church. Please support the ministry with a freewill offering if you eat. Class will end around 7:15/7:30pm following the Lenten worship service. Just a reminder the Lenten services are a great time for you to get in the required sermon notes.

**YOUTH NEWS – YPOGs (Young People Of God)
Please see the lime green insert in this Newsletter.**



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS MARCH 8TH!

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Miriam Circle will meet on Monday, March 16th at 1:30 p.m. at Okabena Towers. On Tuesday, March 17th the Sarah Circle will meet at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room and the Hope Circle will meet at 5:15 p.m. in the Youth Room. The Martha Circle will meet on Thursday, March 19th at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

Lutheran Women's Mission League (LWML) News

The March Meeting for LWML will be on Thursday, March 5th at 1:30 p.m. We will have our Prayer Service. **Please join us for this inspirational message.** We will also discuss the Friendship Supper (which is on March 17th) and the Spring Rally (April 18th). The nominating committee will give their report. This is Food Shelf Month – please bring an item for the food shelf. The Miriam Circle will be our hostess for this meeting. The Sunday, March 15th coffee hour will be hosted by the Martha Circle.

ALTAR GUILD

Serving in March will be Sandy Meyer and Velma Cortright for the 8 a.m. 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.



If you know when you would like to put flowers on the Altar throughout the year, please sign-up right away. **The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the Narthex (back of the church). Please make sure you sign up at least 2 weeks in advance (minimum).** Please contact Ruth Ramert, 372-7225 if you have any questions. Thank You.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Each Sunday morning you are invited to join fellow worshippers, following the 8 a.m. service, in the basement for coffee and fellowship. A free will donation is received to cover the costs and benefit the various projects. **The first and second Sundays of the month, there is opportunity for those church committees/groups wishing to host a coffee hour.** Please see the sign-up sheet in the basement. **Please sign-up at least two weeks in advance.** **The third Sunday of the month,** the LWML sponsors the coffee hour. **The fourth Sunday of the month,** the YOUTH (YPOGs) sponsor the coffee hour, proceeds will help support their summer mission trip.

The Mission Sewing Group is in need of thread. Check your drawers/closets for any thread you may not use. There are blue boxes located in the Great Hall and in the North/Elevator Entrance to place your donations. **THANK YOU!**

In the case of inclement weather, please tune into the following Worthington Radio Stations (93.5FM, 95.1FM, 104.3FM and 730AM) to find out if our worship services and/or activities have been cancelled.

MUSIC & WORSHIP NEWS

“And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives” Mark 14:26

The Lenten season is underway, and there are many opportunities for our members to share in hymns and music as we follow our Savior’s journey to the cross.

Pre-service Hymn sings are planned for each of our Wednesday evening Lenten services, beginning around 6:20 in the sanctuary. Our Hymn Sings give our members the opportunity to choose some favorite hymns to sing. Please join us!

Our Worship Band will participate in a portion of our Lenten services, and lead the congregation in singing contemporary songs of the Lenten season.

Our middle school age students are invited to sing “Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)” as special music at our Lenten service on Wednesday, March 4. We will run through this familiar song during our Sunday school singing time.

Ladies of all ages who enjoy singing are invited to participate in a women's group for special music at our midweek Lenten service on Wednesday, March 25. We are singing a three part arrangement “Lamb of God”. We will practice in the choir room after Lenten services beginning February 25. Please contact Lorenda Glade at 712-330-1523 or lorenda.glade@gmail.com with any questions.

Our Sunday school students will be singing at the beginning of both Palm Sunday services on March 29. Students will be practicing their songs during their music time on Sunday mornings.

Our Festival Choir will sing on Easter Sunday at our 8:30 AM service. Director Louise Clausen plans to incorporate Festival Choir practice into the regular choir practice time at 5:30 Wednesday evenings for several weeks prior to Easter Sunday. New choir members are always welcome!

Brass players are also invited to share their talents at our Easter Sunday 8:30 AM service. We will practice after Lenten service on March 25, after Maundy Thursday service on April 2, following Good Friday service on April 3, and will schedule a Saturday, April 4 practice if needed.

May God’s gift of music enrich our worship together during this Lenten season.

In Christ,

Lorenda Glade, Interim Director of Traditional Music

Susan Hansberger and Amy Khamphanh, Interim Directors of Contemporary Music



THANK YOU NOTE

Thank you to all who served as the hands and feet of Jesus by delivering mobile meals during the month of February: Clarence Mess, Lenny Ruesch, John Galstad, Jim & Eloise Langseth, Sandie Spittle, Pat & Tes Riley, John & Marlene Moberg, Marianne Behrens, Ruth Ramert, Lyle & Deb Meyer, Gary Obermoller, Daryl & Karen Doeden, Marlene Jurgensen, Sandy Dixon, Myron & Sandy Meyer, Linda Lindemann, LaVonne Holt, Velma & Gary Cortright, Rosemary King and Jim Arnt. May God bless you for your kindness!

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE NEWS

The Banquet

THANK YOU to the St. Matthew volunteers who served 307 meals at the Banquet in Sioux Falls on Saturday, January 31, 59 of those meals were served to children. May all glory and honor be to God.

THANK YOU to everyone for your support in prayer, monetary donations and volunteering to serve. The Lord has truly blessed our congregation through this servant event.

Prayer Intercessors:

The Evangelism Board **thinks** each of you who have signed up to be Prayer Intercessors for our 7th & 8th grade Confirmation Students. Thank you for your commitment to pray for the youth of St. Matthew! As we approach the Easter season, remember to PRAY daily for your specific youth, as well as SEND an ANONYMOUS CARD or note of encouragement monthly. No gifts need be given; only powerful prayer. Thank you for being part of this simple, yet powerful way to impact the lives of St. Matthew's youth. May God richly bless each of you as you uphold these young people in prayer.

Voters' Meeting Notes from the January 25, 2015 Meeting

(Please keep in mind, these are just NOTES – the actual Minutes cannot be printed until they are approved.)

Treasurer's Report for the fourth quarter of 2014: Income of \$128,667.88, expenses of \$83,696.66; Building Fund income of \$18,050 with expenses of \$22,238.88. Overall profit for 4th quarter of \$40,782.84. Current Building Fund loan balance is \$184,166.76; Scholarship Fund is at \$622,255.00; Memorial Fund is \$19,708.41.

Roxann Leckband: Christmas programs all went well. Sunday school, KFC, confirmation classes, high school youth group, young family nights, mom's group all continue. The Sudanese ministry continues and will be served by Pastor James Ruey. Pastor Ruey is from the Mankato area. Flowers and a monetary memorial were sent to the family of Pastor Simon Dup following his death in December.

Music Department: The pipe organ was tuned in November at a cost of \$575, additional repairs of approximately \$2,000 are needed and will be done in late February or early March. There have been some problems with the keyboard for the Worship Band, we are working on resolving those issues. Linda Lang is serving as Adult Choir accompanist and also assists as organist at our traditional services.

Elders: Holy Communion is now celebrated on the 1st and 3rd weekends of the month at traditional services and the 2nd and 4th weekends at the contemporary services.

Board of Education: 75 boxes for Operation Christmas Child were gathered in November. Sunday school offerings totaling \$200 were donated to the Love INC Gap Ministry. December and January Sunday school offerings will be used to purchase animals through Samaritan's Purse. Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 15-19, 2015 and will be staffed by Camp Omega. Average Sunday school attendance is 53.

Board of Evangelism: 40 volunteers are signed up to help at The Banquet on January 31. Help is needed for Mobile Meals delivery, contact Pat Arnt if you can help.

Human Care Board: We did the congregational Caring Tree, Mitten/Scarves Tree (6 bags were collected!), and Love INC Gap Ministry of cleaning products donations.

Board of Youth: An average of 15-20 youth attend each week on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-7:30pm. Two fundraisers for the Idaho Mission Trip were done in December – a Silent Auction and Christmas Gift Wrapping. Thank you to Thrivent Financial for sponsoring the event. The Latreia Mission Trip (in the Cities) dates have been set for July 26-29, 2015 for current 7th and 8th graders. The Idaho Mission Trip dates are July 4-11, 2015.

Call Committee: The committee members thank everyone for their prayers and support during the call process. A new list of names has been received and narrowed down to 4 candidates. Interviews will be conducted and background study requests will be submitted.

New Officer Elections: A Nominating Committee will be formed in February to begin the task of recruiting candidates for officer elections in April. If you are asked to serve, please prayerfully consider.

OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ON CABLE TV

ATTENTION: to those of you that watch our worship services on cable TV: For the best viewing please use the following cable channels to watch our services, do not use channel 3. For WOW (formerly Knology) customers – use channel 95; and for Mediacom customers – use channel 17. **Our worship services will now be broadcasted TWICE each week: Sundays at 11:00AM and Mondays at 11:00AM.**



NEWS FROM BEHIND THE SCENES

This is a "Reader's Digest" version of notes from the Council Meeting held February 11, 2014.

Guest Presentation: Brian Froderman, Executive Director of Love INC and Mikaela Dierks, St. Matthew's Church Ministry Coordinator and Love INC board member updated the Council on the activities of Love INC over the past year and explained the mission of Love INC. Currently 19 area congregations are members of Love INC. In the future, Church Ministry Coordinator will provide a quarterly report to the congregation on Love INC activities.

Treasurer's Report: January expenses totaled \$17,448.55 plus \$30,000 transferred to the building fund for principal payment on the loan; income was \$30,021.04. Building Fund income was \$2,066.99 with expenses of \$34,079.46. Current loan balance is at \$150,601.19. Memorial Fund balance is \$24,965.83; Scholarship Fund balance is \$619,383.92. A gift from the estate of Marie Milbrath has been placed in the non-designated monies of the Memorial Fund.

Pastor Brech: January average weekend worship attendance was 250. Confirmation classes continue with Elders and Pastor currently working on questioning of confirmands.

Roxann Leckband: Family ministry, Mom's Group and Young Family Nights continue. Continue with coordination of new member classes – currently 6 individuals attending with a couple more interested. Monthly Noon Fellowship (formerly known as Senior Fellowship) is going well. Marlis & Steve Rohwer do a great job as hostess and host. Confirmation classes during Lent will be on Wednesdays will be from 5:30-6:30pm following by attending the worship. Sudanese worship services will continue every third Sunday at noon under the leadership of Pastor James Ruey. The Feed My Starving Child mobile unit will be in Worthington March 27 and 28 and St. Matthew's will be coordinating teams to participate.

Music Department: A women's chorus will provide special music on March 25. Hymn sings will be conducted pre-service at the Wednesday evening Lenten services. Brass Choir and Easter Festival Choir are planned for the 8:30AM Easter morning worship service.

Elders: The elders will be working with confirmands on questioning during confirmation classes.

Trustees: Basement carpet will be cleaned after Easter. Will be purchasing a 12 foot fiberglass step ladder. Looking at wall mats and column bumpers for the new basement area. A tree limb on the east side of the drive-up has to be removed to facilitate snow removal. Old carpet at the east door of the education wing will be replaced this summer. A patch cord was repaired on the Worship Band keyboard and is now working well, so a new keyboard will not be purchased at this time.

Christian Education: Stations of the Cross will be set up – one per week during Lent. PreK-2nd grades will sing on February 22nd; 3rd-8th grades will sing on March 1st; all students will sing on Palm Sunday.

Stewardship: Discussed offering envelopes that have not yet been picked up. Elders will address and/or deliver remaining envelopes.

Evangelism: 307 meals were served at the Banquet in Sioux Falls, including 59 children's meals. The dinner was a blessing to those being served and those who served.

Human Care: Gift cards for soldiers were purchased with a donation from the LWML.

Youth: Wednesday night youth group meetings continue. Youth made Valentine gift boxes for shut-ins. Youth will host an Omelet Feed on March 8th. Butterbraid sales will also be conducted.

Call Committee: 4 pastoral candidates have been interviewed. A name will be presented to the Voters Meeting on February 15, 2015 at 11:45 a.m.

New Business: Service cancellation protocol – Elders will make the decision and the call to the local radio stations will be made by the Church President; decision to be made no later than 7AM on Sunday morning. Nominating Committee Members: 2 Elders to be appointed by Chairman of the Board of Elders, two Trustees – Bryon Spittle and Bob Westphal, and one Council Board Chair – Bev Kness. Council members will serve the Lenten Supper on March 18th. Mike Traphagen, current Congregation President, will be leaving office in May. He will need to appoint his replacement and also a Stewardship-Elect replacement to serve through 2016.

MARCH WORSHIP HELPERS

ACOLYTES

	<u>8 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m. Nursery</u>
March 1	Ashley Ling	Luke Gordon	Hunter Boomgarden, Beth White
Wednesday, March 4 - 6:30 p.m. – Brandon Arzu-Bustad			
March 8	Austin Barber	Eli Hansberger	Jace Paplow, Gail Holinka
Wednesday, March 11 - 6:30 p.m. – Carter Hokeness			
March 15	Cayla Ling	Carson Wolford	Tyler Wolford, Jessica Larson
Wednesday, March 18 - 6:30 p.m. – Dagmawi Gebremariam			
March 22	Chad Buntjer	Nayeli Perez-Blas	Ruby Cardenas, Heather Knigge
Wednesday, March 25 - 6:30 p.m. – Gabriel Cardenas			
March 29	Kaylee Gerdes	Brynne White	Alexis Bosma, Val Wolford
Thursday, April 2 – Maundy Thursday-6:30 p.m. – Faith Arnt			<i>no nursery</i>
Friday, April 3 – Good Friday-6:30 p.m. – Laci Boomgarden			<i>no nursery</i>
April 5 – EASTER Sunrise 7:00 a.m. – Hunter Buntjer			<i>no nursery</i>
April 5 – EASTER 8:30 a.m. – Austin Heimgartner			<i>no nursery</i>
April 5 – EASTER 10:30 a.m. – Jessalyn Broesder			Autumn Drahota, Gail Holinka

If you are unable to fulfill your scheduled time, please find a replacement and then phone the church office with the change. Thank You!

GREETERS

DATE

TIME

March 1	8AM – Karen Schwartz; 10:30AM – Dave & Mary Krueger
March 4	6:30PM – Leonard & Marge Ruesch
March 8	8AM – Bill & Jeanette Smrcka; 10:30AM – Chris & Stacy Heinrichs
March 11	6:30 PM – Chad & Stacey Hokeness
March 15	8AM – Dale & Bonnie Schroeder; 10:30AM – Voris & Sandie Spittle
March 18	6:30 PM – Ron Markman, John Galstad
March 22	8AM and 10:30AM – YOUTH
March 25	6:30 PM – John & Bonnie Tille
March 29	8AM – Kent Brunk, Cindy Brunk; 10:30AM – LaDean & Lori Fletcher
April 2 – Maundy Thursday	6:30PM – Sue Flesner; Ilona Benson
April 3 – Good Friday	6:30PM – Clarence & Twyla Mess
April 5 – EASTER Sunrise	7:00AM – Myron & Sandy Meyer
April 5 – EASTER	8:30 AM – Gary & Velma Cortright
April 5 – EASTER	10:30 AM – John & Marlene Moberg

If you are unable to fulfill your scheduled time, please try to switch with someone and then phone the church office with the change.

WE ARE IN NEED OF GREETERS FOR OUR WORSHIP SERVICES - If you would like to be added to the Greeter Rotation please contact the church office. Thank You!