

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN

March 2016 Newsletter

Life Together

Dear Saints in Lent,

We continue our Lenten journey this month. We come to worship not just to thank Him for saving us and promising us eternal life, but also to put ourselves into His presence each week and ask Him to move our hearts to serve. Our Christian life is our thank you.

It certainly does not befit the Lordship of Jesus that we hear about salvation from time to time. Many people joke about being Christmas and Easter Christians, or poinsettia and lily Christians, but it is really no joke. We are brought together by the Holy Spirit into a community of believers asking Him to use us to carry out His Great Commission in our lives.

The Christian diet works the opposite way of any other diet. The more you eat the lighter you get and the less you eat the heavier you get. The Good News that we proclaim every week is to lighten our hearts and lives, but it is not just a personal knowledge issue. We are called to serve our God. Christ Jesus sent His Spirit to move our hearts to look upward and outward, not just inward. We are empowered to go against sin, death, and the devil with His resurrection power. We are at war against false belief, despair, and other great and shameful sins as Luther explains the Lord's Prayer in the small Catechism.

Now, more than ever, come be with fellow Christians. If someone has hurt you, ask the Lord to help you forgive. We only hurt ourselves by staying away because of some hurt, even if real and profound. If you think the Lord has abandoned you, now more than ever come and hear about the Good News that He never leaves us or forsakes us. We can turn inward, only He can turn us outward.

Our Lord looked outward. He looked out for us, laying aside His glory. Come, this Lenten season and pray as we humble ourselves together under his kingship. Be moved by his love to worship each week, and proclaim your love for your Savior and your desire to have Him work His blessings through you.

In Christ,

Pastor Mark

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 2, 9 and 16. A supper is served each Wednesday from 5:15-6:00 p.m. (free-will donations will be received).



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
BEGINS MARCH 13TH!**

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday - March 24 at 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday - March 25 at 6:30 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY - services will be at 7:00AM and 9:30AM

*An Easter Breakfast will be served from 7:30-9:30AM in the church basement.

Youth and Family News

By Roxann Leckband

Mom's/Young Women's Group for March will be held on the 11th, 18th, and 25th. There will be **NO** group on March 4th. The ladies will meet in the Fireside room from 10:00-11:30AM with the children in the classroom across the hall. Please come join us. The kids have a lot of fun learning about Jesus, and the ladies have a great time of fellowship and support around God's Word. We are amazed at how we see God working in our lives.

Family Group will meet on Sunday, March 20th at 11:30AM with cheesy turkey sandwiches as our main entrée. Please bring a side dish to share, enough for approximately 30 people. We will be having family challenges in Bible Bingo! Please feel free to bring a favorite board game also. If you have not previously participated please join us. We usually meet in the Fireside room, but if our numbers are larger we will set up in the basement. The children will have activities and be supervised when they are not with their parents. If you have any questions please contact Roxie at 376-6168.

Young Adult Night will be Monday, March 21st at 6:00PM at Hickory Lodge. Join us for fellowship and a time in God's Word. There will be pizza provided. Please feel free to contact Roxie at 376-6168 with any questions you may have.

Noon Fellowship: JOIN US for Noon Fellowship (*formerly senior fellowship*) on **Monday, March 14th** at 12 noon in the Fireside Room. The menu will include ham and cheesy hash browns. Please bring a dish to pass, a free-will donation or just bring yourself. **Everyone is welcome!**

SUNDAY SCHOOL/KFC/ CONFIRMATION

Parents/Guardians:

The KFC's last time to meet for the 2015-2016 year will be on March 16th. Thank-you for sharing your children with us, and for arranging schedules that allowed them to attend. Thank you also to Jeanette Varuska (coordinator/refreshments), Ruth Ramert and Dan Bogie (teachers), Dawn Dorshner (van driver) and ALL the helpers: LaVonne Berglund, Marlene Moberg, Dawn Dorshner, youth helpers Gabe Dorshner and Austin Heimgartner. There would have been no KFC if it was not for you.

Sunday school children grades pre-school through 8th grade will be singing at both the 8:00AM and 10:30AM worship services on Palm Sunday, March 20th. The children will sing at the beginning of the services so your child/children may leave after singing at the 10:30 worship service. Please have your children at the church no later than 7:40AM. Thank-you for helping us praise our wonderful and loving Lord and Savior. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Roxie at 376-6168.

Please make every effort to have your children in Sunday school. You and your child will be greatly blessed. We have noted a decline in Sunday school attendance. If transportation is a concern please let us know and we can make arrangements for your child to be picked up. Please phone 376-6168 and ask for Roxie. Thank-you from the Board of Christian Education

Youth & Family News continued:

REMINDER: There will be **NO** Confirmation on March 23rd due to Holy Week. There will be worship services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at 6:30PM. There will be 2 Easter worship services on March 27th at 7:00AM and 9:30AM. Please make effort to be at the services Thursday and Friday night and also an Easter worship service.

There is going to be a special “Journey to the Cross” event on March 13th during the Sunday school hour. The event involves pre-school through 8th grades. Your child should just go to his/her regular classroom and the teacher will take them from there.

Mark your calendars: Vacation Bible School will be June 13th-17th from 9AM. to 3PM. Camp Omega will be providing the day camp curriculum and counselors. 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.

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

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Sarah Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 15th at 12:30 in the Fireside Room. The Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 15th at 5:15 p.m. in the Youth Room. The Martha Circle will meet on Thursday, March 17th 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 3rd at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring an item for the food shelf. Ruth Ramert will serve. The March 20 coffee hour will be served by the Martha Circle.

ALTAR GUILD

Serving in March will be Lynn Dierks and Alice White 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 trip to the National Youth Gathering.

MUSIC & WORSHIP NEWS



We have many opportunities for our members to share their musical talents during Lent and Holy Week. If you are a string player, 5th grade and older, you should have received a postcard inviting you to participate in our special music for Wednesday, March 16. We are practicing in the chapel on Sundays immediately after Sunday School. Please bring a music stand if you have one. Additional practices will be scheduled if needed. If you did not receive an invitation and you are interested in participating, please contact Lorenda Glade, 712-330-1523 for more information.

Our Maundy Thursday service is at 6:30 on March 24. Special music includes a women's chorus. Ladies of all ages are invited to sing with us. We are practicing after Lenten services through the end of February, then in the chapel from 5:10-5:30 on Wednesday evenings in March. I will also be glad to continue working after our Lenten services with anyone who cannot make the 5:10 rehearsal time. Please join us if you love to sing!

Good Friday service is March 25 at 6:30 PM. There is no Saturday evening service. There are two services on Easter Sunday, March 27, at 7:00 AM and 9:30 AM. Join us as we praise our risen Lord and Savior.

Brass players and Festival Choir members are needed for our Easter Sunrise Service, 7:00 AM, Sunday March 27. Please sign up in the Great Hall. Choir is practicing at 5:30 on Wednesday evenings. Our brass group will practice following our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services.

Additional substitute singers and instrumentalists are welcome to audition for our Worship Band. Please contact Joy Schreiber for more information.

May God bless you as we continue our Lenten journey to the cross and our celebration of Christ's resurrection.

Lorenda Glade, Director of Traditional Music

Joy Schreiber, Director of Contemporary Music

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE NEWS

BANQUET UPDATE: Our congregation's response to the Banquet's needs is heartwarming! Thank you to the St. Matthew volunteers who helped at the Banquet in Sioux Falls on Saturday, January 23rd. Special thanks to the cooks who came early to get the food prepared and also helped serve: Ed & Twila Henning, Bill & Karen Knigge, Gary Obermoller and the Jim Arnt family. And a special thanks to our servers: Deb Meyer, Ron, Jennifer and Nia Iverson, Kennedie Simon, Lennie & Marge Ruesch, Myron & Sandy Meyer, Steve & Jolene Rubis, Voris & Sandie Spittle, Royce & Paula Boehrs, Dave & Mary Krueger, Kasen White, Lee & Karen Meyer, John & Kham HOLETON, Root Gebremariam, David & Kathy Roslansky, Gary & Velma Cortright, Pastor Mark Schreiber, Caleb, Isaac and Neveah, Deb Kallemeyn, Bev Kness. And thanks to Lynn and Mikaela Dierks being willing to help but on the way to Sioux Falls stopped to help someone who had gone in the ditch. Thank you to everyone! It was a fun day as St. Matthew Church members worked together to serve others and experienced firsthand the blessings of serving in this worthwhile project. We come away each year with a better view of what the love of Christ is like. We received a bill for \$381.04 for the 297 meals that we served. This year we served a breakfast menu which cost about \$1.28/meal which is less per meal than the typical noon meal that we have served in the past.

SECRET PRAYER INTERCESSORS: THANK YOU to all who signed up to be **SECRET** Prayer Intercessors for our 7th and 8th grade Confirmation Students! The Secret Prayer Intercessors for the 7th and 8th grade confirmation students are invited and encouraged to attend the Confirmation Reception/Faith Statements in the church basement on Wednesday, April 27th. Both the 7th and 8th grade students, for who you have been praying, will be present at the Confirmation Reception. During the reception the

Evangelism Committee News continued:

SECRET Prayer Intercessors will be introduced to the student, they have been praying for! A card, for your student, is welcomed, NO GIFTS, please. The Evangelism Board thanks each of you for your commitment to pray for the youth of St. Matthew! **Ruth 2:12: May the Lord repay you for what you have done.**

IMPORTANT DATE: MARCH 6, 2016: Baptism and luncheon.

The Evangelism committee is planning a luncheon at the church on March 6, 2016, after the 10:30 AM service, to celebrate the baptism of the three newly adopted daughters of Pastor Mark and Joy Schreiber and to welcome them to St Matthew. **The congregation is invited to come and help welcome Neveah, Jordan and Gracee to the family of St. Matthew.** We will be having BBQ sandwiches, cheesy potatoes, cake, coffee and fellowship. As we celebrate this happy occasion feel free to bring a gift card or other gift. Thank you.

Voters' Meeting Notes from the January 24, 2016 Meeting

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

Treasurer's Report: December income of \$43,173.62; expenses of \$40,300.96; Building Fund income of \$9,670.00 and expenses of \$14,079.46. Scholarship fund balance as of 12/31/15 \$605,005.80. Memorial fund balance \$44,188.18.

Staff Reports: *Pastor Mark* – The Lenten theme will be Places of the Passion. *Roxie* – Sunday school, KFC and Confirmation classes are all staffed, but could always use more volunteers. VBS planning is underway. 29 youth and 6 adults will attend the National Youth Gathering this summer. Family fellowship meets once a month and board games have been incorporated. Young Adults meet once a month, there were 10 attending this past month. Sudanese Worship is held once a month led by Pastor Ruey from Mankato. There are typically 8-15 people in attendance. Monthly Noon Fellowship continues with an average attendance of 25-35. *Lorenda/Joy* – Dalton Peterson from Sibley has been serving as drummer occasionally. Caleb Schreiber has joined the Worship Band as a vocalist. We have been blessed with an abundance of special music throughout the year. Musical instrument repair and replacement included pipe organ and stopper repairs and tuning along with tuning of the acoustic pianos. The sanctuary keyboard was replaced. The former sanctuary keyboard was moved to the Chapel. The adult choir is short on tenor voices and new members are welcome! Elders: The LCMS has ended its affiliation with the Boy Scouts. St. Matthew representatives will discuss the future of the Boy Scouts with their leadership.

Trustees: A picture display rack was purchased to display confirmation pictures and any church memorabilia over the past 125 years. The rack is located in the Narthex. If anyone has any pictures or other historical items, please bring them to the church office. Entered into a contract with Frontier Communications for high-speed internet service. This will make the transferring of the recorded 8am worship services to the local TV station more efficient. Installation should be complete the first week in February. The sound control board, located in the balcony, was malfunctioning. Voters approved the purchase of a new digital sound board at a special voters meeting. The new board was installed in January 2016.

Board of Education: Average Sunday School attendance at the end of 2015 was 50-60; in January it is now down to 30-40. We currently have 30 children attending KFC.

Evangelism: 42 volunteers served at the Banquet in Sioux Fall on January 23. 297 adults and 32 children were served.

Human Care: The Omelet Feed in November raised \$700 for Love INC. Packages were sent to 2 overseas soldiers. 5 families benefitted from the Caring Tree. Hats and mittens were collected and delivered to the Community Christmas Basket program in early December. Handkerchiefs were provided and delivered to shut-ins by Pastor Schreiber.

Current Business: 125th Anniversary Celebration committee members include Tammy Brunk, Jeanette Varuska, Bev & Bryon Spittle, MJ Wester, Jerry & Diane Vogt and Ken Meyer. The "Adopt-A-Day"

Voters' Meeting Notes continued:

Mortgage Calendar was created and is posted on the bulletin board by the Chapel. Members interested in participating are asked to write their name on a day on the calendar and donate \$125 for that day. If each day is filled by a member, the note will be paid off in full, plus extra available for another project! Members donating are asked to put the donation in an envelope labeled, "Adopt-A-Day" and put it in the offering plate or mail to the church office.

Sound Board Update: The new sound system has been paid off. Installation was completed. This is state-of-the-art equipment – the same sound board that is in the Denny Sanford Premier Center!

New Business: Call of DCE Position – Pastor Schreiber has been getting acquainted and settled into his role at St. Matthew. He promised that he would not make any changes immediately after arriving. It has now been 6 months and he is now communicating with the Elders regarding current needs for St. Matthew. It is known that our young families groups and youth group are too large for one person to cover adequately. A DCE (Director of Christian Education) has degreed education and training and we would look for someone with strengths in youth and family ministry. This position is not new to St. Matthew as we have had DCEs in the past and are familiar with their role in the church. This called position would require the development of a call committee and the call process according to St. Matthew Constitution and Bylaws. *Change in position for Roxie Leckband* – Roxie has served many years in the Youth & Family Ministry. She has built strong bonds and relationships with congregation members. Her years of experience in the church and community would serve very well in the role of Director of Human Care and Outreach. This role would assist Pastor Schreiber in visiting hospitalized members, shut-ins, and an increase in Stephen's Ministry opportunities. Her knowledge will allow her to identify the members needing Pastor's assistance and referring them to his care. Roxie and Pastor Schreiber have discussed the potential of this new role and Roxie is willing to accept the challenge. Pastor Schreiber added that a Parish Nurse Ministry may also be explored in the future.

OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ON CABLE TV

ATTENTION: to those of you that watch our worship services on cable TV: You may view our services on Wgtn Cable 3 channel or for Vast customers – use channel 95; and for Mediacom customers – use channel 17. **Our worship services are now 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 9, 2015.

Treasurer's Report: January expenses were \$25,259.22, income was \$34,343.62; Building Fund income was \$1,436.00 and expenses were \$4,079.46. Building Loan balance is \$65,573.56. Memorial Fund Balance is \$37,733.35. Scholarship Fund totals were unavailable for the meeting.

Staff Reports: *Pastor Mark* – Average weekend attendance was 255; attendance down due to bad weather. The pictorial directory second proof is coming, there were many mistakes that had to be corrected from the first proof. The Annual Report/Yearbook is ready to be printed this week. New member classes being held on Thursdays in February with 7-8 participants. New Member reception will be March 13th. Pastor will be attending a marriage enrichment refresher class on February 25th. *Roxie* – Preparations continue for Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Family Night is being changed to Family Afternoon (after the 10:30 worship service) to accommodate some of the families who live a distance from Worthington. *Lorenda/Joy* – Choir robes are being washed by Twila Henning and Lorenda Glade. A steamer will be used to remove any remaining wrinkles. This is saving the church nearly \$500 in cleaning costs. The trumpet stop on the organ continues to be unreliable along with some pedal issues, so our organ expert will be contacted for repairs prior to Palm Sunday.

Council Meeting Highlights continued:

Board of Elders: Easter services will be held at 7am and 9:30am with no Saturday evening service. Confirmation services is set for May 1 at the 10:30 service. Decision was made to trial Wednesday night services instead of Saturday night beginning after Memorial Day.

Trustees: New cables for our higher speed internet have been installed. A loss control survey was completed in January by our insurance company and it was noted that the balcony railing is under 42” in height, which is not high enough. This issue will be remedied by blocking off the seating to the east of the organ.

Christian Education: Sunday school attendance has fallen to below 50 for January. Last day of Sunday School will be May 15th. Reproducible books and worksheets will be used for the last 3-4 weeks of Sunday school. \$200 of Sunday school offerings was donated to the GAP ministry of Love INC and another \$200 will be donated to Samaritan’s Purse for livestock purchases. VBS is scheduled for June 13-17 with staff from Camp Omega. A Lenten activity for Sunday School students will be held on March 13th in the stage area of the basement (Bible Study will move to the new area of the basement that week.)

Missions: The grant to cover Sudanese Pastor Ruey’s stipend of \$230 per service has been depleted. The Missions Board would like St. Matthew’s to cover this cost for a total of \$2,760 per year. There are also \$250 dues fees for membership in the Sudanese Lutheran Church and \$100 dues for the Sudanese LWML. Average attendance at the Sudanese worship services ranges from 6-18. Language is a barrier to some Sudanese as they speak two different languages.

Evangelism: Planning a luncheon at the church on March 6 following the 10:30 a.m. service to celebrate the baptism of the three newly adopted daughters of Pastor Mark & Joy. The congregation is invited.

Youth: Reading Bus Lines will provide transportation for the National Youth Gathering.

New Business: *DCE Call Committee* – the following members have been appointed to serve on the committee: Pastor Schreiber, Ron Iverson, Billy Gordon, Pete Goedtke, Jeanette Varuska, Lisa Ahrenstorff and Val Wolford. It was also suggested that we include a youth representative on the committee.

Nominating Committee – those appointed to serve on the Nominating Committee for Congregational Officers include: Tim Hansberger, Mike Dierks, Ron Iverson, Kirk Feit and Clarence Mess. *Strategic Planning Committee* – a committee will be formed to develop a vision statement and 5 year plan for St. Matthew Lutheran Church. Bill Gordon has offered to facilitate the process. The committee will consist of 12-15 people and will meet 3-6 times to develop a plan.

CAMP MINNEBOJI

The camp is held at Camp Okoboji – LCMs on the west side of West Lake Okoboji in northwest Iowa (not “Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp ELCA”, that is nearby, just to the north of Camp Okoboji – LCMS0. Camp dates for 2016 are June 26 – July 2. The theme this year is “Got ? Questions.” Camp Minneboji is for all students who have completed grades 4 through 9. The capacity of the camp (available cabin space) is 325. The camp will fill early – Register early! Registration cut-off is June 1 (or when camp is full). You may visit the camp website – www.minneboji.com for more information and to download the registration and medical forms. Every registration must be signed by your Pastor.

The **2016 Annual Report/Yearbook** is printed and ready for you to pick up your copy. Copies are available at each entrance to the church.

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.

MARCH WORSHIP HELPERS

ACOLYTES

8 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 2 - 6:30 p.m. – Eli Hansberger

March 6

Brandon Arzu-Bustad

Luke Gordon

Wednesday, March 9 - 6:30 p.m. – Kaylee Gerdes

March 13

Ashley Ling

Carson Wolford

Wednesday, March 16 - 6:30 p.m. – Carter Hokeness

March 20

Chad Buntjer

Zaydan Abdulrahman

Thursday, March 24 – Maundy Thursday-6:30 p.m. – Austin Heimgartner

Friday, March 25 – Good Friday-6:30 p.m. – Laci Boomgarden

March 27 – EASTER Sunrise **7:00 a.m.** – Jennifer Preuss

March 27 – EASTER **9:30 a.m.** – Faith Arnt

April 3

Calah Ling

Jessalyn Broesder

10:30 a.m. Nursery

March 6 Alyssa Bosma, Beth White

March 13 Hunter Boomgarden, Gail Holinka

March 20 Nathan Goedtke, Jessica Larson

March 27 – 9:30AM = Traeton Holt, Marlis Rohwer

April 3 Jace Paplow, 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 2 6:30PM – Myron & Sandy Meyer

March 6 8AM – David & LaVonne Holt; 10:30AM – John & Jessica Widvey

March 9 6:30 PM – Lee & Karen Meyer

March 13 8AM – Cindy Brunk, Kent Brunk; 10:30AM – Dale & Vickie Larson

March 16 6:30 PM – Voris & Sandie Spittle

March 20 8AM – Barry & Kerry Sauer; 10:30AM – Dave & Mary Krueger

March 24 – Maundy Thursday 6:30PM – Jim & Eloise Langseth; Bill & Karen Knigge

March 25 – Good Friday 6:30PM – Al & Connie Reitmeier; Chris & Stacy Heinrichs

March 27 – EASTER Sunrise 7:00AM – Clarence & Twyla Mess; Sandy Cuperus

March 27 – EASTER 9:30 AM – Bruce & Bev Kness; John & Marlene Moberg

April 3 – 8AM – Keith & Margaret Schroeder; 10:30AM – David & Alexie Cross

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!