

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN
March 2019 Newsletter

Behold the Man!

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. . . . The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

—John 1:1–3, 14

“Behold the man!” proclaimed the unwitting preacher Pontius Pilate in one of the shortest, yet most profound, sermons ever recorded. This will be our endeavor in our Midweek Lenten services this year and Easter Sunday. Behold the man, God in human flesh, Jesus. His incarnation will provide the basis for our meditation and proclamation on His Passion. And His real, bodily suffering and death will provide the basis for our full-throated proclamation on Easter morning of a bodily resurrection, not just of Jesus but also for His saints. Real bodies that have suffered, wept, bled, prayed, eaten, hoped, and more will be those raised incorruptible from their graves on the day of Jesus’ return.

We will fix our eyes and our preaching on the man Jesus, contemplating the inescapable fact—indeed the most important fact in the course of human history—that God became man. The Second Person of the eternal, triune God, who we confess in the Nicene Creed as “God of God, Light of light, very God of very God . . . of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made,” became a living, breathing, flesh-and-blood human being, a man.

This Lent, we will consider what it means that God became man. In preparation for the celebration of a real, bodily, flesh-and-blood, bone-and-sinew resurrection, the resurrection without which our faith and our preaching are all in vain, consider the body of Jesus that exists in order to be nailed to a cross. The spiritual, bodiless Son of God became the embodied, enfleshed, incarnate Son of Mary. In Jesus, God has human flesh, a body, just like you. What could be more profound?

Each week, we’ll consider a different aspect of the body of Jesus Christ. What does it mean that, in Jesus, God has hands, feet, lungs, lips, eyes, and ears?

Behold the man! In sermon, in study, in devotion, behold the man!

Pastor Mark Schreiber



We will be doing the Good Friday drama again this year!

If you are interested in participating, please contact Joy Schreiber.

There are many musical opportunities for Holy Week including small groups, brass for hymns on Easter Sunday, Festival Choir and singing of the Hallelujah Chorus on Easter Sunday. Please be watching the bulletins and pre-service screens for rehearsal information for our upcoming Holy Week services. Contact Lorenda or Joy with any questions, or if you are interested.





LENTEN SCHEDULE

Join us **Wednesday evenings at our 6:30 p.m. worship services** for "**Behold the Man**" a special series for the season of Lent. This Lent, consider your Lord's humanity. Behold the man, and confess that, with His body, He "has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death." **The themes for the weeks are as follows:**

Ash Wednesday, March 6 – "A God Who Hungers"

Scripture Lessons: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 and Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 13 – "A God Who Prays" Scriptures: Hebrews 7:20-28 and John 17

March 20 – "A God Beaten" Scriptures: Isaiah 52:13-53:12 and John 18:19-24

March 27 – "A God Exposed" Scriptures: Genesis 3:7-21 and John 19:1-5, 23-24

April 3 – "A God with a Mother" Scriptures: Revelation 12:1-6 and John 19:25-27

April 10 – "A God Who Thirsts" Scriptures: Psalm 22:12-18 and John 19:28-30

Maundy Thursday, April 18 - "A God Who Loves"

Scriptures: Exodus 12:1-14 and John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday, April 19 – "A God Who Bleeds, a God Who Dies"

Scriptures: Isaiah 52:13-53:12 and John 18-19

Easter, April 21 – "A God Who Rises"

Scriptures: Isaiah 65:17-25 and 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 and John 20:1-18

A supper is served each Wednesday from 5:10-6:00 p.m. A free-will donation will be received for the meals. We are looking for "servants" to help organize and serve these meals. If you do not want to organize a meal, but would like to help serve, clean-up, provide food or a monetary donation to purchase items for the meals that is also welcome. Please contact Bev in the church office. Thank You!

Please Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be at every-other Wednesday night service. Therefore, Holy Communion will take place on: March 6th and 20th; April 3rd and 18th.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

- **PALM SUNDAY, April 14th we will have ONE WORSHIP SERVICE at 9:30AM.**
- **NO service on Wednesday, April 17th.**
- **Maundy Thursday, April 18th service at 6:30 p.m.**
- **Good Friday, April 18th service at 6:30 p.m.**
- **EASTER – April 21st we will have services at: 7:00AM and 9:30AM.** Easter Breakfast will be served between the worship services!



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
BEGINS MARCH 10TH!**

**Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour
when you go to bed on Saturday, March 9th**

CHURCH RECORDS

Baptisms

- Emmitt Adrian Gonzalez, son of Adrian & Melissa Gonzalez was baptized January 27, 2019.
- William Grant Swanson, son of Travis & Harlie Swanson was baptized January 27, 2019.
- Blake Eric Bremer, son of Eric & Tammy Bremer was baptized February 17, 2019.

Transfer Out

- Amber Preuss

Human Care/Parish Nurse Ministry News By Roxie Leckband

Greetings and Happy March,

It is hard to believe that Ash Wednesday and the seasonal change to Spring happens this month. We look forward to the newness of what the Spring season brings us and the newness of life we have in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with His death and resurrection. May the time leading up to Easter be a blessing as you journey to the Cross with Jesus.

As Christ showed His love for us may we show our love toward others by our actions and support as we serve one another. **There are currently two opportunities to provide meals for families in our congregation undergoing serious health related challenges:**

- The Eric & Marissa Marten family could use your help by providing meals the weeks of March 11th and March 18th. Marissa will be staying in Rochester, MN several weeks before and after the birth of their twins. Baby B was diagnosed with Hypo plastic Left Heart Syndrome and will require several heart surgeries, one as soon as seven days following the birth, and then more over several months. Freezer meals such as casseroles, meatballs, meat loaf, etc. would be great! Please bring the food to the church by March 10th and March 17th. Please place the frozen meals (marked "Marten Family") into the Human Care Ministry Freezer located in the store room next to the kitchen. The meals will be delivered to the family. Other items may be left on the kitchen counter labeled Marten Family. If you prefer not to make a meal, gift cards from Pizza Ranch and Subway are also great! Pizza Ranch, in Luverne, will deliver to Adrian, and Adrian also has a Subway.
- There is also an opportunity to bless the Tammy Metteer family with a meal as well. Please contact the church office or Roxie and let us know what date you would like to provide a meal and if possible what you would be providing. You may bring your meal to the church and we will get it to the family. The meal would need to serve 2 adults and 2 young children. If you prefer not to cook, gift cards to the local pizza stores and fast food restaurants would also be deeply appreciated. The gift cards may be brought into the church office and Roxie will get them to the family.

Please keep these families in your prayers. I would like to thank you so much for ALL your help.

Mom's Group will be on Fridays - March 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd from 10:30-12:00 noon. Please join us for a devotional time and fellowship with the moms while the children enjoy Bible stories, play time and snack time.

Noon Fellowship will be on Monday, March 11th. Please join us for a great meal of meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, buttered carrots and a dinner roll. Please bring a dish to pass, provide a free-will offering or just come. We will have a time in God's Word also.

Human Care/Parish Nurse News continued:

ATTENTION EVERYONE: Please join us on Monday, March 11th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a presentation on Dementia and Early On Set Dementia. Chaplain John Gale provides chaplaincy services for Compassionate Care Hospice. Chaplain Gale will be presenting about Dementia from a personal and professional perspective as Chaplain Gale's mother had dementia. Please contact Roxie with any questions at 712-260-3820 or 507-376-6168.

Blood pressure screenings will be offered on Sunday, March 17th after the 8 a.m. service and before the 10:30 a.m. service. We will be located in the Great Hall.

Health Cabinet Meeting will be on Monday, March 18th at 12 noon in the Fireside Room.

MUSIC & WORSHIP NEWS

*“O Lord, throughout these forty days You prayed and kept the fast;
Inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past”. LSB 418*

We will begin our March worship services with the Transfiguration of our Lord, always observed on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. In our Gospel reading from Luke, Jesus goes up onto a mountain to pray, accompanied by Peter, John, and James. As Jesus prays, the appearance of His face changes and His clothes become “bright as a flash of lightning”. The voice of God, reminiscent of the voice heard at the Baptism of our Lord, is heard coming from the clouds and saying “This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him”.

But Jesus must come down from the mountain top, and so must we. A few days later we will worship again on Ash Wednesday, where we will remember the cost of our sinful condition. We will reflect upon our own earthly mortality, and we will remember the price Jesus paid to redeem us for all eternity.

As we begin our Lenten journey, Jesus will be sent to the wilderness where He will face temptation. We hear this Gospel lesson each year on the first Sunday of Lent (a different Gospel each year in our 3 year lectionary series, but the same lesson). We can be assured that Jesus understands our times of trial and temptation, and will be with us through all of the wilderness experiences of our lives. Our subsequent Gospel readings for March are from Luke, where we will hear of Jesus' sorrow for Jerusalem, the parable of the fig tree, and the parable of the prodigal son.

We also will have opportunities to worship together on Wednesday evenings throughout the season of Lent. Each blended worship service begins at 6:30, in which we will hear about a God who prays, a God beaten, a God exposed, a God with a mother, and a God who thirsts.

We pray that you will be blessed by our Lenten services and the music we have chosen to worship our crucified and risen Savior.

God's Blessings,
Lorenda Glade, Joy Schreiber, Directors of Music

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: LENTEN SCHEDULE FOR ADULT CHOIR AND BELLS: Adult choir will rehearse from 5:30-6:15 p.m. on Wednesdays during Lent, with bell rehearsal following our midweek Lenten services. **ALL singers are invited to join us in rehearsing for our Easter anthem, even if you are not normally in choir.** Please contact Louise Clausen or Lorenda Glade if you have any questions.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) News

Come Worship ...

Thursday, March 7th at 1:30 p.m. in St. Matthew's basement Fellowship Hall

The 2019 LWML Prayer Service, **God CARES For You!** Authored by the Reverend Allen D. Anderson

C: Confession/Communication/Cleansing

A: Attention

R: Regard

E: Enigmatic

S: Salvation

If the Lord had not been my help, my soul would soon have lived in the land of silence. When I thought, "My foot slips," your steadfast love, O Lord, held me up. When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul (Psalm 94:17-19).

Join our LWML Ladies for this inspirational Prayer Service. A short LWML meeting and fellowship will follow.



LWML SPRING FLING

Saturday, April 6th is the Worthington Zone LWML Spring Fling.

This spring it will be held here at St. Matthew's.

Registration is 8:30 a.m. There is a \$5.00 registration fee. The Rally begins at 9:00 a.m.

Rob Lutz from Fulda, MN grew up in a LCMS Missionary Family, living in Papua, New Guinea. He previously served 33 years as a LCMS educator. After he retired as a teacher, Rob worked with the Lutheran Church of South Sudan, doing various projects, most recently building the House of Hope Orphanage. Please join us as Rob and his wife, Paula, share their experiences in Yambio, Sudan.

Lunch will follow. **Both men and women are invited to hear this presentation.** Childcare will be available upon request. Please contact the church office, 376-6168, by April 1st if you would need childcare services.

"Gifts from the Heart" will go to the Helping Hands Pregnancy Center. Items needed include: anything for a baby under 1 year old; diapers sizes 3, 4, 5; small containers of laundry soap; bath lotions; baby shampoo; baby brushes and combs; white washcloths; teething rings; baby clothes under 24 months; and always in need of more for boys than girls!



ALTAR GUILD

Serving in March will be Nancy Edwards & Lynn Dierks 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.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Sarah Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 19th at 12:30 in the Fireside Room. The Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 19th at 5:15 p.m. in the Youth Room. The Martha Circle will meet on Thursday, March 21st at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

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.** There is a sign-up sheet in the basement near the kitchen. **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.

WRAPPED IN LOVE AND WARMTH

Elementary students, high school students, and women in the Crisis Center in Northern Minnesota are wrapped in a warm blanket because of your LOVE, your CARING, and your GENEROSITY.

Counselors at the Lake Park-Audubon Schools were elated to receive warm blankets for specific children in need – the need is great! The Crisis Center, short on blankets, knew exactly who would receive the warm comforters. Again, some of the children on the White Earth Indian Reservation also received a blanket. The winter is harsh for those in need.

On February 2, we took 43 quilts, blankets, and comforters and three baby blankets to our daughter, Sarah How, School Psychologist on the White Earth Indian Reservation. She says everyone who received a blanket is very grateful – they all thank each of you who made these gifts of blankets possible.

Daryl & Karen Doeden

I want to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers and cards. I live in an assisted living facility and the care is great. At this time, I ask for prayers for a miracle. My church family is a blessing and in turn, I pray that our great God will bless each of you.

Cheri Schmidt

Attention Thrivent Members: All “choice dollars” for 2018 will expire on March 31, 2019. If you have not directed them to the charity of your choice, please do so by March 29. You may call 1-800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice” or log in to www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice

Mark your calendars for our NEXT Pictorial Directory.

We want our ENTIRE Church Family to be photographed for this directory.

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. We will have more information available as the date gets closer.

Reminder –please pick up your 2019 Offering Envelopes.

They are on the table in the Great Hall. Even if you do “automatic giving”, please pick up your box of envelopes. **The box includes “Special Giving Opportunities” throughout the year! Thank You!**

“Always leave your campsite in better shape than it was when you found it.” This is a good saying to abide by in our daily lives. Therefore, if you use a room at the church, you may move the furnishings around to work for you (please be careful when doing this); however, **PLEASE RETURN the room to its original setting before you leave. Thank You for your attention to this.**

No Notes from the February Council Meeting because it was postponed due to inclement weather. Meeting will take place February 26th.



Did you know you can receive your monthly newsletter via email? If you would like this option, please email Bev at stmattchurchoffice@gmail.com. If you receive your emails on your smart phone, you can read our newsletter anywhere you are! Our newsletter contains important information about upcoming activities, services, ministries, etc. **You can help us save on our printing and postage costs by receiving the newsletter via email. Then you can either read it from your computer or phone – or print out a copy at your home! THANKS!**



WINTER IS HERE – In the event of bad weather, please tune into radio stations: FM = 95.1, 93.5 and 104.3 and 730AM for updates about our services and/or activities. You can also go to the radio station’s website, www.myradioworks.net, and look under the “weather announcements” their website is updated quicker than their announcements on the radio. Or you may check our Facebook page – facebook.com/stmattworthington. **Parents, please note:** *if Worthington schools are Closed or Released Early, due to the weather, activities will not take place at church that evening either.*

amazonsmile

Already love Amazon? How about using **AmazonSmile!** The same great Amazon you love but with .05% of the profits being automatically donated to us!

Have you heard of the AmazonSmile Foundation? Each quarter, the AmazonSmile Foundation makes donations to eligible charitable organizations. Donations will be transferred approximately 45 days after the end of each calendar quarter. St. Matthew’s is now registered as a charitable foundation with AmazonSmile. **Our church’s unique charity link for AmazonSmile is <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-6009109> or you may search for ours = type in St. Matthew and go through the list until you find ours (Worthington, MN).**

In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer’s selected charitable organization.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JANUARY 27, 2019 VOTER MEETING

Treasurer's Report: Tammy Brunk gave the report for the fourth quarter ending December 31, 2018.

Income: \$112,348.47; expenses: \$106,912.76; checkbook balance: \$37,773.87. Building Fund Income: \$280.00, with expense of \$0.00, Building Loan Balance: \$0.00. Scholarship Fund Balance \$435,967.25; Memorial Fund Balance: \$74,067.24; Youth Account balance: \$14,860.54. For the fourth quarter we had a \$5,715.71 profit overall. We have paid tuition for 3 college students from the scholarship fund.

Staff Reports: *Pastor Mark* – Had a dedication of the building renovation project prior to this meeting today. Appreciates his office remodel so he will be able to facilitate meetings and counseling in a more personal environment. We have 3 new Bible Studies on Sunday mornings. *Roxie* – Widow's support ministry meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, and have had 7 attending. Health cabinet meets every other month on the 3rd Monday. Made 5 new baby home visits this quarter. Caring Tree was very successful. Thanks to Ron & Karen Obermoller for building the tree and doing the ornaments. We are blessed to have a group of ladies that crochet or knit prayer shawls and have started making chemotherapy caps. Collected hats, mittens and gloves for the Community Christmas Baskets. Partnered with Boy Scouts and assisted with the Fundraiser for the Tammy Metteer family. Coordinating the Food Ministry. Freezer has been restocked with prepared meals. Thank you to Sandie Spittle and Bonnie Schroeder for assisting with this. Coordinated the delivery of furniture from the Love INC Furniture Ministry. Thank you to Greg Leckband, Dale Schroeder and Mark Schwarz for furniture deliveries in November. St. Matthew's in on a rotation schedule to deliver 3-4 times a year. If anyone is interested in being the coordinator or on the delivery crew, contact Roxie. Prayer Intercessor ministry started in January for the confirmation students. *Jenna* – Started 2nd semester of DCE courses through Concordia, Irvine, CA. Had a chili cook-off feed in November for our congregation. Had 13 different crock pots of chili made by congregation members. Proceeds will be used towards scholarships for youth to attend the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in July. Had prayer/play nights for Jr. High Youth at the church in November and December with 15-20 youth attending. HS seniors have been meeting on the last Sunday of the month at Andrew & Jenna Bents' home for supper, fellowship and going through the "Sticky Faith" How to Build Lasting Faith Beyond High School." Took a group of youth to serve at The Banquet in Sioux Falls during the Christmas break from school. Youth and adults decorated Christmas cookies and went caroling to nursing homes. Jenna and Val Wolford will be taking 4 girls to the LCMS Youth Leadership Training event in St. Louis, MO from March 14-17. This will be a great opportunity for them to learn to be leaders of their faith. HS youth meet on Wednesday nights and have been going through a video series titled, "Life on a Mission." Continue to study, "The Bible Project" on Sunday mornings. Please continue to pray for our youth in this challenging and confusing world. Adult mentors are always welcome. If you would like to be a prayer partner, or mentor for our high school youth, please contact Jenna. *Lorenda & Joy* – Have had several youth become involved in the band. Thank you to all who have contributed to our special music for services. Linda Lang plays organ at some of our 8am services; Thank you to our additional organists: Linda Lang, Gail Bogie, Autumn Arnt. Adult choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 5:15pm and the bells rehearse at 7pm. New members are always welcome! Our sound technicians, camera operators and computer projectionists continue to serve as the "unsung" heroes that keep our services running smoothly. Thanks to Lyle Meyer for his help with troubleshooting and getting services ready for televising.

Elders: Had a police officer attend a meeting to discuss possible security issues within our building. We are working on developing a security plan. Had a review of how to give communion correctly and what to say if asked by a non-member if they could receive communion. Reviewed current weather policy.

Trustees: Usual maintenance done, also 2 air conditioners worked on. Replacing boiler in the elevator area.

Current Business: Over past few months, a committee looked at the current structure of ministry and how to facilitate getting more members involved. Proposal to change the structure of the Church Council (in our By-Laws) to include a Ministry Planning Board in place of the currently Boards of Missions, Evangelism, Human Care, Stewardship and Youth. The Ministry Planning Board will be asked to do specific projects without having to commit to an extended length of time. Pastor & Nathan Holt will appoint these positions at first – 3 positions for 2 years and 3 positions for 14 months. These will be elected positions in the future.

New Business: With shortages of students in seminaries, a Vicar will be unlikely. Will look at a possible part-time position that could be filled by a lay person. Synod more flexible and doing more things online.

Voters Meeting Highlights continued: Question was asked about the possibility of a different PA system in the basement. Trustees will look at this issue.

Next meeting will be in April with the date to be determined. Watch for announcements.

MARCH WORSHIP HELPERS

<u>ACOLYTES</u>	<u>8 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m. Nursery</u>
March 3	Mersaydes Marten	Hunter Echternach	Madison Sieve, Beth White
March 6 – Ash Wednesday – 6:30 p.m. = Sierra Goedtke			Ryker Thier, Gail Holinka
March 10	Faith Leinen	Mark Geertsema	Elizabeth Gerdes, Kasen White
March 13 – Lent Worship – 6:30 p.m. = Lance Gordon			-----
March 17	Jordis Weber	Evan Hansberger	Maelie Holt, Angie Kopplow
March 20 – Lent Worship – 6:30 p.m. = Logan Meyeraan			-----
March 24	Caleb Barber	Damien Leckband	Alexa Kilker, Danika Schmidt
March 27 – Lent Worship – 6:30 p.m. = Tethlouch Gach			-----
March 31	Alecsander Brunk	Alaina Feit	Kenadie Thiner, Tammy Markus
April 3 - Lent Worship – 6:30 p.m. = Dalton Larson			-----
April 7	Paige Barber	Natya Khamphanh	Kyle Ahrenstorff, 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

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	
March 3	8am	Chad & Stacey Hokeness
	10:30am	Greg & Roxie Leckband Family
March 6	6:30pm	Myron & Sandy Meyer
March 10	8am	Dan & Laurita Roos
	10:30am	Kevin & Danika Schmidt
March 13	6:30pm	Joel & Kim Rogers
March 17	8am	Ron Markman; John Galstad
	10:30am	David & Mary Krueger
March 20	6:30pm	Jim & Eloise Langseth
March 24	8am	Lorna Buntjer, Julie Buntjer
	10:30am	HS Youth
March 27	6:30pm	Al & Gail DeGrote
March 31	8am	Lisa Buschwitz; Karen Schwartz
	10:30am	Marlene Baumgarn; Alice White
April 3	6:30pm	Clarence & Twyla Mess
April 7	8am	David & LaVonne Holt
	10:30am	Bruce & Shawn Boomgarden

*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** - If you would like to be added to the Greeter Rotation please contact the church office. Thank You!*