

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN
March 2020 Newsletter

You are Needed and Wanted

Dear Saints at 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 the resurrection power. We are at war against false belief, despair, and other great and shameful sins as Luther explains in the Lord's Prayer.

Now, more than ever, come be with fellow Christians. If someone has hurt you, ask the Lord for His help. 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. The essence of God (and of us as His children) is to love with His forgiveness—even those who hurt us or seem to act as if we do not count. Come, this Lenten season and rejoice 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



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
BEGINS MARCH 8TH!**
**Don't forget to set your clocks ahead
one hour when you go to bed on
Saturday, March 7th**



LENTEN SCHEDULE

Join us **Wednesday evenings at our 6:30 p.m. worship services** for **"Eyes On Jesus"** a special series for the season of Lent. This Lent, consider your Lord's humanity. O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. This series, based on the Gospel according to St. Mark, will examine how the various people around Jesus viewed Him – and how we should view Him. We will "fix our eyes" on what Jesus has done to save us from our sins by His holy, precious blood and innocent sufferings and death, and celebrate what God sees on account of His work: our justification for His sake.

The themes for the weeks are as follows:

- Ash Wednesday, February 26** – "Misjudging Eyes" – Mark 14:1-9
- March 4** – "Betraying Eyes" – Mark 14:10-21, 32, 41-46
- March 11** – "Sleepy Eyes" – Mark 14:32-42
- March 18** – "Denying Eyes" – Mark 14:26-31, 66-72
- March 25** – "Murderous Eyes" – Mark 14:1-2, 53-65
- April 1** – "Worldly Eyes" – Mark 15:1-20

Please Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be at every-other Wednesday night service. Therefore, Holy Communion will take place on: February 26, March 11 and March 25.

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 serve and do clean-up for the March 18th meal. Please contact Bev in the church office. Thank You!

The meals will be: February 26th – Spaghetti Dinner
March 4th – Taco Bar
March 11th – Sliced pork, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans & bars.
March 18th – No menu available yet.
March 25th – BBQs, cheesy potatoes, coleslaw & bars.
April 1 – Walking Tacos

LOOKING AHEAD - HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

- **PALM SUNDAY, April 5th we will have ONE WORSHIP SERVICE at 9:30AM.**
- **NO service on Wednesday, April 8th.**
- **Maundy Thursday, April 9th service at 6:30 p.m. (with Holy Communion)**
- **Good Friday, April 10th service at 6:30 p.m.**
- **EASTER – April 12th we will have services at 7:00AM and 9:30AM.** Our high school youth will serve an Easter Breakfast between the worship services! The breakfast will include scrambled eggs & ham, sausages, fruit and Butter Braids.

CHURCH RECORDS

Baptisms

- Camdyn Andrew Fletcher, son of Andrew & Brooke Fletcher, baptized on February 2.
- Everly Joyce Ray Nelson, daughter of Adam & Tarrany Nelson, baptized on February 16.
- Paulina Thavixay baptized on February 23, 2020.
- Brielle Bai Marie Pass, daughter of Adam Pass & Paulina Thavixay, baptized on February 23.

Human Care/Parish Nurse Ministry News

By Roxie Leckband

Greetings! In March our health ministry will focus on nutrition for our physical health. We have begun an intentional “walking ministry,” now we will look at our nutrition. God has given us our bodies to care for, our bodies are a “temple.”

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Taking the time and caring for ourselves in an intentional way is not easy. It is an ongoing conscious process. There will be educational opportunities on Mondays from 9:30-10:00 a.m. with “The Daniel Plan” Bible Study. Basic written nutrition information will also be available. I have included a Nutrition Fact Sheet on Fats from the FDA (it is included in this Newsletter).

There will be blood pressure screenings around 9:15 a.m. on Monday mornings. Just as a reminder our “walking challenge” continues! You will also see dedicated St. Matthew staff cruising the path!

NOON FELLOWSHIP will be on Monday, March 9th with baked chicken, mashed potatoes and green beans provided. Please bring a dish to pass, a free-will offering or both at 12:00 noon. We will have a time of good food, fellowship, and devotion. Please join us ...everyone is welcome at any age!

WIDOW’S GROUP will be on Wednesday, March 11th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room and on Monday, March 16th at 5:15 p.m. in the Fireside Room and then at Hickory Lodge at 6:15 p.m. The group continues to work through the Postcards From a Widows’ Path bible study. The women have found many useful strategies in coping with widowhood.

GPS HOPE PARENT BEREAVMENT GROUP meets on Sunday, March 22nd at 4:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Supper will be provided. We will have a group discussion and support time.

Hospital and Home Visits - please let the church office or I know if you have a desire for a visit. Frozen meals are also available in the Human Care freezer for those who could use these. You may let me know and I can help, or if you are in need just come in and get what you can use. The freezer is in the old nursery next to the kitchen.

Sunday School: The young people are working on music for Palm Sunday.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Sarah Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 17th at 12:30 in the Fireside Room. The Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 10th at 5:15 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Martha Circle will meet on Thursday, March 19th at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

MUSIC & WORSHIP NEWS

*“Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim, Till all the world adore His sacred name.”
(LSB 837 Refrain)*

Throughout the month of March, we will be closing our 8:00 AM worship service with the singing of “Lift High the Cross”. This hymn is fitting for two reasons: First, the hymn focuses our “Eyes on Jesus”, our Savior who suffered, died for our sins, and rose again victorious over sin and death. During our Midweek Lenten services, our worship theme will be “Eyes on Jesus”. Secondly, throughout the month of March, following our 8:00 service, our members will have the opportunity to participate in an excellent Bible study, “Everyone His Witness”. We are commanded by our Lord to share the Gospel with others. (Mark 16:15, Matthew 28:19-20) “Lift High the Cross” encourages us to share this saving message “Till all the world adore His sacred name”.

During this season of Lent, we must pause to reflect on the events of the cross. But we must also be stirred to action, to move from personal reflection to outreach. As this hymn reminds us, we need to carry the cross high, sharing our faith with those around us. Pray that the Holy Spirit will provide opportunities for you to “Lift high the cross” and proclaim the love of Christ. “Let every race and every language tell of Him who saves our lives from death and hell.” (LSB 837, vs. 5)

MUSICIANS NEEDED:

A variety of vocal and instrumental groups and soloists will be a part of our Midweek, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter services. Here are some opportunities for sharing your musical talents:

- Special music during Midweek Lenten and Holy Week services
- Sunday School singing on Palm Sunday
- Passion sequence for Good Friday (Contact Joy Schreiber if interested)
- Festival Choir for Easter Sunday (Rehearsals Wednesdays, 5:30)
- Brass players for Easter services
- Possibility of again singing the Hallelujah Chorus Easter Sunday (Contact Joy Schreiber or Lorenda Glade if interested)

During this season of Lent, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, and share with others the hope that is ours in Christ.

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.

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.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) News

- The Lenten Meal on March 4th will be hosted by our Young Women in Mission. Please be available to help if needed.
- On March 5th, please join us for our annual Prayer Service. We will meet at 1:30 p.m. in the basement Fellowship Hall. We will follow this service with our monthly meeting. Sarah Circle will host.
- The March 15th coffee hour will be hosted by the Martha Circle.
- The Friendship Supper (for the disabled community) will be held on March 17th at 6:00 p.m. in the basement Fellowship Hall. Sarah Circle and Youth will host this event.
- Could everyone please give a little extra toward the District Mission Grants? All mites need to be at the District Treasurer by April 25th to be included in this biennium (2018-2020) Mission Grants. Fill up those mite boxes, or you could write a check to St. Matthew LWML and put "mites" in the memo line.
- **Thank you for your continued help with all we do, together, with the help of God!**

The LWML Young Women in Missions group will be serving a taco bar for the March 4th Lent Meal. Please contact Amy (360-5360) if you are able to help serve (5:00-6:30 p.m.) or if you can bring a pan of bars. Child care is available for us in the nursery while we are serving. Also in March, our group will be meeting together weekly for "Every One His Witness" Bible Study.

ALTAR GUILD

Serving in March will be Ruth Ramert & Sandy Meyer. 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 on the calendar posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex (back of the church). **Our Flower Procedure has changed. The church no longer orders the bouquets.** You may contact Hy-Vee to order flowers for the Altar or bring in your own flower bouquets. The bouquets, if being delivered by Hy-Vee need to be delivered by noon on Fridays. If you are bringing your own bouquets, please have them to the church by 7:30 a.m. on Sundays, or noon on Fridays. Thank you for helping to provide beautiful bouquets for our Altar area. **If you would like your flowers listed in the bulletin, please give the information to Bev in the church office at least 2 weeks before the date you will be providing flowers. Thank You.**

Reminder –please pick up your 2020 Offering Envelopes. They are on the table in the Great Hall. If stopping during the week, see Bev in the church office. Even if you do "automatic giving", please pick up your box of envelopes. **The box includes "Special Giving Opportunities" throughout the year! Thank You!**



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! 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. The radio station's website is updated quicker than their verbal announcements over the radio. Therefore, you may want to check their website – www.us95.us.

However, our St. Matthew's Facebook page will be the first thing to be updated about weather cancellations, etc. be sure to follow 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.

"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, including cleaning up. Thank You for your attention to this.**

Thrivent Action Team Grants are a tremendous aide for projects/ activities for St. Matthews. Last year we used grants to pay for the majority of our Block Parties, Worship in the Park, supplies and food for VBS, Widow's ministry, Youth events, and snacks for Sunday School to just name a few. If you are a Thrivent member you can access two \$250 grants throughout the year. Please prayerfully consider helping with events at the church or in the community. Example of an upcoming activity - the Lent Suppers. If you need assistance applying for a grant, have questions or for further information contact Jeanette Varuska, 329-6583.

SERVANT OPPORTUNITY

St. Matthew's will be serving at The Banquet in Sioux Falls, SD on **Saturday, March 7th**. **The sign-up sheet is posted on the North Entrance Bulletin Board, or call the church office to have your name added to the list.** We need 8 cooks beginning at 8:30 a.m. and 40 servants beginning at 10:30 a.m. **Please sign-up for this wonderful servant opportunity!** Car-pooling may be a possibility.

The High School Youth are taking orders for Butter Braid Pastries. There is a sign-up sheet in the Great Hall, or you may contact any youth or the church office with your order. The pastries come in: cinnamon, blueberry cream cheese, strawberry cream cheese, apple, cherry, raspberry, four cheese & herb, and 9 ct. caramel rolls. **The last day to place your order is Wednesday, March 11th**. Delivery and pick-up will be Wednesday, March 25th during the youth hosted Lent Supper. These are great to have in time for Easter!

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you to my church family for all the nice cards and prayers for my 90th birthday. It was very much appreciated. May God bless you all.

Bill Henderson

We wish to thank everyone who remembered us on our 60th wedding anniversary with cards, thoughts and prayers. God Bless.

Gary & Velma Cortright

Thank you so much for the outpouring of love, support and prayers while we come to terms with God calling Peg home. We are so grateful for the cards and memorials. Special thanks to Pastor Mark and Roxie for all the visits with Peg – she enjoyed her time with you. Thank you to Pastor Mark, Bev, Linda, Bob and Roxie for your help in making a beautiful service to send Peg “home.” Thank you to the kitchen helpers for all your work. Knowing that we have the congregation of St. Matthews has helped so much. We are very grateful and appreciative as we mourn the loss of our mom and grandma so soon after Larry’s death. God Bless, The Family of Peg Ruesch:

Lisa & Tim Scholtes, Jenn, Peter, Alex

Mark & Heidi Ruesch, Haley, Lexy, Madison

Anne & Mark Wagner, Ashley

Highlights from the January 14, 2020 Council Meeting

Treasurer’s Report: December expenses were \$39,836.40, income was \$51,261.48. Building Fund income was \$273.95. Net income for the month was \$10,590.08. Balance in General Fund Checking Account on 12/31 was \$35,637.98. Memorial Fund balance is \$28,380.17. Building Loan Balance is \$168,400.00 Bridge Loan Balance is \$15,000.00. Scholarship Fund balance is \$505,956.43. Youth account report was \$7,329.24. Will pay \$500 each month to the MN South District Mission Fund.

Staff Reports: *Pastor Mark* – Average weekly attendance was 228. Average Wednesday Lent attendance was 113. *Roxie* – Kids coat tree went well. Received a Thrivent Action Grant and monetary donation to purchase some. A huge thanks to our St. Matthew Church Family who donated. These items were brought to Prairie Elementary to be distributed to children in need. A St. Matthew church family was blessed with gifts from the Avera Clinic Spirit Committee. Parish nurse visits have blessed several of our shut-ins. The shut-ins also had a special treat when our Young Women in Mission visited them and brought treats. *Jenna* – Some 8th graders and HS youth decorated cookies for the Christmas Program and did gift wrapping for church members. The youth will lead the 10:30 worship service on March 22 – they will speak, usher, greet, read and do worship band. Pastor will have a short devotion. Jenna just started her last semester for Concordia University Irvine. Plan to take 5 HS youth to the Leadership Conference in March. *Lorenda & Joy* – Pianos and organ have been tuned. Sunday School Christmas Program went well – thank you to Joy, Pastor, Roxie, Darci Holt, Connie Reitmeier, Dawn Dorschner for their assistance. Thank you to our sound techs also.

Elders: Kevin & Craig attended the Circuit Forum held on January 11 in Fulda. Discussed the social media position again. Need to define what the expectations will be. Discussed goals for this year.

Trustees: Checking on issues with west side furnaces. Boiler for elevator entrance is installed. The van suspension kit required by our insurance for the Chevy van has been installed. Discussed lighting in north parking lot, exploring options. Stainless steel countertop under the coffee pot in the kitchen is in the works.

Ministry Planning Board: Great Hall Committee was established with members being: Tim Hansberger, Lynn Dierks, Trevor & Chelsea Wintz, Ashley Sandersfeld, Velma Cortright. Lanyards will be ordered for elders, greeters, ushers to wear so guests can identify them. Discussed traffic flow and how to better utilize the area for fellowship and funerals. Discussed coffee pots and suggested coffee be brought up from the kitchen. Plan to move current Keurig to a higher table and locate it down the hall further. Would like to move existing furniture to Fireside Room and redo furniture in Great Hall. Discussed the Tech/Social Media position. Discussed stewardship in 2020 and have several things we are working on.

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 1	Sander Brunk	Madison Sieve	Damien Leckband, Val Wolford
March 4 – Lent Worship – 6:30 p.m. = Ryker Their			
March 8	Nia Iverson	Alexa Kilker	Logan Meyeraan, Danika Schmidt
March 11 – Lent Worship – 6:30 p.m. = Elizabeth Gerdes			
March 15	Faith Leinen	TJ Ostrem	Addison Peralta-Cross, Tammy Markus
March 18 – Lent Worship – 6:30 p.m. = Isaiah Schroeder			
March 22	Emily Lowe	Kenadie Thiner	Nevaeh Roesner, Jessica Larson
March 25 – Lent Worship – 6:30 p.m. = Kyle Ahrenstorff			
March 29	Paige Barber	Brandon Bosma	Lucy Thier, Kasen White
April 1 - Lent Worship – 6:30 p.m. = Jonathan Banegas			
April 5 – Palm Sunday–9:30 A.M. – (Acol) Sierra Goedtke; (Nurs) Alaina Feit, Marlis Rohwer			

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 1	8am	Kent Brunk, Sue Koob, Ruth Ramert
	10:30am	Greg & Roxie Leckband Family
March 4	6:30pm	Gary & Velma Cortright
March 8	8am	Cindy Brunk, John Galstad
	10:30am	Joel & Kim Rogers
March 11	6:30pm	Myron & Sandy Meyer
March 15	8am	Chad & Stacey Hokeness
	10:30am	Kevin & Danika Schmidt
March 18	6:30pm	David & LaVonne Holt
March 22	8am	Lorna Buntjer, Julie Buntjer
	10:30am	YOUTH
March 25	6:30pm	Karen Schwartz, Ron Markman
March 29	8am	Barry & Kerry Sauer
	10:30am	Dave & Mary Krueger
April 1	6:30pm	Voris & Sandie Spittle
April 5 – Palm Sunday – 9:30am = Jim & Eloise Langseth; Al & Gail DeGrote		

*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!*