

F I F T H
Sunday in Lent

St. Matthew Lutheran Church Newsletter

1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN 56187
(507) 376-6168

March 29th – The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Scripture Readings: Ezekiel 37:1-14
Romans 8:1-11
John 11:17-27, 38-53



Greetings St. Matthew's Members:

We hope this newsletter is finding you well. We are on week two of not being able to join together for worship services in the church building. Hopefully you were able to WORSHIP IN YOUR HOMES by watching the YouTube video last Sunday and Wednesday. This Sunday we will have both the Traditional and Contemporary worship services available on YouTube and our website. The YouTube link is posted on our church's Website, www.stmatthewworthington.com under the "News" section. If you do not have internet access, there is an alternative in Main Street Living which airs on KDLT Sioux Falls at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays. With the latest orders from the Governor, we anticipate that we will be recording and providing worship services that way for the next few weeks. Watch our Facebook and website for updates.

St. Matthew's has jumped onto Social Media: Have you downloaded our church App from the App Store yet? If you need help with this, please give us a call. We now also have a "Twitter" account. Have you "subscribed" to our YouTube channel yet? Please do so, the more views we get the easier it is for people to search for us. The YouTube channel and Twitter both have links on our church App.

Due to the fluid situation, and the latest orders by our Governor, the church will be locked at all times to limit traffic in the building to keep our staff healthy. However, the Church Office will be available for calls from 9:00AM-3PM Monday through Friday, as "Religious Organizations" are on the [MN Critical Business List](#) that was updated at 4 p.m. on 3/26/2020, and "[Faith Leaders and Workers](#)" are listed as item "v" under the [Exemptions – Critical Sectors](#) on the [Emergency Executive Order 20-20](#). Please feel free to call with any concerns, needs, questions, etc. If you call after these hours with an emergency, please go to Bev's voicemail for the emergency contact phone number. You may call in advance to drop off your offerings/tithes at the church or mail it to us. This will help us to keep St. Matthew's Ministries going. If you'd like information about the Automatic Giving, please contact Tammy Brunk, 507-360-8977 or Bev in the church office.

We continue to do several posts on our Facebook page each week. Pastor Mark is doing a Facebook live each weekday. Please watch for the posts and share them. **We ask your assistance with keeping all our members notified.** Therefore, if you know someone that does not use Facebook or have access to email, or our church website please pass along information to them!

Please remember in your prayers: Those with health concerns or for healing: *Donna Lee, Shirley Lerohl, Bill Smrcka, and all others.* Those battling cancer: *Tim Hansberger, Bing Lovan, Herb Mueller, Steve Rubis, Dennis Schaeckel, and all others.* We also remember in our prayers all the health care workers.

A reminder to use the RightNow Media video library. It's like the "Netflix of Video Bible Studies" and has a HUGE library of faith-based videos that you can access whenever and wherever you want – on your phone, iPad, computer or at home on your TV. There are videos for everyone – kids, youth, parents, married couples, college students, single adults, working professionals – all aimed at helping you grow. If you did not sign up when we first launched our RightNow Media subscription awhile back, please contact Bev in the church office and she can send you a new invite. We pray that RightNow Media will be a blessing for you and your family!

From our Music & Worship Ministry: When our Lenten service was cancelled last Wednesday evening, I (Lorenda) posted on my personal Facebook a request for hymns of hope and faith. I received responses from a variety of denominational backgrounds, and it was comforting to me to be able to pray for the health and safety of these friends, and to reflect on the words to the hymns that were particularly meaningful to them. Here are a few suggestions: "Abide With Me", "On Eagles' Wings", "How Great Thou Art", "Rock of Ages", "The Old Rugged Cross", "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary", "Christ Be My Leader", "Be Still My Soul", "It is Well With My Soul", "Borning Cry", "In Christ Alone", and "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less". I'm sure you can add many more to this list! Lean on the Word of God and the gift of music during this time. If you have a hymnal at home, sing or read some of your favorites. If you do not have a hymnal, Hymnary.org is an online resource you can use with access to over 1 million hymns, text, tunes, and hymnals. God's Peace, Blessings, and good health to all of you!

From Roxie Leckband: 1) Confirmation students in 5th, 6th, and 7th grades, the worship services are available on YouTube and therefore, sermon notes are still an expectation. You may download the sermon notes form from our church website. Please complete sermon notes and then email them to me at stmatthumancare@gmail.com. If you are unable to scan the finished form, please type up your notes in a Word document and email them to me that way. If you have any questions, please contact me. 2) Our Health Ministry is able to assist with deliveries of medications/medical supplies and groceries for those that are at a great risk due to Covid-19 (those over 70 or physically compromised or those with underlying or pulmonary diseases). Please contact Roxie or Bev in the church office. Scheduled days and times will be set up for this delivery service.

Resources Available on our Website: We have uploaded several **Bible Stories & Activity Sheets** for your family to print out and use. Maybe do these on Sunday mornings, like Sunday School! They are posted in the "News" section of our website. There are also a few adult coloring pages. Have you looked at the "*Pandemic Hope Family Devotional*" resources available also? This includes a daily Bible reading and suggested activities.



Our Mission Quilting Ladies have been busy making pillowcase dresses. Donations of used pillowcases, extra wide bias tape and 3/8" elastic are greatly appreciated. Embroidered dresser scarves and doilies make wonderful pockets! Donations may be placed in the "blanket drawer" in the wooden cabinet in the north entrance of the church (please call first). These dresses will be delivered to Orphan Grain Train and then sent to a location where the need is greatest.



In closing, everyone please practice "social distancing" and remain healthy. Remember we are here for you! Don't hesitate to contact us.

***"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."
Psalm 46:1***