

And I will ask the Father, and
he will give you another advocate



to help you
and
be with you
FOREVER

John 14:16 NIV

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

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

Website - www.stmatthewworthington.com

May 17th – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Scripture Readings: Acts 17:16-31
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

We continue to hope and pray that all of you are staying healthy during this uncharted time. Our entire way of living has changed in the last couple months. **Yet, we need to remember, in the middle of it all, God is always with us!** These newsletters are only posted on our website and emailed to those who wish to receive by email. **PLEASE, PLEASE help us keep ALL our members informed. If you know someone that does not have internet or Facebook, please give that person a call to check up on them and share this newsletter with them.** Thank you for your help with this!

From our Music & Worship Ministry:

Isaac Hedstrom will be singing LSB 603 "We Know That Christ is Raised" for our offertory music during our Sunday Traditional service. This is a mid-20th century hymn, first published in "New Songs for the Church" in 1969. The words were written by Rev. John Brownlow Geyer (Born Scotland, 1932). Based on Romans 6:3-11, the first line of this hymn draws heavily upon Romans 6:9, "*For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.*" The hymn is a celebration of Christ's Easter victory over death, our rebirth through Holy Baptism, and the power of the Holy Spirit who dwells in all who believe and are baptized. The hymn proclaims, "*We know that Christ is raised and dies no more. Alleluia!*" (vs 1) "*As living members of a living Christ*" (vs 2) let us go forth and share this glorious Easter hope with others. A special "thank you" to Isaac for leading our liturgy and hymns for our recorded services. Your gifts and talents are greatly appreciated!

Bible Studies with Pastor Mark via ZOOM:

- Sundays 9:30-10:30 a.m. = Meeting ID: 716-5937-8549 and Password: 075313
- Tuesdays 8-9 a.m. = Meeting ID: 979-018-388 and Password: 524807

If you do not already have the app downloaded you can use any internet browser and go to zoom.us and that will take you directly to the main Zoom web page. At the top of the page click on "join a meeting" and enter the IDs and passwords above.

St. Matthew's Social Media:

- Facebook = Facebook.com/stmattworthington - Pastor Mark does Facebook Lives occasionally.
- Church App = St. Matthew Worthington MN (*red background with white Missouri-Synod cross*).
- We also have a "Twitter" account.

Please remember in your prayers: Those with health concerns or for healing: *Shirley Lerohl, Daryl Quiring, Bill Smrcka, John Widvey, and all others.* Those battling cancer: *Tim Hansberger, Bing Lovan, Joel Rogers, Steve Rubis, Dennis Schaeckel, and all others.* We remember the family of Donna Lee, as Donna has passed to her heavenly home.

Resources Available on our Website (website address is at the top of this newsletter):

- Bible Stories & Activity Sheets for your family to print out.
- Weekly Children's Bulletins to go along with our worship services.
- Adult coloring pages.
- "Pandemic Hope Family Devotional" resources.

A big THANK YOU to those who have mailed in or dropped off their church offerings. Also, to those who have signed up for the Automatic Giving. You are a blessing!

Consistent offerings will help keep the St. Matthew's Ministries going during this time. If you'd like more information about Automatic Giving, please contact our Church Treasurer, Tammy Brunk, 507-360-8977, or Bev in the church office.

Something NEW regarding your offering/tithing - You can now give your offering via an App called "Vanco GivePlus". You can search for this App in your AppStore and download it to your phone, iPad/tablet, etc. Once the App is downloaded, you may set up an account with your E-mail and a Password, or you can do a one-time giving option with the "Give Now" button. It will also ask you to search for a church, make sure you get the St Matthews Lutheran Church that is in Worthington, MN as there are many St. Matthew's listed.

WORSHIP SERVICES: Traditional and Contemporary worship services continue to be recorded and uploaded to our YouTube channel. These services are recorded on Fridays and made available on YouTube by Sunday mornings. Facebook posts are done to let you know when the videos are available. The YouTube link is posted on our church's website under the "News" section and in our church's App. **The local Worthington Cable TV also airs our worship services** at 11AM on both Sundays and Mondays. If you do not see it on channel 3, Mediacom subscribers tune to channel 117.2 and VAST subscribers can tune to channel 300. **We are optimistic that we may be able to hold worship services by the end of May in a modified way with extra sanitizing and precautions taking place.** Please watch for more information to be mailed out.

From Jenna Bents:

- We will have a **high school parent ZOOM meeting** on Monday, May 18th at 7:30 p.m. I will send out the link to parents ahead of time.
- We will have two more high school ZOOM meetings for the month of May, on the 20th and 27th at 5:00 p.m.
- We would like to celebrate our seniors! The Senior Breakfast and Recognition has been rescheduled to Sunday, August 2nd, but **we would still like to do something extra special for them the week of their graduation! Any congregation members who would like to make cards for our high school seniors, please have them delivered to the church by May 27th.** I will deliver the gifts and cards to the seniors that evening.

The names of our seniors are:

Zach Ahrenstorff	Alyssa Bosma	Hunter Boomgarden
Bethany Dorschner	Kaylee Gerdes	Nathan Goedtke
Austin Heimgartner	Carter Hokeness	Traeton Holt
Brooke VanEde	Ashley Kleve	DeLayne Kuhl
Jasmine Riley	Jennifer Preuss	Jace Paplow
Neveah Schreiber	Tyler Wolford	

It is St. Matthew's turn to deliver Mobile Meals for the month of June. They are doing "no-contact delivery" during this pandemic time. If you have any questions or would like to help with this ministry in June, please contact Pat Arnt at 507-360-8717.

Have you checked out RightNow Media lately? Our church subscribes to this extensive, video library. It is 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 – all aimed at helping you grow. Some recent videos have been added relating to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Contact Bev in the church office for more information.

From Roxie Leckband:

- Confirmation students in 5th-7th grades, please e-mail me a weekly sermon note relating to our Sunday YouTube worship services. You should have received a text from me in relationship to this. I will add your name to the drawing as I get your notes.
- Our Human Care & Health Ministry are here to help. If you need help getting groceries or other essential items please contact me at the church or my cell, 712-260-3820.
- I am reaching out for individuals who are in need of disinfectant supplies. The Nobles County Public Health has been contacted by the Minnesota Department of Health for families who are in need and are unable to go to a store to get disinfectant supplies. These supplies are for families who have tested positive for Covid-19 and working to keep it from spreading to family members and the community. Since stores are limiting 1 item per person, the supplies available to those in need has decreased. What I am asking is, if you do not need bleach or disinfectant wipes, please purchase, and donate it to those who are in need. In the long run this will be advantageous in decreasing the spread of Covid-19. Here is the list from the MN Dept of Health: any type of disinfectant wipes (does not need to be name brand), bleach (any size container, generic is fine), alcohol-based cleaners or spray (at least 70% alcohol, i.e. 409 Cleaner). Other cleaning and personal supplies needed are: hand soap, hand sanitizers, dish soap, toilet tissue, paper towels, disposable gloves, reusable rubber gloves (for households to disinfect). These items do NOT come from our Love INC Gap Ministry of cleaning supplies. Please contact me with any questions. I have a long list of items with their chemical names. Please contact me or the church office when you have items to drop off. I will then deliver to where they need to go. Thanks for being the “Hands and Feet of Jesus.”

From Kathy Roslansky, LWML President: All LWML events are cancelled until further notice. Be safe ladies. Call me if you have any questions, 507-360-1831.

Due to the Coronavirus situation, the church is ALWAYS LOCKED to limit traffic in the building to keep our staff healthy. **However, the church office is available by phone from 9AM-3PM Monday-Friday.** Please feel free to call with any concerns, needs, questions, etc. You may also call to drop off your offerings and we will meet you at the door. If you call with a Pastoral Emergency after office hours, please go to Bev’s voicemail for the emergency contact phone number.

“Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.” Romans 5:3-6

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU - DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL.