

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN

May 2015 Newsletter

From Pastor Brech

Greetings Fellow Members of Christ Body – The Church:

This is the month that some memorable things take place. It won't be long before your new pastor arrives for installation in the local congregation Office of the Holy Ministry. God has been good to us. Then it will be time for me to go and we both can recall this past year and the making of memories as we have put some time in together at war with Satan – our weapon – God's Holy Word and the Sacraments.

This month also marks Memorial Day. That annual celebration is worth noting. We have Memorial reminders scattered all around the country – statues, buildings, parks, streets, schools, mountain peaks, books, grave stones – all dedicated to heroes, public servants, and loved ones. Originally Memorial Day was known as Decoration Day to honor Americans who gave their lives for their country in the days of the Civil War. Since that time those involved in the Spanish American war, World Wars I and II, the Korean conflict, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Afghanistan, and Iraq have been included. Decoration Day originated with Major General John A. Logan May 30, 1868. Ultimately the U.S. Government declared it Memorial Day in 1966. Consider the Preamble to the Constitution of American Legion.

“For God and country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

- To Uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States
- Maintain law and order
- Foster and perpetuate a 100% Americanism
- Preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars
- Combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses
- Make right the master of might
- Promote peace and good will on earth
- Safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy
- Consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness

Certainly these are wholesome purposes and worthwhile reflecting on their present day value.

We are also engaged in a war of principles and values right here in the United States of America. There are forces that would tear down the principles that have held us together in a UNITED States. We need to be informed citizens to recognize and fight with our votes for the things we have so appreciated and enjoyed in the freedoms we have in America.

In this day of intolerant tolerance the Christian faith with its principles is worth fighting for. It involves not just the life for this world but eternity. Not just anything goes. God has given us the Operations manual for life under Him in His Kingdom. That Manual is not man's opinion but His Word. The lives we live and the lives our soldiers gave for their country are valuable and precious. Jesus fought the battle against sin, death and the devil and won. We get the spoils of His war – freedom, forgiveness, and salvation. Thanks for this honor and privilege of speaking my piece regarding our precious treasurers – Jesus and country. Take some time to remember our service men this Memorial Day weekend and our Lord every week.



A Little Information about Pastor Mark Schreiber and his family:

The Schreibers

I know a lot of you have been as anxious to meet us as we are to meet you. Before we arrive on the scene next month I would like to take a few minutes to introduce us to you. I grew up in North Central Iowa in the happy little town of Garner, IA. During those years the number one priority was whatever sport was in season. I loved them all, especially football season. Go Cardinals! Looking back on those years the biggest date that stands out is Saturday, January 11, 1992. That is the day I had my first date and dance with the lovely Joy Marie Hansen. If you are wondering how the math works out there, she was 15 and I was 16, yes high school sweethearts. We have been basically inseparable since that winter formal dance, and God continues to bless our marriage and our lives together.

Joy and I both attended Concordia University Wisconsin where I received a B.A. Degree that prepared me to go to seminary and Joy received B.A. in music. We choose to go to Fort Wayne as our Seminary of choice because Joy was given a free-ride to Notre Dame to pursue a Masters Degree in music. In 2002 we received our first call out of seminary to Family of Christ Lutheran Church in Houlton, WI. It has been a wonderful ministry here and we have been blessed by working with great people and doing some neat things in the Kingdom of God. Joy recently has switched gears career wise as she has pursued and received licensing as a Special Education Teacher. She is looking forward to working in the Worthington High School this fall.

In our free time Joy and I both greatly enjoy the outdoors by landscaping in the yard, gardening, or enjoying a hike in the woods. One of our biggest highlights this past year was a Southwest US "exploration" where we trekked last May. In 11 days we drove 3,737 miles, hit 5 National Parks (Grand Canyon, Bryce, Arches, Zion, and the Colorado National Monument), stayed in 7 different 'cowboy cabins,' and hiked 35 miles through all sorts of terrain. Get this: we ate out at McDonald's a mere 2 times. Otherwise we took all food with us. 66 hours of van-filled, family fun!

Next I would like to introduce our three boys to you, youngest to oldest.

Ben age 9

Ben has always enjoyed being shuffled around after everyone else's activities. Ha! This year he contributed his own level of chaos to the group, enjoying soccer, basketball, and baseball. He loves piano, especially jazzy, fast music. Our natural-born tree-hugger and his neighborhood cohorts spent last summer trying to rescue every little lost animal they could find or dig up, and re-creating not-so-natural habitats in our backyard. Molly, our wonder-dog, found great entertainment in all the hoopla. The traumatized voles, birds, turtles, and lizard-like things that were 'rescued' consequently experienced a population reduction.

Isaac age 13

Isaac follows in his father's footsteps, proudly playing the trombone in the middle school band, and enjoyed marching in various parades this past summer. There has never been a cuter trombonist who takes such pride in his music! He shocked us all by going out for cross-country last fall (only with a fairly large bribe promised upon completion) and he LIKED it. Wonder of wonder, miracle of miracles!! Talk about the "Little engine that could." He loves school and the opportunities it provides. His mean mother even forced him onto a big roller coaster this summer, and he found out he likes that too, go figure. Our apologies go out to anyone who happened to be near us that day and happened to witness the trauma.

Caleb age 15

Caleb loved running cross-country this past fall. He had a bit of a frustrating season due to knee problems. He also enjoys playing the trumpet in the band, forensics (speech), Ski Club, and tennis. He was the only freshmen to make it to state this year in forensics (speech). There might be a budding preacher in our midst. He gave up piano for a while this past summer and fall, but is now re-energized, playing for church on Wednesday evenings as time allows. He just recently completed all of his requirements to become an Eagle Scout, and a ceremony is coming soon. He had a great experience together with our youth group this past summer serving at a work-camp in Virginia for a week

In the Love of Christ,
Pastor Mark, Joy, Caleb, Isaac, and Ben

Meet & Greet

for Pastor Mark Schreiber & Family

Saturday, May 2nd at 10:30AM in the church basement.

Come enjoy donuts/coffee cake, juice, coffee and fellowship!

YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

by Roxann Leckband

Young Moms/Women's Group will be on May 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th from 10:00-11:30AM. **Please NOTE we will not have group on the 1st but WILL have group on the 29th.** Ladies come and enjoy Christian fellowship and a time in God's Word. Children come and enjoy Bible stories, crafts, singing, and food. We would love to see you.

Family Night: As a result of High school graduations the weekend of May 17th, Memorial Day weekend on the May 24th and Pastor Schreibers's installation on May 31st **we will NOT have a family night in May.** See you on June 21st for the next family night.

Young Adult Night will be Monday, May 18th at 6:30PM at the Hickory Lodge. Come for fun and Christian fellowship. As you dine on good food and participate in a time of God's Word let us remember the grace we have received. Please feel free to invite a friend. We look forward to seeing you.

Volunteers are needed for Vacation Bible School, anyone who can help 1 day or every day, 1 hour or 6 hours per day please contact Roxie.

Last day of Sunday school will be on May 17th. Please continue to bring your child/children to worship there is no greater gift you can give them. Pray with your children and read the Bible with them as part of your daily routine. There are great Bibles with excellent illustrations that are written for the younger child to understand. The CPH (Concordia Publishing House) "Story Bible" and "My First Bible" also from CPH would be two very good options to read to your child when they are non-readers.

Noon Fellowship will be on Monday, May 11th at 12:00 noon. Everyone is invited. Our menu for this month is chicken noodle casserole, green beans, and a dinner roll. Please bring a dish to pass, provide a free will offering or just bring yourself. There will be food and a time in God's Word.

I am excited to announce St. Matthew Lutheran will have a softball team for the 2nd year! Anyone who is 15 years or OLDER are encouraged to play. If you are interested in playing you can contact John Holeton (425-2770), Kent Brunk (360-9863), Theresa Riley (376-5938) or Roxie. We will be having team t-shirts this year. I look forward to a great year of fun as we come together as a church family "One in Christ."

The Rite of Confirmation Worship Service will be on Sunday, May 3rd at 2 p.m. Confirmands are to be at the church by 1:00 p.m. sharp for pictures!

Quilt presentation and Graduate Breakfast for our High School Seniors will be on Sunday, May 10th. Everyone is invited to the breakfast (at 9:15 a.m.) to wish our High School graduates well. Our graduates this year include: Jessica Arnt, Jaden Broesder, Eric Fletcher, Shelby Fuerst, Brigid Hegarty, Caleb Kill, Morgan Metz, Morgan Sauer, Alexandra Schulz, Alyssa Sounthala, Austin Steinle, Joshua VanWatermeulen, Miles Veen. Parents/Graduates: Please contact me or the church office if we missed someone.

YOUTH NEWS

Please refer to the lime green insert in this newsletter for all of our Youth Happenings!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL / DAY CAMP

VBS will be held **June 15 through June 19**. Everyone is welcome and we encourage your child to bring a friend. We will meet Monday through Thursday from 9:00am-3:00pm, and on Friday we will meet from 9:00am to 12:00 noon at Pioneer Village. Parents/guardians please note: On Friday, June 19 please note children are to be dropped off at Pioneer Village at 9am and picked up from Pioneer Village at 12 noon that day. Camp Omega will once again be providing the programming. Lunch will be provided every day for the children. This year's theme is "*More Than Conquerors...Romans 8:35, 37*" **Please register by June 1st!** Registration forms are available on our church website, www.stmattheworthington.com and at the church entrances. It is a REQUIREMENT of Camp Omega that registrations are completed BEFORE your child may attend.

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.

*It's that time of year...high school graduations. If the need for tables and chairs arises, remember, you **MUST check with the church office FIRST before borrowing anything** from the church. **Arrangements must be made** through the church office for pickup and return times. Thank You*



**Mark your calendars - Join us for an
Ascension of Our Lord Worship Service
on Thursday, May 14th at 6:30 p.m.**

CHURCH RECORDS

Death

- Arnold Kazemba passed away April 14, 2015.
- Vernice Kuhl passed away April 19, 2015. Funeral services were held on April 24, 2015.

Baptism

- Zoie Ann Chantharath, daughter of Tyler Nienkerk & Thongsay Chantharath was baptized April 19, 2015. Sponsors are Daeng & Amy Khamphanh.

New Members

After attending classes and completing instruction with Pastor Brech, the following became a part of our Church Family on March 29: Patrick & Teresa Riley and daughters Jasmine, Ashley & Calah Ling; Dale & Laura Bosma; Ryan & Sarah Kesler; Amanda Nasers and Tyler Engelkes. A warm welcome to all of you!

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to provide flowers for the altar, please sign-up on the sheet located on the bulletin board in the back of the church (Narthex). **Please sign up at least 2 weeks in advance**, or contact Ruth Ramert, 372-7225. If you have graciously provided altar flowers for our worship services, please return the plastic pots to the church. We reuse these containers to provide us with beautiful bouquets each week. Flowers are ordered from McCarthy's Floral. If you would like your flowers ordered from Hy-Vee there are some extra instructions – please contact Ruth for more information. Thank You!

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Miriam Circle will meet on Monday, May 18th at 1:30 p.m. at Sharon Rueter's home. The Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 19th at 5:15 p.m. in the Youth Room. The Sarah Circle will also meet on Tuesday, May 19th at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Martha Circle will meet on Thursday, May 21st at 1:30 p.m. at Deloris Lohr's home.

MISSION SEWING

The Mission Sewing group is now meeting twice a month. They will meet on Thursdays, May 14th and 28th from 9a.m. to 1 p.m. in the downstairs large classroom. If you have an hour or two, stop by and help out, it would be much appreciated.

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Serving in May will be Kathy Roslansky and Lynn Dierks for the 8 AM services. If you would like to be a part of the Altar Guild please contact Velma Cortright, 376-5600 or Sandy Meyer, 372-6290. The **Annual Potluck for Altar Guild members and their spouses will take place on Monday, May 11th at 6 p.m. in the Fireside Room.** Sign-up sheets will be available for the October 2015-September 2016 schedule. Contact Velma Cortright with any questions.

A BIG Thank You goes out to the congregation for providing lilies and plants to beautify our church for Easter.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



Every Sunday, following the 8 a.m. service, you are invited to the basement for coffee and fellowship. A free-will donation is received to cover the expenses and benefit the various projects. The first and second Sundays of the month, there is opportunity for your church group to host the 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.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Thank you to all who were PRAYER INTERCESSORS for the 7 and 8th grade Confirmation students. A quote from Chuck Swindoll's book, "The Quest for Character" says it so clearly: "There is no more significant involvement in another's life than prevailing, consistent prayer." Thank you again for being a part of this very powerful ministry and for your commitment to pray for the youth of St. Matthew. They have truly been blessed by you. *Ruth 2:12: May the Lord repay you for what you have done.*

LWML NEWS

Since Kathy Roslansky will be gone on the 1st Thursday in May, **there will be a meeting for LWML on Wednesday, May 6th at 1:30 p.m.** We will plan the Ladies' Night Out for June. Lunch will be potluck appetizers. Sarah Circle will host the May 17th coffee hour.

Wanted: Technicians

If you possess, or would like to learn, computer, camera, or sound board skills and share your talent/skill for our worship services, please contact Bev in the church office, 376-6168, or talk with one of the current technicians. A brief training and support are provided. We are in NEED of some operators!

MUSIC & WORSHIP NEWS

*“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.”
Ecclesiastes 3:1*



The month of May brings to a close a number of seasons at St. Matthews, and the beginning of a new season in the life of our congregation. We look forward to Pastor Schreiber beginning his ministry at St. Matthews at the end of the month. It is also with some sadness that we bid farewell to Pastor Brech and Jan, who have been such a blessing to us during the past 15 months.

During the seasons of Lent and Easter we were blessed with beautiful special music at each of our services. Thank you to all who so willingly shared their musical gifts.

Our adult and handbell choirs close their season this month as well. A special thank you to the members of both choirs, and their director Louise Clausen for the wonderful music they have provided for our worship services this past year. A big thank you also to our choir accompanist, Linda Lang, for sharing her talents at St. Matthews. As our choirs take the summer season off from rehearsals, there will be opportunities for singers and instrumentalists to share their musical talents during our June, July, and August worship services.

Members of our congregation are entering new seasons in their lives. Our worship band drummers, Jessica Arnt and Alicia Darling, graduate from high school this month. We thank these talented young people for their faithful service to our worship band. We will need new drummers to fill their spots when these young ladies leave for college. Please contact Amy Khamphanh or Susan Hansberger if you are interested in auditioning.

As the seasons change from spring to more summer-like weather, our pianos and pipe organ will be tuned. Some repair and maintenance was done on our pipe organ immediately after Easter--the good news being that the repairs needed were not as extensive (or as expensive!) as originally anticipated.

God has faithfully provided for our needs during this season of transition at St. Matthews, and we can trust His provision as we enter a new season in the life of our congregation.

God's Blessings,

Lorenda Glade, Interim Director of Traditional Music

Susan Hansberger, Amy Khamphanh, Interim Directors of Contemporary Music

Y.I. CLUB STAMPS

When you help young people save for the future through the Young Investors (Y.I.) Club Stamp Program from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), those dollars also help others learn about Jesus. These special investments empower ministry!

Even though stamp sales have been put on hold until Sunday School resumes in the fall, investments can be mailed in to:

Attn Y.I. Stamp Program
Lutheran Church Extension Fund
PO Box 229009
St. Louis, MO. 63122-9761

Please include the child's name and account number. Please keep track of the amount and I will add a brick with their name to our church bulletin board for each \$25 invested.

Have a wonderful summer! I will see you all again in September! Keep saving!

LaVonne Berglund

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone that graciously brought bars and beverages to the Lenten services and to those who helped serve in the kitchen. Your time and help is greatly appreciated in serving, to bring fellowship to others. God Bless each of you!

Dear Family and Friends in Christ,

Thank you so much for all the cards, special phone calls and well wishes for my 80th birthday. I thank and praise God for the blessings He has given me through my friends and family. May God richly bless each and every one of you.

Maureen Leckband Hellinga

A very big THANK YOU to Ilona Benson for making our Baptismal cloth napkins. You do such a beautiful job and a wonderful service for the church and families.

“Lutheran Witness” Subscriptions

TIME TO RENEW or start a new subscription to this wonderful magazine, Lutheran Witness. This year’s renewal fee is \$19.26 for a year’s subscription. If you would like to renew your subscription, or would like to start a new subscription please contact Bev in the church office, 376-6168 **by May 27th**. **When you order this magazine through the church it includes a special insert that keeps you up to date on all of the Minnesota South District happenings.**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

**Installation Service
for Pastor Mark Schreiber
Sunday, May 31st at 1:30 p.m.**

Also, all members are invited to a dinner following the 10:30AM worship service on May 31st. We would like to welcome Pastor Schreiber and his family with a gift card shower.

**You may purchase a gift card of your choice, such as:
gas, groceries, haircuts, restaurants, etc.**

MOVING CREW NEEDED

We are organizing a moving crew for Pastor Schreiber and we will need volunteers with strong backs, 9-12 people would be great! The actual date has not been set yet but will be May 26, 27 or 28th. Please contact Nathan Holt, 370-1297, if you are able to be a part of the “Moving Crew.”

Highlights from the April 13, 2015 Council Meeting

The actual Minutes cannot be printed because they have not yet been approved.

Treasurer's Report – Expenses for March of \$27,460.28; income of \$41,826.50 for net income for the month of \$13,316.71. Building Loan balance at \$143,434.35; Memorial Fund balance is \$24,962.77; and Scholarship Fund is at \$640,018.96.

Staff Reports – Pastor Brech: Average weekend attendance in March was 292; average Lenten service attendance was 167. Roxie: Focusing on completion of confirmation classes and conducting exams to determine the students' knowledge base. Last day for Sunday School will be May 17th. I am helping to lead abstinence training at the Worthington Middle School. Lorenda: Needed organ repairs were done on April 6th with a cost of \$1,150. This was less than the original estimate of \$2,000. Adult choir members would like to wear the choir robes more frequently and the robes and stoles are in need of cleaning. Price quotes from dry cleaners will be obtained and budgets checked to see how to proceed. Choir Director, Louise Clausen would like to purchase some hand chimes. Will look at costs and budgets before proceeding. With the upcoming graduations of two of our Worship Band drummers, the Worship Band will be in need of new drummers.

Board of Elders – Pastor Brech will conduct an Ascension Service on Thursday, May 14th. Pastor Schreiber will be in Worthington for a “meet and greet” at the church from 10:30a.m. to noon on May 2nd. Pastor Schreiber will be attending a two week Pastoral Leadership institute. Nathan Holt is organizing a moving crew for Pastor Schreiber and family the week of May 26th. We have 3 truck & trailers and 3 drivers, but need additional people to help load and unload. Volunteers are asked to contact Nathan Holt if able to help.

Board of Trustees – Front door of the church will now be open for all services. A blower for one of the Education Wing furnaces was replaced. A leaking pipe above the water heater will also be replaced. Working with our insurance company to make sure that we have adequate coverage for the organ, electronics, video & audio equipment and the stained glass windows. North door camera system parts have been received and wiring needs to be done prior to installation of the equipment. Bats are back! Continue to look at how they are getting in.

Board of Education – We had over 60 students sing for the Palm Sunday services. Preparing for Confirmands Reception and Vacation Bible School.

Board of Missions – Pastor Ryan McDermott will be sent to Ghana to work with the Deaf Ministry. Costs for him to serve there are \$200,000 per year and he must cover 75% of that cost. A request will be presented at the April Voters Meeting to consider a donation for this ministry.

Board of Evangelism – Prayer Intercessors will be introduced, to the student for whom they have been praying, at the Confirmation Reception/Faith Statements on April 29th.

Board of Youth – 25 youth and adults from St. Matthew participated in the mobile pack for Feed My Starving Children and the St. Matthew group alone packed enough meals for 91 children for one year. Approximately 200 people were served Easter Breakfast by the youth. Only 3 Wednesday night youth meetings left before summer break.

Old Business – The following slate of officers for election at the April voters meeting has been published: Board of Elders – Ron Iverson, Barry Sauer and Tim Hansberger; Board of Trustees – Kirk Feit and Clarence Mess.

New Business – Nathan Holt has been appointed to fulfill the remainder of Council President Mike Traphagen's term through June 2016.

Other – Council members expressed their appreciation to Mike Traphagen for all of his service to St. Matthew as he and Patty prepare for their move to the Alexandria, MN area in May.

Worthington High School Baccalaureate

Everyone is invited to the WHS gymnasium on Wed., May 13 at 7 PM for the WHS Baccalaureate service. This worship service is led by graduating seniors as a Christian send off ceremony. All seniors are asked to arrive by 6:45 PM and should wear their graduation gown without their caps. The entire community is encouraged to come show their support and to worship God in a spirit of unity!

May 2015 Acolyte & Nursery Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 Nursery</u>
May 3	Jasmine Ling	Ivy Paplow	Faith Arnt, Beth White
May 10	Hunter Buntjer	Zach Ahrenstorff	Laci Boomgarden, Gail Holinka
May 17	Bailey Sounthala	Alyssa Bosma	Jessalyn Broesder, Jessica Larson
May 24	Austin Barber	Hunter Boomgarden	Nayeli Perez-Blas, Heather Knigge
May 31	Brandon Arzu-Bustad	Bethany Dorschner	Mackenzie Meyeraan, Val Wolford
June 7	Ashley Ling	Traeton Holt	Ivy Paplow, Gail Holinka

If you are unable to make your scheduled time – please switch with someone and then let the church office know of the change, 376-6168. Thank You



May 2015 Greeter Schedule

**Please Note: If you are unable to fulfill your scheduled time, please find someone to switch dates/times with and then let the church office know of the change. Thank You for serving in this ministry.*

May 3	8 AM 10:30	Keith & Margaret Schroeder Bruce & Shawn Boomgarden
May 10	8 AM 10:30	Elden Ponto; Donna Lee Alan & Gail DeGrote; John & Jessica Widvey
May 17	8 AM 10:30	David & LaVonne Holt David & Alexie Cross; John & Jessica Widvey
May 24	8 AM 10:30	YOUTH YOUTH
May 31	8 AM 10:30	Barry & Kerry Sauer Cheri Schmidt; Marlene Jurgensen
June 7	8 AM 10:30	Jim & Eloise Langseth Joel & Julie Lorenz

If YOU would like to be a greeter at our services, please contact the church office to be added to the list.