

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN

May 2016 Newsletter

A Month to Remember

In the book of Acts there is a phrase that says: “Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God.” Throughout the Bible, there are many things that are done to help God’s people remember the acts that were done for them by God. The Passover Meal is a memorial done annually to remind the Hebrew people of the time of the Exodus when the angel of death “passed over” them because of their faithfulness. Every communion service includes the Words of Institution which quote Jesus saying, “Do this in remembrance of me.”

This month we have a few events that cause us to “remember.” Mother’s Day specifically remembers the role of mothers. We often do small favors to give mom a break, and show our appreciation through notes and quotes on cards. It is also traditional to remember them with special meals and homemade gifts.

The first Sunday in May is the day that we will be confirming fourteen of our young people. They are confirming the promises that were made for them at the time of their Baptism. Their parents had made a promise to see to their child’s instruction in the Christian Faith. Confirmation helps parents and Confirmands to “remember” those promises of baptism, as they assume an adult role within the congregation.

And at the end of the month we come to “Memorial Day.” This is the day set aside to remember all those who have died to help defend the freedoms we enjoy every day. There have been many brave men and women who have served our nation faithfully and we remember their sacrifices.

Yes – May is a month for remembrances and memorials. EVERY day should be a day when we remember all that God has done for us. EVERY Sunday is a memorial of the resurrection – not just Easter Sunday. EVERY time we share the sacrament of Holy Communion we do it, “in remembrance of him.” So remember your Mothers, our Confirmands, and the brave men and women who have served our country, but be sure to remember the one who gives us true love, faith, and freedom—Jesus Christ our risen and victorious Savior.

In Christ,
Pastor Mark



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

We will be moving our Saturday night services to Wednesday nights for a trial basis from June 1st through Labor Day.

Therefore, Summer Worship Schedule is as follows:

Wednesday Worship at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday Worship at 8:00 a.m. (Traditional) and 10:30 a.m. (Contemporary)

YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

by Roxann Leckband

Noon Fellowship will be on May 9th at 12:00 noon. The menu will include meatballs, corn, mashed potatoes with gravy and dinner roll. You may bring a dish to pass, provide a monetary donation, or just bring yourself. We would love to have you join us. This will be a great time of fellowship, good food and God's Word. We have been having great attendance. Thank you to Marlis and Steve who continually serve as our host and hostess. They are deeply appreciated.

NO Family night in May due to conflicts with graduations. See you on June 19th for a grill out!

Mom's Group will be on May 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th from 10:00-11:30 a.m. The ladies will be participating in a Bible Study and the children will have Bible story time, crafts, games and a snack. The ladies providing child care on a routine basis are: Karen Knigge, March Ruesch and Sandy Meyer. Thank you for serving. You are a blessing!

The Rite of Confirmation will be on May 1st at the 10:30 worship service. St Matthew's has 14 eighth grade students being confirmed this year. Please keep these young people in your prayers: Zach Ahrenstorff, Alyssa Bosma, Hunter Boomgarden, Bethany Dorschner, Kaylee Gerdes, Nathan Goedtko, Austin Heimgartner, Carter Hokeness, Traeton Holt, Jasmine Ling, Jennifer Preuss, Jace Paplow, Neveah Schreiber, and Tyler Wolford.

The last day of Sunday school for this season will be on May 22nd. Sunday school will resume on September 11th, 2016. Please keep the children in God's word through weekly worship attendance and at home by doing daily Scripture readings and devotions.

Vacation Bible School Day Camp will be June 13-17. Monday through Thursday will be from 9a.m.-3pm. and Friday will be from 9a.m.-12noon. St. Matthew will once again be partnering with Camp Omega to provide this program. Ages that may attend VBS are: those children who have completed preschool through 5th grade (preschoolers must be potty trained). Children in 6th grade are welcome to register and be helpers. 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 eh parent/guardian if needed. Registration forms are on the table in the Great Hall and by the Sanctuary door by the elevator. Registration forms may also be found on our website. **Please note ALL forms must be completed in order to enroll your child/children.**

Attention Everyone: Everyone is invited to the WHS gymnasium on Wednesday, May 18 at 7:00 p.m. 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 6:45pm and should wear their graduation gown without their caps or stoles. The entire community is encouraged to come show their support and to worship God in a spirit of unity.

Congratulations and God's richest blessings to our (11) High school seniors who will be graduating: Kelicy Anderson, King Blanchette, Nikkie Bounsavang, Stephen Dorschner, Mason Kill, Jason Meyer, Michael Preuss, Hser Eh Pwae, Hser Moo Pwae, Torey Rogers, and Brendan Spittle.

Church Softball planning is in the works. We will be having a St. Matthew's team. More details to come. Active playing will begin the first part of June. Contact Roxie with any questions.

YOUTH NEWS

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

CHURCH RECORDS

Baptisms

- Addison Peralta-Cross, daughter of David Cross & Tana Barrie was baptized on April 3, 2016. Sponsors were: Kelicey Anderson, Nathan Mejia, Robert Barrie, Marina Peralta.
 - Hser Eh Pwae & Hser Moo Pwae were baptized on April 24, 2016. Sponsors were Bryon & Bev Spittle.
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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 Martha Circle will meet on Thursday, May 19 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 17th at 5:15 p.m. in the Youth Room. The Sarah Circle will also meet on Tuesday, May 17th at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

MISSION SEWING

The Mission Sewing group is now meeting twice a month. They will meet on Thursdays, May 12th and 26th 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 Sandy Meyer and Marge Ruesch 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 9th 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.

*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.** Roasters are NOT to leave the church kitchen. Thank You*





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

We welcome anyone who is interested to please join our committee!

We also welcome any ideas and suggestions.

THANK YOU to all who were Secret Prayer Intercessors for our 7th & 8th grade Confirmation Students! The Secret Prayer Intercessor Program has been a rewarding and powerful way to impact the lives of our youth! May you be BLESSED for a being part of this program. *Ruth 2:12: "May the Lord repay you for what you have done."*

The Banquet is a volunteer ministry that feeds the poor and homeless in Sioux Falls, S.D. We continue to collect items for the Banquet. Simply deposit your donations in the wooden collection box along the west wall in the basement. They accept silverware, cool whip containers, plastic bags, hotel sized shampoos etc. This verse comes to mind: *Matthew 25:35: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you took me in."*

Greeting visitors at church is an opportunity to express God's love! Our greeter list is short! Please sign up and become an important part of the hospitality ministry of our church and share God's love in that way. Thank you for serving!

LWML NEWS

The May meeting for LWML will be on Wednesday, May 4th at 1:30 p.m. Executive board will meet at 1:00 p.m. Please note change of date. We will discuss the upcoming Ladies Night Out planned for June 9th. Remember your Mite Box Offerings! Please bring a treat to pass for lunch (appetizers, bars, cookies). Sarah Circle will host the May 15th Coffee Hour.

Wanted: Technicians

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! Due to three of our current sound techs/projectionists leaving the area in the near future, we desperately need some people to step forward to help with this vital part of our ministry. We need additional techs at both services, but particularly for the 8:00AM services. Training and support will be provided. Thank you for prayerfully considering this need.

Y.I. CLUB STAMPS

The last day to purchase stamps for this Sunday School year will be May 15. Remember you can add to your account all summer by sending a check directly to L.C.E.F. I hope to see you all when Sunday School resumes in the fall. Have a great summer!

God Bless,

LaVonne Berglund, Y.I. Club Stamp Coordinator

“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 (same as last year). 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 25th**. *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.*

MUSIC & WORSHIP NEWS

“I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord forever.” Psalm 89:1a

As the adult choir and bell choir year come to a close, we would like to give a big thank you to all of our choir participants for their special music during the past nine months. A special thank you to our director, Louise Clausen, and to our accompanist, Linda Lang. We appreciate your willingness to be a part of our music ministry team.

As we look forward to the summer months, we will see a change to our worship schedule. We will continue our Sunday 8:00 AM Traditional and 10:30 AM Contemporary services. Our Saturday evening service will be replaced by a Wednesday evening service. It is hoped that this change will allow people who are out of town on the weekend the opportunity to still be able to worship with their St. Matthew family. More details will be in our bulletins.

It is a joy and privilege for us to serve God and our church family through our music ministries at St. Matthew Lutheran. Joy and I, along with church leadership, will continue during the summer months to examine ways we can further our music ministry here at St. Matthew.



God’s Blessings,
Lorenda Glade & Joy Schreiber, Directors of Music

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone who remembered me on my 90th birthday. It was much appreciated.
Arlene Bents

Thank you to Pastor Mark and my church family for the prayers, cards, gifts and hugs I received for my 80th birthday. I will always cherish the memories. God’s Blessings to each of you.
Marlene Jurgensen

Thank you to St. Matthew congregation for the kind expressions of sympathy offered in the passing of Mary’s mother.
Dave & Mary Krueger



Daryl & Karen Doeden delivered 16 boxes to Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk, NE on February 26, 2016. In this shipment were 32 quilts, 5 blankets, 2 throws and 7 baby blankets. Also shipped were 35 pillow case dresses which will be shipped to Haiti or Africa. The pillowcase dresses were made by JoAnn Smith.

If you have pillow cases, pillow shams, extra wide double-fold bias tape, gathered or flat cotton eyelet ribbon or crocheted dollies, please drop them in the blanket drawer at the north entrance. We will use them to make more pillow case dresses.

The Mission Sewing Group is in need of filler material. Old Blankets, mattress pads, spreads, sheets, etc. are needed. If they are in good shape, they are shipped as is. If not, we use them for fillers. We are in need of filler material now. You may place your donations in the blanket drawer at the north entrance.

Thank you for your donations!

Highlights from the April 12, 2016 Council Meeting

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

Treasurer's Report – March expenses were \$34,285.97; income was \$41,476.59; Building Fund income was \$1,635.00 and expenses were \$4,079.46; for a new income for the month of \$4,746.06. Building Loan balance is \$53,800.98. \$6,833.62 in Adopt-A-Day monies were received in March. Memorial Fund Balance is \$40,864.40. Scholarship Fund total is \$614,613.25.

Staff Reports – *Pastor Mark:* Average attendance in March was 294. Easter Sunday attendance was 501. New Member Sunday is scheduled for May 15th. Pictorial directories have arrived. If you had your picture taken, or submitted a picture, you may pick up your copy from the church office. 25 extra directories are available at a cost of \$25 if you would like to purchase one. Proceeds will go to the Building Fund. *Roxie:* Plans are in place for 29 youth and 7 adults to attend the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer. The evening events will be live-streamed on the internet for anyone who would like to view them. *Lorenda & Joy:* We continue to experience problems with the pipe organ. David Salmen, organ tuner, has suggested that we should consider some upgrades to the organ console to avoid any problems during worship services and particularly during weddings and funerals. Looking for feedback on the changes to the Easter service format. Both services were nearly identical with traditional hymns, brass and contemporary music at each service. Directors appreciate the level of special music participation in the Lenten and Holy Week services. We have a lot of talented people in our congregation.

Board of Elders – Note for future dramas during services is to have them projected on the screen as people in the back of the church could not see the performance. Sound technicians continue to have issues balancing sound with the keyboard and the worship band as the keyboard does not have a built-in equalizer. DCE Call Committee has narrowed the field of candidates to 8 and interviews will be conducted.

Board of Trustees – New LED lamps are being installed in the Sanctuary. The coat rack that was removed from the area in the Narthex where the picture display is now located has been shortened and installed in the lower level by the elevator. A new amplifier for the sound system in the Sanctuary has been installed. The railing extension for the balcony has been installed on the East side of the balcony and work continues on the west side extension. Problems with the Sunday morning broadcast of our worship service continue. Will address this with the City Administrator. Looking at replacing the drinking fountain in the basement by the kitchen.

Board of Education – Last day of Sunday School will be May 15th. Plans are finalized for Vacation Bible School; however more volunteers (age 6th grade and up) are needed. Looking at new curriculum for Sunday School in the Fall.

Board of Human Care – Will be sending packages to soldiers who are overseas in May. Addresses NEED to be turned into the office.

Old Business – Strategic Planning still to be planned.

May 2016 Acolyte & Nursery Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 Nursery</u>
May 1	Brandon Arzu-Bustad	Brynne White	Luke Gordon, Beth White
May 8	Ashley Ling	Alyssa Bosma	Eli Hansberger, Jessica Larson
May 15	Chad Buntjer	Hunter Boomgarden	Carson Wolford, Alexie Becker
May 22	Kaylee Gerdes	Nathan Goedtke	Hannah Henning, Kham Holeton
May 29	Carter Hokeness	Bethany Dorschner	Faith Arnt, Val Wolford
June 5	Austin Heimgartner	Traeton Holt	Laci Boomgarden, 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 2016 Greeter Schedule

Welcome!

**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 1	8 AM 10:30	Sandy Cuperus; Donna Lee Virgil & Donna Reed
May 8	8 AM 10:30	Dale & Bonnie Schroeder John & Marlene Moberg
May 15	8 AM 10:30	Kent Brunk, Cindy Brunk Chris & Stacy Heinrichs, Crystal Buss
May 22	8 AM 10:30	YOUTH YOUTH
May 29	8 AM 10:30	Bonnie Tille, Leonard & Marge Ruesch Greg & Roxie Leckband
June 5	8 AM 10:30	Gary & Velma Cortright Joel & Kim Rogers

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