

*St. Matthew Lutheran Church*  
*1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN*  
*May 2018 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 eleven 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*

---

**St. Matthew’s has an App!**

You may download the St. Matthew’s APP onto your phone, tablet, etc. Simply, go to your App Store and search for: **St. Matthew Worthington MN**. It will be a Missouri Synod white cross with a red background. It takes very little data to download the app. Please allow for push notifications.

You will then have access to videos of past sermons, our Facebook site, our website site, and upcoming activities! Contact the church office if you have any questions.

---

## Director of Human Care Ministry News

by Roxann Leckband

### *“Growing and Healing through Christ by Caring and Sharing”*

*If anyone is hospitalized and would like a Parish Nurse contact prior to or after discharge, please contact Roxie.*

**Noon Fellowship** will be on May 14th at 12:00 noon. The main entrée will be lasagna with garlic bread. Please bring a dish to pass, provide a monetary donation, or just bring yourself. We would love to have you join us. We will offer BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING at 11:30. Join us for good fellowship, good food and God’s Word!

**Mom’s Group** will meet on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Please join us and relax while your child is having fun with a Bible story, craft, play time and snack. Moms will have a time to support each other in the role of being a Christian mom.

**May 2<sup>nd</sup> will be our Confirmand statements of “Faith” and reception.** It will begin at 5:30pm with the reception to immediately follow. The 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> grade youth and their parents will be hosting the reception. Please contact Roxie with any questions. **The Rite of Confirmation** will be on May 6<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 worship service. Those youth being Confirmed are: Jake Ahrenstorff, Austin Barber, Brandon Arzu-Bustad, Luke Gordon, Eli Hansberger, Hannah Henning, Dimitri Lobo, Grant Petersen, Ashley & Calah Riley, and Carson Wolford. Please keep these young people in your prayers during this very important mile stone in their faith journey. There will be NO Confirmation classes after May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Sunday school classes continue. **The LAST DAY of Sunday School, for the season, will be on May 20<sup>th</sup>.** Please continue to have your children in worship and be the faith role model for Bible reading in your home.

**Vacation Bible School Day Camp** will be June 18-22. 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. The suggested grades are Pre-school – 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We will be looking for our 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up to participate by being “helpers.” On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, our last day of VBS, we will meet at Pioneer Village. Registration forms will be available soon. Please watch for more information in the June Newsletter and the weekly bulletins.

**Mother’s Day – May 13<sup>th</sup>** please thank those special God inspired women in your lives. Please look for a small token from your St. Matthew Lutheran Church Family as we recognize and thank God for “Women of the Faith” as they love and mentor others.

**Our “Faithfully Fit” exercise class and “Walking Program” are done for the season. We will resume in September/October. Watch for further details.**

---

### 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 17 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 15 at 5:15 p.m. The Sarah Circle will also meet on Tuesday, May 15 at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

---

## MISSION SEWING

The Mission Sewing group meets twice a month. They will meet on Thursdays, May 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 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. Sewing skills are not required!

---

## ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Serving in May will be Nancy Junker and Sue Koob 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 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in the Fireside Room.** Sign-up sheets will be available for the October 2018-September 2019 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.*

---



## “Lutheran Witness” Subscriptions

**TIME TO RENEW or start a NEW subscription** to this wonderful magazine, Lutheran Witness. This year’s renewal fee is \$19.70 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 25<sup>th</sup>**. *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.*

---

## LWML NEWS

**The May meeting for LWML will be on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:30 p.m.** Ladies please bring appetizers to share for the meeting. We will discuss the upcoming Ladies Night Out planned for June. This event will be held on June 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Bev Kness will be giving a slide presentation on the 14 month trip she and Bruce took on their boat. See the following paragraph for additional information about the Ladies Night Out event on June 7. The May 20<sup>th</sup> Coffee Hour will be hosted by the Hope Circle.

**Save the Date for the June Ladies Night Out for LWML.** This year, the event will be on Thursday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Potluck salads and desserts are the fare for the evening. Now the program: you won’t want to miss this! Our very own, Bruce & Bev Kness have recently returned from a 14-month excursion with a group called “American’s Great Loop Cruisers Association (AGLCA).” They traveled over 6,000 miles and visited three countries, Eastern US, Canada, and the Bahamas. And yes, they lived on a boat during this time! Bev has taken many pictures and has put a PowerPoint presentation together for us to enjoy. Please come! Bring your friends!

---

## MUSIC & WORSHIP NEWS

This is Part 3 of a series on our Lutheran Worship Service. In Part 1, we discussed how we prepare our hearts and minds for worship. In Part 2, we shared how we welcome our Lord into the midst of our worship. The information is adapted from a Bible Study prepared by Pastor Tom Schuetze, Zion Lutheran Church, Atlanta, GA.

In Part 3 of our Lutheran Worship Service we listen as the Lord Himself speaks to us in the reading and preaching of His Holy Word. God has made Himself known to us in the Bible, and this is how He speaks to us. Without the Word of God, our worship, as well as our faith, would wither and die.

The First Reading is usually taken from the Old Testament. We hear how, since the beginning, God was preparing to restore fallen humanity to Himself. We hear the Law, and recognize how utterly unable we are to keep it. In our current Narrative Lectionary Series, we often hear a portion of a Psalm for the First Reading. In the Sundays of Easter, we will usually hear a reading from the book of Acts for the first lesson.

The Second Reading is normally an Epistle reading, one of the New Testament letters. Here we receive instruction on living the Christian life as well as the assurance of God's grace and forgiveness to all who believe in Him. Each reading ends with the acknowledgement, "This is the Word of the Lord" to which we gratefully respond, "Thanks be to God"

Now we prepare to hear the words of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through the reading of the Holy Gospel. We rise to hear these saving words. In our traditional service, we sing an Alleluia following the Second Reading (it is omitted during Advent and Lent). The Pastor announces the Holy Gospel, and the congregation sings or speaks "Glory to You, O Lord" in response. Following the reading, the Pastor announces "This is the Gospel of the Lord" and the congregation responds "Praise to You, O Christ".

Together in response to hearing God's Holy Word, we confess our Christian faith through the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed. By this we show that the seed of the Word has fallen on good soil and that we have rightly heard and understood, not only today's readings but all of them through the year, which can be summed up in this statement of faith.

At St. Matthew, the children are invited forward to hear a brief message based on the readings they have just heard. Hearing the responses of the children to God's Word should remind us all that God desires us to have a child-like faith and trust.

Following the Children's Message, we sing another hymn to prepare our hearts for the seed of God's word that will be sown in the Sermon.

In the sermon, God speaks to us through His called servant. The Pastor's sermon is a prayerfully prepared proclamation of God's message of repentance, salvation, and growth in faith, based on the Scripture readings heard earlier in the service. In many Lutheran congregations, the pastor greets us with the Salutation which the Apostle Paul used so often in his letters: "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ". The sermon is concluded with Paul's words from Philippians 4:7 "May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your and minds in Christ Jesus, Our Lord" With these words, he invokes the blessings of God's peace upon all who have received God's Word in our worship service.

Next month, we will learn how we offer ourselves back to our Lord with our time, talents, and possessions, and how the Lord offers himself to us through his very Body and Blood. .

*Lorenda Glade & Joy Schreiber, Directors of Music*

---

---

## Pastor Dennis & Jan Brech Celebrate 50 Years!

Pastor Dennis Brech was our “Fill-in Pastor” before Pastor Mark Schreiber came to us. Therefore, many of you have come to know Pastor Dennis & Jan well. Therefore...

**The children of Pastor Dennis & Jan Brech request the pleasure of your company as they celebrate their parents’ 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on July 15, 2018 from 3:30-7:30 p.m. at the Hadley Community Center, 150 S. Main Street, Hadley, MN 56151. We are planning the following:**

- 3:30 Meet and Greet**
- 4:15 Family Performances and Speeches**
- 5:00-6:00 Dinner (Yum)**
- 5:30-7:30 Polka Band**

**We are looking forward to celebrating with you. The invitation and a sign-up sheet are posted on the north/elevator entrance bulletin board. Please reply by June 15.**

---

## INTENTIONAL EVANGELISM CHALLENGE MOMENT

Each of us has a life message that God wants us to share with the world. Sharing the message is part of our life’s mission. Encouraging someone else doesn’t always mean giving a pep talk or offering words of wisdom. Sometimes the best help is listening, silence and waiting or weeping with a friend. Encourage one another and build each other up. 1 Thessalonians 5:11

## LOVE INC CHALLENGE

National nursing home week is celebrated in May. Take your family or group of friends with you for an afternoon to socialize with the residents of one of the nursing homes in the surrounding communities.

---

*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.

---

## THANK YOU

*Thank you for all the beautiful Easter and Birthday cards. Also thank you to Pastor Mark for coming to visit me each month.*

*Dolores Meier*

*I want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, food, flowers, and visits when I had my surgery in February. God has blessed us with a caring church. God’s Blessings,*

*Marge Ruesch*

---

## May 2018 Acolyte & Nursery Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 Nursery</u>
May 6	Jordis Weber	Kyle Ahrenstorff	Mark Geertsema, Beth White
May 13	Sander Brunk	Alexa Kilker	Kiera Ahrenstorff, Val Wolford
May 20	Faith Leinen	Kenadie Thiner	Christine & Jennifer Preuss
May 27	Caleb Barber	Jonathan Banegas	Grant Petersen, Angie Kopplow
June 3	Lance Gordon	Brandon Bosma	Sierra Goedtke, 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 2018 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 6	8 AM 10:30	Bill & Jeanette Smrcka John & Marlene Moberg
May 13	8 AM 10:30	Voris & Sandie Spittle Kirk & Traci Feit
May 20	8 AM 10:30	Vern & Marilyn Meyer Chris & Stacy Heinrichs
May 27	8 AM 10:30	Dale & Bonnie Schroeder Greg & Roxie Leckband Family
June 3	8 AM 10:30	Kent Brunk; Cindy Brunk LaDean & Lori Fletcher

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

