

# *St. Matthew Lutheran Church*

*1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN*

## *May 2019 Newsletter*



### **Needy Sheep**

*When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." John 21:15*

No image of the Lord, and his relationship with us, strikes closer to the core of our being than the image of the Lord as our Shepherd and us as his sheep. The reason I feel we teach our children to sing "I am Jesus' Little Lamb," is because we link sheep and shepherds together with peace and quiet, and protection and security. The Bible is filled with countless examples of the Lord as our shepherd and we as his sheep.

Psalm 23 is one of the best examples of this imagery, thus making it a favorite portion of scripture for many Christians. It is often read at funerals because of the comfort and strength this Psalm extends to us in times of stress and sorrow. "He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters," are words familiar to all of us.

When we come together each Lord's Day, we come together as his flock. He is here, as our Shepherd. He speaks, and we listen. He leads, and we follow. And we have his word that He will keep on leading until that day when we sing his praises in glory, and he wipes away every tear from our eyes. Our Good Shepherd truly has blessed St. Matthew, and there has been many sheep blessed by the ministry of this church.

The same question Jesus asked Peter, "do you truly love me more than these?" is the same question he asks each one of us. Whatever the "these" is in your life, God is continually asking us to prioritize it, so his precious sheep may be fed. It is estimated that in any county in the United States that over 40% of the residents of that county are without a church. That means there is a lot of wandering sheep in Nobles county who need to know the love of the Good Shepherd. Jesus is calling us to feed those sheep.

Please continue to pray for the ministry of St. Matthew. Pray that God's will, will be accomplished in this place and pray that this church will always be the place where the love of Christ is taught and shared with all people.

In Christ,  
*Pastor Mark*





## ATTENTION:

### CHANGE TO ALTAR FLOWER PROCEDURE

**Thank you for providing bouquets for our Altar area.** Due to the closing of McCarthy's Floral, there is a change to our Altar Flower procedure EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. Due to increased bouquet costs and billing difficulties, St. Matthew's will no longer be in charge of ordering the Altar bouquets. **You may contact Hy-Vee individually to order your bouquets and arrange for delivery or pick-up. You may also provide flowers from your own garden.** We will still have the Flower Calendar in the Narthex to regulate the number of bouquets provided weekly. **Therefore, please continue to sign-up to help beautify our Altar area.** If you would like your Altar flowers listed in the bulletin that information MUST be into the church office 2 weeks before the date you are providing the flowers. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Thank You for continuing to provide bouquets for our Altar area.



LCEF Kids Club Stamps – the last Sunday for Y.I. stamp sales for this school year will be May 19<sup>th</sup>. Remember, you can mail checks directly to LCEF. See LaVonne Berglund for postage paid envelopes.

## CHURCH RECORDS

### Baptism

- Bryer William Reese, son of Cody & Amanda Reese was baptized on April 7.

### Death

- Cheryl "Cheri" Schmidt passed away on April 2, 2019; funeral service was April 17.

The 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation End of Year Event that was scheduled in April had to be cancelled due to the winter storm. **This retreat will now be on Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the YMCA.** Kids will have time to go swimming first. Pizza and group games will be in the multi-purpose room after swimming. Parents, please pick up your kids at 7:30pm!



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### Vacation Bible School will be June 17-21, 2019

The theme will be "Refuge & Strength" from Psalm 46. We will once again have a Day Camp with Camp Omega providing the programming.

Monday-Thursday we will meet from 9:00am-3:00pm at the church and Friday from 9:00am -12 noon at Pioneer Village. We will grill hotdogs for the noon meal at Pioneer Village.

Registration forms will be available once we receive them from Camp Omega. We will keep you updated in the weekly worship bulletins and on our church website.

## Director of Human Care Ministry News

by Roxann Leckband

Happy May! Hopefully we get the May flowers from the April showers. I praise God for the beauty of the seasons. We have been blessed with another amazing Easter season! May we remain in the daily joy of "He is risen," "He is risen indeed."

**Noon Fellowship** will be on Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon in the Fireside Room. The main entrée will be chicken breasts and wild rice. Please bring a dish to pass, a freewill offering or just yourself. We would love to have you. Blood pressure screening will happen at 11:15. Come for great Christian fellowship, great food and God's Word.

**Widow's Group** will be on Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> (*please note this is not the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed*). Due to potential scheduling conflicts, the date was changed. We will meet in the Fireside Room. We will be introduced to the book Postcards from the Widows' Path *Gleaning hope and purpose from the Book of Ruth*. We will meet from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Invite a friend, everyone is welcome! If you have any questions contact Roxie.

**Mom's Group** is scheduled for May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Please watch for a Facebook post as a reminder. Group meets from 10:30 -11:30 a.m. The little ones have fun with Bible stories, activities and a play time. The moms will have a time of Christian fellowship and a time in God's Word. I look forward to seeing you.

**Health Cabinet** meeting will be on Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon. May 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> is National Nurses Week, please remember in your prayers individuals who are nurses and those who provide care for individuals who are in need. Please say thanks to our Health Cabinet members and pray for Lynn Dierks, Rita Shirkey, Dawn Gordon, Jolene Rubis, MJ Wester, Deb Meyer, and Roxie Leckband. Please note: there will be a blood pressure screening in the Fireside Room on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m.

**Parents and Guardians of Sunday School children:** please note, the last day of Sunday school for the season will be May 19<sup>th</sup>. Parents and guardians if you need any resources to keep your child in God's Word please contact the church at 376-6168 and ask for Roxie.

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### WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Martha Circle will meet on Thursday, May 16 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 21 at 5:15 p.m. The Sarah Circle will also meet on Tuesday, May 21 at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

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### 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 anyone who helps set-up or take-down communion, and their spouses, will take place on Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in the Fireside Room.** Sign-up sheets will be available for the October 2019-September 2020 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.*

## MUSIC & WORSHIP NEWS

*“Savior, like a shepherd lead us; Much we need Your tender care.  
In Your pleasant pastures feed us, For our use Your fold prepare.”*  
*LSB 711, vs. 1*



Sheep are mentioned in the Bible more than 500 times, more than any other animal. The prominence of sheep in the Bible grows out of two realities. Sheep were important to the nomads and agricultural life of the people in Biblical times. Secondly, sheep are used throughout the Bible to symbolically refer to God's people. This is not a compliment to us! Sheep easily go astray and are in desperate need of a shepherd. Thankfully, God has given us Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who lays down His life for His sheep, and takes away the sin of the world.

Each year, on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, our readings center around Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Good Shepherd Sunday this year is on May 12. Our Psalm for Good Shepherd Sunday is one which many of us have memorized since childhood: Psalm 23. “The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want”

In our first reading from the book of Acts, Paul gives his farewell address to the Ephesian elders, and implores them to “keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood”. He also warns them to guard against false teachers--those who would destroy the flock, Christ’s church.

In our second reading, from the book of Revelation, John gives us a glimpse of the great victory that is ours through Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. John sees a great multitude, from every tribe and race, standing before the throne and worshipping the Lamb of God. “For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water, And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

In our Gospel reading from the book of John, Jesus is challenged by the Jews to tell them plainly whether or not He is the Christ. Jesus replies, “I did tell you, but you do not believe” He says they do not believe because they are not His sheep, but that His sheep listen to His voice; “I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.”

Jesus also desires to increase His flock. Our Good Shepherd desires that no sheep is lost. As members of Christ’s flock, we are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our world. Through the Holy Spirit, may we be used to bring lost sheep to our Good Shepherd.

*“Keep your flock, from sin defend us, Seek us when we go astray.” LSB 711, vs. 2*

*Lorenda Glade, Joy Schreiber, Directors of Music and Worship*

### THANK YOU FROM OUR MUSIC AND WORSHIP STAFF

Thank you to all who shared their musical talents throughout our Lenten and Easter Season. We were blessed with wonderful vocal and instrumental music at all of our services, and it would not be possible without the many people who are so willing to share their gifts. Thank you also to the extra efforts of our sound techs throughout the year, but especially during the very busy seasons of the church year. And thank you to Bev, for the efforts that go into putting together bulletins and screens for the many services we have throughout Lent, Holy Week, and Easter.

*Lorenda Glade, Joy Schreiber, and Louise Clausen*

## LWML NEWS

The May meeting for LWML will be on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:30 p.m. We will be discussing the June 6<sup>th</sup> "Ladies Night Out". Lunch will be appetizers. Hope Circle will serve the coffee hour on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.

**SAVE THE DATE:** June 6<sup>th</sup> is "Ladies Night Out" for ALL ladies in our church. We also invite ladies from other churches in our zone. Linda Lang will have musical entertainment for us. We will have a Potluck Supper of salads and desserts.

*Thank you to all the ladies who helped make our Spring Fling a success!*

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### 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.

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### TABLES & CHAIRS

*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*

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### ELECTRONIC DONATIONS INFORMATION

Thank you for your continued support financially to St. Matthew Lutheran Church. We appreciate your generosity. **Did you know St. Matthews has an electronic option for making regular offerings?** Electronic giving allows you to make donations on a scheduled, automatic basis. It is convenient for you and provides much-needed donation consistency for our church. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account on a weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly basis. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis. **Forms are available at each entrance to the church, or contact the church office for more information.**

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## THANK YOU

*Thank you for everything you have done to help us get through the loss of Tammy. Thanks for the help from the kitchen ladies, the meals, Pastor Mark, Roxie and all the prayers for her while she was fighting her two cancers.*

*Terry, Pam, Andrew, Casey & Eric Fletcher and Mike, Ian & Toby Metteer*

*We do not know how to thank you enough for the meals that have been provided to our family. Most of all we thank you for the outpouring of love, support and prayers that have been provided to us during this journey. We truly cannot thank everyone enough! God Bless!*

*The Martens*

Thank you to the St. Matthew Lutheran congregation for helping me celebrate my 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with flowers, cards, cake and coffee during the fellowship time on April 7<sup>th</sup>. My highlight of the day was the Sunday School youngsters who sang "Happy Birthday" to me and gave me hugs!

Dolores Meier



## “Lutheran Witness” Subscriptions

**TIME TO RENEW or start a NEW subscription** to this wonderful magazine, Lutheran Witness. This year’s renewal fee is \$19.68 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.*



## “Got Freedom? Thank a Vet!”

These are the Veterans that attended our November 2018 Veterans Recognition Breakfast. Memorial Day and Veterans Day – two very important days to remember and recognize our military personnel.



**Mark your calendars for our NEXT Pictorial Directory.**  
**We want our ENTIRE Church Family to be photographed for this directory.**

Scheduled dates for the photography are: **August 20-24, 2019 and September 3-7, 2019.** There is NO cost to you or your family to have your picture photographed for the directory. We will have more information available as the date gets closer.

## APRIL COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

*(These are only “highlights” from the Council meeting. As the actual Minutes will not be approved until the next meeting – May 14, 2019.)*

Treasurer’s Report: March expenses were \$38,097.16 with income of \$68,959.00. Included in the income is \$25,000 from the bridge from the Scholarship Fund for the Building Loan. Building Fund income was \$75.00. Net income for the month was \$30,936.84 (including the bridge \$). Balance in the General Fund Checking Account on March 31 was \$38,456.60. Memorial Fund Balance is \$43,516.18; Scholarship Fund Balance is \$450,926.73; Youth Account Report was \$16,789.13.

Staff Reports: *Pastor Mark* – Average weekend attendance was 251 (weather issues on March 10).

Average mid-week Lent worship attendance was 156. *Roxie* – We had a presentation from the Chaplain of Compassionate Care Hospice in March, attendance was about 25. St. Matthews did Furniture Delivery for Love INC in March. We did meals for the Marten family and gift cards as well. Health Cabinet are looking ahead with a focus on “heart health.” We are in need of an area to take blood pressures that is convenient for people to access - the Fireside Room will be used on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. Noon Fellowship numbers were down in March. *Jenna* – 4 junior girls attended the LCMS Youth Leadership training event in St. Louis, MO with Jenna & Val Wolford. It was a great event for them to learn how to be a student leader in their church, youth group and community. “Real Present God” is the theme of this year’s National Youth Gathering. Pre-trip Bible studies have had this focus and going through the Psalms. Most of our HS seniors this year are planning to attend Minnesota West, so there is a great opportunity to develop a college ministry at our church. Senior blessing & breakfast will be on Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>.

Elders – We will continue with 2 services during the summer months. Chris Luther will be the Elder Chair beginning in July. Church sign update – due to the expense of an outdoor sign, we discussed some alternatives: one was to put a series of 32” TVs in the upper windows at the south end the Great Hall to be programmed to run like a single banner sign. Would like to work with Ministry Planning Board to increase our use of our congregation resources – discussion focused on social media interactions. We have scheduled another communion training on Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 a.m.

Trustees – Boiler replacement update: boiler is here, just need to get it installed by the plumber – will take 2-3 days to install it. Culligan will see that the water softener is also replaced at that time. Church vans will be checked, as someone stated an issue with the brakes. Fire alarm testing is coming up, this year it will include the testing of the shutters over the Great Hall windows. Plan to power wash/clean the mildew on the outside block on the north and east sides of the church later this summer. Dry-vit repairs by the north door is being checked into. Checking on acoustic material for the multi-purpose room under the Great Hall. Discussed the following, but on hold until finances are better: jetting of the sewer line from east wing to the street, hard pipe sump pump in the front of basement; quotes for a portable sound system for the basement area (and to use for block parties) have been received, approximate cost of \$3,848; have received donations of \$2900 so far; electronic lock for north entrance door (approx. \$1,250); front kitchen countertop and counter under the coffee pot. Suggestion given that need to fix front steps and heating vent by east landing area and replace lights in arch of sanctuary.

Education – decorated Easter cookies donated by Teresa Riley. Had a Lent service project of collecting non-perishable food items for the food shelves. VBS will incorporate healthy living information during the break after lunches, presented by the Health Cabinet. No 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Sunday school materials will be purchased – using resources from existing ones the church has.

Unfinished Business – Have a few bills to be paid yet for the revitalization project, but continue to stay under budget. Nomination Ballot is posted for the April 18<sup>th</sup> Voters Meeting.

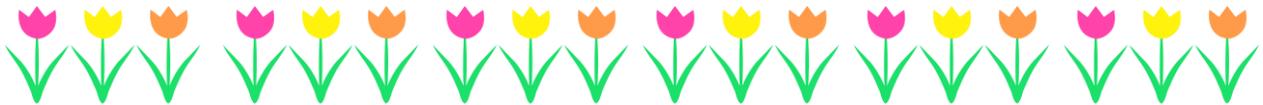
New Business – Suggested we need to offer later time of 11:45 for every other Voters Meeting so members that are unable to attend 9:15 will be able to attend.

Ministry Planning – Mission statement was decided – “Giving, Sharing and Serving Our Community Through Christ.” Challenge is how to get from the ideas and planning to getting them implemented and tasks completed. Could have sign-up sheets asking for assistance. Need to get younger families more involved in church. Want to encourage people to use the Great Hall for fellowship before/after services. Discussed doing a Neighborhood Block Part in June. Small Group Ministry was discussed.

## May 2019 Acolyte & Nursery Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 Nursery</u>
May 5	Faith Leinen	Alexa Kilker	Lance Gordon, Beth White
May 12	Caleb Barber	TJ Ostrem	Evan Hansberger, Angie Kopplow
May 19	Sander Brunk	Kenadie Thiner	Logan Meyeraan, Kasen White
May 26	Paige Barber	Kyle Ahrenstorff	Damien Leckband, Tammy Markus
June 2	Anna Gordon	Jonathan Banegas	Presley Sieve, 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 2019 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 5	8 AM 10:30	Bonnie Tille; Al & Connie Reitmeier David & Alexie Cross; DuWayne & Carol Oberloh
May 12	8 AM 10:30	Bill & Jan Smrcka Kirk & Traci Feit
May 19	8 AM 10:30	Kent Brunk; Sue Koob Virgil & Donna Reed
May 26	8 AM 10:30	Leonard & Marjorie Ruesch LaDean & Lori Fletcher
June 2	8 AM 10:30	Gary & Velma Cortright John & Marlene Moberg



*If YOU would like to be a greeter at our services, please contact Bev in the church office to be added to the rotating list. Thank you for serving!*