

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN
November 2015 Newsletter



Season of Thankfulness

The first Thanksgiving occurred in October of 1621, when a small band of pilgrims joined together with some local Indians to give thanks for the bountiful harvest of crops—crops that produced more than enough corn to see them through their second winter. Things were not always so joyous for these pilgrims, they had suffered much pain and loss of life that first year and winter, but they suffered their way through to thanksgiving. Even though they had endured great hardship, God had been good to them, and they could not help but to give thanks.

More than 200 years later, in 1864, Abraham Lincoln declared a national day of thanksgiving. The proclamation called for the nation to set aside the last Thursday in the month of November as a time of thanksgiving to Almighty God for His blessings. Ever since, our country has observed this occasion.

The Apostle Paul begins nine of his thirteen epistles we have recorded in our New Testament with phrases like this one, “First, I *thank* my God through Jesus Christ for *all of you*” (Romans 1:8). At the church in Rome he was thankful for their increase in faith, in Corinth it was for the grace given to them, at Ephesus it was for their love and attention they gave to other believers, at Philippi it was for their partnership in the gospel they had with Paul, and at Thessalonica it was for their work and labor for Christ. Paul was thankful through Jesus Christ for people, and all the wonderful things God was doing in and through their lives.

Like Paul, I am thankful for you for many of the same reasons he gave thanks for the people in his life. I am thankful to see many of you growing in your faith, to see your love in action as you serve others around you, for your partnership in the gospel, and for all of your hard work and labor you have put into God’s kingdom. I look forward to strengthening relationships with many of you who call St. Matthew your church home.

In Christ,
Pastor Mark

***REMINDER - DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS
NOVEMBER 1st - SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR
when you go to bed on Saturday, October 31st.***



THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

Get the long weekend off to a terrific start: Join in the joyous worship of our great God and Savior on "Thanksgiving Eve," **November 25th at 6:30 p.m.** with Holy Communion. Thanksgiving decorations, scripture and special music combine to make a memorable and uplifting time of worship and praise.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

by Roxann Leckband

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM NEWS: Attention parents of Sunday School children grades pre-school - 8th grade. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, December 20th as this is the date for our children's Christmas program titled, Come to Bethlehem and See! We will be rehearsing during a portion of our Sunday School time, but will also need to schedule one or two Saturday rehearsals depending on how many students are in attendance and how many times we are able to run through the program during the first Saturday rehearsal time. **Please mark your calendars for December 12th we will be rehearsing from 10:00-11:30am in the church Sanctuary. There is another rehearsal scheduled for December 19th. If we have a great attendance and are able to get through the entire program 2-3 times we may be able to cancel the December 19th rehearsal. So please make every effort to have you child/children at the rehearsal. Please speak with your child about cooperating to make this rehearsal a productive one so we can cancel the December 19th rehearsal. We will let you know on the 12th if we will need to rehearse on the 19th or cancel. Thank-you in advance for your support and assistance. May we joyfully come together and honor our Savior with our rehearsal and during our Christmas program.**

We have NEW music books for the 3rd-8th grade students. They have great praise songs in them and the youth seem to really enjoy them. Ask your child about Sunday school. I am sure they would love to share what they have learned.

There will be NO Sunday school on December 27th or January 3rd. Please have your child in worship and be active in doing a devotion/prayer/blessing your child.

Mom's Group will be on November 6, 13th and 20th from 10-11:30am. There will be NO mom's group on November 27th due to the Thanksgiving holiday. The women will be continuing with the study When the Game Is over All the Pieces Go into the Box. This study speaks to how we live our lives and where we place our priorities. The children will have fun with Bible Stories, crafts, songs, play and snacks. We have great ladies volunteering for this children's ministry.

Family Night will be Sunday, November 15th from 5:00-6:30pm. We will have turkey and mashed potatoes provided. Please bring a dish to share. Child care will be provided.

Young Adult Night will be on Monday, November 16th at 6:00pm at Hickory Lodge. We will not be meeting in December.

Noon Fellowship will be on Monday, November 9th at 12:00 noon with turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and dinner roll provided. Please bring a dish to pass, a free-will offering or just yourself. ALL are welcome.

Please see the enclosed lime green sheet for youth news.

FROM the BOARD of EDUCATION:

The Board of Education is collecting for the "Operation Christmas Child" boxes. The collection basket is blue and white striped and on a white stand in the Great Hall by the Narthex entrance. Please feel free to place items such as children and older youth socks, plain T-shirts with no writing, soccer balls (small), small dolls, markers, pencils, tooth brush with cover and soap with a plastic soap dish. In purchasing remember most of these children do not read English so things such as activity books do not normally work. The items received will be placed in the Christmas Box. If you would like to fill an entire box we will have the boxes available at the church. **Deadline is November 16.**

CHURCH RECORDS

Baptisms

- Sebastian Kenneth Sieve, son of Aaron Sieve & JoAnne Heinzman was baptized October 3, 2015. Sponsors for Sebastian are: Mike Heinzman, Heather Knigge, Mary Mathias, Dave & Stephanie Ross.
- Ramsey Jo Marten, daughter of Eric & Marissa Marten was baptized October 25, 2015. Sponsors for Ramsey are: Jason & Holly Sieve and Kevin & Amber Bergeson.

Deaths

- Dorothy Christena Mohr, passed away on October 1, 2015. Funeral service was held October 9, 2015.

New Members (September 27, 2015):

Cody Reese & Amanda Poppema and daughter, Sawyer Reese; Scott Schmidt; Alicia Koopman; Neil & Katie Hansen and daughter, Presley; Craig & Nancy Edwards; Jack Edwards; Carrie Henning; Ryan & Juliane Paplow and sons, Raymond & George.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Miriam Circle will meet on Monday, November 16 at 1:30 p.m. at Okabena Towers. The Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 17 at 5:15 p.m. in the Youth Room. The Sarah Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 17 at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Martha Circle will meet on Thursday, November 19 at 1:30 p.m. at Deloris Lohr's home.

ALTAR GUILD

Serving in November will be: Velma Cortright and John & Kham Holeton at the 8 a.m. services. If you would like to be a part of the Altar Guild, please contact Velma Cortright, 376-5600 or Sandy Meyer, 376-6290.

LWML NEWS

LWML will meet on Thursday, November 5th at 1:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We will review the Harvest Dinner and plan the Christmas Party. Executive Board is Hostess. LWML will serve the November 1st Coffee Hour and proceeds will be given to a Seminary Student.

The Large Mite Box on the table in the Great Hall is ready for you to drop off your small filled mite boxes. We check it regularly and send it into the district office. We will try to keep a supply of empty boxes on the table for you to take another one home. Thank you so much for participating in this important ministry.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

You are invited to the Coffee Fellowship each Sunday morning following the 8 a.m. service. A free-will donation is received to benefit the various church related projects. This month's schedule includes: November 1st – LWML hosts with proceeds going to a Seminary Student

November 8th – Veterans Breakfast – Cindy Brunk hosts

November 15 – Omelet Fundraiser for Love INC

November 22 – Youth hosts

November 29 – Proceeds will be given to Delmont, SD Zion Lutheran Church, the church was severely damaged by a storm in May, 2015.

If your church committee/group would like to host a coffee hour, please sign-up on the sheet in the church basement (located on the wall by the door). *Please sign-up at least two weeks in advance.*



**Everyone is invited to
the "Veterans Recognition Breakfast"
on Sunday, November 8th
at 9:00AM in the church basement.**

This is a wonderful way to acknowledge our veterans who have served our country for our liberties and freedoms that we enjoy.
Thanks to Cindy Brunk for hosting this event!

HUMAN CARE COMMITTEE NEWS

The Human Care Committee is **sponsoring a Mitten Tree for donations for the Community Christmas Baskets** that will be delivered to needy families in Nobles County on December 4th. Last year baskets were provided to 300 families in Nobles County, which meant food & gifts for 1,323 individuals, 660 of whom were young children. Each of those families were referred by a church, school, or service organization. We will be setting up a Mitten Tree in the Great Hall in November and are asking for donations of new mittens, gloves, socks, slippers & scarves of any size infant through adult. We would also take donations of gifts of new warm clothing for adults. ***Please leave your donations by December 2nd.*** If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Ihrke (945-8441) or Deb Thompson (683-2000). Let's help warm the hearts of our community! Monetary donations are welcome at any time and can be mailed to: Community Christmas Baskets, P.O Box 552, Worthington, MN 56187.

If you would like to receive a Community Christmas basket or know of anyone who is in need, please contact the church office at 376-6168 by November 18th.

Soles 4 Souls Reminder: This is an ongoing ministry that the Human Care Board supports. Have you done your fall closet cleaning? Do you have any shoes you want to donate? There is a drawer in the wooden cabinet located at the north elevator entrance where you may place your donations. They do not accept flip flops. Keith & Margaret Schroeder pack the shoes in boxes & deliver them and we thank them for this service.

We will be having a **Love INC. Sunday on November 15th.** Brian Froderman will be giving a brief presentation following each service. We will be accepting donations of household cleaning products to support our Gap Ministry. You may bring your donations that day or can place them in the drawer marked "cleaning supplies" in the wooden cabinet in the north elevator entrance. **On that day, we will also be hosting an Omelet Feed fundraiser with a free will donation to be given to Love INC.** and the valuable ministry that is offered to families and individuals in Nobles County. Look for more information to come in the upcoming Sunday bulletins.

The Human Care Board will be sponsoring the **Congregational Caring Tree for Christmas.** In an effort to provide for the unmet needs of any of our church family, we are requesting that they give their names and unmet needs to the church office & fill out a form listing items. ***Forms are available from the church office & need to be completed and returned by November 23rd.***

NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY UPDATE

If you were unable to make any of the October photography dates work in your schedule, for our church's new pictorial directory, we have **ADDED ONE MORE DATE** – Monday, November 16th from 2:00-9:00PM. Please call Bev in the church office to schedule your photography appointment! Our New Pictorial Directory, for our 125th Church Anniversary, will not be complete without you!

EVANGELISM NEWS

THANK YOU to all who signed up to be *secret* Prayer Intercessors for our 7th and 8th grade Confirmation Students! An intercessor will PRAY daily for his/her specific youth, as well as SEND an ANONYMOUS CARD or note of encouragement monthly. No gifts will be given; only powerful prayer. Thank you for being part of this simple, yet powerful way to impact the lives of St. Matthew's youth. May God richly bless each of you! These two verses come to mind: **Ruth 2:12 – May the Lord repay you for what you have done. James 5:16 – The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.** The Evangelism Board would like to thank each of you for your commitment to pray for the youth of St. Matthew. They will be blessed by you.

God's Richest Blessings,

St. Matthew Board of Evangelism: Pat Arnt, LaVonne Holt, Bev Kness, Mary Krueger, Cheri Schmidt

Young Investors (Y.I.) Club

LaVonne Berglund, St. Matthew Y.I. Club Stamp Coordinator

As parents and grandparents, we know it's important to teach our children and grandchildren to give thanks to God for His many blessings and to use those blessings to serve Him by helping others. Learning to understand the value of sharing, saving, and spending money is a good place to start. When we help our children and grandchildren save for the future through LCEF's Young Investors (Y.I.) Club those dollars can also help others learn about Jesus. What a wonderful opportunity to help share the Gospel. Please stop at the stamp table with your questions and to start saving today.

Music & Worship News

*"Sing to the Lord of harvest, Sing songs of love and praise.
With joyful hearts and voices your Alleluias raise". LSB 893*

The St. Matthew Thanksgiving Eve service will be at 6:30 PM, Wednesday, November 25. All singers, middle school age and older, are invited to join our Thanksgiving Festival Choir, directed by Louise Clausen and accompanied by Linda Lang. **Rehearsals will be in conjunction with Adult Choir on Wednesday evenings, beginning on November 4.** Regular adult choir practice is at 5:30 every Wednesday in the choir room. **Louise will begin rehearsing the Thanksgiving music around 6:00.** Please join in singing thankful praises to our Lord!

Brass players are also needed for our Thanksgiving Eve service. You will have the opportunity to pick up music and run through your parts in the choir room at 10:15 (after Bible class) each Sunday, beginning November 8. We will practice in the balcony after second service on Sunday, November 22, 7:00 Monday, November 23, and warm-up at 6:00 on Thanksgiving Eve.

Sign up sheets for both Festival Choir and Brass can be found in the Great Hall. Please share your talents!

If you do not sing or play an instrument, you are still needed. We are in need of sound technicians, especially for the 10:30 service. Please consider participating in this vital ministry.

Looking ahead to Advent and Christmas, our Midweek Advent services will be at 6:30 PM on December 2, 9, and 16. Come early for a Hymn Sing each Wednesday in the sanctuary, starting around 6:20.

Continued on next page....

Music & Worship News continued:

All Sunday School children, ages Preschool-Grade 8 are beginning to prepare for their Sunday School Christmas Program. This year the program for ALL children will be on Sunday, December 20. **There will be only ONE service on Sunday, December 20 at 9:30. That service will be the Christmas program, and there will be no Communion.** Our regular 6:00 PM Saturday evening service, with Communion, will be held for those not wishing to attend the Christmas Program.

Christmas Eve services will be at 5:00 PM and 10:00 PM, and Christmas Day service is scheduled for 9:30 AM. More information on our Advent and Christmas services will be in the bulletins, screen shows, and December newsletter.

HIGHLIGHTS from the 10/13/15 COUNCIL MEETING

Treasurer's Report: September expenses were \$31,965.39 and income was \$30,352.07; Building Fund income was \$1,665 and expenses were \$4,079.46 for an overall shortfall of \$4,027.78. Building Loan Balance is \$114,421.06. Memorial Fund balance is \$35,942.71. Scholarship Fund balance is \$591,704.33. Tammy Brunk has also formed a 125th Anniversary Celebration Committee. Members include Tammy, Ken Meyer, Bev Spittle, Jerry & Diane Vogt, Jeanette Varuska, MJ Wester. They will meet the end of October and begin planning. A calendar will be created and posted for congregational members to select "adopt a day to pay an amount per day toward the building loan with the goal of paying off the loan during the anniversary year. At this time, the amount per day would be \$160.

Pastor Mark: Average weekend attendance in September was 313. Attendance is increasing each week. Response to the pictorial directory has been very good. Sunday morning Bible Study "The Story" is going very well with good attendance. 125 copies of The Story have been purchased.

Roxie Leckband: The youth earned \$500 from the hoagie sales. Dana Soleta is the Youth Board Chair, replacing Heather Knigge. The Youth Board is seeking more parental involvement. Wednesday night youth group meetings are being conducted by Dana Soleta and Mikaela Dierks. Working on coordinating the 2016 National Youth Gathering trip to New Orleans.

Lorenda Glade: Meeting was held September 30th to discuss the music staff transition and some concerns on the proper balancing of sound for the 10:30am service. It was recommended to purchase a Roland keyboard fp-80 from Scheitel's Music in Mankato for the sanctuary and move the current keyboard to the balcony. Cost of the new Roland is about \$2,000 and total cost for the bench, stand and other miscellaneous equipment is about \$2,400, which is the budgeted amount. Training will be provided to keyboardists by Scheitel's Music. Piano and organ tuners will be contacted for fall scheduling of instruments. Dry cleaning quote of \$9.00 per robe and \$1.00 per stole received from Daryl Thiele of Sibley Cleaners. Request from Handbell Director to purchase additional handchimes. Prices are: 2 octaves with case: \$1,135; 3 octaves with case: \$1,905; 4 octaves with case: \$2,890.

Elders: List of inactive members is being reviewed. Seven representatives from St. Matthew's attended the recent Supreme Court Hearing and we now wait for the ruling. Discussed issues with the sound board and the need for sound crew members to be able to adjust settings as needed, particularly during the 10:30 contemporary services.

Trustees: Televisions were recently purchased – a 30" television for Educational use on the 2nd floor and a 50" television for use in the basement for Bible Study classes. The 50" television was purchased and donated by a family. Trees along the north fence line of the church property were trimmed on October 13 as requested by Worthington Excavating for easier snow removal during the winter. Outdoor carpet installed on the exterior of the east door of the Educational Wing. Desk moved from Assistant Pastor's office to the Director of Music Office to allow that office to be used for small meetings. Love INC has requested to use the church van for their Grow With Us program, however, the request was denied due to insurance coverage issues.

Council Meeting Highlights continued:

Education: Currently have 60-65 students attending Sunday School. The Christmas Program is scheduled for December 20th at 9:30 a.m.

Human Care: Suggested the date of November 22, 2015 as Love INC Sunday. Brian Froderman of Love INC. will make a short presentation at worship services. Also discussed hosting an omelet feed on that day for Love INC to celebrate their 5th anniversary in Worthington. Sunday school offerings in November will be designated for Love INC.

Finance: Karen Knigge asked that members be encouraged to use their numbered offering envelopes so that no mix-ups in donations occur.



MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

2014 GIVING – Please remember, all offerings to the church to be counted as 2015 giving, **MUST PHYSICALLY BE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE by December 31st**. Anything received after that time must be counted towards 2015 giving.

THANK YOU!

ALTAR FLOWERS – if you would like to provide flowers for the altar on a specific Sunday please sign up on the flower calendar in the Narthex. Please sign up at least 2 weeks in advance. If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Ramert, 372-7225 or Bev in the church office, 376-6168. Altar flowers are now ordered from McCarthy’s Floral for \$25. McCarthy’s will have the containers that our church uses. In those containers, and for the \$25 cost, you may pick from the following flowers: carnations, mini carnations, daisies, austromarias and mums. If you choose to have other flowers, the cost would be more. If you would rather use your own container or vase you may do so by dropping it off at McCarthy’s. McCarthy’s will deliver the bouquets to church. Anyone wishing to order flowers from Hy-Vee will have to place their own order with Hy-Vee and you will have to bring the flowers to church. **Thank you for providing the beautiful flower arrangements for our altar.**

PLEASE NOTE - December & January Newsletters - Due to the busy Christmas season, we MAY be doing a combined newsletter next month. We MAY be combining the December and January newsletters into one and it would be mailed out at the end of November or beginning of December. Therefore, you would NOT receive a separate newsletter for January. A final decision has not been made – please watch the weekly bulletins for more information. Committee Chairmen please keep this in mind when submitting your articles and watch the weekly bulletins for more information.

***** **Looking Ahead – Mark Your Calendar** *****

- *Advent Wednesday Evening Worship Services -- December 2, 9 and 16 (6:30 p.m.)*
***Supper will be served from 5:15-6:00 p.m. on Advent Wednesdays*
- *Christmas Program and Worship Service – Sunday, December 20 at 9:30 a.m.*
- *Christmas Eve Services -- December 24 (5 p.m. and 10 p.m.)*
- *Christmas Day Festival Service – December 25 (9:30 a.m.)*
- *New Year's Eve Worship Service -- December 31 (5 p.m.)*

Worship Service Helpers for November 2015

ACOLYTES

<u>Date</u>	<u>8 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
Nov. 1	Chad Buntjer	Jace Paplow
Nov. 8	Brynne White	Tyler Wolford
Nov. 15	Kaylee Gerdes	Jake Ahrenstorff
Nov. 22	Austin Heimgartner	Christopher Leckband
Nov. 25	6:30 p.m. – Carter Hokeness	
Nov. 29	Jennifer Preuss	Eli Hansberger
Dec. 6	Jasmine Ling	Carson Wolford

NURSERY HELPERS (10:30 a.m. service only)

<u>Date</u>	
Nov. 1	Ivy Paplow, Beth White
Nov. 8	Alyssa Bosma, Gail Holinka
Nov. 15	Zach Ahrenstorff, Alexie Cross
Nov. 22	Hunter Boomgarden, Jessica Larson
Nov. 29	Traeton Holt, Roxie Tripp
Dec. 6	Jace Paplow, Gail Holinka

**** Please be sure to mark your calendars. If you cannot fulfill your scheduled date, please find a replacement and call the church office with the change. THANK YOU***

GREETER SCHEDULE

Nov. 1	(8am)	Dan & Laurita Roos
	(10:30)	Chris & Stacy Heinrichs; David & Alexie Cross
Nov. 8	(8am)	Don & Lorna Buntjer
	(10:30)	Greg & Roxie Leckband
Nov. 15	(8am)	Keith & Margaret Schroeder
	(10:30)	Dave & Mary Krueger
Nov. 22	(8am)	YOUTH
	(10:30)	YOUTH
Nov. 25	6:30 p.m.	Voris & Sandie Spittle; Myron & Sandy Meyer
Nov. 29	(8am)	David & LaVonne Holt
	(10:30)	Joel & Kim Rogers
Dec. 6	(8am)	Barry & Kerry Sauer
	(10:30)	Kevin & Danika Schmidt

If you cannot fulfill your scheduled date, please find a replacement and call the church office with the change. THANK YOU FOR SERVING! If you would like your name added to the Greeter Rotation Schedule, please contact the church office, 376-6168.

We wish you a Blessed Thanksgiving.