

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN
November 2016 Newsletter



**Whining and Thankfulness Don't Mix any
Better than Oil and Water**

I've heard a lot of clichéd, platitude laden prayers in my life. Hey, I've prayed a lot of them, too.

But with scripture as our guide, God leads us into a different kind of prayer--prayer said with thanksgiving. St. Paul, who writing from prison said,

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Strange. Here he is suffering, yet he's telling us to pray with thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is the seasoning that makes our prayers pleasing to God. One cannot whine and give thanks in the same breath. Self-pity and thankfulness don't mix any better than oil and water.

In fact, mixing thanks with prayer somehow changes it. When we remember what God has done for us in the past and think about who he is in the present -- and express that in thankfulness -- our prayers become gentler and more trusting somehow. Thankful prayers are offered with faith. Faith is an essential ingredient for prayers that God chooses to answer.

We remember the Pilgrims on Thanksgiving Day. Not so much for their turkey dinner, but for the sheer faith that inspired them to give thanks in a year that saw nearly half their number die of sickness. Yet they prayed with thanksgiving.

The real test of thankfulness is whether we can give thanks from the heart for what we do have, despite the wounds and pains of yesterday's struggles. Ours is not some fair-weather faith, but a resilient trust in the midst of trial and tribulation. The Pilgrims lived close to the edge of survival. Perhaps that is why they were so thankful.

When your annual day of feasting is over, you may bemoan your extra helpings of dressing, mashed potatoes, and pumpkin pie. But if you can hang on to the "thanks" part of Thanksgiving, you'll be a different person. Because when you learn to talk to God about your needs -- mixed with a healthy dose of heartfelt thanks -- then you have crossed the divide from whining at God to a healthy prayer life.

In Christ,
Pastor Mark

New Staff Roles at St. Matthew's

At the October 16th Voters Meeting, the voters assembly passed to hire Jenna Bents as our Director of Youth Ministries. Roxann Leckband will move into her new role as Director of Human Care Ministries. Please keep these ladies in your prayers as they transition into their new roles here at St. Matthews.

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 23rd at 6:45 p.m.** Thanksgiving decorations, scripture and special music combine to make a memorable and uplifting time of worship and praise.

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

I just wanted to briefly share with you that I will be assuming new ministry responsibilities as the Director of Human Care Ministries. I feel blessed as God has placed this opportunity before me. I will look to our Lord as I work to develop a Health Ministry Committee, a Parish Nurse Program with a long range goal of establishing a Stephen's Ministry.

It will be exciting as the congregational health needs are assessed leading to objectives and goals to implement. In the months to come I will be communicating with the congregation and reporting on the status of the Human Care Ministry. A Health Care ministry will be developed in the future.

As children and families will be a part of the congregation that Health and Human Care are able to serve I will continue to provide Christian education and facilitate the Mom's and Family Night groups. I will also continue to make "new baby" visits as a part of the visitation ministry. The visitation ministry I provide at St. Matthew will be in conjunction with Pastor Mark.

Please keep the development of the Human Care Ministries in your prayers and for those who God will provide to serve within the ministries.

In Christ Alone,
Roxann Leckband RN
Director of Human Care Ministries

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN CARE MINISTRIES

by Roxann Leckband

Mom's group will be meeting on November 4th, 11th, and 18th from 10:00-11:30am. The moms are reading and discussing the book Unglued. The "little ones" will be with our caring volunteers. We will have a Bible story, play time, activities and snacks for them.

Family night will be on November 20th starting at 5:00pm with a goal to eat by 5:30pm. Let us give "thanks together" as we join with other families for a Thanksgiving fellowship event. We will have turkey, mashed potatoes and dressing for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner. This is for all families with children from infancy to high school and older. If you are planning to attend, as this is a catered meal, please RSVP to 376-6168 if you plan to attend. Make an open invitation to another family to join you here at St Matthew. There will be games for the kids and a cute Thanksgiving craft. Come prepared with memories of past Thanksgiving holidays. Please bring a dish to share.

Noon fellowship will be on November 14th at 12:00pm. Everyone is invited. Please join us for our annual Thanksgiving meal. Turkey, mashed potatoes and dressing will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass. If you do not want to prepare anything, give a "free-will" offering. There will be a beautifully decorated room, great friends to talk with, awesome food and a devotion to enjoy.

Contact Roxie if you have any questions about these three events, at 376-6168.

ATTENTION PARENTS: We are preparing for the children's **Sunday School Christmas Program.** Looking ahead – please mark your calendars. The program will be on December 18th at 9:30 a.m. We will have rehearsals on December 10th and 17th from 9:00-10:30am.

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 table in the Great Hall. 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 Boxes. If you would like to fill an entire box we will have the boxes available at the church. **Deadline is November 17.**

CHURCH RECORDS

Baptism

- Emma Jean Kirlin, daughter of Kandara Kirlin & Bruce Beeck, was baptized on October 2, 2016. Sponsors were: Justin Kirlin, Trent Kirlin, Krystal Campbell

Deaths

- Douglas Hunt, passed away October 8, 2016. Funeral service was held on October 11, 2016.

Weddings

- Matthew Schroeder & Brianna Rebman were united in marriage on October 8, 2016.

Transfers/Releases

- Jordan & Brandi Balster and their daughter, Tenley to Brandon, SD.
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WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

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

ALTAR GUILD

Serving in November will be: Jen Iverson and Sandie Spittle 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 3rd at 1:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We will complete final preparations for the Harvest Dinner and also plan the Christmas Party and Christmas Donations. Executive Board is Hostess. The November 20th Coffee Hour will be hosted by the Sarah Circle.

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 6 – LWML hosts; November 13 – Veterans Breakfast – Cindy Brunk hosts; November 20 – LWML Sarah Circle hosts with proceeds going to a Seminary Student; November 27 – Youth hosts. **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 13th
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 available to needy families in Nobles County. 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. ***Please leave your donations by December 1st.*** If you have any questions, please contact 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 desperate need, please contact the church office at 376-6168. The family **MUST** fill out a form and return it to the church office by November 14th. Families must be referred to Community Christmas Baskets by a church, school, or service organization.

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.

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 (in a manilla envelope in the rack outside the office door) and **MUST be completed and returned by November 20th.**

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! 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.

Love INC Update

Love INC is now accepting applications for a new Executive Director. The Job Description: The Executive Director is responsible for supporting the direction, operational leadership, and oversight required to achieve the vision and mission of extending ministries of congregations. The Executive Director will work toward building the community relationships and partnerships necessary for success. The Executive Director, in partnership with the Board of Directors, develops, implements, and manages the strategic goals and objectives of Love INC of Worthington. Contact Information: Interested persons should email treasurer@loveincwgtm.org to obtain an application.

Gretchen O'Donnell was hired in September as the new Clearinghouse Coordinator. Please pray for Vandenn, Gretchen, and the volunteers as they deal with the daily operations. And pray that God leads the best new Executive Director to our ministry here.

Music & Worship News

“Sing to the Lord with Thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre” Psalm 147:7

Join us for our special 125th Anniversary Celebration Service on Sunday, November 6, 10:30 AM. Our service will include worship songs led by our Praise Band, traditional hymns, and special music by our adult and bell choirs.

A men's chorus will provide special music at both services, Sunday, November 13, in honor of our Veterans. A special thank you to Steve Rubis for helping to recruit singers for this group.

Our Thanksgiving Eve service, Wednesday, November 23rd at 6:45 PM, will include brass and choir. All singers are welcome and encouraged to join our Thanksgiving Choir. Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 5:30. Brass players will be contacted soon--if you are a brass player and are not called, please contact Lorenda Glade at 712-330-1523 or 712-758-3376.

Our church year ends on Sunday, November 20 with Christ the King Sunday, followed by the season of Advent beginning Sunday, November 27. Our first midweek Advent service will be Wednesday, November 30 at 6:45.

Please consider attending our 6:45 Wednesday evening service, particularly if you will be out of town on a weekend. We have started including our young musicians for special music at this service. If you are a pianist, instrumentalist, or singer, and would like to share your talents at a somewhat smaller service, please contact Lorenda Glade.

As we enter this very busy season of the church year, continue to watch your bulletins and screen shows for announcements for special music opportunities at St. Matthew.

Lorenda Glade, Joy Schreiber, Directors of Music

HIGHLIGHTS from the 10/4/16 COUNCIL MEETING

Treasurer's Report: September expenses were \$30,816.24. Income was \$27,637.09. Building Fund income was \$1,760.00 and expenses were \$4,000.00 for a net income for the month of -\$5,419.15. Balance in the General Fund checking account on September 30, 2016 was \$84,784.27. Building Loan balance at the end of September was \$145,601.33. \$12,333.71 in Adopt-A-Day money was received in September. Memorial Fund balance is \$32,832.88. Scholarship Fund balance is \$642,416.71. Current Building Fund loan balance includes cost of stained glass window restoration project.

Highlights of the 10/4/16 Council Meeting continued:

Pastor Mark: Average weekend attendance was 258. Average Wednesday attendance was 26. Have started the “Believe” Bible study. Have had around 60 in attendance. There is an extra DVD that may be checked out from the office if you miss a week. Nov. 6th will be a 125th Anniversary Celebration. There will be one service with Pastor Bob Schulze presiding. LWML Harvest Dinner will follow the service. Plans include the burning of the original mortgage papers for the Great Hall addition.

Roxie Leckband: Working on a Confirmation curriculum for a student with Downs Syndrome. Youth are following the “Believe” Bible study series for Sunday School.

Lorenda Glade: Organ had another stuck pipe issue on September 25th. This has happened before, but it is difficult to fix it when it happens during the service. Have been in touch with the organ tuner. Coordinating plans with Pastor Schreiber for our 125th Anniversary service on November 6th. Sunday school Christmas Program for Preschool-8th graders will be on December 18th at 9:30 a.m. The program is “Joseph Dearest, Mary Mine.”

Elders: Reviewed budget and approved for the voters meeting presentation. Reviewed job descriptions of staff. Wednesday evening service attendance is growing.

Trustees: Possibility of a new computer for the church office, as Bev’s is 3 years old and the computer used for treasurer is not able to accept software updates, without some updates to it, as it is about 5 years old. Prices are being obtained. Lori Fletcher will continue to be in charge of the landscape upkeep of plants. She should work together with Dan Krueger in regards to replacing the plants that are needed. A budget of \$2,000 per year was set for this upkeep. Lori may use her discretion and contact the trustees as needed.

Education: Sunday school is going well. KFC program is up to 20 youth attending on Wednesdays after school. Most of the youth are members of our church. This year we are paying the school district to bus them to the church after they have had their snack at school.

Stewardship: Had a float in the Turkey Day parade. Had 2 banners made that can be used again highlighting our church’s 125th anniversary. Handed out pencils and candy. Are working on a theme to promote stewardship. Shared information about a program called “TRIP.” This is a program that Deb VanderKooi at Main Street Kids administers, where you buy gift cards to different participating businesses, and then a percentage is given back to the church that is participating in the program. There are no participation fees. Checks would be sent to the church once a month. Discussed the electronic giving program that has just started.

Human Care: We served a meal to the Growing Hope class that Love INC sponsors that meets on Monday evenings at the Worthington Christian Church. We served around 30 people and gave donations of the leftover food for participants to take home with them.

New Business: Tammy Brunk presented the budget for approval. Some of the line items have been combined into one line item. Ron Iverson will present the budget at the October 16th voters meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

2016 GIVING – Please remember, all offerings to the church to be counted as 2016 giving, **MUST PHYSICALLY BE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE by December 31st**. Anything received after that time must be counted towards 2017 giving. THANK YOU!

Bake Sale items are needed. Please have your bake sale items at the church by 9am on Sunday, November 6th. You may also bring your items on Saturday, November 5th between 10am and 12noon. PLEASE have your bake sale items packaged and ready to price. Your help is truly appreciated.

Help Needed! If you can help us on Sunday, November 6th with serving or cleaning up after the dinner, please let Kathy Roslansky (360-1831) know. Servers need to be ready by 11:15 and will work until 1:00. Clean up people work from 12:45 to 2:00 (approximately). You can eat before or after you work. Thank You!

October 16, 2016 Quarterly Voters Meeting Highlights

Treasurer's Report: 3rd Quarter numbers – Income: \$84,786.58; Expenses: \$99,686.51; Building Fund Income: \$7,480.00; Building Fund Expenses: \$9,079.46; Building Fund Loan Balance: \$145,601.33; Scholarship Fund Balance: \$642,416.71; Memorial Fund Balance: \$30,832.88. For the third quarter, we have a \$16,499.69 shortage overall.

Pastor Mark: Had 5 weddings in past 7 weeks, it was a very busy time. Wednesday evening services are at 6:45. This time was chosen due to Confirmation schedule and trying to make Wednesday evening a family night. Youth are doing the “Believe” Bible Study also.

Roxie: Noon Fellowship meets on the second Monday of the month and everyone is welcome. Working with others on plans for the Christmas Program. Have been planning details on establishing a Parish Nurse Ministry.

Music Directors: Have been some recent organ issues. May need to update organ sometime in the future, such as replacing the console. This would be a major expense. Plans are to have youth assisting with the 10:30 worship service monthly. Thank you to Darci Holt for playing for Wednesday evening summer services. She will playing occasionally at the ongoing Wednesday evening services.

Elders: President Nathan Holt appointed Christ Luther to the vacant elder position due to unfortunate loss of Jim Arnt. Shared an update of ongoing lawsuit.

Trustees: Roof and gutter project completed. Stained glass refurbishing project is in process.

Board of Ed: Thank you to all those who assisted with the Sunday School Kickoff.

Board of Stewardship: Discussed participating in a program called “Trip”. Gave away door prizes of different gift cards. Steve Rubs has ideas to increase fellowship in church activities.

Board of Evangelism: Will be serving at the Banquet on Jan. 21st. Prayer Intercessors for confirmation youth has started. Will be assisting with serving at the Friendship Supper our church hosts.

Board of Human Care: Will be doing Caring Tree for Christmas.

DCE Update: Not successful in process of getting a person to fill our need. Pastor and Elders have decided to recommend a different position. Jenna Bents is willing to work part-time with youth. Elders have discussed having her work 25 hours weekly. Will sign a 1 year contract. Roxie will transition to Director of Human Care Ministries.

2017 Budget: Budget was presented. Several line items have been combined that were recommended by Tammy Brunk. Discussion about some of proposed changes.

Thank you to Pat Arnt for the wonderful meal prior to today's Voters Meeting.

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

- *Advent Wednesday Evening Worship Services:*
 - November 30, December 7 and 14 at 6:45 p.m.
 - **Supper will be served from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Advent Wednesdays
- *Christmas Program and Worship Service – Sunday, December 18 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.)*

GRAIN OFFERINGS - Any farmers that would like to make a donation using loads of grain may do so by simply telling the grain elevator, and then calling the place you are doing the donation for, so they may contact the elevator. You may make your donations this way to the following organizations: St. Matthew Lutheran Church; Worthington Christian School; Love INC of Worthington. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Worship Service Helpers for November 2016

ACOLYTES

<u>Date</u>	<u>8 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
Nov. 6- One Service at 10:30AM = Faith Arnt		
Nov. 13	Lance Gordon	Laci Boomgarden
Nov. 20	Austin Barber	Jessalyn Broesder
Nov. 23	6:45p.m. – Nia Iverson	
Nov. 27	Brandon Arzu-Bustad	MacKenzie Meyeraan
Nov. 30	6:45p.m. – Godmar Gach	
Dec. 4	Luke Gordon	Ivy Paplow

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

<u>Date</u>	
Nov. 6	Sierra Goedtke and Beth White
Nov. 13	Evan Hansberger and Gail Holinka
Nov. 20	Ben Schreiber and Jessica Larson
Nov. 27	Logan Meyeraan and Alexie Cross
Dec. 4	Presley Sieve and 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. 6	(10:30)	Ilona Benson; John & Marlene Moberg
Nov. 13	(8am) (10:30)	Leonard & Marge Ruesch; Bonnie Tille Greg & Roxie Leckband Family
Nov. 20	(8am) (10:30)	Sue Flesner; Ron Markman Joel & Kim Rogers
Nov. 23	6:45 p.m.	DuWayne & Carol Oberloh; Myron & Sandy Meyer
Nov. 27	(8am) (10:30)	YOUTH YOUTH
Nov. 30	6:45 p.m.	Jim & Eloise Langseth
Dec. 4	(8am) (10:30)	Gary & Velma Cortright 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.

125th Anniversary Celebration & LWML Harvest Dinner

Sunday—November 6th



Special Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

Former Pastor Bob Schulze will be our speaker.

Meal will be served from 11:30am—1:00pm

A "free-will offering" will be received for the meal.

Come enjoy a delicious Thanksgiving Dinner of turkey and all the trimmings, plus homemade pie!



Please JOIN US in celebrating this milestone anniversary with us!

There will be a bake sale of homemade goodies and cards available to purchase from our bookstore.

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!

Proceeds will go towards our New Roof & LWML Missions.



Meal deliveries will be available within the city of Worthington. **Please call the church office by 3 p.m. Friday, November 4th to order a delivered meal.** Take-outs will also be available.

**REMINDER - DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS
NOVEMBER 6th - SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE
HOUR when you go to bed on Saturday, November 5th.**

