

# St. Matthew Lutheran Church

1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN

## November 2017 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 given 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 home.

In Christ,  
Pastor Mark

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### 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", **Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** Thanksgiving decorations, scripture and special music combine to make a memorable and uplifting time of worship and praise.



# DIRECTOR OF HUMAN CARE MINISTRIES

by Roxann Leckband

Greetings just a reminder if you feel someone could benefit from visitation offered through our Human Care visitation ministry please notify the church office at 376-6168 or my cell phone 712-260-3820. If you have any questions about visitation please let me know.

Reminder: please check in with your health care provider if you have not yet received your flu immunization. Receive the protection the flu vaccination can give!

The Daniel Plan Bible study focuses on 5 areas of our life to teach us how to improve and live a healthy life spiritually and physically. The Daniel Plan stresses the importance of our Lord and looking to Him for strength and will power to break poor habits that are detrimental to our overall health.

In the September newsletter I made reference to high sugar content of juices and the recommendations made according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. This month I would like to share with you a recommendation made by Providers Choice regarding cereals and crackers for children. Please note the cereal and cracker sheets included in this newsletter. I think this would also be a useful tool for older youth and adults as well. Please note this information was taken from the Providers Choice website if you are interested in any other nutritional facts.

**NOON FELLOWSHIP** will be held on Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup> with a dinner of turkey, mashed potatoes, dressing, gravy and a dinner roll provided. Please bring a dish to share. Blood pressures will be taken for anyone who would like it done starting at 11:30. At 1:00 there will be an Advanced Care Planning instruction for anyone interested in learning more about Advanced Care Plan. Give your family a gift with decisions already made and in place. Please contact Roxie if you have any questions at 376-6168 or cell 712-260-3820.

“Walk with Jesus” beginning November 20<sup>th</sup>, in the lower level of the church, we will have a designated walking path. The church will be open for walking Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00am-1:00pm. The coffee pot will be available for those wanting coffee. Please note this is a fellowship and physical exercise ministry. There will be a “Word of the Week.” Please note if there is a funeral or other activities, the church will not be available for walking. If there is any questionable weather (snow, etc.) please call ahead to determine if the church is open.

“Faithfully fit” is an exercise/dance ministry for all ages. This will be held on Mondays - November 6, 13, 20 and 27 from 5:15pm-6:15pm in the all purpose room in the basement. If you have never done anything like this before that is ok, just come and watch. You will certainly not be expected to know any or all of the moves. Movement is one of the keys to a healthy heart and a healthier you! Please contact Roxie with any questions 376-6168.

## FAMILY EVENTS

- We had a great “Fall Festival” in October with many in attendance. Praise God for families and the opportunities to get together. Thank-you to all the food that was brought in, I could not do it without you.
- On November 19<sup>th</sup> there will be an emphasis on Advent and the Family from 12:00 noon until 1:00 we will have a meal of tater tot casserole, vegetable and dessert provided. Please bring a dish to complement the casserole (if you are able). There will be Advent Family Devotional material available.

(continued)

## **FAMILY EVENTS continued:**

- From 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm (on November 19) we will be hosting Creative Spirits. Creative Spirits will be providing a painting workshop. We will learn how to paint a picture relating to Advent as we are instructed step by step of how to paint. So you can be an accomplished painter or a novice all is good. Each adult painter will take home a mounted picture you painted and like the children will also paint and bring home a mounted picture. The picture the adults will be painting is titled the Prince of Peace and the children's picture is titled Joy. The cost for the adult to paint and the picture is \$25 and for the children to paint and take a picture home is \$15. Please let Roxie know if there is a financial hardship that would deter you from participating
- Please feel free to come only from 1:00-3:00pm if you are not interested in the meal. Please RSVP for the meal/painting to Roxie. I need to know numbers for the food and to inform Creative Spirits staff in order for them to bring the right amount of supplies along.

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

- The Preschool-2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will be singing on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> during both the 8am and 10:30am worship services.
- The Sunday School Christmas program will be on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> for our Preschool-8<sup>th</sup> Graders. The program will take place during our single, worship service at 9:30AM that Sunday. We will have fellowship time in the basement following service. If there is inclement weather, please listen to the local radio stations (93.5FM; 95.1FM; 104.3FM or 730AM). We will then postpone the program to Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Rehearsals for the Christmas Program will be Saturdays, December 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11:00AM. If we have good attendance and get through the program successfully on December 9<sup>th</sup>, we will not have rehearsal on the 16<sup>th</sup>. So PLEASE make every effort to have your child at the December 9<sup>th</sup> rehearsal.
- KFC is going well! The children seem to be enjoying it. When we informed our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders that we would not be having KFC the Wednesday before MEA, the kids told us they were going to come anyway! It warms my heart when children enjoy being in "their Fathers" house and learning of His love for them!
- Remember the great praise music you hear at worship can be heard on radio stations: 96.5, 88.9 and 88.1. These are great radio stations playing music with a positive message!

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## **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 have the boxes available at the church. **Deadline is November 15.**

Sunday school officially started on September 24. Attendance is between 65-85 children on any given Sunday. This year the donations will be used for hurricane victims and Missionary McDermott. Our goal is to collect \$500.00 for the year. We will post the collection totals on the north bulletin board and in the newsletters.

## **Board of Education Continued:**

KFC (Kids for Christ) started on September 20<sup>th</sup>. We have 26 students from St. Matthew and other churches attending. Teaching staff is Ruth Ramert and Dan Bogie. Helpers are Bonnie Schroeder, Sandy Meyer, and Dawn Dorschner with assistance and coordination by Jeanette Varuska and Roxie Leckband.

November 19, we will conduct a Thanksgiving/Advent kick-off lunch with activities following the second service from 11:30-1:00.

The Sunday School Christmas program "Christmas Sing with Us" will be held on December 17<sup>th</sup> at a special 9:30 am service. Students are already practicing the music. Christmas cookies will be available after the program. (A weather date will be Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup>)

*Jeanette Varuska, Chairman*

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## **CHURCH RECORDS**

### **Baptism**

- Bailee Elice Sandersfeld, daughter of Adam & Ashley Sandersfeld was baptized October 15.

### **New Members**

- Orville & Mildred Hokeness

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## **WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN**

The Sarah Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 21 at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 14 at 5:15 p.m. The Martha Circle will meet on Thursday, November 16 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

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## **ALTAR GUILD**

Serving in November will be: Sandy Meyer and Marge Ruesch 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.

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## **LWML NEWS**

Our November LWML Business Meeting will be on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:30 p.m. Executive Board is hostess. Looking ahead to December, the Christmas Party will be on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Watch the bulletin for more details.

**Thank you so much to all who helped with the Reformation German Dinner! We couldn't do it without you. God Bless you all!**

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## **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 5 – No hosts yet; November 12 – Veterans Breakfast – Cindy Brunk hosts; November 19 – LWML Sarah Circle hosts; November 26 – 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 12<sup>th</sup>  
from 9:00-9:30AM  
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!

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**INTENTIONAL EVANGELISM CHALLENGE MOMENT**

The opportunity for evangelism may not come in a three piece suit. It may be messy or in an uncomfortable situation. If you don't know what to say, ask if you may pray with them. If you can't think of the words to pray, pray The Lord's Prayer. God is with you and in control. Take one minute a day to make a difference in someone's life.



Hannah Henning is the daughter of Tom & Carrie Henning. She has four siblings: Adam, Amy, Danny and Dusty. Hannah is 13 and is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Adrian Middle School. Her favorite class is history because she likes learning about things that happened to our country. She likes to ice skate because it's not a normal sport. She is also active in 4H. When hanging out with friends she just likes talking.

Her hobbies include reading fantasy books. At church, Hannah is involved in confirmation and Sunday school. Her favorite Bible story is the creation story because she likes learning how God made the world and who He made it for. It was mom's idea to join the Y.I. Stamp Program. She is saving for college and would like to study to become a vet or a history teacher. Hannah is proud of her uniqueness and her sassy attitude. We are proud of her desire to be a Y.I. Stamp Saver.

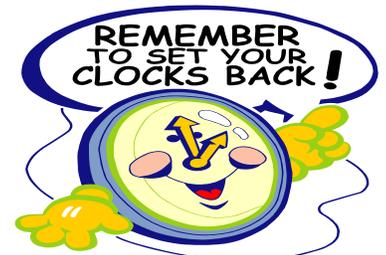
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**MISCELLANEOUS NOTES**

**2017 GIVING** – Please remember, all offerings to the church to be counted as 2017 giving, **MUST PHYSICALLY BE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE by December 31<sup>st</sup>**. Anything received after that time must be counted towards 2018 giving. THANK YOU!

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**REMINDER - DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS  
NOVEMBER 5th - SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE  
HOUR when you go to bed on Saturday, November  
4th. HAPPY FALL!!!!!!**



## Music & Worship News

“Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One, Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ His Son”. LSB 806

There are many upcoming musical opportunities for people of all ages to offer their talents in thanks and praise to God for our many blessings.

1. All Saints Sunday is November 5.
2. Sunday, November 12, 8:00 AM special music will be a patriotic medley in honor of Veteran’s Day. All men and ladies who love to sing are welcome to participate. We will practice in the chapel Wednesdays at 5:15, and Sundays after Bible Class.
3. Sunday, November 19, the Preschool through Grade 2 students will sing during both the 8:00 AM and 10:30 service. Parents, this would be an excellent Sunday for you to attend one of our 3 Bible studies between services.
4. Our Thanksgiving Eve service is Wednesday, November 22 at 6:30 PM. This will be a blended service, with worship band, traditional hymns, and special choir and brass music.
5. The last Sunday of the church year, Christ the King Sunday, is November 26. The Advent season begins on Sunday, December 3; with Wednesday evening blended Advent services on November 29, December 6 and 13. Special music will be part of all of these services.
6. The Sunday School Christmas program is Sunday, December 17, at 9:30 AM.
7. Be watching the bulletin and screen shows for more information and updates on the above services, and the December newsletter for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day service information.

*Lorenda Glade, Joy Schreiber, Directors of Music*

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### Love INC Faith Challenge

First part of the month: Make it a goal to thank as many Veterans this month as you possibly can. Select at least one Vet specifically to show you appreciation with a care, having them over for supper or taking them out to coffee, etc.

Second part of the month: Cultivate an attitude of gratitude. Keep a daily calendar of things that you are grateful for until we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior! Feel free to continue afterwards!

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### ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN SHIPMENTS

On August 23 and October 11, John Galstad delivered 74 boxes to the Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk, NE. These boxes contained 163 blankets and quilts, 11 baby blankets, 22 sheet sets, 26 pillowcases, and 16 backpacks. A recent shipment went to hurricane victims. Thanks to each and every one who contributes. You make a huge difference in many lives.

Our Mission Sewing ladies made 58 quilts and 11 baby blankets. Total they made for the year is 119 quilts and 42 baby blankets. We appreciate all who help pack these blankets and John for delivering them. Our total deliveries for this year: 136 boxes that included 377 blankets, quilts and baby blankets; 56 pillowcase dresses; and 112 pair of underwear.

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## HIGHLIGHTS from the 10/10/17 COUNCIL MEETING

Treasurer's Report: September expenses were \$31,925.01. Income was \$26,723.92. Building Fund income was \$825.00 and expenses were \$2,000. Net income for the month was -\$6,376.09. Balance in the General Fund Checking Account on September 30, 2017 was \$54,784.36. Building Loan balance at the end of September was \$100,932.65. Memorial Fund Balance is \$34,203.07. Scholarship Fund Balance is \$704,277.56. Youth account monthly report was \$30,063.22.

Pastor Mark: Average weekend attendance was 254. Average Wednesday attendance was 30.

Discussed that the trend of our society is that weekly attendance of members is sporadic. New Sunday morning Bible studies have had some new members attending with 8-10 in some of them. Discussed that might be helpful to have someone be the facilitator for each group. New TV in confirmation classroom has been very helpful for teaching. New TV in Fireside Room is being used for the Sunday morning bible study that meets in there. Discussion on redesigning logo on church letterhead.

Roxie Leckband: Health Cabinet has continued to offer blood pressure screenings at the monthly noon fellowship event. Working with starting a prayer shawl ministry. Many thanks to Deb Thompson for her willingness to organize this.

Jenna: Have been having great attendance and discussions on youth group nights. Sunday morning high school Sunday school has been using the "Courage" study available on RightNow Media. Sticky Faith parent class has started and meets on Sunday mornings. Planning a "Serve Your Neighbor" two day servant event for October 20 & 21. Would like to see this be an annual event.

Lorenda Glade/Joy Schreiber: Handbell choir rehearsals have changed to Wednesdays at 5PM. Sunday school youth will begin learning the songs for the Christmas program soon. Adult choir is meeting on Wednesdays at 5:30PM. Special music is being planned for Veteran's Day weekend services. Tentative plans for Sunday School youth to sing songs at the November 19 services.

Elders: Still having some issues with the Wi-Fi in the upstairs education wing. Elders schedule will be doing a trial period of setting the schedule for 3 months in advance. Very appreciative of members willingness to volunteer to help with ushering and offering collection.

Trustees: Three TVs have been installed in the Fireside Room, large upstairs classroom and large downstairs classroom. DVD players were also purchased for each TV. Striping of the parking lot will take place next spring. Have gotten a bid locked in place for current prices. Baseboards in the Fellowship Hall have been scraped and painted. Extended the Education Office; therefore installed a lock on the other door for that.

Education: Sunday school attendance has been around 86 per week. KFC attendance has increased to 26. Have been using material that is available on RightNow Media. Will be doing Operation Christmas Child again. Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 17, snow date is December 20.

Evangelism: Prayer Intercessors for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders have been set up for 15 youth. January 27 has been set for our servant event at The Banquet in Sioux Falls. Will need to do a fundraiser prior to this.

Human Care: Have recruited 12 individuals interested in helping with the prayer shawl ministry. Have had donations of yarn. If anyone is willing to donate yarn, please contact Deb. Will be sponsoring mitten/scarf/socks tree again. Look for the tree to be located in the Great Hall in early November.

New Business: 2018 budget presented by Tammy Brunk. Discussion regarding the need to watch expenses as the weekly giving has decreased by \$50,000 since the beginning of the year. Discussed Advent services and a meal being served prior to services. More discussion will take place at our November meeting.

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**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 2017

## **ACOLYTES**

<u>Date</u>	<u>8 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
Nov. 5	Caleb Barber	Maelie Holt
Nov. 12	Faith Leinen	Kyle Ahrenstorff
Nov. 19	Nia Iverson	Kamia Rosadakhom
<b>Nov. 22</b>	<b>6:30p.m. – Lance Gordon</b>	
Nov. 26	Austin Barber	Brandon Bosma
<b>Nov. 29</b>	<b>6:30p.m. – Jonathan Banegas</b>	
Dec. 3	Brandon Arzu-Bustad	Mark Geertsema

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

<u>Date</u>	
November 5	Sierra Goedtke, Angie Kopplow
November 12	Evan Hansberger, Tammy Markus
November 19	Logan Meyeraan, Gail Holinka
<b>November 22–6:30PM</b>	<b>Presley Sieve, Marlis Rohwer</b>
November 26	Jennifer Preuss, Christine Preuss

***\* 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. 5	(8am)	John Galstad; Ron Markman
	(10:30)	David & Alexie Cross; Marlene Jurgensen
Nov. 12	(8am)	Myron & Sandy Meyer
	(10:30)	Joel & Julie Lorenz
Nov. 19	(8am)	Dan & Laurita Roos
	(10:30)	DuWayne & Carol Oberloh
<b>Nov. 22</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Voris &amp; Sandie Spittle</b>
Nov. 26	(8am)	YOUTH
	(10:30)	YOUTH
<b>Nov. 29</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Karen Schwartz; Julie Buntjer</b>
Dec. 3	(8am)	Don & Lorna Buntjer
	(10:30)	John & Jessica Widvey

*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.*