

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN

November 2018 Newsletter



“For All the Saints”

*“Oh, may your soldiers, faithful, true, and bold, fight as the saints who nobly fought of old
and win with them the victor’s crown of gold” LSB 677*

As we enter into the month of November our minds start turning to the Holiday Season with all of its festivities. It is supposed to be a joyous and happy time of the year, a time of year where it is right to give thanks to God for what he has done for us. But the truth of the matter is that sometimes it is hard for us to be joyous and thankful, because of different circumstances happening in our lives, or in the lives of people we love and care about. We do a good job of pasting on smiles, but we don’t always feel the joy inside like we think we should. You see, at these times our Lord calls us to suffer through to thanksgiving, but know there will be a thanksgiving.

We need to cling to our Savior, a God who left his heavenly home, who took on our flesh only to suffer pain and agony for you and for me, but he suffered through to thanksgiving. Because, you see, the power of sin and death couldn’t conquer him, and with great thanksgiving the Father raised him to life, so that we all might have life in him.

When you have sorrow, anxieties, or uncertainty in your life-know that you are not alone. You have a suffering Savior, who suffers with you. This Savior suffers through with you to thanksgiving.

On November 4th the church celebrates All Saints Day. On this day we remember those saints, *“who from their labors rest”* LSB 677. Most of us have loved ones who have already gone to their eternal home and who now are rejoicing in endless bliss. But if we took time to survey their lives we know they didn’t always have it easy here on earth. They like us all had their sorrows and struggles in this world before they departed in peace. This doesn’t keep us from rejoicing over them with the hymn writer, *“They are the honored of the Lord. He is their prince who drowned their sins, so they were cleansed restored. They now serve God both day and night; they sing their songs in endless light”* LSB 677.

If you find yourself getting down this Holiday Season try to keep things in an eternal perspective. This life is but a short pilgrimage, we may have our trials and tears in this life, but like our loved ones who have gone before us, someday soon we will know nothing but endless bliss and joy. Find comfort from this hymn line, *“Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine, we feebly struggle, they in glory shine; yet all are one with in your great design”* LSB 677. You are part of God’s great design, even though sometimes we have to suffer through to thanksgiving, know you are not alone. God bless you all.

In the Love of Christ,
Pastor Mark



NEW Sunday Morning Adult Bible Studies

Begin on November 4th – Join us!

We The People will meet in the **basement Fellowship Hall** from 9:30-10:15 a.m. (*please note: on Nov. 4th we will meet 9:45-10:15 due to the Veterans Breakfast*). **This is a 4 week study.** Politics and politicians – there's seemingly no way to escape them. Though government and those who govern are often criticized by press and citizen alike, it is through government that God works His designs in this world. Join host Dr. Dale Meyer as he surveys government in history, the character of the United States as a nation, and the Christian's role as a citizen of any country.

Grace Based Parenting will meet in the **Multi-Purpose Room under the Great Hall** from 9:30-10:15 a.m. **This is a 6 week study** led by Amy Khamphanh. This study is a must for parents who want to love their kids the way God loves his – through a lifelong relationship not just a long list of rules. With humor and poignancy, Dr. Kimmel goes into depth on how to meet your children's inner heart needs and set their hearts free to be who God created them to be.

Grace-Based Parenting will help you:

- Find the balance point in a world of extremes.
- Keep from investing your energies in a long list of things that don't matter.
- Make parenting more fun.
- Liberate your children emotionally and spiritually.
- Prepare your whole family for a lifetime of healthy choices and relationships-with God and with each other.
- Know the best way you can meet your kids' most basic needs-the way God meets all of ours.

The Meaning of Life will meet in the **Fireside Room** from 9:30-10:15 a.m. **This is a 4 week study.** Is there meaning of life? Many athletes have claimed that if God does not exist, then human life is ultimately without meaning, value, or purpose. By contrast, if Christianity is true, then each one of us is here for a reason, and life does not end at the grave. God, who is the absolute standard of goodness, knows you, loves you, and intentionally created you. So your life ultimately does have objective meaning, value, and purpose!

Topics will include:

- The Kalam Cosmological Argument
- Leibniz's Contingency Argument
- The Moral Argument
- The Fine Tuning Argument
- The Ontological Argument
- Suffering & Evil: The Logical Problem
- Suffering & Evil: The Probability Version
- Who Did Jesus Think He Was?



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 21st at 6:30 p.m.** Thanksgiving decorations, scripture and special music combine to make a memorable and uplifting time of worship and praise.

CHURCH RECORDS

Baptism

- Wyatt Donn Strand, son of Reid & Becky Strand was baptized on September 30.

Death

- Alice Carnahan passed away September 5, funeral service was held September 28.
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MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS

Here are some upcoming opportunities for our musicians at St. Matthew:

- **Veteran's Day Special Music:** Singers of all ages are invited to help lead the congregation in a patriotic medley on Sunday, November 4. The songs are all familiar, so please join us! We will practice at 10:15 on Sunday, October 28 and run through the song in the sanctuary at 7:30 on Sunday, November 4. Then join us for a Veteran's recognition and coffee hour following the 8:00 AM service, hosted by Cindy Brunk.
- **Thanksgiving Eve Festival Choir:** Even if you are not a member of our adult choir throughout the year, please consider joining us for our Thanksgiving Eve anthem. Our choir is directed by Louise Clausen and meets in the new music room at 5:15 Wednesday evenings.
- **Thanksgiving Eve Festival Brass:** Brass players in high school and older (Middle school with director recommendation) are invited to participate in our Thanksgiving Eve service. We will practice at 10:00 AM, Sunday, November 18 in the new music room, Tuesday, November 20 at 7:00 PM in the church balcony. We will warm up briefly at 6:10 on Wednesday evening prior to the service. I will contact people who have previously played. If you have not participated in our brass group before and are interested, please contact Lorenda Glade, 712-330-1523, or email lorenda.glade@gmail.com.
- The Advent and Christmas seasons will be upon us before we know it! Our blended **Midweek Advent Services** will be at 6:30 on December 5, 12, and 19. Special music will be a part of each of these services.
- **Our Sunday School Christmas program** is scheduled for Sunday morning, **December 16**. Our program this year will be a service of Scripture lessons, with traditional and contemporary carols and songs. **We are looking for Scripture readers**, and they can be high school students and adults from our congregation. More information will be forthcoming to our parents of Sunday School aged children. Be watching for the December newsletter and bulletins for more information on our Advent and Christmas worship opportunities. Please contact Roxie Leckband or Lorenda Glade for information.

God's Blessings,

Lorenda Glade, Joy Schreiber, Directors of Music

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Sarah Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 20 at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 20 at 5:15 p.m. The Martha Circle will meet on Thursday, November 15 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Feel free to join one of these groups for Bible Study.

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN CARE MINISTRIES

by Roxann Leckband

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

Happy Thanksgiving! hard to believe we are once again in this most beautiful time of the year. We focus on ALL the blessings our Heavenly Father has granted us. As we are blessed, may we be a blessing to others. There will be some opportunities to do just that.

Our FIRST opportunity to bless others is with providing new mittens/gloves, hats, or scarves for individuals of all ages. The items from our St. Matthew collection drive will be delivered to the Community Christmas Basket retrieval site at American Reformed Church. A plastic tote with a sign indicating the collection of hats, gloves, and mittens will be placed in the Great Hall. The items will need to be in the tote by the evening of December 5th for delivery to American Reformed Church. If someone would like to receive a Community Christmas Basket please contact Beverly or Roxie at 376-6168.

The SECOND opportunity to bless one or more families in the St. Matthew congregation is to contact Roxie with a family name and complete a needs list. We may also focus on gift cards for a family we choose. The Human Care ministry would like to do what we had done last year in receiving a list of the families' needs. I will then post items needed and begin collecting items. Karen Obermoller will be helping with this Caring ministry. Watch for more information in the weekly bulletins.

Please let Roxie or a staff person know if anyone is in need of a meal. We have hot dishes and chocolate chip cookies to bring out to families. Please contact Roxie.

Health Ministry

Blood pressures will be taken for anyone who would like it done. Individuals will be in the Nursery between services and then may stop down at the Coffee Hour.

Medication instruction and management: A large barrier in the provision of health care is the accurate medication follow through. How many of you have gotten a medication with a Trade name and the same medication with a generic name? Yet do not notice it is the same medication and we are taking twice the amount prescribed. **So, in order to assist, we will have medication management times available on Mondays, November 12th and December 10th from 1-2pm. There will be a sign-up sheet for your name, phone number and date and time you would like.** Once you have signed up we will phone you to confirm your time. On the day you come for your appointment please bring ALL medications (including generic) that you currently take. Please bring the latest medication list from a previous clinic or hospital visit. You may also contact your clinic or pharmacy for a medication list copy. We will put together a list you will be able to take to your next medical provider's appointment or hospitalization.

The St. Matthew Lutheran Health Cabinet is looking to enhance your physical health while supporting your faith journey with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The **walking ministry** will be starting soon. Watch in the bulletins for the specific information. We will not begin walking until all the construction tools and materials are removed from the Education Wing halls due to safety reasons.

St. Matthew Lutheran has **prayer shawls available**. Many talented women prayerfully crochet or knit these shawls. If you have a family member or friends in need of a prayer shawl please contact Roxie or Deb Thompsen at (507-376-6168).

Director of Human Care Ministries Report continued:

Noon Fellowship will be on Monday, November 12th with our Thanksgiving meal of turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, cranberries and a dinner roll provided. Please bring a dish to pass, give a free-will donation, or just yourself. WE will have good food, good fellowship and good devotion!

Mom's Group will be meeting on Fridays, November 9th, 16th and the 30th from 10:30-11:30am. Please join us. We are getting back to a great start with wonderful moms and fun little ones! We are viewing a Mother's Bible study called (un)Natural Mom. Moms are different and unique called by God to parent as God intends. All families are different so, therefore; parenting styles are different. Come and join us. I think you will enjoy fellowship with other moms while your children enjoy games, crafts, Bible stories and snacks.

Please Note - Please mark your calendar. **There will be no KFC or Confirmation on November 21st due to the Thanksgiving Break.**

The Pre-school through 8th Grade Christmas program will be Sunday, December 16th at 9:30a.m. Please mark your calendar. For more details see the worship and music portion of this newsletter.

ALTAR GUILD

Serving in November will be: Ruth Ramert & Velma Cortright for 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

The November meeting for LWML will be on **Thursday, November 1st**. The Business meeting will be at 6pm and a **Program at 6:45pm**. There will be a slide presentation from Megan Sauer about her recent trip to Greece where she and her sister, Morgan, followed the Apostle Paul on his 2nd missionary journey. Please join us for a very informative presentation. Executive Board will furnish dessert. Sarah Circle will serve coffee hour on November 18th.

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. **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.*

The family of Emma Feit would like to thank everyone at St. Matthew for their prayers and visits to her during her stay at South Shore Care Center and at her passing. Thank you to the makers of the prayer shawls, it was very special to her. A special thank you to Pastor Mark for his visits to Emma, for the lovely service, and to Roxie for her visits. Thanks to all who helped with the service and the LWML for serving lunch. God bless you all.



Everyone is invited to the
“Veterans Recognition Breakfast”
on Sunday, November 4th
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.

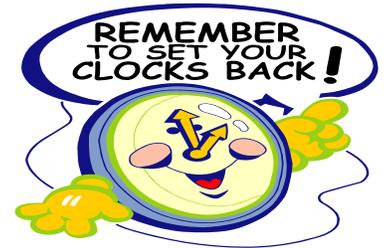
**We encourage everyone, not just Veterans,
to attend this wonderful breakfast!**

Thanks to Cindy Brunk for hosting!

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

2018 GIVING – Please remember, all offerings to the church to be counted as 2018 giving, **MUST PHYSICALLY BE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE by December 31st**. Anything received after that time must be counted towards 2019 giving. THANK YOU!

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



LOOKING AHEAD TO ADVENT

Looking ahead to our Advent Season, we will have **Mid-week Advent worship services on Wednesdays, December 5, 12, and 19 at 6:30 p.m.**

OBERAMMERGAU TRIP NEWS

An **information meeting** is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 7 at 7:15 p.m.** for the 2020 Passion Play of Oberammergau trip. Meeting will be here at the church. **Please plan to attend this meeting if you have any interest or questions about going on this trip.** The Oberammergau brings to Christian travelers some of the most spiritually deep and meaningful opportunities of any trip possible. It comes only once every 10 years! Contact the church office if you have any other questions!

The WINTER SEASON is right around the corner. **In the event of inclement weather**, please tune into the local radio stations: 93.5, 104.3 and 95.1 to hear church announcements. We will also have announcements on our Facebook page and will send out messages through our church app.

HIGHLIGHTS from the 10/9/18 COUNCIL MEETING

(Actual Minutes will not be approved until the next meeting which is on November 13.)

Treasurer's Report: September expenses were \$34,094.23; income was \$36,312.25. Building Fund income was \$75.00. Net income for the month was \$2,293.02. Balance in the General Fund Checking Account on September 30 was \$27,023.16. Memorial Fund Balance is \$44,386.11. Scholarship Fund Balance is \$595,064.63. Youth account is \$12,291.97. Have borrowed \$100,000.00 from the Scholarship Fund to date for the building renovation.

Pastor Mark: Average weekend attendance in September was 260. Average Wednesday attendance was 21. A few baptisms, a couple funerals and one wedding took place in September. Received thank you from Jeffrey Nickel family for the memorial given in his honor. Shared information regarding the number of pastor vacancies in our circuit. Planning on attending a workshop November 8-10 on LCMS Rural Small Town Ministry to be held in Kansas City. Continue to have ongoing need for tech operators: 8am needs camera and projector operators; 10:30 service needs sound operators. If anyone has suggestions of anyone that may be interested, have them contact the church office or any tech operator. Will need to update video recording equipment sometime in the future. Roxie Leckband: Food ministry made more frozen meals as all of premade ones have been given out. Had 32 attend the noon fellowship this month. Health cabinet is focusing on cold and flu prevention. Have been offering medication management assistance to anyone that wants it. Will be organizing donations from the congregation for the Community Christmas Basket program. Jenna: First 5th-8th grade Prayer and Play night was held with 20 youth in attendance. High school Sunday School is doing the Bible study, "The Bible Project" on RightNow Media. High school seniors met at Andrew & Jenna's house for supper and discussion. First 507 youth event was held at American Reformed Church with 250 youth in attendance. The February 507 event will be held here at St. Matthew's with Lee Stover from Rise-Fest Ministries as the speaker. Andrew & Jenna took 15 Jr. High youth bowling in Sibley. Would like to take a small group of youth to an LCMS Youth Leadership training in St. Louis March 14-17.

Elders: Discussed current church sign. Have suggestion to change to an LED sign. Have been working on this with the Board of Trustees. Need to check with city if there are any restrictions on the signs in a residential area. Plan to check with possible business that may have a used one that could meet our needs. By-laws committee of Tim Hansberger, Chris Luther, Dan Roos, Kevin Schmidt, and Pastor Mark has been working on suggestions for revisions.

Trustees: Offering any of the old tables that are stored in the garage to anyone that wants them for a free-will donation. Working with quilters group needs of tables, storage and lighting. Tables are not to be moved from church basement area to education rooms.

Education: Working with Lorenda Glade on finding a new keyboard for Sunday School music. Have Thrivent Choice funds that will be used to purchase this. Need to have chrome books and TVs in each classroom so teachers can utilize RightNow Media materials. Have education funds in the Memorial Account that can be used for this project. Pastor Mark will assist with this purchase.

Unfinished Business: Flooring not finished yet in the revitalization project. Window sills will be installed. Need to finish work in bathrooms. Will have a special voters meeting in early December to vote on the recommended changes to our Bylaws.

New Business: 2019 offering envelopes will be purchased. Envelopes will be ordered for every member/family, even if they do automatic donations, because there are special service envelopes where giving is an opportunity. Invoice payment authorization policy and procedure recommendation from the audit committee was discussed. Other recommendations from audit committee includes always having two people put the money into the vault and have them sign and rotate so that it is not always same people that are doing this. Any new vendors should have council approval. Will have bylaws committee develop a policy to be presented with bylaws revision to be brought to approval for voters.

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 church office. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Worship Service Helpers for November 2018

ACOLYTES

<u>Date</u>	<u>8 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
Nov. 4	Faith Leinen	Mark Geertsema
Nov. 11	Jordis Weber	Sierra Goedtke
Nov. 18	Caleb Barber	Evan Hansberger
Nov. 21- 6:30pm – Logan Meyeraan		
Nov. 25	Sander Brunk	Damien Leckband
Dec. 2	Paige Barber	Ben Schreiber

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

<u>Date</u>	
November 4	Elizabeth Gerdes, Beth White
November 11	Alexa Kilker, Angie Kopplow
November 18	Maelie Holt, _____
November 21–6:30PM	Kenadie Thiner, Danika Schmidt
December 2	Kyle Ahrenstorff, Tammy Markus

**** 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. 4	(8am) (10:30)	Sue Koob, Cindy Brunk DuWayne & Carol Oberloh
Nov. 11	(8am) (10:30)	Ilona Benson; John Galstad Kirk & Traci Feit
Nov. 18	(8am) (10:30)	Myron & Sandy Meyer Lee & Karen Meyer
Nov. 21	6:30 p.m.	Voris & Sandie Spittle
Nov. 25	(8am) (10:30)	YOUTH YOUTH
Dec. 2	(8am) (10:30)	Dan & Laurita Roos LaDean & Lori Fletcher

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.