

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN
November 2019 Newsletter



Are my needs met this month?

Yes, because He promised to give us our “daily bread,” not the bakery!

Dear Friends in Christ,

November is often a time when churches talk about stewardship—the giving back of our time, talent, and possessions to the Lord and for His work. Some people think that talking about money in the church is “unspiritual.” However, how we individually handle our resources is of great concern to God. As you read through the gospels, Jesus focuses one-third of his teaching on the individual and his/her possessions. Seventeen of his 38 parables are about possessions. In the Bible the words *belief*, *believers*, and *believing* appear 272 times; *prayer* appears 371 times; *love* or *loving* 714 times; and *possessions* and *giving* appear 2,172 times.

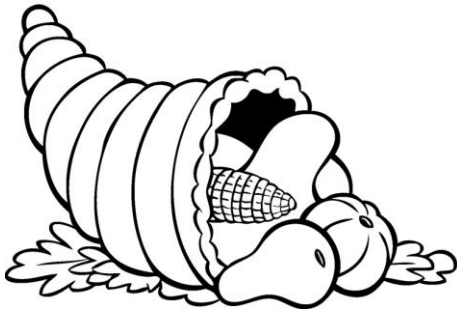
Our Christian Stewardship includes much more than the money we give to our church. It involves our whole life—our time and how we use it, our attitudes, our abilities and what we use them for, and our money and possessions. As God’s children, all we do should be done in response to all that he has done for us.

As we pilgrimage in this life we are compelled to continually grow and mature in our giving of our possessions and ourselves. There are three different levels of giving that people usually progress through their lifetime as they continue to grow and mature in Christ. Here are the different levels of giving provided by the organization, *Stewardship Advisor*:

1. At the first level of giving, people give only a token amount, if anything at all. Often times, people at this level give to imitate others because they see other people giving. This giving is not usually associated with faith.
2. The next level of giving could be referred to as self-interest giving. People see the church as important so they give to keep the doors open. The attitude toward giving could be compared to paying dues. Giving fulfills a sense of obligation. The self-interest giver sees little connection between faith in God and what he does with his money. Giving is from the leftovers rather than from the top.
3. The next level of giving could be referred to as a level of spiritual gratitude. At this stage, a person recognizes how God has freely given him salvation through his Son Jesus who went to the cross for his sins. Out of thanksgiving for what Jesus has done, there is a response of gratitude. Jesus has paid the penalty of sin so that we can be made right with God. When someone understands what Jesus did on the cross, there is joy in giving. Giving at this level stops focusing on the church budget and becomes a personal surrender of one’s life and resources. People at this level give regular and proportionate amounts of their incomes.

Many of you have already found the joy of giving and have been blessed by it. I pray we all continue to grow and mature as God’s stewards. “*And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up*” Galatians 6:9.

In Christ,
Pastor Mark



THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

Wednesday, November 27th at 6:30 p.m.

Get the long weekend off to a terrific start: Join in the joyous worship of our great God and Savior on "Thanksgiving Eve". Thanksgiving decorations, scripture and special music combine to make a memorable and uplifting time of worship and praise.

CHURCH RECORDS

Baptisms

- Kingsleigh Ray and Kyra Marie, children of David & Alexie Cross were baptized on September 29, 2019.

Deaths

- Marvin Uranto passed away October 12; memorial service was held on October 18 by Pastor Dale Hedstrom.
 - Gilbert Post passed away October 15; funeral service was held on October 19 by Pastor Mark Schreiber.
-

ALTAR GUILD

Serving in November will be: Kathy Roslansky & Lynn Dierks for the 8 a.m. services; and Velma Cortright for the Thanksgiving Eve service on November 27. If you would like to be a part of the Altar Guild, please contact Velma Cortright, 376-5600 or Sandy Meyer, 376-6290.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Sarah Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 19 at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 19 at 5:15 p.m. The Martha Circle will meet on Thursday, November 21 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Feel free to join one of these groups for Bible Study.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

You are invited to the Coffee Fellowship in the basement Fellowship Hall 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 Third Sunday of the month the LWML Ladies host the coffee hour with proceeds going to a Seminary Student. The Fourth Sunday of the month the Youth host the coffee hour with proceeds going towards their summer Mission Trip to Idaho.

GIVING OPPORTUNITY FOR CHILDREN & ADULTS

This Christmas Season the Sunday School Classes will be supporting a local Love INC GAP Ministry with personal hygiene products. **Children may bring items to their Sunday School class November 3 through December 8.** Congregation Members may place donations in the blue cloth box located in the Great Hall. Some examples needed include: hand and body soap, Kleenex, toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, shaving cream, disposable razors, shampoo, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products and etc. All items should be NEW – no used items please.

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN CARE MINISTRIES

by Roxann Leckband

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23

I receive great encouragement and hope as I have this verse posted on the corner of my computer screen here at church. The world in which we live is full of pain and suffering but we have a God who has overcome the pain and suffering through his son Jesus Christ. Let us always remain constant in prayer.

As we enter into November and prepare for Thanksgiving, we need to reflect upon our numerous blessings. We need to remind ourselves of this when life gives us difficult times. I pray that you also would meditate on Lamentations 3:22-23. May this verse provide as much comfort for you as it provides for me.

FOOD MINISTRY: St. Matthew continues to have frozen hot dishes etc. in the freezer in the basement designated food ministry. Please let myself or the church office know if you or someone you know could use a meal. If a family has lost a loved one, they have been hospitalized etc. Please contact the church at 507-376-6168 if you would like a meal.

YOUNG MOM'S MINISTRY: The Fireside Room will be set up every Sunday for young moms' with little ones not in Sunday school. The other children of the family please join the corresponding Sunday school classes. On the 3rd Sunday of the month we will have a current topic relating to moms and their faith journey. There will be a brief devotion, fellowship and refreshments provided in the Fireside Room. We will plan to participate in the Young Women in Mission one Sunday a month as facilitated by Amy Khamphanh. Please contact Roxie at 376-6168 with any questions you may have.

WIDOW'S MINISTRY: The ladies will meet on Wednesday, November 13th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room and on November 18th at 5:15 p.m. in the Fireside Room and then go to Hickory Lodge for dinner at 6:00. We are continuing our devotional/support time with the Postcards From the Widow's Path as our guide for discussion. The book of Ruth is the Biblical reference point. Please join us and if you have a friend who is also a widow and would like to join us please invite her.

PARENT BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY: The parent bereavement group will meet from 6:00-7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 25th in the Fireside Room. Please contact Roxie with any questions.

NOON FELLOWSHIP: We will have our annual Thanksgiving Meal of turkey, mashed potatoes and the trimmings on Monday, November 11th at 12 noon. There will be a blood pressure screening, a time in the Word and great fellowship. Please bring a dish to pass, free-will offering or just yourself.

CONFIRMATION: The classes are going well. There are approximately 52 young people attending from grades 5-8. Please consider being a Prayer Intercessor for our 7th and 8th grade Confirmation youth. We will begin this prayer ministry in January. Watch for more details in the December newsletter.

WSS (Wed Sunday school): Please note that we have a fun program for children in K-4th grades. On Wednesdays, families may come and eat at 5:10 p.m. (parents and children.) At 5:30 the kids will begin with several things happening. Parents may stay and assist as well. A Bible story is read for the theme of the night. There are crafts and fun games. Please join us!

Director of Human Care Ministry continued:

PARISH NURSE: Medication education is available. If you have a question about your current medications and would like more information please contact Roxie. We will set up a time for you to bring your medications into the church and we will provide education on your current list of medications.

There will be blood pressure screening on Sunday, November 17th in the new part of the basement under the Great Hall. We will be down in that area after the 1st service and before the 2nd service.

Walking with Jesus: Well, it is a little chilly outside to walk, so please join us here at St Matthew. A walking path will be mapped and indicated. **The walking path will be available on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00am-1:00pm.** A sign-in sheet will be available. You will also need to sign a Liability Waiver the first time you come. These will be available on the small table as you enter the basement Fellowship Hall. There is no better place to walk and feel the love of your Savior as you care for the body you have been given.

Cold and Flu Season: Please remember to get your FLU SHOT! There will be baskets with pocket cards: A Guide to Cold and Flu prevention and care available at each entrance to the church. Please help yourself and be prepared.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS

“Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices” LSB 895 vs. 1

As we enter a very busy season of the church year, your hearts and hands and voices are needed! Here are a few opportunities for you to consider during the month of November.

1. Our veterans will be honored at our services on Sunday, November 10. All singers are invited to participate in a patriotic medley during the 8:00 AM service. We will practice in the chapel following Bible Class the last two Sundays of October and on November 3.
2. Our Thanksgiving Eve service is Wednesday, November 27. All singers are welcome in our Thanksgiving Festival Choir, directed by Louise Clausen. We practice on Wednesday evenings at 5:30. Please join us! Our Thanksgiving Eve hymns will also feature brass accompaniment. If you are a brass player, high school age and older (or with recommendation from a band director) we need you! Please contact Lorenda Glade for information and music.
3. The end of November will usher in a new church year and the season of Advent. There will be many opportunities to share your talents throughout the month of December. Music will be an important part of our upcoming Advent services, our Sunday School Christmas program, and our Christmas services. Watch for more information in our bulletins and December newsletter.

“Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us. With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us” LSB 895 vs. 2

God's Blessings,
Lorenda Glade, Joy Schreiber, Directors of Music

LWML NEWS

The November meeting for LWML will be on **Thursday, November 7th at 1:30 p.m.** At 2pm we will carpool to the Helping Hands Pregnancy Center for a tour of the facility. Please join us for this informational tour! After the tour we will return to the church to finish our meeting and enjoy fellowship and dessert. Executive Board will host. Sarah Circle will serve the November 17th coffee hour.

Young Women in Mission will be meeting on Sunday, November 10th at 9:15 a.m. and we will be doing a devotion. This Young Women in Missions Group will continue to meet once per month during the Sunday School hour, and will rotate monthly between doing a devotion and doing a servant project. Child care will be available for younger kids that are not in Sunday School.



Everyone is invited to the **“Veterans Recognition Breakfast”** **on Sunday, November 10th** **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! Thank You to Cindy Brunk for hosting!

REMINDER - DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS
NOVEMBER 3^d - SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR
when you go to bed on Saturday, November 2nd.
HAPPY FALL!!!!!!



Bents Family Adoption Update: On September 16th, 2019 we received the call from our social worker that we were matched with a 14 month old girl from Thailand. We are pleased to share with our congregation that we have a daughter named Autumn Chanittha Bents. We now enter another waiting phase as we wait for what is called "First Approval" from the Thai government. This can be variable in wait time but we anticipate traveling to go get her the end of next summer. We want to personally thank all of you for praying, supporting, and encouraging us throughout this process! We truly could not have gone through this up and down journey without your love and support for our family. Autumn will be so blessed to have a wonderful church family surrounding her. Thank you for continued prayers! Please don't hesitate to ask us questions or to see a picture of her! We love showing pictures! Blessings to all of you,

Andrew, Jenna, and Samuel Bents

Please Note: You can keep more up to date on our adoption process at www.joyfullyblessed.org.

QUARTERLY VOTERS MEETING
Sunday, November 3rd
at 11:45 a.m. with a Potluck Meal.
Pork loin and buns will be furnished.

Members with last names beginning with A-L please bring a salad; those with last names beginning with M-Z please bring a dessert.
The agenda will include the 2020 Proposed Church Budget.

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. *The radio station's website, is updated as soon as they receive announcements, so you may want to check that rather than having to listen for the announcement - www.us95.us* **However, our church Facebook page will be the first thing updated with a post about weather cancellations, etc.**

2019 GIVING – Please remember, all offerings to the church to be counted as 2019 giving, **MUST PHYSICALLY BE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE by December 31st**. Anything received after that time must be counted towards 2020 giving. **THANK YOU!**

Thank you so much for the outpouring of love, support and prayers these last months of Larry's health battle and death. We are so grateful for the visits, hugs, cards and memorials. Special thanks to Pastor Brech, Bev, Linda and Roxie for all your help in making a beautiful service to send Larry "home." Thank you to the kitchen helpers for the meal. Knowing that we have the congregation of St. Matthews has helped so much. We are very grateful and appreciative as we mourn the loss of a husband, dad and grandpa.

*God Bless,
Peg Ruesch
Lisa & Tim Scholtes and family
Mark & Heidi Ruesch and family
Anne & Mark Wagner and Ashley*

HIGHLIGHTS from the 10/8/19 COUNCIL MEETING

(Actual Minutes will not be approved until the next meeting which is on November 12.)

Treasurer's Report: September expenses were \$29,977.85; income was \$43,316.75. Building Fund income was \$95.00. Net income for the month was \$13,433.90. Balance in the General Fund Checking Account on September 30 was \$21,378.51. Memorial Fund Balance is \$30,500.41. Building Loan Balance is \$174,300.00. Scholarship Fund Balance is \$472,242.49. Youth account balance is \$7,433.54. Have received the \$50,000 line of credit loan papers from LCEF. Will not have to use any funds from there at this time.

Staff Reports: *Pastor Mark*: Average weekend attendance was 257. Average Wednesday evening attendance was 22. Appreciate the concern and caring given to him and his family throughout the past few weeks. It is good to be back. *Roxie Leckband*: Preparing for the GPS Hope presentation on October 21. Have started a Parent Bereavement support group that has met twice already. Starting a

Council Meeting Highlights continued:

New Young Mom's Group that will meet once a month on Sunday during the Sunday school hour. Have received positive feedback from parents on the Wednesday Sunday School program. Participated in the Abstinence training that was held at the Wgtn Middle School. *Jenna:* Youth Group and Sunday School have started and it is great seeing all of the kids back and involved. High School Senior nights have begun. October 6th took 8th-12th grade students to an outreach event at the Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp. Hoagie fundraiser in progress. Thrivent cards have been applied for college student care packages. Youth group will be making these in October and April. Continuing to look for ways to help engage parents more in faith development at home. Small Groups have started meeting. We hope this will be a good start and then have another big kick-off the beginning of January to form more groups.

Elders: Worked with staff to cover the service needs during Pastor's leave. Have discussed some possible restructuring needs with Pastor Schreiber. Have spent time looking at and revising the proposed budget for next year.

Trustees: Completed some general maintenance things around the church and the vans. Insurance is requiring a van suspension system for the older Chevy Van and have been checking on prices for that. Some repairs/maintenance will be done on a few minor things around the church. Boiler for north entrance still needs to be installed. Getting quotes for computer upgrades that will need to be done by January, as we have several computers still running Windows 7 operating systems. Also will need to upgrade the Easy Worship projections software.

Education: Sunday school is going well. We have an awesome group of new and returning teachers. There will be a Saturday Christmas Program practice on Saturday, December 14th. We are reusing "The Story" for Sunday School lessons for grades K-8th. Darci Holt and Connie Reitmeier are doing the Preschool-2nd grade music. Roxie, Dawn Dorschner and Lorenda Glade are doing the 3rd-8th grade music. A quarterly Sunday School Newsletter will be sent home with students starting on October 6th. Looking into purchasing a keyboard for Sunday School music from Pre-2nd grades. We will NOT be collecting for Operation Christmas Child this year. We will be choosing to do something locally instead.

Unfinished Business: Kitchen gas stove project has received an anonymous donation to purchase it. Possibly may purchase a griddle that could also be used. Will need to look at purchasing a new stainless-steel hood for ventilation in the near future. Will need to do fundraising, as a new hood will cost \$7,000. Discussed recent stewardship letter that was mailed out. Have received donations the past couple weeks. Need to encourage members to utilize the online giving option. Discussed having a table at the upcoming Harvest Dinner and Quarterly Voters Meeting to answer questions, encourage sign-up, and assist members to complete the form. Discussed stewardship ideas. Discussed the north entrance area and the congestion there before and after services. Suggestions were to get people to utilize the space in the Great Hall area, as that was the original intent of building it years ago. Ministry planning board will develop a plan to revamp what is in the Great Hall and bring plans back to council. By-law changes need to get them revised and ready to be presented and voted on at the upcoming voters meeting. Proposed changes are only having semi-annual voters meetings instead of quarterly and changing the time frame of 3 weeks notification of meetings to 2 weeks.

New Business: Proposed budget was discussed. Quarterly voters meeting will be held on November 3 at 11:45 a.m. with a potluck meal. Pork loin and buns will be furnished.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for November 12 at 5:30 p.m. with Ministry Planning Committee joining the meeting at 6:00 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 church office to let us know how you would like it credited (general fund/building fund/etc.) **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Worship Service Helpers for November 2019

ACOLYTES

<u>Date</u>	<u>8 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
Nov. 3	Jordis Weber	Kyle Ahrenstorff
Nov. 10	Jonathan Banegas	Brandon Bosma
Nov. 17	Caleb Barber	Hunter Echternach
Nov. 24	Sander Brunk	Mark Geertsema
Nov. 27- 6:30pm – Damien Leckband		
Dec. 1	Lance Gordon	Sierra Goedtke

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

<u>Date</u>	
November 3	Logan DeVries, Beth White
November 10	Zoie Chantharath, Jessica Larson
November 17	Alaina Feit, Danika Schmidt
November 24	Natya Khamphanh, Marlis Rohwer
November 27–6:30PM – Faith Leinen, Marlis Rohwer	
December 1	Alaya Rowley, 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. 3	(8am) (10:30)	Dale & Bonnie Schroeder Marlene Baumgarn, Marlene Jurgensen
Nov. 10	(8am) (10:30)	Leonard & Marjorie Ruesch Chris & Stacy Heinrichs
Nov. 17	(8am) (10:30)	Sue Koob; Ilona Benson Greg & Roxie Leckband
Nov. 24	(8am) (10:30)	Gary & Velma Cortright Joel & Kim Rogers
Nov. 27	6:30 p.m.	Voris & Sandie Spittle; Jan & Daryl Quiring
Dec. 1	(8am) (10:30)	Chad & Stacey Hokeness Family 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.