

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN

October 2015 Newsletter



Joyful Servants

Dear people of God,

Scripture is full of instances where God has used ordinary people like us to accomplish extraordinary things. He choose stammering Moses to lead His people out of bondage, self-serving fishermen, James and John, to lead His Church and spread the gospel, and impulsive Peter's confession upon which to build His Church. God uses imperfect people, even those who are weak and even flawed, to extend His kingdom.

Martin Luther, the author of the Reformation which we celebrate the end of October, wrote, "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all." Perhaps those two sentences appear at first to be contradictory. What Luther was trying to help us understand is that we, as Christians, are called to freedom from an **obligation** to serve, but that we are called to freedom to serve **joyfully**.

This call to joyful servanthood is often misunderstood because we confuse servanthood with servitude. Servitude conveys the idea of bondage and even slavery. Servanthood, on the other hand, connotes voluntary service, joyful giving of ourselves, a willing choice to help others, and selfless commitment.

When we look at Christ and how He lived His earthly life and what He has done for us, we are freed to respond with heartfelt, sincere, loving service to those He has placed around us. The acts of service we render are the same; the motivation and attitude are what make the difference. Through Christ, and by His power in us, we are enabled to be those servants God has called us to be.

When we allow ourselves to be used by God in whatever way He chooses, like those Biblical Saints mentioned above, He takes our meager talents and blesses them for His service.

It truly is a joy serving the Lord along with all of you at St. Matthew. What a privilege to work hand-in-hand with so many hand-crafted servants the Lord continues to mold and form in this church. We may be flawed and imperfect servants at times, but the Lord continues to do marvelous things in our midst. May God continue to bless our servanthood.

In Christ,
Pastor Mark

CHURCH RECORDS

Baptisms

- Haidynn Ann Kingery, daughter of Alivia Rowley & Heath Kingery was baptized September 6, 2015. Sponsors for Haidynn were: Tyree Murray, Allan Rowley and Sabrina Sowles.
- Acen Shawn Steffl, son of Crystal Seegers & Corey Steffl was baptized September 13, 2015. Sponsors for Acen were Sarah Steffl and Trent DeRuyter.

Church Records continued:

Wedding

- Melissa Waldner and Adrian Gonzalez were united in marriage on September 5, 2015.
- Amanda Nasers and Tyler Engelkes were united in marriage on September 26, 2015.

Transfers/Releases

- Tim Bicknase
- Erin Hoffman

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY
by Roxann Leckband

Mom's/young women's group will be meeting on October 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd from 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the Fireside room. The women will be doing a Bible study called *When the Game is Over All the Pieces Go Back In the Box*. This study will help us live with an eternal perspective of keeping our eyes focused on Jesus, our Savior. The children will have a Bible story time, craft and game time. They will also have time to play and snacks.

Young Adult fellowship night will be on Monday, October 19 at 6:00 p.m. at Hickory Lodge. Come for good food, great Christian fellowship and a time in God's Word.

Young Family Fall Event will be on Sunday, October 25th from 3:00-5:30 p.m. at Langseth Cabin. Please note the date change from our normal Sunday. Please bring a pumpkin to carve and a dish to pass to go with grilled hot dogs/brats. I look forward to seeing all of the "regulars". Please extend an invitation to a friend.

We are having a great start to our new Sunday School year. If you have not yet attended please join us. Registration forms are available on line and at the church.

Confirmation classes have been going well. We will have our 7th-8th grade Confirmation retreat at Camp Okoboji on October 2nd. We will be leaving the church at 5:00pm on October 2nd and will return by 1:00pm on October 3rd. A packing list will be sent home with your child.

Parents please note the acolyte and nursery schedules. The schedule is included in this newsletter. These ministries are a very important part of the Sunday morning worship experience. If your child is unable to help on his/her assigned day please make arrangements to trade with another peer. If you are unable to find someone after your attempts to find a substitution please contact Roxie 376-6168.

Noon Fellowship will meet on Monday, October 12th at 12:00 noon. Come and join us for good food, great fellowship and a time in God's Word. Please bring a dish to pass, a freewill donation or just yourself. The main entrée' will be meatballs, mashed potatoes, gravy and dinner roll.

High school youth make sure to join us in the youth room for a great Bible Study on Discipleship titled Believe at 9:30 a.m. The youth will also be meeting on Wed at 5:30 food served at 6:00pm.

THANK YOU to all who helped to make our Fall Festival/Sunday School Kickoff a success! We pray that through the efforts of many volunteers God was glorified.

Thanks again and God's peace and joy to all,
Jen Iverson & Board of Education

Please see the enclosed lime green insert for the "YOUTH NEWSLETTER" and be sure to read about upcoming youth happenings!

THE STORY

FINDING YOUR STORY
IN GOD'S STORY



Come join our New Bible Study, “The Story” starting Sunday, October 4th

The Bible is central to our faith, but many people are intimidated by its scope and size. “The Story” gives us a way to journey from Genesis to Revelation together in 31 weeks, so everyone understands God’s story and how their story intersects with it.

“The Story” is a book of selections from the Bible (NIV text), arranged chronologically, that reads like a novel. During this unique 31-week experience we will discover together how our story is found in His story! The only requirement on your part is to sign up to receive a copy of “The Story” (\$5) in the Great Hall, and read one chapter a week. We will come together then on Sunday mornings to discuss and to react to what we all read together during the week.

As a pastor I get super excited when people are in scripture during the week because I know you will be blessed by the experience, and grow in your faith. We already have many people committed to this 31 week journey, and we look forward to having you join us.

EVANGELISM NEWS

The Secret Prayer Intercessor Program has been a blessing for several years now here at St. Matthew! **WANTED – SECRET PRAYER INTERCESSORS!!!** We are asking for a willing prayer partner for each of our 7th & 8th grade Confirmation youth. 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. This is a very simple, yet powerful way to impact the lives of St. Matthew’s youth. **Sign-up sheets will be available in early October.** Please consider being part of this program and watch the weekly bulletins for more information on how to make a difference in the lives of our youth!

St. Matthew congregation will be doing a service event at The Banquet in Sioux Falls, SD at noon on Saturday, January 23, 2016! We will need approximately 40 people to do this service project. Anyone in 7th grade and up can help. Thank you to all who have been a part of this service in the past. We look forward to serving again!

GREETERS - Greeting visitors at church is an opportunity to express God's love through Christ and is such an important part of the hospitality ministry of our church. Please sign up to be a greeter and share God's love in that way. Our greeter list is still short. Contact Bev in the church office to be added to our greeter list. Thank you for serving!



Serving in October will be: Sandie Spittle and LaVonne Berglund 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.

Music and Worship News

*“Let every instrument be tuned for praise! Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia!” LSB 796, vs 4.*

Autumn has arrived, and our fall music programs are well underway. Our Adult Choir, Handbell Choir, and Praise Teams are preparing music to share at our 8:00 AM services. Our Sunday School students spend some time singing each Sunday, and will periodically share some of their music at our services. Music staff members are looking ahead to our Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas services. And, of course, our Worship Band members are busy year round preparing to lead our 10:30 Sunday service.

We are greatly in need of additional adult choir members. If you are a singer, your talents are needed! Rehearsals are at 5:30 on Wednesdays in the choir room. The choir sings approximately once a month throughout the school year, and at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter services. Please join us!

We welcome some new faces serving us at St. Matthews. Joy Schreiber has assumed the position of Director of Contemporary Music, previously held by Susan Hansberger and Amy Khamphanh. Caleb Schreiber is also singing in our 10:30 Worship Band. Joy holds both an undergraduate degree in organ performance from Concordia University Wisconsin, and a graduate degree from Notre Dame. In her previous church, Joy was director of music, organist, led all children’s music, adult choir, and contemporary groups. She also taught piano and voice to 25 students each week. Caleb has been very involved in music at school and at church. We are blessed to have these talented musicians sharing their gifts with us.

Unseen by the congregation but vital to our worship services is our technical crew, which includes Bob Westphal, MJ Wester, Andrew Dierks, Eric Fletcher, Ed Henning, Brighid Hegarty, Michael Preuss, Coral Owens, Nancy Ihrke, Ron Dorschner, John Holeyton, Torey Rogers, Stephen & Gabe Dorschner, Autumn Arnt, Kasen White, and Jordan Wolford. Our newest technicians are Ryan and Sarah Kesler from Sibley, IA. Ryan is completing his pharmacist training, and Sarah is the K-6 music teacher at Sibley-Ocheyedan. We can still use additional technicians, as Brighid Hegarty has graduated from high school, and will no longer be able to help on a regular basis. We thank all of these people for serving in this important ministry.

Soli Deo Gloria, (Glory to God alone)
Lorenda Glade, Director of Traditional Music

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Miriam Circle will meet on Monday, October 19th at 1:30 p.m. at The Homestead, Rona Krueger will host. The Sarah Circle will meet on Tuesday, October 20th at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, October 20th at 5:15 p.m. in the Youth Room. The Martha Circle will meet on October 15th at 1:30 p.m. at Ilona Benson’s home.

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 projects. **On the first and second Sundays of the month, there is opportunity for your church group to host a coffee hour.** Please sign-up on the sheet in the church basement when you plan to host the coffee hour. *Please sign-up at least two weeks in advance.* The third Sunday of the month, the LWML sponsors the coffee hour and all proceeds are given to a seminarian student. The fourth Sunday of the month, the youth sponsor the coffee hour. Proceeds go to support their various activities.

LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) NEWS

The October meeting for LWML will be on Thursday, Oct. 1, at 1:30 pm. This is Dues Remittance Month (\$6.00). We will review LWML Sunday and the upcoming Harvest Dinner. President Kathy Roslansky will give her report from attending the National Convention as delegate for the Worthington Zone. Hope to see you there. Martha Circle is Hostess.

LWML will host the October 19th Coffee Hour. The Miriam Circle will be Hostess.

October 24 is the date of the Fall Bi-conference Rally. It will be in Zion Lutheran Church, Hardwick, MN. Registration is at 8:30 am. Let me know if you plan to come. We will carpool from St. Matthew. Plans are to leave by 7:45 am. Call Kathy Roslansky, 372-4053 to be included in the carpool. Watch the bulletin for in-gathering items.

HARVEST DINNER!!!!

If you would be willing to donate a pie for this dinner, please call Marilyn Meyer, 360-0680, by October 20th. If you would like to help us out in the dining room or kitchen, please call Kathy Roslansky, 372-4053.



St. Matthew Lutheran Church
Annual Harvest Dinner
Sunday, November 1, 2015
11:30a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Come and enjoy delicious pork, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, buns, and the ever delicious homemade pies!!!

**Prices Are: Adults \$10.00; children ages 5 to 12 are \$5.00;
and children 4 and under are FREE.**

Deliveries will be available within the city of Worthington. Please call the church office, 376-6168 by 3:00pm on Friday, October 30 to sign-up for a delivered meal.

A Bake Sale and Card Sale will also be available!

ALTAR FLOWERS

Ruth Ramert is the flower coordinator and a sign-up sheet is in the Narthex (back of the church). The cost of the arrangements are \$25. We order our altar flowers from McCarthy's Floral in Worthington.

McCarthy's will have the containers that our church uses. In those containers, and for the \$25 cost, you may pick from the following flowers: carnations, mini carnations, daisies, austromarias and mums. If you choose to have other flowers, the cost would be more. If you would rather use your own container or vase you may do so by dropping it off at McCarthy's. McCarthy's will deliver the bouquets to church. Please return the containers to the church or directly to McCarthy's Floral, so we may reuse the containers for more beautiful bouquets for the church. Anyone wishing to order flowers from Hy-Vee will have to place their own order with Hy-Vee and you will have to bring the flowers to church. Thank you for providing the beautiful flower arrangements for our altar.

Y. I. Club

Y. I. Club helps you save for the future and learn about using money as a gift from God. It only takes \$25 to start a Y. I. Steward Account for young people ages birth to 18 years. Invest in LCMS ministry while you save for your future needs. The Y. I. Club is offered through the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF).

Y. I. Club benefits include:

- * Premium interest rate (3.5%) on balances less than \$1000
- * Extra credit for good grades (ages 7 to 18) up to \$25 / year
- * Extra credit for community service (ages 7 to 18) up to \$25 / year
- * College scholarship program for high school seniors
- * Option for a credit card for older teens (ages 16+)
- * Contests, learning, and fun

Find out more. Visit LaVonne in the hall by the church offices every Sunday right after the 8 a.m. service or go to LCEF.com

St. Matthew Lutheran Church's Quarterly Voters Meeting Sunday, October 25th at 11:45 a.m.



If you would like to submit something to be included on the Agenda, please contact Nathan Holt, Congregation President by October 11th.

All active, confirmed members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, who are at least 18 years of age are considered to be VOTING MEMBERS, and are expected and encouraged to attend and place their vote.

Please watch for more information!

THANK YOU

A sincere thank you to everyone for the phone calls, visits, cards and prayers for my 85th birthday and my recent illness. A special thank you to Pastor Mark for his visits. Thank you to everyone and may God Bless you all!

Dorothy Jansen

Dear St. Matthew Church Family,

Lynn and I want to express our gratitude for all the love, concern, encouraging words, meals, cards and flowers offered to us this past month. But most of all thank you for all the prayers! We felt so blessed knowing that we have such a special church family caring for us. God bless each and every one of you!

Lynn & Tammy Brunk

MISSION SEWING – MEETS 2ND AND 4TH THURSDAYS 9 AM to 1 PM

If you can tie a knot, we need you. We clamp a bottom to the tables to secure, add a filler, and then a top. We then tie the quilt. Once that is done, the edges are turned and pinned. Someone then takes it home to finish sewing. A quilt is then complete and can be delivered to the Orphan Grain Train.



November Veterans Breakfast EVERYONE IS INVITED! Sunday, November 8th at 9:15 a.m.

(during the normal Coffee Hour time)

Please watch for more information in the upcoming Sunday bulletins regarding this Special Breakfast.

WE WILL BE HONORING OUR VETERANS!

The Reader's Digest version of the Council Minutes from September 8, 2015

These are just highlights from the meeting; as the actual Minutes will not be approved until the October 13th meeting.

Treasurer's Report: July expenses were \$33,684.22 with income of \$35,985.41. Building Loan Balance is \$125,279.89. Memorial Fund Balance is \$36,218.40. Scholarship Fund Balance was incomplete at the time of the meeting.

Staff Reports: Pastor Mark – Average weekend attendance in July (including Mondays) was 291. Average attendance for summer Monday service was 13. Roxie – Successful recruitment of Christian Education teachers and helpers. Looking for service opportunities within our church and community for the youth. Working with 2 women's Bible studies with one on Tuesdays at noon and one on Wednesday mornings. Abstinence classes at the 7th grade level will resume with the members of the Wgtn Area Youth Ministry. Lorenda – Still exploring options for replacing the balcony keyboard. Writing church music guidelines for weddings.

Board of Elders: Working on 2016 budget.

Board of Trustees: Fire sprinkler system will be checked annually on the recommendation of the insurance company. All HVAC systems have been repaired and are in good working order. Andy Braun will be doing snow removal around the church this winter, Dunnick Worthington Excavating will be doing parking lot snow removal.

Board of Christian Education: Roxie & Lorenda working on Sunday School Christmas Program.

Board of Evangelism: Prayer Intercessors program will continue for the new Confirmation year. St. Matthew will serve the noon meal at The Banquet in Sioux Falls on January 23, 2016 approximately 40 volunteers are needed.

Human Care: Calls for cleaning supplies have picked up recently. Working on Caring Tree.

New Business: Proposal we make the final building loan payment on our 125th Anniversary or have a Payoff/ Harvest Festival in November 2016. Tammy Brunk will get a committee together to plan the 125th Anniversary and Building Loan Payoff. Next Voters Meeting is October 25 at 11:45am. Next Council Meeting is October 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Ephesians 4:7 “But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.” Each of us have different gifts, different “graces,” from God. Each of these gifts – whether in material wealth, or intelligence, or beauty, or family, etc. – is not only a gift but a duty. God gives us these gifts for a purpose – to serve our neighbor in Home, Church, and Society. How is God calling you to use your gifts?



WORSHIP SERVICE HELPERS

ACOLYTES

<u>Date</u>	<u>8 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
October 4	Jennifer Preuss	Alyssa Bosma
October 11	Austin Barber	Hunter Boomgarden
October 18	Brandon Arzu-Bustad	Traeton Holt
October 25	Ashley Ling	Bethany Dorschner
November 1	Chad Buntjer	Jace Paplow

NURSERY (10:30 service only)

October 4	Jessalyn Broesder, Jessica Larson
October 11	MacKenzie Meyeraan, Roxie Tripp
October 18	Luke Gordon, Val Wolford
October 25	Eli Hansberger, Kham Holeton
November 1	Ivy Paplow, Beth White

Please remember to arrive at least 15 minutes before the service begins. If you cannot fulfill your scheduled date, please find a replacement and call the church office with the change, 376-6168.

GREETERS SCHEDULE

October 4	(8 am) (10:30)	LWML Ladies & Ilona Benson, Elden Ponto LWML Ladies & Virgil & Donna Reed
October 11	(8 am) (10:30)	John Galstad, Kent Brunk Duane & Carol Oberloh; John & Jessica Widvey
October 18	(8 am) (10:30)	Myron & Sandy Meyer John & Marlene Moberg
October 25	(8 am) (10:30)	YOUTH YOUTH
November 1	(8 am) (10:30)	Dan & Laurita Roos Chris & Stacy Heinrichs; David & Alexie Cross

Please Note: If you are unable to fulfill your scheduled time, please find someone to switch with and then let the church office know of the change. Thank You for serving!

Please contact the church office if you would like to be added to the greeter's rotation schedule.

