

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN

October 2017 Newsletter



Reformation Sunday - Why Celebrate It 500 Years Later?

On October 31, 1517, a Catholic priest named Martin Luther posted **an invitation to a debate** on his church door at Wittenberg. The invitation, entitled "Ninety-Five Theses or Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences," listed 95 statements about the some quite basic issues Luther had with the Pope, with the way salvation and forgiveness were being taught to God's people, and with the misuse of scripture.

Luther, who was growing in his understanding of faith, scripture, church history, and tradition, wanted to engage the church in a debate about these things so that the real mission of the church could be reclaimed. The problem: **no one responded** to his invitation, and the debate was never held. Perhaps they didn't understand how important it was? Maybe they were afraid - after all, Luther was confronting the most powerful people on the planet.

So why wasn't that the end of it? Why are we still talking about this cranky priest and his radical ideas? Well, this of course, was not the end of it. People copied down his work and the newly invented printing press was used to distribute it throughout Christendom. Debates were held, people talked, scripture was studied, and the Spirit moved in the Church again. True Christian Freedom, based in the Scriptures rather than church tradition, or culture was let loose in the church, and the world was changed.

"But that was then, this is now," as they say. "Times have changed - why do we need to go back to the frustrated monk and his concerns about the Pope and the church?" The answer is simple: the church continues to be distracted by culture, power, and money and needs to be brought back to having Scripture as the source of its faith, life, and direction for ministry. Unless we have scripture at the source of who we are and what we do as a church, we are simply building on sand, on the changing whims of culture and the political correctness of the moment. Without scripture, what we say and do has no more importance or value in the Kingdom of God than what a religious cult or any other human institution might do.

Without a genuine respect for and understanding of the scriptures, we really have no true sense of what Jesus said and did, or what the disciples taught, or what's in the Old Testament, or what the Apostle Paul was so concerned about. If we ignore the Bible every time it contradicts our sensibilities, why are we bothering with it at all? What's the point?

This is why we continue to remember and celebrate the Reformation in October. It is a time to reaffirm our stance on Scripture Alone, Faith Alone, and Grace Alone as the bedrock of our spiritual lives.

In Christ,
Pastor Mark



CHURCH RECORDS

Baptism

- Shaun Tyler Engelkes, son of Tyler & Amanda Engelkes was baptized August 27, 2017.

Wedding

- Mikaela Dierks & Gabriel Penaredondo were united in marriage on September 2, 2017.

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN CARE MINISTRIES/PARISH NURSE NEWS by Roxann Leckband

Well, Autumn is fast upon us. It is such a beautiful time of the year. Another reminder of Autumn is the time for our flu shot. Peak flu season is the fall and winter (Nov-March.)

According to the CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention the first and best way to protect yourself and your family from the flu as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations is to get an annual flu vaccination. The more people who get vaccinated the more people will be protected from the flu, including older people, very young children, pregnant women, and people with certain long-term health conditions who are more vulnerable to serious flu complications.

According to the CDC protective actions against the flu are:

- A yearly flu vaccine for everyone 6 months of age and older as the first and most important step in protection against this serious disease.
- Taking every day preventive actions like staying away from sick people and **washing your hands** to reduce the spread of germs.
- If you are sick with the flu-stay home from work or school to prevent the spreading of others
- There are medications to treat influenza called antiviral drugs. Visit [What You Should Know About Antiviral Drugs](#)

Flu vaccines recommended this season are offered in injectable form only. Some flu shots protect against three flu viruses and some protect against four.

Symptoms of flu are: Fever-feeling feverish/chills, cough, sore throat, runny and stuffy nose, muscle/body aches, headaches, fatigue (tiredness), some may have vomiting, diarrhea though this is more common in children than adults.

*It is important to note that not everyone will have a fever.

Please note the influenza information reported in this summary of flu facts was taken from *The Center for Disease Control and Prevention CDC 24/7: Saving Lives Protecting People*. For more detailed information go to the CDC website: [CDC Frequently Asked Questions 2017-2018 Influenza Season](#).

Please refer to your medical professional relating to your individual health needs and recommendations that is appropriate for you and your family member's needs. Please refer to your medical provider about contraindications (reasons one would not want to get a flu vaccination).

Health Cabinet Meeting – The Health Cabinet will meet on Monday, October 16th at 12:00 noon in the Fireside Room.

Exercise Class to begin in October watch for specific start date in the bulletin.

Walking/Fellowship Ministry to begin in November. Watch for specific information in the November newsletter and bulletins.

Director of Human Care Ministries News continued:

Noon Potluck Fellowship will be on Monday, October 9th at 12:00 with Swedish Meatballs, mashed potatoes & gravy and a whole wheat dinner roll. Please bring a dish to share, a free-will offering or just yourself. We would love to have you. There will be a blood pressure screening for those who choose to have their blood pressure checked at 11:30. There will be a devotional time and a health education topic presentation also. We have on the average of 25 who have been attending. It so great to see new faces along with those who have continued to attend and support this fellowship ministry and one another!

Mom's Group - There will be Mom's group on October 6th, 13th and 27th from 10:30 -11:45. Please note there is a Facebook page - Mom's Group @ St Matthew - to get current updates. Please join us and if any questions please contact Roxie at 376-6168.

Sunday School - Please note the Sunday school children in grades 3rd-8th will be singing at the October 29th Reformation Service. Please have your child/children in the downstairs classroom #110-111 by 9:15AM that Sunday.

KFC - Kids for Christ grades K-4th meets on Wednesday after school until 5:00pm. There is NO KFC on October 18th due to MEA break. If your child has not yet signed up and he or she would like to join, it is not too late. There are forms at the church. If you have any questions please contact Roxie or Jeanette at 376-6168.

Confirmation Classes - Grades 5-8 have Confirmation classes on Wednesday nights with class time from 5:30-6:25. For those wanting supper, it is served from 5:10-5:25. **There will be NO class on October 18th due to MEA break.**

Hey – check out radio station 96.5FM for great Contemporary Christian Music!



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

Thank you to all the Altar Guild members who signed up to serve for October 2017-September 2018.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Sarah Circle will meet on Tuesday, October 17th at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, October 17th at 5:15 p.m. in the Youth Room. The Martha Circle will meet on Thursday, October 19th at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

You are invited to the Coffee Fellowship each Sunday morning from 9:00-9:30 a.m. in the church basement. A free-will donation is received to benefit the various projects. **On the first and second Sundays of the month, and the 5th Sunday (when it happens) 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.

Music and Worship News

“A mighty Fortress is our God, A Bulwark never failing”

The most famous songs in the world usually have a story to tell. What’s the story of our most famous Lutheran song? There’s no record of where, why, or when Martin Luther sat down to write our battle hymn of the Reformation. Most think he wrote it in Wittenberg in the autumn of 1527 or perhaps 1528.

We don’t have all the details of where and when Luther wrote “A Mighty Fortress.” But if we take a close look at Luther’s composition, we begin to understand why Lutherans have loved singing it for nearly five hundred years.

Luther wanted people to read God’s Word for themselves. Most could not read the Latin version, so he began to translate the Bible during his time at Wartburg Castle. His desire to help people learn God’s Word for themselves also moved him to author the Small and Large Catechisms in 1529.

Luther also wanted God’s people to sing God’s Word for themselves, so he began a hymnal project. The first Lutheran hymnal appeared in 1524 with only eight hymns. Luther wrote four of them. To get the people involved in worship, Luther wanted to reform the Sunday order of service as well. To him, this effort helped people learn and remember the truths of Scripture. Luther had asserted that all God’s people were priests, with unique roles to play in the daily and weekly proclamation of the gospel.

By the time “A Mighty Fortress” appeared in 1528, Luther’s influence had already shifted congregational culture. Congregational participation was only part of Luther’s greater goal for worship and hymns. Luther himself summarized his purpose for writing these texts and tunes, “. . . that the Word of God may abide through music.”

At first glance, it seems that Luther’s hymn is a simple setting of Psalm 46, “God is our refuge and strength.” The psalm was Israel’s song of thanks for the marvelous deeds of God. God guarded and protected his people. Though believers may be inundated with conflict and persecution, God still preserves them with the steady stream of his promises.

“A Mighty Fortress” reveals that Luther was looking for more than a simple psalm paraphrase or an opening hymn for any given Sunday. The times during which the hymn was written had become a battleground not only for God’s people but for God’s Word itself. Both Luther and the peasants to whom he preached faced persecution and pressure. Again and again the threats to the gospel in Word and sacrament confronted them. It is no different today! Luther’s most famous hymn tells a story beyond the bounds of Psalm 46. The hymn traces the story of salvation from beginning to end, and all along the way, we are strengthened by God’s grace.

The most famous songs in the world usually have a story to tell. And though Luther’s reasons for writing his most famous song may be lost to us, the lesson he teaches us with this song are as important as ever: God’s people rely on his power in their trials and troubles! This hymn helps us sing that truth. *(The above is a paraphrase of an article written by Mark Tiefel, pastor of Abiding Word, Houston, Texas.)*

REFORMATION SERVICE FESTIVAL CHOIR AND BRASS

All singers and brass players middle school and older are invited to be a part of our Reformation Day Celebration Service, at 9:30 AM, Sunday, October 29.

FESTIVAL CHOIR: Please add your voices to our adult choir for this special service. We will rehearse the Festival Choir song during our regular adult choir rehearsals on Wednesdays at 5:30. **If you are unable to practice with the choir on Wednesdays, there will be additional practices in the CHOIR ROOM immediately after our 10:30 services.**

GRADE 3-8 FESTIVAL CHOIR: We plan to have our young people participate in our Reformation Service. We will practice during the Sunday School hour singing time.

Reformation Service Festival Choir and Brass Information continued:

FESTIVAL BRASS: We will play during the traditional congregational hymns for the service. Please contact Lorenda Glade at 712-330-1523, or email lorenda.glade@gmail.com if interested in playing. I will be available at 7:15 to practice on October 25 (immediately after Wednesday evening service), 10:00 AM Saturday, October 28, and warm-up at 8:00 AM on Sunday, October 29.

Just as Martin Luther wanted everyone in the church involved in worship, our 500th Reformation Anniversary Celebration Service will offer music to involve everyone, from traditional hymns of our faith to contemporary worship songs. We hope to see and hear all of you at worship on October 29!

Lorenda Glade, Joy Schreiber, Directors of Music

INTENTIONAL EVANGELISM MOMENT

How far in advance does God have to call to get on your calendar? You're not just wanted, you're needed! Just like the ear needs the eye to make a perfect body, you are an important piece of this church! Open up your heart and feel the joy of experiencing being a blessing to others and the success of this church!

LOVE INC. CHALLENGE

Clergy appreciation month. Take the time this month to show appreciation to all who serve us here at church: our staff, volunteer Sunday School and Confirmation leaders, volunteer worship leaders, etc. through verbal communication, cards, gifts or spending quality time with those who lead us here at St. Matthew.

Please note: Join us in giving appreciation to Pastor Mark on Pastor Appreciation Sunday, October 8th. We will have coffee and donuts during the coffee fellowship time (9:00-9:30AM) in the church basement.

**St. Matthew Lutheran's Quarterly Voters Meeting
Sunday, October 22nd 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 9th.

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!**



Announcing



**November Veterans Breakfast - EVERYONE IS INVITED!
Sunday, November 5th from 9:00-9:30 a.m.**

(during the normal Coffee Hour time) **in the church basement.**
Please watch for more information in the upcoming Sunday bulletins regarding this Special Breakfast.

LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) NEWS

This is such a busy month for LWML. First of all, we will celebrate our 75th anniversary with a special LWML Sunday. Ladies are encouraged to join in the special choir that day. Wear purple!! Even if you haven't practiced with the group, join us anyway. We will be singing two simple hymns. Also, after 8:00 service, we will serve cake and have a celebration in the church basement. Come and join in the festivities. Special prizes will be given out!

Our October LWML business meeting will be at 5:30 pm on October 5th. We will discuss the upcoming celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. We plan to serve a German Meal in place of our Fall Dinner. There will also be a bake sale and card sale. Remember, this is our major fundraiser for the year. Following the meeting on October 5th, Kerry and Megan Sauer will give their presentation about their trip to Germany in June. Please join us! Of course there will be a delicious dessert following the presentation. It will be hosted by Martha Circle.

On October 14th is the Fall LWML Rally. It will be held at Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Windom. Meet at the St. Matthew North parking lot at 8:00 am to share rides. Kathy Roslansky will be driving a van which can hold 7 passengers. Let Kathy know if you plan to come. Also, Gifts from the Heart for this Rally will be given to Orphan Grain Train. Items include bath towels, (dark color) washcloths, bath-size bar soap, adult-size toothbrush, sturdy comb, stick deodorant, and band aids (1/2 or 3/4 inch). Any items will help. Please leave at the church office by Friday, Oct. 13. Check the poster on the bulletin board by the elevator entrance. It will be a fabulous day.

And of course the Reformation Celebration: we will need helpers to bake for the bake sale; tend to the bake sale; help serve the meal; help make desserts; help decorate the fellowship hall; help clean up. Many hands make light work! Watch the bulletin for further announcements as the committee gets in gear with the planning.

MISSION SEWING – MEETS on the 2ND AND 4TH THURSDAYS from 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.

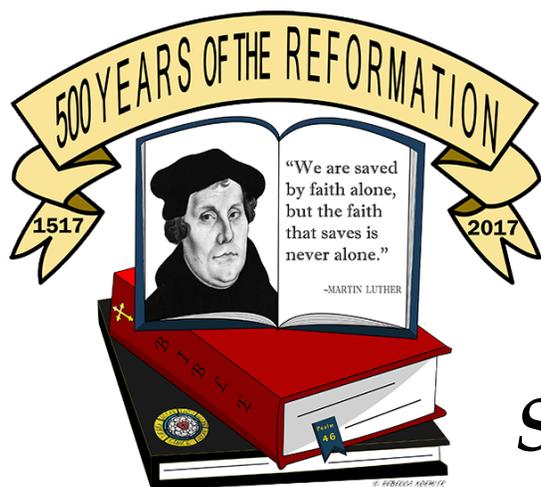
Undies Sunday – We will have “**Undies Sunday**” on both **October 1 and October 8**. The Mission Sewing ladies have been making pillowcase dresses to be sent to Orphan Grain Train. **Several of the pillowcase dresses are on the display in the Great Hall.** A box is available by the dresses for you to place donations of new, packaged, girl's underwear in sizes 4-10. The underwear will be sent along with the dresses. If you wish to give a monetary donation, please place it in an envelope marked “Undies Sunday” and place in the offering plate or bring it to the church office.

Texas Donation – three quilts, 2 baby quilts and 5 small blankets were brought to the truck Worthington had for donations for Cuero, Texas. The ladies included a small note that said these items came from St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Worthington, MN.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY is having a **meeting on Saturday, October 7** at 9AM in the Fireside Room. Any interested parties are encouraged to join us. Please bring your finished prayer shawls or what you are working on. We can share ideas and patterns.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – We will once again be participating in Operation Christmas Child. A basket is located in the Great Hall where you may place your donations. Boxes will be available at a later time if you wish to take a box and fill it. Watch the weekly bulletins for more information.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE – A non-denominational Women's Conference will take place at Lakeside Church (1000 Linda Lane, Worthington). "Women Seeking God: CREATE – Building Faith and Finding Joy in the Journey" featuring speaker, Tera Elness. The conference will be held Friday, October 27 from 6:30-9:30PM and Saturday, October 28 from 9am-2pm. The cost is \$35 before October 16, and \$45 at the door. A flyer with more information and the registration form are available at each entrance to the church.



*St. Matthew Lutheran
Celebrates the 500th
Anniversary of the
Reformation
Sunday, October 29, 2017*

A Special Worship Service at 9:30a.m.

(No Sunday School or Adult Bible Study)

Meal served from 11:30a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**A "Free-will Offering" will be received for the meal.*

Come enjoy a delicious GERMAN MEAL of brats/smoked pork, sauerkraut, German potato salad/chips, and German desserts! A more complete meal listing will be in the upcoming Sunday bulletins. Please come celebrate this special Reformation Anniversary! Our LWML will have a bake sale of homemade goodies and also boxed cards available for sale.

Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow!

**Deliveries will be available within the City of Worthington.
Please call the church office, 376-6168 by 3:00pm on Friday,
October 27 to sign-up for a delivered meal.**

This event is being combined with our Annual Harvest Dinner!

The Reader's Digest version of the Council Minutes from September 12, 2017

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

Treasurer's Report: August expenses were \$36,692.33; income was \$30,238.15. Building Fund income was \$2,395.00 and expenses were \$2,000 for a net income for the month of -\$8,059.18. Balance in the General Fund checking account on August 31 was \$61,160.45. Roof/Building Loan balance at the end of August was \$103,508.60. Memorial Fund balance is \$35,157.06. Scholarship Fund balance is \$693,544.94.

Staff Reports: *Pastor Mark* – average weekend attendance was 259, average Wednesday attendance was 32. *Roxie* – Daniel Plan Bible Study has been going well and meets at 7:00 a.m. on Wednesdays. May start another group, as have been asked to repeat this Bible Study. The Ministry Support Volunteer Checklist has identified individuals that are willing to serve in a variety of areas. Still promoting members to complete the form. Has been more difficult to recruit Sunday School teachers and helpers. Would like to see more men involved. We began the first step in developing a food ministry. A member made several hot dishes for a family in need. Would like to begin a food construction group to prepare food at the church to be frozen and be used as needed. We have two barriers: would need a full size upright freezer, and need upgrading of the stoves/ovens. The stoves have been an ongoing issue of concern. *Jenna* - Youth will be a part of the food/backpack program at the Presbyterian Church throughout the year. The Family Group and Youth Group combined for a fellowship event. Had an Omelet Feed with 15 youth helping. Parents & YPOGs meeting was held on September 6th. The 2017-2018 calendar was gone over, fundraisers, vision/goals, and mission trip were discussed. Group is very excited about the mission trip to Wasilla, Alaska. *Lorenda* – Pastor & Lorenda met with Louise to evaluate the current direction of the choirs and to plan the upcoming year. Fall piano and organ tuning will be scheduled. Our Reformation service on October 29th will include a Festival Choir, Bell Choir, brass and organ for traditional hymns, a 3rd-8th grade choir, and contemporary music by the Worship Band. We have the Sunday School Christmas Program nearly ready for the youth to begin learning. Song word packets will be prepared for the teachers and older youth. Darci Holt served as our pianist for the summer Wednesday evening services. We greatly appreciate her donating her time and talents. Lorenda will resume Wednesday evening organist duties in September.

Board of Elders: Update on Wi-Fi installation – working together with the Trustees. All wiring of routers has been completed. Checking with Frontier on available speed and bandwidth, also with other possible alternative businesses. Pastor presented a generic internet user policy for discussion. Will keep the number of people given access to the internet limited to only those that need it. Will plan to review these guidelines yearly. Discussed RightNow Media usage. Have 85 members signed up for access to this service and are hopeful that additional members will join.

Board of Trustees: Continue to work with the Elders on Wi-Fi system. Checked with VAST in regards to costs and speeds of internet and their prices are much less than our current provider. Have decided to switch to VAST as offered better internet speeds at a much lesser cost. Will be able to keep same phone numbers, but will need to get new email addresses. Will need to have a line ran into the church for VAST service – but installation cost is minimal.

Board of Christian Education: Sunday School curriculum will be using “The Story” for a 2-year cycle. Discussed Operation Christmas Child and will plan to do again. Will be sending some of the Sunday School offering to a Lutheran Church in Texas that was severely damaged from recent hurricane effects.

Human Care: Continue to recruit people to crochet or knit prayer shawls.

Finance Committee: Myron Meyer will resign and Paul Kazemba will serve.

New Business: Discussion about needing 3 TVs for additional Bible study groups and so we may use RightNow Media material. These TVs would be mounted in the Fireside Room and 2 classrooms. Will need to purchase wall mounts and sound bars also.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 10th at 5:30 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!

TECH CREW MEMBERS NEEDED

Do you enjoy using the screen for our liturgy, hymns, songs, etc.? Then consider being a Projector Operator. Our worship services CANNOT happen without the help of sound, camera, and projector operators. We are in desperate **need of operators** so our services can be enjoyed by all! Please contact Bev in the church office, or one of the current tech crew members. A small amount of training is needed. The scheduling is flexible. If you can move a finger, you can be a projector operator for the screen! Please prayerfully consider this ministry! Sound Operators may only be adults; but camera and projector operators can be ages youth (*preferably already confirmed*) and up!

“ADOPT A DAY” TO PAY OFF OUR BUILDING LOAN

At the beginning of 2017 we posted an “Adopt A Day” calendar to try and pay down our current Building Loan (*for the new roof and stained glass window repairs done last summer*). You may “adopt” a day or days for \$126 per day to help pay down our loan. The \$ figure comes from our 126 years as a church congregation. A calendar is posted on the bulletin board across from Pastor Mark’s office, by the water cooler. A marker is available for you to write your name or “anonymous” on the day(s) you wish to “adopt”. The last 4 months of the year are wide open for you to “adopt”. Which day(s) would you like to adopt?

ELECTRONIC GIVING AVAILABLE

A convenient, consistent way to help our church grow!

Our church now offers electronic giving, which allows you to make donations on a scheduled, automatic basis. If you are writing checks and preparing envelopes every week, you will especially appreciate electronic giving. It is convenient for you and provides much-needed donation consistency for our church.

To set up electronic donations, simply complete the authorization form available at each entrance to the church and on our website, www.stmatthewworthington.com and return it to the church office. Donations can be debited automatically from either a checking or savings account. Help us grow!

WORSHIP SERVICE HELPERS

ACOLYTES

<u>Date</u>	<u>8 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
October 1	Brandon Arzu-Bustad	Luke Gordon
October 8	Calah Ling	Dimitri Lobo
October 15	Faith Leinen	Eli Hansberger
October 22	Jordis Weber	Carson Wolford
October 29 – One Service at 9:30AM	= Kyle Ahrenstorff	
November 5	Caleb Barber	Maelie Holt

NURSERY (10:30 service only)

October 1	Logan Meyeraan, Beth White
October 8	Presley Sieve, Marlis Rohwer
October 15	Jake Ahrenstorff, Val Wolford
October 22	Carson Wolford, Danika Schmidt
October 29 – One Service at 9:30AM	= Maelie Holt, Gail Holinka
November 5	Sierra Goedtke, Angie Kopplow

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 1	(8 am) (10:30)	LWML Ladies LWML Ladies
October 8	(8 am) (10:30)	Gary & Velma Cortright Bruce & Shawn Boomgarden
October 15	(8 am) (10:30)	Mark Schwarz; Julie Buntjer John & Jessica Widvey
October 22	(8 am) (10:30)	YOUTH YOUTH

October 29 – One Service at 9:30AM = Lisa Busswitz; Sue Flesner

November 5	(8am) (10:30)	John Galstad; Ron Markman David & Alexie Cross; Marlene Jurgensen
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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.

