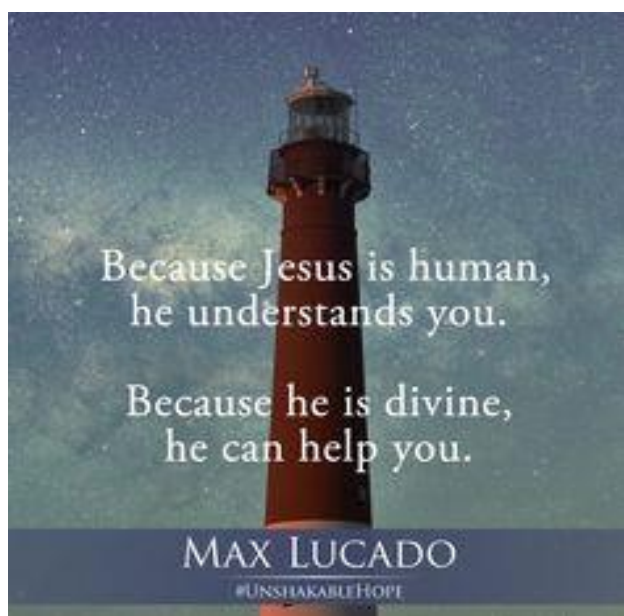


St. Matthew Lutheran Church

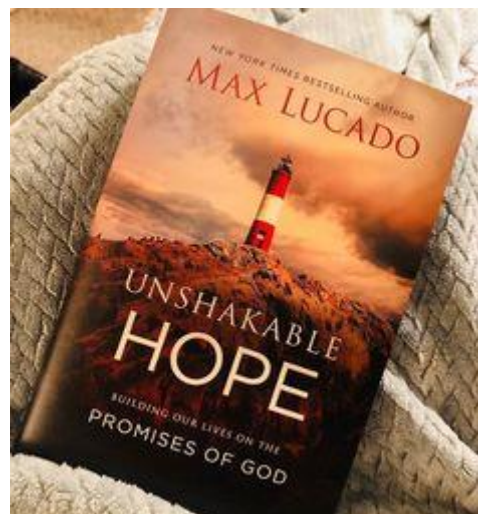
1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN

October 2020 Newsletter



There is still time to join our 12-week Church-wide Campaign, “Unshakable Hope” Contact the Church Office or any staff member to get your books! Building our lives on the promises of God!

- Adult Bible Studies take place on Sundays in the basement fellowship hall from 9:15-10:15 a.m. You may also join via Zoom = User ID: 822 9802 2355 and Passcode: 124005.
- Our Sunday School classes are also using this curriculum. The children will have their books in their classroom.
- The Adult Bible Studies are being recorded and are available on our church's YouTube channel and our church website. So you can enjoy this study at any time!
- **We have many sets of books available yet.** Contact the church office to get your copy today! Only \$20 for the book and study guide.
- **This book & study guide would make a perfect gift for a friend or family member who may need a little hope or encouragement in their life. Purchase from the church office!**



Church Records

Baptism

- Austin Greg Engelkes, son of Tyler & Amanda Engelkes, baptized on August 26, 2020.

Deaths

- Daryl Quiring passed away September 1; funeral service on September 9.
- Helen Grimmus passed away September 18; private family service was held.

Thank you all very much for the calls, cards, donations, and memorials we received at the time of Daryl's passing. Thank you especially to Pastor Mark for his calls and prayers. I am proud to belong to the family of St. Matthews.

Jan Quiring

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Sarah Circle will meet on October 20th at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The church office did not receive any information from the Martha or Hope Circles. Please contact your fellow circle members for when/if you will be meeting.

GRAIN OFFERINGS - Any farmers that would like to make a donation to our church using loads of grain may do so by simply telling the grain elevator, and then calling the church office. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Human Care and Parish Nurse News - Roxann Leckband

Greetings,

Fall is definitely upon us! Ministry is under way what a great time of year. We all know things can be subject to change in a matter of hours, but we look to the Lord as He controls all things and as He loves and cares for us we can trust in Him. Great is His faithfulness.

Please note, if you or a loved one is in the hospital and would like a visit please contact the church. If you or someone would like a "home visit" let the church know. 376-6168.

Noon Fellowship - We had our first Noon Fellowship in September and it went well. On October 12th the Noon Fellowship will be in the basement Fellowship Hall at 11:30 (note time change) as we have some attendees who need to leave a little earlier for other commitments. Provided for the meal will be chicken casserole. Please bring a dish to pass. A free-will offering will also be accepted for those who choose to do so.

Widow's Group will meet at the church on October 19th at 5:15 p.m. as we continue with A Widow's Postcard a study focused on the Book of Ruth. We will leave to eat at Hickory Lodge at 5:45 p.m. Please contact Roxie with any questions you may have 376-6168.

GPS Hope - The parental grief support group will meet on October 25th at 4:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

Confirmation Classes will meet October 7th, 21st and 28th from 5:30-6:25 p.m. No meals will be served. There is no Confirmation on October 14th due to MEA. We will have a Pre-Confirmation Fellowship Time from 4:30-5:15 p.m. This includes a time of fellowship and activities. Confirmation will immediately follow the pre-confirmation time. Please contact Roxie with any questions you may have 376-6168.

Music and Worship News

Covid has impacted many areas of our lives, including how we continue our music opportunities at St. Matthews.

- **Bell choir** meets at 7:00 PM on Wednesday evenings. Please contact Louise Clausen if you are interested in joining this group. Basic music reading skills are needed.
- **Special music** is still included as often as possible in our 8:00 AM service but is during Communion instead of during the Offering. Vocal and instrumental solos, small family singing groups, and small instrumental groups are welcome to share their talents!
- **Adult choir** will not meet until further notice. Once we are able to meet again, we encourage all who enjoy singing to join us.

We have a small portable keyboard available for a free will donation. The keyboard was formerly used for Sunday School music. The keyboard comes with a stand and a bench. It worked in mid-September but does not come with any guarantees! Please contact Bev Spittle or Lorenda Glade if you are interested in the keyboard.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you in church as we resume as many of our fall music opportunities as possible.

Lorenda Glade, Director of Traditional Music
Joy Schreiber, Director of Contemporary Music

St. Matthew Lutheran's Quarterly Voters Meeting

The next Voters Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 25th following the 10:30 worship service. The meeting will take place in the Sanctuary to allow for social distancing.

LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) NEWS

Due to the Covid-19 situation, St. Matthew LWML has decided to cancel the Harvest Dinner which would have been in late October. We hope to have some type of meal either during Advent or Lent, which will be our fundraiser for the year. Everything depends on Covid-19. Please watch the upcoming newsletters and/or weekly bulletins for updates.

Our October meeting will be held in the Fireside Room on October 1st at 1:30 p.m. We will also resume the Circle Bible Studies in October.

Highlights from the September 8, 2020 Council Meeting

Treasurer's Report: August expenses were \$30,639.19; income was \$30,906.56. This left the General Fund Balance as of August 31, 2020 at \$81,414.20. The Memorial Fund balance was \$73,627.33. The Scholarship Balance was \$656,204.09. The Youth Account monthly report was \$12,981.95.

Staff Reports: *Pastor Mark* – average attendance for the month of August was 141 per week. The YouTube views averaged 60 per service. Subscribers are at 180 to the St. Matthew's YouTube channel. Plans are well underway for every member to have a copy of the book and study guide for the Max Lucado study entitled, "Unshakable Hope." There is a suggested \$20 donation for the set. *Roxie Leckband* – Sunday School curriculum will be "Unshakable Hope", a pre-packaged snack will be

Highlights from Council Meeting continued:

delivered to the classrooms. Spaces for classes and music are being planned to follow all safety protocols due to Covid. *Jenna Bents* – the youth are doing a Papa Murphy’s fundraiser. Delivery date is October 21. High School kids are able to take advantage of a safe spot at church to complete distance learning. There are procedures to follow and a form for students and parents to sign. The hours will be from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be a limit of ten per day (church members). Text Jenna to reserve a spot. Masks will be required with rooms available for studying and one room designated for lunch and snacks. A staff member will be available for questions and supervision. *Lorenda Glade & Joy Schreiber* – A Christmas program is being researched and setting dates for the children to sing during worship services throughout the year.

Elder Report: Discussion on Jenna’s DCE Internship – certain number of hours per week are required. Jenna will also update and develop the social media for the church. Hymnals will be placed back in the pews. The one direction flow of people in the church will end as we all are wearing masks.

Trustees Report: The coffeepot and new stainless-steel countertop are being installed. Soundproofing of the new basement area is still being explored. Expert advice is being sought. A new AED is being discussed. The furnaces are being accessed and any needs will be determined. Carpet cleaning is also being discussed.

Board of Education: Main focus is finding areas for Sunday School music and classes that are large enough to give adequate spacing for the children’s safety while singing and etc.

Ministry Planning Board: Plan to have sack lunches over MEA for the church neighbors. Safe contact would be maintained with the lunches made in the church basement. This will be a great way to connect with the neighborhood. There would also be a devotional time and outreach. Elders are asked to wear lanyards so that visitors will know who to connect with when attending.

Other Business: October is the target date for the new video wall.

New Business: The 2021 Budget has been started and will be ready to present at the October 25 voters meeting.

**Next Executive Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13th at 5:30 p.m.
The Ministry Planning Board will join the meeting at 6:00 p.m.**

Highlights from the August 16, 2020 Voters Meeting

Treasurer’s Report: Update by Nathan Holt that church was able to use Federal Government SBA Loan Funds towards expenses of operating the church. The church also received a memorial donation from the Norman Vogt estate that was used to pay for the remaining expenses of the remodel of the education wing. With this donation we have been able to repay the loan from the scholarship fund that we had used to fund the project. St. Matthews sends a huge THANK YOU to the Vogt family.

Technology Update: We have been Livestreaming the Sunday services to our YouTube channel. Have had a large number of visits to our YouTube site with even some from different countries and different languages. Committee has decided on the video wall to be installed. It will be 10 feet high x 15 feet wide and was ordered from the Mankato company that we purchased the Livestreaming equipment from. The goal is to have it installed and operational in October. Discussed the cost of the wall. Congregation members okayed for the price to not exceed \$95,000.

New Business: Wall behind the altar needs to be repaired prior to installation of the video wall, as there are cracks in the wallpaper from old water damage. Discussion was held as to what should be done. The suggestion from the Tech Committee is to remove the wood beams and replace the current wallpaper with new sheetrock & paint. Congregation members motioned to repair the wall behind the altar based on the recommendation from the committee. Discussion as to what color to paint the wall and suggestions of a different color other than white and to wait until repairs have been done to decide on the paint color were made.

Highlights from Voters Meeting continued:

Elections of Officers: Ballot was presented. No nominations were received from the floor. Motion was made to present this as a unanimous ballot and seconded. Thank you to Bryon Spittle, Chris Luther, Joel Lorenz, Lynn Brunk and Nancy Ihrke for their years of service.

Covid-19 Regulations Update: We will be starting Sunday School and Confirmation classes on September 20. We will be following guidelines of maximum room capacities with them posted in each room. No confirmation meals will be served, but we will provide pre-packaged snacks for both confirmation and Sunday School classes. We will not be resuming Wednesday evening church services but will resume both services on Sundays.

Next Voters Meeting scheduled for October 25, 2020. Watch for updates.

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS Effective September 1, 2020

PRESIDENT	Ron Iverson	360-7786
VICE PRESIDENT	Nathan Holt	370-1297
SECRETARY	Julie Place	360-0308
TREASURER	Tammy Brunk	360-8977
ELDERS	Arnie Ihrke	360-6882
	Kevin Schmidt	712-461-1263
	Andrew Bents	507-594-8891
	Mike Dierks	360-8536
	Paul Kazemba	370-1835
TRUSTEES	Jerry Vogt	360-9506
	Jeff Barber	360-3335
	Jesse Raudenbush	360-7730
	Mark Schwarz	329-2694
	Dale Schroeder	329-3683
BOARD OF EDUCATION	Chairman - Jeanette Varuska	329-6583
MINISTRY PLANNING	Tim Hansberger	360-9089
	Andrew Dierks	360-4285
	Amy Khamphanh	360-5360
	Lynn Dierks	360-6067
	Gail DeGrote	360-0353
	Becky Strand	320-510-1341
FINANCE COMMITTEE	Karen Knigge	376-5201
	Jeanette Varuska	329-6583
	Deb Thompson	683-2000
	April Johnson	220-4963
	Nancy Veen	372-2228

**appointed*



ELECTRONIC GIVING AVAILABLE

A convenient, consistent way to help our church grow!

Our church 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!



Have you downloaded the St. Matthew's App yet? On the app you can find links to our YouTube channel and website, information, and updates about the church, and you can give offering via your bank account or credit/debit card. Offering can be given in a one-time donation, or you can set up recurring donations. It uses the Vanco GivePlus program which is the same company we use for the electronic giving. Our Church App looks like the picture to the left of this paragraph.

Have you checked out RightNow Media yet? Our church subscribes to this extensive, video library. It is like the "Netflix of Video Bible Studies" and has a HUGE library of faith-based videos that you can access whenever and wherever you want – on your phone, iPad, computer, or at home on your TV. There are videos for everyone, including kids – all aimed at helping you grow. If you have subscribed but cannot remember your login information, contact Bev in the church office for more information. If you would like to subscribe to this wonderful program you will need an "email invite" from the church office, so also contact Bev for this.



Serving in October will be: Nancy Junker and Alice White 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.

WORSHIP SERVICE HELPERS

ACOLYTES

<u>Date</u>	<u>8 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
October 4	Isaac Lowe	Alaya Rowley
October 11	Tavin Miller	Madison Sieve
October 18	Emily Lowe	Ryker Thier
October 25	Paige Barber	Addison Peralta-Cross
November 1	Camren Luther	Garret Larson

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.

*At this time, due to Covid-19, **our Nursery will not be open**; therefore, no Nursery workers will be scheduled. We are also **not having "Worship Service Greeters"** at this time. Stay tuned for updates!*