

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN
September 2018 Newsletter



Jesus the Same Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

“What is internet anyway?” a confused Bryant Gumbel asked an always-perky Katie Couric. “A massive computer network, the one that’s becoming really big,” she replied. “What do you mean? What do you... write to it?” “No. A lot of people use it to communicate with NBC writers and producers,” replies Couric, looking off-stage for a producer for help explaining a topic she clearly knows little about. “Allison, can you explain what internet is?”

From offstage, a man’s voice says, “It’s a giant computer network... it’s... it’s a computer billboard... it’s... several universities all joined together.” “And others can access it?” a confused Gumbel asks. “It’s getting bigger every day,” the voice from offstage replies.

“That’s great,” Gumbel says sarcastically. This exchange took place on the Today Show less than 20 years ago. They would never have imagined then that elementary school children would be using the (high speed) internet in their classrooms, and many of us would have unlimited access to it... on our cell phones.

A lot can change in 19 years; how we live our lives can be revolutionized by things like the internet, or brought to an unwanted halt by disease or injury. The birth of children and the death of loved ones constantly change the playing field. A promotion, job loss, scam or windfall can change our daily routine. Things beyond our control change our lives in powerful ways, and without warning.

In Malachi 3:6, God says this to his people: “For I the LORD do not change.” In Colossians 1:15 and 2:9, we read: “[Christ] is the image of the invisible God.... For in [Christ] the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily.” And Hebrews 13:8 puts the two together: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

In our lives saturated with wanted, unwanted, planned and unplanned change, it’s good to have the unchangeable gospel of Jesus as the solid ground under our feet. With the assurance of the forgiveness of sins, the indwelling Holy Spirit, the promise of the resurrection like his, Jesus’ promise to listen to and answer all of our prayers, and his promise that he will never leave us nor forsake us, we can navigate the “changes and chances” of this world. And more than that, we can speak his name to people whose lives have been ravaged by the relentlessly changing world around them, giving them hope, purpose and destiny.

God be with you all as you continue to make the solid rock of our Lord Jesus Christ and his gospel the foundation and cornerstone of your life!

In Christ,
Pastor Mark



Beginning Sunday, September 2

Wednesday Worship at 6:30 p.m.

Sundays will be:

8:00 a.m. Traditional

10:30 a.m. Contemporary

Sunday School begins September 9th and will be 9:15-10:15 a.m.
Parents, please join us for Coffee Fellowship (9 a.m.) and/or Adult Bible Study (9:30-10:15 a.m.) while your children are in Sunday School.

CHURCH RECORDS

Baptism

- Mersaydes Marten, daughter of Eric & Marissa Marten and Matthew & Brittany Dorschner was baptized July 29, 2018.
- Declan Markus, son of Logan & Tammy Markus was baptized August 12, 2018.

Weddings

- Tabitha Baerenwald & John Damm were united in marriage on July 28, 2018.

Deaths

- Leona Fenske passed away August 12, 2018; funeral service was August 24, 2018.
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OMELET FEED

Sunday, September 9th

8:45-10:15 a.m.

in the Church Basement

A free-will donation will be received.

This is a fundraiser for our youth who will be attending the 2019 National Youth Gathering. Let the youth make you breakfast!

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Sarah Circle will meet on Tuesday, September 18th at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Martha Circle will meet on Thursday, September 20th at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, September 18th at 5:15 p.m. in the Youth Room.

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN CARE MINISTRIES

By Roxann Leckband

Noon Fellowship will be on Monday, **September 10th**. The main entrée will be chicken breasts with mashed potatoes. There will be our usual devotion and also a presentation about community resources. Blood pressures will be taken starting at 11:30.

On Monday, September 17th a nurse will be available from 1:00pm-2:00pm in the Fireside room, to discuss questions individuals may have. We encourage that individuals bring either a complete list of their medications or the bottles to the church. We will have a card that will fit in your wallet to write the medications on. You may use this card anytime you go in to see your medical provider. The nurse will also review the medications with you and answer any questions you may have. A large area of concern for medical providers is to get an accurate list of medications individuals are taking. It is important to report over the counter meds such as vitamins, herbal preparations, etc. If the care provider is not aware they could prescribe a medication that could interact with something a person is taking. We will also have information on Advanced Directives/Advanced Care Planning. Individuals may also call the church and set up a time to meet individually to go over Advanced Care Planning. Advanced care planning is for anyone over the age of 18 years. We do not know when an accident could render us mentally and physically impaired to the point of needing artificial life support. The number you may phone is 376-6168 and ask for Roxie.

Please note through the Human Care Ministry we continue to have frozen casseroles and cookies in the freezer if there is a need for you and/or your family. Please contact Roxie at 376-6168

Health Cabinet Meeting will be on Monday, September 17th at 12:00 noon in the Fireside Room.

Early Communion, Sunday School and Confirmation

Please mark your calendars for the “**Early Communion Classes**” for **5th Graders on September 12th and 19th from 5:30-6:15 p.m.** Parents, one or both, are requested to accompany their child during these classes to make an informed decision as to if they feel their child is ready to participate in Holy Communion. **There will be a blessing for the Early Communion Class at the worship services on September 23rd.**

Attention Confirmation youth in grades 6, 7, & 8 and their parents: there will be a brief informational time **at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, September 5th**. We will be completing registration forms at this time as well. Please make every effort to be at this meeting and have ALL the paperwork completed by the end of the evening. This is so very helpful.

Regular confirmation classes for 5th-8th grades will begin on September 26th at 5:30 p.m. A meal will be served each week from 5:10-5:25 p.m. Please – parents if your child cannot make it by 5:10 to eat please provide for him or her before you bring them to church. Also, for the safety of your children, please do NOT drop your children off before 5:10, as we do not have adult supervision until then. Thank You.

Mark your calendars: the first day of Sunday school will be September 9th. The Sunday School hour is from 9:15-10:15AM. We have a NEW Sunday School curriculum this year! It is called Answers in Genesis. This curriculum emphasizes God’s work of Creation vs. Evolution. Please look over the Take Home sheets with your child/children to reinforce the information that they were taught.

Early Communion, Sunday School, Confirmation continued:

Attention parents of 3 and 4 year olds: An exciting time is approaching as our “little ones” leave our Cradle Roll and now begin Sunday school. **There will be a special blessing during the services on September 9th.** We will ask the children and their parents to participate in this. This blessing will happen at both the 8:00 and 10:30 services. Please Note: A child who is 3 years old and is “potty trained” may attend Sunday School. If your child has begun Sunday School in the middle of the year and has not been blessed please join us for the blessing or if you have an older child that is attending Sunday School for the first time join us as well. This is such an amazing and special time in the “faith journey” of your child. Blessings to you and your Christian parenting.

PARENTS: Please put on your calendar the Sunday School **Christmas Program** for grades Pre-school-8th will be on Sunday, **December 16th** at 9:30a.m. More information to follow as we do further planning.

Installation of our 2018-2019 Christian Education Teachers and helpers will be on **Sunday, September 9th** at the 8:00 and 10:30 worship services. Please, if you are involved in Sunday School, KFC or Confirmation please come forward when you are asked during the service.

Music and Worship News

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” I Peter 4:10

After a summer that has sped by all too quickly, it is time to begin our fall activities at St. Matthew. Please prayerfully consider ways in which God may be calling you to share your talents. God has gifted each of us in various ways. Each of you has at least one talent that can be used to serve our Lord and our brothers and sisters in Christ.

If you love music, we certainly have a place for you to serve! Our adult choir and bell choir welcome new members. Please contact choir director Louise Clausen if you are interested in either or both of these groups. Rehearsals will begin the week of September 9. Please check upcoming bulletins for dates and times.

We have lost a very active member of our worship team with Caleb Schreiber leaving for college. If you are a singer who especially loves contemporary Christian music, please contact our Director of Contemporary Music, Joy Schreiber.

We are blessed with talented singers and instrumentalists who share their talents during special music at our traditional worship services. If you play an instrument or enjoy singing solos or being in a small group, please contact our Director of Traditional Music, Lorenda Glade.

We are in great need of people for our tech crew. We have people who run the sound board for our services, people who operate the camera, and people who run the screen shows. We are in definite need of more people to share these responsibilities. Please contact Bev at the church office if you are interested.

The educational wing remodeling is moving forward. We are looking forward to utilizing our new music room on the upper floor in the near future.

God’s Blessings,

Lorenda Glade & Joy Schreiber, Directors of Music

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



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 cover the expenses and benefit the various missions of the church. **On the first and second Sundays** of the month, there is opportunity for your church group to host a coffee hour.

Please sign-up at least two weeks in advance on the "sign up sheet" in the

church basement. The **third Sunday** of the month, the LWML sponsor the coffee hour and on the **fourth Sunday** of the month, the youth sponsor the coffee hour.

LWML NEWS

(Lutheran Women's Missionary League)

The new year for LWML will kick off with the September 6th business meeting at 6:00 p.m. We will discuss the Fall Harvest Dinner as well as LWML business. Following the meeting, **at 7:00 p.m. we invite women of St. Matthews who are interested in finding out just what LWML is all about to come to a presentation by Amy Khamphanh and Ruth Ramert.** These two ladies have attended National and District Conventions and have developed a passion for LWML. We encourage you to come, give us a try. We have a wonderful group of women who love the Lord, and Serve the Lord with Gladness! Kathy Roslansky will give a short presentation on "LWML 101." Yummy desserts will follow!



From Jenna Bents, our Director of Youth Ministries

Prayer Request: We are asking for prayers for our family as we are in the process of adopting from Thailand. We started the process the very beginning of February and are currently on the wait list to be matched with a girl. This waiting process can be an extremely difficult and long time. Please pray for patience for our family as we anxiously wait for God's timing in adding to our family! We have been so overwhelmed already with the love and support from our family, friends and congregation!

Thank you for your continued prayers. If you would like to

keep updated on our process and/or feel led to help us out financially please go to:

[gofundme.com/bents-family-adoption](https://www.gofundme.com/bents-family-adoption). We would love to talk with anyone who is interested in learning more or has questions! God has been good during this whole process and we are just so thankful that our future daughter will be raised in such a wonderful community of believers.

Andrew, Jenna and Samuel Bents

TECH CREW MEMBERS NEEDED

Our worship services CANNOT happen without the help of sound, camera, and projector operators. Several of our technicians have moved from the area, or are attending college. 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!

July 29th Voters Meeting Highlights

Treasurer's Report for the 2nd Quarter ending June 30, 2018: Income - \$96,349.00; Expenses - \$106,414.00. Checkbook Balance: \$41,694.24. Building Fund income - \$4,594.00; Scholarship Fund Balance: \$705,309.44; Memorial Fund Balance: \$113,060.61; Youth Account: \$32,361.37. For the second quarter we have a \$5,471.00 deficit overall.

Staff Reports: Pastor Mark: Was gone for 4 Sundays and has never missed that many in a row ever! Had family vacation and reunion and went on mission trip with the youth. It was awesome to see our youth helping others, was also great to see how they grew in their faith by leading others and doing service projects. Working on plans for fall worship and looking at Grace Works program that could work well for our church. Roxie: Noon fellowship time will start providing a time for health education following the meal and devotion time. Food Ministry is now open to help those who are under stress where cooking is difficult. Prayer shawl ministry continues. Widows support ministry has begun. Health cabinet meets one time every other month. Attended an informational session on HIV/AIDS for the state of MN. Daily Globe featured an article on the Sudanese group that met here. Jenna: Brought the youth group to Air Madness in April. Had an end of year bonfire and game night. Senior breakfast was held. Youth helped deliver flyers for and helped at our block party in June. 26 youth and 8 chaperones went on a mission trip to Wasilla, Alaska in July. It was an amazing week working with Grace Works and serving. 17 youth and 4 chaperones went to serve with Good in the Hood in Minneapolis also in July. Have set up beginning of the year meetings, and planning for the school year. I will be starting online classes in August for DCE Certification through Concordia of Irvine, CA. Lorenda: Our blended summer services at 9am have been well attended. A special thank you to the young people heading off to college who have shared their talents with us. We are looking forward to a beautiful new room to use for our music ministries. Choir and bell rehearsals begin in September. Elders: Have had monthly elder trainings during our meetings. Tim went as a chaperone on the Good in the Hood mission trip. Thank you to LaDean Fletcher for his past service as an Elder. Trustees: Parking lot has been restriped. Repairs done to existing A/C unit on upper floor of east wing. Cleaned filters on A/C units for Sanctuary. Replaced couple broken/leaking faucets in the east wing. Board of Ed: Camp Omega staff for VBS were great. Looking at new material for Sunday School. Current Business: East Wing Revitalization project update – window replacements in progress, walls built in rooms that needed them, flooring will be laid after painting is completed, chalkboards were very difficult to remove. Fireplace hearth stone has been decreased in size for safety purposes. Multipurpose room in church basement is almost completed. Expenses have been as they were budgeted for so far. By-Laws update was tabled until the next voters meeting.

August 14th Council Meeting Highlights

Treasurer's Report: July expenses were \$31,906.15, income was \$28,005.86. Building Fund income was \$3,485.00. Had a deficit for the month of \$1,570.29. Balance in the General Fund checking account on July 31, 2018 was \$40,123.95. Memorial Fund balance is \$82,769.27; Scholarship Fund is \$718,042.54; Youth account \$9,881.98; Building Fund donations were \$2,330.00.

Staff Reports: Pastor Mark: Average weekend attendance in July was 187. Average Wednesday attendance was 22. Will look back at past few years to see how attendance compares to previous years. Will discuss at next Elders meeting. Received positive feedback on the sermons that were videotaped and used on the Sundays pastor was gone. Going on the mission trip with the youth gave clarity about where we as a church should be focusing within our own community. Would like to put an emphasis on transforming our neighborhood by outreaching our love of Christ to others. This could energize our members and youth if we look at going forward with this mission. Need to look at what does our church want to be in this community. Planning on hosting another Neighborhood Block Party on August 29. Roxie: Offering health education following the Noon Fellowship. Visitation and hospital visits continue. Planning to attend a diabetes workshop. Planning for fall Sunday School/Confirmation.

Council Meeting Highlights continued:

Jenna: Saw youth growing in their spiritual lives by doing service projects in Alaska. Challenge now is how to keep youth energized about being active at our church and continuing to expand their spiritual growth. Looking at doing a different format for Wednesday evening youth group activities and Sunday School. Youth will have an Omelet Feed on September 9th. Have been busy planning activities and Bible studies for this fall. Looking at attending a 3-day LCMS Leadership Conference in March, 2019 in St. Louis and would like to take 3 youth. **Lorenda:** Have been sorting and filing items in the current choir room in anticipation of the move to the upper level. Starting to look at potential Sunday School Christmas Programs.

Elders: Welcomed our new Elder, Kevin Schmidt. Tim Hansberger was elected to remain as chairperson, and Mike Dierks to remain as Secretary. Discussed with Pastor what can the Elders help him with, since it is not likely that we will get another Pastor to assist him, due to the extreme shortage of them. Discussed current signage at main outside corner of the church. Recommend possibility of replacing with an LED sign that would be more noticeable and could be changed via computer. This will be brought to the Trustees.

Trustees: Bryon Spittle will serve as chairperson, but may have another Trustee attend some meetings when he has conflicts with other responsibilities.

Christian Education: Discussed new Sunday School curriculum, "Answers in Genesis." Have set Christmas Program date as December 16th, with a snow date of December 19th.

Unfinished Business: Monday work nights continue for anyone willing to lend a hand. Majority of work on windows has been completed. Flooring will be done after painting is finished. Bathrooms still need new fixtures installed. Bylaw changes are not ready to be presented yet. Audit committee members will be: Bruce Kness, Tim Hansberger, Myron Meyer, Bill Gordon and Tammy Brunk.

New Business: Discussion about Neighborhood Block Party planned for August 29. Will ask for volunteers to hand out flyers after worship service on August 26.

Next Council Meeting date will be September 11th at 5:30 p.m.

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Serving in September will be: Sandie Spittle and Kathy Roslansky 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

Thank you to my friends at St. Matthews for your prayers and get well wishes. Also thank you to Pastor Mark and Roxie for their visits and prayers. God Bless you all.

Don Junker

Thank you to my church family for the prayers, cards, visits, rides and all your acts of caring. Also thanks to Pastor Mark and Roxie for the visits.

Rosemary King

STEWARDSHIP CORNER – Deuteronomy 4:6 – “Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’” There is no wiser, more fulfilling life than a life lived according to the Word of God. We should be encouraged by this when the world tempts us to think that the Word of God is harmful to us. Our Father loves us; so all His Word is meant to bless us.

SEPTEMBER ACOLYTE & NURSERY SCHEDULE

ACOLYTES

<u>Date</u>	<u>8 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
September 2	Jordis Weber	Alexa Kilker
September 9	Faith Leinen	Maelie Holt
September 16	Caleb Barber	TJ Ostrem
September 23	Alecsander Brunk	Kenadie Thiner
September 30	Nia Iverson	Kierra Ahrenstorff
October 7	Paige Barber	Kyle Ahrenstorff

NURSERY (10:30 service only)

September 2	Logan Meyeraan, Beth White
September 9	Presley Sieve, Danika Schmidt
September 16	Zoie Chantharath, Christine & Jennifer Preuss
September 23	Alaina Feit, Jessica Larson
September 30	Natya Khamphanh, Marlis Rohwer
October 7	Dalton Larson, Gail Holinka

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. THANK YOU!

GREETERS SCHEDULE

Sept. 2	(8 am)	Stan & Betty Hotzler; Mark Schwarz
	(10:30)	David & Alexie Cross; Mike & Cindy Froderman
Sept. 9	(8 am)	Ruth Ramert; Bonnie Tille
	(10:30)	Bruce & Shawn Boomgarden; Alice White
Sept. 16	(8 am)	Voris & Sandie Spittle
	(10:30)	Joel & Julie Lorenz; Marlene Jurgensen
Sept. 23	(8 am)	Dale & Bonnie Schroeder
	(10:30)	YOUTH
Sept. 30	(8 am)	Vern & Marilyn Meyer; Ilona Benson
	(10:30)	Bruce & Bev Kness; Kirk & Traci Feit
Oct. 7	(8am)	Stan & Betty Hotzler;
	(10:30)	John & Jessica Widvey; Cheri Schmidt

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!

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