

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN
September 2016 Newsletter



“Just a Dash”

If we take a walk around a cemetery and look at the tombstones, each one would tell us the name of the person, the date of birth, and then date of death. Between the date of birth and the date of death is usually just a dash. Just a dash represents everything that person ever did in their life. Just a dash.

For most of us life is a balancing act—keeping all the plates spinning and all the balls in the air—and then having enough energy to start again tomorrow. Is perfect balance really achievable? In this imbalanced world we live in can we find the proper mix of faith, family, work, and play? A lot of us are left feeling frustrated, guilty, or exhausted by the hectic pace we try to maintain. We need balance. We all need a center.

By our baptism, we live in two time zones; the here and now vs. the temporal and eternal. Many people join together for worship and fellowship on Sunday mornings and draw spiritual strength and encouragement from it. He is the traveling God who wants to be part of “our hours” the rest of the week. Do we take Him with us to our work place, family relationships, to our business ethics, and to our social lives?

I have found it is easier to balance anything with two sets of hands rather than with just one set. Today, take a closer look at those hands—our visible hands and those of God’s that we cannot see but still know they are there – His hands of love. Remember He is always there to steady and strengthen you—balance.

Our life really is just a dash. What are we going to do with it? My suggestion, based on the perspective that God gives us in Holy Scripture, is to focus our lives on the big picture. What is it that really matters most? By the grace of God, offered to us in Christ Jesus, and by the power of His Spirit, we can achieve balance—the peace He offers to us all. It may take some significant effort, some hard choices, but it is worth it. We will find balance when we orient our lives around those things that give life its meaning and significance that have eternal ramifications for us and others.

In closing I would like to share this poem with you written by Michael Quoust:

*Lord, I have time.
I have plenty of time.
All the time that you give me,
The years of my life,
The days of my years,
The hours of my days,
They are all mine.
Mine to fill quietly, calmly,
But to fill completely, up to the brim,
To offer them to you, that of their insipid water
You may make a rich wine as you
Made once in Cana of Galilee.*

In Christ,
Pastor Mark



Fall Worship Schedule

**** PLEASE TAKE NOTE ****

September 4th through 18th our worship services will be:

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Traditional Service at 8:00 a.m. on Sundays

Contemporary Service at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays

September 21st and continuing on our worship services will be:

Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m.

Traditional Service at 8:00 a.m. on Sundays

Contemporary Service at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays.

The Wednesday evening worship services will have the same “message” as the upcoming Sunday services.
If you need to be out of town for the weekend, please join us on Wednesday evenings!

CHURCH RECORDS

Baptisms

- Grayson Harvey Gruis, son of Brandon & Kristen Gruis was baptized on August 7, 2106. Sponsors for Grayson are Andrew Dierks and Trevor Gruis.
- Leighton Anne Wintz, daughter of Trevor & Chelsea Wintz was baptized on August 14, 2016. Sponsors for Leighton are Ryan & Carissa Haberman.

Death

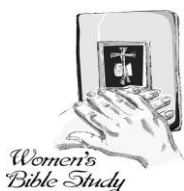
- James (Jim) Arnt passed away August 19, 2016. Funeral service was held August 23, 2016.

Weddings

- Jared Koplrow & Angie Willers were united in marriage on August 4, 2016.
- Andrew Dierks & Julie Bobb were united in marriage on August 13, 2016.
- Cody Reese & Amanda Poppema were united in marriage on August 20, 2016
- Alex Pass & Jessica Holinka were united in marriage on August 27, 2016.

Transfers/Releases

- Ed & Twila Henning to Marshall, MN.
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WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

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

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Serving in September will be: Sandie Spittle and Ruth Ramert 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.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

By Roxann Leckband

Mom's/Young Women's group will be on September 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th. We will meet from 10:00-11:30 a.m. The ladies will be participating in a time of "God's Word" and fellowship. While the children have a Bible time, craft, singing, games and a snack. Please start your Fall by joining us! We would love to have you. If you have any questions do not hesitate to call 376-6168 and ask for Roxie.

There will NOT be a Family Night in September due to the busy season.

Noon Fellowship will be on Monday, September 12th with pulled pork sandwiches and cheesy hash browns. Please bring a dish to pass, monetary donation or just join us! We will have great food, fellowship and a time in God's Word.

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK OFF.....11:30am to 1:00pm on Sunday, September 11th!

Come join us for a lot of fun. We will be creative in a variety of ways. We will be doing sidewalk/pavement art with chalk, games to play and food to eat. Sign up your kids and get a prize for the kids! We are so excited to begin the Sunday School program year.

Parents, please take note of some Sunday School Changes: During the first day of Sunday School we will have people directing the children and parents where to go within the education wing. **We are making some changes in curriculum and class structure.** We will be having snacks for the children in their respective area every Sunday. To facilitate our Sunday School hour getting started at 9:15 a.m. the children are to always go to their assigned area and NOT to the basement. Please encourage your child to cooperate with this request. This will assist us in getting our new year and program off to a good start. Parents - we would love to have you stop by and observe your child's class. Please, if you have some suggestions, or would like to help, we would welcome that. We support and commend you as you keep the promise made at the time of your child's Baptism. Continue to bring your child up in the faith by bringing them to God's house and for teaching of God's Holy Scripture at home. Parents, please talk about what your child did and learned in Sunday school. Daily devotions and blessings are very valuable in modeling a faith walk placing Jesus #1 in our lives. Please note we are here to assist you in any way we can. Please contact us with any questions you may have. May God richly bless your Christian parenting.

There will be a **Sunday School Teachers meeting** on August 29th from 5:30-5:30 p.m. The meeting is to inform those who are helping with Sunday School in any capacity. Please contact Roxie with any questions you may have.

Please Note: There will NOT be Sunday School for grades PreK-12 on Sunday, September 18th. There will be a movie for the children whose parents attend the Adult Bible Study on the 18th.

Pre-Schoolers Blessing (children who will be in their 1st year of Sunday school) and cradle roll ornament will be on Sunday, September 18th at the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Director of Youth & Family News continued:

K.F.C. (Kids for Christ) after school program will be held from September 14th – March 29th after school until 5 p.m. Registration will take place during school registration or you may pick up a form at the church. KFC is for grades K-4. We have some very fun things planned!

Attention Confirmation Parents: There will be an informational meeting on September 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the church basement. Parents of 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are encouraged to attend. The youth need not attend. Confirmation classes will begin on September 21st at 5:30 p.m. Class will be from 5:30-6:30 with supper from 6:30 to 6:45 for those choosing to eat. More information will be presented at the parent meeting.

High School Youth Planning Party will be on Sept 7th at 5:30 we will have pizza to eat.
YOUTH please refer to the green insert.

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 next meeting for LWML will be on September 1st at 1:30 pm. in the fellowship hall. Please join us and see what LWML is all about! Executive Board is hostess.

Coffee Hour on September 18 will be hosted by Sarah Circle.

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you to all who attended our 50th wedding anniversary celebration on August 6th. Thank you for the cards, the gifts, the hugs, the smiles. Thank you to those who helped! It was a joyous day! We thank and praise God, for only through Him, did this happen. It was such a blessing to have our entire family celebrate with us. God is so Good!!!

David & Kathy Roslansky

MISSION SEWING

Do you like to quilt? Or would you like to learn how to quilt? Then join the ladies on Thursdays, September 8 and 22 from 9am-1pm in the downstairs large classroom. If you have an hour or two, stop by and help out! There’s always good fellowship!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

St. Matthews will again fill shoeboxes for orphan children around the world. If you prefer not to fill a box, but would still like to help, a basket is in the Great Hall for donations of school supplies, hygiene products, toys and anything you feel a child, aged 2-14 may need or enjoy. Shop the school supply sales now!

Y. I. (Young Investors) Club

ATTENTION Y.I. CLUB SAVERS! Stamp sales will resume on Sunday, September 11th at the Sunday School Kick Off. The Y.I. Club was created to help children from birth to young adulthood learn to be good stewards of their money and other God given gifts. Help a young person in your life experience the joy of investing for the future while empowering ministry through LCEF's Young Investors (Y.I.) Club. See me at the stamp table in the hall across from the church offices each Sunday from 9am to 9:15am, or go to LCEF.org for more information.

God bless,
LaVonne Berglund
Y. I. Club Stamp Coordinator

Music and Worship News

It is time for fall activities to begin again at St. Matthew. Please take note of the following music and worship opportunities.

Our bell choir and adult choir will begin rehearsals again on Wednesday, September 7. Bell choir will begin PROMPTLY at 5:00, and adult choir will begin at 5:30 and rehearse until 6:15. Both groups are directed by Louise Clausen, with Linda Lang serving as choir accompanist. Please prayerfully consider joining one or both of these musical groups. Your talents are needed, and the choirs play a very important role in our worship services.

Rally Sunday for our children and young people is September 11. Students in preschool through eighth grade will have opportunities to praise God with their voices each week at the beginning of Sunday School. In addition, these students will provide music at various services throughout the school year. Music directors Joy Schreiber and Lorenda Glade hope to include the youth more actively in our worship services this year.

Our Wednesday evening services have been well attended during the summer months, and will continue at least through the end of October. These services will begin at 6:00 PM through September 14. Beginning on Wednesday, September 21, evening worship services will begin at 6:45 in the sanctuary. These Wednesday evening services will be a blending of traditional hymns and contemporary Christian music.

Of course, our wonderful musicians at St. Matthew could not be heard without the skills of our sound technicians. More sound techs are needed for all services. Additional instrumentalists, particularly drummers, are much needed for our 10:30 contemporary services.

May God continue to richly bless our various ministries at St. Matthews as we seek to serve Him.

Lorenda Glade, Joy Schreiber, Directors of Music

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 or Pastor Mark in the church office, or one of the current tech crew members. A small amount of training is needed. If you can move a finger, you can operator the projector for the screen! Please prayerfully consider this ministry!

SEPTEMBER ACOLYTE & NURSERY SCHEDULE

ACOLYTES

<u>Date</u>	<u>8 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
Sept. 4	Ashley Ling	Ivy Paplow
Sept. 11	Chad Buntjer	Brynne White
Sept. 18	Austin Barber	Jake Ahrenstorff
Sept. 25	Calah Ling	Christopher Leckband
October 2	Brandon Arzu-Bustad	Luke Gordon

NURSERY (10:30 service only)

Sept. 4	Zaydan Abdulrahman; Beth White
Sept. 11	Jacquelyn Banegas; Marlis Rohwer
Sept. 18	Faith Arnt; Kham HOLETON
Sept. 25	Laci Boomgarden; Jessica Larson
October 2	Jessalyn Broesder; 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. 4	(8 am) (10:30)	Dean & Phyllis Leistico DuWayne & Carol Oberloh
Sept. 11	(8 am) (10:30)	Daryl & Jan Quiring Bill & Karen Knigge
Sept. 18	(8 am) (10:30)	Vern & Marilyn Meyer John & Jessica Widvey
Sept. 25	(8 am) (10:30)	YOUTH YOUTH
Oct. 2	(8 am) (10:30)	Barry & Kerry Sauer Lee & Karen Meyer

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.

BELIEVE

LIVING THE STORY OF THE BIBLE
TO BECOME LIKE JESUS



Pastor Mark will be leading a new Bible Study on Sundays, beginning September 18th entitled, "Believe".

It's one thing to know the story of the Bible...It's another thing to live it! In this video-based Bible study from bestselling author and Pastor Randy Frazee, you will experience a transformative journey through the Bible by exploring the 30 essential beliefs, practices, and virtues that every Christian needs to know and live.

In each of the 30 sessions, you will learn how the story of the Bible helps us think, act, and become more like Jesus by examining key questions, studying Scripture, and learning practical ways to apply the concepts to everyday life. As you journey through this study, one simple truth will become undeniably clear: The story of God isn't just a story; it changes everything. Each session includes a personal study as well as video notes, Scripture study, guided group discussion, and material for personal evaluation.

**The Believe Bible and Study Guide will cost each participant just \$16.50.
We need to order the books, so please sign-up on the sheet located in the Great Hall or call the church office by September 11th.**