

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN
September 2017 Newsletter



Here I am, Lord! Send Me.

Do you sense God leading you to serve but feel frightened, overwhelmed, and unqualified? God's call to Isaiah and his answer in Isaiah 6:8 have always challenged me: "And I heard the voice of the LORD saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here I am! Send me.'"

Our preference is to stay where we are comfortable, where we are in charge of where we go and what we do. We need to ask ourselves this question. "Am I making myself available?" It's easy to make excuses as to why we can't be available:

Moses didn't want to go to Egypt to be the spokesman for leading the people out of their Egyptian captivity. He offered all kinds of excuses.

Gideon questioned why God would choose him, when he came from such a poor tribe, to head up the means for freeing his people from their oppressors.

Jonah ran away from the responsibility God called him to.

When it was time to anoint Saul king, they found him hiding in the baggage!

God is looking for available people to do his work. Jesus said the harvest was plentiful, but the laborers are few. When it comes to investing our time, talent, and treasure for a life that will echo into eternity, we need to ask ourselves, "Am I making myself available?"

And yet he is the LORD God, the one who determines his plans for us by grace. Although he has gifted us and provides all we need, we serve humbly-motivated by our love for him. Do you love and trust him enough to say, "Send me where you need me, Lord?"

Won't you join God in his work, no matter how small and unprepared you feel? Won't you surrender your own feelings and let him lead you where he purposes you to serve him? Don't let fear, the past, or your weaknesses keep you from the excitement of being exactly where God wants you.

This fall at St. Matthew you may be asked to serve or do something you never thought you would or could do on your own. We need you to make this ministry work here in this community. Please, take time to fill out one of our new time and talent forms if you haven't done so already. We need the gifts that God gave you to fill a need. If you are tapped on the shoulder by me or someone else the only thing I ask of you is to pray this little prayer:

"Here am I! Send me where I am not just comfortable," but I pray with Isaiah, "Here I am! Send me."

In Christ,
Pastor Mark



JOIN US
Sunday - September 10th
in the Great Hall
from 9:00-10:30am and
11:30am-12:00pm for our
Ministry Fair!

There will be tables with information about all of our ministries here at St. Matthew's. We will also have a RightNow Media table. You can bring in your laptop and we will help you get set up to use RightNow Media! If the Great Hall is too busy, go down to the basement first and enjoy an omelet made by the youth. Then, after you enjoy your food, go up and check out the Ministry Fair! The Omelet Feed Fundraiser is from 8:30-10:15 a.m.

CHURCH RECORDS

Baptism

- Nolan Thomas Schmidt, son of Scott & Alicia Schmidt was baptized on August 13, 2017.

Death

- Norman Vogt passed away July 27. Funeral service was held August 8, 2017.

Weddings

- Chris Prins & Ashley Shipley were united in marriage on July 29, 2017.
- Ian Hoffmeister & Michael Keller were united in marriage on August 12, 2017.

New Members

- Ian Hoffmeister
- Alison Meyer & daughter, Jacquelyn Banegas
- Whitney Marotzke Kunze and Nicolas Marotzke Kunze (children of Steve & Lori Marotzke Kunze)

Transfers/Releases

- Ryan & Sarah Kesler to Brookfield, Wisconsin.

INTENTIONAL EVANGELISM MOMENT

When you want to look down in despair, instead look up and declare if God is for me there's nothing that can stand against me! There is nothing you cannot overcome with the name of Jesus! God wants to bless the world through you! Answer YES and pray Lord send me to proclaim your name! AMEN

LOVE INC. CHALLENGE

Back to school – Take extra time to show the faculty your appreciation for the part they play in caring for and nurturing your children.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Sarah Circle will meet on Tuesday, September 19th at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Martha Circle will meet on Thursday, September 21st at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, September 19th at 5:15 p.m. in the Youth Room.

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Serving in September will be: Lynn Dierks & Velma Cortright 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 HUMAN CARE MINISTRIES

By Roxann Leckband

Noon Fellowship is going strong. Our next time together will be on Monday, September 11th with chicken breast and wild rice as the main entrée. Please bring a dish to share if you would like. There will be a devotional time in God's word. To continue in a mindset of healthy body and soul we will provide a blood pressure screening for those who would like it done. We will also have a presentation on a current health topic. Please note if there are specific topics you would like to have covered just let Roxie know. We look forward to seeing all of you.

Mom's Group will be held on Fridays, September 8th, 15th, and 22nd. We will have a special activity on September 8th for the moms. We will be doing facials, so come make-up free if you like. We will have great time of fellowship with other sisters-in-Christ as our children enjoy Bible story time, crafts, play and snack time. We will plan to meet from 10:30 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. Please make every effort to be at the church and ready to begin at 10:30. I understand with children our schedule is not always their schedule so please just do the best *you can*.

We had a great time with our VBS reunion on August 16th. During that time we stressed the upcoming 2017-2018 Sunday school year which begins on September 10th. On September 10th we will have a registration table in the Great Hall and you may also print off the registration form from our website and return it completed on September 10th. We will have games and fun things to do for the kids. Parents you may certainly join us as we have fun with your kids!

KFC (Kids for Christ) - a one day after school program for Kindergarten – 4th grade, will begin on September 20th. A bus will bring your child to the church from Prairie Elementary after school. You will be able to pick up your child at 5:00 p.m. following the completion of the KFC afterschool program. There will be more complete information such as bus # and where the children will meet following the dismissal from their daily classroom. **Please do not park in front of our north/elevator entrance, as that is an active city alley. For the safety of your children, please park in our parking lot and come in to get your child/ren.** It will also be a very busy time with KFC kids being picked up and Confirmation kids coming.

FYI mark your calendars, we will have the children singing at the Reformation Worship Service on Sunday, October 29th as we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. There will be one single, special worship service that day at 9:30 a.m.

The Children's Christmas program will be on Sunday, December 17th during a single worship service at 9:30 a.m. Tentative rehearsals will be on Saturdays, December 9th and 16th from 9:00-10:00 a.m. The goal is if we have a majority of children attending on December 9th and our rehearsal goes well, we will not have another rehearsal on December 16th.

Director of Human Care Ministries continued:

Attention parents of 3 and 4 year olds: How exciting as our “little ones” leave our Cradle Roll and now begin Sunday school. **There will be a special blessing during the services on September 10th.** We will ask the children and their parents to participate in this. We will have the little wooden animals from the Cradle Roll board to give to the children. This blessing will happen at both the 8:00 and 10:30 services.

Attention Confirmation youth in grades 6, 7, & 8 and their parents: there will be a brief informational time from 6:00-6:30PM on Wednesday, August 30th (5th Graders will do this during their Early Communion Classes.) 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 on the 30th. This is so very helpful. If you are unable to make the meeting please pick up the paperwork or print it from our website and return it by August 30th. Thank you so much for helping us out with this registration process.

The Wednesday night Confirmation classes for 5th - 8th graders will begin on September 20th from 5:15-6:30. **There will be a meal from 5:15 to 5:30.** The Confirmation theme of the night will begin at 5:30. Please- parents if your child cannot make it by 5:15 to eat provide for him or her before you bring them to church. Thank-you in advance for your partnership in keeping on schedule as much as possible in order that all our children can benefit from the Confirmation ministry provided here at St. Matthew.

For 5th graders and their parents: the “Early Communion Classes” will be Wednesday, September 6th and 13th from 5:30-6:30. Parents, one or both, are requested to accompany their child during this class to make an informed decision as to if they feel their child is ready to participate in Holy Communion. Information about Confirmation and the paperwork will also be done during this time. There will be a blessing for the Early Communion Class during the 8:00 and 10:30 worship services on Sunday, September 17th. At that time they will also have the opportunity to take their first Holy Communion with their parents.

Attention Sunday school, Confirmation, KFC teachers and helpers: There will be an Installation service on September 10th at both worship services in order for you to choose which service works best for you.

PARISH NURSE & HEALTH CABINET NEWS

The Health ministry is to assist individuals in meeting needs in all areas of their lives. The health of an individual is physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. As nurses we assess needs of those who we serve and bring Jesus to wherever and whomever we serve. Please notify Roxie if you have a need for a visit or assistance for someone to be with a loved one for one or two hours while a caregiver is away. A Parish nurse can also be a part of hospital discharge or a Doctor’s appointment if an individual has a need for someone to accompany to assist in confirming medical instructions.

The Daniel Plan Bible Study will meet on Wednesdays, September 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th from 7:00 a.m.- 7:45 a.m. After the completion of this study I will start another class later in the day as I have had people ask for a different time. I would like to start a cookbook with health friendly recipes. Please e-mail or drop them off at the church. My e-mail is rleckband@frontiernet.net I look forward to seeing some great recipes.

To all of you who turned in the **Ministry Support Volunteer Checklist** “thank-you” so much! PLEASE, to those of you who have not, please give this some very serious and prayerful thought. Please fill it out and return it either in the collection plate or in the wooden mail tray outside Bev’s office door. As a church family we need to be here to help and support one another and that definitely can be with our time and talents. May the Holy Spirit lead and guide you as you search your heart. Forms may be found by the church office door, at each entrance to the church and on our church website.

Parish Nurse & Health Cabinet News continued:

The Health Ministry has continued to make visits as referrals are given. We have received some very good feedback in regards to the benefits of the visits.

The Next Health Cabinet Meeting will be Monday, September 18th at 12 noon in the Fireside Room.

Please note the information below on fruit juice and children. As parents and grandparents, aunts, uncles and care providers this is good information to be aware of.

NURSING NEWS

No Fruit Juice?

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recently released a new recommendation: no fruit juice for children under 1 year because it offers no nutritional benefit. For older children, fresh fruit is preferable over juice because it provides dietary fiber and less sugar than juice.

Kids love fruit juice because it's sweet and tastes good. But juice can cause health problems. Juice can have a lot of calories that are easy to consume very quickly, and children can gain too much weight if they drink more than one serving a day. Frequent juice drinking also can contribute to tooth decay.

The AAP recommends:

- No juice before age 1
- For toddlers ages 1-3, up to half a cup per day (4 oz)
- For children ages 4-6, up to three-quarters cup per day (6 oz)
- For children and teens ages 7-18, up to 1 cup per day (8 oz)
- Do not put juice in a sippy cup or bottle that the child carries around
- Offer children whole fruit which has both the vitamins and fiber that children need.

This information was taken from the Intersarsity Nurses Christian Fellowship July 2017 Newsletter.

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)

Our September LWML Business meeting will be Thursday, September 7th at 5:00 p.m. **Following the meeting will be a Taco Salad Supper and Dessert at 6:00 p.m. All women in the congregation are invited to attend.** Amy Khamphanh and Cindy Brunk will tell us about their experiences at the LWML National Convention. Please come to hear these two ladies share their excitement from the convention in Albuquerque, NM that took place in June.

The Coffee Hour on Sunday, September 17 will be hosted by the Sarah Circle.

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you to everyone at St. Matthews for all of your thoughts, words, prayers, cards and memorials for Norman Vogt. Special thanks to Pastor Schreiber for the beautiful service; Louise Clausen for the flute solo; and all the people who helped with the service and meal. God's blessings to all at St. Matthews.

The family of Norman Vogt

*Thank you to our church family for all the prayers.
Velma Cortright*

MISSION SEWING

Do you like to quilt? Or would you like to learn how to quilt? Then join the ladies on Thursdays, September 14 and 28 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!

LCEF Y. I. (Young Investors) Club



ATTENTION Y.I. CLUB SAVERS! Stamp sales will resume on Sunday, September 10th. I hope to see you all at the stamp table located in the hall outside the church offices. You may purchase stamps or ask questions 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

At the July LCMS Institute on Liturgy, Preaching and Church Music, a visiting pastor made the following remark regarding the role of music in the church:

“I find that music helps us make the Gospel clear through song so people can hear once again—through music—the glorious Gospel message of Jesus Christ.”

And that is what it is all about--sharing the Good News that Jesus died and rose again to overcome sin and death. As your music directors, we have the privilege and responsibility of bringing that glorious message to our worshippers through the hymns, worship songs, and special music we choose for our services.

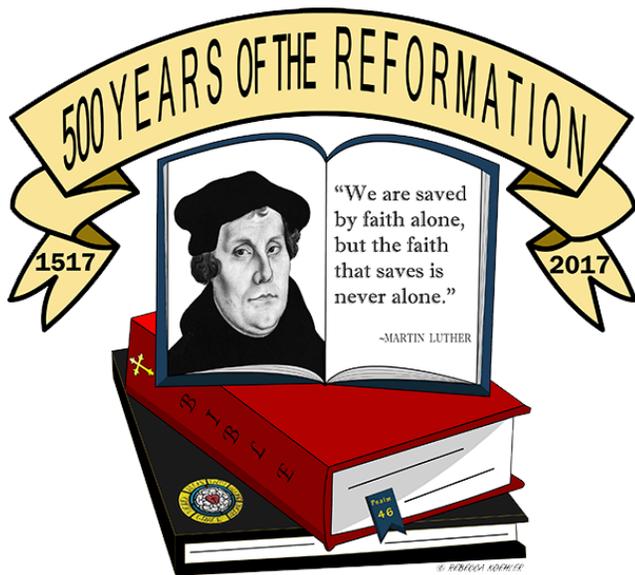
While your music staff has the primary responsibility of making music “happen” in our services, our jobs would be exceedingly difficult without you, our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

On Sunday, September 10, at our first ever Ministry Fair, you will be able to learn more about the music opportunities at St. Matthew. We would love to have more participants in all aspects of our music ministry. There is always room for more vocalists and instrumentalists in our services. We are in particular need of drummers and bass guitar players for our worship band, sound technicians and projectionists for our services, and additional singers for our choir.

We also are very excited about the musical opportunities coming up for our Reformation Celebration Service on Sunday, October 29. Please watch the bulletins for more information.

God's continued blessings to all of you as we serve Him willingly and joyfully.
Lorenda Glade & Joy Schreiber, Directors of Music





**Make plans to attend our
Special Worship Service
and Meal on Sunday, October
29th for the celebration of the
500th Anniversary of the
Reformation!**

This event will be combined
with our Annual Harvest
Dinner. There will be a
“German Themed Meal.”

We are looking for German food suggestions. We have people to organize the event, but are in need of “helpers at the event.” We also need bakers for the German desserts, a recipe will be available for you to use. Please contact Bev in the church office if you are interested, have ideas or have any questions about this event!

“Many hands make less work!”

Watch for more information about this special event!

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!

FLAG RETIRING CEREMONY – Cindy Brunk will be attending a flag retiring ceremony on September 11th. If you have any flags to be “retired”, please bring them to the church by September 7th. Thank you!

rightnow MEDIA

**Have you started using this yet?
It’s full of wonderful Bible
Studies and programs for kids!
Contact the church office with
any questions.**

July 30th Voters Meeting Highlights

Treasurer's Report for the 2nd Quarter ending June 30, 2017: Income \$98,561.73; Expenses \$124,524.62; Checkbook Balance \$95,784.85. Building Fund Income \$6,206.00; Expenses \$10,000; have decreased our monthly payments to \$2,000.00 instead of \$4,000.00 because lack of adequate income over past few months to be able to continue to pay the extra amount. Building Loan Balance \$107,508.83. Scholarship Fund Balance \$690,711.81. This is the estimated balance because of the transfer of Thrivent Funds to Hilltop Financial. Council decided to approve this change due to the growth of funds in Hilltop has been much greater than in Thrivent. Memorial Fund Balance \$28,832.26. For the 2nd Quarter we had a \$29,756.89 shortage overall.

Staff Reports: Pastor Mark: Supported the decision of the church council to change where the scholarship funds are invested, as this was the best way for our church. Thrivent is a changing organization that has been moving away from some Lutheran groups. Members continue to sign up for Right Now Media. There are numerous Bible studies available and encourage everyone to check it out. Roxie: Health Cabinet is up and going and usually meet on a monthly basis. A Ministry Support Volunteer checklist has been developed. Home visitations are being made to 5 individuals on a regular basis. Took a foot care class. Have made 4 home visits to new babies. Jenna: YPOGs have been meeting on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month during the summer. Youth Board voted on changing the monthly meeting to the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7pm in the Youth Room. They are looking to add more adults and parents to the board starting in the fall. There were 26 youth and 6 chaperones that went on the mission trip to Michigan. We were the largest group there. Latreia mission trip for junior high youth had 16 youth and 4 chaperones attend. Have been getting things ready for the fall. We will be adding a parent class and will be going through the book, "Sticky Faith: Everyday Ideas to Building Lasting Faith in Your Kids." Will have a monthly high school senior class starting in September. Lorenda: Joy is still looking for worship band drummers and a bass guitarist, as JR will be attending school in Thief River Falls. We want to thank JR Arnt for his faithful service for the past 7 years. We are looking for additional sound techs and projection operators. All went well for the outdoor worship service at the park on July 23rd. Much thanks to Ron Dorschner for putting the portable sound system together. Met with Roxie and chose a Christmas Program for Sunday School students. Elders: Thanked Ron Iverson for his years of service on the board. Tim Hansberger will now be the Chairman and Mike Dierks is the Secretary of the Elders. Shepherding letters are in the process of being sent out to all members. Continue to work together with the trustees on installing Wi-Fi throughout the church. Trustees: Thank you to Jenna and the youth for washing and waxing the church van. All wiring for the Wi-Fi is done, but not connected yet. Need to have a security policy developed and the elders are working on that. Air conditioning unit in the Sanctuary had repair work done that cost \$2,345.00. Shades on the west windows in the Sanctuary are being replaced at a cost of \$2,900.00. Will be paid from the nondesignated funds in the Memorial Account. Was asked who is caring for the landscaping on the church grounds. Several weeds present. Lori Fletcher will get her committee together and make a plan, as several plants need replacing and mulch needs to be added throughout. There is \$2,000 in trustees budget designated for the upkeep of the landscaping. Human Care: Starting a prayer shawl ministry where they will be crocheting or knitting prayer shawls to be given to those in need. Have 4 volunteers to date, but could use several more. Contact Deb Thompson.

August 8th Council Meeting Highlights

Treasurer's Report: July expenses were \$36,228.93, income was \$37,500.60. Building Fund income was \$1,920.00, expenses were \$2,000.00. Net income for the month was \$1,191.57. Balance in the General Fund Checking Account on July 31, 2017 was \$67,219.63. Building Loan Balance at the end of July was \$105,168.99. Memorial Fund balance is \$34,633.06. Scholarship Fund balance is \$691,724.92.

Staff Reports: Pastor Mark: Average July weekend attendance was 247. Average Wednesday was 28. 64 members to date have activated Right Now Media. Bible studies this fall will be doing more small groups instead of one large group on Sunday mornings. Will meet in separate rooms and utilize material available

August 8th Council Meeting highlights continued:

through Right Now Media and members can attend which ones they have an interest in. Will have a representative from MN South District LCMS Foundation give a presentation here on November 6th about estate planning. Planning to do a couple of stewardship activities in November. Roxie: Health Cabinet has been going well with increasing number of requests. Softball league has finished for the season. Hope to continue to have a team again next year as it is a great fellowship opportunity. Mom's group has become generational as have some moms that have older youth now and are mentors for the younger moms. Jenna: Youth board met with several parents and youth in attendance and has decided that next year's mission trip will be to Alaska. Have been working with an organization called "Graceworks." They are the largest mission organization in Alaska. Pastor Schreiber has reviewed their mission statement & theological beliefs and these follow our same Lutheran beliefs. Due to dates already filling up with this organization, we have set our dates for July 7th-15th. Cost per person will be \$600 and air fare which estimates are \$500-600. Each youth will be required to pay an initial check of \$500, which youth can work towards earning some of the money back by assisting with fundraisers. Several fundraisers have already been set by the youth board. Graceworks has stated that they can only accommodate 35 attendees. Council gave full support of the youth going on this mission trip. Lorenda: Same report at Voters Meeting.

Elders: Will be having a shepherding group meeting this month. Pastor reported that not all members have gotten their letters yet, as a couple shepherds have not gotten their letters mailed yet, but will soon. Need to formulate a security policy yet before access to the system can begin.

Trustees: Fixed 2 air conditioners, needed to replace coil and condenser. Blinds were installed in the Sanctuary. Will be looking into replacing the seatbelts in the church van's back seat.

Christian Education: Sunday school offering will be collected weekly and will try to meet a goal of \$500 by December 31st. Plan to show the students each week how much has been given. Money will go towards selected mission projects set by the board. Sunday School curriculum will be using "The Story" for a 2-year cycle. Music dates for youth singing in church services are tentatively scheduled for October 29, November 19, December 17, February 11, March 25 and May 13. Christmas program, "Sing with Us the Christmas Story" will be during a single worship service on December 17th at 9:30 a.m. with a backup date of December 20th in case of bad weather.

We recently found out that good, used backpacks may be sent to Orphan Grain Train.

As you are going through your closets, if you have any good, used backpacks that you or your children no longer use, please launder them (if possible) and place them in the shoe or blanket donation drawers in our north/elevator entrance. This is also true if you find any shoes or blankets in your closets that you no longer use – place them also in the donation drawers in our north entrance.

“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 pretty bare. Which day(s) would you like to adopt?

SEPTEMBER ACOLYTE & NURSERY SCHEDULE

ACOLYTES

| <u>Date</u> | <u>8 AM</u> | <u>10:30 AM</u> |
|-------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Sept. 3 | | Ben Schreiber |
| Sept. 10 | Austin Barber | Damien Leckband |
| Sept. 17 | Nia Iverson | Presley Sieve |
| Sept. 24 | Hannah Henning | Jake Ahrenstorff |
| October 1 | Brandon Arzu-Bustad | Luke Gordon |

NURSERY (10:30 service only)

| | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Sept. 3 | Carson Wolford, Marlis Rohwer |
| Sept. 10 | Evan Hansberger, Gail Holinka |
| Sept. 17 | Sierra Goedtke, Danika Schmidt |
| Sept. 24 | Kyle Ahrenstorff, Jessica Larson |
| October 1 | Logan Meyeraan, 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. THANK YOU!

GREETERS SCHEDULE

| | | |
|----------|-------------------|---|
| Sept. 3 | (8 am) (10:30) | Stan & Betty Hotzler Dave & Mary Krueger |
| Sept. 10 | (8 am) (10:30) | Kent Brunk, Cindy Brunk Byron & Marlene Baumgarn |
| Sept. 17 | (8 am) (10:30) | Dale & Bonnie Schroeder Alan & Gail DeGrote |
| Sept. 24 | (8 am) (10:30) | YOUTH YOUTH |
| Oct. 1 | (8 am) (10:30) | Leonard & Marjorie Ruesch Bruce & Shawn Boomgarden |

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.