

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

September 2019 Newsletter

“Not Just Another Slice of the Pie”

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.

A recent poll revealed that 70% of Americans said, “I would like to slow down. I would like more time to relax.” At the same time, another poll said that we are actually spending 8 ½ hours less time per week in leisure than we did ten years ago. As a nation, we are driving ourselves at an increasingly frenzied rate that is pushing us over the edge. We are trying to live out our dreams, but often finding ourselves living in a nightmare.

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 hectic pace we try to maintain. We need balance we all need a center.

In September we will start a sermon series entitled, “Not Just Another Slice of the Pie”. It will be a three part series starting September 15th revolving around the idea that our faith life is not just another slice of the pie we call life. Work, family, running a household, and leisure take up the vast amount of our time, and we can wrongly start thinking that our faith and church life is just another slice we need to try to squeeze into an already hectic life. Our faith life is not a slice, we must start viewing it as the crust that holds it all together.

If 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, but it is worth it. We will find balance when we orient our lives around those things that give life its meaning and significance—the crust of the pie.

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



Beginning Wednesday, September 4

Wednesday Worship at 6:30 p.m.

Sundays will be:

8:00 a.m. Traditional

10:30 a.m. Contemporary

Sunday School begins September 8th 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

- Odin Zachary Tiesler, son of Jeremy Tiesler & Ashley Veen was baptized on June 30.
- Arie Jared Kopplow, son of Jared & Angie Kopplow was baptized on August 18.
- Thielen Jaymes Marten, son of Eric & Marissa Marten was baptized on August 25.
- Greyson Lee Anderson, son of Kelicy Anderson was baptized on August 25.

Deaths

- Carter Braun passed away June 22, funeral service was held June 28.
- Joyce Luinstra passed away June 27, funeral service was held at Benson Funeral Home July 5.
- Lisa Busswitz passed away August 6, funeral service was held August 9.

New Members

- Brent & Charlene Wintz
- Troy & Chelsea Schmidt
- Marty & Pam Rickers

Transfer Out/Released

- Neil & Katie Hansen and family
 - Mike & Molly Schultz and family
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OMELET FEED

Sunday, September 8th

8:45-10:15 a.m.

in the Church Basement

A free-will donation will be received.

**This is a fundraiser for our YPOGs.
Let the youth make you breakfast!**

Special Voters Meeting

Sunday, September 8th

9:15 a.m. in the Church Basement

Agenda will include the church budget and current finances.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Sarah Circle will meet on Tuesday, September 16th at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Martha Circle will meet on Thursday, September 19th at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, September 17th at 5:15 p.m. in the Youth Room.

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN CARE MINISTRIES/PARISH NURSE

By Roxann Leckband

Greetings, in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

Fall is soon upon us and with Fall we begin another year of ministry for our youth and congregation.

Early Communion Classes, and Acolyte instruction for 5th graders will be on Wednesdays, September 4th and 11th from 5:30-6:15 p.m. (no meal). One or both parents/guardians are to accompany their child. Confirmation registration will also take place on the 4th. A blessing service will be on September 15th at the 8 and 10:30 a.m. worship services.

Confirmation orientation and registration for 6th, 7th and 8th graders will be on Wednesday, September 11th at 7:15 p.m. The registration forms are available on our church website, www.stmatthewworthington.com and on the table at the elevator entrance of the church.

Confirmation classes for 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades will begin on September 18th from 5:30-6:25 p.m. A light supper will be served from 5:10-5:25 p.m. Classes will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. Also, for the safety of your child/children, please do NOT drop them off before 5:10, as we do not have adult supervision until 5:10. Thank you.

Sunday School begins on September 8th and is from 9:15-10:15 a.m. Please pray for our children and parents that worship and Sunday school is a priority on Sunday morning. Let's work on keeping our attendance at worship and Sunday school high for the entire year! **Registration forms are available** on our church website, www.stmatthewworthington.com and on the table in the elevator entrance at church.

Installation of our 2019-2020 Christian Education Teachers and Helpers will be on **Sunday, September 8th** at the 8:00 and 10:30 worship services. Attend whichever service works best for you. Please, if you are involved in Sunday School or Confirmation please come forward when you are asked during the service.

Sunday School Blessing will be on September 15th for children ages 3 and 4 who will be beginning Sunday School. The parents and child/children will be asked to come forward to participate. The blessing will be at both services. This is a very special time as your child is taken from the Cradle Roll and now enrolled into Sunday School. Please contact Roxie for questions you may have, 376-6168.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Widows Support group will be meeting on September 11th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room. We will be continuing to work through the book Post Cards from the Widow's Path by Ferre Hardy.

The evening Widows Support Group will meet on September 16th from 5:15-5:45 p.m. in the Fireside Room. We will then head to Hickory Lodge for supper and fellowship. If you have attended the morning group and participated with the discussion you may just meet us at 5:45 p.m. for supper.

The Mom's Grief Group will meet on Wednesday, September 11th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

OTHER MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Noon Fellowship will be on September 9th. The main entrée will be hot turkey commercial sandwiches. Kathy Ferrie from the South Dakota Alzheimer's Association will be giving a presentation about the association and services that are offered.

Mom's New Baby and Toddler Group - The moms with infants will be meeting on September 22nd at 9:15 a.m. in the Fireside Room for Christian fellowship and devotion. We will have child care for children who are not Sunday School age. Please join us as we begin a "new mom's group!" Please contact Roxie with questions you may have, 376-6168.

The Friday Mom's Group will meet on September 13th and 27th from 10:30-11:30 a.m. We will meet in the Fireside Room and the children will have a time of play and Bible stories. Moms will have a time of Christian fellowship and devotion.

Health Cabinet meeting will be on September 16th at 12 noon in the Fireside Room.

Blood pressure screening will be on September 15th between services and at Noon Fellowship on September 9th.

Medication Education – for anyone interested in learning more about your medications we will have another opportunity for meeting and providing education on the medications you are currently taking. We will set up appointments for this. There will be a sign-up sheet on Sunday, September 1st in the Great Hall or you may also call 376-6168 to set up an appointment. The dates and time available are: September 16 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. and September 23rd and 30th from 1:00-3:00 p.m. In order for you to receive the best possible instruction we ask you provide a list of medications (prescription and non-prescription) one-two days prior to your appointment. You may email the list to Roxie at: stmattparishnurse@gmail.com or drop off a list at the church, or phone Roxie at 376-6168. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact Roxie Leckband.

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.

Music and Worship News

*“Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming cellos! Sing to the Lord a new song!
He has done marvelous things. I too will praise Him with a new song!” LSB 817 vs. 3*

As people return from their summer vacations and students return to their classrooms, it is time to resume our school year music opportunities at St. Matthew.

Our **Adult Choir** will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 4, at 5:30. We are in need of additional choir members, so if you enjoy singing, please join us! The choir typically sings at first service one Sunday each month from September through May, as well as a few special services during the year. Regardless of whether you normally attend church at 8:00 or at 10:30, if you enjoy choral singing, we welcome and encourage you to consider joining first service for that one Sunday each month. Please contact Louise Clausen, Choir Director, or Lorenda Glade if you have any questions.

Our **Bell Choir** will also begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 4. They will practice at 6:45. Bells also normally play at 8:00 AM service one Sunday each month and special services. This group is also directed by Louise Clausen, and additional members are always welcome. You will need a few basic music reading skills for bell choir.

Please prayerfully consider joining one or both of these music groups at St. Matthew. If you are a former choir member, please consider sharing your talents once again in our musical ensembles. Your musical gifts are needed and appreciated!

If you are interested in sharing your musical gifts in our 10:30 AM worship band, please contact director Joy Schreiber for more information.

If you enjoy listening to music and working with sound equipment, we also need you! We need people to run sound, projector, recording, etc. at both of our services. Training will be provided. Please contact the church office if you can help out in this important music ministry.

God’s continued blessings to our congregation at St. Matthew as we use our time and talents to the Glory of God.

Lorenda Glade & Joy Schreiber, Directors of Music

Thrivent Action Team Grants

Action Team Grants are a tremendous aide for projects/activities for St. Matthew. So far this year we have paid for the majority of the Block Parties, Church Service in the Park, supplies and food for VBS, Widow’s Ministry, YPOG events, and snacks for Sunday School just to name a few.

If you are a Thrivent member, you can access two \$250 grants throughout the year. Please prayerfully consider helping with events at the church or in the community. If you need assistance applying for a grant or for further information contact Jeanette Varuska, 329-6583.

Just a reminder to dedicate your Thrivent Choice dollars to the church or a charity of your choice.

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Serving in September will be: Sandie Spittle and Bonnie Schroeder 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.

LWML NEWS

The first meeting for LWML will be on Thursday, September 5th at 7 p.m. Amy Khamphanh will share some highlights from her trip to the National Convention! Join us for Bible Study, fellowship and food!!!

Minnesota South LWML invites ALL LADIES to the Christian Life Event and Assembly of Leaders Training on Saturday, September 28th, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. here at St. Matthew. The event includes Bible Study and presentations from three of our LWML sisters who attended the November 2018 Assembly of Leaders in St. Louis. Also, food and fun! This is a great time to learn more about LWML. Registration is \$10, due one week prior to the event. Registration slips available on the bulletin board by the elevator. If you have a question, please feel free to call Kathy Roslansky at (507) 360-1831.

A NEW GROUP will be starting in September and ALL WOMEN are welcome, but especially YOUNG women are encouraged to get involved. This “**Young Women in Missions**” group **will meet once per month** during the Sunday School hour. One month there will be a short devotion and fellowship time, and the following month there will be a hands-on service project activity. Child care will be available for younger kids that are not in Sunday School. The first get-together for the Young Women in Missions will be on **September 29th at 9:15 a.m. in the new basement area**. Please contact Amy Khamphanh with any questions, 507-360-5360.

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!



Church Pictorial Directory!

There's still time to get your photography done for our new Lifetouch church directory. We want ALL of our church families to be included - it won't be the same without you!

There is NO cost to you to have your picture taken for the directory. **We have one week of appointments available yet: September 3-7, 2019. Please contact Bev in the church office to schedule your photography appointment.**

Lifetouch has changed their policy and we will NOT be getting extra directories.

So, the only way for you to get a directory is to have your photo taken.

There is absolutely NO COST to YOU to have your photo taken for the directory.

You will receive a FREE 8x10 photo and a FREE Directory.

Military & First Responders and Seniors 60+ will receive 20% off their entire order, if they desire to order anything. Service discount includes active and retired military and first responders.

August 13th Council Meeting Highlights

** Minutes were not received as of the time of this Newsletter typing.

July 28th Voters Meeting Highlights

Treasurer's Report for the 2nd Quarter ending June 30, 2019: Income - \$103,484.35; Expenses - \$124,299.35. Shortage of \$20,815.00 for second quarter. Checkbook Balance: \$17,641.60. Building Loan Balance: \$181,300.00; Church Bridge Loan Balance: \$25,000.00. Scholarship Fund Balance: \$476,666.77; Memorial Fund Balance: \$29,168.00; Youth Account: \$9,838.75.

Staff Reports: Pastor Mark: Average weekly attendance was 266. Had good attendance at the "Prayer, Praise & Potluck" event with approximately 190. Extra meat that was not grilled will be used for the August Block Party. Strongly encourage congregation members to come and be a part of the August Block Party and enjoy fellowship with our neighbors. June Block Party was well attended by our neighbors. This is an Outreach Ministry for St. Matthew.

Roxie: Attendance at Widow's Support Group has been steady and going very well. Health Cabinet has been active. Blessed to be a part of the National Youth Gathering that was held.

Lorenda: Semi-annual tuning of the pianos and organ was done. Jen Iverson ordered items for cleaning and maintenance of the handbells. Linda Lang has been playing for our 6:00 p.m. Wednesday evening services twice a month, with Lorenda playing for the remaining ones. Have been blessed with special music throughout the summer. Our worship band members do a great job leading our contemporary service. Thank you to all of our musicians and our sound techs who keep everything running as smoothly as possible during our services.

Elders: Have been reviewing health insurance. Planning better stewards training. Church resources are being addressed. Have received 15 new members. Huge thank you to Tim Hansberger and Mike Dierks for their service. They have been very valuable to our church.

Trustees: Completed projects include: purchased portable sound system for basement with Memorial donations; washed out some of the AC units; miscellaneous repairs and upkeep issues taken care of. Projects in progress include: 1) computer & software updates, only a couple computers will need to be replaced, all the others should be able to handle the updates. We currently have Windows 7 on several computers, and as of January that will not be supported, so need to update. 2) Dry-vit repairs by north entry doors. 3) Power washing of the outside block on north and east sides of building. 4) Received estimate to clean the windows after the power washing and also the Great Hall windows (\$265). 5) Acoustic material for the multi-purpose room under the Great Hall, will be contacting a professional to get the correct material. 6) Small boiler for elevator entrance to be installed before fall. 7) Fire alarm and stained glass window fire doors testing done in July. Items on hold for now: 1) jetting the sewer lines to the street. 2) hard pipe sump pump in front of basement. 3) electronic lock with buzzer for north entrance door. 4) front kitchen counter top will not be done until the coffee pot area is completed. 5) air conditioner for the Chapel needs repair but are waiting as this room is not used as much.

Board of Ed: VBS had an attendance of around 40 students led by 4 camp counselors from Camp Omega. Gary & Velma Cortright hosted the counselors. Keith & Julie Place gave us \$750 in Action Team Grant cards to assist with the food, supplies and gas for VBS. KFC will not be held due to the lack of attendance of students and lack of teaching staff. We will do several Wednesday evening activities throughout the school year. Are recruiting for Sunday School teachers/helpers.

Current Business: Church picnic outdoor service was a wonderful day.

New Business: Block Party to be held on August 26th. Encourage all members to attend. Discussion regarding possible by-law change regarding number of required voters meetings per year. Would also consider changing the current requirement of needing to have a notice posted for 3 weeks in advance of a meeting.

From Our Visiting Pastor on July 28th – Walter D. Volz

My personal thanks for the kindness and warmth shown to this "beggar" while in your midst. The congregation can be a mighty force for the Lord as it reaches out to touch the hearts and wounds and joys of people who need to "See Jesus Only." On behalf of the many destitute people living in Island Nations in the Caribbean and poor nations in Central America, please accept their deep thanks and gratitude for the support you have provided to the ministry of Food for the Poor.

SEPTEMBER ACOLYTE & NURSERY SCHEDULE

ACOLYTES

<u>Date</u>	<u>8 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
September 1	Caleb Barber	(this is a 10am service) Alaina Feit
September 8	Sander Brunk	Madison Sieve
September 15	Nia Iverson	Lance Gordon
September 22	Paige Barber	Anna Gordon
September 29	Isaac Lowe	Ryker Thier
October 6	Mersaydes Marten	Elizabeth Gerdes

NURSERY (10:30 service only)

September 1	Hunter Echternach, Marlis Rohwer
September 8	Mark Geertsema, Jessica Larson
September 15	Sierra Goedtke, Danika Schmidt
September 22	Evan Hansberger, Kasen White
September 29	Damien Leckband, Angie Kopplow
October 6	Logan Meyeraan, Tammy Markus

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. 1	(8 am) (10)	Daryl & Karen Doeden Mike & Cindy Froderman
Sept. 8	(8 am) (10:30)	Al & Connie Reitmeier Bill & Karen Knigge
Sept. 15	(8 am) (10:30)	Clarence & Twyla Mess Alice White; LaDean & Lori Fletcher
Sept. 22	(8 am) (10:30)	Jan & Daryl Quiring Bruce & Bev Kness
Sept. 29	(8 am) (10:30)	Vern & Marilyn Meyer John & Jessica Widvey
Oct. 6	(8am) (10:30)	LWML Ladies LWML Ladies

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.