

# St. Matthew Lutheran Church

## September 2020 Newsletter

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**\*\*Beginning August 30th\*\***

**Sunday Worship will be:**

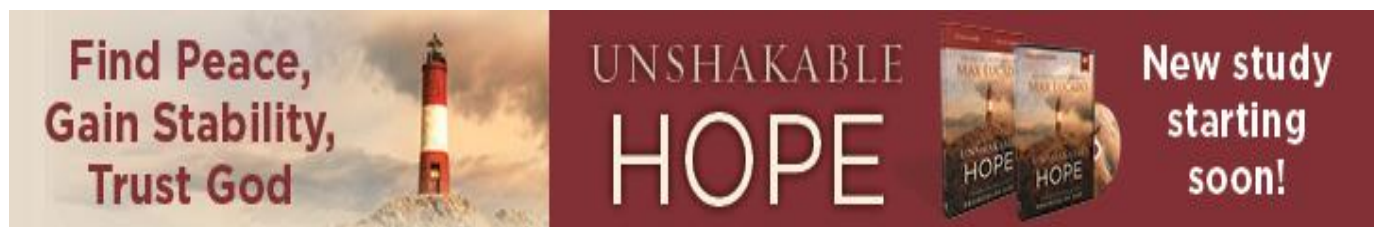
8:00 a.m. Traditional

10:30 a.m. Contemporary

*\*No Wednesday evening worship services at this time!*

**Sunday School begins September 20<sup>th</sup> and is 9:15-10:15 a.m.**

**We will also kick-off our Church-wide Campaign of Unshakeable Hope by Max Lucado on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**



**This is a 12-week experience! There will be Adult Bible Studies and our Sunday School classes will be using this material also. It's a whole family experience! The study will open our eyes as to how we can view our problems in light of God's many promises in Scripture. Please watch the weekly worship bulletins and our Facebook page and Website for updates and Bible Study times.**

From Max Lucado the author of *Unshakable Hope*:

After forty years of ministry, I've discovered that nothing lifts the weary soul of the people of God like the promises of God.

Whenever world events (or even home events) pull the rug out, when hope is in short supply, when times have been tough, these promises have sustained my congregation. I think they will bless yours, too.

Unshakable Hope, a Bible study for your whole church, contains a few of my go-to promises from Scripture, the ones to which I've repeatedly turned throughout the years. Why? Because people desperately need them. When people feel as though they're standing on sinking sand, when all around them seems to shake to the very foundation, they do not need more opinions or hunches; they need the definitive declarations of our mighty and loving God who governs the world according to his great and precious promises.

God's promises lead us into a new reality, a holy environment. They are direction signs intended to guide us away from the toxic swampland into the clean air of heaven. They sit like stones in the golden pathway to God's world. They form the bridge over which we walk from our sin to salvation. Promises are the stitching in the spine of the Bible. *We are building our lives on the promises of God. Because his Word is unbreakable, our hope is unshakable. We do not stand on the problems of life or the pain in life. We stand on the great and precious promises of God.*

## CHURCH RECORDS

### Baptism

- Mari Lynne Wintz, daughter of Trevor & Chelsea Wintz, baptized on August 3, 2020.

### Deaths

- Ava Fuerst passed away August 2; there was a private family interment.
- Elaine Jenkins passed away August 5; funeral service was held August 12.
- Mildred “Midge” Hokeness passed away August 11; funeral service was held August 18.

### Transfer Out

- James & Nyapuka Gach Family to St. Cloud.

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## DIRECTOR OF HUMAN CARE MINISTRIES/PARISH NURSE

*By Roxann Leckband*

Greetings, we are here as another program year begins. I am looking forward to it! It will look different, yet different is not bad as it allows us to grow and become creative. Let us always focus on the reason we are here and that is to glorify and carry out our Lord’s purpose in our lives. No one can tell you what that looks like. WE here at St Matthew will provide opportunities and resources for you and your family to participate and grow in your faith.

Please note we can always use volunteer Sunday school teachers and helpers. We can also use help with our Confirmation ministry. Please contact Roxie 376-6168, 712-260-3820 if you would like to share your gifts of working with children. We will be praying for you!

**There will be a Volunteer orientation on September 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 for our Sunday school teachers and helpers, Confirmation guides, Youth guides and anyone who is interested** in learning more about our Youth program and our Christian Education at St. Matthew. Please pray for our staff and volunteers as we minister to our most valuable resource “our youth.”

### CONFIRMATION INFORMATION:

- The program year for our Confirmation age youth begins with the Early Communion Classes on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. for our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. The 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders may attend if they have not previously taken these classes.
- On September 30<sup>th</sup> the 6<sup>th</sup> graders will meet from 5:30-6:30 p.m. for Confirmation orientation and fellowship. Parents: forms will be available for you to fill out if you have not already done so.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation classes will begin on October 7<sup>th</sup> and meet from 5:30-6:30 p.m. On September 30<sup>th</sup> there is a 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade 507 Event at 5:45 (see youth page for more details).
- Registration forms for Confirmation need to be filled out prior to your child starting Confirmation. The forms will be posted on our website ([www.stmatthewworthington.com](http://www.stmatthewworthington.com)), at the church entrances and available the first night of class.
- Masks are mandatory when entering the church and while walking about in the halls. In response to regulations set by the state of MN. The masks may be taken off once in the classroom, as we will separate the youth into classrooms.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** for Preschool 3/4 year olds (must be potty trained) through 8<sup>th</sup> grade **begins on September 20<sup>th</sup>** at 9:15AM. Sunday school registration forms are on the church website, in the classrooms the first day of Sunday school and at the church entrances. PLEASE have these forms filled out by or on the FIRST DAY of Sunday school. We really need parent contact information in case of an emergency.

## **Human Care and Health Ministry (Roxie Leckband)**

Please Note: if you have not been able to attend worship, you are ill or in the hospital please let us know. Visits can be scheduled, and we would love to come see you. We cannot visit unless we are made aware of your need. Please call the church office at 376-6168 or 712-260-3820.

**Noon Fellowship** – we will meet at 12 noon on **Tuesday**, September 15<sup>th</sup> at Millard Walker Park (across from the church). Sloppy Joes and potato salad will be provided. Please bring a dish to share.

**Widows Group** - will meet on September 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00pm at Millard Walker Park (across from the church). Sandwiches and chips will be provided. Please bring a drink. If you would like to bring bars or cookies to share please feel free to do so. We will continue to read and discuss Postcards From a Widows Path Gleaning Hope and Purpose from the Book of Ruth by Ferree Hardy.

**The GPS Hope (Grieving Parents Sharing Hope)** group will be starting up soon. Please watch our Facebook page for more information such as starting dates and times. You may contact Roxie for any questions or concerns.

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## **Music and Worship News**

- ❖ Due to Covid-19 precautions, there will be NO Adult Choir until further notice.
- ❖ BELL CHOIR will resume on Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 p.m. for the first practice.
- ❖ Soloists and family groups are welcome and needed for Special Music during Communion of our 8AM services. Contact Lorenda Glade if you are interested in participating.

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## **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.

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## **LWML NEWS**

LWML will meet on Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Due to Covid, there will be a mask requirement and social distancing. Also, we will not serve lunch. Please come if you feel comfortable. We need to decide on Fall events. Please bring your Mite boxes! We still have the grants to complete for both the District and National. Thank you so much! Feel free to call me if any questions, 507-360-1831 – Kathy Roslansky, President of St. Matthew's LWML.

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## **August 11<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting & August 15<sup>th</sup> Voters Meeting Highlights**

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

### **July 14th Voters Meeting Highlights**

Treasurer's Report: June Income - \$40,187.69; June Expenses – 30,946.14. The income included SBA loan funds that were used for payroll expenses. General Fund Checkbook Balance on June 30: \$67,725.48. Memorial Fund Balance is \$93,953.82. Building Fund Loan Balance is 0.00 and Bridge Loan Balance is 0.00 – both were paid off with the generous Vogt estate funds received. Scholarship Fund Balance is \$648,166.00 (this includes \$\$ paid back that were used to finance building loan & bridge loan.) Youth account monthly report is \$13,681.79. Paid remainder of expenses of new video recording system. Will still need to cover expenses of the video wall. Will be receiving \$10,000 from our Thrivent Funds and will have more donations from members. SBA Loan update: paid June payroll expenses of \$11,668.69 from it. Still have available balance to use of \$16,140.71. Nathan Holt will work with Tammy to make sure that the use of these funds is met.

Staff Reports: Pastor Mark: Average weekly attendance in June was 75 – masks were required at these services. Two Sundays in June (as of this meeting) attendance average was 92 – masks were optional at that time. The YouTube views have been the following: 1,024 views in the past 28 days; 5,400 views since start of Covid restrictions; 700 views from outside of our country; services have been translated into 6 different languages. Have been planning for Fall services and will start a program called, “Unshakable Hope by Max Lucado”. This will be for ALL ages and will include Bible studies. Jenna’s Report: continue to stay in contact with the youth by sending out devotions, scriptures, and periodically checking in on them. Youth Board will meet and discuss upcoming Fall season. Jenna & youth helped with Meals on Wheels in June. Jenna is officially done with courses through Concordia University Irvine and started her internship at the church June 1<sup>st</sup>. She will have to go to Concordia in January for a 3-day mid-year reflection conference. Working on planning for the upcoming year.

Elders: Looking ahead to fall service plans.

Trustees: Had to have floor drain in the kitchen opened by a plumber. Had all 6 north AC units checked over and thoroughly cleaned. Coffee pot was repaired and we are working on fixing the counter under it.

Board of Ed: Planning to have Sunday School this fall but will depend on Covid guidelines.

Ministry Planning Board: Coffee Bar for Great Hall has been built and ready to set up.

New Business: Video wall & balcony technology discussion. Have not received final bids for equipment needed, but due to the cost will need to be presented to the Voters Meeting on August 16<sup>th</sup>. Will be a state-of-the-art system that should last for many years. Would like to have equipment installed before fall programming starts. Discussed that Cable 3 has not been airing our YouTube services even though they are made available to them. We have no control over what they play. Have a few members that do not have internet access. Suggestion was made to possibly purchase some tablets and having services downloaded onto them and then taken to these members weekly. Ministry Planning Board will discuss this and report back. Church Use Policy discussed and recommended to establish a written policy to be followed by any group asking to use our facility. Need to consider liability issues, social-distancing issues, follow current CDC guidelines for Covid prevention and should state that thorough cleaning must be followed. Nathan Holt will work with Bev Spittle to formulate a policy to be presented to church council.

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## CURRENT GUIDELINES DUE TO COVID-19

Churches are being watched closely during this time. Therefore, to protect our church, we need to follow the Covid-19 Guidelines issued:

- Hand sanitizer is provided upon entering and leaving the church.
- Face Masks are Required inside the building; and please follow the social distancing guideline.
- Pews are marked off. Bulletins are placed where you may sit in the pews (*every other pew and every other end of pew = for social-distancing*). One family unit per space please.
- Restrooms in the Great Hall are available for use.
- Communion will be offered, and the process will adhere to special sanitary procedures.
- Offering plates will be available at the front of the Sanctuary.
- At the end of the service, please wait for the usher to release your pew.
- Please take your bulletin home with you or dispose of it in the recycle bin as you leave.
- The elevator is available for use after the service, please adhere to limiting one family at a time.
- High traffic items such as doors, pews, etc. will be cleaned after each service.
- Hymnals, Bibles, and papers have been removed from all pews.
- The nursery will remain closed until further notice. Changing tables are available in the restrooms.
- If church groups would like to meet at the church, they must set up the date and time with Bev in the church office. All attendees must sign a form (available at the time you meet) acknowledging the guidelines. The church reserves the right to cancel at any time.
- All rooms have “Max Capacity” posted. We must follow the 50% capacity guideline at this time.

# Acolyte Schedule

	<u>8:00 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
September 6	Kenadie Thiner	Alexa Kilker
September 13	Maelie Holt	TJ Ostrem
September 20	Faith Leinen	Alaina Feit
September 27	Jordis Weber	Anna Gordon
October 4	Paige Barber	Natya Khamphanh

REMINDER TO ACOLYTES: Please arrive 15 minutes before worship service to light the candles. If you are unable to fulfill your scheduled time, you are responsible for finding a replacement. Please let Bev, in the church office, know of any changes in the schedule. Thank You!

*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!*

## NEW TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT

Thank you to the congregation for your donations to get our balcony technology updated. Since the update, our Tech Crew positions have changed a little. It is now more critical to have 3 Tech Crew Members up in the balcony for each worship service. The equipment is easy to run and we will work with you on the training. Contact Bev in the church office or go up to the balcony and observe what is done for a worship service. **We need Tech Crew Members.** The positions are:

- 1) Soundboard Operator
- 2) Livestream/Record/Camera Operator
- 3) Screen Operator (even though we do not have a physical screen in the church at this time, the screens are still used in our Livestream)  
*A new “video wall” is ordered and we hope to have it installed by October! Donations are still being accepted for this part of the technology. Thank You!*