

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church**  
**1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN**  
**April 2021 Newsletter**



**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:**

**Palm Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> – services at 8:00 AM and 10:30AM**  
*The Sunday School Children will sing at both services.*

**Maundy Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup> – service at 6:30 PM**

**Good Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> – service at 6:30 PM**  
*\*includes the drama, “Watch the Lamb”*

**EASTER SUNDAY - April 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Worship services at 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM**



**FARMERS AND GARDENERS**

Every spring we pause to ask God’s blessing on the seed to be planted, those who labor in the fields, and the timely weather so necessary for abundant growth. **This year we will observe “Rogation Sunday (Blessing of the Seed)” at each of our worship services on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>.**

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**VOTERS MEETING**

Our Voters Meeting will take place on **Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>.**

- watch the weekly bulletins for the time to be announced.

This meeting will include the “Election of Officers” for the July 1, 2021-June 30, 2023 term. A Slate of Nominations will be posted on the north/elevator entrance bulletin board by March 25<sup>th</sup>. All active, confirmed members ages 18 and older are encouraged to attend and vote.

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## CHURCH RECORDS

### Deaths

- Elaine Rohrbauck passed away February 28<sup>th</sup>; funeral service was held March 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Donna Welnetz passed away February 27<sup>th</sup>, funeral service was held March 6<sup>th</sup>.
- William "Bill" Smrcka passed away March 3<sup>rd</sup>, funeral service was held March 12<sup>th</sup>.

### New Members

- Laura Koppen and children Raelynn and Anna.
- Audra Buxengard and children Kaden Freking, Nina Freking, Catlyn Freking.

### Released

- Justin Larson to Concordia, Nebraska
  - Kala (Burgin) Hoffman to Graettinger, Iowa
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## HUMAN CARE MINISTRY & PARISH NURSE NEWS by Roxie Leckband

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ,

It is hard to believe we are ending our Lenten Journey and heading to Easter. This is such a special time of year. The newness of spring reminds me of the new life we have in Jesus, the Light of the world.

The St. Matthew visitation ministry is very active with individuals who remain close to home and those who may need some parish nursing support. If you, a family member or a friend needs a visit either under our Shut-In Ministry or Parish Nurse Ministry please contact the church at 376-6168 or email me at [stmattparishnurse@gmail.com](mailto:stmattparishnurse@gmail.com) We assist people who live in their own home or apartment and also in senior housing and nursing homes.

Our human care ministry is able to assist those who need assistance with purchasing groceries. You can contact me at 376-6168, 712-260-3820 or [stmattparishnurse@gmail.com](mailto:stmattparishnurse@gmail.com) Please note that any contact a person makes requesting visits or assistance with groceries remains confidential.

As things are opening up and we are able to meet with people once again an Advance Directive Education can be given in person. If you or someone you know are interested please contact the church or me. As we move forward we will set up specific times for a class. Please watch the next newsletter and the weekly bulletins for more information.

### Support Groups:

Widow's Group will meet on April 19 @ 5:15 p.m. at the church in the Fireside Room. We will have our Bible study and devotional time. For those who want to join us at 5:45 p.m., we will head to Hickory Lodge for supper. If you have any questions please contact me.

Parent Bereavement Group will meet on April 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. We will use some of the GPS Hope (Grieving Parents Share Hope) material for a devotion time and then supportive group discussion.

St. Matthew Lutheran Health Cabinet will meet with a hybrid model at 12:00 noon on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Confirmation Classes will be on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m. On April 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmands will give their Faith Statements with a reception to follow. The Rite of Confirmation for our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will take place on Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the 10:30 service. April 21<sup>st</sup> will be the last Confirmation class for our 5-7<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Young Families** will gather for fun and fellowship on April 11 after the 10:30 service (11:30). Pizza and sides will be furnished. Child care will be provided. Please RSVP to me at 507-376-6168 or 712-260-3820.

**Mark your calendars - we are still on for Vacation Bible School June 14 thru 18!**

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## MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS

*"I know that my Redeemer lives; What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, He lives, who once was dead; He lives, my ever-living head. LSB 461 vs 1*

This hymn, a favorite of many, is sung joyously on Easter Sunday, and is often sung at funeral services. It is an affirmation and celebration of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The writer of the text, Samuel Medley was born north of London in 1738. Although he was raised by a family of faithful Christians, Medley strayed from the faith. However, in 1759 he experienced a miracle that changed the course of his life.

Medley was in the British navy, aboard a ship that was engaged in battle with a French ship. His leg was severely wounded in the battle. The wound continued to worsen, and the decision was made to amputate the leg to save Medley's life. The doctor explained that if there was no improvement by the next day, he would be forced to amputate.

Medley spent that night pondering his family's Christian teachings and praying fervently that his life and leg would be spared. The next morning, the doctor examined the leg and found it had improved so much that amputation was unnecessary.

The miraculous healing was the catalyst for the Holy Spirit leading Medley to return to a Christ-centered life. He devoted his life to preaching, writing religious texts, and penning the words to one of our most beloved hymns.

*"He lives, all glory to His name! He lives, my Jesus, still the same;  
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives: I know that my Redeemer lives! (vs 8)*

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!  
*Lorenda Glade and Joy Schreiber, Directors of Music*

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## ALTAR GUILD

Serving in April will be Kathy Roslansky and Nancy Edwards at the 8 a.m. services. Maundy Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup> will be Sue Koob. 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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## Table & Chair Use

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE:** With high school graduation approaching, the need for tables and chairs arises. Just a reminder, if you would like to borrow something from the church, you must check with the church office **FIRST**. **Please do NOT remove any tables or chairs from the bus garage or church without first checking the "borrow schedule" in the church office!** **We only loan out our older tables and chairs that are stored in the bus garage.** **Arrangements must be made through the church office for pickup and return times.** Pickup and return times must be during regular office hours of the church. **The roasters, coffee carafes, and etc. in the kitchen are NOT to leave the church.** Thanks.

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## WORTHINGTON ZONE LWML SPRING GET-TOGETHER

**Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>** at Immanuel Lutheran Activity Center, Lakefield, MN.  
**Registration is 8:30 a.m. There is a \$5.00 registration fee. The Rally begins at 9:00 a.m.**

Please check out the poster on our north/elevator entrance bulletin board for the “Gifts from the Heart.” We need to know by April 5<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend. We can carpool from the church parking lot the morning of the 10<sup>th</sup>. Call or text me, Kathy Roslansky, LWML President, 507-360-1831.



**Children and Adult Cloth Face Coverings are still available** in the Great Hall and on the small table by the Sunday School classrooms. The coverings are reversible 100% cotton prints with woven interfacing inserted for added protection. **NEED ONE? TAKE ONE** – Donations are also welcome and proceeds are given to the LWML Mites project.

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### MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

**Do you enjoy using the big screen for our worship service liturgy and hymns/songs?** Then become a part of our Technical Crew as a Screen Operator. The screen shows are very easy to run – you just need to be able to move your finger, and follow along with the service! **We also need operators for the Livestream Producer.** “*Many hands make less work!*” We are very flexible with the scheduling; and the training isn’t difficult either! Please contact Bev in the church office, any current tech operator, or go up to the balcony during a service to see what it all involves and ask questions of the current operators!

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### FROM OUR MINISTRY PLANNING BOARD:

The mission of St. Matthew’s is “giving, sharing, and serving our community through Christ.” As opportunities become available, we would like to know what areas of service that everyone is interested in. During the month of April, please go to the church website and complete a short volunteer survey. Directions to access the survey:

- 1) Go to the church website, [www.stmatthewworthington.com](http://www.stmatthewworthington.com)
- 2) Then click “**connect**”, then click “**volunteer**”
- 3) Scroll down and click “**sign up to serve**,” then complete the form

The Lord has blessed us all with gifts, talents, and opportunities to help others. Please prayerfully consider how you can be the hands and feet of Jesus, serving in our church and in our community. Thank you!

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### FLOWER CALENDAR



The 2021 Flower Calendar is on the bulletin board in the north/elevator entrance. If you would like to beautify our church on a specific Sunday with a bouquet of flowers, please sign up on the designated date on the calendar. **Instructions for ordering and etc. are located by the calendar.** If you have any questions, please call the church office.

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## Highlights from the March 9<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting:

Treasurer: Income for February was \$33,439.79 with expenses of \$35,743.16. This left the General Fund Balance as of February 28, 2021 at \$80,441.69. Other account balances as of 2/28/21 were: Scholarship \$705,519.36; Youth Account \$15,895.10; Memorial Fund \$73,985.74. The first payment of \$45,000 was made for the organ.

Pastor: Average weekend attendance in church = 116. Weekly YouTube view of our services average 62 for 8am and 45 for 10:30am. The Lutheran Church Heritage Foundation could come to the church and present estate planning. A representative would meet with people who are interested. More information will follow with a sign-up sheet. Confirmation will be May 2. The Confirmation Reception is scheduled for April 28, this would be for the families. Church attendance is down. As reopening continues, getting people back to church is a priority. The Synod Convention was delayed until 2023.

Roxie: Parish nurse and shut-in visits have been steady. Ministry has been provided in homes and facilities. Confirmation is going well.

Lorenda/Joy: Peggy Dahl-Bartunek of the Ridgers Organ Company sent sample fabrics for the speaker covers and white was chosen, a number of the speakers have arrived. Joy is working with volunteers for the Good Friday Passion sequence. Group practices are being held at 5:15 p.m. on Wednesdays. Lorenda and Sunday School staff are working with students on special music for Palm Sunday. There were problems with maintaining power to the organ during the extremely cold weather in February. Ken Meyer needed to have work done on the capacitors twice in one week. There have been some fluctuations in temperature in the balcony this winter as well, so some pipes have gone out of tune.

Elders: Ash Wednesday went well. Working on new memberships.

Trustees: Met with Peggy from the organ company to discuss installation. Removed four and shortened 3 pews. Special thanks to Gary Cortright and Nathan Holt for helping with this. Started working on things for the organ installation. MEI sent us a letter about new elevator regulations the state is going to start enforcing. We have five years to comply after citing, but the upgrade is going to be expensive.

Christian Education: Philip Lorch brought a lamb for visual aide for Sunday School on March 7.

Ministry Planning Board: There will be a special link on the website for new members giving church information and programming. A map of the church labeling the areas and rooms for new people will be included. There is a survey of opportunity in volunteering for the church on the website also.

New Business: The Slate of Nominees is ready for the April Voters Meeting. It will be posted.

Next Council Meeting is April 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

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## APRIL WORSHIP HELPERS

***\*\*You should arrive 15 minutes before service is scheduled to begin. If you are unable to fulfill your scheduled time, please find a replacement and then phone the church office with the change. Thank You!***

### ACOLYTES

**April 1 – Maundy Thursday 6:30PM – Gerret Larson**

**April 4 – EASTER = 8:00AM –Tavin Miller 10:00AM – Nevaeh Roesner**

April 11 (8am) Maelie Holt (10:30am) Morgan Ross

April 18 (8am) Kenadie Thiner (10:30am) Alexa Kilker

April 25 (8am) Jordis Weber (10:30am) TJ Ostrem

May 2 (8am) Camren Luther (10:30am) \*to be announced

***If you are unable to greet on your scheduled time, please switch with someone and contact the church office with the change. Thank you for serving!***



**Did you know you can receive your monthly newsletter via email?** If you would like this option, please email Bev in the church office at [stmatrchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stmatrchurchoffice@gmail.com) **This will help the church save in several ways – less printing costs (less paper & ink used, less wear & tear on copy machine) and less postage costs.** Convenience to you – you can either read the newsletter on your computer or phone screen, or print it out to read at your convenience. **THANK YOU!**

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## **YPOG NEWS**

### **Middle & High School Youth**

**Verse of the Month:** *“No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.” Joshua 1:5*

#### **Calendar of Events:**

April 4            Easter Sunday! Services at 8:00 and 10:00 am. NO SUNDAY SCHOOL.  
April 7            Confirmation 5:30 PM; Youth Group 5:30-7:00 PM.  
April 11           Worship & Sunday School 9:15 AM  
April 14           Confirmation 5:30 PM; Youth Group 5:30-7:00 PM.  
April 18           Worship & Sunday School 9:15 AM  
April 18           H.S. Senior Night 6-8 PM PM at Andrew and Jenna Bents' house  
April 21           Confirmation 5:30 PM; Youth Group 5:30-7:00 PM.  
April 23           Jr. High Prayer & Play event at Andrew and Jenna Bents' house 5:30-7:30 PM  
April 25           Worship & Sunday School 9:15 AM  
April 28           Confirmation faith statements 5:30 PM; Youth Group 5:30-7:00 PM.  
Apr.30-May 1    Crossroads Retreat at Shetek Friday 5:00 PM-Saturday 2:00 PM

**Jr. High Prayer & Play:** There will be a Jr. High Prayer and Play event held at Andrew and Jenna Bents' house on Friday April 23<sup>rd</sup> 5:30-7:30 PM. There will be food, devotion time, and large group outside games. Please rsvp to Jenna.

**Crossroads Retreat:** As of right now we are still planning on having this overnight retreat for 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students **Friday April 30<sup>th</sup>-Saturday May 1<sup>st</sup>** at Shetek Camp. We will leave Friday 5:00 PM and be back by 3:00 PM on Saturday. This retreat is to welcome 8<sup>th</sup> grade students into the youth group and to send off our seniors as they embark on their next chapter in life. This retreat will include food, large group games, devotion, Bible study, worship, low ropes course, free time, team building exercises, etc. Please rsvp to Jenna if you will be attending. A more detailed packing list will be sent in the mail and via email/text as the date approaches.

**H.S. Senior Night and Senior Church Recognition/Blessing:** High School Senior night will held on Sunday April 18<sup>th</sup> 6-8 PM at Andrew and Jenna's house. Please rsvp to Jenna. Senior recognition and quilt blessing will be on Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup> at both church services. A more formal invitation and details will be mailed out to the parents of this year's H.S. seniors in the next couple of weeks.

**Confirmation Sunday:** Rite of Confirmation will be held on Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup> during the 10:30 AM church service.