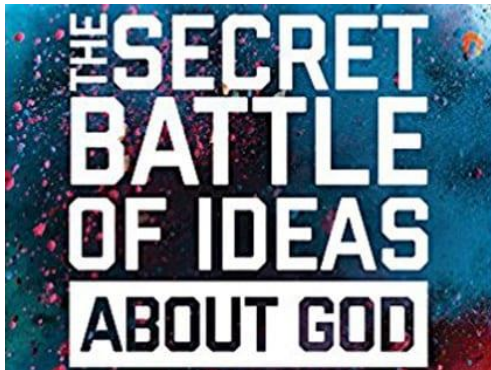
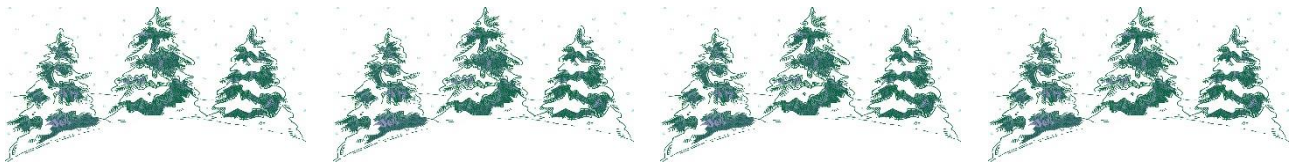


St. Matthew Lutheran Church
1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN
January 2022



**On January 23rd we will begin
a NEW Bible Study –
“The Secret Battle of Ideas
About God – Overcoming the
Outbreak of Five Fatal
Worldviews” by Jeff Myers.**

A virus has been spreading across America, but many are unaware of its existence and of the potential fallout. Chances are you’ve already been infected without even realizing it. The virus is made up of dangerous ideas – worldviews that don’t reflect Jesus and biblical living. According to a recent Barna study, only 1 in 5 Christians have a complete biblical worldview. Jeff Myers shines a light on the bad ideas that have been infecting Christians. He explains secularism, Marxism, Islam, new spirituality, and post-modernism, and teaches Christians how to understand what they believe, why they believe it, and how to defend against the fatal answers to life’s questions. Over the last 20 years, Jeff Myers has become one of America’s most respected authorities on Christian worldview, apologetics, and leadership development. He’s the author of several books. **A sign-up sheet will be available in the Great Hall beginning January 5th. You may also call the church office to get your name added to the list.** We may need to order books. Watch for more information!

CHURCH RECORDS

Baptism

- Raya Jo Reese, daughter of Cody & Amanda Reese was baptized December 12.

Deaths

- William “Bill” Henderson passed away December 8; funeral service was held December 13.
-

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Serving in January will be: Velma Cortright & Dea Klumper for the 8AM worship services. If you would like to be a part of the Altar Guild, please contact Velma Cortright, 376-5600 or Sandy Meyer, 376-6290.

The Altar Guild thanks everyone who provided a Poinsettia plant to beautify our church for the Christmas Services. It was very appreciated!

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: When the Winter Weather is questionable, there are several ways for you to find out if our services or classes/activities have been cancelled:

- ✓ A post on our Facebook page will be the first thing we do.
 - ✓ A "push notification" will be done on our church App.
 - ✓ Log on to the local radio station's website (www.myradioworks.net) and check their weather announcements.
 - ✓ Tune into the local radio stations: 730AM and FM stations 93.5, 104.3 and 95.1; however, their verbal announcements are not updated as quickly as their website.
-

ELECTRONIC GIVING AVAILABLE – This is a convenient, consistent way to help our church grow! It is convenient for you and provides much-needed donation consistency for our church. To set up electronic donations, simply complete the authorization form available at each entrance to the church and return it to the church office. You may also fill out the form online on our church website (stmatthewworthington.com), click on the "Give" tab at the top of the Home page. Our church app also gives you opportunity to make electronic donations. Download our app from your favorite App Store, search for St. Matthew Worthington MN. The app is a white cross with a red background.

2021 Giving Statements will be ready for pickup by January 23rd – watch the weekly bulletins for updated information. Any statements not picked up by January 24th will be put in the mail to you.

The **2022 Offering Envelopes** are available in the Great Hall. **Please pick up your box, even if you give electronically**, the boxes provide "special giving opportunities" throughout the year. The door is open during the week if you would like to stop then to get your envelopes. **No-Contact Delivery is also an option, within the city of Worthington, please contact the church office. We can also deliver a Portals of Prayer devotion book with your envelopes!**

SOUTH ENTRANCE (Dover Street) Will NOT Be Used For the Winter Season
Due to the snow and ice of our Minnesota winters, we will NOT use the front door (south entrance – Dover Street side) of the church. Those steps can get too treacherous during the winter. Please use the north/elevator entrance or the canopy drive-up entrance. Also, please use caution when walking on the canopy drive-up entrance. Thank You!

MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS

“Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King.” LSB 367

An earlier Music and Worship article discussed the importance of regular worship, ideally in person with your faith family. But how do we prepare our hearts and minds for worship? Here are some ideas to help you prepare for the worship service, both at home and as you enter the sanctuary.

- During the week, read and meditate on the scripture lessons for the following Sunday. Lutheran Hour Ministries offer an online daily devotion that you can receive via email. The devotions often focus on the three upcoming Bible readings. Although donations are welcome, you may subscribe to the daily devotions for free. The address is www.lhm.org. You can download and print the readings for this year at <https://www.lcms.org/worship/church-year>.
- Attend our Tuesday morning text study in person or via Zoom. Here we read and discuss the upcoming lectionary readings (and hopefully give Pastor some ideas for his sermon)
- Once you are seated in the sanctuary for the service, spend the preservice time preparing your heart and mind for worship. Thank God for the privilege of being able to worship and ask Him to open your heart and mind to His holy Word. Spend time in prayer (there are prayers inside the hymnal that you may read) Some other prayer ideas are to pray for our Pastor, and people in need of prayer in our congregation, extended family, or friends. Reflect on any sin you may need to confess during the time of Confession and Absolution.
- Use the pew Bibles to read the lessons for the day or select a Psalm to read.
- Find the hymns in the pew hymnals, read and meditate on the words. Spend some time listening to the preservice music. Often arrangements of the hymns selected for the worship service will be included in the prelude music. Listening to the preservice music will help to prepare yourself for worship and will familiarize yourself with some of the hymns/songs selected for the service.

May God bless your time of worship, and may you continue to grow in faith in Him and in love for one another. See you in church!

Lorenda Glade, Joy Schreiber, Directors of Music and Worship.

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN CARE/PARISH NURSE & CHILDREN’S MINISTRY **Roxann Leckband**

Happy New Year! many of us want to begin “new health habits.” New health habits could be making more nutritious food choices, drinking more water, decreasing our salt and sugar intake, exercising more, and getting more rest. These are just a few. These changes help our physical health. What about our spiritual health?

We can improve our spiritual health by being in God’s word, praying, attending worship with other brothers and sisters in Christ, and partaking in Holy Communion . God works through all these means to strengthen our faith and provides His love, hope, and joy.

Director of Human Care/Parish Nurse & Children's Ministry continued:

To aide in our physical health, we can pray that God would give us the desire to change some of our unhealthy habits to healthier ones.

To facilitate the desire to become more active there is a **walking path** in the lower level of the education wing and fellowship hall. **The area to walk will be open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9a.m.-3p.m. There are instructions as you come into the Fellowship Hall on the table.** I will provide a Bible verse of the week. You can challenge yourself to memorize it as you walk if you so desire. I will have a drawing for a gift basket several times during the winter. Please contact me if you have any questions about the path, etc. My number is 712-260-3820 or just pop over to my office.

Health Cabinet will be meeting on January 18th at 12:00 noon in the classroom across from the Fireside Room. If a home or hospital visit is desired please contact the church 376-6168. If you are facing a crisis and need support please contact us. **Blood pressure screening** will be done right after the 8AM worship service, prior to Bible study, on January 16th in the Fellowship Hall.

Noon Fellowship will be on January 10 at 12:00 Blood pressure screening will be available at 11:30. The main entrée for the meal will be tater tot casserole, cole slaw and dinner roll. There will be a devotion to wrap up our time together. Please join us. You may bring a dish to pass, give a free-will offering or just bring yourself.

Widow's group will be meeting on January 17th at 5:15PM in the Fireside Room . We will have a devotion and then to Hickory Lodge at 6:00. *Feel free to invite a friend.*

Parent Bereavement group is on January 23rd at 4:00PM. The group will meet in the Fireside Room. We will be using the GPS Hope Material. There will be a time of discussion and support.

CHIDREN'S MINISTRY

Confirmation Classes will be on January 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th. The meal begins at 5:10PM and class starts at 5:30PM and goes till 6:25PM.

PRAYER INTERCESSRORS are needed! There will be a sign-up sheet in the Great Hall beginning January 9th with names of our 7th and 8th grade Confirmands. Please sign-up for 1 or more youth that you would like to pray for, and you will receive information on the Confirmand you choose. Please contact me with any questions you may have at 376-6168 or 712 260-3820. Thank you for your service.

Wednesday Night Sunday School is on January 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th from 5:30-6:25. **For safety reasons please bring your child down to the Fellowship Hall, then when you come to pick them up we will have you sign your child out also. Thank You!**

Sunday School is every Sunday. Let's keep our Sunday school attendance up as we enter the New Year! When you bring your child you may stay for a very informative Bible Study and fellowship!

A HUGE thank you to ALL of our Confirmation teachers and helpers, ALL our Sunday school teachers and helpers, and our Wednesday Night Sunday school teacher and helpers. This ministry is happening because of all the volunteers God has provided.

Happy New Year and peace be with you!

LWML NEWS

There will NOT be a meeting of LWML in January. The Sarah Circle will provide the treats for the January 16th Coffee Fellowship time. Donations for this event are being saved to support our Seminary Student next fall.

The Circles should try to meet for Bible Study: Sarah Circle on Tuesday, January 18th at 1:00PM in the Fireside Room. Martha Circle on Thursday, January 20th at 1:30PM in the Fireside Room. Hope Circle on January 11th at 5:30PM in the Youth Room. The Lutheran Woman's Quarterly magazine and the WOM Newsletters are in the rack outside the Church Office. We may run short this month, you may have to share. More will be ordered for the next quarter, in March.



Thanks to all who participated in the "Undie Sunday" event. We collected a total of 77 packages of undies for men, women, girls, and boys. This worked out to be 457 pairs of undies! We also collected 8 packages of socks. Thanks so much to Thrivent for the funds made available through the Action Grant program. These funds were used to add to the packages collected so each group had a good supply of undies. The undies will be taken to Orphan Grain Train in Nebraska where they are distributed to needy families all over the world. To God be the Glory!

PARENT WORKSHOP – Navigating Our Digital World Saturday, January 29th from 9-11:30AM

It's the new normal to live in a digitally connected world, and yet parents often find themselves asking questions like:

"Why do my kids constantly check their phones?"

"How can I help my family actually be together when we're in the same room?"

"How can I supervise what my kids are saying and sharing?"

"How (and when) can I gracefully take off the media training wheels?"

While we might know that we are living in a digital world, *navigating* that world is a whole different challenge. If you find yourself wanting more information, ideas, and action steps for engaging with digital media as a parent, then we hope you'll consider coming to our workshop: ***Navigating our Digital World on Saturday, January 29th from 9-11:30 AM in the church basement Fellowship Hall.*** Drawing from the best research on media and youth, as well as conversations with parents like you, this workshop offers new ideas for your most pressing tech-related dilemmas.

Parents with kids of ANY age are welcome, but we'll be focusing on common questions and ideas for parenting school-aged children and teenagers.

Doughnuts, snacks, and refreshments will be provided. **To sign-up please contact Jenna Bents, the church office, or on the sheet in the Great Hall.** And consider inviting another parent to join you!



YOUNG ADULT NIGHT

Anyone who is 18-25 years old are invited to Hickory Lodge Bar & Grill on Monday, January 17th at 6PM. Any college students who may be home are also encouraged and welcome to attend. Pizza will be provided. Any questions, please contact Jenna Bents, Director of Youth & Family Ministries.

FAITH & FAMILY EVENT

Save the Date for another family event on Sunday, January 16th! We are looking to do some kind of outdoor winter activity, weather permitting. Check for details as the date gets closer in the bulletin, church website, and church Facebook page.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Thank you for providing bouquets for our Altar area. **If you would like to provide a bouquet(s) to beautify our altar area, you may contact HyVee or Seed & Stem individually to order your bouquet and arrange for delivery or pick-up.** *If being delivered, they MUST deliver by 12 noon on Fridays to ensure the church will be unlocked for delivery.*

At this time, we have the **Flower Calendar on the north/elevator entrance bulletin board** to regulate the number of bouquets provided weekly. Therefore, please continue to sign-up. **If you would like your Altar flowers listed in the bulletin that information MUST be into the church office 2 weeks before the date you are providing the flowers.** If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Thank you for continuing to provide bouquets for our Altar area.

Thank You Notes

We have been so blessed and touched by the Thanksgiving greetings and prayers. Your kind words have lifted our spirits. Thank You. Be Blessed and Stay Safe.

Jerry & Sue Polley

Thank you so much for all the well wishes and gifts during this past year and as we celebrate our Savior's birth. We are so deeply blessed to be a part of such a loving and caring church family. It is a pleasure to serve the St. Matthew Lutheran congregation and community. May our Lord bless and keep each and every one of you in His grace. Please of the Lord be with you always.

Roxie & Greg Leckband and Family

FREE FAMILY COMEDY NIGHT January 12th from 6:30 to 8:00 PM Memorial Auditorium

The Worthington Area Youth Ministers Association Presents "Get Your Laugh On!" a Free Family Comedy Night at the Memorial Auditorium in Worthington. Jaron Myers is a Christian comedian from Kansas City, Missouri. He's known for his viral wholesome pranks, comedy music videos, TikTok rants, and standup comedy specials. Door prizes begin at 6:30 and Jaron will begin at 7:00. All ages are welcome for this night of laughter! Free will donation. *Sponsored by: Smith Trucking, Bedford Industries, Pizza Ranch.*

NOTES FROM THE DECEMBER 14, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING:

Treasurer Report: November 30th balances were: General Fund \$69,232.45; Youth Account \$36,520.14; Building Fund \$2,260.05; Momentum One (Scholarship) Fund \$732,349.72; Momentum Two \$224,524.08; Memorial Fund \$91,965.13. There was discussion of transferring \$2,000 from the Undesignated Memorial money to the Education Account for funding “Right Now Media.”

Staff Reports: *Pastor Mark:* Average Sunday attendance (in church) = 182; average Regular Wednesday attendance = 22; Thanksgiving Service = 117; Average YouTube viewing is 45 per Sunday service. Praying and hoping that attendance numbers will continue to improve. *Roxie:* The number of home visits has increased. Have been working with the Health Cabinet on the December 29, “Jesus BFF” children’s event. Our Wednesday evening Sunday School has proven to be a very active group. We have been blessed to have members of the Health Cabinet to assist this group. Some dismissal changes have been made to give a safe ending to the evening. Confirmation classes are going well. We have 5 gentlemen who rotate to help. Total number of Confirmation students (5th-8th grade) is 49. St. Matthew’s had it’s first light display at Olson Park in support of Love INC. There is already discussion of what we need to improve for next year’s display. Thank you to Kim Rogers for the Confirmation & Advent meals. The Sunday morning Van Service is up and running. We have some new drivers this year! We appreciate their service. *Jenna:* We put together 33 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. There were about 25 kids that attended the first Prayer & Play Night, this event will continue monthly. Young Adult Night (those 18-25 yrs. old) meets the 3rd Monday of every month. I have been having conversations with other members about starting up events that will target the next age group. Our registrations and hotel plans were officially submitted for the 2022 National Youth Gathering. We will be taking a charter bus this year. The next 507 Youth Event will be held at St. Matthew’s on February 2nd. The Generation Z Panel event went very well. It was so great to have different generations together discussing how to continue encouraging this generation in their faith and life. A couple of adults took a group of 8th-12th grade students to Okoboji Lutheran Outreach night in December. There is a Wall of Support up in the Great Hall currently to help support their NYG trip. Thank you for your continued support of our youth and families. *Lorenda & Joy:* Allen Moe from Moe Pipe Organ tuned the Rodgers Hybrid Organ on December 14. He has strict guidelines regarding temperature control in the Sanctuary, and those expectations have been shared with church leadership. Sunday School Christmas Program and Christmas Services are being planned.

Elders: Christmas Decorating Committee has added and updated our décor. Pastor will be attending “Best Practices Conference” in Phoenix in February. Trustees will review the handicap placements and quantities. Covid signs are still posted to encourage safe practices and staying healthy. Masks are encouraged but not required at this time. Shepherd groups reviewed member list and postcards were mailed for the Holiday Season.

Trustees: Set up the Nativity Set outside the church. Did routine maintenance items within the church. Checked the vans. All furnaces were checked over by Lowe’s. The Annual Fire Alarm & Fire Doors test was completed with the alarm company.

Old Business: AED discussion continues. Will be addressed again next month. Sound proofing the new basement area continues.

New Business: *Right Now Media* usage will be discussed at the February meeting. AED will be explored again in 2022. Sound proofing will continue in 2022.

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 11 at 5:30 p.m.



YPOG NEWS:

Middle & High School Youth

Verse of the Month: *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” 1 Peter 1:3*

Calendar of Events:

Jan. 2	Worship Service 9:30 AM. NO SUNDAY SCHOOL.
Jan. 5	Confirmation 5:30-6:30 & Youth Group 5:30-7:00 PM
Jan. 9	Worship 8 & 10:30 AM. Sunday School 9:15 AM. 8th-12th Grade National Youth Gathering pre-trip bible study 9:15 AM.
Jan. 12	Confirmation & Youth Group 5:30 PM. Family Comedy night at Memorial Auditorium 6:30-8:00 PM.
Jan. 14	Jr. High Prayer & Play Night 6-8 PM (5 th -8 th grade)
Jan. 16	Worship 8 & 10:30 AM. Sunday School & Youth in Action 9:15 AM.
Jan. 19	Confirmation & Youth Group 5:30 PM. Youth board meeting 7 PM.
Jan. 22	The Banquet & Sky Zone event 9:30 AM-4:00 PM
Jan. 23	Worship 8 & 10:30 AM. Sunday School & Youth in Action 9:15 AM.
Jan. 23	High School Senior night at Bents' house 6-8 PM
Jan. 26	Confirmation & Youth Group 5:30 PM.
Jan. 29	Every Parent's Guide to Navigating our Digital World 9-11:30 AM
Jan. 30	Worship 8 & 10:30 AM. Sunday School & Youth in Action 9:15 AM.

National Youth Gathering pre-trip bible study #2

All 8th-12th grade students going on this summer's NYG trip to Houston, TX are expected to be at this bible study and meeting. It will be held on Sunday January 9th 9:15 AM in the youth room.

High School Senior Night

High School Seniors are invited and encourage to come to Andrew and Jenna Bents' house on Sunday January 23rd 6-8 PM. We will have a home-cooked meal and fellowship together as we talk about “how to nurture faith beyond high school.”

Continued on next page.....

YPOG NEWS continued:

Family Comedy Night

The Worthington Area Youth Ministers Association presents a free family comedy night on Wednesday January 12th 6:30-8:00 PM at Memorial Auditorium. Jaron Myers is a Christian comedian from Kansas City, Missouri. He is known for his viral wholesome pranks, comedy music videos, Tik Tok rants, and standup comedy specials. Door prizes begin at 6:30 PM and Jaron will start at 7 PM. All ages are welcome! High school students who want to go over together, we will leave at 6:20 PM from youth group to head over. The church van will be available if students need rides. Parents, please pick your students up at 8:00 PM at Memorial Auditorium, but parents are encouraged to go to this event too!

Serving at the Banquet & Sky Zone

Who: youth, college students, families, and parents

What: The Banquet is a food ministry for those in need. We will serve lunch from 11:30-12:30 while there.

Where: The Banquet in Sioux Falls, SD

When: Saturday, January 22nd 9:30 AM-4:00 PM (for those riding in church van)

Cost: \$5 for Sky Zone + \$3 socks (or you can bring your own if you have some already)

Description: We will leave the church parking lot at 9:30 AM to head to The Banquet in Sioux Falls. Please let Jenna know if you will be driving separately as a family. We will be done with clean-up at 1:00 PM and will then head over to Sky Zone for an hour jump time. Please let Jenna know if you would like a ticket to Sky Zone. **RSVP IS REQUIRED.** We will be back no later than 4:00 PM.

Jr. High Prayer & Play night:

5th-8th grade students are invited on Friday, January 14th for a Prayer/Play night at the church from 6-8 PM. Friends are welcome to attend! We will spend time in prayer, playing group games, and eating pizza! Please RSVP to Jenna so we can plan accordingly for pizza.

Navigating our Digital World parent workshop

This will be held on Saturday, January 29th 9-11:30 AM in the church basement fellowship hall. Please RSVP and bring along another parent who would be interested in learning more about how to help our children navigate in today's social media world. Read more details in this month's newsletter.

Papa Murphy's Fundraiser!

Any 8th through 12th grade students going on the National Youth Gathering trip are expected to participate in this great fundraiser! Kids will be given fundraising sheets in the middle of January. Pick-up and delivery will be on Wednesday February 9th just in time for Superbowl Sunday on the 13th.

Please contact Jenna Bents, Director of Youth & Family Ministries, with any additional questions

Worship Service Helpers for January 2022

ACOLYTES

Jan. 2	(9:30 AM) Anna Gordon	
Jan. 9	(8 AM) Isaac Lowe	(10:30) Xavier Bolden
Jan. 16	(8 AM) Mersaydes Marten	(10:30) Jacob Chay
Jan. 23	(8 AM) Tavin Miller	(10:30) Catlyn Freking
Jan. 30	(8 AM) Weston Granstra	(10:30) Liam Gordon
Feb. 6	(8 AM) Joshua Miller	(10:30) Kaden Khamphanh

** Please arrive 15 minutes before service starts. Also, please be sure to mark your calendars. If you cannot fulfill your scheduled date, please find a replacement, and **call the church office with the change.** THANK YOU*

Worship Service Schedule

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Sundays include:

8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service

10:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service

Sunday School & Adult Bible Study is 9:15-10:15 AM

REMINDER – Wednesday night pick-up notice: Please do NOT park, or wait in your car, in the roadway by the north/elevator entrance for your child/ children. This is an active city alley, and we have parishioners coming to attend our Wednesday evening worship service. Parents/Guardians: please park in the parking lot. We have received notices about the roadway being blocked by cars, and our parishioners are not able to drop off family members, who have ambulatory problems, at the door to attend our evening worship service due to this issue. **For the safety of everyone**, please come into the church and walk your child to your vehicle. Also, please do NOT park in the handicapped spots. We have several worship attenders that have permits to park in those spots. Thank You for your understanding.

CONTACT EMAILS:

Church Office (Bev) – stmattchurchoffice@gmail.com

Pastor Mark Schreiber – stmattpastormark@gmail.com

Jenna Bents – stmattyouthdirector@gmail.com

Roxie Leckband – stmatthumancare@gmail.com or stmattparishnurse@gmail.com

Music Directors – stmattmusicstaff@gmail.com