

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN
July & August 2022 Newsletter

Summer Worship Schedule

We will have **ONE** worship service on Sundays.

On Sunday, July 3rd our service will be at 9:30 a.m.

Beginning July 10th our worship service time will change.

At the time of this newsletter printing, we are in the process of finalizing whom our Vacancy Pastor will be. This will determine what time our Sunday morning worship services will be going forward. **A postcard will be mailed out when we have this information.** Also please watch our church website and Facebook page for updates!



Prayer & Praise in the Park **July 24, 2022**

time to be announced

Centennial Park, Worthington

Since there is not a seating area, **please bring your lawn chairs!** A Potluck lunch will take place in the shelter house following the service. Please bring a dish to share.

See instructions below.

Last names "A-L" please bring a salad.

Last names "M-Z" please bring a dessert.

Hamburgers, hot dogs, water, plates and eating utensils will be provided.

Please watch our Facebook Page and our church Website for any updates.

CHURCH RECORDS

Baptism

- Jett Thomas Greenway, son of Cory & Anne Greenway was baptized on June 5.

Wedding

- Kennedy Fitzgerald & Logan Kopplow were united in marriage on June 11.
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OFFERING REMINDER

Your FAITHFUL – REGULAR – WEEKLY offering commitment enables your congregation to meet important summer ministry commitments, and regular maintenance of the building. If you intend to be away for several weeks, please consider mailing your offering to the Church Office. Your consideration will help our Treasurer to be faithful in her duties too! **Thank you for your generosity.** It's such a delight to see how God works through each one of us to be a blessing here in Worthington and around the world! **If you are interested in Electronic Giving, please contact our Treasurer, Tammy Brunk, or Bev in the church office. Thank You!**

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Serving in July will be Marilyn Meyer & LaVonne Berglund and **in August** it will be LaVonne Berglund & Velma Cortright. If you would like to be a part of the Altar Guild; please contact Velma Cortright, 376-5600 or Sandy Meyer, 376-6290.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE (LWML) NEWS

LWML will not have monthly business meetings in July and August. Please continue to have your monthly Circle Bible Studies. The next Business Meeting will be September 1st with time to be announced. At that meeting, Kathy Roslansky will give a presentation on the District Convention. If you would like to know what LWML is really all about, please join us at the September 1st meeting. The time of this meeting will be publicized in the weekly worship bulletins around the middle of August. If you have any questions, or are interested in joining, please contact Kathy Roslansky, 507-360-1831.

THANK YOU

We thank and give God the glory for those serving Mobile Meals for the month of May: Bob & Jolinn Westphal, LaVonne Holt, Linda Lindemann, Gary & Velma Cortright, David & Kathy Roslansky, Anne & Ashley Wagner, Margaret Schroeder, Sharon Rueter, Greg Leckband, Gary Obermoller, Jen Iverson, JR Arnt, Kaitlyn Johnson, Peter Scholtes, Mary Krueger, Virgil & Donna Reed, Myron Meyer, Marlene Jurgensen, DuWayne & Carol Oberloh, Marilyn Meyer, John & Marlene Moberg, Deb Weineke. Thank you for taking time to help serve others.

The July-September Portals of Prayer devotion books are available at each entrance to the church. Please pick up a copy to use for your daily devotions.

YOUNG ADULT NIGHT (19-25 year olds) will meet on Monday, July 18th at 6:00 p.m. at Hickory Lodge. Come out and enjoy pizza and fellowship! We will NOT meet in August. Contact Jenna Bents with any questions.

MUSIC & WORSHIP NEWS

“All I have needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.” LSB 809

Once again St. Matthew is going through a season of transition. We are unsure of what the future holds for us, but we can trust God to provide for all of our needs.

As we wait for God to call our next Pastor, what can we lay members do? We can pray for wisdom, patience, and guidance. We can continue to gather for worship and give faithfully to our church, even if the worship services do not look quite the same. We can build up and support those who are serving us. And we can step forward and serve in areas in which God has been gently nudging us.

If God has planted the idea of serving as a musician in our congregation, please act on that idea and help out in any way that you can. If you can play the keyboard or guitar, we need you. If you are a drummer, we need you. If you are a singer, we need you. If you know enough about the organ to be able to play hymns, we need you. Please contact the church or me if you are interested in serving as a musician at St. Matthew, or if you know someone who could serve us.

Finally, a big thank you to all of our band members, substitute keyboard/organ players and tech crew members who have stepped forward to help out during my medical absence. You have helped out in a tough situation, and it is appreciated more than I can say!

God's Blessings,
Lorenda Glade

Highlights from the June 14, 2022 Church Council Meeting

The actual Minutes cannot be printed because they have not yet been approved.

Treasurer: May expenses were \$39,296.45 and income was \$46,680.96, leaving the General Fund at \$74,834.89. Other balances on 5/31/22 were: Building Fund \$2,710.06, Youth Account \$28,791.84, Momentum One (Scholarship) \$695,190.13, Momentum Two \$218,502.38, Memorial Fund \$92,974.03.

Staff Reports: *Pastor Mark* – Average Sunday attendance in May was 233. YouTube view remain constant. *Roxie* – June is recognized at Men's Health Month. We received donations from local businesses for treat bags for the Block Party. Adult Singles Group addressed a model called SOAP when reading scripture and reflected on God's plans for the group members and the group as a whole. "Women in the Word" meets on Wednesday mornings with a study on Angels. *Jenna* – Young Adult Night continues to meet once a month at Hickory Lodge. A high school youth leadership team of Evan, Nia, Aria, and Maelie will meet once a month to help plan things. We are taking a break for the summer but will offer periodic fellowship opportunities throughout the summer. National Youth Gathering is July 7-14, 2022. Please keep the 7 adults and 28 students in your prayers. There will be a Faith & Family event at Centennial Park on Sunday, August 14 at 11 a.m. I am planning and recruiting for the beginning of Fall 2022 as I will be on maternity leave August 8-October 31. *Lorenda* – Organ has been tuned and reported in good working order. Arranging for substitute musicians as she will be out beginning June 15th on a medical leave for about 4-6 weeks.

Board of Elders: Substitute pastors are getting lined up through Pastor Sajban. Call Committee waiting for a list of candidates to review. As long as Covid numbers remain in low count for Nobles County there will be no restrictions enforced to our worship and fellowship gatherings.

Trustees: Maintenance on the church vans and furnace/AC units being looked into. Soundproofing of the new basement area has been ordered and will be scheduled when materials arrive.

Ministry Planning: Working to help building relationships within the church family. Small Group Bible Studies will continue this fall. A men's fellowship will be started.

New Business: Park service will be July 24 with a potluck. Landscape replacements have been ordered.

Next meeting is July 12th at 5:30 p.m.

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE:**JULY****AUGUST****no Acolyte needed**July 24 – Park Service*

3 – Gerret Larson

10 – Lucy Thier

17 – Catlyn Freking

31 – Liam Gordon

7 – Kaden Khamphanh

14 – Dominic Larson

21 – Natalie Meyeraan

28 – Avery Ostrem

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – FAITH & FAMILY EVENT scheduled for Sunday, August 14th at 11:00 a.m. at Centennial Park Shelter House. We will enjoy a potluck meal and spend time in fellowship as the kids play at the splash pad or park. Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share! Barbeque sandwiches and water will be provided. RSVP to Jenna Bents. Thank You!

A NOTE FROM OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT:

Statement of Blessing

June 19, 2022

Dear St. Matthew Lutheran Church,

Thank you for graciously supporting me these past four years as I attended Concordia University Wisconsin (CUW) in their pre-seminary program. I look forward to continuing my journey towards becoming a pastor at Concordia Seminary St. Louis this fall!

I remember being welcomed into St. Matthews four years ago as I began this journey towards pastoral ministry. So much has happened since 2018! I am grateful for your openness and willingness to involve me in the worship life of St. Matthews and the practical experience which it has given me. I have appreciated getting to know you and look forward to continuing to be involved at St. Matthews, even as I continue my studies at Seminary. I have also enjoyed being mentored by Pastor Mark and I know that we will all miss him deeply as he pursues the Lord's call to ministry in Hudson, Wisconsin.

These past four years, I have been so blessed at CUW. I was able to study biblical Greek and biblical Hebrew to prepare for my studies at seminary as well as Christian philosophy, cross-cultural missions, theology, and evangelism. I have also been blessed to be able to participate in ministry in a wide variety of ways in the campus ministry programs at CUW: leading Bible studies, coordinating the Men's Ministry, tutoring Greek, participating in the pro-life ministry, helping lead worship services on campus, and ministering as a Faith Associate to incoming students in the residence halls. This past year, I was also able to research and present a capstone senior thesis on a theological defense of personhood and the sanctity of life. St. Matthew's generous support of me these past four years has made it possible for me to participate in all these activities.

I am excited to attend Concordia Seminary this fall, where I will be taking more pastoral ministry classes and becoming more involved as a seminarian. I am looking forward to beginning residential field work, where I will be joined to a church in St. Louis: preaching, teaching, and engaging in ministry. I also look forward to being able to use these skills at St. Matthews whenever I come back and visit. God certainly has an exciting future for me at seminary, and I am so thankful that God has used you to aid me in this path!

Thank you again for your support of me as I continue to prepare to be a pastor.

In Christ,
Isaac Hedstrom

YPOG NEWS:

Middle & High School Youth

Verse of the Month: *“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20*

Calendar of Events:

July 3	Worship 9:30 AM
July 7	Depart at 2:00 PM for National Youth Gathering trip in Houston, TX
July 10	Worship (<i>watch for time to be publicized</i>)
July 14	Return from National Youth Gathering trip
July 17	Worship (<i>watch for time to be publicized</i>)
July 20	Post NYG get-together 6-9 PM at Andrew & Jenna Bents' house.
July 24	Worship at Centennial Park (<i>time to be announced</i>) with National Youth Gathering presentation.
July 27	Jr. High (5 th -8 th grade) fellowship event at Andrew & Jenna Bents' house 6-8 PM
July 31	Worship (<i>watch for time to be publicized</i>)
August 7, 14, 21, 28	Worship (<i>watch for time to be publicized</i>)

Bonfire, Food, and Games:

There will be a bonfire and game night at Andrew and Jenna's house (29111 270th St, Worthington) on Wednesday, July 20th 6:00-9:00 PM. This is for 8th-12th grade students. We will have a bonfire, lawn games, food, and fun! This event will also be the post NYG get-together to talk about presenting in front of the church on July 24th.

Youth Group and Sunday School:

There will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL during the summer months. Kids and families are encouraged to stay involved with going to worship services during the summer months. There will be a monthly fellowship event held for 8th-12th grade students. Parents and students will be notified of these as things are planned.

Youth Led park service and NYG presentation:

Those who went on the 2022 NYG trip to Houston will present on Sunday, July 24th at the Centennial Park service. Youth and adults are asked to wear their NYG maroon shirts and meet at Centennial Park, you will be notified of the time soon. Youth will also serve as greeters, ushers, readers, worship band members, etc. during this service.

YPOG NEWS CONTINUED:

2022 National Youth Gathering Trip:

28 students and 7 adult chaperones will be going on this summer's National Youth Gathering trip to Houston, TX. They depart on Thursday, July 7th and return on Thursday, July 14th. The theme for this year's Gathering is "In All Things," and is focused on Colossians 1:15-20. Please be in pray for this group as they go out and spread the love of Jesus.



Group photo from left to right -- Back Row: Elizabeth Gerdes, Nia Iverson, Aria Larson, Caleb Barber, Brandon Bosma, Grant Petersen, Lance Gordon, Zack Bos, Carson Wolford, Kyle Vongsy, Jenna Bents. **Front Row:** Amy Khamphanh, Zoie Chantharath, Mersaydes Marten, Jen Iverson, Maelie Holt, Madison Sieve, Nina Freking, Natya Khamphanh, Luke Gordon, Austin Barber, Ron Iverson, Valerie Wolford. **Not pictured:** Paige Barber, Alaina Feit, Anna Gordon, Eli Hansberger, Evan Hansberger, Hannah Henning, Morgan Riemersma-Feit, Ashley Riley, Calah Riley, Kenadie Thiner, Andrew Bents, Bill Gordon.

Jr. High Fellowship Event:

There will be a food, fellowship, and game night at Andrew & Jenna Bents' house for 5th-8th grade students on **Wednesday, July 27th from 6-8 PM**. The address is 29111 270th St., Worthington MN 56187. Please dress appropriately to be outside and to play group yard games. Food will be provided. RSVP to Jenna Bents. Please arrange drop off and pick-up transportation.

Looking Ahead:

High school parents are asked to stop in on Wednesday, September 14th at 5:30 p.m. to pick up 2022 youth group information, details about 2023 mission trip, and fill out the necessary paperwork. Times and details will be in the September newsletter.

Tentative Fall start dates:

- Confirmation & Youth Group Wednesday, September 21st
- Sunday School on Sunday, September 25th

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

Director of Human Care & Children's Ministry News

By Roxann Leckband

Hello, I hope everyone's summer is going well. Take time to enjoy and relax in these "Dog Days of Summer!" As our kids are in many sports related activities I have included information in this newsletter regarding our kids in sports. All kids should be given the opportunity to be active in sports as their health allows. The National Youth Sports Strategy is that all youth will have the opportunity, motivation, and access to play sports. "Everything in moderation" as we encourage our kids to participate in sports we must always remember to encourage them to participate in activities that grow them spiritually. Through prayer and being in God's Word, faith guides us as God works through His Word and Sacrament. We, as adults, need to be examples of being in worship, studying God's Word and being a disciple, We should treat each other with love and kindness. Have a great and "Son-filled Summer."

The Health Cabinet will meet on Tuesdays, July 19 and August 16 at 12:00 noon in the Fireside Room.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

A **"New Bible Class"** will be held on July 25th and July 26th from 5:15-6:30 p.m. **This class is for all 3rd graders and those 4th graders who did not take the class last year.** The Bible Class will focus on the basics of and how to use it. The class will be "kid friendly" with fun activities. **The class is structured for a parent or guardian to attend with their child.** Upon completion of the class the child will receive a New Bible (one they will use for Sunday School and Confirmation). There will be a blessing with the presentation of their New Bible at the worship service on Sunday, July 31st. Please contact me with any questions you may have.

A HUGE THANK YOU to ALL of the VBS helpers, teachers, and Jeanette Varuska, the Chairman of our Christian Board of Ed. The week went great, and we could not have done it without all the volunteers. Thank you to Dawn Dorschner, preschool teacher and helpers Bethany Dorschner, Caleb Barber, Emily Lowe, Liv VanderKooi, and Stella Thier. Also, to Philip Lorch who helped with the 4th and 5th grade kids along with Hunter Echternach; and our other youth volunteers of Nia Iverson and Austin Barber. Thank you to Bill Knigge for driving the van to pick up our middle school youth volunteers. To our kitchen volunteers Bonnie Tillie, Julie Place, Lana Grimmus, Karen Knigge Sharon Rueter, and Marlene Baumgarn. Thanks to Sandie Spittle, Sandy Meyer, and Jeanette Varuska for preparing the casserole and other items for our lunches. The food was greatly appreciated by everyone. Thank you to the Camp Omega guides for great programming and Bob & Jolinn Westphal for providing housing and meals for the Camp Omega guides. Thank you to all who gave so generously to the VBS daily offering. We received \$597.40 in VBS offerings to go to the health needs, and fun things too, for Toby Metteer. Thank you to anyone else who I may have inadvertently forgotten to mention. You are all a great blessing!

Sunday School will begin on Sunday, September 25th please mark your calendars.

Early Communion Class and a parent Confirmation meeting for our 5th graders is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 14 at 5:30 p.m. There will be a letter sent out as well as publication in the September newsletter and future bulletins and on our church website.

The parent meeting for the 6-8th grade Confirmation youth is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 14th at 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Classes will begin on September 21st. There will be a letter sent out, closer to the date, to all parents with more definite details. Information will also be publicized in the September newsletter, future bulletins and on our church website.

(continued on next page)

HUMAN CARE MINISTRY

Widows Noon Group will meet on Tuesday, July 5th (not the 4th as that is a holiday) and on Monday, August 1st. We will meet at Perkins at 12:30. All widows are welcome to join for support of other sisters in Christ who have experienced the loss of their husband.

Widow's Evening Group will meet on Mondays, July 18th and August 15th for a time in God's Word at 5:15 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Followed by a time for fellowship and good food at 6:00 p.m. at Hickory Lodge. All widows are invited. Please join us!

Noon Fellowship will meet on Mondays, July 11th and August 8th at 12 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Watch the weekly bulletins for more information. Join us for tasty food, fellowship, and a time in The Word.

Adult Singles Group will meet on Tuesdays, July 19th and August 16th at 6:00 p.m. Please join us for good food and Christian fellowship. Feel free to invite a friend! We are going to focus on Jeremiah 29:11 as our theme verse for the group.

If you have a health concern, are hospitalized, or you need someone to talk to about concerns, worries and fears please contact me at the church 507-376-6168 or my cell 712-260-3820. During our Pastoral vacancy needs may arise that I can assist you with and if I cannot I will find a Pastor that can assist you. The Lord our Shepherd is with us now and forever leading and guiding us and ALL is under His control. In Christ,

Roxie Leckband

ABOUT THE NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS STRATEGY

The National Youth Sports Strategy aims to unite U.S. youth sports culture around a shared vision: that one day, all youth will have the opportunity, motivation, and access to play sports.

The Strategy is based on research and best practices from the scientific community and successful youth sports programs across the United States. It offers actionable ideas for parents, coaches, organizations, communities, and policymakers to support youth sports participation for all.

Explore the National Youth Sports Strategy and Related Resources:

- Download the complete National Youth Sports Strategy (PDF – 5.7MB)
https://health.gov/sites/default/files/2019-10/National_Youth_Sports_Strategy.pdf
- For an overview of what's in the Strategy, check out the Executive Summary (PDF – 3.2MB)
https://health.gov/sites/default/files/2019-10/NYSS_ExecutiveSummary.pdf
- Discover successful youth sports programs in the National Youth Sports Strategy Bright Spots highlight how successful programs are boosting youth sports participation for all. Learn more at
<https://health.gov/PAGuidelines/Youth-Sports-Strategy>



Read the “Top 10 Things to Know About the National Youth Sports Strategy” (printed on the back of this newsletter’s cover page).

Top 10 Things to Know About the National Youth Sports Strategy

1. The National Youth Sports Strategy is **the first federal roadmap with actionable strategies to increase participation in youth sports**, increase awareness of the benefits of youth sports participation, monitor and evaluate youth sports participation, and recruit and engage volunteers in youth sports programming.
2. The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) developed the National Youth Sports Strategy** in response to Presidential Executive Order 13824, which called for a national strategy to increase youth sports participation.
3. According to the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, youth ages 6 to 17 need at least 60 minutes a day of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity. **Playing sports is one way youth can get the physical activity they need.** Sports also provide opportunities for youth to experience the connection between effort and success, and may enhance their academic, economic, social, and health prospects.
4. Regular physical activity has many benefits for youth. **Youth sports participation provides benefits beyond those associated with physical activity**, including benefits for psychosocial health and academic achievement. Benefits for youth include:
 - Higher levels of self-esteem and confidence in their abilities
 - Reduced risk of suicide and suicidal thoughts and tendencies
 - Improved life skills, such as goal setting, time management, and work ethic
 - Opportunities to develop social and interpersonal skills, such as teamwork, leadership, and relationship building
 - Improved concentration, memory, school attendance, and academic performance
5. Although there are some risks associated with youth sports, such as injury and stress, **research shows that the benefits outweigh the risks.** The National Youth Sports Strategy includes several strategies to help reduce risks and negative outcomes.
6. **Not all youth have the same opportunity to participate in sports**, which results in varying participation rates across demographic groups. This means that youth have unequal access to the health, psychosocial, and academic benefits of youth sports participation. HHS developed the National Youth Sports Strategy to address these disparities and the related barriers in order to improve youth sports participation and access.
7. The National Youth Sports Strategy aims to unify U.S. sports culture around **a shared vision: that one day all youth will have the opportunity, motivation, and access to play sports.**
8. **Everyone has a role to play** in improving the youth sports culture in the United States.
 - Youth can try a variety of sports to find the ones they really enjoy.
 - Adults can promote learning over competition and create safe, fun, inclusive opportunities for youth to participate in sports.
 - Organizations can provide accessible and inclusive youth sports programming.
 - Communities can support collaborations that increase youth sports opportunities.
 - Public agencies can develop policies and provide funding for youth sports opportunities.
9. **HHS plans to help increase youth sports participation** by coordinating dialogue and collaboration between youth sports stakeholders, promoting youth sports messaging, measuring youth sports participation, and funding grants that support youth sports programs.
10. As part of the National Youth Sports Strategy, the **HHS Office of Minority Health and the Office on Women's Health have awarded over \$6.7 million in grants** to 18 communities to promote youth participation in organized sports.

This information is taken from the [health.gov](https://www.health.gov) website, "About the National Youth Sports Strategy."