

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

September 2021 Newsletter

****NOTE: ONE Worship Service on September 5th at 9:30AM****



****Beginning September 12th****

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. Traditional
and 10:30 a.m. Contemporary

****Beginning September 15th****

Wednesday Evening Worship at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday School begins September 26th and is 9:15-10:15 a.m.

**We will also kick-off a Church-wide Campaign
on Sunday, September 26th:**

TRANSFORMED

How God Changes Us

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind . . .

ROMANS 12:2

This is a 7-week experience that will help you experience radical transformation in 7 key areas of your lives as you renew your minds through the Word of God. You will learn how to:

***Grow closer to God.**

***Live life with less stress.**

***Reconcile broken relationships.**

***Handle money better.**

***Be more confident at work.**

The workbook for Bible Study is an all-in-one journal! It contains the study guide for all 7 group lessons, a daily devotional for each day of the campaign (49 total), space for weekly sermon notes, and other tools that will lead to spiritual maturity. **We will need to order the books, so please sign-up if you are interested in taking part in this church-wide campaign. Sign-up sheets are in the Great Hall, or you may call the church office.**



CHURCH RECORDS

Baptisms

- Reagan Sue, daughter of Brandon & Kristen Gruis baptized August 1.
- Ivy Rae, daughter of Cory & Anne Greenway, baptized August 8.
- Leo George, son of Paul & Johanna Kallemeyn, baptized August 15.
- Zane Rodney, son of Corey Steffl & Crystal Seegers, baptized August 21.

Deaths

- Robert “Bob” Obermann passed away July 25, funeral service was July 30.
- Duane Gruis passed away August 3, funeral service was August 6.

Weddings

- Paulina Thavixay & Adam Pass were united in marriage on June 26.
- Connie Payton & Wayne Grantz were united in marriage on August 7.
- Taylor Briggs & Brandon Riemersma-Feit were united in marriage on August 21.

Transfer Out

- Bonnie Habeck to New Ulm, MN

MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS

“Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.” Psalm 100:2

We are looking forward to all our music and worship opportunities resuming this fall after a year off due to Covid. **PLEASE**, if you enjoy making music, consider joining our Adult Choir and/or Bell Choir. Your talents are needed and appreciated!

Our choirs will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 8. Our Adult Choir will meet at 5:30 p.m. and our Bell Choir will begin rehearsals at 7:15 p.m. Please contact the church, Louise Clausen, or Lorenda Glade if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you!

Additional vocal and instrumental soloists and small groups are always welcome to provide special music during offering at our 8:00 AM service. Please contact Lorenda Glade if you have a talent you wish to share at our early service, or Joy Schreiber if you have an interest in participating in our 10:30 service worship band.

Our Wednesday evening worship service will resume on September 15 at 6:30. This is an excellent worship option for those who are frequently gone on weekends, have children in Wednesday church activities, or wish to attend a more informal service.

Finally, we need people to provide for our technology needs. We need sound techs, screen operators, and a Producer for our Livestream. Having several people available to serve in these areas will reduce the load on the people who are serving us now. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

Lorenda Glade and Joy Schreiber, Directors of Music

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 (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) NEWS

Please join us for the first meeting of the year for LWML. We will meet at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 2 in the fellowship hall. The Executive Board will host. On the agenda is discussion for our Annual Harvest Dinner!

Save the date! October 7th, 7 p.m. - Members of St. Matthew's are invited to a presentation by John Galstad on Thursday, October 7th at 7:00 p.m. John has been interested in photography for years, and for the past several years has been photographing nature. His presentation is titled, "To the Glory of God." Please join us for this humorous and factual program. Enjoy the awesomeness of God's creation! LWML is providing dessert and coffee following this presentation.

Zone Rally on October 2nd - Make plans to attend the Worthington Zone LWML Rally to be held on October 2 at 9:00 a.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Rost Township, Rural Lakefield. Watch for more information in the church bulletin in September.

The September 19th Coffee Hour will be hosted by the Sarah Circle.

Circle Meetings for September

Ladies - we have a couple circles that meet each month for Bible Study. Feel free to come and join in. The Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, September 14th at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Room. The Sarah Circle will meet on Tuesday, September 21st at 1:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

YOUNG ADULT NIGHT

Are you between the ages of 18 and 25 and looking to connect with other young adults from our church and community? We are offering a Young Adult Night on the 3rd Monday of each month starting on September 20th at the Hickory Lodge in Worthington. Come out and enjoy pizza and fellowship! For more information, please contact Jenna Bents at the church office.

FAMILY EVENTS

We will be planning some family events throughout the year. Our first one will be sometime in October. Be on the lookout in our next newsletter and church website for more information and details! Contact Jenna Bents with any questions.

THANK YOUS

Dear St. Matthew Church,

Thank you for the beautiful quilt! Whenever I use it, it will remind me that He is always by my side and that I am wrapped in His embrace. Thank you for teaching me more and more about Jesus! I really love all the Bible stories and lessons that you have taught me. Thank you again!

*With God's Love,
Ivy Paplow*

Thank you to Kathy Roslansky and Jenola Dickman for the 50 Baptismal Napkins they lovingly made for the children being baptized in our church.

St. Matthew's Altar Guild

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN CARE MINISTRIES/PARISH NURSE

By Roxann Leckband

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Well, we can definitely feel the coolness in the air and the length of days getting shorter. We see signs of school beginning and the beginning of the leaves turning. Flowers are not as colorful as they once were. We are on the edge of another season of the year. Fall will soon be upon us along with the blessings it brings for us. For some individuals the weather and season change are welcome. Some are sad to see summer waning.

Fall is an exciting time in the church as our fall programs are beginning. Sunday School, Confirmation classes, vocal and bell choirs, and the youth and family ministries just to name a few. I hope, like me, you are excited and motivated to make worship and our church ministries a priority in your life.

As schedules change and the increased demands happen as the “lazy days of summer” are gone, stress may become a reality. Our emotional health is a part of our overall wellness. Managing stress and understanding your feelings is important to better care for yourself. I have included an information sheet, in this newsletter, on the common warning signs of mental illness. If you have questions about the information sheet or concerned about yourself or a loved one make sure you contact your medical provider. You may also contact me at the church with questions you may have or if you need someone to talk to my door is open and my ear is ready to listen!

Please let us know if you have an individual or family who could use support. Our Human Care ministry would love to help. If we do not know of people needing care, we cannot help. Please let the church know if you are in the hospital or ill and would like a visit.

Important Children & Education Ministry Dates:

- Early Communion Class for 5th graders on September 8th from 5:30-7:30PM
- Confirmation Registration for 5th-8th graders on September 8th from 5:00-6:30PM
- 5th grade Blessing during the 8:00 and 10:30 worship services will be on September 19th
- Sunday School Teacher Meeting on September 12th from 9:30-10:15 in the Fireside Room. This will be to pick-up materials, class lists, teaching schedules, etc.
- Confirmation classes for 5th-8th graders begin on September 15th and are from 5:30-6:25PM. There will be a light “kid-friendly” supper served from 5:10-5:25PM
- Sunday School begins on September 26th for Pre-school-8th grades. Registration forms are on the church website and available at each entrance to the church.
- Wednesday Night Sunday school will begin on September 8th at 5:30PM. A meal will be served at 5:10. The class will go until 6:25.
- Teacher Installation will be on September 26th during the 8:00 and 10:30 worship services.
- Pre-school Sunday School Blessing will be on October 3rd during the 8:00 and 10:30 services for those children who are starting Sunday school or began in the middle of last year and missed the blessing. A children’s Bible will be presented to each child with the blessing.

Adult Ministries for September:

- Noon Fellowship will be on Monday, September 13th at 12:00 noon. The menu will be chicken breast and mashed potatoes and gravy. Please bring a dish to share or a free-will offering or just yourself. There will be a blood pressure screening at 11:30. This is for anyone who wants to attend!
- Widow’s Group will be at 5:15PM on Monday, September 27th. We will meet in the Fireside Room for a time of devotion and support from 5:15-6:00 and then go to the Hickory Lodge for supper.
- Health Cabinet will be at 12:30 in the Fireside Room on Tuesday, September 14th.

August 10th Council Meeting Highlights

These are just Highlights, as the actual Minutes will not be approved until next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: July income was \$35,532.67 with expenses of \$42,691.53, leaving the General Fund balance at \$51,788.92. Other July 31st balances were: Youth account \$25,097.65; Momentum One = Emma Schade Scholarship Fund \$763,153.61; Momentum Two - \$103,406.65. The money from the house sale will be deposited into Momentum Two. Memorial Fund balance \$37,173.92

Staff Reports: *Pastor Mark:* Average July weekend attendance = 155. Average weekly YouTube views July 4th & 11th was 70; average views for July 18th & 25th were 45 for 8am service; 31 for 10am service.

Roxie: Accompanied youth on mission trip to Idaho. Making ministry contacts with families about upcoming classes for children and contacts with parishioners related to health, assisted living, home-bound, and working with the Health Cabinet. *Jenna:* 34 adults and students went on a mission trip to Shoshone in Idaho. Typically, 15-20 kids have attended the supper and game nights held at our home for high schoolers. Working with the Youth Board planning the 2021-2022 calendar with fundraising events, special events, service projects, mission trips, curriculum, etc. One change this year, instead of having High School Sunday School there will be what is called "Youth in Action" hour. Looking at starting a Young Adult (18-25) ministry. Small Group Ministry is going to start up again in the fall, kicking off with a 7-week series. I have officially completed all required Concordia coursework and year-long internship to become a DCE. Thank you for all the prayers and encouragement the last 3 years. The support of the church body has been absolutely wonderful, and I feel honored to be a part of St. Matthew. *Lorenda:* Worked on the Organ Dedication service. Plans are underway for resuming music activities in September. Linda Lang is available to help with fill-in organ duties on Wednesday evenings and accompanist for the Adult Choir.

Elders: Chairs in church were moved for easy access for wheelchairs and strollers. Wednesday services will begin September 15th. There will be one service September 5th at 9:30 a.m. Job Descriptions of Roxie, Jenna, and Bev are being reviewed with staff, Pastor and Elders.

Trustees: Re-appointed Jesse and Jerry as Co-Chairs for this term. Discussed landscaping issues. Discussed irrigation problems. Did several maintenance items in the church and cleaned up some of the landscaping. Checked vans for the youth trip. Looking at door openers for the Canopy entrance.

Board of Ed: Sunday School materials have been ordered, Enduring Faith from CPH. Still recruiting teachers. Sunday School starts September 26th. Teach meeting will be September 12th between services.

Old Business: Organ dedication is set. Sudanese keyboard being purchased. Bill Gordon, Mike Dierks, and Ron Iverson are the Employee Benefits committee. Tree trimming will cost \$900. Looking at new "inside" for the church sign on corner of Dover & Burlington. Plans being made for repairing landscaping.

New Business: Budgets are due next month at Council Meeting for review. Final approval by the Council is in October with the budget presented at the October Voters Meeting. Jenna's installation is August 29.

Ministry Planning Board: Plans for small group Bible studies for fall are being made. There will be 6-7 groups, with Pastor doing a large group that will also be on Zoom during the Sunday Bible Study hour. Rooms to be used for the Bible Study are: basement fellowship hall, Nursery, Conference Room, Pastor's Office, The Great Hall, Koinonia Korner. Some people have volunteered to be facilitators, others still needed. Members are encouraged to lead, participate, and invite others to join. The Block Party has been put on hold until Spring.

The next Administrative Council & Ministry Planning Board meeting will be on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 5:30p.m.

A TRUSTWORTHY WEBSITE

Are you looking for a trustworthy website that provides consistently reliable and insightful commentary on current issues related to the interplay between Church and culture. Take a look at The Colson Center for Christian Worldview: colsoncenter@colsoncenter.org. The Colson Center, as its name implies is dedicated to promoting a Christian worldview in our nation. Especially it's "BreakPoint Daily" podcasts. This site is highly recommended for those who want an easy-to-understand source for a wide variety of issues.

Acolyte Schedule

8:00 AM

10:30 AM

September 5 – 9:30 A.M. = Anna Gordon

September 12

Isaac Lowe

Morgan Riemersma-Feit

September 19

Mersaydes Marten

Jordan Schreiber

September 26

Tavin Miller

Addison Peralta-Cross

October 3

Camren Luther

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!

TECH CREW OPPORTUNITIES

Anyone can be a part of this Ministry – Adults and Youth!

We also have families that do it together!

Since the update of our balcony technology equipment last year, our Tech Crew positions have changed a little. It is now more critical to have 3 Tech Crew Members in the balcony for each worship service. The equipment is easy to run, and we will work with you on the training and scheduling. The more operators we have, the easier the scheduling is! Contact Bev in the church office or go up to the balcony and observe what is done for a worship service. The positions are: Soundboard Operator; Producer (Livestream/Record/Camera Operator); Screen Operator (*Super simple - use one finger to advance the screens*). **Thank You!**

"Women Seeking God - Bloom" Conference

St. Matthew's is hosting this wonderful event again this year. Mark your calendars and register to attend this multi-denominational weekend event on **Friday, September 24, 6-9pm and Saturday, September 25, 9am-3pm.**

The conference includes: evening treats, light breakfast, catered lunch.

You will experience a weekend of encouragement & fellowship featuring Tera Elness and Amanda DeYounge.

To register call Love INC (507) 727-7290 or go to the website, www.womenseekinggodbloom.eventbrite.com

Early Bird special through Sept 10 - \$49,
after Sept 10 - \$59.



YPOG NEWS:

Middle & High School Youth

Verse of the Month: *“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.” Colossians 1:15-17*

Calendar of Events:

Sept. 8	Parent and YPOG meeting 5:00 PM in church basement Confirmation Registration 5:00-6:30PM
Sept. 12	Worship 8:00 & 10:30 AM
Sept. 12	Laser Tag & Bible Study Event 12-5 PM
Sept. 15	Confirmation & Youth Group starts. Youth group 5:30-7:00 PM.
Sept. 19	Worship 8:00 & 10:30 AM
Sept. 22	Confirmation (5:30-6:30 PM) and Youth Group (5:30-7:00 PM)
Sept. 26	Sunday School (Pre-K through 8 th) & Youth in Action (9 th -12 th) begins 9:15-10:15 AM. Worship 8 & 10:30 AM.
Sept. 26	H.S. Jr/Sr night at Andrew and Jenna Bents' house 6-8 PM
Sept. 29	Confirmation & Youth Group

Parent & YPOG (9th-12th grade) Meeting: There will be an informational meeting for all high school parents and students at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, September 8th in the new part of the church basement. This meeting will go over the 2021-2022 calendar year, 2022 National Youth Gathering trip, filling out important paperwork, special events, fundraisers, service projects, etc. Please let Jenna know if you CANNOT make this meeting! All 8th grade students who are interested in going on the 2022 National Youth Gathering trip must arrange a time to meet and discuss with Jenna about the trip.

Laser Tag & Bible Study Event: We will have a private laser tag event on Sunday, September 12th at Galaxy Gaming in Sioux Falls, SD. We will have pizza for any kids going in the church basement after second service (11:45 AM) and the church vans will depart at 12:30 PM for Sioux Falls. We will participate in laser tag and have a group Bible Study & dessert while there and be back to Worthington about 5:00 PM. Cost is \$20/student. Please RSVP to Jenna if your student would like to attend.

YPOG NEWS CONTINUED:

Youth in Action: We are trying something new for the High School students on Sunday mornings. High school students will meet in the youth room at 9:15 AM for a quick devotion and prayer and then will be sent off to be a part of different service areas during the Sunday School hour (helping teach children's classes, attending adult small groups, worship band, tech crew, service projects, coffee hour, omelet feeds, etc). The goal is to have more intergenerational ministry opportunities and for them to be encouraged in involvement in the larger church body.

2022 National Youth Gathering Trip: The National Youth Gathering trip will be July 7-14 in Houston, Texas. These dates include travel days. This trip is open for this year's 8th-12th grade students. The theme is "in all things" and focuses on Colossians 1:15-20. Financial commitment is \$450/student. A \$200 non-refundable deposit is due by Wednesday, October 6th to reserve your spot! To learn more about the National Youth Gathering trip, please visit lcmsgathering.com and contact Jenna with any further questions.

Hoagie Fundraiser: High school students are asked to sell hoagies for their Fall fundraiser. Sheets will be handed out at the Parent and YPOG meeting and mailed out to parents. All orders and payments are due by Wednesday, October 6th. Hoagie pick-up will be on Wednesday, October 20th from 5-7 PM at the Hy-Vee conference room.



Family Tech Crew: We want families to be involved in our tech crew on Sunday mornings. This can be a great way for parents and youth to serve together! Please contact Jenna or Bev at the church office if you would be interested in learning more about how you can serve in this area.

High School Junior & Senior Night: It's your last two years of high school and you are already probably thinking about and have been asked the questions, "*What are your plans for after high school and what are you going to be doing?*" You may be wrestling with a lot of different questions as you look to the future ahead. The 4th Sunday of every month Sept-April (except December will be on the 19th), H.S. Juniors & Seniors are invited over for a home-cooked meal and fellowship at Andrew and Jenna Bents' house. We will have open, relaxed conversation about life after high school and bringing your faith with you, utilizing the topics from "*Sticky Faith: 10 Lessons to Nurture Faith Beyond High School*" by Dr. Kara E. Powell & Brad M. Griffin. The first one will be on **Sunday, September 26th 6-8 PM**. Please RSVP to Jenna