

*St. Matthew Lutheran Church*  
*1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN*  
*December 2025 Newsletter*



**Mid-Week Advent Worship Services  
will take place on Wednesdays,  
December 3, 10 & 17 at 6:30 p.m.**

**This year's theme is, Every Heart Prepare.  
Devotion books are available in the Great  
Hall. More information is included later in  
this newsletter. Come early each**

**Wednesday and enjoy wonderful fellowship and a delicious  
Advent Supper served from 5:00-6:00 p.m. Watch the weekly  
worship bulletins for more information.**

**Here is the FULL Advent & Christmas Service Schedule. Please post  
this in a prominent place so it is readily available for you to check:**

- November 30 – First Sunday in Advent = One Service at 9:00 a.m., Communion
- December 3 – Mid-Week Advent Worship Service at 6:30 p.m.
- December 7 – Regular Worship Schedule (8:00 & 10:15 a.m.)
- December 10 – Mid-Week Advent Worship Service at 6:30 p.m.
- December 14 – Regular Worship Schedule (8:00 & 10:15 a.m.)
- December 17 – Mid-Week Advent Worship Service at 6:30 p.m.
- **December 21 – Children's Christmas Service at 9:30 a.m. (Communion offered after the service)**
- Christmas Eve – Worship Services at 5:00 & 7:00 p.m.
- Christmas Day – Worship Service at 9:00 a.m. with Communion
- December 28 – One Worship Service at 9:00 a.m. with Communion
- December 31 – No Worship Service

**Please Note: there is NO Sunday School or Adult Bible Study on  
December 21<sup>st</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>. Also, NO Confirmation Classes, Kids in the  
Word, or High School Youth Group on December 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.**



# FROM PASTOR HAHN:

## Advent: A Season of Hope and Anticipation

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we turn the calendar to December, our hearts and minds shift toward one of the most cherished seasons of the Christian year—Advent. This special time invites us into a season of expectation, reflection, and joyful anticipation as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Advent, meaning “coming” or “arrival,” is a four-week journey leading up to Christmas. It encourages us to pause amidst the busyness of holiday preparations and reflect on the profound mystery of God entering our world as a vulnerable child. The candles of the Advent wreath—Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love—remind us of the gifts Christ brings to our lives and our world.

In Biblical times, God’s people waited long centuries for the promised Messiah. Their wait was marked by longing, hope, and trust in God’s faithfulness. Today, Advent invites us to experience that same hope. Even when the world feels uncertain, the promise of Christ’s coming reassures us that God is with us, bringing light into every darkness.

Advent isn’t just about preparing our homes with decorations and gifts—it’s about preparing our hearts for Christ’s presence. I encourage each of you to set aside moments for prayer, worship, and acts of kindness during these weeks. Consider lighting a candle at home, reading Scripture, and joining us for the Advent services at St. Matthew Lutheran. Let us create space for God’s love to be born anew in us.

As Advent leads us to Christmas, we rejoice in the miracle of Emmanuel—God with us. This is a time to gather with loved ones, share meals and memories, and welcome Christ into our homes and hearts. Whether you can join us in person or in spirit, our church family celebrates this holy season with you.

Rebecca and I would like to thank all of you for the love and joy that you have extended to us. God is good! May the hope, peace, joy, and love of Advent fill your days. As we await the coming of Christ, let us shine as lights in the world, sharing the good news of God’s love with all we meet. Wishing you a blessed Advent and a joyful Christmas!

In Christ’s love,  
*Pastor Hahn*

### Church Partnership with Santurio Monte Sinai

Our Worthington Guatemalan brothers and sisters in Christ continue their partnership with us at St. Matthew Lutheran, so together we may build up the Body of Christ (the Church). You may be seeing people at the church on Saturday Evenings from 7-9 and on Sunday Afternoons from 12:30-3:30. These are the days that Santuario Monte Sinai will be holding their main Worship Services. Currently they will be using the Chapel. Please keep our Guatemalan brothers and sisters in your prayers.

“Hola! Dios es bueno! “God is good!”

### Adult Small Group Sunday Morning Bible Study

Join us Sunday Mornings, between Worship Services, in the lower-level fellowship hall from 9:15-10:00am. This Bible Study is open to all, adults, and youth 9<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> Grades, who are seeking out God’s Word and a deeper relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. During the month of December, we will be refreshing ourselves with Lutheranism 101, some of the basic teachings of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. We’ll look at; God and His Son, Faith and Belief, Heaven and Hell, Church and Fellowship, Sin and Forgiveness, and much more. **If you know anyone who is seeking out membership here at St. Matthews personally invite them to attend with you.** There will be no Adult Small Group Sunday Morning Bible Study on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Every Tuesday morning at 8:30am there is a Bible Study that follows the Church Lectionary Series (*The Scripture Readings we use for the Sunday Morning Service*), that meets in the Church Conference Room. This is open to anyone who would like to attend. We also use ZOOM if anyone would like to join us from home. Contact the Church Office if you would like to consider using ZOOM. Below are the Scripture Readings we will be studying.

### Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>

*Isaiah 11:1-10 – Romans 15:4-13 – Matthew 3:1-12*

### Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

*Isaiah 35:1-10 – James 5:7-11 – Matthew 11:2-15*

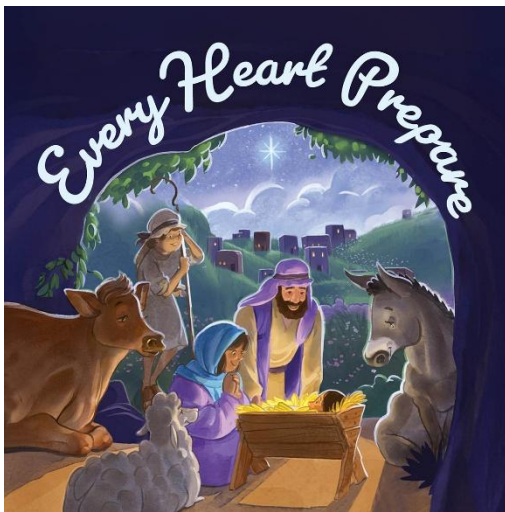
### Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>

*Isaiah 7:10-17 – Romans 1:1-7 – Matthew 1:18-25*

### Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>

*Isaiah 63:7-14 – Galatians 4:4-7 – Matthew 2:13-23*

**Tuesday, December 30<sup>th</sup> – *We will not be meeting.***



## OUR ADVENT THEME: **EVERY HEART PREPARE**

“Prepare!” is often the watchword of the season as the world gets ready for another celebration of Christmas. An integral part of any preparation is decoration. We see decorations everywhere this time of year. The world may not comprehend the real meaning of Christmas, but even secular preparations use many of the same decorations beloved by Christians—an appropriation we shouldn’t mind at all, because these decorations point us to Christ. This year, as we look forward again to the coming of the Messiah, we take a fresh look at how the adornments of the season draw our eyes to Jesus, that we may more richly behold the love, peace, joy, and hope He comes to bring as this beauty is set before us.

### MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 1 (DEC. 3) - EVERGREENS

Evergreens—from Christmas trees to pine garland, from holly to mistletoe—are often part of our holiday decorations. The evergreen decorations help us prepare for the advent (coming) of Jesus during Advent, a season of preparation. Together we will consider how trees—particularly evergreens—have been a focal point of God’s creative and redemptive activities for His people, pointing us to the coming of Christ and the everlasting life He brings.

### MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 2 (DEC. 10) - LIGHTS

Our Advent and Christmas decoration preparation frequently includes using lights. From Advent candles to strings of twinkling Christmas tree lights, these luminous decorations help us prepare for the advent (coming) of Jesus during Advent because they remind us of Christ, who says, **“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life”** (John 8:12). As a result of the light He gives, He also says to His baptized disciples, **“You are the light of the world”** (Matthew 5:14), and He uses us to reflect His light to others.

### MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 3 (DEC. 17) - CRÈCHE

As we prepare for Christmas, our decoration preparation may include the crèche—the model of the nativity scene. The crèche is a distinctively Christian decoration in that it depicts the characters who

were involved in the nativity and early life of Christ: Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the Wise Men, the angels, the stable animals, and—most important of all—baby Jesus. The manger scene reminds us of the timeless narrative of God’s coming to earth as a baby to redeem us from our sins. The crèche also reminds us of what we learn in the Bible and drives us there to find Jesus, as Martin Luther says: *“Here you will find the swaddling cloths and the manger in which Christ lies, and to which the angel points the shepherds [Luke 2:12]. Simple and lowly are these swaddling cloths, but dear is the treasure, Christ, who lies in them”* (E. Theodore Bachmann and Helmut T. Lehmann, ed., *Luther’s Works* [Fortress Press, 1960], 35:236.).

## **CHRISTMAS EVE - THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD - WRAPPED PRESENTS**

We decorate for Christmas. Our decorations include wrapped presents—gifts in colorful boxes and bags that are placed under the Christmas tree. But these gifts all pale in comparison to the gift that started it all at Christmas—the gift of God’s Son, whose birth brings us regeneration, renewal, and eternal life. On Christmas [Eve], we consider how the gifts under the tree point us to God’s indescribable gift in Jesus Christ.

## **WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent – November 30<sup>th</sup> – only one service at 9 a.m.
  - Mid-Week Advent Service – Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent – December 7<sup>th</sup> – services at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.
  - Mid-Week Advent Service – Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent – December 14<sup>th</sup> – services at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.
  - Mid-Week Advent Service – Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent – December 21<sup>st</sup> –Children’s Christmas Service at 9:30 a.m.
- Christmas Eve – December 24<sup>th</sup> – services at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Christmas Day – December 25<sup>th</sup> – service at 9 a.m. with Holy Communion
- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas – December 28<sup>th</sup> – only one service at 9 a.m.

## **A Look Forward to 2026**

### **St. Matthew Lutheran Church’s 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The year 2026 marks an exciting year for St. Matthew Lutheran Church. It is our 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Now 135 years may not seem like a milestone year for many of you but, for me it is a true blessing from God and a display of 135 years of faithfulness and something worth celebrating.

### **St. Matthew Lutheran Church’s Beginnings**

The Rev. Robert Gaiser, the founding pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, came from St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Rost Township, Jackson County. Together with E.L. Schwartz he located ten Lutheran families of German heritage in the Worthington Area and conducted the first service for St. Matthews in a meeting hall above a shoe store on Worthington’s 10<sup>th</sup> Street. That was on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1891.

That’s nearly 135 years ago. How did he get to Worthington in January 1891? Must have been by horse and buggy on a typical Worthington winter’s day (probably windy and cold). How are we going to celebrate this milestone?

It was back in 1991, the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, the evergreen tree on the west side of our current church building was planted to celebrate the year by Dale Behrens and Alvin Sachen. Looking at it today, it has grown into a beautiful tree. Now you know it’s story. What would your story be?

***(If you have a story or memory you would like to share, please submit it to Bev in the Church Office.)***



## A Walk Thru the Old Testament - Teaching the Big Picture of the Old Testament

Many believers are confused about the Old Testament--what it says, what it means, how to apply it to daily life. Some may wonder if it is even relevant today. Others are overwhelmed by it and don't know how to read it. Would-be Bible readers often quit before they make it all the way through the Old Testament.

What if there was an event that could actually inspire people to read the Bible? What if there was an event that made the Old Testament come alive in a fun, clear, and very memorable way?

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church will be hosting such an event on Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am -12:30pm (includes a lunch)**, where a certified Walk Thru the Old Testament (otLive) instructor will be leading us in a fun and exciting event that teaches the big picture of the Old Testament. Attendees will learn the major events and people of the Old Testament and understand its storyline, maybe for the first time.

**This event is for anyone 5<sup>th</sup> Grade through Adult.** The Confirmation Classes (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Graders) and their parents will be strongly encouraged to attend. It will also be open to anyone in the community or surrounding area who would like to attend.

Walk Thru the Bible Ministry has been teaching the big story of the Bible for more than 40 years. Millions of people all around the world have experienced a Walk Thru the Bible live event. Here's what we've discovered: more important than just teaching information, it will also ignite passion for reading God's Word. After attending, a whopping 75% of participants commit to daily Bible reading!

We know that God's Word changes everything. It contains the answers to the challenges that we face today. **So, reserve a spot on your calendar for Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>.** From personal testimony, as your pastor, what you take away from this event will stay with you for many years. Watch your weekly bulletins for more details.

## Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> – Re:Vitality Strategic Planning Begins

Our congregation is vital — it has life. There is vitality wherever God's Word is proclaimed in purity and the Lord's Sacraments are rightly administered. This Christ-centered vitality is the focus of *re:Vitality*, a collection of resources developed by the Office of National Mission to help equip our congregation for carrying out God's mission here in Worthington, MN.

The *re:Vitality* collection of resources includes practical and productive workshops that address serving our inactive members called "Shepherding Our Strays", consensus-based strategic planning for our congregation called "Serving in God's Mission", and how to share the Gospel with your community through effective outreach called "Connect to Disciple". *Re:Vitality* resources are available to LCMS congregations at no cost from the Office of National Mission.

**On Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, between our Worship Services**, we will begin with a Congregational Assessment of Development/Decline Status (CADDs). This Assessment is a **survey-based self-assessment tool that relies on input from people within our congregation** to evaluate our congregation's well-being.



CADDs uses a scientifically-developed 95-question survey to measure three critical elements of congregational well-being: sustainability, adaptability, and balance of outward-inward focus. As we begin a new year and as we look toward the next 5 years of ministry and beyond, this tool may be just what we have been looking for to help guide us with a stronger sense of direction and purpose.



**For this to be successful we need you, all the members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, active and not so active, to be giving your input.** This input will start with a survey that will initially be delivered on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> between Services. The Survey must be completed within 2 weeks of January 25<sup>th</sup> (*that makes the final deadline to have your surveys turned in on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>*).

I'm excited for this opportunity to move forward with you in the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ here at St. Matthew Lutheran. Let's together see where God is leading us.

*Pastor Hahn*

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Due to the snow and ice of our winters, and the unpredictability of weather changes, please use caution when out and about this winter. We will make every effort to keep things clear of snow and ice here at the church, but sometimes the weather just does not cooperate! **Please use CAUTION** in all your outdoor adventures, wherever you go, during the Winter Season.

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## **Christmas Poinsettias to Beautify our Church**

Everyone is encouraged to help beautify our church for Christmas by purchasing a Poinsettia. You can either place an order with us by using the order form included in this newsletter, and return it to the church office by December 8<sup>th</sup>, or you may purchase your own plant and bring it to the church on December 22 or 23. **Please contact Bev in the church office with any questions. Thank You!**



**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](http://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.

***Attention Parents: If the Worthington schools cancel or close early DUE TO THE WEATHER there will be NO evening activities at the church either.***

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### Financial Snapshot:

October Income: \$40,977.69

Monthly Budget: \$43,986.00

Year-To-Date Income: \$356,729.18

Year-To-Date Budget: \$439,860.00



**2025 GIVING** – Please remember, all offerings to the church that you want to be counted as 2025 giving, **MUST PHYSICALLY BE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE by December 31<sup>st</sup>**. Anything received after December 31, including mailed in contributions, must be counted towards 2026 giving. THANK YOU! **The 2026 Offering Envelopes should be arriving soon.** Once we receive them, they will be in the Narthex area, just to the right of the south end of the Great Hall. But we may move them into the Great Hall at some point.

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### LWML NEWS

**All women from the church are invited to our Annual Christmas Party on Thursday, December 4 at 6 p.m. in the basement Fellowship Hall.**

We will enjoy a Soup Supper (3 delicious soups), Christmas goodies, and a special Christmas Program. We will also enjoy a gift exchange. Please bring a gift for \$6.00-\$8.00, some Christmas treats, and a food item for the food pantry. This year we are asking

for baking items (flour, sugar, chocolate chips, etc.) **Hope to see many of you there. Bring a friend!** If you have any questions, call Kathy Roslansky, 507-360-1831.

**Undie Sunday is Back!** Destitute people around the world need basic necessities. Thousands of children in India, Latvia, Liberia, Nicaragua, and other countries helped by Orphan Grain Train do not have good underwear or socks. **You can help! We are collecting NEW underwear and socks** to send to needy people! Men's, women's, boy's, and girl's – all sizes and colors are needed. We especially need girls' size 6 underwear to go along with the pillowcase dresses our Mission Sewing Group makes. We will have a Sunday when we will pray for those who will receive your gifts. **Please bring your items by December 7<sup>th</sup>. Collection boxes are available.** Thank you to all who participate. All items will be taken to Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk, NE.

The Sarah Circle will meet on December 16 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Hope Circle will meet on December 9 at 3 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Hope Circle will host the December 14 Coffee Hour. There will be No LWML Meeting in January 2026.

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### ALTAR GUILD NEWS

**Serving in December:** Sandy Meyer & Sandie Spittle. If you would like to be a part of the Altar Guild, please contact Velma Cortright, 376-5600 or Sandy Meyer, 376-6290.

**Help us beautify our church for Christmas by donating a poinsettia plant. The deadline is December 8<sup>th</sup>. See the information printed in this newsletter or contact Bev in the church office.**

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**Everyone Please Note: The January Church Newsletter will be publicized and mailed out the first full week of January sometime.**

## MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS

*"Let every heart prepare Him room" LSB 387 vs. 1*



We are entering one of the busiest times of the church year—the seasons of Advent and Christmas. The world would have us be too busy to make room for our Savior during the holiday season. After all, there are gifts to buy and wrap, cards to send, baking to be done—the list goes on and on. Please make room this December to prepare your hearts and minds to welcome our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We have many opportunities for “every heart to prepare Him room” during our worship services throughout Advent and Christmas here at St. Matthew. The following are the service dates and times:

### **Sunday Worship during Advent:**

November 30: 1st Sunday of Advent— “Hope”. One blended service at 9:00.

December 7: 2nd Sunday of Advent—“Peace”. Classic service with Communion at 8:00,  
Modern service at 10:15

December 14: 3rd Sunday of Advent—“Joy” Classic service at 8:00. Modern service with  
Communion at 10:15

December 21: 4th Sunday of Advent—“Love”. Our Preschool-Grade 8 Sunday School Students will share “Journey to the Manger” and “Journey to Christmas” with you, beginning at 9:30. Parents of Sunday School students will receive a postcard with rehearsal dates and times. Holy Communion will be offered **following** the program.

**Midweek Advent Services “Every Heart Prepare”** Wednesdays, December 3, 10, 17, 6:30 PM.  
A meal will precede each Wednesday evening service. .

**Christmas Eve Candlelight services at 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM.**

**Christmas Day with Holy Communion at 9:00 AM**

**Sunday, December 28, one blended worship service at 9:00, no Sunday School**

**Sunday, January 4: Normal 8:00 and 10:15 services with Sunday School at 9:15 resume.**

### **For our Adult Choir and Bell Choir members:**

- December 3, 10, 17 = Ladies Choir practice in Chapel 5:45-6:15 p.m.
- Adult Choir meets briefly after each midweek Advent service to practice “Peace, Peace” and Bell Choir approximately 7:30-8:00 p.m.
- Adult Choir sings at the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.
- Bell Choir plays at the 9:00 a.m. December 28 service.

Blessings to each of you as you prepare to welcome our newborn Savior.

*“And Heaven and Nature Sing!” (LSB 387 vs. 1)*

*Lorenda Glade, Director of Music*



### **Women in the Word**

(Wednesday morning Bible Study Group)

A Great Group of Ladies! Here are some of the ladies who enjoyed a time of fellowship and lunch at the Cattails Grill & Catering.

Definitely “Sisters in Christ.”

Join us on Wednesday mornings in the Fireside Room at 9:00 a.m. for Bible Study and fellowship!



## YOUTH (YPOG) NEWS

by Alexie Cross , Director of Youth Ministry

Happy Holidays!

The youth would like to send out a big THANK YOU to everyone who ordered cookie dough! The youth have started another fundraiser for their summer mission trip to Colorado. They are selling Honeycrisp apples from Ocheda Orchard. Order forms are due to Alexie by December 10<sup>th</sup>.

If you are interested in going on the mission trip and did not make the parent/youth information meeting, please reach out to Alexie for more information. This is open to confirmed 8<sup>th</sup> graders going into 9<sup>th</sup> grade through graduating seniors.

**IMPORTANT DATES:** December 10<sup>th</sup> – turn in the apple fundraiser form to Alexie

December 21<sup>st</sup> – Mission Trip payment is due

December 24<sup>th</sup> – No Youth Group

December 28<sup>th</sup> – No Sunday School

December 31<sup>st</sup> – No Youth Group

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## HUMAN CARE & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES NEWS

### Human Care Ministry:

Widow's Group: December 1<sup>st</sup> at Perkins at 12:30, come for good food and great Christian fellowship. December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00 in the Fireside Room for devotion and Christmas fellowship. We will have a Subway party platter for the main entrée. You may bring an appetizer or whatever side dish you would like. There will be a "little gift exchange" during our Christmas party. All prizes are furnished so you do not have to bring one. Please just come and enjoy.

Women in the Word: meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 in the Fireside Room. We are doing a Max Lucado Bible study. On the 31<sup>st</sup> we will have a celebration looking to the New Year. Please bring an appetizer or something sweet.

Noon Fellowship : There will be a celebration of Jesus' birth on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Please join us at 12:00 in the Fireside Room for a ham dinner with cheesy hashbrowns. Please bring a dish to share if you are able. There is always a great deal of food. Invite a friend.

Mobile Meals: St Matthew's turn for delivering mobile meals is December 1<sup>st</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Charlene Wintz, 507-360-3709 if you are interested in helping. Thank you for serving.

### Children's Ministry:

Moms and Jesus' Lil Lambs: will meet on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:30. Moms come for a time of devotion and fellowship while the children have fun with Bible stories, crafts, games, and snacks. We will meet in the Fireside Room and Fellowship Hall.

Kids & Families: on December 30<sup>th</sup> we will have a Birthday Party for Jesus at 10:00. Please meet downstairs. There will be games, crafts, a Bible story, treats, and a light lunch at 12:00. This celebration is for all ages!

### Sunday School:

Reminder there will be a rehearsal for grades 4-8 on Saturday, December 13 from 10:00-11:30. This rehearsal is for the children's Christmas program scheduled for December 21 at 9:30 a.m. The title of the children's program is Journey to Christmas –Meet the Savior. Please have the children at the church for the program on December 21 at 9:00 a.m.

**Please note there will be NO Sunday School on December 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**Parent Sunday School:** please join us in the Fireside Room for Fellowship and to go through the Sunday school lesson for that particular Sunday. We go through the Bible story looking at the Biblical foundation of the lesson. It has been fun being a part of this great group of parents. I also have a reference sheet I hand out for review of the lesson with their children. Parent Sunday school meets when the children's Sunday school meets. Please join us as we reflect on the importance of coming together with the common goal of raising our children in the faith here at St Matthews, in our homes, and in our community. We really enjoy our time together. **Here is a special photo of one our dads who "actively" participates on Sunday morning!**



**Class of the Month:** I will feature a Sunday School Class of the Month from now until May. The goal of featuring a class of the month is that you may get to know the teachers, helpers, and children. Also to inform you of what is happening in the classrooms. Families here at St. Matthews have such an amazing opportunity for their children to be instructed in God's Word. If you know of children who are not attending Sunday School and would like to, please invite them!

### ***Class of the Month: Pre-School***

#### **Teacher: Danika Schmidt**

My name is Danika Schmidt. I am married to Kevin, and we have two sons, Cody and Blake. I work as a nurse at the Avera Clinic. I have taught Sunday School on and off for eleven years but mainly with preschool the past six years. St. Matthews' preschoolers aren't afraid to testify in their



faith and are so matter of fact about it. It reminds me that faith doesn't have to be hard and it's so much fun to be around your brothers and sisters in Christ. Hearing the kids answer "Jesus" in a loud voice for every question asked just brings joy to my heart.

#### **Teacher: Dawn Dorschner**

Hello! My name is Dawn, and I am one of the preschool teachers here at St. Matthews. I've had the joy of teaching just about every age group at one time or another! One of my favorite things in the world is getting to share Bible

stories with little ones and watching their eyes light up as they hear them for the first time. I've been teaching Sunday School since I was Confirmed (let's just say it's been a while), and I've spent the last 18



years teaching here at St. Matthews. At home, my husband Ron and I have three kids and a daughter-in-law all in their twenties and always keeping life interesting! When I am not in the classroom, you can usually find me cooking something new, watching old movies or musicals, or elbow-deep in an arts-and-crafts project. My latest adventure? Learning the beautiful art of bobbin lace -proof that you're never too old to pick up a brand-new skill!

Kids in the Word and Confirmation Classes: will meet on Wednesdays, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. No classes on December 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Thank you to those who signed up to be a Prayer Intercessor.** Do not hesitate to reach out with any questions you may have. I will update you with specific individual prayer requests as the youth request them.

**Health Cabinet** will meet on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 in the Conference Room. Reminder, if you desire a home visit, need assistance with going over your medication list, attending a clinic appointment, or going over hospital discharge instructions, let me know. We have experienced nurses on our Health Cabinet that are willing to assist you.

*May the love, peace, and joy of our Lord fill you during this most blessed Christmas Season and in the New Year to come!*

*Love in Christ,  
Roxie Leckband*

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**ATTENTION PARENTS – please note the following Wednesday night pick-up notice:** Please do NOT park, or wait in your car, in the roadway by the north/elevator door entrance. This is an active city alley. Please park in the parking lot. **Also, with our Wednesday night Advent Worship Services happening this month, we cannot have that entrance blocked, as people will be coming to attend the services. For the safety of everyone,** please park your vehicle in the lot and come into the church and walk your child to your vehicle. Just a “head’s up” for you, we never know when the city police may monitor the handicap parking and the alley. Thank You for your understanding.

### MISSION SEWING NEWS

The ladies of our Mission Sewing Group have been busy the last several months assembling quilts and other items. Recently two deliveries were made to Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk, NE. The deliveries included: 44 boxes of quilts, 16 blankets, 40 pillowcase dresses, 3 boxes of pillowcases, and several boxes of shoes! WOW – that is wonderful! Our Mission Sewing Group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of every month from 9 a.m. to approximately 1 p.m. in the large downstairs Sunday School room. You are invited to join them! No experience is necessary. They will train you! They also always enjoy wonderful fellowship as they work!

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### October 26, 2025, Voters Meeting Highlights –

Treasurer: April 1 to September 30, 2025, Income was \$227,831.11 with expenses of \$233,211.70. This left the congregation a shortage of \$5,380.59. Other September 30 balances include: Memorial Fund \$27,492.07; Youth Account \$18,338.34; Momentum One (Scholarship) \$808,299.32; Momentum Two \$321,462.48. Expenses for DCE Intern, Naomi Vang totaled \$40,930.63 and Momentum One covered \$27,000 of this and remaining cost of \$13,930.63 was paid by the church. Staff Reports: *Pastor Hahn* – The six-month service attendance average was 173, previous six-month average was 190. YouTube views remain constant. Did 36 services, 83 visitations, several Bible study groups and meetings, Circuit Pastor Conferences, and National Youth Gathering. Encourage members

## VOTERS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED:

to volunteer to be involved with church activities. Thank you to staff, all volunteers, and to God for the blessings that St. Matthew Lutheran Church has received. *Roxie* – All groups continue to meet and are going well. Parent Sunday School has started and have been receiving good comments. Mom's Group has changed their name to Moms and Jesus' Lil Lambs. Confirmation is going well. *Lorenda* – Thanks to willingness of people to serve and share their talents. We need more people to do this. Please consider lending a hand. We are blessed to have an adult and bell choir and are thankful as so many churches no longer have any choirs. *Alexie & David* – Sunday & Wednesday youth attendance has been around 13-15 regularly attending. Mission trip will be to Luther Valley Ranch in Woodland, CO. Elders: Thank you to Elders that are serving. Encourage anyone to use the suggestion box. We appreciate any comments/concerns. Will be doing a "Vitality" congregational survey after the holidays. This will help identify what the needs and goals of our church are for the future. Trustees: New furnaces and air conditioners for the Sanctuary are completed. Working on balcony floor and sound system project. Will check on the ventilation in the youth room. Board of Education: VBS went great this year with doing a half day and our own programming. Thank you to everyone that helped. Sunday school is averaging 60-70 kids. Current Business: 2026 Operating Budget was presented. Members raised no discussion. New Business: Basement carpet replacement was requested by LWML members. Stains keep coming back after it has been cleaned in the past. Trustees stated these stains are coming up from below when we get water seepage with heavy rainfall. Trustees received a bid of \$22,000 to replace the carpet. Carpet is best for replacement instead of other flooring due to the occasional water seepage in some areas. A committee will be formed to decide on best carpet option and not to exceed cost of \$30,000. Pastor Hahn informed voters that in 2026 St. Matthews will be 135 years old. Next Bi-Annual Voters Meeting will be held on April 26, 2026, with time to be determined.

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## HIGHLIGHTS from the November 10, 2025, Council Meeting:

Treasurer's Report: October income was \$40,977.69, with expenses of \$33,486.12, leaving the General Fund at \$122,102.33 Other balances: Youth \$11,919.44; Momentum One (Scholarship) \$811,011.77; Momentum Two \$323,486.12; and Memorial Fund \$27,842.07. Staff Reports: *Pastor* – Averaged worship attendance was 87 for 8am and 115 for 10:15am. 11 services performed, 16 visitations, 4 baptisms, several meetings. Listed the upcoming worship services and times, and upcoming January event. Struggle to find enough volunteer tech people for services. *Roxie* – Widows group had 3 new attendees from the community join this month. Moms group is trying a new format. Health Cabinet did a presentation on suicide at Noon Fellowship. *Lorenda* – Organ tuning will be scheduled for spring. Choir and Sanctuary pianos will be tuned in December. Sunday School youth doing well with their songs for Christmas program. Planning Advent and Christmas services. *Alexie & David* – youth attendance remains good. Mission trip being planned. Cookie dough fundraiser made a profit of \$1,000. Will be selling apples from the orchard soon. Elders: Will be sending out postcards to every household about upcoming Advent & Christmas services. Posted request for anyone interested in being an Usher and have received a few new names. Trustees: Lights have been mounted in archway, but not all have been finished being wired yet. Have had the current internet connections checked and some are weak. We received an estimate on replacing our current system. Trustees suggest proceeding with the replacement to correct some of our problems. Board of Education: Christmas program songs are going well. Ministry Planning: Advent meals this year. Will ask for people to plan, cook, and serve. Council will do the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meals. Will decorate the church for Christmas on December 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. New Business: Will arrange for a safety training with police department in February. Pastor mentioned the 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our church in 2026, and everyone should talk to members/groups to see if there is interest in organizing anything. The next Council Meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.



## **Acolytes for December 3, 2025-January 4, 2026:**

December 3	(6:30 p.m.) – Anna Koppen
December 7	8 a.m. – Isabella Trejo      10:15 a.m. – Wren Thier
December 10	(6:30 p.m.) – Sebastian Sieve
December 14	8 a.m. – Aubree Sandersfeld      10:15 a.m. – Sawyer Reese
December 17	(6:30 p.m.) – Hazel Thier
<b>December 21</b>	<b>(9:30 a.m.)</b> _____ - <i>who is available?</i>
December 24	(5:00 p.m.) _____ - <i>who is available?</i> (7:00 p.m.) _____ - <i>who is available?</i>
December 25	(9:00 a.m.) _____ - <i>who is available?</i>
<b>December 28</b>	<b>(9:00 a.m.) - Camdin Riemersma-Reit</b>
January 4	8 a.m. – Keaton Schettler      10:15 a.m. – Jordan Raudenbush

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

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*We wish you all a Merry Christmas  
and Blessings on the New Year!*

