

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN

November 2025 Newsletter



Harvest Dinner

Sunday, November 2nd

Serving from 11:15AM-1PM

Please use the steps or elevator in the north entrance only.
We will serve as quickly as possible.

A "Free-will Offering" will be received for the meals eaten at the church and for any take-out meals.

Come enjoy a scrumptious meal of Turkey and all the trimmings, and delicious homemade pies! The LWML Bookstore will also have boxed greeting cards available to purchase and a Bake Sale!

SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS!

Deliveries will be available within the City of Worthington. These meals are \$10 each. Please call the church office, 376-6168 by Noon on Friday, October 31 to sign-up for a delivery.

A large portion of the proceeds will be given to the Logan Waldner family. If you cannot attend the dinner, but would like to give a donation, please make a check payable to St. Matthew LWML and mail it into the church office.



**REMINDER – DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS
NOVEMBER 2nd – SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK
ONE HOUR when you go to bed on Saturday,
November 1st. HAPPY FALL!!!!!!**





Thanksgiving Eve Worship on Wednesday, November 26th at 6:30 p.m.

Get the long weekend off to a terrific start! Join in the joyous worship of our great God and Savior on "Thanksgiving Eve." Decorations, scripture, and special music combine to make an uplifting time of worship! *Parents please note: No Confirmation classes, Kids in the Word, or HS Youth Group this night.*

Invitation to Dessert Buffet - Following the Special Thanksgiving Service, **EVERYONE IS INVITED** to the basement fellowship hall, for a time of indulging in a **Dessert Buffet** (a variety of cheesecakes, chocolate cakes, brownies, and ice cream), and wonderful fellowship, as a way of saying, "Thank You!"

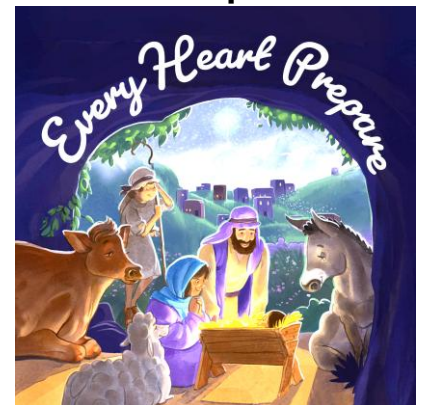


Looking Ahead to Advent

We will have Mid-Week Advent Worship services on Wednesdays - December 3, 10, and 17 at 6:30 p.m.

This year's theme is, "Every Heart Prepare." Devotion books will be available. Here is a little taste of what to expect. More will follow in the December Newsletter.

In our homes, we decorate in preparation for Christmas. In November and December we may spend hours putting up lights in our living space and ornaments on our evergreens. Poinsettias are placed on mantels and presents under the tree, and we "deck the halls with boughs of holly." These Christmas decorations bring enjoyment and anticipation to the holiday.



Advent is the church's season of preparation for Christmas, for the coming of the Lord. This Advent season, as part of our preparation, we reflect upon three common Christmas decorations and how they help us see Christ and prepare for His coming: evergreens, lights, and the creche. Then on Christmas we will focus on the decorated presents which point us to the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ.

WINTER WEATHER NEWS

The WINTER SEASON is right around the corner. **In the event of inclement weather, our church Facebook page will be the first thing updated with a post about weather cancellations, etc. We will also do a push notification on our church App, but if you haven't opened the App recently, you may not receive the notification.** You may also tune into the local radio stations: 730AM and FM stations 93.5, 104.3 and 95.1 to hear church announcements. *The radio station's website is updated quicker than their verbal announcements, www.myradioworks.net*

REMINDER TO PARENTS – *if the Worthington schools cancel or dismiss early DUE TO WEATHER, then those evenings classes/activities will be cancelled here at church also.*

FROM PASTOR'S DESK: I Love You, Jesus!

The pastor had just finished distributing the Lord's Supper. He spoke the words of dismissal, "*Depart in peace,*" when Fred, one of the communicants, with eyes focused on the cross whispered, "*Thank You, Jesus! I love You, Jesus!*" The pastor shared that beautiful experience with his wife. They talked about it for some time, especially the phrase, "*I love You, Jesus!*" We say to each other, "*I Love you!*" We say to our children, "*We love you!*" Our children tell us that they love us. But what about, "*I Love You, Jesus?*" Could He be waiting to hear us say that? Would He be pleased to hear those words from our hearts?

Our hymns and songs are full of love. We sing of tender love, fervent, ineffable love. We sing of boundless, perfect, redeeming, wondrous love. We sing of amazing, holy, gracious love. We sing of creating, pardoning, patient, everlasting love. Furthermore, we sing that the Lord would teach us love: that He would crown our lives with love and keep us in His love. In our songs we ask that we would bring forth fruits of love; that we would be moved by His love; that we may give Him love.

Love is not a mere emotion, an idle feeling or sentiment. Rather, love is an active, working, principle, a motive power. Love is an action word. Ask a little child, how much do you love me? The child will immediately go into action. The bigger the hug, the harder the squeeze, the more the child is trying to express their love.

So it was and is with the Lord our God. Note the word of action in the following: **"God so loved the world that He GAVE His one and only Son,"** (John 3:16) Jesus did not love us and then stay in heaven. Because He loved us, He **CAME** to planet earth and **GAVE** Himself as a ransom for us all. He **MADE** the supreme sacrifice. He **PAID** our debts.

"But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5)

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:13)

"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins." (1 Peter 4:8)

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:35)

There is no question about it, love is the badge of our faith.

Thank You, Jesus! Thank You, Jesus! I love You, Jesus!

Tuesday Morning Lectionary Bible Study

Every Tuesday morning at 8:30 a.m. 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 everyone who would like to attend. We also use ZOOM if anyone would like to join us from home. Below are the Scripture Readings we will be studying.

Tuesday, October 28th

Isaiah 1:10-18 – 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12 – Luke 19:1-10

Tuesday, November 4th

Exodus 3:1-15 – 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8, 13-17 – Luke 20:27-40

Tuesday, November 11th

Malachi 4:1-6 – 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 – Luke 21:5-28

Tuesday, November 18th

Malachi 3:13-18 – Colossians 1:13-20 – Luke 23:27-43

Tuesday, November 25th

Isaiah 2:1-5 – Romans 13:11-14 – Matthew 24:36-44

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.

We will be extending an invitation to Santuario Monte Sinai to be our guests of honor at St. Matthew Lutheran's Harvest Dinner on Sunday, November 2nd. If you see them in attendance, please greet them with, "Hola! Dios es bueno! "God is good!"

Adult Small Group Sunday Morning Bible Study

Come and join us Sunday Mornings, between Worship Services, in the lower-level fellowship hall from 9:15-10:00 am. This Bible Study is open to all, adults, and youth 9th-12th Grades, who are seeking out God's Word and a deeper relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Topic is "The 40 Day Giving Challenge" by Zach Zehnder. The last scheduled session will be Sunday, November 16th for our final wrap-up.

If you have missed a few of the lessons or if you would just like to know more about the Giving Challenge, I would encourage you to look for the Red Letter Giving Challenge on Right Now Media. (*As a member of St Matthews, you have access to RightNow Media – Call the church office for more details.*)

SESSIONS (40 DAY CHALLENGE:GIVING

~~Day 1: Giving Happily (Acts 20:35b)~~

~~Day 2: Giving Eternally (Luke 12:15b) —~~

~~Day 3: Giving Abundantly (Luke 12:48b)~~

~~Day 4: Giving Regularly (Matthew 6:24b)~~

~~Day 5: Giving Today (Mark 8:36)~~

~~Days 6-12: Trading Comfort for Contentment~~

~~Days 13-19: Trading Ownership for Stewardship~~

~~Days 20-26: Trading Scarcity for Abundance~~

~~Days 27-33: Trading Control for Obedience~~

~~Days 34-40: Trading Grasping for Gratitude~~

CHURCH RECORDS

Baptisms

- Scottie Reed, Cecelia Kate, Sylvie Jean Rogers, children of Tanner & Anna Rogers were baptized on October 5, 2025.
- Makoa Jax, son of Tyson & Katie Baisac, was baptized October 12, 2025.

Deaths

- JoAnn Heimensen passed away August 30; service was at Benson's Funeral Home on October 3.
- Wayne Zinnel passed away September 28; service was held October 8.
- Tim Hansberger passed away October 2; service was held October 9.

Financial Snapshot:

September Income: \$28,463.65

Monthly Budget: \$43,986.00

Year-To-Date Income: \$316,926.49

Year-To-Date Budget: \$395,874.00



Serving in November will be Barb Gruis and Nancy Veen. Would you like to learn more about what the Altar Guild does? Do you already know about it, and want to join? Please contact Velma Cortright, 376-5600 or Sandy Meyer, 376-6290. Thank You! They are looking for more ladies to join them!

YPOG (Youth) NEWS By Alexie Cross

Greetings!

This year is off to a great start already. We started our year with a photo scavenger hunt. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves as they rushed to be the first to finish! I have shared some of those photos below.

We have some exciting news! This 2026 Mission Trip has been planned for Luther Valley Ranch in Woodland, CO. There will be a parent and high school student informational meeting on Wednesday, November 12th at 5:30 p.m. in the church basement.

The youth are starting their first fundraiser of the year selling Wooden Spoon cookie dough. Sales are from October 19th to November 5th. Delivery date is November 19th.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- November 5 – Last day to turn in cookie dough order forms to Alexie.
- November 12 – Parent & student Mission Trip information meeting at 5:30 p.m.
- November 19 – Cookie dough delivery/pickup.
- November 26 – NO YOUTH GROUP
- November 30 – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL



LWML NEWS (Lutheran Women's Missionary League)

The next LWML meeting will be on November 6th at 1:30 p.m. We will review the Harvest Dinner results. Also, the Christmas party is coming up. We will review the gifts we give to various local charities. Sarah Circle will host. The November 16th coffee hour will be hosted by the Sarah Circle.

LOOKING AHEAD: Put **December 4th** on your to-do list! We will have our **Annual Christmas Party** for LWML. It begins at 6 p.m. with a soup supper, Christmas goodies, and a special Christmas Program. We will all enjoy a gift exchange. Please bring a gift for \$6-\$8, and a food item for the Food Pantry. **Hope to see many of you there. Bring a friend!**

MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS

By Lorenda Glade, Director of Music

November brings a number of special days in the church year. We begin the month with All Saints Sunday on November 2. On this day, we remember all who have died in the faith, but especially those in our St. Matthew Church family who have died since the last All Saints Sunday. *"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints" Psalm 116:15.*

On November 9, we will recognize at both services those men and women who have served our nation and protected the freedoms we hold dear. Donuts will be served during coffee time between services. *"Blessed be the LORD, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle" Psalm 144:1*

On November 23 we will observe Christ the King Sunday. It is the last Sunday of the liturgical year, just before Advent begins. The celebration honors Jesus as the ruler over all of creation and is a time to reflect on His kingship and its implications for believers. The service focuses on His reign as one of love, mercy, and peace, rather than earthly power. *"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth!" Psalm 46:10.*

Our Thanksgiving Eve service is Wednesday, November 26 at 6:30 p.m. Please take the time to worship that evening and give thanks to God for the abundant blessings we have been given. Following the service, EVERYONE IS INVITED to enjoy desserts and a time of fellowship together. *"Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!" 1 Chronicles 16:34*

We begin a new church year on November 30, the first Sunday of Advent. Join us for our 8:00 a.m. or 10:15 a.m. worship service as we prepare our hearts for the coming of the promised Savior, Jesus Christ. *"A voice cries: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.'" Isaiah 40:3*

May your worship be blessed during this final month of our church year!

Director of Human Care/Parish Nurse & Children's Ministry by Roxann Leckband

Happy November to all of you, a month focused on giving thanks. Take a moment and think of three things you are thankful for. Our Lord is loving and provides for all of our needs daily. We forget at times and take for granted our Lord's gifts. Unfortunately, as some tragedy strikes...a diagnosis, an accident, the death of a loved one...we tend to forget what God has done for us. My prayer is we give thanks always in every circumstance of our lives.

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Philippians 4:4-6

HUMAN CARE & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS CONTINUED:

HUMAN CARE:

Widows Group: November 3rd at Perkins at 12:30 for fellowship, food, and support for one another. The evening group will meet on November 24th at 11 a.m. at Pizza Ranch. **Please Note: the evening group has changed their meeting time for the winter.** We will have a fellowship time and a time in God's Word. We discuss how Widows see God working as they journey through widowhood.

Noon Fellowship: November 10th at 12 noon in the Fireside Room. Please join us as we "give thanks" and enjoy a turkey dinner with dressing, mashed potatoes, and gravy. The Health Cabinet will be doing a presentation on Suicide and Suicide Prevention. Please bring a friend, a dish to pass, a freewill offering or just yourself.

Women In The Word: November 5th and 19th from 8:30-10:00 a.m. We enjoy a fellowship time from 8:30-9:00 and Bible Study from 9:00-10:00. No Women in the Word on November 26th. On November 12, we will have an outing! Please meet at the church at 11 a.m. We will head to the Round Lake Winery for lunch and fellowship. ALL WOMEN are invited, even if you are not a regular Women in the Word attendee. Contact Roxie with any questions you may have.

MOM'S AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:

Moms and "Jesus' Lil Lambs": November 7th and 21st in the Fireside Room and classroom. Come join us from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. for a time of fun as the children play, do crafts, enjoy a Bible story and snacks. Moms will meet for a time of Christian parenting support and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you. Bring a friend! Please see the photos below.



Parent Sunday School: Please join us in the Fireside Room for Fellowship and to review the children's Sunday school lesson that is being taught that specific Sunday. The time is 9:15-10:00 a.m. Refreshments are served, please join us!

Reminder of opportunities for your children:

- Kids In the Word (KIW) for K-4th grades on Wednesday nights from 5:30-6:25 p.m. Supper is served at 5:10. Parents may join for supper.
- Confirmation Classes for 5th-8th graders on Wednesday nights from 5:30-6:25 p.m.
- **There will be NO Kids In the Word or Confirmation Classes on Wednesday, November 26th. Confirmation students are encouraged to attend the Thanksgiving Eve service.**

Sunday School News:

- The preschool-8th graders have begun rehearsing for their Christmas program. The program is scheduled for December 21. Please have your child/children at Sunday school to learn about the birth of Jesus and so they will feel comfortable during the program in December.
- Just to give you an idea of our Sunday School attendance...on October 12th there were approximately 68 children in attendance.
- In order to reinforce stewardship and the concept of giving, please provide an offering for your child/children to give during the music portion of Sunday school. It doesn't matter the amount, just the act of giving to the Lord is very important. Thank you!

SECRET PRAYER INTERCESSORS FOR OUR 7TH & 8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION YOUTH:

Please consider praying for a 7th or 8th grade Confirmation youth. **There will be a sign-up sheet with the youths' names in the Great Hall on Sunday, November 16th.** Please place your name by the youth you wish to pray for this year. I will have the youths' information sheet and picture, so you know about the youth and what specific prayer needs they have requested. The youth and the Prayer intercessor will be introduced to each other at the Confirmation Reception on April 25, 2026. Thank you in advance. If you have any questions, please contact Roxie at 712-260-3820 or at the church 507-376-6168.

HEALTH CABINET

The Health Cabinet will meet on November 18th at 12:30 in the upstairs Conference Room. Please note if you have a need for a shut-in or hospital visit, please notify Roxie at 507-376-6168 or 712-260-3820.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 11 at 3:00 p.m. and the Sarah Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 18 at 1:30 p.m. Both these Circles meet in the Fireside Room. **Feel free to join!**

"Women in the Word" meets every Wednesday morning in the Fireside Room. Social time begins at 8:30 a.m. and Bible Study begins at 9:00 a.m. **Come join us!** *More information in Roxie's article on page 7.*

We want to thank everyone for the cards, gifts, and telling us in-person "Happy 70th Anniversary." Thank you so much.

Don & Lula Junker

USHERS FOR WORSHIP SERVICES

We are looking for volunteers to help with ushering duties for our worship services. You would help with collecting the Offering and releasing pews for communion, etc. A sign-up sheet is in the Great Hall and also on the bulletin board across from the church offices (by the Chapel). A flexible schedule is done for this. Contact Ron Obermoller if you have any questions, 507-360-4863.

HIGHLIGHTS from the 10/13/2025 COUNCIL MEETING

These are only “highlights” as the official Minutes will not be approved until the next meeting.

Treasurer’s Report: September income was \$28,388.65, with expenses of \$35,179.62, leaving the general fund at \$114,535.76. Other September 30 balances include: Youth account \$16,338.34; Momentum One (Scholarship) \$808,299.32; Momentum Two \$321,462.58; Memorial Fund \$27,492.07.

Staff Reports: *Pastor Hahn* – Made many visitations to shut-ins. Did Tuesday morning Bible Studies, Confirmation classes, Early Communion classes. Average Sunday attendance in September was 207 (8AM-82, 10:15AM-125.) Still a struggle to find enough volunteer tech people for Sunday mornings. *Roxie* – Wednesday evening groups going well. Parent’s Sunday School is meeting in the Fireside Room. Mom’s Group is trying a new format. Health Cabinet continues to plan upcoming presentations.

Lorenda – Choirs have resumed rehearsals on Wednesday evenings with Louise Clausen directing. Need more male voices for the choir. Anyone is welcome to join! Bruce Kness faithfully played guitar for worship services throughout Spring & Summer. Special thanks to him for sharing his talents.

Youth Directors: Sunday morning youth attendance is 8-10 and Wednesday evenings is 13-15. Mission trip planned for July 19-24, 2026 to Luther Valley Ranch in Woodland, CO. A parent meeting is planned for November 12. Still need an adult to serve as a treasurer for the youth. Have started first fundraiser. Had first Pray ‘n Play event with 18 youth in grades 5-8 attending.

Elders: Want to do a “Vitality” study of church in January or February. A no cost resource is available.

Trustees: Tree removal in east parking lot was done. Balcony project continues hope to finish in October.

Education: Sunday School is going well. Christmas Program songs are being practiced.

Ministry Planning: Planning to find groups to organize Advent meals.

Old Business: Guatemalan Christian Church have only had small groups attending in our Chapel.

New Business: An estimate has been received for basement carpet replacement and will be presented at Voters Meeting. Discussed hiring a deep cleaning service again after the upcoming Harvest Dinner.

Next Council Meeting will be Monday, November 10 at 5:30 p.m.

Acolytes for November Worship Services

<u>Date</u>	<u>8:00 AM</u>	<u>10:15 AM</u>
Nov. 2	Kysten Willers	Hazel Thier
Nov. 9	Samuel Bents	Hayden Riemersma-Feit
Nov. 16	Jaxon Grimmus	Kylie Bosma
Nov. 23	Kaisley Granstra	Raymond Paplow
Nov. 26 – 6:30 PM	= Jace Riemersma-Feit	
Nov. 30	Keaton Schettler	Cody Schmidt
Dec. 3 – 6:30 PM	= Anna Koppen	
Dec. 7	Isabella Trejo	Wren Thier

Please ARRIVE 15 MINUTES before the service begins to light the candles. If you are unable to fulfill your scheduled time, please find a replacement and then let the church office know about the change. THANK YOU.

2025 GIVING – Please remember, all offerings to the church to be counted as 2025 giving, **MUST PHYSICALLY BE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE by December 31st**. Anything received after December 31, including mailed in contributions, must be counted towards 2026 giving. **The 2026 Offering Envelopes should be arriving in late November sometime.** Watch for more information. THANK YOU!

Isaac Hedstrom
15783 73rd Pl. N.
Maple Grove, MN 55111

Dear St. Matthew Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your support in my pastoral education!

I wanted to reach out to you and share about vicarage at Glory of Christ Lutheran Church, in Plymouth, Minnesota. I am two months into my year-long vicarage, and I am greatly enjoying it. I've preached several times now, and I am currently leading the Youth Group Bible Study on Lutheran Worship and Communion, as well as preparing several other Bible Studies on the Small Catechism and the Early Church. I've also enjoyed visiting all of our homebound members and getting to know my congregation.



Rebecca and I are happily engaged and are making wedding plans. Right now, we have set a date for May 23, 2026.

I am loving vicarage and a chance to experience pastoral ministry. Glory of Christ is a wonderful congregation, and I have two great pastors I get to serve with. God has truly blessed me here, and I am excited for a lifetime of ministry in God's Church.

Rebecca and I are so excited for our forthcoming marriage, and my future ministry in our Lutheran church. We couldn't do it without financial support, so we thank you for gracious support!

Thank you,

In Christ,
Isaac and Rebecca

P.S., I've attached my new address of where I am living on my vicarage. Please send any future correspondence to this address, not to my seminary address.

