

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN

October 2025 Newsletter



October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:00 AM CLASSIC WORSHIP (communion on 1st & 3rd Sundays)

10:15 AM MODERN WORSHIP (communion on 2nd & 4th Sundays)

Bi-Annual Voters Meeting **Sunday, October 26th at 11:30 a.m.**

**A lunch will be served and
hosted by the Youth!**

Included on the Agenda will be the 2026 Operating Budget. Please watch the weekly worship bulletins and our church Facebook page for more information and updates.



Announcing



Fall Programming is underway!

- Sunday School for Preschool-12th graders began on September 21st and meets every Sunday from 9:15-10:00 a.m. A Parent Sunday School meets in the Fireside Room at the same time. Parents, come check it out!
- Adult Bible Study meets every Sunday during the Sunday School time. A new study has just started, Giving Challenge by Zach Zehnder. It's not too late to join. More information is included on page 3 of this newsletter.
- Confirmation Classes for 5th-8th grade youth and Kids in the Word for PreK-4th graders meet on Wednesday evenings, 5:30-6:25 and began on September 24th.
- Our Handbell and Adult Choirs have started their rehearsals. You can find more information in Lorenda's music article in this newsletter.
- High School Youth Group for those in 9th-12th grade also meets on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m.

Contact the church if you have questions about any of these programs!

PASTOR HAHN'S ARTICLE – Jesus is Lord!

Can you guess at how many names and titles are given to the Lord Jesus Christ in the Bible? I have heard that there are over a hundred names and titles given to our blessed Savior! A few of these include: Advocate, Author, Bread of Life, Captain of Salvation, Chief Shepherd, Creator, Dayspring, Elect of God, Forerunner, Governor, Great High Priest, Head of the Church, Immanuel, Judge, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, Lamb of God, etc. As one ponders this long list of names and titles, we begin to understand more fully who Jesus really is, and that in the Lord Jesus Christ we have everything.

Have you ever been driving down the interstate and noticed the billboard that reads, “Jesus is Lord!”? Well, “Jesus” means Savior and “Lord” means one in authority, ruler, the head, supreme, one who has power, one in charge. There is no question about it, JESUS IS LORD. He Himself declares: ***“I am the Lord, that is my name.”*** (Isaiah 42:8).

Ponder what the following Scripture passages tell us about the Lord...

- “But the Lord is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. At his wrath, the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure his indignation.” (Jeremiah 10:10)
- “Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.” (Psalm 90:1-2)
- “For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. (Malachi 3:6)
- “...Lord, You know all things...” (John 21:17)

The fact that the Lord knows all things is quite a warning for us. We can't get by with anything. He knows and sees all. But at the same time, what wonderful comfort and strength for us! He knows when our heart aches. He counts the tears that fall on our pillow at night. Nothing is hidden from Him. What is more, He is everywhere present at one and the same time.

Jesus, who is Lord, is gracious, showing undeserved kindness and forgiveness. “The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.” (Exodus 34:6-7).

Jesus is Lord, which by the way was the first Christian Creed. He is Lord of heaven and earth, Lord of the nations. He is supreme. He is in charge. He rules all things in heaven and earth. He declares, “All power is given to me in heaven and on earth.” (Matthew 28:18) And He has relinquished none of His power and authority.

It's so easy to use that name without giving it much thought and consequently we miss so much. For example, when we pray: “Come, Lord Jesus...” “Oh give thanks to the Lord for He is good...” “Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord...”

With the Psalmist I say, through the power of the Spirit, “Trust in the Lord, and do good; so, you will dwell in the land and enjoy security. Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust in Him, and He will act (Psalm 37:3).

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.

Scripture Readings for the Tuesday Morning Bible Studies:

Tuesday, October 7th

Ruth 1:1-19a - 2 Timothy 2:1-13 - Luke 17:11-19

Tuesday, October 14th

Genesis 32:22-30 - 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 - Luke 18:1-8

Tuesday, October 21st

Genesis 4:1-15 - 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 - Luke 18:9-17

Tuesday, October 28th

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

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 will be 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.

Adult Small Group Sunday Morning Bible Study (*October Schedule*)

You are invited to 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. **We just started a NEW study, Giving Challenge, by Zach Zehnder.** *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* Matthew 6:21

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

ELECTRONIC GIVING AVAILABLE - *A convenient, consistent way to help our church grow!* This allows you to make donations on a scheduled, automatic basis. If you are writing checks and preparing envelopes every week, you will especially appreciate electronic giving. It is convenient for you and provides much-needed donation consistency for our church. To set up electronic donations, simply complete the form available at our Welcome Center in the Great Hall and on our website (click on the "Give" tab) and return the form to the church office. You may also "Give Online" directly on our website. Help us grow! For questions, please contact our church Treasurer, Tammy Brunk, 507-360-8977.

Annual Harvest Dinner **Sunday, November 2nd** **Serving from 11:30AM-1PM**

More information will be available in our weekly worship bulletins, on our Facebook page, and website when the date gets closer.

SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS!

Donations of homemade pies, bake sale items, and helpers for the dining room will be needed. Contact Kathy Roslansky, 507-360-1831; Sandie Spittle, 507-360-1782, or Jeanette Varuska, 507-329-6583 if you can help out.



YPOG (Young People Of God) NEWS

High School Youth = 9th-12th Grades

By Alexie Cross

I am so excited to get back into the youth room for Sunday morning devotion/Bible study and Wednesday night youth group. This year the youth will continue to rotate between the youth room and the preschool room on Sunday mornings.

Our first Youth night was Wednesday, September 24th. We meet each Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. Please join us for Bible study, food, and fellowship. Please watch for information on a parent meeting to be

announced at a later date.

We ask for your continued prayerful and financial support. Youth have some exciting and familiar fundraisers lined up to help with the 2026 mission trip such as Papa Murphys, omelet feeds, Butter Braids and more. Please keep watch for further details!

Reminder: Please check your notifications in the band app so that you can get all of our updates!

Altar Guild News

Serving in October will be Velma Cortright & Alice White. 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

We will have our October meeting on October 2 at 1:30 p.m. to finalize all plans for the October 4 Rally. Sarah Circle will host this meeting. Looking Ahead: We are planning to have the Harvest Dinner on November 2. We will need help with this also.

Circle Bible Studies for October are Hope Circle October 14 at 3 p.m. and Sarah Circle on October 21 at 1:30 p.m. Both meet in the Fireside Room. The October 19 Sunday Coffee Hour will be hosted by the Hope Circle.

Music and Worship News

By Lorenda Glade, Director of Music

"I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever." Psalm 86:12

Worship from the heart is a central theme in the Bible, emphasizing the importance of sincerity and genuine devotion in the believer's relationship with God. This concept is woven throughout Scripture—There are many verses that speak of worshipping the Lord with all of your heart, mind, soul, and strength.

Most of you have probably completed questionnaires that included a Likert Scale. It looks something like this:

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
5	4	3	2	1

So, if you were to complete a Likert Scale with the following questions, which numbers would you circle?

- Worshipping with my church family on Sunday morning is a top priority for me.(This includes online for those unable to attend in person worship.)
- In addition to Sunday morning worship, I spend time daily in prayer and Bible reading/study in order to continue to grow in my faith.
- My Christian faith is not just for Sunday mornings. With the Holy Spirit as my guide, I live out my faith daily in thought, word, and deed.

We are back to having two worship opportunities on Sunday mornings: Our 8:00 Classic Worship, and our 10:15 Modern service. Sunday School and Adult Bible Class are held between our services, and there are other opportunities during the week for fellowship and further study of Scripture. Opportunities to praise God through music are also available through our Bell Choir and Adult Choir on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 and 7:00.

If you have had a busy summer and have not been able to attend worship regularly, this upcoming Sunday is a great time to return to worship. We look forward to seeing you in church!

Director of Human Care & Children's Ministries/Parish Nurse News

by Roxie Leckband

Happy Fall brothers and sisters in Christ! As Sunday school, Confirmation, Kids in the Word, YPOGs, and church-wide Bible studies are in full swing, we have many opportunities to come together to study and learn what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

HUMAN CARE MINISTRY:

- ❖ **Women in the Word** will meet on Wednesdays, October 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 at 8:30 a.m. for fellowship time and 9:00 for Bible study. We are doing a study titled, Untangle Your Emotions ..Discover How God Made You Feel by Jennie Allen. It is easier to push our emotions to the side and move on. This study helps identify our emotions and then look to God for direction through His Word in how to deal with the emotions. Emotions are a part of our mental health. October is National Mental Health Awareness month. We stress the importance of good mental health as we live day to day. Join us, we would love to have you!
- ❖ **Widows' Group** will meet on Monday, October 6 at Perkins at 12:30. Join us for wonderful fellowship and support.
- ❖ **The Evening Widow's Group** will meet on Monday, October 27 at 5:15 p.m. Join as we continue in our book, From One Widow to Another by Miriam Neff. The author uses a Christian approach to help widows navigate their journey of widowhood. The main entrée will

be chicken, potatoes, and pizza from Pizza Ranch. Please bring a dish to share. There are some fun photos below of members of the group from our September meeting.

- ❖ **Mom's Group** will be on Friday, October 10 at 10:30 a.m. Please join us in the Fireside Room and the preschool classroom on the lower level of the education wing of the church.
- ❖ **Noon Fellowship** will be October 13. The main entrée will be shredded smoked pork, mashed potatoes, and gravy. Please bring a dish to share, an offering, or just yourself and a friend!!
- ❖ **Family Fall Festival** will be on Friday, October 17 at 10:30 a.m. Come join us for some Fall crafts, pumpkin decorating, games, and fun Fall snacks. All ages of children are welcome. Let us see all the beauty God gives us in the changing of the seasons.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:

- ❖ **Confirmation** is off to a good start! Confirmation classes are on Wednesdays, 5:30-6:25 p.m. A light supper is served at 5:10 for parents and children.
- ❖ **Pray 'N Play Night** for 5th-8th grade students will be Friday, October 10 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Pizza will be provided. Please bring a snack to share. You may bring a friend. Please join us.
- ❖ **Parent Sunday School** is during the Sunday School hour. This is a time of fellowship from 9:15 – 9:30 or so. We then discuss the Sunday School Bible story and lesson the children are covering in Sunday school that day. There are refreshments served. There are also toys for younger children that are not attending Sunday school.

HEALTH MINISTRY: Health Cabinet will meet on October 21 at 12:30.

**"Everyone Needs A Little Jesus" – thanks to Nancy,
everyone received one!**



**Note: they are all holding little
Jesus figurines!**



LWML Fall Get-together (Rally)

October 4, 2025

St. Matthew Lutheran Church Basement Fellowship Hall

On October 4th, members of LWML across the Worthington Zone are invited to our Fall Rally. **But please note: Everyone is invited!**

We begin the Rally at 9AM with Registration, coffee, and a treat (of course!)
Opening Devotion is at 9:30AM. Lunch is also provided.

Our speaker that day is Wade Wacker. Wade lives in Jackson, MN and is a member at Trinity Lutheran Church in Sioux Valley. He is one of the founders of **Reasons for Hope**. This organization is dedicated to countering the hopelessness prevalent in today's culture. Their vision is to lead people to the true hope found in Jesus Christ by equipping believers with the tools to think critically, discern truth, and share the gospel. Many middle school and high school kids attend their camps to learn how to boldly stand for their faith. Sometimes the youth need personal items, thus the **Gifts from the Heart where we can help** them by purchasing a few things to give to the leaders of these camps so they can pass items to the kids. **Please look over the list to see if there is something you would like to purchase.** If many of us just bring one item, many will be blessed. Thank you for considering. We are also collecting items for Southwest Crisis Center. You can see the items they need. These are for kids in crisis, right in our part of the country. **Thank you all!** *"But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you." 1 Peter 3:15*

GIFTS FROM THE HEART:

Southwest Crisis Center: Diapers (size 4,5,6), baby wipes, feminine products (full size packages), hair accessories (clips, binders, brushes, combs), nail care (files, polish, clippers), cleaning supplies (paper towels, toilet paper, Clorox wipes, rags, cleaning sprays, etc.)

Reasons for Hope: Toothpaste, toothbrushes, wet wipes, toilet paper, kleenex tissues, shampoo (full size), conditioner (full size), body lotion, bath soap, feminine products (full size packages).

Church Records

Transfers

- Jeff Bauer to Spirit Lake, Iowa
- Bethany Dorschner to Eldridge, Iowa

Financial Snapshot:

August Income: \$59,742.81
Monthly Budget: \$43,986.00

Year-To-Date Income: \$288,462.84
Year-To-Date Budget: \$351,888.00

GRAIN OFFERINGS - Any farmers that would like to make a donation to our church using loads of grain may do so by simply telling the grain elevator. Then please call Bev in the church office with the information, so she may call the elevator and get a check sent to the church. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



Highlights from the September 8, 2025 Council Meeting

Treasurer's Report: August income was \$59,742.81 with expenses of \$41,035.96, leaving the General Fund balance at \$121,281.85. The income included a transfer from Scholarship Fund of \$27,000 for funding the DCE Intern position for the past year, as was set previously. Other 8/31/25 balances were: Youth Account \$15,040.00; Momentum One (Scholarship Fund) \$793,533.51; Momentum Two \$315,036.76; Memorial Fund balance was \$27,367.07.

Staff Reports: *Pastor Hahn:* Average Sunday attendance was 149 for August. Preparing for upcoming Confirmation classes and Early Communion classes for 5th graders. MN South Pastor's Conference is October 5-7. Red Letter Giving Challenge Bible Study starting soon. *Roxie:* Will be having Parent Sunday School each Sunday in the Fireside Room for parents to attend while their children are in class. Parents will have the same lesson as their child so families can discuss it at home. Confirmation prep is completed and volunteers ready to begin on September 24. *Lorenda:* Choir rehearsals will resume on September 24. Continuing to plan Christmas programs for the Sunday School kids.

Elder Report: Discussed Vitality program. Open youth worker position has been filled. Thanksgiving Eve worship service with Volunteer Appreciation Dessert Buffet following the service.

Trustees Report: Have received 2 bids for removal of tree. A decision will be made soon, as would like tree removed before winter. Balcony floor and sound system project hoping to be completed October.

Board of Education: Sunday School teachers all have their materials. Changed a couple of rooms around for better traffic flow.

Youth Ministry: Looking for parents and youth to join the Youth Board. Will be looking for an adult Treasurer for the Board.

Old Business: DCE/Youth position: David & Alexie Cross have been hired to fill the open youth position. David will be working with youth in grades 5th-8th and Alexie will be working with 9th-12th. Their position started September 1st.

New Business: Basement carpet issue was discussed with several options mentioned. Discussed need for 2 adults to be given authorization to be signers on the youth checking account.

Next Executive Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 13 at 5:30 p.m.

OCTOBER ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>8:00 AM</u>	<u>10:15 AM</u>
October 5	Nicholas Marotzke-Kunze	Sawyer Reese
October 12	Ian Metteer	Jordan Raudenbush
October 19	Aubree Sandersfeld	Dominic Leckband
October 26	Cody Schmidt	Camdin Riemersma-Feit
November 2	Kysten Willers	Hazel Thier

Please remember to arrive at least 15 minutes before the service begins. If you cannot fulfill your scheduled date, please find a replacement, and call the church office with the change, 376-6168.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

October 26th is Reformation Sunday!