St. Matthew Lutheran Church

1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN

December 2026 Newsletter



Mid-Week Advent Worship Services will take place on Wednesdays, December 2, 9 & 16 at 6:30 p.m. This year's theme is, <u>The Promise Comes To Pass</u>. Devotion books are available in the Great Hall. More information is included later in this newsletter. Watch the weekly worship bulletins for more information.

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

- November 29 – First Sunday in Advent = One Service at 9:00 a.m., Communion
- December 2 – Mid-Week Advent Worship Service at 6:30 p.m.
- December 6 – Regular Worship Schedule (8:00 & 10:15 a.m.)
- December 9 – Mid-Week Advent Worship Service at 6:30 p.m.
- December 13 – Regular Worship Schedule (8:00 & 10:15 a.m.)
- December 16 – Mid-Week Advent Worship Service at 6:30 p.m.
- **December 20 – Children's Christmas Service at 9:30 a.m.** ***(only ONE service)***
- Christmas Eve – Worship Services at 5:00 & 7:00 p.m.
- Christmas Day – Worship Service at 9:00 a.m. with Communion
- December 27 – One Worship Service at 9:00 a.m. with Communion
- January 3 – Regular Worship Schedule (8:00 & 10:15 a.m.)

<u>Please Note</u>: there is NO Sunday School or Adult Bible Study on December 20th or 27th. Also, NO Confirmation Classes, Kids in the Word, or High School Youth Group on December 23rd & 30th.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church is a growing church…a relational church…a welcoming church whose mission it is to build caring relationships in the love of Jesus Christ!

Our Mission

The Mission of St. Matthew Lutheran Church is the same mission Jesus gave to His followers: ***"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."***
We want to reach in and reach out with the love of Christ.

Our Vision

The Vision of St. Matthew Lutheran Church is to help people grow in their relationships with their family, with the members and staff, with others, and most of all, with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

FROM PASTOR HAHN:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This Advent and Christmas, our theme is ***"The Promise Comes to Pass."*** It is a simple phrase, but it carries the whole story of our faith. From the garden to the prophets, God has been making promises to His people. And at Christmas, we see that God keeps every one of them.

Think of the promises we have heard in *The Story*. God promised Abraham a family that would bless the world. He promised David a King whose kingdom would never end. Through Isaiah He promised, "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel," which means "God with us." Generations waited. Some waited in fear, some in sadness, and some in a situation that looked impossible. Yet God never forgot His word.

That is the heart of our Wednesday evening Advent services. We will walk from **Fear to Hope**, from **Impossible to Possible**, and from **Sadness to Gladness**. Each of these is a place where many of us live at some point during the year. The angel told Mary, "Nothing will be impossible with God." On Christmas Eve, the shepherds heard, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy." The Promise comes to pass, and a Child is born!

Paul reminds us that "when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son" (Galatians 4:4). God's timing is not always our timing, but it is always faithful. If you are waiting on God for healing, for peace in your family, for direction, or for hope, take heart. The God who kept His promise in Bethlehem will keep His promises to you in Jesus Christ.

I invite you to make this Advent season a time to slow down and be present with God and His people. Join us for our Wednesday evening services at 6:30pm, our Children's Christmas Service on December 20th, and our Christmas Eve services at 5:00pm and 7:00pm. Bring your family, your neighbors, and your friends. Come and see the promise fulfilled and let us rejoice together as all the world rejoices!

Heavenly Father, as we wait and watch this Advent, fill our hearts with hope. Thank You for keeping every promise You have made, and for sending Your Son, Jesus, to be born for us. Turn our fear to hope, our sadness to gladness, and what seems impossible to joy. May we rejoice with all the world at the birth of our Savior. In His holy name we pray. Amen.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Hahn

"The Story" **Lessons of the Week**

- November 29th – December 5th = Review (on your own) Chapters 1-10
- December 6th – December 12th = Chapter 11 "From Shepherd to King"
- December 13th –19th = Chapter 12 "The Trials of a King"
- December 20th - December 26th = Week Off
- December 27th – January 2nd = Week Off
- January 3rd – January 9th = Chapter 13 "The King Who Had It All"
- January 10th – 16th = Chapter 14 "A Kingdom Torn in Two"
- January 17th – 23rd = Chapter 15 "God's Messengers"
- January 24th – 30th = Chapter 16 "The Beginning of the End (of the Kingdom of Israel)"

"The Story" **Bible Studies**

- Sunday Morning Bible Study = 9:15am. – 10:00am.
- Tuesday Morning Bible Study = 8:30am. – 9:30am.
- Wednesday (Women in the Word) = 9:00am – 10:00am.
- Thursday Evening Bible Study = 7:00pm – 8:00pm (*No Bible Study on Nov. 26th)*

Sunday Morning's Message from the Pulpit will focus upon ***The Story's*** Lesson of the Week. There will also be a weekly Facebook and YouTube posting with a brief summary of the Lesson of the Week. Make sure you are following St. Matthew Lutheran's social media *(St. Matthew's App, Website, and Facebook Page)* to keep you up to date as we journey together, through the ***The Story***.

Sunday Morning Services

Holy Communion is Distributed at the Classic Service (8:00 a.m.) every 1st & 3rd Sunday and at the Modern Service (10:15 a.m.) every 2nd & 4th Sunday.

Sunday, November 29th (Blended Service 9:00 a.m.)
Isaiah 64:1-9 - I Corinthians 1:3-9 - Mark 11:1-10 or Mark 13:24-37

Sunday, December 6th (Classic 8:00am / Modern 10:15a.m.)
Isaiah 40:1-11 - II Peter 3:8-14 - Mark 1:1-8

Sunday, December 13th (Classic 8:00am / Modern 10:15a.m.)
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 - I Thessalonians 5:16-24 - John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sunday, December 20th (Sunday School Christmas Service 9:30 a.m. - only ONE service)
II Samuel 7:1-11, 16 - Romans 16:25-27 - Luke 1:26-38

Sunday, December 27th (Service of Lessons and Carols 9:00 a.m.)
Isaiah 61:10-62:3 - Galatians 4:4-7 - Luke 2:22-40

Mid-Week Advent & Christmas Service Themes

The Theme, this year throughout Advent and Christmas, is "The Promise Comes to Pass."
***(Mid-Week Advent Services** will be on Wednesday Evenings beginning at 6:30pm.)*

- **Wednesday, December 2nd –** *Fear to Hope*
- **Wednesday, December 9th –** *Impossible to Possible*
- **Wednesday, December 16th** *– Sadness to Gladness*
- **Christmas Eve - Thursday, December 24th –** *A Child is Born!*
- **Christmas Day - Friday, December 25th –** *All the World Rejoices!*

Please see more information about our Advent series on the next page.



Advent & Christmas:

The familiar biblical introduction "And it came to pass" serves as a reminder to us all that when God promises us something, it happens! In this worship series for Advent, we explore the many changes that transpired the birth of Christ as we await the celebration of his coming among us at Christ.

This is our theme for our mid-week Advent and Christmas services. Dates and times are posted on the previous page, under *"Mid-Week Advent and Christmas Service Themes."*

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 10th** 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 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.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS

"Now sing we, Now rejoice, Now raise to heav'n our voice…"(LSB 386, vs 1 excerpt)

The seasons of Advent and Christmas give us many opportunities to raise our voices in song. There are so many wonderful hymns for the Advent and Christmas seasons, it's hard to choose a favorite. The following is a list of ten of the most popular and enduring Christmas hymns and carols, based on church usage and traditional popularity rankings.

1. **O Holy Night** – A beautiful 1947 French carol by Placide Cappeau and Adolphe Adam celebrating the holy birth and the thrill of hope.
2. **O Come, All Ye Faithful** (*Adeste Fideles*) – An invitation hymn calling the faithful to journey to Bethlehem and adore the newborn King.
3. **Silent Night** (*Stille Nacht*) – Composed in 1818 by Franz Xaver Gruber and Joseph Mohr in Austria, beloved worldwide for its quiet, peaceful reverence.
4. **The First Noel** – A traditional English carol recounting the angel's message to the humble shepherds in the fields.
5. **Joy to the World** – Written by Isaac Watts in 1719, combining Psalm 98 with the celebration of Christ's first coming.
6. **Angels We Have Heard on High** – Famous for its soaring "Gloria" refrain echoing the song of the heavenly host.
7. **Go Tell It on the Mountain** – An African-American spiritual celebrating the birth of Jesus and spreading the Gospel message.
8. **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing** – Penned by Charles Wesley in 1739 and set to music by Felix Mendelssohn.
9. **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** – An ancient Latin Advent hymn centered on prophetic longing for the coming Messiah.
10. **What Child Is This?** – Written by William Chatterton Dix to the traditional English folk tune *Greensleeves*.

Our congregation will have many opportunities to sing some wonderful Advent and Christmas hymns and worship songs at the following services in December:

- **Sunday worship services: 8:00 and 10:15 on December 6 and 13.**
- **Midweek Advent services at 6:30 on December 2, 9, and 16.**
- **Our Children's Sunday School Worship Program at 9:30 on December 20.**
- **Christmas Eve Worship Services at 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM on December 24.**
- **Christmas Day Worship service at 9:00 AM December 25.**
- **A Service of Lessons and Carols at 9:00 AM December 27.**

What are your favorite Advent and Christmas hymns and worship songs? Come and worship with us, and chances are good you will hear and sing many of your favorites.

Blessings to all of you during this joyful season as we await
and celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Savior.

Lorenda Glade, Director of Music

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, 507-329-5947 or Sandy Meyer, 507-360-0274.

Help us beautify our church for Christmas by donating a poinsettia plant. The deadline to order is December 10th. See the information printed in this newsletter (page 4) or contact Bev in the church office.

Financial Snapshot:

October Income: $47,380.62 Year-To-Date Income: $362,414.69
Monthly Budget: $44,271.00 Year-To-Date Budget: $442,710.00



2026 GIVING – Please remember, all offerings to the church that you want to be counted as 2026 giving, **MUST PHYSICALLY BE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE by December 31st**. Anything received after December 31, including mailed in contributions, must be counted towards 2027 giving. THANK YOU! **The 2027 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.



LWML NEWS

All are invited to our Annual Christmas Party to be held on Thursday, December 3 at 6 p.m. in the basement Fellowship Hall. We will enjoy a supper of homemade soup and crackers. Please bring a Christmas Goodie to share for dessert! Following our meal will be a program to fill us with the Christmas Spirit as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus! This year we will skip the gift exchange and **ask those attending to bring an item for the food shelves** here in Worthington. We think baking items would be welcomed by families (flour, sugar, brown sugar, powdered sugar, chocolate chips, nuts) or anything you like. Prefer to give a cash gift? That is wonderful too! We will happily do the grocery shopping for you. Thank you for your generous hearts and we look forward to celebrating together! **Hope to see many of you there. Bring a friend!** If you have any questions, call Kathy Roslansky, 507-360-1831. **There will be No LWML Meeting in January 2027**.

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.



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

HUMAN CARE & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES NEWS

By Roxann Leckband

Blessings to all as we anticipate the arrival of our Savior, born as a baby and laid in a manger. Our thoughts turn to a peaceful night in a lowly stable. The hymn "Silent Night" captures that calm and peace for me. Rest is vital for both body and soul, so I have included an article below, "Nighty Night" from the S.A.G.E.S. newsletter, on the importance of sleep and how it renews the body. S.A.G.E.S. stands for "Saints Alive Growing Ever Serving." To learn more about this ministry, visit the Minnesota South District of the LCMS website, www.mnsdistrict.org, under the "Get Involved" tab, SAGES.

"Nighty Night" (Taken from the "SAGACITY NEWSLETTER OF S.A.G.E.S" Volume 36, No. 4)

Sleep was long considered just a block of time when your brain and body shut down. Thanks to sleep research studies done over the past several decades, it is now known that sleep has distinct stages that cycle throughout the night in predictable patterns. How well rested you are and how well you function depend not just on your total sleep time, but on how much sleep you get each night and the timing of your sleep stages. Your brain and body functions stay active throughout sleep and each stage of sleep is linked to a specific type of brain waves (distinctive patterns of electrical activity in the brain). Sleep is divided into two basic types: rapid eye movement (REM) sleep and non-REM sleep (with three different stages).

Typically, sleep begins with non-REM sleep. In stage 1 non-REM sleep, you sleep lightly and can be awakened easily by noises or other disturbances. During this first stage of sleep, your eyes move slowly, your muscles relax, and your heart and breathing rates begin to slow. You then enter stage 2 non-REM sleep, which is defined by slower brain waves with occasional bursts of rapid waves. You spend about half the night in this stage. When you progress into stage 3 non-REM sleep, your brain waves become even slower, and the brain produces extremely slow waves almost exclusively (called Delta waves.)

Sleep gives your heart and vascular system a much-needed rest. During non-REM sleep, your heart rate and blood pressure progressively slow as you enter deeper sleep. During REM sleep, in response to dreams, your heart and breathing rates can rise and fall, and your blood pressure can be variable. These changes throughout the night in blood pressure and heart and breathing rates seem to promote cardiovascular health.

A number of aspects of your health and quality of life are linked to sleep, and these aspects are impaired when you are sleep deprived.

There is a great deal happening at St. Matthews during the month of December. Some ministry opportunities are listed below. Please feel free to join us!

Human Care Ministry:

WIDOW'S GROUPS:

- December 7: Lunch at Perkins, 12:30.
- December 28: Christmas party at 12:15 in the Fireside Room. Please bring a dish to share, The main entrée will be a meat and cheese tray. If you would like to join the gift exchange, please bring a $5–10 gift. See you there!

WOMEN IN THE WORD:

- Meeting dates: December 2, 9, 16, and 30. There will be no meeting on the 23rd.
- Study: Going through The Story as one of our small group Bible studies.

Continued on the next page……

Human Care & Children's Ministry News continued:

NOON FELLOWSHIP: Monday, December 14 at 12 noon in the Fireside Room. Please join us for a delicious ham and cheesy hash brown lunch. You are welcome to bring a dish to share.

Children's Ministry:

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE:

- Preschool through 3rd grade: December 6th and 13th during Sunday School class.
- Grades 4–8: December 6th and 13th during Sunday School class, plus an additional practice on Saturday, December 12th from 10:00–11:30 a.m.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM – DECEMBER 20TH: The program will be part of the single worship service that day at 9:30 a.m. Please have your child/children here at the church by 9:00 a.m. We will meet in the basement. Please let Roxie Leckband know if your child/children will not be participating. *This Christmas program tells the story of those faithful travelers who made the journey to Bethlehem that very first Christmas. With the help of modern inventions, the magi, shepherds, and angels go on a Great Search to find the Christ child.*

OTHER DATES:

- December 27: No Sunday School.
- **December 30: Join us at 10:30 AM** for "Moms and Jesus Lil' Lambs and Flocks." There will be a Bible story time, crafts, games, and a light kid-friendly lunch. **This is a family event, so please bring all children, preschool age and older!**
- January 3: No regular Sunday School. Instead, we will hold a birthday party for Jesus with cake and goodies, a craft, and games. Come and join the celebration!

CONFIRMATION CLASSES:

- Classes will meet on December 2, 9, and 16, along with the Advent services. There will be NO Confirmation on December 23 and 30. The Advent services are a good opportunity to complete your sermon notes.
- "PRAY 'N PLAY" on December 4 from 5:30-8:00 p.m. for all 5th-8th grade students!

HEALTH MINISTRY: NO Health Cabinet meeting in December. The next meeting will be on January 20 at 12:30 in the Conference Room.

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

Our Mission Sewing group needs sheets, blankets, and mattress pads to use for fillers for their quilts. Please wash them before donating to us.

Pillowcases for their "Pillowcase Dresses" are also appreciated. They prefer colored and/or if they have designs on them. Those make very nice dresses for young girls.

Please place your donations in the "Blanket" drawer in the wooden cabinet in our north/elevator entrance. Thank You for your donations!

YPOG News (Young People of God)

By Alexie Cross

Happy Holidays from the YPOGS!

As the year is in full swing, the youth in Sunday School are diving into "The Story" and have been following along with the teen version through a DVD and the book. The youth have been deeply engaged in questions and discussions!

In youth group, numbers of youth attending have been steady so far this year! We have covered several topics such as, joyfully giving, and identity in Christ, along with Psalm 46:10: "Be still, and know that I am God."

Looking ahead, we are starting to work on our Christmas party. Tentatively we are looking at December 30. Also, we have 4 youth and 2 adult chaperones heading down to "Youth Lead" in St. Louis in March.



As we continue through the year, we give thanks for the ways God continues to work through the lives of our youth. We are grateful for the support, prayers, and encouragement of our congregation as we continue to invest in the youths' journey in their faith. May God's blessings be with you and your families this holiday season, and we look forward to all that He has in store for our youth in the coming year.

Please enjoy a few photos from recent activities the Youth have done.









October 25, 2026, Voters Meeting Highlights –

Treasurer: April 1 to September 30, 2026, Income was $218,405.87 with expenses of $234,948.65. This left the congregation a shortage of $16,542.78. General Fund balance $95,084.00. September 30 balances: Memorial Fund $83,393.25; Youth Account $21,996.63; Momentum One (Scholarship) Fund $873,060.61, scholarship of $23,140 was paid out; Momentum Two Fund $331,880.88.

Staff Reports: *Pastor Hahn* – The six month in-person worship service attendance average was 170. Welcomed 11 newly confirmed in May. Worship in Park held in July. Doing visitations: hospital, hospice, Meadows, Golden Horizons, homes, and others. Regular Sunday & Tuesday Bible studies, plus Thursday for The Story. Attended the MN South District Pastor's Conference and monthly Circuit Pastor meetings. Thank you to staff and all willing volunteers. *Roxie* – Widows Group and Women in the Word going well. Doing visits as directed by Pastor. Sunday School and Confirmation classes going well. Blessed with some new teachers this year. Parent Sunday School meets in Fireside Room during Sunday School hour. *Lorenda* – Organ repairs are needed. Roxie and I worked during the summer to choose and organize our Sunday School Christmas program. Thank you to all who provide special music for our services; our choirs; our worship band members; our tech crew; our staff; members; Pastor Hahn; and my brothers and sisters in Christ; for all you do to make St. Matthew such a wonderful place to worship and praise our Lord. *Alexie* – Have been doing the teen version of "The Story" Bible study in Sunday School with good attendance by youth. Mission trip in July was to Lutheran Valley Ranch in Woodland, Colorado. Youth Board is looking for any adults willing to assist with being a chaperone for youth events. This may be for a fun excursion to Sioux Falls, a youth night at church, or going on our next mission trip. Let us know if you are interested. Planning for next summer's mission trip and 2028 National Youth Gathering.

Elders: Collaborating with Pastor to get "The Story" books distributed to members. Keep using the "Suggestion Box" as we do look at them every month.

Trustees: New soundboard was used for the first time today. Church phone system has been replaced. Furnace for main office, Board of Ed office, and Finance Office was replaced due to crack in the heat exchanger. Elevator will need some major work before next State Inspection to be able to pass.

Board of Education: Sunday School going well with 60-65 youth attending. VBS went well with approximately 60 youth attending most days. Working on Christmas program.

Current Business: 2027 Operating Budget was presented and motions made and seconded to accept.

New Business: *Organ repairs*: the original leather bellows have deteriorated, are leaking, and need to be replaced. Will take approximately 1 week to complete project with estimated cost of $18,000. We would also like to get the pipes cleaned, since they have not been done for a very long time. Motion made to proceed with a cap of $25,000. *Office Furnace*: had a cracked heat exchanger, this was considered an emergency repair, furnace was replaced at a cost of $13,000. There are 17 furnaces in the church at various ages. Suggestion to replace 1 or more each year. Costs will continue to increase each year. Trustees plan to purchase & install carbon monoxide detectors to monitor for malfunctions. *Elevator Repair*: It is 40 years old and parts are difficult to find. It is due for inspection soon and may not pass, especially the control panel. If it doesn't pass, the State would shut it down immediately, until it is repaired. That could take several months. We need to have a functioning elevator. Approximate cost of this project is $105,000. Motion made to get the elevator repairs/replacement done in a timely manner as needed. *Emma Schade Scholarship Fund/Momentum One Fund*: 20-year stipulation has now expired. Council has decided to continue to follow the same parameters as has been until the April 2027 Voters Meeting. *Momentum Two/Endowment Fund:* Discussion as to what these funds could be used for and how would the funds for the organ, elevator, and furnaces projects be covered. Current

October 25, 2026, Voters Meeting Highlights continued –

dollars in building fund will be used, after some remaining costs paid on sound system project. Motion made to use available money to cover building repair & building maintenance costs. *Supporting LCMS Missionary Pastor Amen:* Pastor Amen & family will be a missionary in the Dominican Republic for 5 years. He is from this area. Motion made to support this missionary and give $4,000/year for 5 years. Other fundraisers may also be done. *DCE position:* brief discussion considering possible full-time DCE position. No action taken at this time. *Appointed Chris Luther* to fulfill Vice-President term of Ron Iverson as Ron has submitted his resignation due to his relocation from this area.

Next Bi-Annual Voters Meeting will be held in April 2027, with time to be determined.

HIGHLIGHTS from the November 9, 2026, Council Meeting:

Treasurer's Report: October income was $47,380.62, with expenses of $36,298.70, leaving the General Fund at $106,240.92. Other balances: Youth $25,703.16; Momentum One (Scholarship) $881,487.82; Momentum Two $334,303.21; and Memorial Fund $72,738.21.

Staff Reports: *Pastor* – Did visitations and worship services. Average October Sunday attendance was 83 at the 8AM service and 136 at the 10:15AM service. All congregation Bible Study, "The Story" is ongoing. Elders will be assisting with 8th grade Confirmation class during Advent & Lent seasons. Doing Advent & Christmas service planning. *Roxie* – Confirmation goals emphasized that kids understand the catechism and learn to love the Lord. Looking at attendance and focusing on minimum requirements that must be achieved before moving on to next level. Kids in the Word class averages 24 kids. Parent Sunday School attendance has increased. *Lorenda* – Organ repairs will take place in February. Adult & Bell choirs have provided special music at both services. Worship band members are adjusting to the new sound system and are finding it much easier to hear each other. *Alexie* – Have maintained a steady group of 10-13 youth attend on Wednesday nights. Have been talking with a camp for our summer mission trip. Registered for Youth Lead this year on March 13-16 are: Addison Barrie-Cross, John Leckband, Cael Schettler, Camren Luther, chaperones Torey Rogers and Alexie Cross.

Elders: Strategic planning on hold. Assisted in 5th grade acolyte training, they have been doing well.

Trustees: Elevator will be scheduled to be repaired next summer, as will require to be out of service possibly up to 2 weeks. Will need to pay a 40% initial cost prior to beginning project.

Board of Education: Sunday School going well. Had to replace the 4-5th grade teacher unexpectedly.

Board of Youth: Working on upcoming fundraiser planning for mission trip next summer. Possibly going to a camp in North Carolina that they have gone to once before. Discussion on youth possibly not traveling so far to save on costs.

New Business: Will continue to work on clear guidelines for our Ministry Planning Board. Personnel guidelines: Chris is looking at our current policies and other models. Will continue comparisons and recommend any possible improvements. A list of Christian youth trainings and educational resources that are accessible will be given to our youth directors. Decided to not do Advent meals this year.

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

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

Acolytes for December 2, 2026-January 3, 2027:

December 2	(6:30 p.m.) – Jaxon Grimmius	
December 6	8 a.m. – _____	10:15 a.m. – Leighton Wintz
December 9	(6:30 p.m.) – Kingsleigh Cross	
December 13	8 a.m. – Sebastian Sieve	10:15 a.m. – Samuel Bents
December 16	(6:30 p.m.) – Brock Blume	
December 24	(5:00 p.m.) _____ (7:00 p.m.) _____ - *who is available?*	
December 25	(9:00 a.m.) _____ - *who is available?*	
December 27	**(9:00 a.m.) – Blake Schmidt**	
January 3	8 a.m. – Toby Metteer	10:15 a.m. – Kyra Cross

** 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



I'm sure you walk by this picture stand every Sunday on your way into service. It is located in the Narthex area. **Have you ever taken a look?** Confirmation classes, all the way back to 1907, are in this display! We are grateful this item was purchased several years ago so we can protect our pictures and proudly display them in an area much more visible than before.

A former member, that no longer lives in the area, contacted us to set up a time to bring her family here as they were traveling through, to look at the church and reminisce. They found a grandmother's picture and told us, *"You have a wonderful item here."*



This display is enjoyed by many! We are often told it is a great item to have. Recently, on a Sunday, a young student member spent some time looking through the display. At funerals and weddings, we see families and visitors looking through the pictures. It truly is a wonderful item to proudly display our confirmation classes through the years!