

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN
July & August 2026 Newsletter



Summer Worship Schedule

We will continue to have ONE Blended Worship Service on Sundays at 9 AM, with communion. With the exception of our “Worship in the Park” on July 12th.

Following our regular worship services, please join us for Coffee, Refreshments, Fellowship & Devotion in our basement Fellowship Hall.



July 12th
10:15 AM
Chautauqua Park
Band Shell

Make plans to join us for our special “Worship in the Park” on Sunday, July 12th at 10:15 AM. We will meet in the Band Shell area of Chautauqua Park at 10:15 AM for Worship. Bring your lawn chairs if you do not want to sit on the benches provided. Following the worship service, we will move to the Shelter House for a catered lunch of hamburgers, brats, hot dogs, chips, applesauce, and dessert. This will also be a celebration of our 135th Anniversary! Come enjoy some cake for dessert!



DID YOU KNOW?

It's been 60+ years since St. Matthew Lutheran Church was designated as a Bomb Shelter for the people of Worthington.



There were six sites chosen as bomb shelters. St. Matthew Lutheran, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Central Grade School, Campbell Soup Company, First National Bank, and Worthington Telephone Company. Thankfully, none of these shelters were needed, but they had supplies of emergency food, etc. if needed. To the left, is a picture of the signage that was used. It is a metal sign that has since been framed with wood.

Where was the safest place to shelter at St. Matthews? It was in the (then) classroom for the preschool Sunday School Class – behind the stage, under the front steps and stage area. No windows! Alvin Dass was their first teacher that the youngsters got to know, and he did a very good job!

Three years old and up (and a 2-year-old that REALLY wanted to go to Sunday School).

What other memories of St. Matthews through the years do you have? PLEASE SHARE! We are doing these short stories for our 135th Anniversary year!

Please get your information into Bev, in the church office by August 15th to be included in the next (September) Newsletter. Thank You!



Another “Quilts of Valor” presentation was done on June 14, 2026.

Those receiving quilts this time around were: (from left) Karen Knigge, Wendell Kuhl, Harold Nelsen, Bill Knigge, Mike Raverty, Ron Harms, Rosemary King, and Jo Heinzman (in front). Thank you again to Nancy Edwards for heading up this program and making the beautiful quilts. If you know a congregation member who is Active Duty Military or a Veteran, please contact Nancy Edwards, 218-849-1221, or Voris Spittle, 507-360-4864.

Pastor Hahn's Article

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The months of July and August often bring a different rhythm to our lives. Some of us travel, some welcome family and friends, some spend more time outdoors, and others simply try to keep up with the busyness of summer. Yet whether our days feel restful or full, the Lord remains steadfast. His gifts do not take a vacation. His Word continues to speak. His promises remain sure. His mercy in Christ is new every morning.

Summer can also be a season when people feel scattered. Vacations, county fairs, ball games, reunions, and changing schedules may pull us in many directions. For some, these months can even feel lonely or heavy. That is why it is such a blessing to remember that the Church is not held together by our schedules, our strength, or our plans. The Church is gathered and sustained by Jesus Christ, who calls us by the Gospel, forgives our sins, feeds us with His Word and Sacrament, and keeps us in the one true faith.

As we gather for worship this July and August, we do so not merely out of habit, but because Christ Himself meets us there with the gifts He has promised. In the Divine Service, the Lord serves His people. We confess our sins and hear His absolution. We listen as the Scriptures are read and proclaimed. We receive the comfort of the Gospel. We are strengthened to love our families, serve our neighbors, encourage one another, and bear witness to Christ in our daily vocations.

The apostle Paul reminds us that ***“for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose”*** (Romans 8:28). That promise does not mean every day will be easy, nor does it mean we will always understand what the Lord is doing. It means that our heavenly Father has not abandoned us. In Christ crucified and risen, we know the heart of God toward us. He is gracious. He is faithful. He is working all things according to His good and saving will.

So, this summer, I encourage you: come and receive what Christ gives. Come to worship. Come to fellowship. Come to Bible study when you are able. Invite a neighbor, a friend, a child, a grandchild, or someone you have not seen in church for a while. A simple invitation may be used by the Lord to bring encouragement to someone who needs it more than you know.

May the Lord bless these summer months among us. May He deepen our faith, strengthen our life together, and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who is with us in every season.

In Christ,

Pastor Hahn

July & August Worship Services

For those of you who have been asking for just one Sunday Morning Worship Service, *(so that we can all worship together as one Church family)*, the months of July and August have several opportunities for you. We are now in the Summer Worship Schedule of Sunday Morning (blended) Worship Service at 9am. followed by an after-service fellowship and devotion time in the lower-level fellowship room.

Sunday, July 5th *(A Service of Faith and Freedom) – 9am Worship Service*

Sunday, July 12th *(The 7th Sunday After Pentecost) – 8am Communion Service @ St. Matthew Lutheran and Worship in the Park beginning with the Service at 10:15am followed by a picnic lunch in the pavilion. Come and join us as we celebrate St. Matthews 135th Anniversary!*
Isaiah 55:10-13 - Romans 8:12-17 - Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sunday, July 19th *(8th Sunday After Pentecost) – 9am (Blended) Worship Service*
Isaiah 4:6-8 - Romans 8:18-27 - Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sunday, July 26th *(9th Sunday After Pentecost) – 9am (Blended) Worship Service*
Deuteronomy 7:6-9 - Romans 8:28-39 - Matthew 13:44-52

Sunday, August 2nd (10th Sunday After Pentecost) – 9am (Blended) Worship Service

Isaiah 55:1-5 - Romans 9:1-13 - Matthew 14:13-21

Sunday, August 9th (11th Sunday After Pentecost) – 9am (Blended) Worship Service

Job 38:4-18 - Romans 10:5-17 - Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday, August 16th (12th Sunday After Pentecost) – 9am (Elder Led Blended) Worship Service

Isaiah 56:1,6-8 - Romans 11:1-2a,13-15,28-32 - Matthew 15:21-28

Sunday, August 23rd (13th Sunday After Pentecost) – 9am (Blended) Worship Service

Isaiah 51:1-6 - Romans 11:33-12:8 - Matthew 16:13-20

Sunday, August 30th (14th Sunday After Pentecost) – 9am (Blended) Worship Service

Jeremiah 15:15-21 - Romans 12:9-21 - Matthew 16:21-28

Growing in Fellowship! Adult Small Group Sunday Morning Bible Study

This summer I would like to do something a little different than having a formal Sunday Morning Bible Study. I would like to build upon our fellowship time following the 9am Worship Service. ***The Vision of St. Matthew Lutheran Church is to help you grow in your relationships with your family, with the members and staff, and, most of all, with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*** This would be a wonderful opportunity to follow through with our vision. So, start thinking about who you would like to invite to join you for fellowship following the Worship Service on Sundays. There is always coffee and goodies to snack on. We'll also throw in a little devotion or song for you to chew on.

Tuesday Morning Lectionary Bible Study

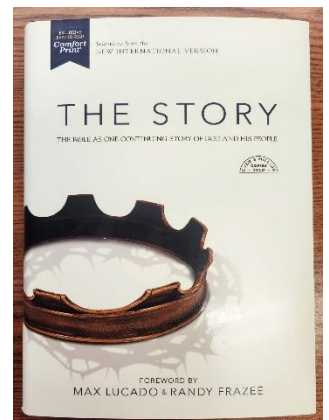
Every Tuesday morning at 8:30am there is a Bible Study that follows the Church Lectionary Series (*The Scripture Readings we use for the Sunday Morning Service listed above*), that meets in the Church Conference Room. This is open to anyone who would like to attend. We also use ZOOM if anyone would like 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.

Get Ready for “The Story”

Beginning this Fall we will be taking a journey, chronologically, through the Bible, as a Church Family! I'm excited about this opportunity to be doing this together. The Sunday morning message from the pulpit will follow the lesson of the week from “The Story.” Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study and Tuesday Morning Bible Study will follow the lesson as well. Hopefully, other small group Bible Study groups or Circles or Youth Bible Studies will join in this amazing journey. *Even those who are unable to attend Church on Sunday morning will have their own copy of “The Story” at home and be able to go through the lesson along with everyone else. I am still working on how all of this will be coordinated throughout the year so make sure you look for more information to be available to you this Fall.*

The Story helps us read through the Bible as one unfolding account of God's mercy and faithfulness, leading us to Jesus Christ. As we move from creation, fall, promise, covenant, exile, restoration, and fulfillment, we see that Scripture is not merely a collection of moral lessons, but the true story of God's work to rescue sinners and restore His people through Christ. By following both the “Upper Story” of God's saving plan and the “Lower Story” of human lives and events, our congregation will grow together in understanding the Scriptures and in trusting the promises of God.

At St. Matthew Lutheran Church we want to help everyone gain a better understanding of the big picture of the Bible and to better understand God's redemptive plan for us today. Remember to keep looking for more information as Fall approaches.



MUSIC & WORSHIP NEWS

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

The summer months may appear to be a calmer and more relaxing season for our staff, leaders, and congregation at St. Matthew. And that is partially true. There is only one blended service to prepare for each week. Sunday School is not in session, there are no Wednesday evening activities, and there are no sounds of bells or singing coming from the choir room.

This season of less busy-ness gives us needed time to reflect on the past busy season and prepare for resuming our full schedule in September. As plans are being made for our fall music activities, we want to know how we can serve a wider range of people in our congregation. We know there are children and young people in the church who love to sing and/or play instruments. Should we be exploring choir and bell choir opportunities for our young people? Are there high school students who can occasionally lead our Modern service? Or high school students who can share their instrumental talents? As we plan and discuss together as a staff and with church leadership, we will keep you informed, and we ask you to share your thoughts and ideas as well.

Lorenda Glade, Director of Music

CELEBRATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR JULY

- July 5: Celebrate our nation's 250th birthday at our "Of Faith and Freedom" service, 9:00 AM. What better way to give thanks to God for the freedoms we enjoy in our country!
- July 12: Worship our Lord and Savior at the beautiful lakeside setting at Chautauqua Park. Our outdoor service begins at 10:15 and will be followed by a picnic lunch celebrating the 135th birthday of St. Matthew Lutheran Church. (There will be an opportunity to partake in the Lord's Supper at the church earlier in the morning, prior to our outdoor worship service)

OFFERING REMINDER

Your FAITHFUL – REGULAR – WEEKLY offering commitment enables your congregation to meet important summer ministry commitments, and regular maintenance of the building. If you intend to be away for several weeks, please consider mailing your offering to the Church Office. Your consideration will help our Treasurer to be faithful in her duties too! **Thank you for your generosity.** It is such a delight to see how God works through each one of us to be a blessing here in Worthington and around the world! **If you are interested in Electronic Giving, please contact our Treasurer, Tammy Brunk, or Bev in the church office. Thank You!**

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Serving in July will be Kathy Roslansky & LaVonne Berglund and **in August** it will be LaVonne Berglund & Velma Cortright. If you would like to be a part of the Altar Guild, please contact Velma Cortright, 376-5600 or Sandy Meyer, 376-6290.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE (LWML) NEWS

LWML will not have monthly business meetings in July and August. Sunday Coffee Hours will be served by: Hope Circle on July 20, and Sarah Circle on August 17. If you have any questions, or are interested in joining LWML, please contact Kathy Roslansky, 507-360-1831.

The July-September Portals of Prayer devotion books have arrived!
You may pick up a copy to use for your daily devotions
from the Welcome Center table in our Great Hall!



Mobile Meals

– Our congregation will be delivering Mobile Meals in August. Please prayerfully consider volunteering for this much-appreciated service in our community. Look for sign-up sheets in the Great Hall in July or call Charlene Wintz, 507-360-3709, or Karen Obermoller, 507-360-4952.

VBS on June 15-19, 2026, included lots of fun and learning!



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

By Roxann Leckband

Greetings to you brothers and sisters in Christ,

I praise and thank God for this amazing time of year as the Light shines so brightly and we enjoy time with each other. I pray you are enjoying these summer months as you join with friends and family. May your time in worship, praising God for His great gifts be relaxing and enjoyable. As you join with others may you find peace in our Lord and Savior. The Summer continues to bring opportunities to worship and participate in a variety of ministries. Please join us. If you do not, just know you will be missed!

Human Care Ministry:

WIDOW'S GROUP: Perkins group will meet on July 6 and August 3 at 12:30. The evening group will meet on July 27 and August 24 at 5:15 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The ladies have completed the "Our Friendship Mobile" and will continue in "Friends: Letting Go and Loving the Real Thing" in chapter 6 of the book, From One Widow to Another by Miriam Neff. If you are able, please bring a side dish to share. A sandwich bar will be provided.

NOON FELLOWSHIP: July 13 at noon in the Fireside Room. The main entrée will be burgers, brats, and potato salad. Please bring a dish to share if you are able, a freewill offering, or just yourself. We would love to see you! In August we will meet on August 10. Watch for more information about August.

WOMEN IN THE WORD: We will meet on July 1, 8, 15 at 9 a.m. in the Fireside Room. There will be NO Women in the Word on July 22, 29, August 5, 12. **Please take note of this 4-week break.** Women in the Word will resume on August 19 and 26.

FURNITURE DELIVERY: Our church's turn to delivery furniture for Love INC is on July 27. Meet at the church at 5:30 p.m. Please contact me or leave a message at church if you can help.

Children's Ministry:

MOMS & JESUS' LIL' LAMBS: Join us on July 11 and August 21 at 10:30 a.m. We will start here at St. Matthews, then weather permitting we will go to Millard Walker Park to enjoy the new play equipment!

ATTENTION PARENTS OF CHILDREN ENTERING THE 3RD GRADE: Please join us for "My New Bible Class" on August 17 and 18 from 6:00-6:45 p.m. We will have a fun time learning about the Bible. During these sessions, the children will be using their "New Bible" that will then be presented to them during the 9 a.m. August 23 worship service with a special blessing. Please RSVP to the church, 507-376-6168 or Roxie's cell, 712-260-3820, to make sure there will be enough Bibles and special prizes. This ministry is intended for a parent(s) or guardian(s) to attend with their child for a parent/child faith and memory building time.

Health Cabinet: Will meet on July 14 at 12:30 in the Conference Room. There will be NO health cabinet in August. July is UV Awareness Month. According to the CDC most skin cancers are caused by too much exposure to ultraviolet (UV) light. Protection from UV rays is important not only during the Summer but all year long. Most skin cancers are caused by too much sun. Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the United States. To learn more about What you Need to Know about Sun Safety please visit this website, www.cdc.gov/skin-cancer/sun-safety/index.html. Blessings and enjoy your Summer safely!

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES – MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- September 9 and 16 will be the 5th grade Early Communion classes (those starting Confirmation).
- September 20 will be the FIRST DAY of Sunday School.
- September 23 is the 6th-8th Confirmation Parent Meeting and Registration Time
- September 30 will be the first day of Confirmation for all 5th-8th graders.

JULY 5 - September 6 ACOLYTE SCHEDULE:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>9:00 AM</u>
July 5	Dominic Leckband
July 12	Camdin Riemersma-Feit
July 19	Keaton Schettler
July 26	Hazel Thier
August 2	Hayden Riemersma-Feit
August 9	Sebastian Sieve
August 16	Blake Schmidt
August 23	Samuel Bents
August 30	Jaxon Grimmus
September 6	Kyra Cross

Please arrive 15 minutes before service to light the candles. If you cannot fulfill your scheduled date, please find a replacement and let the church office know about the change. Thank You!

YPOG NEWS (Middle & High School Youth): By David Cross

Greetings!

On June 6th Kelicy Anderson and David Cross took several 8th graders along with one high school youth over to Sioux Falls, SD to serve at the Union Gospel Mission. While at Union Gospel, the youth were able to serve in their kitchen to community members in need of a simple yet tasteful meal. It was a really good experience for the youth. They had a good time serving in the Lord's name. Following our servant event, we were able to get a quick bite at Slim Chickens and then followed up the servant event with an afternoon at Thunder Road which was a total hit! Here are a few snapshots of the day!



Youth items continued on next page.....

Other Important Youth Items & Dates to remember:

- ❖ Please keep the youth and chaperones in your prayers as they gear up to embark on a wonderful Mission Trip to Colorado, July 18-25.
- ❖ July 1st is the second MANDATORY meeting before the Mission Trip. We will finish up our Bible Study that we started in June.
- ❖ July 15th, Youth will have a Fellowship Bonfire at Seven Mile Lake Park in Fulda, MN. Games, food and smores will fill the night! ***Please watch the Band App for more information***
- ❖ July 18th-25th – Mission Trip to Colorado

God's Blessings!

Highlights of the June 8, 2026, Church Council Meeting

The actual Minutes cannot be printed because they have not yet been approved.

Treasurer: May income was \$39,835.00, with expenses of \$35,460.47, leaving the General Fund at \$102,501.72. Other account balances 5/31/26 were: Youth Account \$25,155.66; Momentum One (Emma Schade Scholarship) \$898,752.80; Momentum Two \$336,299.11; and Memorial Fund \$59,460.70.

Staff Reports: *Pastor* – Average Sunday attendance for May was 80 at 8AM and 122 at 10:15AM, does not include Confirmation Sunday. We had one 9AM service in May with an attendance of 143 (Memorial Day weekend.) Did 8 visitations in May. Will be starting an all-congregation Bible Study in the fall entitled, “The Story.” This will include Sunday AM study, mid-week evening study, YouTube video weekly study, and personal at-home study available for shut-ins and inactive members. Description and purpose of Ministry Planning Committee needs to be determined. *Roxie* – Prepping for VBS and working on 3rd grade “New Bible” classes in August and other upcoming fall classes. *Lorenda* – The organ was tuned & serviced on May 15th. Repairs are needed that will involve removing pipes from the swell chamber to gain access to repair/replace the bellows. Waiting on cost proposal from Allen Moe. Louise and I have been conversing about bell and choir plans for next year. She has been spending time filing and organizing the choir room, as well as working on choosing music for the coming year. We have been discussing ways in which we can get more people of ALL ages involved. I am beginning to look at materials for Sunday School Christmas programs and will start discussions after VBS is over. *Alexie & David Cross:* Senior breakfast had 11 out of 19 youth and their families attend. 1 Senior attended the 8AM worship service blessing, and 11 attended the 10:15AM worship service blessing. Planning Bible studies for mission trip and final details. Started donation drive for work gloves to use on the mission trip. Commissioning for mission trip will be during the July 12th park service. Took youth to Union Gospel Mission in Sioux Falls, SD.

Board of Elders: Discussed Audio-Visual Tech help needed. Discussed description of youth leaders’ positions verses a possible DCE position.

Trustees: Phone system installation is being worked on – need to run Cat 5 wire to each room that will have a phone. Been in contact with Lowe’s regarding air conditioning issues for office and getting replacement prices. Working on door issues.

Board of Education: VBS pre-registration numbers are low in comparison to last year. Working on decorations and meal prep for VBS.

Ministry Planning: No report.

Old Business: Will ask the Guatemalan Church if they are willing to play some music at our outdoor service on July 12. Will invite their church to picnic and 135th anniversary celebration after the service.

New Business: Ministry Planning Committee will no longer be a committee until function/purpose has been determined more clearly. 3 or current members are willing to continue to do Great Hall decorating.

Next meeting is July 13, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

During our April 2026 Voters Meeting we had the “Election of Officers” for open positions of those who had terms ending June 30. Our current officers are below:

St. Matthew’s Congregational Officers effective July 1, 2026

PRESIDENT	Nathan Holt, 507-370-1297
VICE PRESIDENT	(vacant)
SECRETARY	Nancy Ihrke, 507-360-7768
TREASURER <i>(not a voted in position)</i>	Tammy Brunk, 507-360-8977
ELDERS	Ron Obermoller, 507-360-4863 Paul Kallemeyn, 507-841-2023 David Cross, 507-350-1299 Philip Lorch, 712-260-9932 Greg Leckband, 712-260-3815 <u>(vacant)</u>
TRUSTEES	Bryon Spittle, 507-360-9363 Cory Greenway, 605-770-2471 Daeng Khamphanh, 507-360-5398 Kelly Meyer, 507-360-7192 Jason Sieve, 507-360-5956
BOARD OF EDUCATION CO-CHAIRS	Jeanette Varuska, 507-329-6583 Connie Reitmeier, 507-683-2040
MINISTRY PLANNING COMMITTEE	(On hold for now.)

FINANCE COMMITTEE/OFFERING COUNTERS: *(these persons are appointed and do not serve terms)* Karen Knigge, Jeanette Varuska, Deb Thompson, April Johnson, Nancy Veen, Barb Gruis, Nancy Edwards, Julie Lorenz.

Keep this list handy in case you have questions or concerns. Post it on your fridge for easy access to contact numbers.

CHURCH RECORDS

Death – Marilyn Sorenson passed away May 18, 2026; funeral service was May 22, 2026.

Financial Snapshot: May Income: \$39,835.00	Year-To-Date Income: \$175,556.52
Monthly Budget: \$44,271.00	Year-To-Date Budget: \$221,355.00

REMINDER – our next church newsletter will be the September edition. Deadline for submitting items is August 15th. The September newsletter will be mailed out around August 26th sometime. **Until then, please watch our Sunday worship bulletins, church website, and Facebook for any updates.** Our weekly worship bulletins can also be found on our website.



A HUGE THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who helped with our Vacation Bible School this year (June 15-19). We had an average of 50 kids attend each day. GOD IS GOOD! Thank you to everyone, it could not have been done without all of your help!

Adult Helpers were: Pastor Hahn, Roxie Leckband, Christy Milbrath, Julie Place, David Cross, Bob & Jolinn Westphal, Dawn Dorschner, Connie Reitmeier, Bonnie Tille, LaVonne Berglund, Karen Knigge, Diane Vogt, Bobbi Jo Becker, Jackie Duis, Deb Meyer, Gail DeGrote, Mary Krueger, Kirsten Sinnamon, Becky Strand, Philip Lorch, Joyce Soderholm (supplies), and Jeanette Varuska. Also thank you to our Youth Helpers of Camren Luther, Avery Ostrem, Ian Metteer, Kyra Cross, John Leckband, Paige Barber, Catlyn Freking, and Camdin Riemersma-Feit.

A reminder to those who donate shoes for us to deliver to Orphan Grain Train: ALL SHOES MUST BE CLEAN AND IN GOOD SHAPE. They also accept children's shoes that are in good condition and clean. Please place your donations in our north entrance wooden cabinet, in the drawer marked "Shoes."

Recap of our Memory Verses so far this Summer:

- May 24 – John 7:38 “Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”
- May 31 – Matthew 28:20b “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
- June 7 – Hosea 6:6 “For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.”
- June 14 – Exodus 19:5a “Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples.”
- June 21 – Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- June 28 – Psalm 119:160 “The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.”