

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN
March 2026 Newsletter



LENTEN SCHEDULE

Lent began with ASH WEDNESDAY in February!

In Lent, we are reminded that we are buried with Christ in his death so that we might live with Him in His resurrection. The old is gone. The new has come. In word and song in these Lent worship services, contemplate those things that were put to death on the cross so that we might receive the blessings of new life in Christ.

Please join us every Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. for our mid-week Lent worship services (March 4, 11, 18, and 25). This year's theme for the mid-week services is Dying His Death, Living His Life. **Free Devotion Books, which go along with this series, are available in our Great Hall.**

Lenten Suppers will be served each Wednesday night. Come and enjoy a delicious meal served from 5:00-6:00 p.m. Several of our church groups will be hosting these suppers. *Free-will offerings will be received for the meals.*

The Meal Host Schedule is as follows:

- March 4 – Ministry Planning Committee serving hot ham sandwiches, potato salad, bars.
- March 11 – Our Youth Group will serve nachos and all the fixings.
- March 18 – Hosted by a group of church members. They will serve a chicken hot dish.
- March 25 – Young Mom's Group/Amy Khamphanh. Watch for more details.



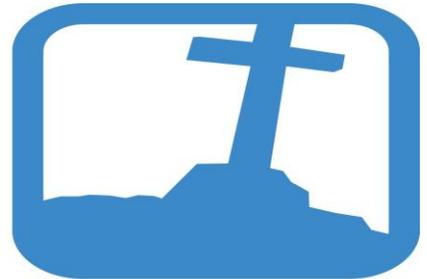
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

BEGINS MARCH 8th!

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour when you go to bed on Saturday, March 7th

MARCH WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

- March 1** 8 a.m. Classic worship with communion
10:15 a.m. Modern worship
- March 4** Wednesday Lent Worship at 6:30 p.m.
- March 8** 8 a.m. Classic worship
10:15 a.m. Modern worship with communion
- March 11** Wednesday Lent Worship at 6:30 p.m.
- March 15** 8 a.m. Classic worship with communion
10:15 a.m. Modern worship
- March 18** Wednesday Lent Worship at 6:30 p.m.
- March 22** 8 a.m. Classic worship
10:15 a.m. Modern worship with communion
- March 25** Wednesday Lent Worship at 6:30 p.m.
- March 29** ONE Worship Service at 9 a.m. with communion
Our Youth will serve a Breakfast following the service – watch for more information in our weekly worship service bulletins!



H O L Y W E E K

Maundy Thursday Worship – April 2 at 6:30 PM

Good Friday Worship – April 3 at 6:30 PM

Easter Sunday Worship – April 5 - 8AM and 10:15AM

From Pastor ...

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we continue this sacred journey through the season of Lent, I encourage you to take some time of reflection, repentance, and renewal. Lent is a journey that leads us to the cross, where we see God's immense love for us in Christ's sacrifice. It is a season to pause, examine our lives, and draw closer to our Savior through prayer, worship, and acts of service. May the Holy Spirit guide us as we seek forgiveness and embrace the hope that is ours in Jesus.

Let us encourage one another, bearing each other's burdens and rejoicing in the promise that, through Christ, we are made new. I pray this Lenten season will be a blessing to you and your families, preparing our hearts for the joy of Easter.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Hahn

Worship Service Schedule

Sunday, March 1st (The 2nd Sunday in Lent) - 8am Classic Service & 10:15am Modern Service

Wednesday, March 4th (Mid-Week Lenten Service 2) - 6:30pm Service

Sunday, March 8th (The 3rd Sunday in Lent) - 8am Classic Service & 10:15am Modern Service

Wednesday, March 11th (Mid-Week Lenten service 3) - 6:30pm Service

Sunday, March 15th (The 4th Sunday in Lent) - 8am Classic Service & 10:15am Modern Service

Wednesday, March 18th (Mid-Week Lenten service 4) - 6:30pm Service

Sunday, March 22nd (The 5th Sunday in Lent) - 8am Classic Service & 10:15am Modern Service

Wednesday, March 25th (Mid-Week Lenten service 5) - 6:30pm Service

Sunday, March 29th (Palm Sunday) - 9am Blended Service

Thursday, April 2nd (Maundy Thursday) - 6:30pm Service

Friday, April 3rd (Good Friday) - 6:30pm Service

Sunday, April 5th (Easter Sunday) - 8am Classic Service & 10:15am Modern Service

Mid-Week Lenten Services - The Lenten Season began with Ash Wednesday on February 18th. **You are encouraged to attend the 6:30 p.m. special Mid-Week Lenten Services. This year's theme throughout Lent is "Dying His Death, Living His Life"** In this series of special worship services for Lent, we are reminded that we are buried with Christ in His death so that we might live with Him in His resurrection. The old is gone. The new has come. Each day affords us a chance to die to self and live for Him. In word and song, we contemplate those things that were put to death on the cross so that we might receive the blessings of new life in Christ. *(Like last year, the 8th Grade Confirmation Class will be assisting with the Services throughout Lent.)*

Adult Small Group Sunday Morning Bible Study - Come and join us Sunday Mornings, between Worship Services, in the lower-level fellowship hall from 9:15-10:00am. 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. During the Season of Lent, we will be going through a Study based on the Lenten theme.

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*), 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. The Scripture Readings we will be studying are...

Tuesday, March 3rd *Exodus 17:1-7 - Romans 5:1-8 - John 4:5-42*

Tuesday, March 10th *Isaiah 42:14-21 - Ephesians 5:8-14 - John 9:1-41*

Tuesday, March 17th *Ezekiel 37:1-14 - Romans 8:1-11 - John 11:1-45*

Tuesday, March 24th *Psalm 118:14-23 - Revelation 5:11-13 - Matthew 21:1-11*

Tuesday, March 31st *Malachi 4:1-3 - 2 Timothy 2:8-13 - Matthew 28:1-10*

Church Partnership with Santurio Monte Sinai

“Hola! Dios es bueno! “God is good!”

“Quilts of Valor”

Nancy Edwards and Voris Spittle are compiling a list of our church congregation members who are Active Duty Military or Veterans. This is being done for the “Quilts of Valor” program. Eligible are active duty, National Guard, Reservist, members of the U.S. Armed Forces – Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force.

When a group of quilts are made, a presentation will be done. Therefore, we will have several presentations over time. The first of these presentations was done on Sunday, February 8, 2026!



Included in the first presentation were: *(listed in order of left to right)* Myron Meyer, Ron Dorschner, Ron Obermoller, Voris Spittle, Virgil Veen, David Roslansky, Alice White, Lyle Meyer, John Galstad, and Bruce Miller.

Nancy Edwards was also presented with a beautiful, framed Eagle in appreciation of all the work she has done for this “Quilts of Valor” program.

Please contact Nancy Edwards (218-849-1221) or Voris Spittle (507-360-4864) if you know a member of our congregation who would be eligible for this program.



Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) News

Our Annual Prayer Service will be held during our **March 5th LWML meeting at 1:30 p.m.** in the basement Fellowship Hall. Please join us for this inspirational time of Bible Study, songs, and prayers. During our brief meeting, we will complete plans for the Friendship Supper.

The Annual Friendship Supper will be held on March 17th at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We serve a meal to the residents of the group homes in Worthington. The residents are so delighted to get to see their friends from the other group homes.

The Worthington Zone Delegate meeting will be on March 7th at 9 a.m.

MUSIC & WORSHIP NEWS By Lorenda Glade, Director of Music

THE GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

The word "Tenebrae" comes from the Latin for "shadows" or "darkness." Dating back to the ninth century, Tenebrae was a service of prayer, psalms and Scripture readings observed in the final days of Holy Week. Over time, its most striking feature—the gradual extinguishing of candles—emerged as a poignant symbol of Christ's suffering and death.

Our Good Friday service on April 3rd at 6:30 PM will include the Service of Tenebrae. Seven lighted candles will represent the seven times in Scripture that our Lord and Savior speaks from the cross. After each Scripture reading, a candle will be extinguished. Selected verses from a hymn will be sung following each part of the Tenebrae service. After the final reading, the seventh candle, still burning, will be removed, leaving the church in darkness. The silence will then be punctuated by the "strepitus"—a sudden loud sound, usually produced by the slamming of a book. The strepitus is symbolic of the earthquake and chaos that occurred following the death of Jesus.

Each extinguished candle will challenge each of us to confront our own sin—the reason for Christ's suffering. Yet it also invites us to reflect on the profound love of God, who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. And even as the final candle is carried away, we know that the darkness is only temporary. Even as we grieve the sin that placed our Lord and Savior on the cross, the return of the Christ candle at the end of the service reminds us that Christ's light still shines in the darkness, and that the glorious Easter Sunday morning is coming.

MUSIC REHEARSALS DURING LENT

Please join us for our Passion Week Choir. We will sing an anthem at our 9:00 AM Palm Sunday Service on March 29 and at our 6:30 Good Friday service on April 3. Rehearsals for this special choir will be on Wednesdays, 5:00-5:30/5:40, beginning February 25-March 25. You will have time to enjoy our Lenten meals following our rehearsals. Our Holy Week services this year will be less involved than they have been in the past, so there will be minimal rehearsal time commitments for you during Holy Week. If you sing, your voice is needed!

CHURCH RECORDS

Baptism

- Agnes Anne Spittle, daughter of Brendan & Michaela Spittle, was baptized on February 7, 2026.

Financial Snapshot: January Income: \$29,219.20
Monthly Budget: \$44,271.00

Youth GROUP NEWS

YPOG News by Alexie Cross Happy Spring!

The youth have been busy lately! They have been helping with worship services by singing and playing instruments in the Praise Band, being screen operators, and helping with gathering the offering. Recently, they completed a service project by helping to load and make five furniture deliveries for Love INC.



We have also been having some fun! I put together a scavenger hunt escape room for the youth. It was a lot of fun watching them search for clues and then work together to work the clues out.



Looking forward, I would like to ask that you **please keep the YouthLead participants in your prayers as they travel to St. Louis March 19-22**. This year Addison Barrie-Cross and Camren Luther are going as participants and Madison Sieve is starting her first year on the Executive Team. I pray for safe travels and for a wonderful learning experience.

Important Upcoming Dates

- ❖ March 11 – Youth Serve the Lent Supper
- ❖ March 19-22 – YouthLead in St. Louis, Missouri
- ❖ March 29 – Youth Serve Palm Sunday Breakfast



ALTAR GUILD

Serving in March will be Kathy Roslansky and Nancy Veen. If you would like to be a part of the Altar Guild, please contact Velma Cortright, 376-5600 or Sandy Meyer, 376-6290. Be watching the upcoming weekly worship bulletins regarding helping us beautify the church for Easter! At the time of this newsletter printing, prices were not available for Easter Lillies.

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN CARE & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

by Roxann Leckband

Happy March to all of you. May it be filled with our Lords many blessings!

HUMAN CARE MINISTRY:

- March 2 – WIDOWS' GROUP at Perkins at 12:30. Come join us whether a widow for many years or a recent widow. Come and join us.
- March 9 – NOON FELLOWSHIP = the main entrée will be smoked pork loin and mashed potatoes and gravy. If you are able, please bring a dish to share. Come for a time in God's Word and great Christian fellowship. The March health topic will address sleep and the way our bodies respond to the time change. We will also look at our body's need for adequate sleep.
- March 23 – WIDOWS' GROUP in the Fireside Room at 11:30am. Please bring a dish to pass for lunch. Come join us and bring a friend. Contact me with questions you may have about the group.
- March 4, 11, 18, and 25 - Women in the Word will meet at 9AM with a time of Fellowship and a Lenten Bible study.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:

- SUNDAY SCHOOL will meet on March 1, 8, 15 and 22 at 9:15AM. During the music time, the children will be practicing songs they will sing on Palm Sunday at the 9AM worship service. Please have your child/children at church no later than 8:45AM to give us time to run through the Palm Sunday Songs and to line up to process in at the beginning of the service. There will be NO Sunday school on March 29. There will be children's Lenten Devotionals available.
- PARENT SUNDAY SCHOOL will meet on the corresponding days of Sunday school. We will continue to meet for a time of fellowship with other parents of children in Sunday school. There will be information on the Bible story that is being taught on that Sunday. It was reassuring to me that the Parent Sunday School is valuable for two reasons. One reason is for God's Word to be reinforced in the home. The second reason is the development of a small group. Parents that will continue to grow together as they worship and fellowship with their children. One of the parents stated that she is being "filled" when she attends Sunday morning.
- MOMS & JESUS' LIL' LAMBS - **will meet on March 27** from 10:30-12:00. See the picture from our group last month on the next page. **On April 3 we will have a Family Easter Event at 10:30AM.** Watch the Sunday worship bulletins for more details.
- SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS OF THE MONTH is the 4th & 5th grade CLASS. The teachers are Philip Lorch and David Cross. Please see the pictures on the next page.
- CONFIRMATION RETREAT for the 7th and 8th grade students will be March 20 & 21 at Camp Okoboji. We will meet at the church on March 20th at 5PM and return March 21st at 12:30.
- VBS REMINDER – Our "*Rainforest Falls*" VBS will be held June 15-19, 2026, from 9AM-12PM. Get your kids ready for a downpour of delight! At "Rainforest Falls," kids will explore the nature of God – discovering who God is and how much he loves them! There will be awesome Bible-learning experiences as they see, hear, and touch. Games, Bible Memory Buddies, unforgettable Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. We'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life – something we call "God Sightings." Tango, Seymour, Dottie, Tia, Howie, and Capser are the animal Bible Memory Buddies involved in this year's "Rainforest Falls" VBS. Mark your calendars and make plans for your kids to attend our VBS this Summer. Once again, since we are leading this VBS ourselves, we need to order supplies ahead of time. So VBS will be limited to 80 kids, like last year. Please watch for more information in next month's newsletter!

HEALTH MINISTRY: March 17 our Health Cabinet will meet at 12:30 in the Conference Room.

Moms & Jesus'
Lil' Lambs group
from our
February 2026
meeting date!



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS OF THE MONTH 4TH & 5TH GRADES

Teachers are David Cross & Philip Lorch



Picture to the left is David Cross with some of the 4th & 5th grade students.

Picture below is another picture of the 4th & 5th grade students.



A picture of teacher, Philip Lorch, was unavailable at the time of this newsletter being put together. However, here is a little bit about Philip Lorch: I teach 4th & 5th grade Sunday School. I have taught Sunday School here at St. Matthews for 6 years. I also help with the Confirmation classes. I live on a farm by May City, Iowa. I am involved in agriculture, feeding cattle, and grain farming. I enjoy helping kids with 4H projects also. I have 5 nieces and 4 nephews. I have enjoyed teaching kids about Jesus during Sunday School and also in my day-to-day life as I share about God's love and how He cares for them.

THANK YOUS

The family of Muriel Karschnik would like to thank you for your kind words, cards, and prayers after the passing of our mother. A special thank you to Pastor Hahn and the LWML ladies who served the lunch after the funeral service.

*Ellen & Bob Hanson and Family
Tammy & Tom Prins and Family*

A special thank you to our church family for the cards, thoughts, and prayers we received after the passing of Velma's brother, Lonnie. May God Bless you all.

Gary & Velma Cortright

135th Church Anniversary Story



Have you ever dropped your church offering into a cloth bag on the end of a long wooden stick handle? In times past, ushers would extend the offering basket and collect the offering that way. Do you suppose it got heavy from the coins that were dropped in, or were paper bills stuffed in? When were offering envelopes offered to the members? Does anyone know? Sometimes the Pastor's salary could not be met, and he would receive supplements of chickens and produce from the parishioners. That was part of history. Here is a picture of the offering bag that St. Matthew's used. We have saved this as part of our history. **You may see this item mounted on the wall above the coat rack in our Great Hall fellowship area! Take a look at all of the historical items displayed there.**



Do you have a story or memory you'd like to share with us? Please contact Bev in the church office by the 15th of the month to get it included in our next newsletter.

Highlights from the February Council Meeting

Our regularly scheduled Council meeting for February 9, 2026, had to be postponed to February 16, 2026, due to some conflicts in scheduling. Therefore, information from the meeting was not available for this newsletter. Our Next Council Meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.



MARCH ACOLYTE SCHEDULE:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>8 a.m.</u>	<u>10:15 a.m.</u>
March 1	Keaton Schettler	Jordan Raudenbush
March 4 – 6:30pm = Hayden Riemersma-Feit		
March 8	Isabella Trejo	Sawyer Reese
March 11 – 6:30pm = Kobe Blanchette		
March 15	Nicholas Marotzke-Kunze	Hazel Thier
March 28 – 6:30pm = Raymond Paplow		
March 22	Ian Metteer	Kylie Bosma
March 25 – 6:30pm = Kysten Willers		
March 29 – ONE SERVICE AT 9:00am = Jace Riemersma-Feit		
April 2 – 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday = Samuel Bents		
April 5 -	Sebastian Sieve	Cody Schmidt

If you are unable to fulfill your scheduled time, please find a replacement and then phone the church office with the change. Thank You!

**** PLEASE TAKE NOTE
OF THE WORSHIP TIMES
AND ARRIVE AT LEAST
15 MINUTES BEFORE
SERVICE BEGINS.
THANK YOU ****

WINTER WEATHER POLICY

PLEASE NOTE: 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 (myradioworks.net) and check their weather announcements.
- ✓ Tune into the local radio stations: 730AM and FM stations 93.5, 104.3, 95.1; however, their verbal announcements are not updated as quickly as their website.

Parents, please note: if the Worthington District 518 schools cancel or dismiss early, DUE TO THE WEATHER, then that evening's activities at the church will also be cancelled.

Church Staff Contact Information = Church Phone = 507-376-6168

Administrative Assistant, Bev Spittle – ext. 2 or stmattchurchoffice@gmail.com

Administrative Pastor David Hahn – ext. 3 or stmattpastorhahn@gmail.com

Youth, David & Alexie Cross – ext. 4 or stmattyouthdirector@gmail.com

Director of Human Care & Children's Ministries, Roxann Leckband – ext. 5 or
stmatthumancare@gmail.com or stmattparishnurse@gmail.com

Director of Music, Lorenda Glade – ext. 6 or stmattmusicstaff@gmail.com

Piano Looking For A New Home

"First Come, First Serve"

This "Baby Grand Piano" is looking for a new home. It is in our basement Fellowship Hall. If you are interested, please contact Bev in the church office. You would be responsible for moving it. We may be able to provide some help getting it out of the basement, but from there the rest is up to you.

