

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN

May 2026 Newsletter



May Worship & Education Hour Schedule:

- May 3 8:00 a.m. Worship with Communion
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School, & Adult Bible Study
 10:15 a.m. Worship with Communion and The Rite of Confirmation
- May 10 ***PreSchool-3rd Grade Sunday School Kids will sing during both of our worship services!***
 8:00 a.m. Worship
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Bible Study
 10:15 a.m. Worship with Communion
- May 17 ***Our High School Seniors' Blessing & Quilt Presentation will take place during both of our worship services!***
 8:00 a.m. Worship with Communion
 9:15 a.m. LAST DAY of Sunday School
 9:15 a.m. Graduate Breakfast for Graduates & their Families in the basement Fellowship Hall
 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study in the Great Hall (*please note the change of location for our Bible Study on this date*)
 10:15 a.m. Worship
- **Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend, we will have One Blended Worship Service on Sundays at 9 a.m. with Communion. Please help us spread the word of our Summer Worship Schedule.**
- May 24 9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion
 10:00 a.m. A Special Coffee Hour with Guests: Isaac Hedstrom and Bethany Dorschner
- May 31 9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion
 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study



Please see more information about our VBS on page 10 of this newsletter.

Pastor's Article

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we enter the month of May, I am reminded of the many blessings God continues to pour out upon our congregation. This is a season of growth, renewal, and celebration, as we witness our young people affirming their faith through Confirmation, the High School Graduates being recognized and gathering together for special occasions like Mother's Day, Ascension Sunday, and Pentecost Sunday. Each event offers us opportunities to reflect on God's faithfulness in our lives and the ways He calls us to encourage one another in love and service.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Hahn

May Worship Service Schedule

Wednesday, April 29th (Confirmation Class of 2026 Faith Statements) 5:30pm

Sunday, May 3rd (Confirmation Sunday) - 8am Classic Service & 10:15am Modern Service
St. Matthew Lutheran has a 4-Year Confirmation Instruction Program that takes boys and girls, 5th-8th graders, through the teachings of what it means to be a LCMS Christian. This year we have eleven 8th graders who will be confirming their faith as a baptized believer in Christ. This is another milestone in the lives of these young men and women. I invite you to come and share in their confession and celebration of becoming a Confirmed Member of St. Matthew Lutheran. The rite of Confirmation will only be taking place during the Modern 10:15am Service, Sunday May 3rd.
+++ (Confirmation Service will only be at the 10:15 Modern Service) +++

Sunday, May 10th (Mother's Day) - 8am Classic Service & 10:15am Modern Service

Sunday, May 17th (Ascension & HS Recognition Sunday) - 8am Classic & 10:15am Modern
The Ascension of our Lord is a major moment in the life and work of Jesus Christ (His return to heaven after His resurrection). The Ascension shows that His work on earth, saving humanity through His life, death, and resurrection, is finished. He now rules over all things, not just as a teacher on earth but as Lord of heaven and earth. The Ascension leads directly to Pentecost when the Holy Spirit comes to guide and strengthen believers. The Ascension is a promise of eternal life and a reminder that heaven is our ultimate home. It was right before ascending that Jesus told His disciples to go, make disciples, and baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. In short, the Ascension isn't just about Jesus leaving. It's about Him reigning, sending help, giving hope and purpose to His followers.

Sunday, May 24th (Pentecost Sunday) – 9:00 am Service – **ONLY ONE SERVICE**

Pentecost marks a very important moment in the history of the Church, the coming of the Holy Spirit. It was after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus that the apostles and other disciples were gathered together. It was then that the Holy Spirit came upon them in a powerful way, by wind and tongues of fire. Before this, the disciples were unsure and even afraid. After Pentecost, they became bold and began to preach openly about Jesus. They were even able to speak in different languages so that many nations could understand them. Because this was when the apostles first began spreading the Good News of Jesus publicly, thousands of people came to believe. We equate Pentecost to the beginning of the Christian Church as a mission to the world. God continues to work through the Holy Spirit in believer's lives today. In short Pentecost marks the moment when God's Spirit came to guide, strengthen, and send out the Church into the world.

Sunday, May 31st (Holy Trinity Sunday) – 9am Service

Holy Trinity Sunday focuses on the nature of God as Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It highlights the mystery that God is one in essence yet exists as 3 distinct persons, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. It emphasizes that God is relational (Father, Son, Spirit in unity). Salvation involves all three persons. The Father sends the Son, the Son redeems, and the Spirit works faith. For Christians, Trinity Sunday is a reminder that God is deeper than human understanding, Yet God makes Himself

known in a personal way. We, as believers are invited into a relationship with the Triune God. In short Holy Trinity Sunday celebrates who God is in three persons and invites Christians to reflect on that mystery at the heart of their faith.

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. Our topic will be “Lutheranism”! What does it mean when you call yourself a Lutheran or more specifically a Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS) Lutheran?

Beginning on Pentecost Sunday, May 24th, we will be moving to our summer schedule for worship. All Worship Services will be at 9:00 am. This is our opportunity as a congregation to all worship together. The Adult Small Group Bible Study will continue meeting with a new time of 10:15-11:00am (following fellowship time).

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. Below are the Scripture Readings we will be studying.

Tuesday, May 5th - Acts 17:16-31 - I Peter 3:13-22 - John 14:15-21

Tuesday, May 12th - Acts 1:1-11 - Ephesians 1:15-23 - Luke 24:44-53

Tuesday, May 19th - Number 11:24-30 - Acts 2:1-21 - John 7:37-39

Tuesday, May 26th - Genesis 1:1-2;4a - Acts 2:14a, 22-36

CHURCH RECORDS

Baptism

- Jace Douglas Greenway, son of Cory & Anne Greenway, was baptized April 19, 2026.

Financial Snapshot: March Income: \$38,241.00

Monthly Budget Needed: \$44,271.00

March Expenses: \$36,597.97

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Serving in May will be Sue Koob and Sandy Meyer/Velma Cortright. If you would like to be a part of the Altar Guild please contact Velma Cortright, 376-5600 or Sandy Meyer, 372-6290.

A BIG Thank You goes out to the congregation for providing lilies and flowering plants to beautify our church for Easter Sunday!

LWML (Lutheran Women’s Missionary League) NEWS

The May meeting for LWML will be on Thursday, May 7th at 1:30 p.m. in the basement Fellowship Hall. We will review the year and decide on upcoming events. NOTE: There will NOT be a Summer Celebration this summer. Circle Bible Studies will be as scheduled. Hope Circle will meet on May 12 at 3 p.m. and Sarah Circle will meet on May 19 at 1:30 p.m. Both will meet in the Fireside Room.

MUSIC & WORSHIP NEWS

“Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!”

You may very well ask, “Why are you opening your May newsletter article with the Easter greeting? Easter was the first Sunday in April.”

Yes, Easter Sunday has come and gone. But the season of Easter does not end until the Day of Pentecost on May 24. And every Sunday is a mini-Easter when we celebrate what Jesus has done for us through His death and resurrection. Each of us has approximately 52 glorious opportunities to celebrate Easter each year!

Every Sunday this May includes some wonderful events and celebrations. Please don't miss a single one!

- Our Confirmands will affirm their faith at our Confirmation service at 10:15 on Sunday, May 3rd. Please pray for these young people on this very important day in their faith journey.
- On May 10, our Preschool --Grade 3 students will sing near the end of the 8:00 service and during the 10:15 service.
- Thursday, May 14 is Ascension Day. On this day, we celebrate Jesus' bodily ascension into heaven 40 days after Easter. It marks the physical end of Jesus' earthly ministry and signifies His victory over death. Many churches, including St. Matthew, used to have an Ascension Day service. Now churches often include Ascension Day observances in the Sunday service immediately following Ascension Day. For your own personal devotion, you can read the account of Jesus' ascension in Acts 1:1-11.
- On Sunday, May 17th, we will honor our graduating seniors at both services. Please pray for these graduates as they begin the next chapter in their lives.
- Sunday, May 24th is the Day of Pentecost. Celebrated 50 days after Easter, it marks the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles in Jerusalem and is often considered to be the birth of the Christian Church. We will begin our summer schedule with one blended service at 9:00 AM.
- We close the month of May with Holy Trinity Sunday on May 31. Holy Trinity Sunday is always the Sunday after Pentecost Sunday. It honors our core doctrine of the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. “God in three persons, blessed Trinity” (LSB 507)

There are 5 wonderful Sundays in May for us to celebrate and worship together at St. Matthew. Please join us!

Lorenda Glade, Director of Music



“Lutheran Witness” Subscriptions

TIME TO RENEW or start a NEW subscription to this wonderful magazine, Lutheran Witness. This year's renewal fee is \$27.82 (\$2.31/per issue) for a year's subscription (11 issues, June & July are a combined issue). **If you would like to renew your subscription or would like to start a new**

subscription please contact Bev in the church office, 376-6168, by May 26th. *When you order this magazine through the church it includes a special insert that keeps you up to date on all the Minnesota South District happenings, which is the District our church is a member of.*

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

Happy May Day in Christ!

What a great season of the year as we have been blessed with such an amazing time worshipping our Lord and Savior with those shouts of praise as we say, "Christ Has Risen" He is Risen indeed, Hallelujah!" We can certainly have the Hallelujah of Easter every day. What comfort that gives knowing Christ died and rose again for the forgiveness of our sins.

May also brings the joys of Confirmation and Graduation. These are two amazing milestones for our youth. Our Confirmands give public profession of their faith and the promise to follow Christ as He leads them through His Word and Sacraments. The youth being Confirmed on May 3: Kylie Bosma, Kobe Blanchette, Nicholas Marotzke-Kunze, Whitney Marotzke-Kunze, Ian Metteer, Raymond Paplow, Jace Riemersma-Feit, Cody Schmidt, Monroe Sieve, Wyatt Schutte, Kysten Willers. Continue to pray for strength in keeping the faith and may the love of our Father be evident in the fruits of their faith.

With Mother's Day just around the corner, we thank all the moms, grandmas and special women in our children's lives as they love, care, and provide a Christian upbringing by teaching and mentoring our beloved children. May our Lord bless and keep all of you. Peace in the Lord.

In Christ,
Roxann Leckband

Human Care Ministry:

- ❖ Widows' Group will meet on Monday, May 4 at 12:30 at Perkins Restaurant.
- ❖ Widows' Group will also meet on Tuesday, May 26 at 5:15 in the Fireside Room. Please Note: we have moved to the evening during the Spring, Summer, and Fall.
- ❖ Women in the Word will meet on May 6, 13, 20, and 27 from 9-10AM in the Fireside Room. ALL women are welcome. Please contact Roxie with any questions you may have.
- ❖ Noon Fellowship will be on Monday, May 11. The main entrée will be meatballs with mashed potatoes and gravy. You may bring a dish to share if you would like to. There will be an opportunity for blood pressure to be taken if you would like it done.
- ❖ Mom's and Jesus' Lil' Lambs will meet on Fridays, May 8 and 29 at 10:30 in the preschool classroom and Fireside Room. We look forward to seeing you and your young children for a time of Bible story, crafts, games, and snacks.

Children's Ministry

- ❖ Sunday School: a reminder, the last day of Sunday school is May 17. A huge "THANK YOU" to ALL who have served in our Sunday School, Kids In the Word and Confirmation classes. We cannot have a Christian Education program without people who give their time. Our Lord has blessed us with you and your service to our children. Sunday School teachers are Danika Schmidt, Connie Reitmeier, Carson Wolford, Val Wolford, Christy Milbrath, Angie Kopplow, Amanda Reese, Philip Lorch, Adam Sandersfeld, and Jesse Raudenbush. Thank you to Jeanette Varsuka and Connie Reitmeier, the Co-Chairs of the Board of Christian Education. They are also lovingly referred to as the "snack ladies." Connie and Jeanette also serve our pre-school-3rd grade Sunday School music program. Thank you to Julie Place, Karen Obermoller, Paulette Olson, and Lorenda Glade for accompanying on the keyboard.
- ❖ Kids In the Word teachers Dawn Dorschner and Mary Krueger assisted by Christy Milbrath and Jeanette Varuska, and helpers Angie Kopplow and Torey Rogers. Please see the write-up and pictures on the next page.

- ❖ Confirmation instructors: Pastor Hahn, Roxie Leckband, Julie Place, and Deb Kallemeyn. Confirmation Mentors: Laurie Waldner, David Cross, Philip Lorch, and Tasha Schultz.
- ❖ As you read all these names we will be needing volunteers for our 2026-2027 year. Many of these individuals have served **many years**. Parents, please prayerfully consider volunteering or accept the invitation when asked to serve. It is a blessing to be a part of classes your child is participating in. The memories will last for a lifetime. We are part of a large body of believers (The Church) all with unique gifts which God has given for us to serve His children. Pray for the opportunity to serve and let me know how you would like to serve.
- ❖ VBS is June 15-19. Please see the detailed information included in this newsletter and upcoming worship bulletins. If you would like to help, do not hesitate to reach out by calling the church, 507-376-6168, and asking for Roxie or contact Jeanette Varuska.

Health Cabinet: Health Cabinet will meet on May 19 in the Conference Room from 11AM-1PM.

Kids In the Word:

Hi! I'm **Dawn Dorschner**, and I have the privilege of teaching our Wednesday night kids, Sunday School kids, and VBS preschoolers. I truly love spending time with them. Whether we're learning Bible stories, laughing together, doing fun object lessons, playing silly games, or just enjoying the (sometimes chaotic) energy they bring each week. One of my favorite things is telling kids about Jesus and seeing their faces light up when they begin to understand His love – it's the best part. I'm so thankful to be part of helping our kids grow in their faith and grow in the love of Jesus!

My name is **Mary Krueger**. I live on a farm with my husband, Dave, and we have two married adult kids and five grandkids. Since my retirement as an OB/Labor and Delivery RN, I have had the privilege of helping out with the Wednesday night "Kids In the Word" program. I love getting to know the kids and watching them grow physically, emotionally, and spiritually in an information setting. There is never a dull moment, and we have a lot of fun!



May 2026 Acolyte Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:15 a.m.</u>
May 3	Keaton Schettler	Blake Schmidt
May 10	Isabella Trejo	Wren Thier
May 19	Ian Metteer	Kyra Cross
May 24	9:00 AM = Sebastian Sieve	
May 31	9:00 AM = Anna Koppen	
June 7	9:00 AM = Jaxon Grimmus	

Please arrive 15 minutes before service begins. If you are unable to make your scheduled time – please switch with someone and then let the church office know of the change, 376-6168. Thank You

THANK YOU

I want to thank each of you for the prayers, cards, and phone calls I received for my 90th birthday. St. Matthews is a very caring congregation. God's Blessings to each of you!
Marlene Jurgensen

CHURCH PHONE SYSTEM

Recently our church's phone system crashed, or as the tech person Bev talked to said, "the system had a stroke." We were able to get it back up and working but have been told it is running on borrowed time. It may last a day, a week, a month, or who knows how long? The system is 18-19 years old and no longer made or supported. We are in the process of getting quotes for a new system. **If you have a Pastoral Emergency, and cannot get through on the church phone number, please call Pastor Hahn at 507-738-0478.**

135 YEARS FOR OUR CHURCH!

In 2026, St. Matthew's celebrates 135 Years! We do not have a special story or historical moment to share this month. Do you have something about St. Matthew's you'd like to share in next month's Newsletter? Please have your story or historical tidbit into the church office by May 15th. Thank You!

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO ATTEND:

- Tuesdays from 8:30-9:30 a.m. in the upstairs Conference Room - Pastor Hahn leads this study. If we outgrow the Conference Room, we will move to the Fireside Room.
 - Wednesdays from 9:00-10:00 a.m. "Women in the Word" meets in the downstairs Fireside Room.
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Mark Your Calendars – Worship in the Park on July 12th – watch for more information in upcoming newsletters and bulletins!

Youth GROUP NEWS

Happy Spring!

The last few weeks seemed to have gone by very quickly. We wrapped up two fundraisers: the Puffins and the Beef Bundle Drawing. Both were very successful thanks to YOU, the congregation!

David and I took the seniors to Sioux Falls to an escape room and to Buffalo Wild Wings for dinner and fellowship. We may not have escaped our room on time, but we sure did have

fun! We are hoping to have a few more senior nights before they go off to college and on to their future goals. See picture to the right →

March 19-22 Addison Barrie-Cross, Camren Luther, and I attended YouthLead with Madison Sieve leading on the Executive Team. This year the curriculum was on Apologetics. It was very informative and we learned so much. (See photos below.) More to come on some upcoming Bible Study opportunities.

I want to close by saying that I know that this time of year gets busy with sports, concerts, graduations, etc. Just remember to take time for yourself and pray. I always look to Isaiah 41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."



Alexie Cross

Upcoming Dates:

- April 29 – Last day of Youth Group
- May 17 – Last Day of Sunday School
- May 17 – Senior Breakfast

****Watch the Band App for the next fellowship date.****



APRIL COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

(These are only “highlights” from the Council meeting. Minutes will not be approved until the next meeting.)

Treasurer’s Report: March expenses were \$36,597.97; income was \$38,241.00, leaving the General Fund at \$110,479.55. Other Account Balances on March 31 were: Youth Account \$22,615.04; Momentum One (Emma Schade Scholarship) \$837,757.75; Momentum Two \$315,277.30; Memorial Fund \$59,055.70.

Staff Reports: *Pastor Hahn* – Average Sunday Attendance was 62 at 8AM and 108 at 10:15AM. Palm Sunday attendance was 275. Staff evaluations have been completed. Plea for more audio/visual balcony tech operators. MN North & South District Pastor’s Conference will be at Maddens Resort on May 11-13. Pastor is not planning to attend. *Roxie* – Assisting with VBS planning. Had great attendance at the Easter Family Event. Confirmation Retreat went well. *Lorenda* – Thank you to all who participated in so many ways to make our Holy Week services meaningful. Thanks to the teachers and piano players for their help with preparing the kids’ songs for Palm Sunday. I’m continuing to have concerns about the availability of singers for our band. If anyone hears of any good singers in the congregation, let me know. *Alexie* – Senior Breakfast is planned for May 17. Youth made around \$700 from the puffin pastry sales and around \$3,000 from the meat bundle fundraiser. The 3 youth that attend YouthLead in St. Louis learned about “Apologetics” and are planning to give a presentation to adults and youth. Planning a fellowship event to Thunder Road in Sioux Falls in May.

Elders – Discussed having an elder’s training. Need audio/visual tech operators in balcony.

Trustees – Reviewed insurance policy renewals. Discussed musty smell in basement fellowship hall. Continuing to try and fix the basement storage room wall. Tried another option and will see how that works. Conference room wall repair will begin soon. Phone system crashed and we are working on getting bids and what will need to be done to run cat5 wiring and another modem, etc. for a new system.

Board of Education – VBS planning continues.

Ministry Planning – Service in the park will be July 12. Hy-Vee will cater burgers, brats and all the fixings. This will be the planning board’s last function as they will no longer continue to meet. Lynn Dierks will continue to do the decorating in the Great Hall through the year. Discussed the need to have someone to coordinate who will contact members to be greeters for each service. A computer list is used, and people sign up on and sometimes phone calls are needed to ask members to greet.

Old Business – Guatemalan Church had their Easter service gathering in the church basement with around 100 people in attendance. Our balcony project remains ongoing, and sound system not completed yet. Church safety training with police department will be scheduled in May. Upcoming elections: need an Elder and Vice-President yet.

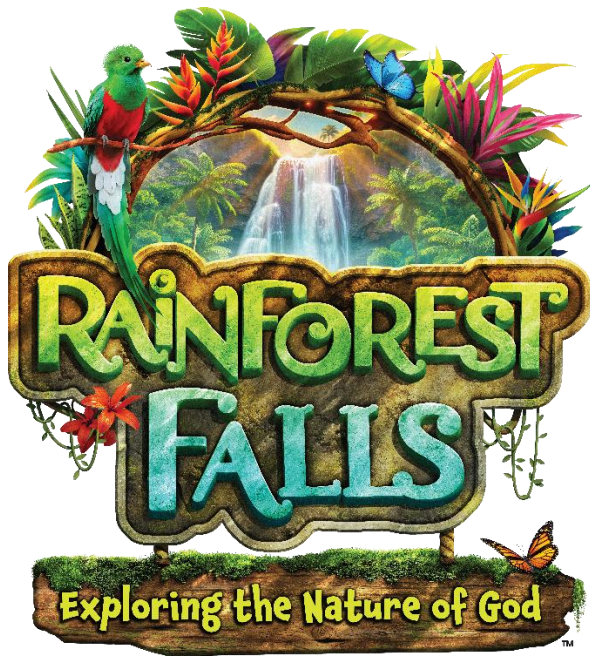
New Business – Will be giving a donation of \$250 to the Helping Hands Pregnancy Center.

Next Administrative Council meeting will be on Monday, May 11 at 5:30 p.m.



St. Matthew’s subscribes to **RightNow Media** for our members to use for their own personal devotions and Bible Studies. **This is a wonderful resource for the entire family – there are also kid’s videos!** If you haven’t already done so, check it out and create your own personal account (it’s FREE for you), under our church account, so you can access all the great Bible studies and videos for you and your family! Contact Bev in the church office with any questions!





Vacation Bible School June 16-20, 2025 9am-12pm

Kids aged Preschool (*must be potty trained*) through those who have completed 5th grade are invited. **We will be leading the program ourselves again this year. So, we need helpers.**

Please contact Jeanette Varuska, or Roxie Leckband if you can help for a day, 2 days, all week, or only for a few hours! Registration forms are available at the church and on our church website, www.stmatthewworthington.com.

Pre-registration is required. We had to order supplies and have enough for 80 kids. Please have registrations into the church office by June 2. Thank You!

You may drop off the form at the church or scan the completed form and email it to stmatchurchoffice@gmail.com.

No scanner? Take a picture of the form and email the picture or just type all required information in an email to the church.



**“Give thanks to the Lord,
for he is good! His faithful
love endures forever.”**

(Psalm 136:1)

