St. Matthew Lutheran Church

1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN

November 2026 Newsletter



REMINDER – DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS NOVEMBER 1st – SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR when you go to bed on Saturday, October 31st. HAPPY FALL!!!!!!

HARVEST DINNER

Sunday, November 1st

Serving from 11:15am-1:00pm

Please use the North/Elevator Entrance for the basement Fellowship Hall.

Come enjoy a delicious Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings and homemade pies!

A "Free-will Offering" will be received for the meals eaten at the church and for any take-outs. There will also be boxed greeting cards to purchase from our LWML bookstore, and a Bake Sale!

Proceeds will be given to local families in need, including Logan Waldner! Logan is still recovering from an accident that happened 1 ½ years ago. If you cannot attend the dinner, but would like to give a donation, please make a check payable to St. Matthew LWML and mail to the church office.

SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS!

Deliveries are available and will be $12 per meal. We only deliver within the City of Worthington. **Please call the church office, 507-376-6168, by 12 p.m. (noon) on Friday, October 30 to sign-up for a delivered meal.**



FROM PASTOR'S DESK:

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.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

November invites us to notice the changing season. The leaves have nearly finished their bright display, the fields have yielded their harvest, and the days are growing shorter. Across our community, gardens are being cleared, farm equipment is returning to the shed, and homes are preparing for the coming winter. This season reminds us that life has rhythms: planting and gathering, labor and rest, letting go and beginning again.

Harvest time also reminds us that every good gift begins with God. We may plant seeds, tend the soil, and work faithfully, but growth remains a gift of grace. As Scripture declares, ***"The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us"*** (Psalm 67:6). Thanksgiving, then, is more than a single holiday or a meal shared with family and friends. It is a way of seeing. Gratitude teaches us to recognize God's goodness in what is abundant, what is ordinary, and even what is unfinished.

For some, thanksgiving comes easily this year. There may be new life, restored health, meaningful work, or joyful gatherings to celebrate. For others, this season may carry grief, loneliness, uncertainty, or an empty place at the table. Christian gratitude does not ask us to pretend that everything is easy. Instead, it helps us trust that God remains present in every season. We give thanks not because life is perfect, but because God is faithful.

November also turns our attention toward Advent. Before long, the Church will begin its season of watching and waiting for the coming of Christ. The wider culture may urge us to hurry toward Christmas, filling our calendars and shopping lists. Advent offers a different invitation: slow down, pay attention, and prepare the way of the Lord.

Perhaps this month can become a bridge between gratitude and expectation. As we give thanks for what God has already provided, we also make room for what God is preparing to do. We can ask ourselves:

- What blessings have I overlooked?
- How can I prepare my heart to welcome Jesus anew?

In the weeks ahead, consider keeping a simple gratitude list, sharing generously with someone in need, reaching out to a person who may be alone, or setting aside a few quiet minutes each day for prayer. These small practices can help us move toward Advent with attentive and open hearts.

May this harvest season deepen our gratitude for God's blessings. May Thanksgiving renew our generosity to others. And as Advent approaches, may we become a people who wait with hope, watch with faith, and welcome Christ with joy.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Hahn

November's *"The Story"* Lessons of the Week

November 1-7 = Chapter 7 "The Battle Begins" pg.89-102 *(Book of Joshua)*

November 8–14 = Chapter 8 "A Few Good Men…and Women" pg. 103-120 *(Book of Judges)*

November 15–21 = Chapter 9 "The Faith of a Foreign Woman" pg. 121-128 *(Book of Ruth)*

November 22–28 = Chapter 10 "Standing Tall, Falling Hard" pg. 129-144 *(Beginning of 1 Samuel)*

November 29–December 5 = Review Chapters 1-10 *(Genesis through 1 Samuel, chapter 15)*

"The Story" Bible Studies

Sunday Morning Bible Study = 9:15am.–10:00am.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study (Upstairs Conference Room) = 8:30am.–9:30am.

Wednesday (Women in the Word – Downstairs Fireside Room) = 9:00am–10:00am.

Thursday Evening Bible Study (Basement) = 7:00pm–8:00pm **(*No 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 weekly Facebook and YouTube postings 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, Facebook Page, and YouTube Channel)* to keep you up to date as we journey together, through **The Story**.

November Worship Services

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

Sunday, November 1st *(All Saints Day)* - 8am Classic & 10:15am Modern Services

Sunday, November 8th *(24th Sunday After Pentecost)* – 8 am Classic & 10:15am Modern Services

Sunday, November 15th *(25th Sunday After Pentecost)* - 8am Classic & 10:15am Modern Services

Sunday, November 22nd *(Last Sunday of the Church Year)* - 8am Classic & 10:15am Modern Services

Wednesday, November 25th *(Thanksgiving Eve)* Worship Service at 6:30pm and Dessert Buffet following the service.

Sunday, November 29th *(1st Sunday in Advent)* **- One Blended Worship Service at 9AM**
NO Sunday School this Sunday.

UPCOMING DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES – please watch for more information in our December Newsletter and upcoming weekly Sunday worship bulletins. December will have mid-week Advent services on Wednesdays, Children's Christmas Program on December 20th, and Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services.

WINTER WEATHER NEWS

The WINTER SEASON is right around the corner. **In the event of inclement weather**, **our church Facebook page will be the first thing updated with a post about weather cancellations, etc. We will also do a push notification on our church App, but if you haven't opened the App recently, you may not receive the notification.** You may **also** tune into the local radio stations: 730AM and FM stations 93.5, 104.3 and 95.1 to hear church announcements. *The radio station's website, myradioworks, is updated quicker than their verbal announcements.* ***REMINDER TO PARENTS*** *– if the Worthington schools cancel or dismiss early DUE TO WEATHER, then those evenings classes/activities will be cancelled here at church also.*



Wednesday, November 25th at 6:30 p.m.

Get the long weekend off to a terrific start! Join in the joyous worship of our great God and Savior on "Thanksgiving Eve." Decorations, scripture, and special music combine to make an uplifting time of worship! *Parents please note: No Confirmation or Kids in the Word classes, or HS Youth Group this night.*

Invitation to Dessert Buffet - Following the Special Thanksgiving Eve Service, EVERYONE IS INVITED to the basement fellowship hall, for a time of indulging in a **Dessert Buffet** and wonderful fellowship, as a way of saying, "Thank You!"

Looking Ahead to Advent



We will have Mid-Week Advent Worship services on Wednesdays - December 2, 9, and 16 at 6:30 p.m.

The theme this year throughout Advent and Christmas is, "The Promise Comes To Pass." Devotion books will be available. Here is a little taste of what to expect. More will follow in December.

When we are living in times of fear and sadness, desperation and impossible difficulties, it seems like they will never end. But they will. God has promised that these difficulties will indeed pass. Time and time again, God's Word declares, "And it came to pass." This is a constant reminder that God is faithful to his promises. The arrival of Jesus has brought eternal hope and possibility, gladness and deliverance. God's promises always come to pass!

Our first mid-week Advent service on Wednesday, December 2 will be, "The Promise Comes to Pass – Fear to Hope"

CHURCH RECORDS

New Member: Sherri Steenstra

Released: Dianna Gronewold

Financial Snapshot:

September Income: $33,406.00
Monthly Budget: $44,271.00
Year-To-Date Income: $314,959.07
Year-To-Date Budget: $398,439.00

Altar Guild

Serving in November will be Barb Gruis and Nancy Veen. For the Thanksgiving Eve service it will be Kathy Roslansky and Nancy Veen. Would you like to learn more about what the Altar Guild does? Do you already know about it, and want to join? Please contact Velma Cortright, 507-329-5947 or Sandy Meyer, 507-360-0274. Thank You! They are looking for more ladies to join them!

LWML NEWS (Lutheran Women's Missionary League)

The next LWML meeting will be on November 5th at 1:30 p.m. in the basement Fellowship Hall. We will review the Harvest Dinner and plan the Christmas party. Please plan to attend!

November Circle Bible Studies are: Hope Circle on November 10 at 3 p.m. in the Fireside Room, and Sarah Circle on November 17 at 1:30 p.m. also in the Fireside Room.

LOOKING AHEAD: Put **December 3rd** on your to-do list! We will have our **Annual Christmas Party**. It begins at 6 p.m. with a soup supper, Potluck Christmas goodies, and a gift exchange. Please bring a gift for $8-$10, and a food item for the Food Pantry. **ALL ladies of the congregation are invited! Hope to see many of you there. Bring a friend!**

MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS

The month of November marks the close of the church year on November 22, Christ the King Sunday, and the beginning of a new church year on November 29, the First Sunday of Advent.

As we worship during these last weeks of the church year, the Gospel readings focus on Matthew 25 and God's final judgement before Christ the King returns in glory. In the November chapters in The Story, God provides judges to rule over the Israelites. But the people are not satisfied and ask God to send a king to rule over them. God relents, and Saul is chosen to rule as king over the people. Things do not go well for the people of Israel under Saul's leadership, just as things do not go well for us when we choose to go our way instead of God's way. Even the great king David, who will be the focus of "The Story" on the first Sunday of Advent, fell into sin. Our eternal hope will never come through an earthly king, but only through Christ, our Heavenly King.

Worship and music opportunities in November include:

- **Wednesdays throughout November: Adult Choir at 5:45, Bell Choir at 6:30.**
- **November 1, All Saints Sunday**. On this day, we remember all who have died in the faith, but especially those in the St. Matthew Church family who have died since the last All Saints Sunday. Our music will reflect the eternal hope that we have through faith in Jesus Christ.
- **November 8 Recognition of our Veterans**: We will recognize at both services those men and women who have served our nation and protected the freedoms we hold dear. A Patriotic Medley will be included in each service.
- **November 15**: Usual worship at 8:00 and 10:15.
- **November 22, Christ the King Sunday**. This is the last Sunday of the liturgical year, just before Advent begins. We recognize Jesus as the King and ruler over all of creation. **The choirs will provide special music.**
- **Wednesday, November 26 Thanksgiving Eve service at 6:30**. Please take the time to worship and give thanks to God for the abundant blessings we have been given.
- **November 29, the first Sunday of Advent:** Join us for **one blended service at 9:00** as we prepare our hearts for the coming of the promised Savior, Jesus Christ.

Blessings to all of you as we end one church year and begin a new year of worshipping together at St. Matthews.

In Christ,
Lorenda Glade, Director of Music

YPOG (Youth) NEWS By Alexie Cross

Happy Fall! Youth Group is off to a great start this year. We kicked things off with a photo scavenger hunt, and the youth brought so much energy and creativity to the night. Here are a couple photos:





In Sunday School, our group is working through the teen edition of *The Story Bible study*. This has really sparked meaningful conversations that have connected Scripture to their everyday lives.

Our youth also completed the Bella Napoli Frozen Pizza fundraiser. They worked hard and the fundraiser was a success. We want to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who purchased a pizza or donated to support the youth group.

Important dates to remember:

- October 28th – Delivery of Pizzas
- November 25th – No Youth Group
- November 29th – No Sunday School

Acolytes for November Worship Services



Date	8:00 AM	10:15 AM
Nov. 1	Sydney Bremer	Hazel Thier
Nov. 8	Remily "Remi" Granstra	Hadlee Markus
Nov. 15	Madison Krueger	Tenley Olson
Nov. 22	Ramsey Marten	Brielle Pass
Nov. 25 – 6:30 PM = Wren Thier		
Nov. 29	Kannen Schettler	Elizabeth Rogers
Dec. 2 – 6:30 PM = Brecklyn Willers		
Dec. 6	Jaxon Grimmius	Leighton Wintz

Please ARRIVE 15 MINUTES before the service begins to light the candles. If you are unable to fulfill your scheduled time, please find a replacement and then let the church office know about the change. THANK YOU.

THANK YOU

My heartfelt thank you to everyone that has been praying for me and for the cards you have sent. The prayers are working and continued prayers are appreciated for continued healing. Thank You and May God Bless You.

Lula Junker

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

by Roxann Leckband

Greeetings brothers and sisters in Christ,

November is the season of thanksgiving. As we look forward to Thanksgiving Day—a celebration of faith, family, and food—an article in the *Sagacity* newsletter (**S**aints **A**live, **G**rowing, **E**ver **S**erving) offers a timely reminder of the holiday's deeper meaning.

Christians—and Lutheran Christians in particular—may recall Dr. Martin Luther's explanation of the petition, **"Give us this day our daily bread."** Luther wrote that God gives daily bread to everyone, even without our prayer. In this petition, however, we ask God to help us recognize these gifts and receive them with thanksgiving. "Daily bread" includes everything needed for the body and daily life: food and drink, clothing and shelter, family and work, honest leaders and good government, favorable weather, peace, health, self-control, a good reputation, faithful friends and neighbors, and similar blessings.

A Morning Prayer - *Thank you, Lord, for the gifts of life, health, work, family, friends, home, daily bread, and this new day. Bless and protect us in all our activities, travels, work, and play. Amen.*

To God be the glory!

HUMAN CARE MINISTRY:

- **Widows' Group:** November 2 at 12:30 p.m. at Perkins Restaurant and November 23 at noon in our Fireside Room. For questions about the group, contact Roxie at 507-376-6168.
- **Women in the Word:** Meets November 4, 11, 18, and 25 from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room. The group will continue the churchwide Bible study, *The Story*. All are welcome to join us.
- **Noon Fellowship:** Join us November 9 at noon in the Fireside Room for a turkey dinner with mashed potatoes and gravy. Bring a dish to share, a freewill offering, or simply yourself. Everyone is welcome!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:

- **Confirmation Prayer Partners:** Congregation Members may serve as intercessory prayer partners for our seventh and eighth grade confirmation youth. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Great Hall. Watch the Sunday worship bulletins for details. Please keep your identity confidential from the youth you support.
- **November Schedule Changes:**
  November 25: No Confirmation or Kids in the Word classes. Please join us for the Thanksgiving Eve worship service at 6:30 p.m.
  November 29: No Sunday School.
- **Featured Education Class is "Kids in the Word."** This year the children will learn about what God is saying through his prophets of the Old Testament. The teachers try to teach this as an active class where there is movement and fun along with fellowship and centering it all around a bible message. Dawn has taught for many years and enjoys trying to find new ways to illustrate the points of the lesson that will stick with the children all of their lives. ***Please see photos of this class and photos of the preschool-3rd grade music time for Sunday School on the following page.***

Preschool-3rd Grade students during the singing part of Sunday School!
They are working on Christmas music for their program on December 20th!





"Kids in the Word" Class → ↓
This class is on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:25 p.m. and is for Preschool-4th grades. The class is taught by Dawn Dorschner and Mary Krueger. There are 24 kids and more are always welcome!





HIGHLIGHTS from the 10/12/2026 COUNCIL MEETING

Information was not available at the time of this newsletter printing.

Next Council Meeting will be Monday, November 9 at 5:30 p.m.

2026 GIVING – Please remember, all offerings to the church 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. **The 2027 Offering Envelopes should be arriving in late November sometime.** Watch for more information. THANK YOU!

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

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



YOU ARE NEEDED to help in a Ministry!

Our new soundboard and other updates in the balcony are complete! **We have an IMMEDIATE NEED for ALL positions of our Balcony Tech Crew (sound operator, screen operator, and Producer (recording & livestream).** Do you like to be able to hear the worship service? Do you like to see the liturgy, hymns, and songs on the screen? Do you want to help our shut-ins enjoy watching our service livestream? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then we NEED YOU!

We have a limited number of current operators, so there may be upcoming services with NO screen, sound, or livestream if we do not get more members for our crew.

The only requirements are the responsibility to be on time and follow along with the service. *Contact Bev in the church office if you have any questions or would like to start training; OR just go up to the balcony during a worship service and watch what happens, and talk to them.*

This is a VERY IMPORTANT part of our worship services! **We need both adults and youth to be involved.** Don't let it sound intimidating. Please speak with a current crew member and go up to the balcony to check it out! **Training is provided, as much as needed!** We will not let you be on your own until you are ready. Scheduling is very flexible – especially if we can get a good list of people to do the positions! **Please pray about this. Thank You!**