

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN

October 2026 Newsletter



October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:00 AM CLASSIC WORSHIP (communion on 1st & 3rd Sundays)

10:15 AM MODERN WORSHIP (communion on 2nd & 4th Sundays)

Bi-Annual Voters Meeting

Sunday, October 25th at 11:45 a.m.

Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.

Included on the Agenda will be the 2027 Operating Budget, building equipment repairs needed, and a few other items. Please watch the weekly worship bulletins and our church Facebook page for more information.



Announcing



Fall Programming is underway!

- Sunday School for Preschool-12th graders began on September 27th and meets every Sunday from 9:15-10:00 a.m. A Parent Sunday School meets in the Fireside Room at the same time. Parents, come check it out!
- Adult Bible Study meets every Sunday during the Sunday School time. A new study has just started, The Story. It's not too late to join. More information is included on the next page (pg. 2) of this newsletter.
- Confirmation Classes for 5th-8th grade youth and Kids in the Word for PreK-4th graders meet on Wednesday evenings, 5:30-6:25 and began on September 30th.
- Our Handbell and Adult Choirs have started their rehearsals. You can find more information in Lorenda's music article on page 5 of this newsletter.
- High School Youth Group for those in 9th-12th grade also meets on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m.

Contact the church if you have questions about any of these programs!

PASTOR HAHN'S ARTICLE –

PLEASE READ

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,

This is your story! This is my story! But most of all this is the greatest story ever told! This is God's Story! This is “**The Story**,” the journey of God's mercy and faithfulness, leading us to Jesus Christ! As of Sunday, September 20th, we began this journey together. This is the picture that I have in my head, all the members of St. Matthew Lutheran, plus the regular attenders, plus invited friends and family, reading God's Word every week, allowing God's Word to work in the lives of His cherished possession, you!

The Story will help us gain a better understanding of the big picture of the Bible and to better understand God's redemptive plan for us today. We will see the eternal purpose of God: to restore and build a relationship with His creation.

The Elders have been doing a great job of distributing copies of **The Story** yet there are still some who have not received a copy. If you have not received your copy, please seek out an Elder or contact that church office as to how to have “**The Story**” as your very own.

I would strongly encourage you to take advantage of the weekly opportunities provided by St. Matthew Lutheran to help you on your journey, listen to your questions, and help you discover answers as to how your story fits together with God's story. Here are some of those opportunities...

- Sunday Morning Bible Study = 9:15am. – 10:00am.
- Tuesday Morning Bible Study = 8:30am. – 9:30am.
- Wednesday (Women in the Word) = 9:00am – 10:00am.
- Thursday Evening Bible Study = 7:00pm – 8:00pm (*this would be a wonderful opportunity for outreach to your neighbors or friends*)

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

September and October's “The Story” Lessons of the Week

September 20th - 26th – Creation: The Beginning of Life as We Know It (pgs. 1-12)

September 27th - October 3rd – God Builds a Nation (pgs. 13-27)

October 4th – October 10th – Joseph: From Slavery to Deputy Pharaoh (pgs. 29-42)

October 11th – October 17th – Deliverance (pgs. 43-58)

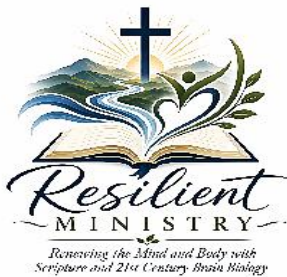
October 18th – October 24th – New Commands and a New Covenant (pgs. 59-70)

October 25th – October 31st – Wandering (pgs. 71-88)

October 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. If there is a 5th Sunday Holy Communion will be distributed at both Services.

- ***Sunday, October 4th (LWML Sunday/19th Sunday After Pentecost) –
8am Classic Service & 10:15am Modern Service
“The Story” Chapter 3 “Joseph: From Slavery to Deputy Pharaoh”***
- ***Sunday, October 11th (20th Sunday After Pentecost) –
8am Classic Service & 10:15am Modern Service
“The Story” Chapter 4 “Deliverance”***
- ***Sunday, October 18th (21st Sunday After Pentecost) –
8am Classic Service & 10:15am Modern Service
“The Story” Chapter 5 “New Commands and a New Covenant”***
- ***Sunday, October 25th (Reformation Day) –
8am Classic Service & 10:15am Modern Service
“The Story” Chapter 6 “Wandering”***



This year's MN South District Fall Pastor's Conference takes place October 19th & 20th at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Corcoran, MN.

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!**



Sunday, November 1st **Serving 11:15AM-1PM**

Please use the North Entrance and go to the basement Fellowship Hall. An elevator is available in our north entrance.

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!

Deliveries are available and will be \$12 per meal. We only delivery 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.**

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.

SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS!

Donations of homemade pies, bake sale items, and helpers for the dining room will be needed. Contact Kathy Roslansky, 507-360-1831; Sandie Spittle, 507-360-1782, or Jeanette Varuska, 507-329-6583 if you can help out.



LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) NEWS

Mark your calendars for our Annual Harvest Dinner on Nov. 1st. Information above↑
A free-will offering will be received for the meals eaten at the church and for take-outs, so give what you can. Deliveries will be \$12 per meal.

We will need people to help with: homemade pies for the meal, and bake sale items, and people to help serve the meal. Please help if you can. See more information above↑

The October meeting of LWML will be on Thursday, October 1st at 1:30 p.m. in the basement Fellowship Hall. We will finalize plans for the Harvest Dinner. Join us! New members are always welcome to join us at any time!

Circle Bible Studies are October 13th at 3 p.m. for the Hope Circle, and October 20th at 1:30 p.m. for the Sarah Circle. Both circles meet in the Fireside Room.

Please check the weekly worship service bulletins for any updates.

Music and Worship News

By Lorenda Glade, Director of Music

"I love to tell the story: How pleasant to repeat. What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet! I love to tell the story, for some have never heard, the message of salvation from God's own holy Word." LBW 390 vs. 2 (The old green hymnal!)

We at St. Matthew have begun our churchwide journey through "The Story"-- God's Holy Word unfolded in chronological order. It is God's story of His great overarching purpose for His creation-- How He loves us so much that He sent His only Son to pay the price for our sins. And it is our story-- the story of how each of us fits into God's greater Story. As part of God's story and our story, He has placed each of us in a faith community--St. Matthew Lutheran Church. What a blessing it is to have a place where we can go each week to hear God's Word, receive forgiveness for our sins, partake in the Lord's Supper, and have fellowship with other believers!

Each one of us has a role to play in God's story and in St. Matthew's story. Ask God to show you how your gifts and talents can be used to build up the body of Christ in our congregation. **We especially need people to help upstairs with our Sunday technology needs.** Not only do our sound and screen people help our congregation participate in our services more easily, but they also provide tremendous outreach by Livestreaming our services. This helps share God's story with people who are unable to attend in-person worship on a particular Sunday or long-term. It is a valuable and much needed ministry. Please consider helping out. Training and guidance will be provided for you.

People who love music are always needed and are welcome to share that love in our services. Choir, Bell Choir, Worship Band singers, drummers, guitar players, instrumental and vocal soloists, piano and organ players are encouraged to use their talents to the glory of God.

There are many ways in which you can play a role in God's story and your congregation's story. As we travel through "The Story" this year, ask God to show you ways in which you can use your gifts to help "tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love."

God's Blessings,
Lorenda Glade, Director of Music

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

by Roxie Leckband

HUMAN CARE MINISTRY:

- Widows group will be on October 5 at 12:30 at Perkins.
- Widows group will be on October 26 in the Fireside Room at 5:15 p.m. We will be reading, along with discussion, from the book One Widow to Another by Mirima Neff. We provide Christian support and encouragement through God's love and grace. The fellowship and food create a warm environment. If you are a widow and would like to attend, please join us. The main entrée will be Jimmy John's sandwiches and chips. Please bring a dish to share if you are able. Contact Roxie for any questions at 507-376-6168 or 712-260-3820.
- Women in the Word will meet on Wednesdays, October 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 9:00-10:00 a.m. We will be going through The Story as one of the small group Bible studies.
- Noon Fellowship will be on Monday, October 12. The main entrée will be brats, hotdogs, baked beans, and potato salad. Join us for tasty food, fellowship, and devotion. Please bring a dish to share if you are able. There will be a freewill offering if you prefer or just come!!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:

- Confirmation class (5:30-6:25 p.m.) for grades 5-8 will be on October 7, 21, and 28. Please note there is **NO Confirmation on October 14.**
- We had a great turnout for the 5th grade Confirmation class beginning on September 9th. There were 15 youth attending. There was also great parent participation as well. See a few photos that are included below.
- Kids in the Word (for pre-school-4th grade) will meet on October 7, 21, and 28 from 5:30-6:25 p.m. Please note **NO Kids in the Word on Oct 14.**
- There will be a "kid friendly" meal served from 5:00-5:25 p.m. for those participating in children and youth activities on Wednesday nights.
- **Family/Mom's Fall Festival on October 2** from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Please bring a pumpkin to decorate. We will be serving hot dogs, coneys, and chips at 12:00. We will have a Bible story time, crafts, and games.

HEALTH MINISTRY: Health Cabinet will meet on October 20th at 12:30 p.m. in the upstairs Conference room.

*Rejoicing in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.
May our Lord bless and keep you today and all the days ahead!*



Altar Guild News

Serving in October will be Velma Cortright & Alice White. If you would like to be a part of the Altar Guild, please contact Velma Cortright, 507-329-5947 or Sandy Meyer, 507-360-0274.

Church Records

Transfer/Release: Julie Buntjer

New Members: Michelle Halverson and children, Tenley, Declan

Financial Snapshot:

August Income: \$43,240.47

Year-To-Date Income: \$281,468.07

Monthly Budget: \$44,271.00

Year-To-Date Budget: \$354,168.00

Highlights from the September 14, 2026 Council Meeting

These are only "highlights" as the Minutes need to be approved at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: August income was \$43,240.47, with expenses of \$37,459.58, leaving the General Fund balance at \$98,711.98. Other 8/31/25 balances were: Youth Account \$18,415.81; Momentum One (Scholarship Fund) \$921,992.27; Momentum Two \$341,826.72; Memorial Fund balance was \$85,058.25. We received \$25,000 from an estate in August that was added to the building improvement fund. 2027 Budget will be presented at the Bi-Annual Voters Meeting, October 25th.

Staff Reports: *Pastor Hahn:* Had 20 visitations, worship services at church and at The Meadows. Regular monthly meetings. The whole congregation Bible Study, The Story, will begin in September. Began 5th grade Confirmation classes. Preparing for 8th grade confirmation instruction. Worship materials for Advent have been ordered. Average Sunday attendance for August was 144. *Roxie:* Made a home and hospital visit. Widows group and Women in the Word are going well. 15 youth, with a parent present, attended the first 5th grade confirmation class. There are some changes to the Confirmation classes this year. Parent meetings will take place on September 23. Have been preparing for Sunday School and recruiting teachers. We could use substitutes. *Lorenda:* Communicating with organ tuner, regarding the needed repairs to the bellows. Adult and Bell Choir have begun. Louise has organized the choir room over the summer months. Working on recruiting piano players for Sunday School singing. Script and music for Sunday School Christmas Program just needs to be finalized. *Alexie:* Will be doing The Story Bible Study during Sunday School time. Starting a pizza fundraiser on September 23, using the same company that sold butter braids in the past. Youth did 2 community service projects. Have sent in pre-registration dates for 2027 mission trip to Idaho which will be week of June 20. Torey Rogers has agreed to be youth board treasurer.

Elder Report: Elders working on distribution of The Story books to everyone.

Trustees Report: Upstairs office furnace needs replacing. Bid received and will go to Voters Meeting. Elevator will need to be repaired soon to meet new MN codes. Bids received and will go to the Voters Meeting. Discussed usage of second church van, as when was recently serviced was only used 2,000 miles since new transmission was put in. If it's not being used, question whether it should even be kept or should it be sold.

Board of Education: Sunday School materials ready to go. Discussed what to do with some of the props used for VBS. Youth would like to do a trunk or treat event at church.

Old Business: Setting up a date for the church safety training with Wgtn. Police Department. DCE/Youth position committee update will be discussed at Voters Meeting.

New Business: Emma Shade Scholarship 20-year stipulation has now expired. This will go to the Voters Meeting. Bi-Annual Voters Meeting will be on October 25, 2026. Will have a lunch.

Next Executive Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 12 at 5:30 p.m.



YPOG (Young People Of God) NEWS

High School Youth = 9th-12th Grades

By Alexie Cross

Greetings St. Matthew's!

Happy Fall! What a wonderful year it is going to be!

I want to start off with a little update from the YPOG's local servant project with Pioneer Village. David and I took a few YPOGs to Pioneer Village to assist with painting a couple of buildings for Nobles County Historical Society. The hospital and the schoolhouse got new coats of paint. David and I also took 2 youths to assist a congregation member clean their windows! Here are a few photos from both servant projects!



I would like to close our newsletter with a little prayer for our youth:

Dear God, as a new school year begins, we lift up our high school youth to You. Walk with them in every hallway, classroom, and conversation. Give them courage to face new challenges and try new things. Grant them wisdom to make good choices and build healthy friendships. Protect their hearts and minds from anxiety, harsh peer pressure, and doubt. Remind them of their worth in You, far beyond grades or popularity. When the days feel heavy or overwhelming, wrap them in Your peace that surpasses all understanding. Let this year be filled with growth, joy, and the quiet confidence that they are never alone. In Jesus's name, Amen.

Please see important dates to remember on the next page →

Important Youth Group dates to remember:

- Senior 27th – High School Senior Recognition at 2nd Service
- September 27th – 1st Day of Sunday School
- September 30th - 1st Day of Youth Group
- October 14th – Order forms due
- October 28th – Delivery of Pizzas



OCTOBER ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>8:00 AM</u>	<u>10:15 AM</u>
October 4	Blake Schmidt	Sawyer Reese
October 11	Keaton Schettler	Dominic Leckband
October 18	Isabella Trejo	Camdin Riemersma-Feit
October 25	Toby Metteer	Tarek Nelson
November 1	Sydney Bremer	Hazel Thier

Please remember to arrive at least 15 minutes before the service begins. If you cannot fulfill your scheduled time, please find a replacement, and call the office with the change, 376-6168.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month!
"Pastor Appreciation Day" is October 11!

We Need YOU!

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 an IMMEDIATE NEED for ALL the positions of our Balcony Tech Crew (sound operator, screen operator, and Producer (recording & livestream)).** 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 requirement is the responsibility to be on time. *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!**