

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

September 2026 Newsletter



**Beginning on September 13th, we go back to having
TWO Worship Services on Sundays:**

*Please see an
important note
on the bottom
of page 10!*

- **8:00 AM Classic Worship** (communion will be offered at this service on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month)
- **10:15 AM Modern Worship** (communion will be offered at this service on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month)

ATTENTION - IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

September 6th: ONE Worship service at 9 a.m.

September 9th:

- 5th Grade Confirmation Class, 5:30 p.m.
- Adult Choir practice begins, 6:30 p.m.
- Handbell practice begins, 7:15 p.m.

September 16th: 5th Grade Communion Class, 5:30 p.m.

September 20th: "The Story" Bible Study begins (see information on pgs. 4 & 5)

September 23rd:

- 6th-8th Grade Confirmation Parent Meeting & Registration, 5:30 p.m.
- 5th Grade Confirmation Class

September 27th:

- **FIRST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9:15-10:00 a.m.**

September 30th:

- Confirmation classes for all 5th-8th graders, and Wednesday Sunday School, "Kids in the Word," begins for PreK-4th graders, 5:30-6:25 p.m.
- High School Youth Group begins for 9th-12th graders, 5:30 p.m.



LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) NEWS

Hello Ladies, welcome to Fall! This colorful time of the year brings us another reason to get together for our monthly group meetings. We will begin on September 3rd for the 2026-2027 year. Please join us in the basement Fellowship Hall at 1:30 p.m. New Members are always very welcome! Ladies new to St. Matthew, please come meet your LWML Sisters in Christ. We begin with a devotion and have a short meeting. There is always a yummy treat and lots of great conversation. Let's get together to see what is planned and share ideas on new events.

CHURCH RECORDS

Death – Marianne Behrens passed away August 3; funeral service was August 8, 2026.

Release – Adam & Laurie Dahlquist, Avery, and Emily

Wedding – Anna Meyer & Carlos Garcia on July 11, 2026

Financial Snapshot:

June Income: \$32,617.59

Monthly Budget: \$44,271.00

July Income: No Report

August Income: No Report

Year-To-Date Income: \$208,174.11

Year-To-Date Budget: \$221,355.00

July Year-To-Date Income: No Report

August Year-To-Date Income: No Report

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Serving in September will be Sandie Spittle, Dea Klumper, and Jan Quiring. If you would like to be a part of the Altar Guild, please contact Velma Cortright, 507-329-5947 or Sandy Meyer, 376-6290.

THANK YOU

We appreciate our Mobile Meals carriers. Those who receive the meals often express how thankful they are for the meals you deliver, but even more than that, they appreciate the friendly face, the conversation, and knowing that someone cares. A big thank you to those who delivered meals in August – Nancy Veen, Wayne Smith, Alan & Gail DeGrote, Linda Lindemann, LaVonne Holt, David & Kathy Roslansky, Alice White, Deb Meyer, Anne Wagner, Mary Krueger, Brent & Charlene Wintz, Karen Obermoller, and our substitute fill-ins, Darla Agard and Margaret Geertsema.

PRAYER OF THANKS

Dear Heavenly Father,

I offer my prayer of praise and thanks with a joyful heart that you have once again healed me from cancer. Truly, thou are wonderful, O God, merciful Father. Make me appreciate every day of thy many blessings. Help me to count one by one the many blessings of family, friends, and members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church who have supported and prayed for me these past five years as I have battled, survived, and recovered from four different cancers. Grant that I be humble and remain in your care and to be grateful at all times for these thy benedictions and blessings. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

Bill Brockberg

A Letter from Seminarian Student, Isaac Hedstrom

Dear St. Matthews Lutheran Church,

It was such a joy to see you all on August 16th and to preach and lead the services. I really enjoyed being with you all and I look forward to when I get to see you again soon.

Just for a little update: this past year, I was at Glory of Christ Lutheran Church in Plymouth, MN on my vicarage. I loved serving at this congregation and having the opportunity to preach sermons, teach Bible classes, lead services, visit the elderly shut-ins, teach confirmation, lead the Youth Group, and experience pastoral ministry there. It was truly a wonderful experience.

During August, I enjoyed a chance to visit some friends and spend time with my parents in Lakefield and my grandparents in Owatonna. It was a nice vacation, and I'm glad I got a chance to see many of you while I was home.

This Fall, I am returning to seminary for my last year of classes. It is such a joy to reach this moment with the finish line in sight! This fall, I'll be taking classes on Psalm, the Gospel of John, Preaching, Systematic Theology, and the History of the Lord's Supper in the Lutheran Church. It'll be a fun year.

I'll also be back at my field work church in St. Louis, Saint Trinity Lutheran Church. I'll continue to preach and teach Bible Classes occasionally. I'll also be helping in our after-school program where I'll be tutoring immigrant kids by helping them work on their English. This ministry gives us the wonderful opportunity to reach kids from our local schools and share with them God's Word through this after-school program. Over the past few years, I've really enjoyed these ministry experiences at Saint Trinity.

Looking ahead, I'll receive my Pastoral Call in April. I may also start a graduate program or a PhD in Theology alongside of my call, depending on what applications come back. I am still planning on getting ordained at doing pastoral ministry, but I am also open to the possibility of teaching theology at the seminary as well. As always, I will trust the Lord to lead me.

I hope to see you all at Christmas when I'm back on break! Thank you for your support of my pastoral education; you have been such a blessing to me.

Sincerely,

Isaac Hedstrom

A little story for our 135th Anniversary (from our 125th anniversary booklet):

Pastor Lieske attended all sessions of the Ladies Assembly. With his guidance women of the congregation became involved in a succession of fundraising efforts, notably organizing community food stands for Worthington's Turkey Day and Nobles County Fair. By 1951, the women were able to pay \$9,297.50 for their new church pews.

Now for "The Rest of the Story" – Turkey Day, maybe 1957. The food tent was set up on 4th Avenue, it was busy. As Pastor Lieske was coming into the tent to deliver the pies his wife had made, the bottom of the pie carrier let loose, and at least two pies hit the street ... not to be recovered ... Lesson learned. Hold On To The Bottom!!!

From the 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,

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! On this journey we will meander through creation, the fall, the promise, the covenant, the exile, restoration, and fulfillment, and see that the Bible 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.

The Bible contains an **Upper Story** and a **Lower Story**. The **Upper Story** tells the big picture, the grand narrative of God seeking relationship with mankind as it unfolds throughout history. The **Lower Story** contains the details of particular people, episodes we've become familiar with: Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, the flood, etc. This **Upper Story** is really a framework around which we approach and apply the Bible. It unifies God's whole message to us and helps guide us through the hard times in life by doing two things. First by reminding us of God's eternal, long-range plan, and second by putting our experiences into a divine context formed by a perfect Creator.

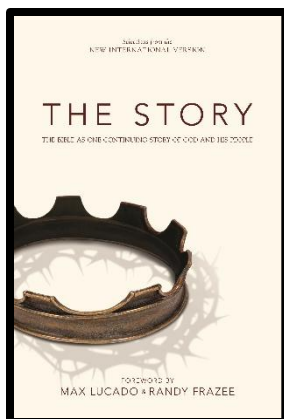
For example, without the **Upper Story**, a lost job could be seen as an event without hope. But put it into the context of the large story of our lives and God's perfect design, that lost job can be seen in a very different light, perhaps as an opportunity for God to reveal something even better.

So, by putting all we read into the larger picture, we can make modern-day application from the Bible that takes into account the grand, mysterious ways of God, and guards us from misapplication that can result from an isolated “*what this verse says to me*” approach. In other words, the Upper Story creates the context for the Lower Story.

Beginning on **September 20th**, we at St. Matthew Lutheran, want to use **The Story** to help us gain a better understanding of the big picture of the Bible and to better understand God's redemptive plan for us today. As we journey through **The Story**, we will take note of both the temporal events and characters (**Lower Story**), as well as the eternal purpose of God: to restore and build a relationship with His creation.

You may have received or will soon be receiving a copy of **The Story** to call your very own. You may choose to go through **The Story** on your own at home, with your family, but I would 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 = 9:15–10:00am.
- Tuesday Morning Bible Study = 8:30–9:30am.
- Wednesday (Women in the Word) = 9:00–10:00am.
- Thursday Evening Bible Study = 7:00–8:00pm (*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 posting on St. Matthew Lutheran's Facebook Page 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***.

Get Ready for "The Story" 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. I'm excited about the opportunity to journey through the Bible (***The Story***) together. 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.

September'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)

September Worship Services

The Summer Worship Schedule of having just one Service at 9am is coming to an end. We will begin our two worship services (8:00am & 10:15am) on Sunday, September 13th (the Sunday after Labor Day).

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, September 6th (Labor Day Weekend) – 9am (Blended) Worship Service***
- ***Sunday, September 13th (The 16th Sunday After Pentecost) – 8am Classic Service and 10:15am Modern Service "The Story Introduction"***
- ***Sunday, September 20th (17th Sunday After Pentecost) – 8am Classic Service and 10:15am Modern Service "The Story Begins! Chapter 1 - Creation: The Beginning of Life as We Know It"***
- ***Sunday, September 27th (18th Sunday After Pentecost) – 8am Classic Service and 10:15am Modern Service "The Story Chapter 2 - "God Builds a Nation"***

HUMAN CARE/PARISH NURSE and CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Submitted by Roxann Leckband, Director of Human Care & Children's Ministry

Greetings! Summer is over and we are now looking ahead to a "New Beginning" with our ministries at St. Matthew and as always, our "New Beginning" in our Lord and Savior. We are a new creation, the old is gone. *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."* 2 Corinthians 5:17

HUMAN CARE MINISTRY:

- ❖ **Noon Fellowship** is on September 14 with meatballs, mashed potatoes & gravy as the main entrée. Please feel free to bring a dish to share. We look forward to seeing you. Attendance was higher in August, and we would love to see even more this month. Come for great food and fellowship.
- ❖ **Widows Support Groups** (widows supporting one another): On September 8th we will meet at Perkins at 12:30. A time of fellowship as you get out of the house and let someone else do the cooking. On September 28th at 5:15 p.m. the ladies will meet at the church in the Fireside Room. We will discuss the reading from our book, ***From One Widow to Another***. Jimmy John's will be provided as our main entrée. I know many are looking forward to Jimmy John's sandwiches. If you would like to bring a dish to share, please do so. We look forward to great conversation and uplifting support.

Human Care Ministry continued:

- ❖ **Women in the Word** will meet on September 9, 16, 23, and 30 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:

- ❖ **Confirmation Parent Meetings:** September 23 at 5:30 p.m. for 6th grade parents, 6:15 p.m. for 7th grade parents, and 7:00 p.m. for the 8th grade parents. Meetings will be held in the Fireside Room.
- ❖ **5th grade Confirmation** begins on September 9 and will continue the 16th and 23rd at 5:30 p.m.
- ❖ **Regular Confirmation classes for 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th graders** will begin September 30 and meet from 5:30-6:25 p.m. weekly. There will be a light, kid friendly dinner served at 5:10.
- ❖ **Kids in the Word** begins on September 30 (5:30-6:25p.m.) The children and parents may enjoy a meal together at 5:10 before Kids in the Word starts.
- ❖ **Sunday School** begins on September 27 (9:15-10:00 a.m.) **Teacher Meeting on September 13th at 9 a.m. (after the 8 a.m. worship service.)**
- ❖ **Health Cabinet** will meet on September 15 at 12:30 in the Fireside Room. Examples of topics may include upcoming health ministry activities, wellness resources, and ways to support members of the congregation.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS

Submitted by Lorenda Glade, Director of Music

*"A thousand ages in Thy sight are like an evening gone.
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun." LSB 733 vs. 4*

This verse from the hymn "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" is a reminder of how quickly time passes. And that is certainly true of the summer of 2026! It is hard to believe that our fall church activities will commence in just a few weeks!

We will resume our two Sunday morning services beginning on September 13—Our Classic service at 8:00 AM and our Modern service at 10:15. Please join us in person at the service that works best for you.

Our choirs resume their rehearsals beginning on **Wednesday, September 9. Adult Choir rehearsal time is at 6:30, and Bell Choir will rehearse at 7:15.** Please read the letter from our director, Louise Clausen, found in this newsletter. Louise has spent MANY hours organizing the choir room and planning for the upcoming choir year. We would LOVE to see the choir room filled with musicians who find joy in using their musical gifts to glorify our Lord. Please join us!

Helping to lead our singing at our Modern service is our worship band. We are blessed to have a congregation who joyfully sing our worship songs, and I can attest to the fact that this is not true of all churches. **We need a few more worship song singers to get up out of the church pews and join us up front to help lead our singing.** If we have enough strong band singers, you might only need to sing once every month. If you are a competent drummer or guitar player, there is a place for you to share your talents in our worship band. I will be available on Wednesday evenings after 5:00 to practice band songs with any of our musicians.

Also, as we return to two services, we need additional tech people to serve us. This is a great time to join our tech team—as we install our updated sound system everyone will be in need of training to learn how to use the new equipment.

God's Blessings to each of you as we begin a new season at St. Matthew Lutheran Church.

Please see a letter from our Choir Director, Louise Clausen, on the next page.

Dear St. Matthew Lutheran Church Members,

Please join us in our search for musical growth. You've all stood next to someone during worship services and heard them using their beautiful voice. Encourage them to start attending choir with you. Our choirs have been part of our worship services since St. Matthew has stood on this land and can continue as long as God wants to be praised in our songs. **Make singing in the Choir part of your personal or family tradition.** We're open to ages 12 and up. Every rehearsal is filled with praise and laughter. We even find comfort, healing, and lifelong friendships in our Choir.

The songs being looked at for the choir are "AS THE DEER" (possibly for September), "HE PUT A NEW SONG IN MY HEART," a fun and exciting song for October and "YES, I AM for November. Song choices for December include "WHEN WILL THE LITTLE KING COME?," "O PRECIOUS CHILD," and "TELL IT FROM THE MOUNTAINS." And of course, the traditional "PEACE, PEACE/SILENT NIGHT" for Christmas Eve. Handbells will start the season with "I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY" and "FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH"

We plan to start Adult Choir and Bell Choir rehearsals on Wednesday, September 9th. Adult Choir will begin at 6:30 PM and Bells will start at 7:15 PM. Please bring your calendar with you so we can make plans.

A special note to Parents....Interest has been expressed in starting a Children's Handbell group using color coded bells made especially for young players. The times for practice are being discussed.

Youth: There may be an opportunity to start a Hand Chime group to play a song for possibly two or more services throughout the year. Also, if you have had any music lessons, feel free to join our Adult Handbell group. If we need to make a second group, we will!

Everyone: Please prayerfully consider becoming a part of our music mission at St. Matthew. Many churches do not have these opportunities.

Look for a signup/interest sheet in the Great Hall near the end of August/beginning of September.

Thank you!

Yours in Christ,

Louise Clausen

YOUTH (YPOG) NEWS - Middle & High School Youth

Submitted by Alexie Cross

Greetings St. Matthews'! Here is a little update from July!

David and I took 18 youth along with 5 other adults to beautiful Colorado in July. The journey was long, but the reward was worth it! The youth and Chaperones worked hard on maintaining trails, wood splitting, and peeling logs. After the hard work, they were able to explore the camp and have fun with what the camp offered. Many went fishing, played games, conquered heights with the giant swing, zip lines and even "Bouldering" (Rock climbing on a cliff face less than 12 ft tall), some even hiked Cedar Mountain! We got to explore Denver, Garden of the Gods, and Manitou Springs as well. Everyone enjoyed the trip! **On the next page of this newsletter, please enjoy a few snapshots from camp.**

As we look ahead, the year is starting to take shape. Lessons are being planned, fundraising opportunities are getting set and fellowship events are in the works. Please look at the Band App for my youth updates.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER: 1) September 23rd: Youth Group Registration
2) September 30th: First night of Youth Group, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

July 2026 Mission Trip to Lutheran Valley Retreat near Florissant, Colorado:



**Growing in
Faith,
Fellowship with
Friends, and
making special
memories!**



**"Hard Work
In High
Altitude"**

July 13, 2026, Council Meeting Highlights

These are just Highlights, as the actual Minutes will not be approved until the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: June income was \$32,617.50 with expenses of \$36,423.80, leaving the General Fund at \$98,770.51. Other July 30 balances: Youth Account #25,155.66; Momentum One (Schade Scholarship) \$903,213.11; Momentum Two \$335,674.70; Memorial Account \$59,880.70.

Staff Reports: *Pastor:* Average June Sunday attendance was 132. Preparing for Fall programming.

Working on worship materials for Advent season. *Roxie:* Health Cabinet members assisted with VBS.

Mom's Group has been struggling with attendance. Hoping that changes in the Fall. Prepping for "New Bible" class in August and Sunday School and Confirmation. *Lorenda:* Thank you to Greg Leckband for leading our July 5th worship service, "Of Faith and Freedom" and to Nancy Veen for being our Scripture Reader. Planning for the upcoming "busier" time of the year.

Youth: Have been very busy finalizing details for the mission trip.

Elders: Welcomed Gabe Dorschner to the Board of Elders. Discussed "The Story" Bible study that will take place this fall.

Trustees: New phone system was installed today. Trustees ran/installed over 2,000 feet of Cat6 cable for the phone system, and 2 new cables to the balcony for internet. Continue to work on balcony audio/visual with VSI company. They have all the wiring updated, new speakers and mics installed, just need to finish programming the new soundboard yet. Had a church walk through with police officer to identify any safety issues. Will wait until fall to have a presentation/recommendation given to church members.

Board of Ed: VBS went well.

Old Business: Guatemalan Church would like to play some music for one of our services sometime. Recap of outdoor service in the park: around 210 attended, everything went well, food catered by Hy-Vee. Thank you to the Dorschner family for all the work on setting up the sound system.

New Business: Ministry Planning Committee discussed. Need to have a committee to develop the purpose/duties, guidelines, etc. for the committee. By-laws will need to be rewritten. Discussed giving support to a LCMS Missionary to the Dominican Republic, Pastor Amen from Pipestone.

August 11, 2026, Council Meeting Highlights

The August Council Meeting did not take place due to many scheduling conflicts.

The next Council Meeting will be on Monday, September 14, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Sept. 6-Oct. 4 Acolyte Schedule

September 6 - 9AM = Kyra Cross

	<u>8:00 AM</u>	<u>10:15 AM</u>
September 13	Sebastian Sieve	Wren Thier
September 20	Kaisley Granstra	Anna Koppen
September 27	Jaxon Grimmus	Jordan Raudenbush
October 4	Blake Schmidt	Sawyer Reese

REMINDER TO ACOLYTES: Please arrive 15 minutes before worship service to light the candles. If you are unable to fulfill your scheduled time, you are responsible for finding a replacement. Please let Bev, in the church office, know if you switch around the schedule. Thank You!

Recap of our Memory Verses from the 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 – **Psalms 119:160** “The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.”
- July 5 – **Matthew 11:28** “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”
- July 12 – **Romans 8:14** “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”
- July 19 – **Romans 8:18** “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”
- July 26 – **Romans 8:27** “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”
- August 2 – **Psalms 136:1** “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.”
- August 9 – **Matthew 14:27** “Immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.’”
- August 16 – **Psalms 67:1-2** “May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.”
- August 23 – **Romans 12:4-5** “For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”
- August 30 – **Matthew 16:24** “Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.’”
- September 6 – **Psalms 32:1** “Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.”

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 speak with a current crew member. 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!