

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



This Month's Worship Schedule

➤ **SUNDAY WORSHIP:**

8:00 a.m. Classic Worship (communion on 1st and 3rd Sundays)
10:15 a.m. Modern Worship (communion on 2nd and 4th Sundays)

➤ **MID-WEEK LENT WORSHIP:**

February 18 – Ash Wednesday Worship at 6:30 p.m.

February 26 – Lent Worship at 6:30 p.m.

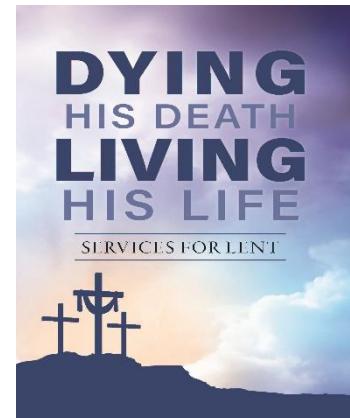
These services continue every Wednesday through March also.

Lent Season begins with our Ash Wednesday Worship Service on February 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Supper will be served from 5-6 p.m. in our basement Fellowship Hall (pork sandwiches, chips, beans, coleslaw, and desserts.) A free-will donation will be received for the meal.

This year's Lent theme is, *Dying His Death, Living His Life*

Free devotion books and bookmarks, which go along with our theme, are available in our Great Hall.



We are looking for volunteers to prepare & serve the Lent Suppers. More information is available in our Sunday worship bulletins or contact Lynn Dierks at 507-360-6067.



When the Winter Weather is questionable, there are several ways for you to find out if our services or classes/activities have been cancelled:

- A post on our Facebook page will be the first thing we do.
- A "push notification" will be done on our church App.
- Check the local radio station's website (www.radioworks.net) weather announcements.
- Tune into the local radio stations: 730AM and FM stations 93.5, 104.3 and 95.1; however, their verbal announcements are not updated as quickly as their website.

ATTENTION PARENTS: If the Worthington schools cancel or dismiss early, DUE TO THE WEATHER, that evening's activities at church will also be cancelled.

From Pastor Hahn

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is difficult to believe that it has been 2 years I've been serving you as your Pastor at St. Matthew Lutheran. It has truly been a blessing for me. As I look at my third year it is full of excitement and possibility. Strategic Planning is an incredible task as we look to the future of St Matthew Lutheran. What will things look like 5 years from now? I don't know, but I do know that God Is Good!

As we enter the holy season of Lent, I invite you to join me in a time of reflection, repentance, and spiritual renewal. Lent is a sacred journey—a forty-day pilgrimage that prepares our hearts and minds for the celebration of our Lord's resurrection on Easter Sunday.

In the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), Lent is a time set apart to remember the sacrifice of Jesus, to acknowledge our own need for forgiveness, and to recommit ourselves to faithful living. This season begins with Ash Wednesday, when we receive the sign of the cross in ashes, hearing the words, "**Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.**" These solemn words remind us of our mortality and our utter dependence on God's grace.

Lent is not merely a time of somberness; it is ultimately a season of hope. As we confess our sins and shortcomings, we do so in the confidence that God is "**gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love**" (Joel 2:13). Through the cross and empty tomb, Jesus has secured forgiveness and new life for all who trust in Him. Let this assurance move us to deeper faith, greater love for one another, and bold witness in our community.

As we journey together through these forty days, let us keep our eyes fixed on the joy that awaits us on Easter morning. Christ's victory over sin and death is our victory, too. May this Lenten season be a time of blessing for you and your family—a time to grow in faith, hope, and love as we await the resurrection celebration.

May the peace of Christ guard your hearts and minds throughout this holy season.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Hahn

February Worship Service Schedule

Sunday, February 1st (4th Sunday after the Epiphany) - 8am Classic Service & 10:15am Modern Service

Sunday, February 8th (5th Sunday after the Epiphany) - 8am Classic Service & 10:15am Modern Service

Sunday, February 15th (The Transfiguration of Our Lord) - 8am Classic Service & 10:15am Modern Service

*Ash Wednesday, February 18th – (**Dying to Sin, Living in Forgiveness**) 6:30pm Service*

Sunday, February 22nd - 8am Classic Service & 10:15am Modern Service

*Wednesday, February 25th – (**Dying in Pride, Living for Others**) 6:30pm Service*

Mid-Week Lenten Services - "*Dying His Death, Living His Life*"

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

(Like last year, the 8th Grade Confirmation Class will be assisting with these Services throughout Lent.)

Adult Small Group Sunday Morning Bible Study

Come and join us Sunday Mornings, between Worship Services, in the lower-level fellowship hall from 9:15-10:00am. This Bible Study is open to all, adults and youth 9th – 12th Grades, who are seeking out God’s Word and a deeper relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. During the Season of Lent, we will be going through a Study based on the Lenten Series “Dying His Death – Living His Life.” This study will begin February 22nd.

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, February 3rd

Isaiah 58:3-9 – I Corinthian 2:1-16 – Matthew 5:13-20

Tuesday, February 10th

Exodus 24:8-18 – II Peter 1:16-21 – Matthew 17:1-9

Tuesday, February 17th

Genesis 3:1-21 – Romans 5:12-19 – Matthew 4:1-11

Tuesday, February 24th

Genesis 12:1-9 – Romans 4:1-8, 13-17 – John 3:1-17

Church Partnership with Santurio Monte Sinai

“Hola! Dios es bueno! “God is good!”

CHURCH RECORDS

Deaths:

- Muriel Karschnik passed away December 26, 2025; funeral service was January 2, 2026.
- Don Meyer passed away December 28, 2025; funeral service was January 13, 2026.
- Judy Zinnel passed away January 15, 2026; funeral service was held at Benson Funeral Home on January 23, 2026.

Financial Snapshot: December Income: \$43,656.36 Year-To-Date Income: \$449,756.00
Monthly Budget: \$43,986.00 Year-To-Date Budget: \$527,835.00

LWML (Lutheran Women’s Missionary League) NEWS

The first get-together of the new year will be on February 5 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Sarah Circle will host. Hope Circle will host the coffee hour on February 15. We are still sponsoring Isaac Hedstrom, our seminary student, at this coffee hour.

Circle Bible Studies will be: Hope on February 10 at 3 p.m.; and Sarah on February 17 at 1:30 p.m. Both these Circles meet in the downstairs Fireside Room.

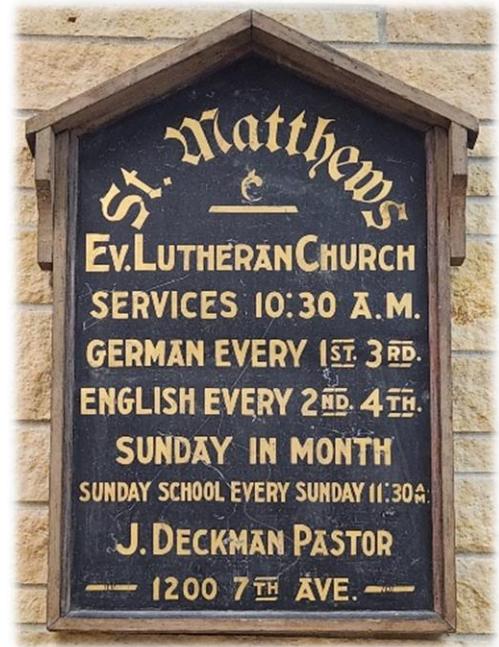
The Winter Zone Board meeting will be on February 21 at 9:30 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, Sioux Valley.

Looking Ahead: The Spring Rally will be on April 18 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Sioux Valley. Watch for more details.

Our Church's 135th Anniversary is in 2026!

This is something worth celebrating! Watch for things happening in 2026 related to our anniversary. We would like to publish memories or stories, from our members, about St. Matthews in our upcoming monthly newsletters. If you have a story or memory you would like to share, please submit it to Bev in the Church Office by the 15th of the month. Here is one from a member:

One of the Historical items on display in our Great Hall is this wooden Welcome Sign telling when the German and English services were held. This sign is over 100 years old! Pastor Julius Deckman Sr. was pastor at that time, from 1918-1934. His son, Pastor Julius Deckman Jr. had served from 1914-1918, but became an Army Chaplain during WWI. His father stepped in to take his place and ended up serving until he was 72 years old! He served from WWI through the 1920s and into the depression. What stories would be told?



MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS

By Lorenda Glade, Director of Music

As I write this newsletter article, we are barely into the season of Epiphany. But by the time you receive this newsletter, Ash Wednesday and Lent will be only a couple of weeks away.

What is the purpose of this upcoming Lenten season? Lent is observed to prepare our hearts for Holy Week and Easter by contemplating Jesus's life, suffering, death, and resurrection, and recognizing our need for salvation. Lent lasts for 40 days, not counting Sundays. It begins on Ash Wednesday (February 18th this year) and ends on Holy Saturday (the day before Easter).

Some of the symbolism associated with Lent include the following:

- Ash Wednesday: Ashes placed on the forehead at our Ash Wednesday service remind us of our sinful nature and our mortality. (Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.)
- Purple: The liturgical color of purple signifies repentance and royalty.
- Silence: We omit the "Hymn of Praise" and the "Alleluia" in our liturgy and choose hymns and worship songs that do not include the word "Alleluia" until Easter.

Some of the common practices followed by Christians during the season of Lent include:

- Prayer: Increased time in daily devotion and prayer.
- Fasting/Abstinence: Giving up worldly pleasure to focus on Christ and His atoning sacrifice.
- Almsgiving: Acts of charity shown to others to remind us of Christ's ultimate act of love for all of us.

Lent is a spiritual journey of dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ. Please join us in worship throughout this 40-day journey. Worship, prayer, and spending time in God's Word daily throughout the season of Lent will make Easter Sunday even more meaningful for all of us.

As more information about our Lenten schedule becomes available, please refer to our bulletins for announcements regarding services and other opportunities.

ALTAR GUILD

Serving in February will be Sandie Spittle and Kathy Roslansky. Serving for the Ash Wednesday service, February 18 is Sandie Spittle and _____. Serving in March will be Kathy Roslansky and Nancy Veen. If you would like to be a part of the Altar Guild, please contact Velma Cortright 376-5600 or Sandy Meyer 376-6290. They are looking for more members!

YOUTH (YPOG) NEWS By Alexie Cross

Greetings!

I wanted to start off by saying thank you to the congregation for all of your support. Your donations and support with fundraisers does not go unnoticed. We appreciate you. Thank you!

We started off the new year with a late Christmas party. We had good food, fellowship, games and of course lots of laughter. I have included some pictures of our fun.

Looking ahead, the youth have an exciting opportunity for you to fill your freezer! We will be doing a drawing for bundles of half of a beef. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.



christmas
Party



Fellowship
& Fun



DIRECTOR OF HUMAN CARE/PARISH NURSE & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

By Roxie Leckband

Greetings, Happy February! This is a month that may remind us of love and symbols of love, a heart and a cross! A scripture that relates to God's great love for us comes from Matthew 22:37-40. An expert of the law tested Jesus by asking Him what is the greatest commandment in the Law? Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments. The type of love Jesus is referring to is agapo/agape. A devotion that is directed by the will and can be commanded as a duty. It is a selfless, unconditional love.

One of the symbols of love is the heart. We see cartoon images with warm, loving messages. You may see a cupid with his arrows and a heart. In February we recognize Heart Health Month. Our heart is a vital organ for keeping us alive. Our heart beats approximately 100,000 times a day, pumping roughly 2,000 gallons of blood throughout our body per day. It is a very strong muscle that never stops to take a rest! Please refer to an information sheet included in this newsletter, "Take Action for your Heart: Get Started!" by the NIH National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

Looking ahead to the Human Care, Children's, and Health Ministries, if you have questions about any of the activities do not hesitate to contact me.

HUMAN CARE:

- Widows' Group: February 2 at 12:30 at Perkins for Christian fellowship, devotion, and lunch.
- Widows' Group: February 23 at 11:00 in the Fireside Room. The topic will be from the book, From One Widow to Another by Miriam Neff. The main entrée will be ham sandwiches. If you are able, please bring a side dish. We will have a time of fellowship and support. We had a fun Christmas party. A few pictures are included on the next page of this newsletter.
- Noon Fellowship: February 9 at 12:00 in the Fireside Room. The main entrée will be Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes and gravy. If you are able, bring a dish to pass or you may give a freewill offering. Invite a friend, this is great time of fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Women in the Word: February 4, 11, 18, 25 at 9AM in the Fireside Room. We are currently reading, viewing, and discussing a study titled, Tame Your Thoughts Three tools to Renew your Mind and Transform Your Life by Max Lucado. Have you been feeling weighed down by worry? Or caught up in a web of self-critical thoughts? The good news is that with God's help, you can learn to renew your mind, break free from negative patterns, and become a little more like Jesus every day. This six-session Bible study explores Scripture-based tools for managing your thoughts.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:

- Moms & Jesus' Lil' Lambs is scheduled for Friday, February 6 at 10:30 a.m.
- **Family Skate at the Worthington Hockey Arena on February 22** from 11:45-2:00. There will be pizza, snacks, and drink served at 11:45. Skating from 12:00-2:00. Ice skates are available at the arena if you do not have any. If you are able, please RSVP to Roxie at stmattparishnurse@gmail.com. It would be helpful in ordering the right amount of food. If you did not RSVP, but are able to come, please just come!!
- Sunday School will be held February 1, 8, 15, and 22 at 9:15AM. We will be working on songs for Palm Sunday. **The children will be singing on Palm Sunday, March 29th.**

Parent Sunday School will meet on the days that Sunday School meets. Please join us for fellowship and to discuss the Bible story/lesson your child is learning about that day. We meet in the Fireside Room at 9:15 or whenever you drop off your child for Sunday School.

The "Sunday School Class of the Month" is the 2nd and 3rd grade class. This class has 2 teachers. Here is a little bit about one of the teachers. In next month's newsletter we will have information about the other

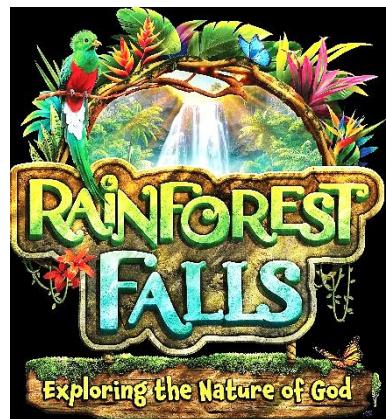
teacher, and more pictures: *I am Angie Kopplow and I teach 2nd & 3rd grade Sunday School as well as substitute for preschool and provide support at the parent Sunday School program as needed. I have been teaching and subbing Sunday School for 10 years and I really enjoy seeing the kids excited to learn about Jesus! In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my husband, Jared and our 3 kids Kysten, Melayna, and Arie. When I'm not working or helping with Sunday School, I keep very busy providing transportation services for our kids who are active in church activities, sports, and piano!* Here are some snapshots:



Mark your calendars: VBS (Vacation Bible School) will be held June 15-19, 2026, from 9AM-12PM.

“Rainforest Falls Exploring the Nature of God” is the VBS theme this year. If your child/children participated last year the design will be similar.

- ❖ Day 1: Tango (bird); Bible story: God Creates the World, Genesis 1; Bible point: God is our creator.
- ❖ Day 2: Seymour (frog); Bible story: David celebrates all God knows, Psalm 139; Bible point: God knows everything.
- ❖ Day 3: Dottie (leopard); Bible story: David Hides from Saul, 1 Samuel 23-24; Bible point: God’s our safe place.
- ❖ Day 4: Tia (anteater); Bible story: Jesus dies and come to life to show God’s love, Luke 22:39-24:12; Bible Point: God is love.
- ❖ Day 5: Howie (ape); Bible story: God gives John a vision of heaven, Revelation 7:17, 21-22); Bible Point: God is forever.



Widows' Group Christmas Party:



HEALTH MINISTRY:

- During the month of February there will be an area in the church that you can walk and be out of the cold. The walking path will be open from 9:00AM-2:00PM (later if the church is open) on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Walking helps you physically, emotionally, and

spiritually. If you choose, at the beginning of the walk there will be some Scripture verses, you may read, reflect, and pray about. Enjoy fellowship, if others are walking, and keep your heart healthy.

- Health Cabinet will meet on February 17 at 12:30 in the upstairs Conference Room.
- The Health Cabinet will be doing a presentation about death by suicide. **This “Hard Topic... Suicide” presentation is for ages 11 and older. It will be held on Sunday, February 15, 2026, at 9:15** in the basement Fellowship Hall. Coffee will be served at 9:15 and the presentation will start at 9:30 a.m.

Reminder – please pick up your 2026 Offering Envelopes. Even if you do “automatic giving,” the box includes “Special Giving Opportunities” throughout the year! **Thank You!** Call Bev in the church office if you would like someone to DELIVER your box to you (within the city of Worthington). The 2025 Giving Statements were mailed out on January 23rd. If you did not receive yours, or have questions about your statement, please contact our Treasurer, Tammy Brunk, 507-360-8977.

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to provide flowers for the altar on a specific Sunday, please sign up on the flower calendar that is posted on the north/elevator entrance bulletin board. **Please sign up at least two weeks in advance. You are responsible for ordering your bouquet(s) or bringing in your bouquets. If you have Hy-Vee or Seed & Stem deliver them, they must be delivered by noon on Friday. If you would like your altar flowers listed in the Sunday bulletin, please contact Bev in the church office 2 weeks before the date.** Thank you for helping to beautify our altar area.

Highlights from the January 12, 2026, Council Meeting:

Treasurer’s Report: December income was \$43,656.36 with expenses of \$37,919.91; leaving the General Fund at \$140,606.86. Other 12/31/25 balances were: Youth Account \$14,044.61; Momentum One (Schade Scholarship) \$831,286.38; Momentum Two \$312,392.96; Memorial Fund \$35,388.75. Have paid \$10,000 towards basement carpet to date. Received a trust check of \$30,000 designated for the building fund.

Staff Reports: *Pastor* – Average Sunday attendance was 68 at 8AM and 98 at 10:15AM. Christmas Eve services were well attended. YouTube views remain constant. LCMS President Voter registration deadline is coming up. Each congregation gets 2 votes: 1 pastoral & 1 lay person. Craig Edwards has agreed to represent St. Matthew. Saturday, January 10 we hosted a “Walk Thru the Bible Seminar” with 102 people in attendance. *Roxie* – Noon Fellowship attendee numbers have been slightly down. Parent Sunday School has great group discussions. *Lorenda* – Thank you to the students, parents, teachers, and music helpers for all of their work with the Sunday School Christmas Program. Thank you to all who made the Christmas services meaningful. *Alexie & David* – Had 10 youth attend the Christmas Party. Working on planning more fellowship events. Have 20 youth and 6 adult chaperones registered for the summer mission trip.

Elders: Each Elder to contact 10 members to complete the “Re-Vitality” survey.

Trustees: Basement carpet project is starting. Lights in archway have been completed.

Board of Education: Sunday School attendance has dropped since Christmas.

Ministry Planning: Discussed making a list of those that volunteer for various tasks for the church so that maybe others could see and possibly sign-up for the different opportunities that are available to help with. Will be asking for groups to volunteer to prepare and serve the Lent Meals. Council will do February 18, Youth will do March 4, and Ministry Planning will do March 11. That leaves 3 open dates to serve yet.

The next Administrative Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 9 at 5:30 p.m.



February 2026 Acolyte Schedule

NOTE: Please arrive at least 15 minutes before service starts, 20 is even better.

	<u>8:00 AM</u>	<u>10:15 AM</u>
February 1	Ian Metteer	Cody Schmidt
February 8	Jaxon Grimmius	Wren Thier
February 15	Kaisley Granstra	Kyra Cross
February 18 – ASH WEDNESDAY	– 6:30PM = Anna Koppen	
February 22	Sebastian Sieve	Blake Schmidt
February 25 – LENT WORSHIP	– 6:30PM = Camdin Riemersma-Feit	
March 1	Keaton Schettler	Jordan Raudenbush
March 4 – LENT WORSHIP	– 6:30PM = Hayden Riemersma-Feit	

** Please be sure to mark your calendars. If you cannot fulfill your scheduled date, please find a replacement, and call the church office with the change. Thank You.*

Due to the snow and ice of our Minnesota winters, and the unpredictability of the weather changes, please use caution when out and about this winter. We will make every effort to keep things clear of snow and ice here at the church, but sometimes the weather just does not cooperate! **Please use CAUTION in all your outdoor adventures, wherever you go, during the Winter Season. Please stay safe everyone!**



Are you wondering how you find out if our services or activities have been cancelled due to the weather?
Please see the bottom of page 1 of THIS newsletter for the many different ways we get out the word about cancellations.
Thank You!

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

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

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

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

Director of Human Care & Children's Ministries, Roxann Leckband – ext. 5 or

stmatthumancare@gmail.com or stmattparishnurse@gmail.com

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