

APRIL 2010

PASTOR'S NOTES

Easter Blessings Forever!

I recently read this true story concerning a fellow pastor during his high school days. He had made plans for Easter vacation to ride twenty five miles on his bicycle with his son. When he got to the parsonage, the pastor's wife insisted on an alternate plan. Pastor could help his son wash windows for Easter instead of the bike ride. The pastor's wife had promised that they could do this ride on that particular day, but her fear that congregation members would see her dirty windows consumed her!

The pastor's mother-in-law was visiting. She heard the discussion concerning the bicycle trip and the washing of windows dilemma. Gazing through the living room picture window she said to her daughter, "Look at that beautiful day. It would be a great day for a bike ride!" The two young men went on the ride.

Sometimes, even at Easter, we become so consumed with small things. Many times, these are things that are only for this life. We forget about more important things, things that are forever!

We may be counting on Jesus to make life smooth, easy, pleasant; free of stresses at work, unpaid bills, illnesses, or conflicts at home. We may think that's what His rising again to life was all about. But then we've missed the point. *1 Corinthians 15:19* says, "If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men."

Earlier in that same chapter Paul was inspired to write, "For what I received I passed on to you **as of first importance**: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Jesus went through all the suffering and pain and death for sins of all people so that our forgiveness and life is found in Him. Jesus' empty tomb proves that He accomplished all that He set out to do...to give us new life now even as we contemplate our life with Him in heaven. Thanks and praise be to God that those Easter blessings are forever!!!

In Christ,
Pastor Braun



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

MAUNDY THURSDAY (Thursday, April 1) at 7 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY (Friday, April 2) at 7 p.m.

EASTER VIGIL (Saturday, April 3) at 6 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY (Sunday, April 4)

7 a.m. Traditional Worship

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship



FARMERS AND GARDENERS

Every spring we pause to ask God's blessing on the seed to be planted, those who labor in the fields, and the timely weather so necessary for abundant growth. This year we anticipate that the annual "*Blessing of the Seed*" service will take place on Sunday, April 18. Watch your bulletin for more information.

CALL COMMITTEE NEWS

Several weeks ago, members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church voted to place a call to a Seminary Student for our Associate Pastor position. On Tuesday, April 27th at 9 p.m. we will find out if St. Matthew's call to candidate Joseph Behnke has been accepted.

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
VOTERS MEETING
Be sure to attend the
Quarterly Voters' Meeting
on Sunday, April 25th at 11:40 a.m.
Voting members will elect new officers.**

Youth and Family News

by Roxann Leckband

Young Family Night will take place on April 18 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. Pizza and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. Child care will be available. Please come enjoy a time of fellowship and time in God's word with other parents of young children.

Young Mom's Group will be April 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. The group will meet from 10:00-11:30 a.m. The children will be having fun with Bible stories, crafts, snack and play time. Moms will enjoy fellowship and Bible study. Come and join us. We would love to have you!

Sunday school children in grades 4th-8th will be participating in the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, April 11th. They will be presenting a program entitled, He's Alive. The children will remain with their teachers following Sunday school in preparation for the service.



PARENTS/GUARDIANS of 4th-8th graders: We will be having **only ONE rehearsal** for the He's Alive program on **April 10th** from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Please make every effort for your child/children to be there. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will take place on June 14-18 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Friday. This Day Camp is for children who have completed Kindergarten through 5th grade. *Preschool and those children entering Kindergarten in the fall will gather on Monday and Wednesday evenings (June 14 and 16) from 5:30-7:00 p.m.* Camp Omega will once again be providing the programming for our wonderful VBS Day Camp! Watch for more information in the May Newsletter and upcoming bulletins.



SUMMER CAMP

CAMP MINNEBOJI - Camp information and registration forms are now available here on the table across from the church office (or get this information on-line at www.minneboji.com)! **Camp week is June 20-26** at Camp Okoboji in northwest Iowa. The camp, for kids in grades 4-9, features Bible study, mission presentations, music, crafts, sports, recreation, and the chance to meet new Christian friends. This year's camp theme centers on the life of Daniel: "OutSTANDing!" The camp registration fee is \$255 (\$285 for 9th grade "Honors" campers). **The registration deadline is June 5 (or when camp is full).**

YOUTH REPORT

A **pancake breakfast** hosted by the youth will be held on **April 25th** at the Elks club from 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The proceeds will be used for the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer. Parents and youth will be contacted about what shift they will be able to work.

Easter breakfast will be sponsored by the youth from 8:00-10:00 a.m. The proceeds will go towards the National Youth Gathering. We are **currently accepting donations** of rolls, muffins, and gallons of juice. If you are able to donate please contact the church office or Roxie. Please have all items to the church by noon on Saturday, April 3rd. Thank you for your continued support of the youth!

Attention all flower lovers: The youth will be selling beautifully potted plants just in time for Mother's Day. **We will be taking orders.** Posters showing what types of plants will be available soon. The plants we sold last year were beautiful. We will begin sales the first week in April and the plants will arrive May 7th (Mother's Day is May 9th).

April youth board meeting will be on **April 11th** as Easter is on April 4th. The meeting will be held at 9:15.

The youth had a fun game night on March 21st we look forward to more fellowship times.

Thank-you to all those who have been so generously supporting our fundraisers and all those who helped with the Lenten suppers. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

LWML NEWS

The next meeting of the St. Matthew LWML will be on Thursday, April 8th at 7 p.m. (note date change due to Easter). Your hostesses will be the LWML Delegates. The Sunday, April 18th coffee hour will be served by the Mary Circle.

On April 24th the Worthington Zone Spring Rally will be held here at St. Matthew's. Registration and coffee hour will begin at 8:30 a.m. with the rally beginning at 9:00 a.m. Speaker will be Mr. Gary Thies, Mission Development Counselor Iowa District West and Nebraska District LCMS Mission Central Mapleton, Iowa. A special offering will be taken at the rally to help defray costs for Jenny Anderson's (daughter of Pastor Russell Anderson of Ocheyedan, Iowa) mission trip to Kazakhstan. All members of St. Matthew are invited to attend the rally.



WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Martha Circle will meet on Thursday, April 15th at 1:30 p.m. at Arlene Bent's home. The Mary Circle will also meet on April 15th in the Fireside Room. The Miriam Circle will meet on Monday, April 19th at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room; Iva B. is hostess and Helen S. will have the lesson. The Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 20th at 6 p.m. in the Youth Room. The Sarah Circle will also meet on April 20th at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

ALTAR GUILD

Serving in April will be Ilona B. and Jan S. for the 8 a.m. services; and Sandie S. and Ruth R. for the 10:30 a.m. services and the 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday service, April 1st.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Saturday, April 3 rd	9 a.m. Decorating
Saturday, April 3 rd	More decorating following the Vigil of Easter Service
Monday, April 5 th	9 a.m. Remove Easter decorations

No other meeting during April. Our next meeting will be in May, watch for details.

Flower Calendar

The 2010 Flower Calendar is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. If you would like to beautify our church on a specific Sunday with a bouquet of flowers, please sign up on the designated date on the calendar. **Please sign-up at least two weeks in advance.** You will be contacted as to what kind of flowers you would like and how you would like it printed in the bulletin. If you have any questions, please contact Iva Barber, 727-4381 or the church office.



MISSION SEWING

The Mission Sewing group continues to meet on the fourth Thursday of the month. They will meet April 22nd, starting at approximately 10 a.m. in the downstairs large classroom. If you have an hour or two stop by and help out, it would be greatly appreciated.



SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

You are invited to join fellow worshippers, following the 8 a.m. service for coffee and fellowship each Sunday morning. A free-

will donation is received to cover the costs and benefit the various projects. Coffee is served both downstairs and in the Great Hall.

Would you like to host one of the Sunday morning coffee fellowship hours? The sign-up sheet is hung on the wall in the basement close to the kitchen.

The first and second Sundays of the month, there is opportunity for your church group/committee to host the coffee hour. Please see the sign-up sheet in the basement. **Please sign-up at least two weeks in advance.**

The third Sunday of the month, the LWML sponsors the coffee hour as a fundraiser to help support Seminary Students, Joel & Candy Brassfield.

The fourth Sunday of the month, the Youth (YPOGs) sponsor the coffee hour. Free-will donations are received to help support their trip to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer.

WEEKLY PRAYER GROUP

Are you interested in joining a prayer group? St. Matthew's has a prayer group that meets weekly on Tuesday afternoons from 1:00-2:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. They pray for church needs, congregational needs and whatever may come up. You are invited to join them! Please contact the church office if you have a prayer request.

HUMAN CARE COMMITTEE NEWS

Thank you to Joel R. for driving the church van for March.

Thank you to all the members that made donations to the Food Shelf for Minnesota Food Share Month.

If you'd like your name added to the list for church van drivers, please contact Rita S. or the church office. We are always looking for more drivers!

MISSION MATTERS

An after-school program will take place every Wednesday and Friday beginning April 7th through the end of May. All children in 1st through 5th grades are invited to attend. At the time of this newsletter printing, the enrollment deadline has passed; however, if you would still like your child/children to attend this event please contact Cheri S., (712) 758-3105 or the church office, 376-6168.



Recognition Sunday for Pastor and Ella Marie Krohe: A farewell reception and card shower will be held on Sunday, **May 16th from 9:15-10:15 a.m.** for Pastor Wayne & Ella Marie Krohe. Pastor Krohe's last day as Visitation Pastor will be May 27, 2010. Pastor & Ella Marie have signed on with Laborers for Christ...a LCMS organization which builds churches, schools, parish halls, camp facilities etc. around the country.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

With high school graduation approaching, the need for tables and chairs arises. Just a reminder, if you would like to borrow something from the church, **you must check with the church office FIRST**. Arrangements must be made through the church office for pickup and return times. We have already received a few borrow requests – get your name on the list early! Thank you.

*Please remember that with the enactment of the **Patient Privacy Laws**, hospitals are no longer able to release any patient information. That includes admittance for any reason. In that regard, if you or a loved one are hospitalized or are anticipating*

hospitalization, please call the church office so that visitations can be arranged.

The St. Matthew Lutheran Church 2010 Annual Report/Directory is completed and you may **pick up your copy** at either entrance to the church **after April 5th**. Please inform the church of any errors.

Please help the church to reduce our postage costs. If you move, or know someone who has moved, please contact the church office with the **new address** as soon as possible. The post office charges us between \$.50 - \$1.50 per piece of undeliverable mail.

We have also noticed that many of the **phone numbers** we have on record for our members are no longer in service. If you have a change in your phone number, please also contact the church office with that change. Thank you.

***NO PARKING IN THE NORTH ALLEY.** We have noticed some people parking by the north entrance (in the alley). Please remember **this is just a “drop off and pick up” area and should be limited to just a few minutes of parking.** The alley is an **ACTIVE CITY ALLEY** and cannot be blocked by parked vehicles. This is also for your and your vehicle’s own safety, as vehicles traveling the alley do not always drive slowly thru there. Also, please watch your children carefully at the north entrance, so they do not run into traffic. Thank you.*

LCEF’s K.I.D.S. Stamp program is a family opportunity to help children learn how to support the Church and learn the first steps of investing before they get into unmanageable debt as young adults. “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” Proverbs 22:6 Visit the K.I.D.S. Stamp program table outside our church’s main offices today to invest or get more information. LaVonne will be available right after the early service each week.



2010 Vine & Branches Conference will take place on April 17th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 620 Bush Street, Lakefield, MN. Three topics will be addressed by prominent LC-MS speakers (Why Go To Church? To be satisfied? To be uplifted? To be empowered?), they include Rev. Kenneth Wieting, Rev. Jon Sollenberger and Rev. Dr. Albert Collver. The cost is free and a meal is included if you register by April 9th. You may register online at www.vineandbranchesconference.org, phone 507-839-3086, by mail to: Trinity Lutheran Church, V&B 2010, 38559 730th St, Lakefield, MN 56150. Late registration is welcome but dinner cannot be guaranteed. This event is sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and LC-MS congregations.

Concordia Publishing House Bible Sale – if our church orders 10 or more Bibles we can receive free shipping. Bibles make great gifts for confirmation, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day and graduation. Please see the poster on the bulletin board in the north elevator entrance for more information and the particular Bibles that are on sale. Deadline is May 26th.

CARING CARDS and ATTENDANCE: To keep accurate attendance records for our worship services, please fill out a "yellow caring card" (found in the pews) every time you attend a worship service. Please complete the card entirely. See example below:

APRIL WORSHIP HELPERS

ACOLYTES

Date

April 1	7 p.m. Morgan S.	
April 2	7 p.m. Michael P.	
April 3	6 p.m. Tyree M.	
April 4	(7 a.m.) Jessica A.	(10:30) Stephen D.
April 11	(8 am) Eric F.	(10:30) Mason K.
April 18	(8 am) Summer R.	(10:30) Torey R.
April 25	(8 am) Alexandra S.	(10:30) Shelby F.
May 2	(8 am) Joshua V.W.	(10:30) Caleb K.

NURSERY

Date

April 1	7 p.m. Brigid H.	
April 2	7 p.m. Jessica A.	
April 3	6 p.m. Caleb K.	
April 4	(7 am) Brendan S.	(10:30) Shelby F.
April 11	(8 am) Michael P.	(10:30) Austin S.
April 18	(8 am) Morgan S.	(10:30) Stephen D.
April 25	(8 am) Amber P.	(10:30) Tyree M.
May 2	(8 am) Eric F.	(10:30) Mason K.

If you are unable to fulfill your scheduled time, please find a replacement and then phone the church office with the change.

Thank You!

***PARENTS** - Thank you for supervising in the nursery while your student is scheduled for that service. If you cannot be with your student, please contact the church office, we have a list of substitute adults willing to fill-in for supervising.

THANK YOU

APRIL GREETERS SCHEDULE

April 1	(7 p.m.)	Henry & LaVonne P.; Don & Emma F.
April 2	(7 p.m.)	Marvin & Corky S; Doug & Rhona K.
April 3	(6 p.m.)	Karen M.; Ken & Eunice K.
April 4	(7 a.m.)	Gene & Iva B.; Ray & Vernice K.
	(10:30)	Joel & Julie L.; Bruce & Bev K.
April 11	(8 a.m.)	Rita P.; Lucille H.
	(10:30)	Don & Lorna B.; Alice W.
April 18	(8 a.m.)	Daryl & Jan Q.; Sue F.
	(10:30)	Dale & Vickie L.; Dorothy J.
April 25	(8 a.m.)	YOUTH
	(10:30)	YOUTH
May 2	(8 a.m.)	Elden P.; JoAnne G.
	(10:30)	Mike & Cindy F; Roger & Ardis B.

If you are unable to greet on your scheduled time, please try to switch with someone and contact the church office with the change. Thank you for serving!



Emma Schade Scholarship Update

Two members of our congregation were awarded scholarships from the Emma Schade Scholarship during 2009. They were Heather Knigge, daughter of Bill & Karen Knigge; and Kristi Kuhl, daughter of Burdell & Jolene Kuhl. **Information and applications for this scholarship** are available on the “education bulletin board” outside of the church offices.

MONTHLY SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Please join us for our Senior (mature adult) Fellowship dinner on Monday, April 12th from 12 noon to 1 p.m. in the Fireside room. We will be serving ham, cheesy hash browns and green beans. You may bring a dessert or salad if you wish although, it is not necessary. A free-will donation is taken, if you desire. We would love to have YOU join us! Please contact the church office or Roxie, 376-6168 if you plan to attend.