

April 2017

The Messenger

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." -Isaiah 6:8

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we approach Holy Week, I thought we could use a refresher about what the holy days of Holy Week are all about. Holy Week is at the heart of the Christian story, and the core of our Christian faith. It is where we draw our hope from, and where God's love for us is made known.

One of the gifts we have as a community of believers is that we also get a chance to enact the story of Holy Week. We shout "Hosanna" and wave palm branches, we receive the meal Christ offers his followers, we pause at the foot of the cross and finally we shout aloud "Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!"

Palm/Passion Sunday – A day of irony. The 10 am service begins with our kids in a palm procession reminding us of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The crowds shouted "Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord" as they joyfully welcomed Jesus into their midst, and so will we as our children share the gift of music with us. But as the service progresses, we begin to hear bits and pieces of the passion story. The tone of the service takes a turn as we remember Jesus' suffering and death. The shouts of "Hosanna" turn to shouts of "Crucify him."

Maundy Thursday - At the heart of Maundy Thursday is the command to love one another. Jesus, the Savior of the world loved and served his disciples by washing their feet and by sharing the last supper with them. We also, as a congregation are called to serve and love the world, and will share in Holy Communion together, celebrating with our 5th graders as they receive communion for the first time. Finally, Jesus and the disciples leave the safety of the Upper Room and walk into the world that wants to crucify Jesus. We end the Maundy Thursday service with the complete stripping of the altar as we remember Jesus' clothes taken from him. This will also serve as a stark contrast to Easter morning when the space is filled again with signs of new life, joy and victory.

Good Friday – At the heart of this Good Friday liturgy is the passion according to John, which proclaims Jesus as a triumphant king who reigns from the cross. While the tone of this service is somber, this day is ultimately good. Just like all other days, God is in control, even in death. This year on Good Friday we are offering both a Children's Good Friday service at noon (a hands on service for kids and parents), and a Tenebrae service of candles and readings at 7 pm.

Easter Sunday - On this day the Lord has acted! On this day, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead! We gather on this, the first day of the week, just like we do the first day of every week to celebrate, give thanks and be encountered by God, who rose from the dead and gave life to the world. With great joy we celebrate this day of days, and we begin the great 50 days of the Easter season. Filled with hope, we go forth to share the news that Christ is risen. We will have a Sunrise Service at 7 am, and Festival Worship at 10 am on Easter morning.

You are all invited to hear, enact and be fed by this Holy Week. Come hear the story, and be reminded once more that our God loves us enough to send his Son, and sin and death will eventually die and love and life will win in the end!

Grace and peace, *Pastor Amy*

LYO-Youth Group

Youth Group Students – First, thank you to all youth group students and parents who made soup and bars for the soup supper on March 8th. It was all very good! We will resume LYO again on April 19th which is after Easter Sunday and the Lenten Season are complete.



The next meeting for those going to the Houston Youth Gathering will be April 30 at 11:15. If you are interested in going to Houston with our crew, and need more information, stop by Pastor Amy's office today!



Education



Mark your calendars! The education team has an exciting Easter celebration planned for Sunday, April 30th! We will have our annual Easter egg hunt and back by popular demand, it will be glow in the dark!

During our Easter egg hunt we will have the students make some 'bunny bait' to snack on and we will try balloon painting for the first time!

The paint will be washable but please have your student dress accordingly.

The Sunday School students will be making their own pots and planting flowers for the mothers of their lives on Sunday, May 14 during Sunday School as well, so have an outfit that might get a little dirty that day too! We love hands-on learning!

Many Blessings, The Education Team

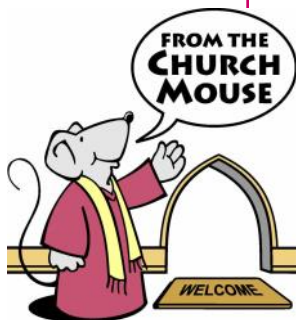


Mark your calendars! Next time Sunday School kids sing in worship is April 9!

Thank you to everyone who is a part of the ministry at Saint Matthew's! Here are a few folks we would like to say a special thank you to this month! We apologize if we miss anyone!

- Paul Strande for building the platform for Pastor Amy at the altar
- All those who helped with fish fries and pie sales
- John S for organizing Men's Fish Fries again this year
- Bre B., Kevin C., Deb D., and John S. for teaching confirmation this year!
- Jamie T and Cheryl W for helping proof bulletins
- Bill W for adding speakers in the sanctuary
- Roy O and Bill W for hanging new blinds in all the Sunday School classrooms

Thanks to all who are making a difference! We appreciate you!



Calling all women!

Grab your favorite cup or mug and join us at Joy Ranch for "The Cup of Our Life" women's retreat!

During the retreat we will spend time getting to know each other better, doing some Bible Study, worshipping together (Taize style), and also providing lots of time for free time where you can do whatever it is that fills your cup. Want to read? Craft? Sleep? Hike? Go on the pontoon? The opportunities are endless! Our goal for this retreat is that you would come home refreshed and renewed and ready to dive back into your life with your cup of life overflowing!

The retreat will be May 19-21 at Joy Ranch near Florence, South Dakota. For more information, sign up on the bulletin board at church, or talk to Pastor Amy. **Deadline to sign up for the retreat is May 7.**

Ongoing Ministries

MEN IN MISSION

St. Matthew's men gather each Sunday morning at 9 am in the Rosendal Room for a chance to chat, drink coffee and learn together. Their topics of discussion vary. New folks are always welcome to join them.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

This gathering is open to anyone, and meets at 7:00 am on Wednesdays in the Sanctuary. This group spends time in responsive prayer, and then enjoys

a cup of coffee as well. They are off to work by 7:30 am. Come and join us as a great way to focus midweek!

WINE, WOMEN & THE WORD

The next gathering of Wine, Women, and the Word will be on April 25 at 6:30 pm at HuHot in Grand Forks. This relaxed group of gals meets once a month for dinner, conversation, and bible study. New folks are always welcome to join us!

WELCA BIBLE STUDY This group takes turns hosting in homes for an evening of desert, coffee and Bible Study. Currently they are working through the book "Listening for the Voice of God: Growing in Faith Everyday." **WELCA Bible Study will meet Monday April 17 at Mary Welsh's House** For a copy of the book they are studying, contact the church office at 599-2081.

Pastor Amy's Office Hours for April:

Monday: 11:00 am-1:00 pm

Tuesday: Office Hours by Appointment

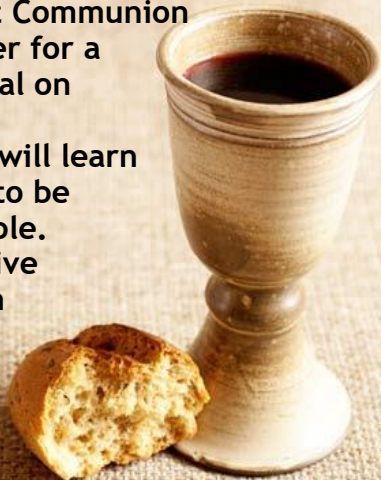
Wednesday 7:30-9:30 am,
6:00-8:00 pm

Thursday Pastor's Day Off

Friday: 10:00 am-Noon at
Bully Brew South



5th Graders (and older youth who have not yet received First Communion Instruction) will gather for a retreat and Seder meal on April 9th at 1:00 pm. Parents and children will learn about what it means to be welcome to God's Table. 5th Graders will receive their first communion on Maundy Thursday, April 13 at 7:00 pm.



Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

701 Broadway St, Thompson, ND 58278 + (701) 599-2081

ST. MATTHEW'S LEADERSHIP

Amy Eisenmann	Pastor
stmattspastoramy@gmail.com	
Jamie Bischoff	Bookkeeper
bischoffjamie@gmail.com	
John Schumacher	Council President
jschumacher@invisimax.com	
Darwin Potter	Council Vice President
darpotter14@gmail.com	
Beth Kurz	Council Secretary
bkurz@undeerc.org	
Dianne Lundgren	Council Treasurer
dlundgren44@hotmail.com	
Sharon Gustafson	Outreach Team Lead
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Sara Munson	Fellowship Team Lead
saramunson@rocketmail.com	
Roy Olson	Properties Team Lead
royandsandyolson@live.com	
Alicia Schumacher	Education Team Lead
Alicia.schumacher@gfcounty.org	
Steph Albin	Mission Support Team Lead
sjalbin@gmail.com	
Paul Strande	Youth Team Lead
pstrande59@gmail.com	
Val Uhlir	Worship Team Lead
valuhlir@yahoo.com	

The Messenger | April 2017

Happy Birthday in April!

- 1 Brooke Shimek
- 2 Landon Geatz, Cassandra Hovet
- 3 Kacey Munson, Kara Welke
- 4 Dena Hegg
- 5 Tracie Ivesdal
- 6 Gary Welsh
- 7 Scott Peterson
- 10 Stacie Avdem, Earl Haugen, Jerod Lupien, Nancy Morgan
- 11 Claire Herland
- 12 Brady Wilson
- 14 Danean Landa, Connor Praska
- 16 Brian Muhs
- 17 Newell Ueland
- 20 Charla Peterson
- 21 Lisa Steinbrink
- 23 Scott Landa, Jakob Starcevic, Mack Starcevic
- 25 Ava Anderson, Julie Brorby, Stacy Plautz
- 26 Cody Wilson
- 27 Trinity Bohlman, Jessica Heimark
- 29 Jamie Bischoff

We recognize with lots of options for giving and supporting ministry, it can be confusing. Please check out the following to better understand what each of the main funds at Saint Matthew's are for:

General Fund/Budget-This fund is used to pay bills for things like electric, heat, payroll, etc. Undesignated and loose offering goes into this fund.

World Hunger/Holy Cow-This fund is sent to help feed hungry people across our world. It is organized through Lutheran World Relief. Find out more at <https://lwr.org/>

Central African Republic/Holy Hippo-This fund is sent to our synod to support the ministry in our sister synod in the Central African Republic.

Guatemala-This fund is sent to His House Ministry to support the ministry that they are doing in Guatemala. Check it out at <http://www.his-house.org/>

Uphold-This fund supports the ministry of Uphold Global, organized by Kelsey Lindell. The ministry specifically targets disabled children in underdeveloped countries. Find out more at: <http://www.upholdglobal.com/>

Mission-This fund funnels undesignated money for local mission. Each year the council votes on which local organizations the church will support with this money. In 2016, Saint Matthew's supported CVIC-the Community Violence Intervention Center, Northland Rescue Mission-Homeless support in the area, and the Sunshine House-A new hospice/respite house connected to Altru Hospital.

Grace Gifts-Occasionally we get requests to help those in need on an individual basis. Someone struggling with their rent, heat bill, etc. This fund is used, along with pastoral conversation to support individuals in need in our area.

Elizabeth Grove Fund-This fund was setup in memory of Elizabeth Grove to help send kids to Bible Camp. It is used each year to support those going to camp for the first time with a scholarship to help defray costs.

Bible Camp-Often our kids have such a great time at camp that they want to go again. This fund is used to help defray costs for kids that are returning to Bible Camp.

Building Improvement-This fund is used for general improvement, maintenance and upkeep of our current building.

Building-This fund was set up specifically for fundraising for the new addition that was completed in 2010. We do not currently have plans to build, but retain this fund in case we build in the future.

Education Fund-This fund is used to supplement and support the Education Ministries at Saint Matthew's. It is most often accessed for Vacation Bible School, guest speakers to adult education and confirmation ministries.

Youth Special Fund- A fund used to supplement and support the Lutheran Youth Organization (high school youth group).

Sound System-This fund is being used to update our current sound system. We also hope to eventually have video/image capability in the sanctuary, and once the new sound system is in place, this fund will work towards that.

Sign Fund-This fund is being used to raise funds to supplement a gift given to update our church sign out front.

Houston Youth Gathering Fund-This fund is being used to support the kids that are attending the National Youth Gathering in summer of 2018. They are hoping to raise \$30,000 by June of 2018.



Council Meeting-February 19, 2017

IN ATTENDANCE: John Schumacher, Darwin Potter, Pastor Amy, Paul Strande, Sara Munson, Roy Olson, Beth Kurz

ABSENT: Dianne Lundgren, Alicia Schumacher, Steph Albin, Scott Landa

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by John Schumacher at approximately 11:23 A.M. Pastor Amy led us in an opening devotional and talked about our theme for 2017, "Gathered and Scattered", meaning we gather together at St. Matthew's for worship, fellowship, education and service and, as we scatter out into the world, it is important to share God's word and do His work.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion: Darwin Potter moved, Paul Strande seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion: Roy Olson moved, Sara Munson seconded, to approve the meeting minutes. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

John Schumacher led us in a review of the financial reports. As of January 31, 2017 the General Fund balance is \$13,742.50 and the Special Giving Fund balance is \$53,043.30. The Net Income for January was \$860.01 and YTD for 2017 is \$860.01.

John spoke about how team leads need to be aware of reimbursements made to team members out of their associated accounts.

Motion: Darwin Potter moved, Paul Strande seconded, to approve financial report. Motion carried.

CALENDAR REVIEW

March 10/11: Mystery Mountain ski retreat for the youth.

March 13–15: Pastor Amy out for continuing education.

PASTOR'S REPORT

See attached report she provided prior to the meeting. The main secretary book will contain an actual attached copy of the report.

MEN'S CLUB AND WELCA REPORT

The first fish fry is on March 10th; the others will follow every 2 weeks.

Sara Munson will coordinate pie making for the fish fry events. The WELCA team had a very successful donut-making day. They made about 300 dozen donuts this year, and sold close to 100 dozen donuts in pre-sales.

TEAM REPORTS

Education: Alicia Schumacher absent. Nothing reported.

Fellowship: Sara Munson – Nothing new to report.

Outreach: Sharon Gustafson absent. Nothing reported.

Properties: Roy Olson – They are planning on putting up the exterior doors as soon as it warms up. The shed also needs to be sided. Roy mentioned that they are working on getting new blinds and was wondering if we needed to consider blinds without cords for child safety reasons. John thought that cordless blinds would be the safest option and that we could use building improvement funds to cover the additional expenses.

Mission Support: Stephanie Albin absent. Nothing reported.

Worship: Val Uhlir absent. Nothing reported.

Youth: Paul Strande – The number of youth involved lately has been good. He has been communicating with parents about bringing soup during Lent. Now that the ice has been broken, the kids have been better with offering to read during Sunday service. They may have a bowling night this spring.

OLD BUSINESS

Sound System:

Bill Widman and Josh Faul have been working on getting quotes for the sound system.

Ministry Coordinator Position:

The executive committee needs to meet to discuss this position.

Changing Terms for President and Vice President:

Kevin Cooper has agreed to chair a committee to discuss possibly changing the term length for the President and Vice President positions from a 1-year term to a 2-year term. The thought is that a 2-year term will improve continuity of this role. The disadvantage is that some are reluctant to commit to a 2-year term. John is going to talk to Kevin about forming this committee. Darwin offered to be part of the committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Special Funds:

Guatemala, Mission, Uphold

We did not pay out the money in the above funds last year. John wants these funds to be paid out as soon as possible and to make sure that this doesn't happen again. John will talk to the Treasurer about how we go about paying out the Mission fund, and to make sure that the funds in the Guatemala and Up Hold accounts are paid out immediately.

Motion: Paul Strande moved, Sara Munson seconded, to approve John's plan to talk to the Treasurer about a mechanism to pay out the Mission fund, and to have the Treasurer pay out the Guatemala and Up Hold accounts right away. Motion carried.

Combine Building and Building Improvement

There have been enquiries about combining the Building and Building Improvement funds. The Building fund was originally established when money was needed for the addition, and has never been closed. John is going to ask the person who has been donating to the Building fund if he minds if those funds are combined with the Building Improvement fund.

Monthly Minutes and Reports to the Congregation:

There was a request at a DIGG meeting about having the monthly meeting agenda and minutes, as well as financial reports, more readily available to church members. Darwin and Sara suggested that the monthly meeting minutes and agenda could be posted to the website and a hard copy of the meeting minutes can be posted on the board. Meeting minutes could also be provided in the monthly newsletter. Members of the committee agreed that the meeting minutes that are posted to the website, included in the newsletter or attached to the board should be approved meeting minutes, thus they will be behind by about a month. The monthly meeting agenda will be posted a week before the meeting date so the members can see what will be discussed. If members would like access to detailed financial reports, they will have to talk to the Treasurer.

Motion: Darwin Potter moved, Paul Strande seconded, to include the approved meeting minutes in the monthly newsletter, and to post a hard copy of the approved meeting minutes and a copy of the upcoming meeting agenda on the church board. Motion carried.

Council Meeting Times and Dates:

John would like to figure out a meeting schedule that works best for council members. This item was tabled until the next meeting when more members will be present.

Congregation Property Use Form:

John would like the council to figure out the rules for building use and utilization of congregation property. Roy said that most requests involve using the congregation's chairs and tables. Sara mentioned that when we last acquired new tables, a form was developed for borrowers to fill out. Darwin mentioned that it was probably around the 2012-2013 timeframe. Beth offered to look through the old meeting minutes from those years to see if she could find any information about the form. She'll send whatever information she finds to John, Darwin and Roy.

Replacement for Valley Memorial Board Member:

This item will be tabled until the next meeting.

Chairs from Altru:

Altru has several types of chairs available for free, including red plastic chairs that might be good for the classrooms, as well as cushioned chairs that could be used in the dining area. There are also tables available for free. The council agreed that we would get as many items as possible (within reason), and if we don't have room for them all, we can figure out where to bring the extras. Darwin offered to help get the items since he has a trailer for hauling.

Motion: Darwin Potter moved, Roy seconded, to pick up these items from Altru for use at St. Matthew's. Motion carried.

Motion: Paul Strande moved to adjourned at 12:41 P.M., Darwin Potter seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bethany Kurz

Greetings from the Worship Team:
We are finishing up the Lenten Season and enjoying the "Stone" lessons we've been learning along with soup before the service. Our final mid-week service will be next Wednesday April 5. Please come and join us if you haven't so far.

Our Holy Week Schedule is located on the back of this newsletter, and we hope you can join us for all or some of the services!
Worship Team Lead - Valorie Uhler



April Worship Assistants

Tony & Paula Amborn Family
Jeremy & Beth Hughes Family
Dean & Barbie Larson Family
Mike & Nancy Morgan
Jason & Alicia Schumacher Family
David & Cami Stevens Family
Paul & Heidi Strande Family
Lisa Strand Family

May Worship Assistants

RaeAnn Burger
Travis & Brook Fretheim
Roger & Sharon Gustafson
Trent & Tracie Ivesdal family
Mary Mitchell
John & Jill Schumacher family
Jason & Angela Suckut family

Interested in going to Bible Camp this summer?
The **Bible Camp Info meeting will be Sunday, April 23rd after worship!**



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
701 Broadway St. Thompson, ND 58278
(701) 599-2081 | stmatthewslutheranchurch.org

Welcome to worship

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School at 9 a.m.

Address service requested



Palm Sunday, April 9th

10:00 am Festival Worship with Sunday School Kids singing

1:00 pm First Communion Event with 5th Graders & Parents

Maundy Thursday, April 13th

7:00 pm Worship with Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 14th

Noon Children's Service "Journey to the Cross"

7:00 pm Tenebrae Worship

Easter Sunday, April 16th

7:00 am Sunrise Worship

8:00-9:45 am Easter Breakfast Served by Youth going to Camp

10:00 am Festival Worship