

April 2018

# 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 you get this we are knee deep into Holy Week and Easter is just around the corner. We cannot wait for the Alleluias to bust out once more, to move from the minor keys of Lent to the major, more happy chords of the Easter season.

Every year when Easter rolls around, I cannot help but remember a song from when I was little and my mom was the kids' choir director. It is called "Every Morning is Easter Morning" and I could still sing it to you. Some of the words say:

*Ev'ry morning is Easter morning from now on!  
Ev'ry day's resurrection day, the past is over and gone!*

*Daily news is so bad it seems the Good News seldom gets heard.  
Get it straight from the Easter People: God's in charge! Spread the word!*

As believers in the risen Christ and disciples of Jesus, we are blessed to know that we get a chance to live as Easter people. We get to live with the hope of the resurrection. We get to wake up each morning with the reminder that God is making us new, and that God's mercies are new every morning. We have been blessed and continue to be blessed with reasons to live lives that are full of hope and joy.

Sometimes in the world we live in these days, we can forget how many blessings we have, and we can lose sight of the hope that we can cling to. We can get stuck in the pain, death and destruction that is all around us and we can forget about the hope and the new life that is promised to us.

As we enter into this Easter season, I want to encourage you. Go to church and worship on Easter Sunday if you can. Sing the songs of the risen Christ, hear the joyful shouts of the fact that he is risen and has conquered death and the grave. Listen again to the Easter story and be reminded that God's love will have the last word.

Take the time to remind yourselves and those that you love that Easter is not just a Sunday, but an entire season. Throughout these next few weeks, look around you for signs of winter ending and new life beginning. Find the signs of hope that God is gifting you with, and share them with those you encounter.

Brothers and sisters, we do not have to fear death, we do not have to fear the pain of this life. We can live filled with the joy that is ours in the rising of Jesus from the dead on the 3rd day. We can share the joy and hope of the resurrection. We may not have all the answers, but we do know this...Christ is risen, he has risen indeed! Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

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 February 28th. It was all very good. We will resume LYO again on April 11th, which is after Lenten season. It is hard to believe we only have three more LYO sessions for the school year. Thank you again to the congregation for their continued support of our Youth who



The Houston Youth have shed raffle tickets for sale! Would you like a chance to win a shed? Talk to any of our youth going to Houston for more info: Pierce Cooper, Brittny and Bailey Munson, and Ellie Schumacher.

## Education



Mark your calendars! The education team has an exciting Easter celebration planned for Sunday, April 15th! We will have our annual Easter egg hunt and back by popular demand, it will be glow in the dark!

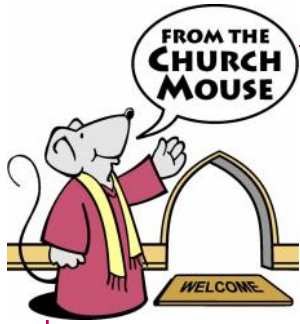
Students have been working hard on their memory work which will be shared in worship on Mother's Day this year. The last day of Sunday

School for the season will be Mother's Day, May 13. We hope you can join us in worship that day for a chance to celebrate all that our kids and teachers have learned together. Thank you for sharing your children with us! They give us all such joy!

Many Blessings, The Education Team



**Mark your calendars! Next time Sunday School kids sing in worship is April 22!**



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!

- All those who helped with fish fries and pie sales
- John S for organizing Men's Fish Fries again this year
- Deb D., and John S. for teaching confirmation this year!
- Kevin C, and Shannon H for helping sub confirmation this year!
- All the folks who helped lend a hand during Lent and Holy Week!
- All who participated in the diaper drive
- Jera S for cutting out shapes for our Children's Good Friday service
- Val U for making communion bread
- Paul S for making the new memorial tree board

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



**Our 5th Annual God's Work, Our Hands Day is coming up on April 8.** We will once again be changing our worship to a day of service. Some of us will be helping out at the Mobile Pack for Feed My Starving Children in Grand Forks. There will also be fun projects for all ages that the Outreach Team is organizing that morning, followed by lunch for all to enjoy and celebrate how God can work through us! Grab your kids, grab your neighbors and come join the fun! For more information, or to sign up to be on the bus to Feed My Starving Children, call Julie Brorby at 701-740-2906 or email her at [jbrorby60@hotmail.com](mailto:jbrorby60@hotmail.com)

## Ongoing Ministries

### **MEN IN MISSION**

St. Matthew's men gather each Sunday morning at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall 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 17 at 6:30 pm at L'Bistro 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 "Finding Rest in a Busy World." **WELCA Bible Study will meet Monday, April 16 at Sharon Gustafson's House** For a copy of the book they are studying, contact the church office at 599-2081.

## 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  
David & Cami Stevens Family

### 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



## Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

### ST. MATTHEW'S LEADERSHIP

<b>Amy Eisenmann</b> Pastor	stmattpastoramy@gmail.com
<b>Jamie Bischoff</b> Bookkeeper	bischoffjamie@gmail.com
<b>Darwin Potter</b> Council President	darpotter14@gmail.com
<b>James Thorson</b> Council Vice President	thorsonja@yahoo.com
<b>Beth Kurz</b> Council Secretary	bkurz@undeerc.org
<b>Tracie Ivesdal</b> Council Treasurer	tivesdal@msn.com
<b>Sarah Krogfoss</b> Outreach Team Lead	smartin@polarcomm.com
<b>Sara Munson</b> Fellowship Team Lead	saramunson@rocketmail.com
<b>Roy Olson</b> Properties Team Lead	royandsandyolson@live.com
<b>Alicia Schumacher</b> Education Team Lead	Alicia.schumacher@gfcounty.org
<b>Paul Strande</b> Youth Team Lead	pstrande59@gmail.com
<b>Deb DeMoe</b> Worship Team Lead	deb.demoe@tps-k12.org

## Happy Birthday in April!

- 1 Brooke Grey
- 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 Christopher Deitz, Brady Wilson, Alivia Wyatt
- 14 Danean Landa, Connor Praska
- 16 Brian Muhs
- 17 Newell Ueland
- 20 Charla Peterson
- 23 Scott Landa, Jakob Starcevic, Mack Starcevic
- 24 Haven Deitz
- 25 Ava Anderson, Julie Brorby, Stacy Plautz
- 26 Cody Wilson
- 27 Trinity Bohlman
- 28 Blair Peterson
- 29 Jamie Bischoff



# COUNCIL MINUTES

February 25, 2018

In Attendance: Pastor Amy, Darwin Potter, James Thorson, Tracie Ivesdal, Roy Olson, Paul Strande, Beth Kurz, Sara Munson, Deb DeMoe, Sarah Krogfoss

Absent: Alicia Schumacher

**Call to Order** Meeting was called to order by Darwin at approximately 11:50 am.

**Liturgy** Pastor Amy led the Church Council in prayer prior to our meeting.

**Agenda Approval** Need to change Item 6 (Ministry Assistant Position Update) under Old Business to “Administrative Assistant Position Update”. Under “New Business”, Item 3 (Description of Team Lead Job Duties and Expectations) was removed and an item titled “First State Bank Action Items” was added.

**Motion:** Paul moved approve the agenda. James seconded. Motion carried.

**Minutes Approval** Item 4 under “New Business” was titled incorrectly – it should have been titled “Organizing Church Furniture/Clutter”.

**Motion:** Deb motioned to approve the January 21 meeting minutes as amended. Paul seconded. Motion carried.

**Financial Reports** Tracie summarized the financial reports for January. General Giving income was \$7,587.27. Net income for January was negative \$4,197.40. As of January 31, the General Giving checking account balance was at \$8,307.97. Special Giving net income for January was \$1,035.00. The Special Giving checking account balance was at \$42,768.56.

There was some discussion about why our general giving was down so much in January. There aren’t any clear reasons why giving should be so much lower than at this time last year. Tracie is going to look at our historical budgets to see if we can get a better idea of past trends to help inform the budget moving forward.

Darwin mentioned that he and Tracie are going to work together to reduce the amount of information displayed in the budget reports given at Council Meeting.

James asked about the budget items discussed during the last council meeting (i.e. – Guatemala fund and the Wedding fund). The wedding fund got zeroed out. We are working on figuring out who to contact regarding the Guatemala fund.

**Motion:** James moved to approve the Financial Reports. Sara seconded. Motion carried.

**Calendar Review** Note that Council Meetings have been moved to the 4th Sunday of every month. Pastor Amy will modify the calendar accordingly.

**Pastor's Report** Pastor Amy could really use help during Lent. It would even help if people dropped by the church while she is there to see if she needs help. She will be gone March 9 – 11th for the ski trip. We have a guest Pastor on March 11, but we need help from others to help out with worship. Paul volunteered to have LYO help out that day rather than on the 18th. See attached report provided prior to the meeting. The main secretary book will contain an actual attached copy of the report.

### **Men's Club and WELCA Report**

**WELCA:** During the fish fry, we sold all the donuts that were made (283 dozen). Maids-n-Margaritas will be coming up soon. They are also looking at purchasing a new oven.

**Men's Club:** No update for Men's club.

### **Team Reports**

**Executive:** Darwin Potter – We'll be covering the items discussed at the last Executive Team meeting later in today's meeting.

**Education:** Pastor Amy reported on behalf of Alicia Schumacher – The annual Easter egg hunt will be coming soon.

**Fellowship:** Sara Munson – Spring Tea will be in May and Random Acts of Kindness will be in March. They are planning on giving gift cards out to members of the congregation to hand out to the general public.

**Outreach:** Sarah Krogfoss – They are still trying to recruit Outreach Team members will be and how often they want to meet. Coming up will be Gods Work Our Hands, which will be done in conjunction with Feed My Starving Children. Pop On Over is planned for July.

**Properties:** Roy Olson – In the spring they'll start working on the garage siding.

**Worship:** Deb DeMoe – They have been discussing how to improve communication to those families assigned to assist with worship every month. Paul suggested that maybe the week prior, we have a reminder of who the family will be next time.

**Youth:** Paul Strande – They've been busy. They made three tie blankets and gave them out to people who need support in the community. The kids voted to continue supporting their international child. They raised almost all of the funds already – the pancake breakfast raised a lot of money towards that. They had a Cosmic Bowling event last night. There were 17 kids in attendance – 12 from St. Matthews and 5 who were friends of the St. Matthew's kids. They are planning another soup supper this Wednesday.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Chair Removal** We gave the extra chairs away to a hotel owner from Walhalla. We kept a dozen of the chairs with armrests for the elderly.

**Pastor's Contract** Pastor Amy's contract is up to date and ready to go.

**Sound System Update** They formed a committee to keep this effort moving forward. Darwin was able to talk to Bill Widman while he was in town this past weekend. Bill set Darwin up with a liason from the company that will install the system. Darwin, James and Josh Faul will meet with the person to go over their recommendations for updating the

sound system. We have enough speakers already, so it will essentially be a PA system with better speaker control. Sara suggested that we have a speaker in the kitchen. Pastor Amy suggested that we also have one in the narthex/entry way for parents who are busy running around with kids.

**Wireless System Update** Darwin and Pastor Amy have all the equipment purchased. The system will accommodate many more users. We'll have access points on both sides of the building. The system is currently not wired correctly, so Darwin will get that figured out. The total cost for this update was \$458, lower than the estimated \$600. There may also be a small additional monthly charge from Midco to cover the increased service.

**Memorial Giving Board** Paul completed the board that will be used to mount the memorial giving tree.

**Administrative Assistant Position Update** The position description is done and it is posted on our website and in the GF Herald. The position will be posted on the Herald website through March 8. Darwin thought that we could advertise the position for a total of 3 weeks, but that's pushing it because we really need someone hired. We have two people that have applied already – Pastor Amy told them that they would be contacted by a member of the Executive Council. We'd like to post the position through Job Service as well, but we've had trouble getting in touch with anyone from Job Service. Tracie offered to assist in having the position posted through Job Service. Darwin suggested that we close the position on March 13. The Executive team will meet on March 12 to discuss the applicants that have applied. We're looking at a start date for the first week in April.

## **New Business**

**Area Church Robberies** There have been some church robberies happening in the area. Other than locking the doors once the service starts, Darwin isn't sure what can be done. There have been some issues with people robbing coat rooms at area churches while people are in service. We might just have to remind people not to leave valuables in public areas (i.e. – the coat room). We talked about maybe putting signs up in the coat rooms as reminders not to leave valuables unattended.

**Paul Strande Continuation as LYO Leader** Since there was no printed ballot for the annual meeting, we missed voting on Paul's position as Education Team lead. We also missed voting in Sarah Krogfoss as Outreach Team lead and Deb DeMoe as Worship Team lead. This needs to be handled during this meeting.

**Motion:** Sara moved to approve these aforementioned appointments. Tracie seconded. Motion carried.

**List of Classroom Needs, Repairs and/or Removal of Items** The class teachers and each of the Church Council teams need to look through their rooms/areas of responsibilities to remove clutter. The chairs need to be out of the classrooms. We also need to determine if anything needs to be moved (i.e. – white boards). Not every team has a designated room and/or storage area. Darwin mentioned that the Sunday school teachers are responsible for cleaning their classrooms before and after class. At some point, we should have a painting party to cover up some of the scuff and dings. At the Executive Team meeting we discussed having a shed to store some items, such as those that are in the mechanical room. Roy mentioned that in the "man cave", there are tables and chairs, and everything is so packed that it's difficult to move things out of the room. The only time that the long tables and all the chairs are ever really used is during graduation. We really don't need to store all of that stuff in the building.

**Food Pantry Support and Communication** We need to sit down with Kristie to figure out a way to get her help with the food pantry. Darwin asked for a volunteer to sit down with Kristie and see if she has any ideas for establishing a committee to assist with the food pantry. We also need to look at getting representation from the other churches/communities that are helping to support the food pantry. Sarah K. offered to sit down with Kristie to see what sort of help she might need and to discuss how to get support. We also need to figure out how to spend the food pantry money.

**Building Fund Moved to Building Improvement Fund** Last meeting it was decided to move any donations from the Building Fund over to the Building Improvement Fund. There is currently \$1500 in the Building Fund. Someone mentioned that perhaps that could be used to purchase the shed needed for additional storage. It was decided that the money would be left there for now.

**First State Bank Action Items** Approval is needed for our continued line of credit for \$20,000 through First State Bank. If we would like to continue this line of credit, we need to vote on it.

**Motion:** Paul moved that we continue to carry a \$20,000 line of credit through First State Bank. Sarah seconded. There was some discussion about the line of credit. Darwin clarified that the line of credit is only to be used for emergency funds. Roy asked if there was a charge for this. Pastor Amy didn't think there was a fee unless we use it. James asked if we've ever needed it historically. We have had to use it in the past, but not for the past few years. Tracie suggested that we figured out what the interest rate will be and if that has changed from the past. Darwin will follow up on that. All were in favor. Motion carried.

We also need to formally authorize James Thorson and Tracie Ivesdal to sign checks from the St. Matthew's checking account. John Schumacher and Dianne Lundgren no longer have authorization on the account.

**Motion:** Deb moved to authorize James Thorson and Tracie Ivesdal to sign checks for St. Matthew's account at First State Bank, and to remove John Schumacher and Dianne Lundgren from that account. Sarah seconded. Motion carried.

**Motion:** James motioned to adjourn the meeting. Paul seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting closed at 2:02 pm. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Kurz

## Holy Week and Easter Services



*Come Worship With Us!*

### Holy Week Schedule:

**Maundy Thursday**

**7 pm Worship**

**Good Friday**

**Noon Kids Good Friday Event**

**7 pm Worship**

**Easter**

**7 am Sunrise Worship**

**10 am Festival Worship**

**Easter Breakfast Served 8 am-10 am**



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



**Come and join us for a day of service to the community! Sunday, April 8 there will be projects for all ages!**

**8:30 am Those working the Mobile Food Pack head into Grand Forks**

**9:00 am Sunday School Projects**

**10:00 am Hands on Projects for All Ages begin!**

**11:00 Lunch for all to celebrate how God can work through each of us!**

**Members and friends of St. Matt's are welcome to come join the fun!**