

April 2021

# 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*

With the weather warming up and the days getting longer, we know that Spring is here! I love Spring...it is my favorite season. It signifies the end of the dark and cold months. Flowers bloom and there is renewed hope visible in creation. As you will read later in the newsletter, we are making some positive changes to our worship and fellowship as it relates to the pandemic. There is light at the end of the tunnel, and I feel very optimistic about where we are headed.

With that in mind, I thought I would do a short reflection on faith using this analogy of flowers blooming in the Springtime. John Schumacher will be very happy with me as I get to talk about farmers once again.

If there was ever a ranking or if it was even possible to measure how much faith one has, I think farmers would be somewhere higher up on the list. Think about it, farmers depend on things they have no or very little control over. Soil, rain, sunlight, you name it.

Today's technology helps to try to get some sort of control, but most of it depends on natural elements that farmers have no control over. All they can do is prepare the land and plant the seed. Then wait for the crops to come out. It's actually a beautiful process if you've ever been a part of it.

My parents used to own some land and each year around October and November, which was the beginning of our summer in Zimbabwe, we would get the land ready for planting. We were not commercial farmers, so we didn't have all the big machines and equipment I've seen on the farms here in North Dakota.

We would usually hire a small tractor or sometimes we had oxen like we talked about in worship with the yoke a few weeks ago. Then, we would line up with hoes, and plant the seed by hand. As you can imagine, this was a long process which was very tedious. But the beauty of it all was when we would go to the farm early in the morning and see the little corn shoots bright green in straight rows splattered across the field.

All we did was to plant the seed, waited and watched it grow. Life sprung up from the ground; beautiful life rising from dirt.

The word of God is like a seed planted in the dirt which sprouts forth and brings life to the world. It is like the rain and the snow that water the earth making it bring forth life in plants and animals. Jesus likens the word of God to seed being sown by a sower. Some of it falls on fertile soil and grows well but some falls on rocks and dry paths and dies.

Most of the time we don't see how the seed grows and turns into a plant. It happens in the ground, where the seed germinates, develops roots, and shoots up. Much of this is like our faith. I know some people can tell you where and when exactly they got their faith, but for most people faith is something we can't really explain. If someone was to ask you when you started believing in God, we wouldn't have an exact answer. Because faith is like a plant.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul tells us that faith comes by hearing the word of God. This word we hear when we read the Bible. We hear it at church, in hymns, sermons, and teachings. The word of God is like a seed, but different in that, it's not just a one-time seed we get once in our lifetimes. It's a gift that keeps on giving because, the more we hear God's word, the more the seed takes root. Then it grows, and soon enough it shoots out and we find ourselves realizing that we do in fact believe in God.

Happy Spring – Pastor Tawanda

# LYO-Youth Group

**Youth Group Students** – Thank you to all our youth group students, church members and Leonida Strande (Paul's Mom) that donated hats, gloves and blankets for our LYO drive to help Foster Children. It was a big success!!

Remaining LYO meeting dates are at 6:30 pm on April 7, April 21, May 5 and May 19. At the last meeting in May we will do a send off for our Seniors.



## Education

### *Greetings from the Education Team!*

We kick off the first day of April with the fifth grade class receiving their First Communion on Maundy Thursday. We are excited to celebrate this milestone with them!

#### *Congratulations to*

*Lola Anderson*

*Jordan Barker*

*Carly Berberich*

*Natalie Berger*

*Halle Bohlman*

*Jaxon Clemetson*

*Mak Mikelson*

*Summer Pearson*

The second day of April we are bringing back our Children's Good Friday Service!! The service will include special music, fun activities and the children and their families experiencing the stations of the cross.



We will start off our first day of Sunday School in April with an Easter egg hunt! The hunt will take place during Sunday school class time and in addition to hunting for eggs the students will do some fun activities as well. The weather is looking promising so we are looking forward to possibly having our hunt outside!!

During the month of April our Sunday School students will be studying lessons on 'The Miracles of Jesus'.

#### Important dates -

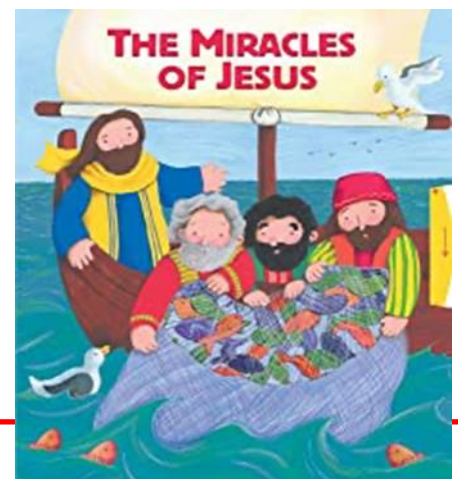
First Communion for 5th Graders - 4/1

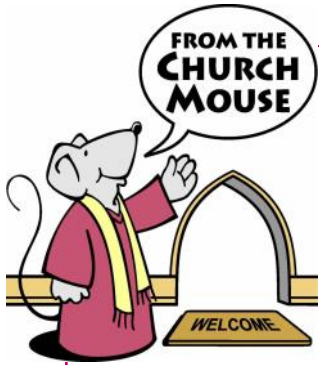
Children's Good Friday Service - 4/2

No Sunday School - 4/4

Easter Egg Hunt - 4/11

Last Day of Sunday School - 5/2





Thank you to everyone who is a part of the ministry at St. 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 frys.
- John S for organizing Men's Fish Frys again this year.
- Worship readers who are always ready and willing to help.
- Ruth W for her Wednesday Worship Words.
- Everyone for your patience and respect as we work through the pandemic.

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



## Computer/Slide Techs are needed for worship services.

One person is needed for each Sunday to run the slides for Sunday morning worship. If you are interested, there is training available. Please contact [Dara Faul](#) or [Val Uhler](#).

### Women of St. Matthew's

mark your calendars for Bible Study on April 19th  
7pm at St. Matthews's

Women of all ages are welcome!



# Ongoing Ministries

## **MEN IN MISSION**

St. Matthew's men gather each Sunday morning at 9 am in the Rosendal Room and on-line 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!

**WOMENS BIBLE STUDY** This group will begin meeting in the Rosendal Room on the 3rd Monday of the month for an evening of Bible Study. Their next gathering will be on **Monday, April 19 at 7:00 p.m.** Women of all ages are welcome!



# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



## April

Steph Albin Family  
Adam & Jen Bohlman Family  
Trinity Bohlman Family  
Nathan & Bre Berberich Family  
Travis Dearinger Family  
Blake & Gretchen Guetter Family  
Marc & Beth Kurz Family  
Derek & Stacy Plautz Family

## May

Justin & Amy Bergeron Family  
Roger & Sharon Gustafson  
Neil & Kay Lindell  
Brue Loyland  
Roy & Sandra Olson  
Linda Schumacher  
Alex & Jen Starcevic Family  
Chuck & Kara Welke Family  
Troy & Sheila Wilson Family

Greetings from the Worship Team!

Here we are at Easter!! I'm hoping that we're able to wear our "Easter Bonnets" !

I want to thank everyone that assisted with Lenten Services and Palm Sunday. I'm hoping to see everyone over Holy Week.

Please keep in mind that we could use Tech help. Once a month would be wonderful. This need continues ALL year long.

We are always looking for more Worship Team members and remember, if you are a closet decorator we welcome assistance with the alter decorations. You only need to provide talent and time. We provide the materials you need.

May you have a wonderful Easter Season with family and friends. Stay safe!

## Thank you to all who provided Easter flowers in our sanctuary.

Roger & Sharon Gustafson in memory of Carrol & Isabel Lebacken; Carol Howard;  
Leonard, Bernice, Dave Kjorvestad

Roger & Dalene Jacobson in memory of Derek Jacobson, Dale Grandstrand, Lowell & Helen Jacobson

Marc & Beth Kurz Family in memory of Elaine Myrfield

The Damon & Bridget Pearson Family in memory of Roy T Loken

Pastor Tawanda in memory of Levison Manda

Ruth Waller in HONOR of Mary Loing

Mike & Valorie Uhlir in memory of Family and friends that have passed in the last year.



Congratulations to Paul and Brooke Bakke on the baptism of their son Warren Andrew Bakke. Warren was baptized on March 7, 2021. His sponsors were Sarah and Jeff Hovde. Welcome into our family Warren!

Pastor Tawanda welcomes visitors at the church office anytime.

He is in the office all day on Mondays and Thursdays, please feel free to stop in.

Tuesdays and Wednesdays, please contact him to set up a time to meet.

Pastor Tawanda's day off is Friday.



## Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

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

### ST. MATTHEW'S LEADERSHIP

<b>Pastor Tawanda Murinda</b>	<b>Pastor</b>	<a href="mailto:pastor@stmatthewsthompson.org">pastor@stmatthewsthompson.org</a>
<b>Vione Jordheim</b>	<b>Admin Assistant</b>	<a href="mailto:stmattsvione@gmail.com">stmattsvione@gmail.com</a>
<b>Jamie Bischoff</b>	<b>Bookkeeper</b>	<a href="mailto:stmattsbookkeeper58278@gmail.com">stmattsbookkeeper58278@gmail.com</a>
<b>Paul Strande</b>	<b>President</b>	<a href="mailto:stmattspresident@gmail.com">stmattspresident@gmail.com</a>
<b>Ryan Welsh</b>	<b>Vice President</b>	<a href="mailto:rswelsh@invisimax.com">rswelsh@invisimax.com</a>
<b>Robyn Bohlman</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<a href="mailto:rbohlman@invisimax.com">rbohlman@invisimax.com</a>
<b>Scott Kuster</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<a href="mailto:scottkuster@gra.midco.net">scottkuster@gra.midco.net</a>
<b>Brook Fretheim</b>	<b>Outreach Team</b>	<a href="mailto:brook.fretheim@tps-k12.org">brook.fretheim@tps-k12.org</a>
<b>Sara Munson</b>	<b>Fellowship Team</b>	<a href="mailto:smunson190@mygfschools.org">smunson190@mygfschools.org</a>
<b>Duane Naas</b>	<b>Properties Team</b>	<a href="mailto:duanechrisnaas@gmail.com">duanechrisnaas@gmail.com</a>
<b>Sarah Krogfoss</b>	<b>Education Team</b>	<a href="mailto:sarahkrogfoss@icloud.com">sarahkrogfoss@icloud.com</a>
<b>Steve Hancock</b>	<b>Youth Team</b>	<a href="mailto:shannonandsteven@gmail.com">shannonandsteven@gmail.com</a>
<b>Valorie Uhler</b>	<b>Worship Team</b>	<a href="mailto:valuhler@yahoo.com">valuhler@yahoo.com</a>

## 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, Junelle Hjelmstad
- 10 Stacie Moen, Earl Haugen, Jerod Lupien, Nancy Morgan
- 11 Claire Herland
- 12 Christopher Deitz, Brady Wilson, Alivia Wyatt
- 13 McKenzie Johnson
- 14 Danean Landa, Connor Praska
- 16 Brian Muhs
- 17 Newell Ueland, Elise Belle
- 20 Charla Peterson
- 23 Scott Landa, Jakob Starcevic, Mack Starcevic
- 24 Haven Deitz, Ryan Broyles
- 25 Ava Anderson, Julie Brorby, Stacy Plautz
- 26 Cody Wilson
- 27 Trinity Bohlman
- 28 Blair Peterson
- 29 Jamie Bischoff, Isabelle Kadrmas



## **St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

Unofficial Council Meeting Minutes—March 14, 2021

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Present: Paul Strande, Steve Hancock, Scott Kuster, Duane Naas, Val Uhler, Pastor Tawanda, Sarah Krogfoss

Absent: Brook Fretheim, Sarah Munson

Meeting was called to order by President Strande at 11:14

Opening Devotional - reflection on past year

Agenda: Add new door code – Motion to approve agenda was made by Steve seconded by Scott MPU

Minutes from February's meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept minutes by Steve seconded by Val MPU

Financial : General Giving Income for February was \$8940. As of February 28<sup>th</sup> the General Giving checking account balance is \$14,771.42. Special Giving checking is \$31,819.90. Our line of credit is \$0. Our YTD income is \$19,111.16. Scott made note that net income for February is -4072.87. Overbudget in software – quickbooks had to be updated.

Sarah Made a motion to accept financial. Duane Seconded. MPU

Pastors Report- see Pastor's full report. Attendance has been holding steady.

Calendar Review

Men's Club Report: nothing

WELCA Report: nothing

### **Team Reports**

Executive Team	Paul Strande- meeting will be set up this week
Education	Sarah Krogfoss Easter egg hunt April 11 – can coloring books be set back out, nursery opened back up?
Fellowship	Sarah Munson nothing. New members Sunday this spring?
Senior Sunday	are we going to have cake?
Outreach	Brook Fretheim nothing
Food Pantry	375.5 lbs of food in February – 6 households
Properties	Duane Naas-talked to Dan at school about carpets cleaning.
	Dan said was really good one could rent at Acme. What do we do with old one

school gave us – doesn't work very well anymore. If it is still here at next council meeting we will toss it.

Worship Val Uhler-couple more Lenten services and then Holy Week and  
2 services on Easter  
Youth Steve Hancock- Start again April 7

#### Old Business

Better desk for the Computers used for worship – Bought sheet of plywood. Planning to get some work done on it during spring break next week. Should be here before end of April.  
Altar, Pulpit and Baptismal Font-Ryan, Paul and Duane looked at it. Font can't really be saved.  
Possibly do special fund drive to replace all three.  
Line of Credit and Signature cards will be done this coming week

#### New Business

Men in Mission are wondering about Dine-In for last Fish Fry. Thinking it is maybe too soon do change. Finish this year as take out and hopefully next year everything will be open.  
Church Copier – If we switch to a newer copier, it will save us \$31 per month. Paul motioned that we upgrade, Steve seconded. MPU  
New PPP Loan? Check on what interest rate would be if need to pay back. Is it less than our line of credit? Steve made a motion to explore the PPP if interest rate is less than what our LOC is. Ryan seconded. MPU  
Code to door. Change it after the last day of Sunday school, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### Closing Prayer (Lord's Prayer)

Val motioned to adjourn, Sarah seconded. MPU

Next Meeting: Apr. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 11:05AM / after church service

Respectfully Submitted by:

Robyn Bohlman

**The Church Executive Team is tentatively  
planning to switch  
from Masks REQUIRED  
to Masks RECOMMENDED  
beginning on April 11th!**

**This is great news and good reason to be joyful  
and give our Lord thanks and praise!!**

**Please continue to be respectful of  
your neighbors!**







**St. Matthew's Lutheran Church**

701 Broadway St., Thompson, ND 58278

[www.stmatthewslutheranchurch.org](http://www.stmatthewslutheranchurch.org)

701-599-2081

March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Greetings,

Blessings to you and your family during this Lenten Season. Our executive team has recently met to discuss where we are at in relation to COVID and the church. Case numbers and particularly hospital numbers continue at this time to trend in a positive direction. That's very exciting and hopeful. In the last few weeks, it has been really great to see members that haven't been able to attend church in over a year able to come back now that they have been vaccinated. That indeed is reason for optimism and JOY!!

With that, we are tentatively planning to switch from **Masks REQUIRED to Masks RECOMMENDED beginning with the church service on April 11<sup>th</sup>**. This means we will keep the mask requirement in effect through Easter worship. Two reasons why we chose April 11<sup>th</sup> are:

Traditionally Holy Week and Easter Services are very well attended which means more members in a tighter space. It will be very hard to maintain 6' of spacing

With another 3 weeks for vaccination taking place, the percentage of people fully vaccinated by April 11<sup>th</sup> should increase quite a bit for those getting vaccinated

We will continue to require masks for Sunday School, Confirmation and LYO. Our classrooms are very small and that age group won't be eligible for vaccines any time soon. They must continue to wear them at school. If the school were to decide to drop the mask mandate, we would also revisit this requirement. We also plan to resume more traditional communion and coffee fellowship on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Tawanda and the worship team will work on putting together a process for communion that we feel will be safe for everyone to receive communion. It has been a really long journey to start to return to NORMAL. But regardless of what your view on COVID is, our council along with Pastor Tawanda has always taken the perspective that we need to Love our Neighbor by taking care of each other's safety during this pandemic. We hope you can appreciate that.

One last item we would like to give information on is church offering. Our general offering is what keeps our church operating and whether we have in-person attendance or online, 120 people in attendance or 20 people in attendance, it does not change the fact we need offering to pay our employees and utilities. During the first two months of 2020 our general offering was \$22,707.35 while in 2021 our general offering was \$19,111.16. In our budget approved at our annual meeting in January, we need \$25,697.00 in offering each month to pay our approved budgeted expenses. For January and February our income has been \$3,883.04 short to cover our expenses. This will be unsustainable if we continue on this track. We feel as a council we have been very thoughtful and diligent in how we spend the offering over the last year. We encourage you to set up Give+ online giving tool to use it to set up an automatic, continuous giving. Many area churches have found that consistent offering is the key to alleviating worrying about covering expenses. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact members of the Executive team.

We wish you a Happy and Healthy Lenten season and hope you are all able to gather again with family,

Paul Strande, Ryan Welsh, Scott Kuster and Robyn Bohlman

St. Matthew's Executive Team



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church  
701 Broadway St. Thompson, ND 58278  
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## Welcome to worship

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

In-person and live on our YouTube Channel

Sunday School at 9 a.m.

Address service requested

## Holy Week and Easter Services



*Come Worship With Us!*

### Maundy Thursday – April 1

7 pm Worship with First Communion for  
our 5th graders

### Good Friday – April 2

5 pm Children's Worship Service  
7 pm Worship

### Easter – April 4

7 am Sunrise Worship  
10 am Festival Worship

No Sunday School