

April 2022

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

"Behold, I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:19

Dear St. Matt's friends,

All this Lenten season we have had texts that help us think about what it is to be journeying through "the wilderness," that is, times of transition and uncertainty. As a newcomer to St. Matthew's I was grateful to inherit this prepared Lenten theme as it seemed to be fitting to your situation as a congregation as you were saying goodbye to Pastor Tawanda and thinking about what is next.

The temptation during such times is to scale back, to sort of set up camp there in the wilderness and put some things on hold and just wait until your new pastor is in place. Resist this urge! I would encourage you to rather keep moving forward as a congregation, to use this time to build momentum in your ministry by stepping up individually and together and **try new things**. It is a great time to brainstorm and experiment with ideas for outreach, education, growth and renewal. Anticipate that not all experiments will succeed. That's ok! Give yourselves lots of grace and permission to fail or to tweak and try again.

I believe that there is a wonderful energy afoot at St. Matt's that just needs a little structure and direction to find footing. A pastor certainly helps with this, but you yourselves are empowered to bring forward ideas or recycle ideas and recruit a few people and run with it. Take a look at upcoming events in the area and think how St. Matt's might have a presence there. Think about what sub-groups of your congregation maybe need special attention and nurturing right now. How might that happen? Think about road-trips and fellowship activities and ways to simply build up your intergenerational community by getting to know one another better. Keep the spirit of the fish fry going! Maybe a BBQ in the park? Who could you invite? Be on the look-out for what new things God might be doing among you and through you, beloved people of St. Matthew's.

You are an amazingly warm and lively congregation with many gifts to offer the community and region. Your community depends on you to be fully engaged in your shared ministry this Spring and Summer and beyond, to be brave in trying things, to trust that God is always out ahead leading the way. I am looking forward to what new things God will bring forth among you and through you in the months to come!

Growing in Christ,

Pastor Kristen



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Council met with Pastor Brad Skogen, Associate with the Bishop from END Synod, on Sunday, March 13th. Pastor Brad discussed the call process with the council and answered any questions we had.

Our next step as a council will be choosing a call committee. Once formed, the call committee's first task will be to update our Ministry Site Profile. When completed the call committee will forward the MSP to the Synod. The Synod will then list St. Matthew's as looking to call a Pastor.

The council would like to select a call committee at our April meeting. Each council member is on the look out for potential candidates. The goal is to have a call committee that represents St. Matthew's congregation. If you are interested in serving, please contact a council member.

John Schumacher
Council President

Worship

Hello from the Worship Team!!

We are finally starting to get the feeling of Spring. It has even gotten there on the calendar. Let's hope that with the late Easter we will be able to wear new Easter bonnets.

The congregation has been blessed with Pastor Kristen until the end of April. Please thank her for taking time away from her hospice job to give us stability in these changing times. Introduce yourself, if you haven't meet her yet.

We want to THANK ALL that have signed up on-line and in person to help with the services each week!! You don't know how much easier this has made our work. HOWEVER, please check on-line to see if someone has already signed up. Valorie tries to keep the calendar at the church updated, but it is tricky at times.

Blessing to you all,
Nancy Morgan, Cheryl Arntz, Sharon Gustafson, Sue Simon and Valorie Uhler



April

Trinity Bohlman & Halle
Nate & Bre Berberich Family
Deann Wieler/Leo & Wyatt Dearing
Blake & Gretchen Guetter Family
Mark & Beth Kurz Family
Derek & Stacy Plautz Family

May

Justin & Amy Bergeron Family
Roger & Sharon Gustafson
Roy & Sandra Olson
Linda Schumacher
Alex & Jen Starcevic Family
Chuck & Kara Welke Family



Our children's Good Friday service on April 15 will begin at 5pm. This is an interactive service that children are invited to attend with

their families. Our service will include hands on activities and projects for the kids and their families to participate in as they experience the stations of the cross at their leisure.



Thompson Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is open on Tuesday, April 12 from 11am-1pm and Tuesday, April 26 from 6pm-8pm. For more information on the pantry, talk to Mary Mitchell 701-599-2870 or Paul Galegher 701-741-1375.

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

ST. MATTHEW'S LEADERSHIP

| | | |
|------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Pastor Kristen | Interim Pastor (Mar & April) | 701-213-6715 |
| Vione Jordheim | Admin Assistant | stmattsvione@gmail.com |
| Jamie Bischoff | Bookkeeper Children & Family | stmattsbookkeeper58278@gmail.com |
| Sarah Krogfoss | Ministry Coordinator | sarahkrogfoss@icloud.com |
| John Schumacher | Council President | stmattspresident@gmail.com |
| Ryan Welsh | Council Vice President | rswelsh@invisimax.com |
| Robyn Bohlman | Council Secretary | rbohlman@invisimax.com |
| Justin Bergeron | Council Treasurer | jbergero@yahoo.com |
| Bethany Kurz | Outreach Team | bkurz@undeerc.org |
| Sara Munson | Fellowship Team | smunson190@mygfschools.org |
| Duane Naas | Properties Team | duanechrisnaas@gmail.com |
| Chelsea Lupien | Youth Team | chelsea.lupien@und.edu |
| Sue Simon | Worship Team | ssimon@gra.midco.net |

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
- 9 Caroline LaRoque
- 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 Elise Belle
- 20 Charla Peterson, Justin Bergeron
- 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
- 29 Jamie Bischoff, Isabelle Kadrmas

LYO-Youth Group

Youth Group Students – LYO will resume on Wednesday, April 20th at 6:30 pm.



Education

Sunday school -

The students in our First Communion class will have their final lesson on Sunday, April 3rd. On Sunday, April 10th the students **AND THEIR PARENTS** are invited to a special retreat with Pastor Kristen which will take place from 2pm - 5pm. The class will receive their First Communion during our Maundy Thursday worship service on April 14th.

During the month of April the Sunday school students will be learning about Moses. Our annual Easter egg hunt will be on April 14th during Sunday school class time.



Dates to remember -

April 10th - Palm Sunday - Kid's Sing

April 17th - No Sunday School - Easter Break

April 24th - Sunday School Easter egg hunt

Mark your calendars! VBS will be July 31st - August 2nd - More details to come!



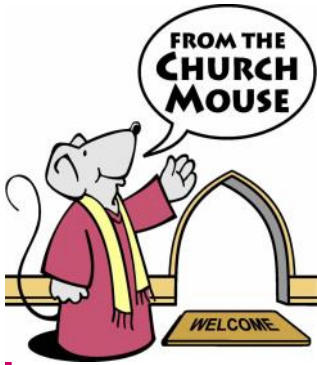
Confirmation -

Our confirmands are encouraged to continue attending Wednesday Lent Services.

The 6th grade class is set to host the Lenten soup supper on Wednesday, April 6th.

Regular Confirmation classes will resume on April 20th.

The last Mentor Conversation for 8th graders will be April 6th beginning at 6pm.



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 that brought pies for the Fish Frys.
- All those who helped prepare, serve and cleanup for the Fish Frys.
- John S for organizing Men's Fish Frys again this year.
- All who brought bars and worked for Carmen's funeral.
- Julie B, Ruth W, Mary M for leading the music during Lent services.
- Roy O for attending to the door issues.
- Duane N for the extra cleanings last month.
- Kent L for reading on March 27.
- Pastor Kristen for being here and leading us.

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



The last Soup Supper is on Wednesday, April 6. Hosts are the 6th graders. They will be serving from 5:30-6:45.

All are welcome!



Join us for our **LAST** of the season Friday Lenten Fish Fry!

The Men in Mission will once again be hosting the Fish Fry **April 8** and WELCA will be selling slices of pie to top off your meal. Meals will be sit down or by take out.

Grab your friends and neighbors and come join the fun!

Ongoing Ministries

MEN IN MISSION

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

WOMENS BIBLE STUDY

This group meets monthly for Bible Study. Their next gathering will be Monday, April 18th at 7pm at the church. Women of all ages are welcome!



St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Meeting

Date: March 13, 2022

In Attendance: Beth Kurz, Ryan Welsh, John Schumacher, Sue Simon, Duane Naas, Chelsea Lupien, Robyn Bohlman, Justin Bergeron, Sarah Krogfoss, Pastor Brad Skogen (Synod)

Absent: Sara Munson

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 11:18. Pastor Brad led opening prayer.

Pastor Brad spoke about the call process and forming a call committee. Need to update Ministry Site Profile first.

Minutes Approval: Sue Simon moved, Chelsea Lupien seconded to approve the minutes. MPU

Financial Reports:

| Financial Reports Summary | January | February |
|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | 2022 | 2022 |
| | | |
| General Giving Income | \$13,106 | \$9,778 |
| Year-to-Date Net Income* | \$(32) | \$751 |
| | | |
| General Giving Checking Account | \$17,280 | \$17,870 |
| Special Giving Checking Account | \$31,131 | \$32,057 |
| Line of Credit | \$0 | \$0 |

*Benevolence of \$1,750 was not paid in January or February

Offering plate responsibility needs to be with the ushers – this needs to be conveyed to them to make sure it gets put away.

Approval: Ryan Welsh moved, Beth Kurz seconded to approve financial. MPU

Calendar Review: Add April 24 – Sunday School egg hunt.

Pastor's Report: none

Men's Club & WELCA report. Men's Club served 206 people. Welca will be serving pies again at the next fish fry.

Team Reports:

Executive Team:

Education: Sarah Krogfoss – April 24 is Sunday School egg hunt. Sunday school kids are doing a fundraiser for an outreach program.

Fellowship: Sara Munson – nothing

Outreach: Beth Kurz– now has 2 team members – still looking for more. Too late to lock in Feed My Staving Children as have to raise money ahead to get a spot. Will be doing caramel rolls in the fall to get spot next year.

Food Pantry -no report

Properties: Duane Naas- Dan at school will not have the time to help with stripping and redoing the floors. Duane will look for another way of getting them done and get pricing.

Worship: Sue Simon– Can always use more people to help with services

Youth: Chelsea Lupien– did soup supper on Wednesday. Will start meeting again after Lent

Ruby's Pantry: Chelsea Lupien-Next distribution will be this Thursday – presold over 100 shares – should be biggest distribution yet. Looking at donating some of the funds soon and have been discussing different local options to donate to including the new Thompson School playground.

Old Business

Bid from HB Sound - tabled

New Business

Call Committee – looking for 5-7 people

Next council meeting will be April 10th at 11:15

Motion to adjourn made by Beth Kurz, seconded by Duane Naas. MPU

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Bohlman

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
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Welcome to worship

Mid-week Lenten Worship 7:00 pm
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 14

7 pm Worship with First Communion for
our 5th graders

Good Friday – April 15

5 pm Children's Service
7 pm Worship

Easter – April 17

7 am Sunrise Worship
10 am Festival Worship

No Sunday School