

April 2023

# 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*

## Dear St. Matt's Friends,

As I write this article, it is officially "The First Day of Spring!" It sure doesn't look like it outside. The drifts of snow have gotten increasingly challenging for our dogs to navigate as they go out several times a day. The snow and ice are an aggravation for my family, as we are all runners. And now I hear we are under *yet another* winter weather advisory. Enough already!

Still, winter cannot hold out forever, right? Right.

By the time you get this, things will already be looking up. Even today, if I look around, I can see signs that Spring is in fact already breaking in to our winter gloom. The days are undoubtedly longer. There is a little bit of warmth in that sun, the birds are starting to find their way back, and to celebrate this first day of spring, my little hibiscus came out with this gorgeous bloom today! Isn't she a beauty?

Spring and new life are surely coming, We can't fully see it yet (after all, it's March in North Dakota!) but we trust that it is so.

The book of Hebrews says that Faith is choosing to believe in what you cannot always see. Though I've looked ahead at the two week forecast and there is no sign the temps will rise above freezing anytime soon, I am still planning and dreaming of my garden. I can smell the earth, I can picture the tulips poking through. Because I believe that underneath the snow, the earth is stirring from its slumber, rousing itself to provide another year of abundant growth. It's coming!!!

**We are an Easter people. We live by faith, not sight.** Jesus taught us to believe in the resurrection after death, though we cannot see it from here. But **he also taught us to look for God's new life breaking through right now**, even while we are still weathered by this world with all its problems. Even while we are constrained and sometimes brought low by our aging, mortal bodies. We do not expect glorious release from these problems in this lifetime, but the Easter story teaches us that even on the darkest day imaginable, while Jesus hung on that awful cross, God was using that ugly violence for good, for our salvation. God does that with our bad days too.

I am not saying that everything happens for a reason, because some things happen for very evil reasons. But I am saying that God can use the hard stuff we go through-- the cold, barren winters of our lives—to give us a pause, a reset and to bring forth new growth. Jesus sent us the Spirit so we would be guided into new ways of seeing our actual world and our unique place within its rhythms. The generous forgiveness of Jesus moves us to a place of finding grace for ourselves and one another. Though our world loves to dwell on bad news, we choose to believe there is good in the world and we know we are called to BE THE GOOD in the world. The Spirit teaches us to believe that people and communities *can* change, *can* grow and can experience renewal. Even us.

I see this happening at St. Matthew's in some pretty amazing ways right now as people stepped forward to participate in the community and share their stories during the Lenten season. I see it in the new member orientation and the baptisms coming up, camp and VBS on the horizon, teams dreaming new dreams. It's exciting!

Spring is here, even while the snow lingers. The new growth of the Spirit is all around us and within us and there's no telling what might bloom next. I am thankful to be in this garden with Jesus and with you.

**Holding on to Faith, Pastor Kristen**



# Worship

Thank you to all who have assisted in our worship services. We certainly appreciate you!!

We continue to require more help during the remainder of the Lenten and Easter season. Please sign up on our Sign Up Genius on the website or give me a call.

Our Sunday school children will be blessing us on Palm Sunday with their palm leaf processional and Kids Sing. It's uplifting to see and hear their excitement as they share their message through song. Thank you kids! Our adults have also blessed us with their special messages through their personal experiences, song and acting. Well done everyone!

We will soon be adorning the altar with Easter lilies and other beautiful flowers. Thank you to all who have donated these to make our church beautiful and remind us that Jesus Is Alive!

We are so blessed to have Pastor Kristen join our ministry. Her messages are so inspirational and she has great ideas for St Matthew's going forward. Thank you Pastor Kristen.

We look forward to spring and reuniting with our friends who have wintered in warmer climates. We have missed you!

God's Blessings To All  
Sue Simon  
Worship Team Leader  
701 739 3227



## *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

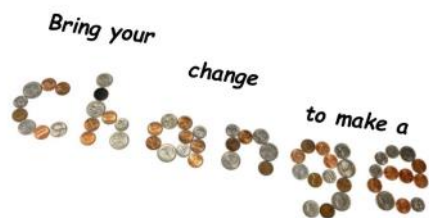
# Ongoing Ministries

## **MEN IN MISSION**

St. Matthew's men gather each Sunday morning at 9 am 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 the 3rd Monday of the month for Bible Study. Their next gathering will be Monday, April 17th at 10am at the church. Women of all ages are welcome!



Noisy offerings during the month of April will go towards Camperships for our kids to attend Bible Camp.

We set a pretty high standard last month at \$368.25. Let's see if we can top that!!!



**With Vione's upcoming retirement in May, we are looking for a part-time Administrative Assistant.**

**Please contact John Schumacher or Scott Kuster for more information**

## Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

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

Pastor Kristen	Pastor	stmattspastor@midconetwork.com
Vione Jordheim	Admin Assistant	stmattsvione@gmail.com
John Schumacher	Bookkeeper Children & Family	stmattsbookkeeper58278@gmail.com
Sarah Krogfoss	Ministry Coordinator	sarahkrogfoss@icloud.com
John Schumacher	Council President	stmattspresident@gmail.com
Scott Kuster	Council Vice President	scottkuster@gra.midco.net
Carrie Herrig	Council Secretary	carrie.herrig@outlook.com
Justin Bergeron	Council Treasurer	jbergero@yahoo.com
Bethany Kurz	Outreach Team	bkurz@undeerc.org
Chelsea Lupien	Fellowship Team	chelsea.lupien@und.edu
Dan Herrig	Properties Team	dan@sandsteelbc.com
Sara Munson	Youth Team	smunson190@mygfschools.org
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, Veda Schultz
- 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, Kaitlin Atkinson
- 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



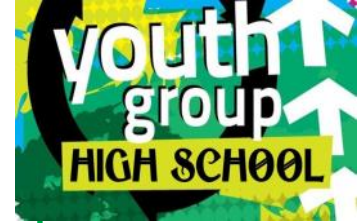
# LYO-Confirmation

On April 12th at 7:00 pm there will be a special event for Confirmation students, LYO Youth and parents. Ben Hylden, author of *"Finding Faith in the Field"*, will give an inspirational message about his experience of discovering God's plan for his life as he was shown a glimpse of life beyond this world as he escaped his supposed death sentence.

This is class time for our Confirmation Students however the event is open to the public. Cost is free with a free will offering being available.

Through his book or speaking, Ben's dream is to inspire people throughout the world with his story and with that; give people hope, faith, and the belief that with God, all things are possible.

You can read more about Ben on his website at [benhylden.com](http://benhylden.com)



## Confirmation

# Education



Our Sunday school students will be finishing up their studies of Jonah and the Whale in April and will be starting their studies of Noah and the Ark!

On Palm Sunday, in lieu of regular lessons, the Sunday school students will experience the stations of the cross to learn more about Jesus' journey to the cross and His resurrection in an interactive way. They will also sing during worship that day and lead the palm branch processional.

### Important dates -

Kids Sing - Palm Sunday - 4/2

First Communion Retreat for 5th Graders - 4/2

First Communion for 5th Graders - 4/6

No Sunday School - 4/9

Easter Egg Hunt - 4/16

Last Day of Sunday school - May 14th

We are in the process of making plans for VBS! This year we will be hosting our own VBS: Stellar - Shine Jesus' Light! We will be shining a light on Jesus' love! Kids will be launched on a cosmic quest where they'll have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world. Stellar will rocket our kids on an out-of-this-world adventure that's light years of faith-building fun!



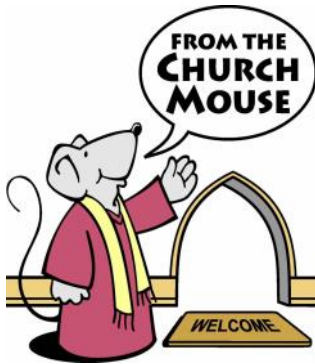
More information will be available in May. Tentative Dates: 8/6 - 8/10. VBS will take place during the evenings.

# Bible Camp



Alex Nelson, Co-Program Director of Park River Bible Camp, will be here at the tail end of confirmation on Wednesday, April 19th, to share with us Bible Camp opportunities. Parents are asked to come back to the church that night at 8pm, along with their calendars, and weigh in to help pick a week for Bible camp.

We are excited to welcome Alex back to St. Matthew's to talk with ALL of our kids about attending one of the many camp offerings available at PRBC! He will be joining us for worship on Sunday, April 23rd.



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, helped prepare, serve and cleanup for the Fish Frys and to all for attending!
- John S for organizing Men's Fish Frys again this year.
- Julie B, Jill S, Dara F, Sharon G and Mary M for leading the music during Lent services.
- Our Confirmands and men for their AWESOME performances during Lent.
- Duane N for ALL the extra cleanings last month.

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



Our Lenten Soup Suppers have ended and we say a BIG thank you to all the groups that provided soup and hosted; 7th grade, LYO, Church Council, 8th grade parents and these adorable 6th graders!!  
THANK YOU!!!



## Thompson Food Pantry

In April, the Food Pantry is open on Tuesday, April 11 from 11am-1pm and Tuesday, April 25 from 6pm-8pm.

For more information on the pantry, talk to

Mary Mitchell 701-599-2870 or Paul Galegher 701-741-1375.

The food pantry serves the communities of Thompson, Reynolds and Buxton area.



# CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

## A Note from your Church Council President:

Greetings members of St. Matthew's. At our March 19, Council meeting we discussed the posting of our meeting minutes before they are approved in the Newsletter. We also discussed the purpose and intent of sharing these minutes with you. The Council has always used the minutes to keep you informed of what is happening throughout the Church and the decisions we are making. However, we want to rely more heavily on our Team Leads to share information with you in the Newsletter and during the announcements at worship.

Moving forward, we, the Council will provide a summary of our Finances and updates impacting the entire congregation. Members are always invited to attend Council meetings. Our next meeting will take place on Sunday, April 16 following worship. Approved meeting minutes will be made available upon request.

## Summary of Finances

Financial Reports Summary	January	February
	2023	2023
General Giving Income	\$14,806	\$10,896
Year-to-Date Net Income	\$6,773	\$2,484
General Giving Checking Account	\$60,205	\$58,017
Special Giving Checking Account	\$33,962	\$33,766
Line of Credit	\$0	\$0

## Church Council News

Everyone should be aware of the decision of our Administrative Assistant, Vione Jordheim to retire in May. We had filled this position and would like to thank Dalene Jacobsen for sharing her time and talents with us. The council supports her decision to step away from the position. The Executive Team will update the position description and prayerfully begin the search. John Schumacher has agreed to serve as the church Bookkeeper until further notice. While John serves in this role, the number of hours we need someone will be determined and the best way to fill the need.

The council is excited to support "Mission of the Month" a new structure for how the funds collected during the noisy offering will be used. Each month when a noisy offering is collected, a selected need within the congregation or community will be supported. The month of March, the Council approved these funds be used to support Feed my Starving Children. In April, funds collected will be used to support youth within our congregation in their pursuits to attend summer bible camp.

St. Matthew's will once again support "Around the Table" which benefits the chaplaincy program within Valley Senior Living with a financial donation of \$250. These funds were budgeted for the 2023 fiscal year, and we are excited to support this important program.

That is all we have for you now, but please let us know if we can answer any questions you may have. Thank you for taking the time to read this information. It is truly a blessing to be in fellowship and service with all of you.

John Schumacher, Council President

*A BIG Thank you to all for providing Easter flowers for our sanctuary.*

The Bohlman Family	in memory of: Lloyd & Carmen Bohlman
Mike & Julie Brorby	in memory of: Glenn & Adeline Brorby Don & Kathy Tufte
Roger & Sharon Gustafson	in memory of: Leonard & Bernice Kjorvestad Nels & Delores Gustafson Dave Kjorvestad, Carol Howard
Roger & Dalene Jacobson	in memory of: Derek Jacobson, Dale Grandstand, Lowell & Helen Jacobson
Mary Mitchell	in memory of: Kay Johnson
Roy & Sandy Olson	in memory of: Their parents and daughters- Christina & Julie
Damon & Bridget Pearson	in memory of: Roy T. Loken & Gertrude Kraft
Sue Simon	in memory of: Her parents
Bill & Cheryl Widman	in memory of: Harley & Delores Volden George & Betty Widman Lavonne Matthews, Marilyn Matthews
Mike & Valorie Uhler	in memory of: Our parents, siblings, and Betty Stolz
The Larsen-Schmidt Family	in memory of: Stan Larsen and Grandpa Herb Gettle
Gary & Mary Welsh	in honor of: St. Matthew's



A special thank you to our “characters” for their participation in our Lent 2023 series: Stories of God’s Unlikely Servants.

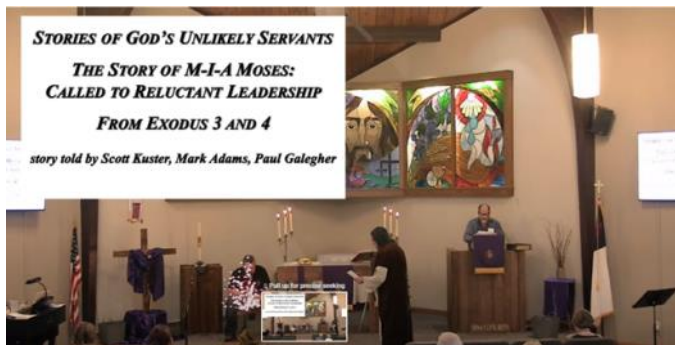


## **6th Grade Confirmation Class**

**Glum Gideon:  
Called to Have Courage**

## **8th Grade Confirmation Girls**

**Head-Hung-Low Hannah:  
Called to Persist in Prayer**



**Mark Adams, Scott Kuster, and  
Paul Galegher**

**MIA Moses:  
Called to Reluctant Leadership**

## **7th Grade Confirmation Class**

**Exhausted Elijah:  
Called to be Renewed**



## **8th Grade Confirmation Boys**

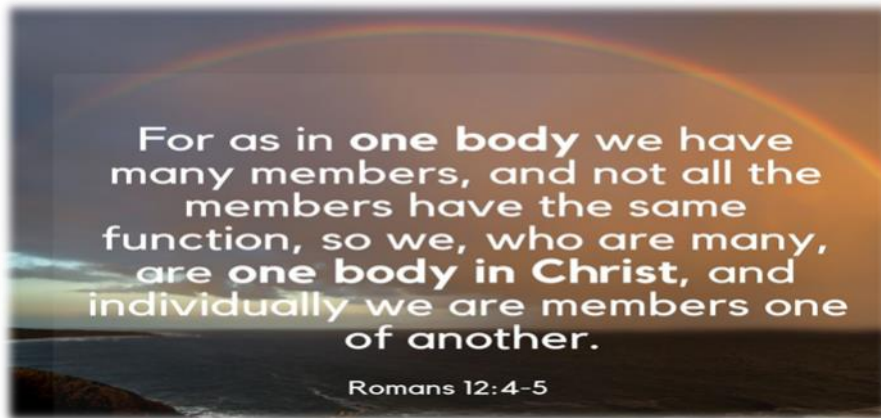
**Judgmental Jonah:  
Called to Have Compassion**



# Outreach



On **Sunday, April 23rd** our Outreach Team will be hosting a **New Member Interest Brunch**. This will be an informal time for prospective new members to meet each other and to learn more about St. Matthew's community and meet a few of our leaders. Children are welcome, and childcare in the nursery will be provided. Please contact the office to let us know if you plan to attend or if you know of someone who should be invited.



Pastor Kristen will be hosting a **Baptism orientation class on Sunday April 30 from 11:15 am to 12:15**. This is for anyone interested in being baptized or planning to have their children baptized in the near future. Childcare will be provided for children 4 and under. Older kids can participate in the session. In addition to learning about baptism, it will

be a great opportunity to connect with other families. Newcomers to the church are welcome. Please contact the church office if you plan to attend.

**Who says hard work can't be fun?!?!?!?**

**THANK YOU to this hard working, fun loving group! The food packing event held on Saturday, March 25th for Feed My Starving Children was a big success. Special thanks goes out to Roger Jacobson for driving the bus!!**



**Thank You EVERYONE!!!**



**Our "Noisy" Offering during the month of March benefitting Feed My Starving Children**

**totaled \$368.25!!!**

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

## **Welcome to worship**

Sundays at 10:00 am

In-person and live on our YouTube Channel

Sunday School at 9 am

Men in Mission at 9 am

Address service requested

## **Holy Week and Easter Services**



*Come Worship With Us!*

### **Palm Sunday – April 2**

**10:00 am Worship w/ Palm Processional  
and Children Singing**

### **Maundy Thursday – April 6**

**6:30 pm Worship with First Communion  
for our 5th graders**

### **Good Friday – April 7**

**6:30 pm Worship**

### **Easter – April 17**

**7:30 am Sunrise Worship**

**10:00 am Festival Worship**