

August 2021

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

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

As I write this, we are just a few days away from our church's Vacation Bible School. VBS reminds me of my days as a camp counselor when I was in college. Those days were perhaps the most formative years in my journey to becoming a pastor. I love camp and when we were deciding on what to do for VBS this year, I automatically thought of camp. So, we are once again having counselors from Park River Bible Camp lead our VBS this year. I even signed up our house to host the counselors while they are here. My wife was also a camp counselor, so she also got excited about the prospect of hosting them!

I worked at a camp in Eastern Iowa called EWALU. I enjoyed all my years there, but to be honest, going to this camp was a huge test of courage on my part. I knew no one even though the counselor list had other students from Wartburg College, where I went to school. I also had no idea of what to expect. It was a totally new experience and I was going miles out of my comfort zone. There is a quote I like by Les Brown: "If you put yourself in a position where you have to stretch outside your comfort zone, then you are forced to expand your consciousness." I did expand my consciousness. I became aware of how different I was...and I loved that uniqueness! I also tried new things beyond my imagination, and I came out of that with a new perspective on life and faith.

The first two weeks at camp were for training and on the first day, we had to find another person you didn't know and do a "walkie-talkie". I did not know anyone and if it wasn't for the welcoming attitude of the other counselors, I would have been left to myself. I slowly learned everyone's names and became a part of the group. It was easy to bond with everyone because we were all open to new experiences. The following days were dedicated to dwelling in Scripture, and we had different speakers come to talk to us. I related to the messages from the speakers as it all sounded familiar to what I had learned growing up. During that time, we also did a lot of outdoor activities including hiking, canoeing, and camping. We had to cook some of the meals using fire and that was a favorite of mine. Then the campfires, games, and music all appealed to me and the child within me.

When training was over and we had the kids coming for the first week, I was nervous for a little bit. But that all faded away after a few minutes with my group. For the first week I only had four kids. They were the most energetic people I had ever encountered, but that week still stands out as the best week I had the whole summer. All the other weeks were great too, and things easily fit into a repetitive schedule. We would play games, hike, swim, see the farm animals, and study the Bible each day. Then, at the end of the week, I would be very tired but also excited for a new group of kids the following Sunday. There was never a week that I wanted to drop out and leave the camp. I fell in love with the place, the kids, and the other counselors. I saw my faith grow just by constantly dwelling in the Word. I lost contact with the outside world with no phone service or internet. Camp was my life and I fully embraced it!

And so, as we get ready for VBS, I can't help but reminisce about those days as a camp counselor. I have even signed myself up for a few days as "Pastor of the Day" at Red Willow Bible Camp. I look forward to VBS and I can't wait for our kids here at St. Matthew's to experience a little bit of camp!

Pastor Tawanda Murinda

Faith Formation



Vacation Bible School—August 7-10

Join us as we welcome Park River Bible Camp Counselors for Vacation Bible School. The 1/2 day Pre-K program is available to 4-year-olds. The full day program is available to those children who will be entering Kindergarten this fall through the 5th grade. If you have not yet registered, please do so NOW!!!!

Here are the details:

Saturday, August 7—Begins at 5pm. There will be a cookout, campfire, bouncy house and s'mores. Parents you are welcome to stay with your child this day.

Sunday, August 9—Class begins at 9am. At 10:00am, kids will join their families for worship. Class will resume following worship and go until noon for pre-school and 3pm for the rest of the kids.

Monday, August 10—Class begins at 9am and goes until noon for pre-school and 3pm for the rest of the kids.

Tuesday, August 11—Class begins at 9am. At 2pm there will be a program highlighting all the kids activities over the last few days. Family and friends are invited to join us for the program!

Kids should bring a sack lunch each day. Pre-school through 5th grade will eat lunch together. Pre-schoolers will leave after lunch, the rest of the grades will return to class.



Sunday School teachers and substitute teachers are needed for the 2021/22 school year!! Can you help out? Please contact Sarah Krogfoss for more information 218-791-4216.

As always, our quilters hands have been busy. Last month they donated 35 quilts. Deliveries were made to Red River Valley Community Action, Northlands Rescue Mission, CVIC and Valley Senior Living.

These ladies are a fun group enjoying their Tuesdays quilting and in fellowship.

Thank you ladies for not only giving warmth for the body but also warming someone's heart.



Worship

Have you ever thought about the things we see but don't really think about on a Sunday morning....

- ...Someone said good morning to me in greeting when I arrived at church
- ...The Bible lesson was read to me
- ...Someone prepared and served Holy Communion for me
- ...The candles were lit enhancing my worship service
- ...The service appeared on the tv screens, I didn't even have to open the hymnal

All of these things happened because someone was willing to sign up to be a worship assistant. In 1 Peter 4:10, we are called to use our gifts to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace. Will you be a faithful steward and help where you can?

Each month new sign up sheets are posted on the wall just inside the doors. Please sign up to assist where you can.

Thank you to all who have given of their talents.
It is greatly appreciated!!



August

Kevin & Doris Cooper Family
Brandy & Lindsay George Family
Gary & Mary Welsh
Brian & Angie Muhs Family
Ryan Avdem & Trish Mikelson Family

September

Neil & Kami Danner Family
Josh & Dara Faul Family
Jessica Haugen Family
Scott & Charla Peterson Family
Paul & Heidi Strande Family

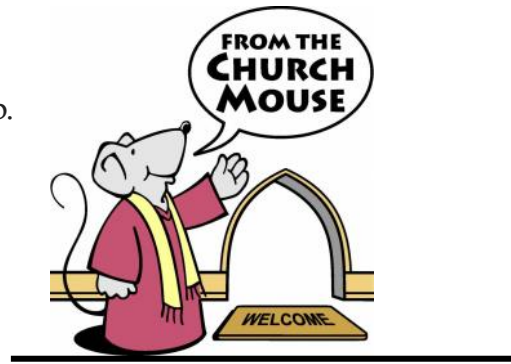


The baptism of **Lydia Ranae Peterson**, daughter of Mavrik and Audrey Peterson took place on Sunday July 25th. Lydia's sponsors are Allanah Mullenbach, Julie Mullenbach, Maggie Barber and Emily Severson. Congratulations to the Peterson Family!

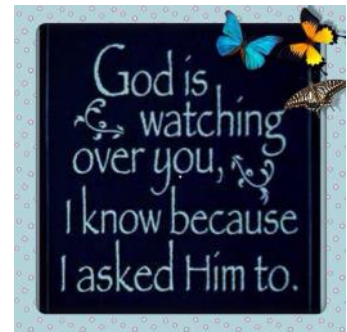
From the Church Mouse

Thank you to everyone for your helping hands. We apologize if we missed anyone, know that you are all appreciated!

- * To our summer worship readers.
- * Duane & Chris N for the extra cleanings and set up.
- * All who helped prepare and serve food for the Celebration of Life.
- * Sara and Mickey M for being our Synod Assembly Representatives.
- * Junelle H for use of her keyboard for outdoor worship.
- * Sara M for food prep for outdoor worship potluck.
- * Sarah K for decorating the golf carts for the parade.
- * Sue S and Val U for taking on co-chair for funeral planning
- * Sarah K for organizing Tie Dye Your Heart Out and preparing the meal



Together we can do God's
Work with Our Hands!



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 and learn together. Their topics of discussion vary, but new folks are always welcome to join them.

WELCA BIBLE STUDY

This group meets from September thru May. Stay tuned for the fall dates.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

This gathering is open to anyone, and meets at 7:00 am on Wednesdays in the Sanctuary. They spend time in responsive prayer, and then off to work by 7:30. Come and join us as a great way to focus midweek!



On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 13th through 15th, Pastor Tawanda and Bethany Klemetsrud and Synod Assembly Representatives, Sara & Mickey Munson will be attending the Synod Assembly in Fargo. Our worship service will stay the same with the sermon being prepared by

Bishop Moon Leiseth. We encourage you to join us in worship, hear the good news and to pray for our representatives at the Assembly.

MISSING:



Church Kitchen Dishcloths/Towels & Coffee Pot Cord

REWARD:

Much gratitude!

Please return them as soon as possible. For the future, it would be greatly appreciated if towels and dishcloths were returned the NEXT day after an event; making them available at all times.

As summer is nearing its end, take some time to reflect on the blessings that God has given you. Take some time to reflect on the challenges that God has brought you through. Take some time to reflect on how God has been active in the world around you, take some time to thank God for how He has been at work and to where He might be leading you.

Is God encouraging you to step into something new? Is God challenging you? Is God speaking to you? Are you taking the time to listen?

If you've read through the newsletter to this point, you know there are some wonderful opportunities here at St. Matthew's. Listen, pray, reflect; this just might be where God is leading you.

Worship, Fellowship & Fun



Thompson Days Parade



**Community Worship Service
Thompson Days**

Tie Dye Your Heart Out!

In preparation for Vacation Bible School, many kids and parents joined in for tie dye fun!

Thank you to Sarah Krogfoss and the Education Team for the fun night and the awesome food. We even had a tie dyed cake!!!





St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Meeting

July 25, 2021

In Attendance: Paul Strande, Sarah Krogfoss, Ryan Welsh, Robyn Bohlman, Sara Munson, Val Uhlir, Steve Hancock, Scott Kuster, Pastor Tawanda

Absent: Brook Fretheim, Duane Naas

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by President Strande at 11:15am. Pastor Tawanda led opening liturgy.

A quick *Thank You* video was made for the Synod

Agenda Approval: Steve Hancock moved, Ryan Welsh seconded to approve the agenda. MPU

Minutes Approval: Val Uhlir moved, Steve Hancock seconded to approve the minutes. MPU

Financial Reports: General Giving income for May was \$11,295.54. As of May 28th, the General Giving checking account balance is \$37,702.43. Special Giving checking is \$26,986.97. Our line of credit is \$0. Our YTD income is \$13,170.98

General Giving income for June was \$8,036.45. As of June 30th, the General Giving checking account balance is \$29,579.58. Special Giving checking is \$27,496.65. Our line of credit is \$0. Our YTD income is \$10,342.99

Approval: Ryan Welsh moved, Sara Munson seconded to approved financial. MPU

Calendar Review:

Rally Sunday Sept 19th – LYO and confirmation begins Sept 22nd

October 3 – New members Sunday

October 10th Fall Festival

November 7 Festival of Tables

Pastor's Report: Pastor mentioned that the health of several of our members has been declining – please keep them in our prayers. There are several people who are interested in joining our church. He is now married, so this may change his contract a little.

Men's Club & WELCA report: nothing from Men's Club – WELCA has sent a letter to all women members about WELCA and their activities.

Team Reports:

Executive Team: nothing

Education: Sarah Krogfoss – Tie Dye Your Heart Out (kickoff to VBS), VBS – close to 40 registered. Sunday School teachers are needed.

Fellowship: Sara Munson – nothing

Outreach: Brook Fretheim –nothing

Food Pantry - Food Pantry in April served 5 families -269 lbs of food. In May served 5 households - 431 lbs of food.

Properties: Duane Naas- nothing

Worship: Val Uhlir – lists for helpers will be activated again in August

Youth: Steve Hancock – Starting back up on September 22nd

Old Business

Altar, Pulpit and Baptismal Font – hoping to have ideas to present next council meeting.

New Members Sunday – October 3rd

Piano will be removed as soon as they have the manpower to do it

Bid from HB Sound - will be tabled until have decided on items for sanctuary

New Business

TPS Staff/Teacher Appreciation Luncheon will be August 16th

Ruby's pantry – Chelsea Lupien has approached about possibly holding Ruby's Pantry in St Matthew's parking lot. Questions arose as to whether it would take away from our food pantry? They would need 12 volunteers from our congregation. Will put it on Chelsea to find the volunteers and if can get the commitment will present to council for approval

Child Care Center at St Matthew's – discussion took place on the positives and negatives of starting this. We need more research into the rules and regulations that would have to be followed before deciding if feasible. Pastor Tawanda will research more into this.

All-team meeting date and time – August 25th 7:00 pm

Synod assembly August 13-15 – Mickey and Sara Munson, Pastor Tawanda and Bethany will be attending.

Next council meeting will be August 22nd at 11:25am

Motion to adjourn made by Steve Hancock, seconded by Val Uhler. MPU

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Bohlman



Thompson Food Pantry

The Thompson Food Pantry is open on Tuesday, August 10th from 11am-1pm, and Tuesday, August 24th from 6pm-8pm. The pantry serves the communities of Thompson, Buxton, and Reynolds. For more information on the pantry, talk to Mary Mitchell 701-599-2870 or Paul Galegher 701-741-1375

Happy Birthday in August!

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1 Brynlie Jallo | 14 Hannah Ackerman, Sam Landa |
| 2 Michael Benoit, Warren Bakke | 15 Morgan Muhs, Brian Overby |
| 3 Roger Gustafson, Hunter Novak, Dawn Zak | 17 Acen Everett |
| 4 Carly Berberich | 18 Paula Amborn |
| 5 Seth Arntz | 20 Blake Guetter, Nathan Berger |
| 6 Trent Ivesdal, Paul Strande | 21 Donna Gunderson |
| 7 Ryan Strande, Bill Widman | 24 Leigh LaRoque |
| 8 Bethany Kurz | 25 Stephanie Albin |
| 9 Rick Herland, Addysen Lopez, Margaret Robinson, Madison Walsh | 26 Cami Stevens |
| 10 Daniel Mayers, Eli Schumacher | 28 Mary Loing, Angie Praska, Logan Steinbrink |
| 12 Lonni Peterson, Bethany Klemetsrud | 31 Pastor Tawanda, Maxx Albin, Deb DeMoe |

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Welcome to worship

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

In Person and live on our YouTube Channel

Address service requested

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ST. MATTHEW'S LEADERSHIP

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