

August 2023

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

The Messenger

Dear St. Matt's friends,

August is now upon us, and with it, thoughts turn toward Back-to-School Time. Even if you don't have kids in the house, I believe that there is something about this time of year (call it muscle memory) that gives rise to a yearning for a bit more structured schedule, and maybe turns us towards new learning opportunities. I hope so anyway. I hope that we never stop seeking opportunities to learn and grow, no matter our age!

I am looking to continue to grow myself. Always! Currently, I am three weeks into a nine-week class being offered through Faith Lead from Luther Seminary. I meet virtually with faith leaders from several denominations and from all over the country for a couple hours every Monday night to be taught skills of how to be an effective coach. A coach is not a counselor, mentor or consultant who offers advice. **A coach is someone you talk to when you have a particular issue in your life that feels hard to untangle**—be it professional, personal, relational or spiritual. When you are trying to sort out what you should do or how to address a particular concern, **a coach listens deeply to your story and your values and utilizes powerful questioning to help you draw out the Spirit-led wisdom already within you.** The coach helps you to form and articulate a plan for next steps and helps provide accountability and support for taking and assessing those steps. Part of this coaching process, if people are open to it, is praying with and for you.

I felt called to take this class because I believe this process deeply respects the Spirit's indwelling in each person. I see this learning already improving my ability to offer wise pastoral counseling and care-filled support for friends and family.

Consider this an invitation: If you ever need someone to talk to about hard-to-untangle issues going on in your mind, heart and life, please know that I am here for you. REALLY. Not to solve it for you, but to offer listening, support, and prayer and perhaps together, discovering a little more clarity about how God might be leading you forward.

In every season, may we never stop asking questions, seeking wisdom, learning and growing.

Engaged in life-long learning and growing with you,

Pastor Kristen



Summer is nearing an end but that doesn't mean the grass is done growing!! Lawn mowers are still needed for a few months yet. Don't miss the opportunity to help out; sign up now. Sign up sheets are posted just inside the front doors at church. The lawn mower will be kept filled with gas, and youth 16 and older are allowed to help mow! If you have any questions about mowing or helping with other property projects, call Dan at 701-741-1285. Thank you for your help in keeping our church property looking great!

Ongoing Ministries

MEN IN MISSION

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

WELCA BIBLE STUDY

This group meets at the church for coffee and Bible Study. They meet from September thru May at 10 am on the 3rd Monday of the month.



Did you know that August 6th is Root Beer Float Day? Lets celebrate that! Join us after church to enjoy some delicious root beer floats with your friends!

We hope that you will invite your friends and neighbors to join us for Rally Sunday worship on September 17th!



Faith Formation



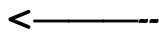
Vacation Bible School begins on Sunday!! August 6-10

Our Stellar VBS is fast approaching! We are so excited to Shine Jesus' Light for the week of Aug 6 - Aug 10th. We have so many fun games, songs, snacks, stories, experiments and an outreach opportunity for our participants to partake in for the week. It's going to be so much fun!!



Grades PK-5, cost is \$20/student, family max \$40.

Scan here to register!



We are seeking Sunday School and Confirmation Guides for the 2023-2024 School Year.

Please contact Sarah Krogfoss at 218-791-4216 if you are interested. We are also in need of Substitute Teachers. Team/shared teaching with other individuals could also be



Please register your kids for VBS and Sunday School so that we can ensure that we have enough staff and supplies for everyone!



<—Scan HERE
to register for
Confirmation.



Scan HERE —>
to register for
Sunday School!



August Birthdays

1 Brynlie Jallo	18 Paula Amborn
2 Michael Benoit, Warren Bakke, Chase Cowdrey	19 Greta Herrig
3 Roger Gustafson, Hunter Novak,	21 Donna Gunderson
Dawn Zak, Leona Laxdal	22 Kennedy Carrier
4 Carly Berberich	24 Leigh LaRoque
5 Seth Arntz, Angie Laxdal	25 Stephanie Anderson
6 Trent Ivesdal, Paul Strande	26 Cami Stevens
7 Ryan Strande. Bill Widman	28 Angie Praska
8 Bethany Kurz	29 Ryan Uhing
9 Rick Herland, Addysen Lopez	30 Lexi Johnson
10 Daniel Mayers, Eli Schumacher	31 Maxx Albin, Deb DeMoe,
11 Dan Setness	
12 Lonni Peterson	
14 Hannah Ackerman, Sam Landa	
15 Morgan Muhs, Brian Overby,	
17 Acen Everett	





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

- * To Roy and Mike for mowing
- * To Sue for keeping the plants watered
- * To Bre, Diane and Brian for playing music for
the service
- * To Julie for recording music

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

Saint Mathew's Lutheran Church

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

St. Matthew's Leadership

Pastor: Kristen Larsen-Schmidt stmattspastor@midconetwork.com

Administrative Assistant: stmattsadmin@midconetwork.com

Bookkeeper: John Schumacher stmattsbookkeeper58275@gmail.com

Council President: John Schumacher stmattspresident@gmail.com

Council Vice President: Scott Kuster scottkuster@gra.midco.net

Council Secretary: Carrie Herrig carrie.herrig@outlook.com

Council Treasurer: Justin Bergeron jbergero@yahoo.com

Outreach Team Lead: Beth Kurz bkurz@undeerc.org

Fellowship Team Lead: Emily Dobmeier ebakke54@gmailmail.com

Properties Team Lead: Dan Herrig dan@sandsteelbc.com

Education Team Lead: Sarah Krogfoss smartin@polarcomm.com

Youth Team Lead: Sara Berg smunson190@mygfschools.org

Worship Team Lead: Sue Simon ssimon@gra.midco.net



A Note from your Church Council:

Soon we will be transitioning our thoughts to Back to School Time and the Fall Harvest. But, before this we along with all of you will continue to enjoy lake days, summer vacations, bonfires, and even a few more ball games.

And while we never want summer to end your Council is beginning to look ahead and make plans for the fall. We look forward to welcoming new members, celebrating Baptisms and Confirmation, and all the other special moments we will have together.

We invite you to follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay connected with what is happening here at St. Matt’s and continue to monitor our website for programing and special announcements too.

Church Council News

Below, you will find a current summary of our Finances and updates impacting the entire congregation.

Summary of Finances

Financial Reports Summary	May	June
	2023	2023
General Giving Income - YTD	\$ 59,818	\$ 66,162
General Giving Income - Month	\$ 9,820	\$ 6,344
Net Income - YTD	\$ (14,910)	\$ (19,169)
General Giving Checking Account	\$ 40,738	\$ 35,350
Special Giving Checking Account	\$ 33,568	\$ 33,014
Line of Credit	\$ -	\$ -

Church Council Treasurer, Justin Bergeron had these noteworthy items to share with the Council and the Congregation:

Pastoral Benefits – Justin and John found some withholdings were not being withheld from the Pastoral Salary creating an overpayment to Pastor Kristen over a few pay periods. This led to the Pastoral Benefits being over budget. This has been corrected and by the end of the year all will be balanced out.

Semi-annual (January-June 2023) giving statements were sent out to the Congregation in July.

Updates

Team Leads will be holding meetings with their members this month to start their fall planning. This is the perfect opportunity for members of St. Matt's to get more involved in the church. Whether you have been a member for several years or joined within the past year, your talents are welcomed and appreciated. Please consider getting involved and joining one of our Teams today.

Education – Team Lead is Sarah Krogfoss
Fellowship – Team Lead is Emily Dobmeier
Outreach – Team Lead is Beth Kurz
Properties – Team Lead is Dan Herrig
Worship – Team Lead is Sue Simon
Youth – Team Lead is Sara Berg

The last two years, St. Matt's has been the host site for Ruby's Pantry and what a blessing this has been for the Greater Grand Forks Community. It takes many hands to pull off a distribution night and we are so grateful for the dedication of our Volunteer Leadership Team who kept this amazing program going month after month.

We wish to inform the congregation that August and September will be the last distribution months here at St. Matt's. 85% of those we serve through the Ruby's Pantry program are from the Grand Forks community. Based off this data, the Volunteer Leadership Team decided to see if a Church in Grand Forks would take over. We are happy to report Sharon Lutheran has stepped up to the plate and will be the new host site starting in October. Our team will help and support them during the transition. We once again wish to thank you all who have or are currently serving on the Volunteer Leadership Team. Your vision, commitment, and investment in making this program great is exceptional. You all have truly made a difference in our community.

Continue to bring St. Matt's with you during these last few weeks of summer. Join us online for worship and support our growing congregation through Online Giving. With the help of [Vanco Mobile Faith Giving](#) you can set up a one time or reoccurring donation. Please take a moment to visit the site and we thank you in advance for your generosity.

We invite all members to attend our Council meetings which will now be held on the second Sunday of every month. Our next meeting will take place on Sunday, August 13 following worship. Approved meeting minutes will be made available upon request.

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.

Respectfully submitted on the behalf of the Church Council by Carrie Herrig, Council Secretary

OH, YEAH, AND ANOTHER THING. NEITHER THE 'O' ON THE TYPEWRITER NOR THE '3' ON THE TELEPHONE WORK, SO YOU HAVE TO WORK AROUND THEM.



McPherson

After 29 years of service, church secretary Marge Feldern hands the reins over to Ellen Fetz.

© 1994 John McPherson. More at LeadershipJournal.net/Cartoons

We are STILL in need of an Administrative Assistant

Jill Schumacher has been very graciously filling in as admin assistant this summer but as she gets ready to return to her regular work during the school year, we are really hoping for more applicants for this position.

Please spread the word!

Here are a few thoughts about the job from Jill (who has been heard saying, "I don't know why we don't have more interest in this sweet little gig...")

So, the good news is that we no longer use a typewriter and the phone works! If you are fairly good with computers, work well with others, and like to be creative, then this job is for you! We need someone to make the paper bulletins and update the slideshow each week and to create the monthly newsletter, as well as other things that keep the church running. This position requires some daytime hours (while the kids are at school???) but some can be done from home. You will be working closely with the pastor and other church members. Some weeks require more time but it is about 15 to 20 hours per week and there is some flexibility in it. If you have any questions, email Jill at stmattsadmin@midconetwork.com.

If you are interested in this position, please contact council president John Schumacher, Council Secretary Carrie Herrig or talk with Pastor Kristen. See if this might be a good fit for you!

Seven of our Kindergarten through 3rd grade Sunday school students traveled to Park River Bible Camp to participate in 'Daybreak Camp'. They loaded up at 7am and got to ride the Thompson School Bus out to camp! A special thank you to Sara Berg for dedicating her day to assisting in transportation and chaperoning services and to Kim Lagge for assisting with chaperoning too!

The kids had such a wonderful time!! They were able to use the cool cabins at the camp for the day, they learned new songs, they made crafts, they were served delicious snacks and lunch, they got to visit the canteen, they got to relax in hammocks, and had fun with the slip n' slide and water games. They played and prayed their hearts out! We can't wait to go back next year with even more kids!!



Thank you for your
\$200⁹⁷ gift. Your
continued support
is greatly appreciated.

Debra Johnson, CEO



This thank you card was received in response to our \$200.97 gift to Prairie Harvest Mental Health. This money was raised from our noisy offering taken by the children in worship during the month of May (May is Mental Health Awareness).

Thank you to all who contributed to this Mission of the Month!

Worship Assistant Groups

Thompson Food Pantry

The Thompson Food Pantry is open on Tuesday, August 8th from 11am-1pm, and Tuesday, August 22nd from 6pm-8pm. The pantry serves the communities of Thompson, Buxton, and Reynolds. For more information on the pantry, talk to Mary Mitchell at 701-599-2070.



August

Ryan Avdem/Trish Mikelson Family

Brandy & Lindsay George Family

Sean & Michele Burger Family

Tony & Christina Connoles Family

Brian & Angie Muhs Family

Bob & Heather Foote and Adalee

Gary & Mary Welsh

September

Neil & Kami Danner Family

Josh & Dara Faul Family

Jess Haugen Family

Brandon & Leigh LaRoque Family

Diane Lundgren

Scott & Char Peterson Family

Paul & Heidi Strande Family



There are different ways to financially give to Saint Matthew's:



In Person-Come to church and place your offering in the offering plate on Sunday, or in the drop box outside the secretary's door.



By Mail-You can mail your offering to 701 Broadway St. Thompson, ND 58278 if you are going to be out of town.



Automatic Bill Pay-Through your bank, you can set the church up to receive payment automatically. This helps keep the budget running even if you are away from church for an entire season.

We are set up for two different methods to donate using Vanco Faith.

1 – On the Giving Tab on the St. Matthew's website home page.

2 – Download the Vanco Mobile Faith app from the App Store or Google Play.

However you choose to help support the ministry of Saint Matthew's, know that we appreciate you and are so thankful that you are a part of our church family!

August 2023

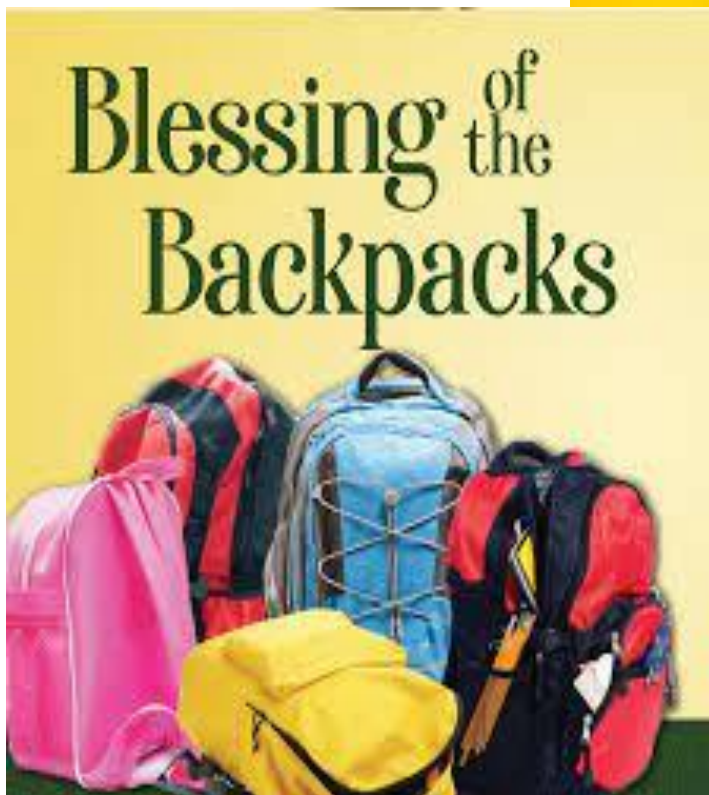
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9am quilting	2	3	4	5
6 9am Men in mission 10 am church 6-8:30 pm VBS	7 7pm quilting 6-8:30 pm VBS	8 9am quilting 11am food pantry 6-8:30 pm VBS	9 6-8:30 pm VBS	10 6-8:30 pm VBS	11	12
13 9am Men in mission 10 am church 11:15 Council	14 7 pm quilting <i>Pastor on Vacation through Aug 22</i>	15 9am quilting	16	17 5:30 pm Ruby's Pantry	18	19
20 Newsletter deadline 9am Men in mission 10 am church	21 7pm quilting	22 9am quilting 6pm food pantry	23	24	25	26
27 9am Men in mission 10 am church-baptism, backpack blessing	28 7pm quilting	29 9am quilting	30	31		

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.

Address service requested



Come and join us this August for worship!

August 6- **Root Beer Floats after worship!**

6:30 pm — VBS KICKOFF!!!

August 13- 10 am Worship with communion

11:15: Council Meeting

August 20- Worship

August 27-**Backpack Blessing Day!**