

December 2017

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

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

If you have ever spent time with a toddler, you have probably heard them ask the question "why?" over and over again. This Advent, we are digging into the "whys" of the season. We will be asking questions like: Why does no one know the hour of Jesus' return? Why does God need us to prepare the way of the Lord? Why does God favor the lowliest of people? Why doesn't God favor people the way the world does? Why did God call Mary? Why does God call you? Why does God call me? And finally, on Christmas Eve, why did God become flesh? Why were the shepherds the ones to hear first? Why the stable? Why the manger?

In a season of busy schedules and hectic lives, I invite you to stop on Sunday mornings, and come and rest. Come and worship beside us and wonder with us about this tiny babe in the manger. Lay aside your stress and worry, even if just for a few minutes and rest in the knowledge that Jesus is on the way.

I invite you to come and ask these questions with us, come and hear our kids tell the story at the Christmas Program on December 17, come and celebrate a quiet Christmas Eve at 10 pm, or a loud and busy Christmas Eve at 5 pm. Come and enjoy some peace and quiet at the prayer vigil on Dec 31. Come and start your New Year off right with worship. Come and finish this year with peace in your heart and joy in your mind.

Come and see...the baby is on the way. Let us wait together and then join together in celebration.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Amy

CHRIST

The newsletter of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Thompson, ND | Vol. 1, Issue 7



LYO-Youth Group

Youth Group – First, on behalf of our Youth we would like to thank the congregation for their support of our Pancake Breakfast. With your generosity we were able to fulfill our sponsorship requirements of Nilsa for one full year. We will be able to meet one time in December and twice in January. We hope everyone enjoys LYO service Sunday's. These kids will one day be the leaders of our congregation and I think we will be in good hands when they are. And lastly we would like to welcome Shannon Hancock to our team. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone from the Youth Team!!!



Huge thanks to our LYO kids for helping sort food that came in during the Trick-Or-Treat for Canned Goods drive! Also a huge thanks to all who donate food to our Thompson Community Food Pantry! You are all making a difference, and we thank God for you!!



Fun and Fellowship

The 8th grade confirmands would like to thank you for your support of their bake sale on November 12th.

Through your generosity, they are able to sponsor Hawa, their student from Sierra Leone this year. Thank you for supporting our youth as they work to make a difference for youth across our world!



Our 8th graders took their annual trip to Amundson Funeral Home Nov 15.

Each year, as a part of our confirmation class, the 8th graders get a chance to go, tour the funeral home and learn about the process of what happens to our loved ones when they pass away. Our youth were able to ask questions to the funeral director when they aren't in the middle of the grieving process.

A huge thank you to Amundson Funeral Home for letting us come and ask questions and learn from you!



The Sunday School Christmas Program will be held at 3 pm on December 17.

Dress Rehearsal will be held on Saturday, December 16 at 9:30 am.

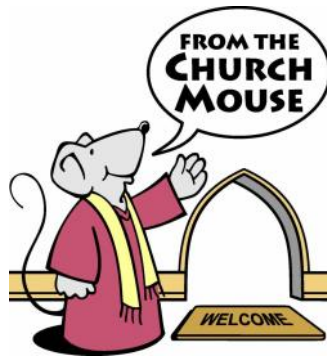
St. Matthew's and St. Jude's churches will once again sponsor the Angel Tree project. This project distributes Christmas gifts to families in need in the surrounding community. **Members are asked to pick an angel from the tree, purchase the gift that is written on the Angel and then return it, wrapped, with the angel taped to the present, by December 10.** If you know of someone in our community who should be included in the Angel Tree Project this Christmas Season, please contact Julie Brorby (701-740-2906) or Rita West (701-213-7275). All names are kept confidential.

Thank you to everyone who is a part of the ministry at Saint 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!

The church mouse would like to thank:

- Sara M. for organizing the Festival of Tables
- Duane N for being the spot master of carpet cleaning!
- Megan B, Jordyn B, Angie M., Derek P., Sarah K., Kameron A., Dara F, Ellie S, for teaching Sunday School this fall!
- Deb D, Jill S and John S for teaching Confirmation this fall!
- Kristie A for ALL your hard work in running the Food Pantry and arranging all the Thanksgiving Baskets!
- Gary W. for hanging our new Christmas service times banner.

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



Here's the DIGG schedule for December:

December 10

Trivent: Leaving a Legacy

In this holiday season, we often find ourselves reminiscing and remembering loved ones. How do you want to be remembered? Do you know what you want to leave the next generation? Come and hear from Thrivent folks about how you can be ready to leave behind your legacy.

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.

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. Come and join us as a great way to focus midweek!

WINE, WOMEN & THE WORD

The next gathering of Wine, Women, and the Word will be on January 9 at 6:30 pm at Ruby Tuesday's in Grand Forks. This relaxed group of gals meets once a month for dinner, conversation, and bible study. New folks are always welcome to join us!

WELCA BIBLE STUDY This group takes turns hosting in homes for an evening of desert, coffee and Bible Study. Currently they are working through the book "Finding Rest in a Busy World" WELCA Bible Study will meet

Monday December 18 at Pastor Amy's house For a copy of the book they are studying, contact the church office at 599-2081.

DIGG Once a month men and women of St. Matthew's gather before worship to learn something new and spend time in fellowship with one another. This year all of our speakers are helping us to become overall healthier people. Our next gathering of DIGG will be Dec 10 at 9 am as we hear from Thrivent about Leaving a Legacy.

Greetings from the Worship Team!
I trust that when you read this you have rested after being stuffed by turkey, dressing, and all the trimmings.
I hope that Thanksgiving was a time to pause and spend time with family and friends.

We now go right into the Christmas Season! Where did the time go?? As Advent progresses we'll see the Church transform. There will be children singing and decorating going on.

As the NEW sign announces, there will be THREE services on Christmas Eve. The regular Sunday morning service, along with the standard 5 PM Children's Service and the 10 PM quieter service. We hope to see you there!

On that note, MORE help is needed to assist with the services. Please sign up and if you have questions, PLEASE ask and I'll be happy to guide you through the process.

December Assistants are: Carmen Bohlman Craig Bohlman
Josh & Dara Faul Family Rick & Claire Herland Derek & Stacy Plautz family
John & Jera Sorby family Ryan & Liz Welsh family Bill & Cheryl Widman

Thank you for your assistance and may you have a blessed Christmas Season!
Valorie Uhlir, Worship Team Lead 701-739-2554



Learning & Growing Together

On Sunday November 19, we gathered as a congregation with Keith Zeh, the Director of Evangelical Mission from our synod to spend some time looking back over our history, and dreaming about the future. During DIGG we explored the timeline of our congregation, during worship we offered our praise to God for his faithfulness these last 133 years, and during a delicious meal we began to dream about what God might be preparing us to do next. Huge thanks to all who helped and participated on the 19th!





St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Meeting

October 15, 2017

IN ATTENDANCE: John Schumacher, Darwin Potter, Roy Olson, Val Uhler, Pastor Amy, Alicia Schumacher, Sharon Gustafson, Paul Strande

ABSENT: Dianne Lundgren, Beth Kurz, Sara Munson

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by John at approximately 11:34 am.

LITURGY:

Pastor Amy led the Church Council in prayer.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Addition to Agenda of Membership Roll Update under new business.

Motion: Paul motioned to approve the agenda. Val seconded. Motion carried.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Sharon mentioned that Dianne is not responsible for writing checks. Wording changed from check writing to check signing.

Motion: Roy motioned to approve the September 17 meeting minutes (as amended). Alicia seconded. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Sharon reported that the Special Giving Income this month was: \$422.25. General Giving Income this month was: \$9738.62 Net Income \$-3,546.21. General Giving Checking \$1507.92 as of September 30. Special Giving Checking \$50,240.72

Motion: Darwin moved to approve the Financial Reports. Sharon seconded. Motion carried.

CALENDAR REVIEW

No changes were made to the calendar.

PASTOR'S REPORT

See attached report provided prior to the meeting. The main secretary book will contain an actual attached copy of the report.

MEN'S CLUB AND WELCA REPORT

WELCA: Kitchen Items are being purchased. Festival of Tables is coming Sunday November 5 in the afternoon.

Men's Club: Thanks to those who worked at Deb's house. Work continues there..

TEAM REPORTS

Executive: John Schumacher –Have not met. Will meet in November

Education: Alicia Schumacher – Christmas program practice will be beginning. Christmas Program will be at 3 pm on December 17.

Fellowship: Sara Munson – Not present. Discussion that Fall Frenzy went well.

Outreach: Sharon Gustafson – Dimes are being collected for Feed My Starving Children. Caramel Rolls were sold this morning for Feed My Starving Children (thanks to Men's Group for supplies)– Food Pantry gave out 436 lbs in August to 8 households, and 695 lbs in September to 15 households.

Properties: Roy Olson – Nothing to report.

Mission Support: Position currently vacant. Nothing new to report.

Worship: Val Uhler – Christmas is coming. Confirmation is the last Sunday in October. Hymn sing went well.

Youth: Paul Strande – We have had over 20 kids each night of LYO. Last week went to Southbrook and played bingo. Prizes purchased from youth special fund. Some of the St. Jude's kids have showed interest in coming and participating in LYO. A pancake/bake sale on November 12 to raise money for sponsorship of children from foreign countries..

OLD BUSINESS

Parking Lot Usage Sign Update

Pastor Amy presented parking lot sign options. Final decision was: No Overnight Parking without permission, 701-599-2081. Sign approved unanimously by council.

Input on Property Use Form

Tabled and sent to Exec Team for discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Preschool Chairs

Preschool classroom has a need for more chairs and all similarly sized and stackable. 15 Chairs are needed.

Motion from Darwin, seconded by Paul to buy 15 chairs, money coming from the Thrivent Fund. Motion carried

Memorial Request

Request from different memorials to have plaque recognition in the building. Pastor Amy suggested doing a Memorial Tree or something similar. Val and Sharon will look into this to get more information on possibilities and pricing.

Pastor's Benefit Package Selection for 2018

Each year the council needs to vote on which benefit plan the church will offer to Pastor. Suggested plan from the synod, which we are currently offering is Gold + plan.

Motion from Darwin to go with Gold + plan for 2018, Paul and Sharon second. Motion carried.

Membership Roll Update

According to the bylaws, church is supposed to contact those who have not contributed or communed in two years to see if they are still interested in maintaining their membership. Pastor Amy brought the list of those who that pertained to this year. She will draft a letter that will be approved by exec team to see if those who have not been present wish to continue with their membership.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Darwin, seconded by Paul. Motion carried.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Amy

Next meeting November 12, 11:30 am.



Want to start the new year right? Have reasons to be thankful and reflect on this year? Stop by the prayer vigil at church that will be available on Sunday Dec 31 and Monday Jan 1. Take some time to reflect on last year, and time to listen where God might be leading you in 2018! Resources will be available for prayers of all ages. To guarantee your own quiet time, please sign up on the bulletin board outside the church offices.



Why participate in Financial Peace University?

-A word from our members...

**Financial Peace Classes
begin on Sunday, January
14th at 4:00 pm.
For more information,
contact John Schumacher at
701-741-3173 or
jschumacher@invisimax.com**

For Jason and I, Financial Peace University Class by Dave Ramsey, has made a significant difference in our financial goals. This nine-week course delivers a lot of information but is easily absorb. It provides you with the tools you need to start your debt-free journey.

Because of this life changing journey, we are over 60% debt-free in just one year! At the same time, we are able to teach our three young children these skills. Thank you to St. Matthew's Church for hosting this class and changing our lives! As Dave Ramsey says "If you will live like no one else, later you can live and give like no one else."

-Jamie Bischoff

"I was a little reluctant on committing myself to a weekly class of Financial Peace University because I didn't think I would have time and thought I could just take the online class. But I am so glad I took the class at St Matthew's, the weeks went by very quickly and it was so motivating to join a group of people who could share their progress each week (something I would never get if I just did an online class by myself). Really enjoyed all of Dave Ramsey's materials and all his help about how to get out of debt and also get information on insurance, retirement, and on giving! Great class to take for people of all ages! -Ryan Welsh

"Financial Peace has opened our eyes to be more budget minded, keeping track of our financial well being. It has helped to reduce stress of managing money. Dave Ramsey teaches in a faith based manor how to live better and get more enjoyment out of your life. It is a very worthwhile program."
-Duane and Chris Naas

**Ready to sign up now? Go
to this link and register:**

<https://fpu.com/1052565>

Your money. Your story. Your life.

THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING.



Please stop by the church on Tuesday, December 12th, for our 4th annual open house from 11 am-1 pm. Appetizers and deserts will be served, as we celebrate another year of ministry at Saint Matthew's!

Pastor Amy's Office Hours for December:

Monday: 11:00 am-1:00 pm

Tuesday Office Hours by Appointment

Wednesday 7:30-9:30 am, 6:00-8:00 pm

Thursday Pastor's Day Off

Friday: 10:00 am-Noon at Bully Brew South

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ST. MATTHEW'S LEADERSHIP

Amy Eisenmann	Pastor	stmattspastoramy@gmail.com
Jamie Bischoff	Bookkeeper	bischoffjamie@gmail.com
John Schumacher	Council President	jschumacher@invisimax.com
Darwin Potter	Council Vice President	darpotter14@gmail.com
Beth Kurz	Council Secretary	bkurz@undeerc.org
Dianne Lundgren	Council Treasurer	dlundgren44@hotmail.com
Sharon Gustafson	Outreach Team Lead	rogerssharongustafson@gmail.com
Sara Munson	Fellowship Team Lead	saramunson@rocketmail.com
Roy Olson	Properties Team Lead	royandsandyolson@live.com
Alicia Schumacher	Education Team Lead	Alicia.schumacher@gfcounty.org
Paul Strande	Youth Team Lead	pstrande59@gmail.com
Val Uhlir	Worship Team Lead	valuhlir@yahoo.com

Happy Birthday in December!

- 2** LeeAnn Novak, Brock Vaagene
- 3** Susan Dobmeier, Jamie Turano, Pastor Amy
- 4** Maggie Johnson, Neil Lindell
- 5** Corbin Peterson
- 6** Jim Hanson
- 8** Rachel Anderson, Heidi Strande, Jada Welke
- 9** Larry Eliason
- 10** Penny Tomanek
- 11** Ryan Welsh
- 12** Weston Lupien
- 13** Whitney Everett, Christopher Staveteig, Jettie Strand, Mike Zak
- 15** Tanya Barker, Emma Wilson
- 16** Mike Brorby
- 17** Jason Bischoff, Addison Deitz, Avery Deitz, Ashlyn Deitz,
- 19** Ashley Potter
- 21** Caden Kurz
- 22** Dara Faul, Kaja Starcevic
- 23** Travis Brorby
- 24** Bryn Adams
- 25** Jonathan Dobmeier
- 27** Sheila Wilson
- 29** Robert Hodek
- 30** Kameron Anderson
- 31** Nolan Bergeron

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Welcome to worship

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School at 9 a.m.

Address service requested



Dec 3-Why does no one know the hour of Jesus' return?

Dec 10-Why does God need us to prepare the way of the Lord?

Dec 17-Why does God favor the lowliest of people? Why doesn't God favor people the way the world does?

Dec 24, Morning Service-Why did God call Mary? Why you? Why me?

Dec 24- Evening Service-Why did God become flesh? Why were the shepherds the ones to hear first? Why the stable? Why the manger?



Join us for worship for Christmas!

Christmas Eve:

10 am-Advent Morning Prayer:

(Based on Holden Evening Prayer)

5 pm-Christmas Eve Family Service with Candlelight

10 pm-Candlelight Contemplative Communion Service