

December 2018

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church  
701 Broadway Street  
Thompson, ND 58278  
(701)-599-2081  
[stmatthewslutheranchurch.org](http://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 we were to believe the retail stores, Christmas started in June or July and is already selling for half off. But in the life of our church, we are still in the season of getting ready. Still in the season of preparing the way. Still in the season of preparing our homes and hearts to prepare for the coming Christ child. So in that place of in between, of Christmas being all around us and not yet here, of Christ walking with us daily, and yet us longing for him to be born in our midst once more, I wanted to invite you to come and see and come and prepare right along with us.

On each Sunday morning during Advent we will **hear the story of one of our Christmas Carols**, and talk about how it helps us prepare for Christ's coming. We will sing it and be reminded that Christ has come and will come again.

On Wednesday mornings during Advent (and all through the rest of the year too), we invite you to join us for **Responsive Prayer at 7:00am**. Come and renew your spirits in the midst of your busy week, join us for coffee and fellowship, and be on the road at 7:30, ready to do the rest of your Christmas preparations.

On Saturday, **December 15**, we are trying something new this year with an **Advent Festival**. We are inviting you and your family to take a break from the hustle and the bustle and come and be reminded what Advent is all about. There will be games, and crafts, making an Advent wreath for your family, eating some yummy snacks, and at the end of the morning, gathering in the worship space to hear and act out the Christmas story.

On Sunday, **December 16** our high school youth will be having their monthly service day, where they help us lead worship, and our **Sunday Schoolers will be singing too**. A great chance to gather as a family and celebrate that the Christ child is almost here.

Finally, on **December 24**, we will gather for a **family friendly service at 5:00 pm**, and a quieter, more **contemplative service at 10:00 pm** to celebrate that Christ has come, a chance to light our candles and sing together about the silent, holy night that Christmas Eve is.

However you and your family choose to prepare and celebrate the Christ Child this Advent and Christmas season, we hope you will be filled with the peace and joy that only Jesus brings.

Blessings on your holidays!

*Pastor Amy*

# CHRIST

The newsletter of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Thompson, ND | Vol. 3, Issue 12

# LYO-Youth Group

**Youth Group** – We had a very fun night of Bingo this past month with 40 students in attendance. What a great turnout!! We continue to be thankful for the support from our congregation for our LYO Group. **In December we will only have LYO on the 12th.** We hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and safe travels to and from your destinations.



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 13.** 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.



Financial Peace University will be offered at St. Matthew's again this January! If you are interested in attending, or would like more information, talk to John Schumacher. John's email is [john@schumacher.farm](mailto:john@schumacher.farm)

# Fun and Fellowship

Our 8th graders took their annual trip to Amundson Funeral Home Nov 14.

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!

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**The Annual Church Birthday party will be Sunday, January 13!**

Come and join us for fun and fellowship and meet the people who share your birthday month!



Congratulations to Taylor and Lance Monson on the baptism of their daughter Willa Pamela and to Paige Baron and Marcus Hoffmann on the baptism of their daughter Maelle LoriAnn.

Willa was baptized on November 21st. Her sponsors are Steph Broyles and Alex Broyles.

Maelle was baptized on November 17th. Her sponsors are Laura Spurgeon and Christopher Hoffmann.

Welcome into our family Willa and Maelle!

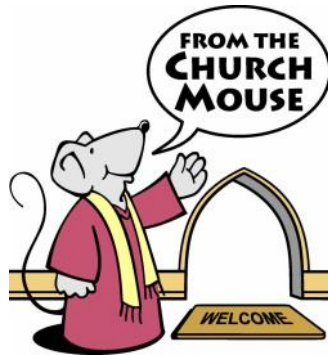


Thank you to everyone who is a part of the ministry at Saint Matthew's! Here are a few folks we would like to say a special thank you to this month! We apologize if we miss anyone!

The church mouse would like to thank:

- Sarah K. for organizing the Festival of Tables
- Sarah K., Ellie S., Trinity B. Tanya B. Derek P. and Sara M. for teaching Sunday School this fall!
- Chris D. and Deb D for teaching Confirmation this fall!
- Kristie A for ALL your hard work in running the Food Pantry and arranging all the Thanksgiving Baskets!
- All those who provided pies for Thanksgiving Eve Worship and Fellowship
- Chris & Duane N. for brightening the church by capturing all the flies

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



Want to start the new year right? Have reasons to be thankful and reflect on this year? Stop by the **New Year's Prayer Vigil** at church that will be available on **Monday Dec 31 and Tuesday Jan 1**. Take some time to reflect on last year, and time to listen where God might be leading you in 2019! 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.

## 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 December 4 at 6:30 pm at Mamma Maria's in East 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 17 at Pastor Amy's house. For a copy of the book they are studying, contact the church office at 599-2081.



If reading in church, ushering or assisting with communion isn't "your thing", we would welcome a few dozen cookies or a pan of bars to share during fellowship after the service.

## December

Josh & Tanya Barker Family  
 Jason & Jamie Bischoff Family  
 Todd & Sarah Fee Family  
 Travis & Brook Fretheim Family  
 Jerod & Chelsea Lupien Family  
 Kelly & Lynnea Mayer Family  
 Damon & Bridget Pearson Family  
 John & Jill Schumacher Family  
 Tim & Christine Sivertson Family  
 Richard & Mindy Staveteig Family  
 Kevin & Lisa Strand Family

## January 2019

Donny & Wendy Ackerman Family  
 Mike & Julie Brorby  
 Raeann Burger  
 Earl & Cathy Haugen Family  
 David & Sarah Krogfoss Family  
 Scott & Danean Landa Family  
 Lonnie & Gretchen Peterson  
 Darwin & Michelle Potter  
 Linda Schumacher  
 Julie Shirek

# Learning & Growing Together



Join us on **Saturday, December 15 for Advent Fest from 10:00am – Noon.** Advent Fest gives us all a chance to gather with family, take a break from the stress and busy-ness, and remind ourselves just what the Advent and Christmas are all about. There will be fun for all ages, including nativity bingo, a photo booth, treats, crafts, and more, ending with the reading of the Christmas story together at 11:30 am. We'll continue the celebration with the **Sunday School children singing Christmas songs during**

**worship December 16** to celebrate Jesus' birth! There will also be Sunday School this day. There will not be Sunday School on December 23rd and 30th. We look forward to celebrating the real reason for the season with you!

Come and join us for Pastor Amy's birthday celebration and belated Pastor Appreciation Day after worship on December 2!





## October 28, 2018-unofficial minutes

IN ATTENDANCE: Pastor Amy, Darwin Potter, Paul Strande, Sarah Krogfoss, Beth Kurz, Deb DeMoe, Tracie Ivesdal, Sara Munson, Roy Olson, Alicia Schumacher  
ABSENT: James Thorson

### CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Darwin at 6:28 p.m.

### LITURGY:

Pastor Amy led the Church Council in devotion prior to the meeting.

### AGENDA APPROVAL

A fifth item was added under "Old Business" – sound system update.

**Motion:** Paul moved approve the agenda as amended. Deb seconded. Motion carried.

### MINUTES APPROVAL

No modifications were made to the September 23rd Church Council meeting minutes.

**Motion:** Paul motioned to approve the September 23rd meeting minutes. Sara seconded. Motion carried.

### FINANCIAL REPORTSS

Tracie summarized the financial reports for September. General Giving income was \$12,178.18. Net income was \$1,295.90. As of September 30, the General Giving checking account balance was at \$3,834.87. Special Giving income for September was \$984.00. Special Giving net income was \$642.83. The Special Giving checking account balance as of September 30 was \$38,713.25. Total combined assets are at \$42,548.12.

Tracie is going to start providing the Council with a report that contains additional financial information, such as where we are at with our line of credit and special expenses.

**Motion:** Deb moved to approve the Financial Reports. Beth seconded. Motion carried.

### CALENDAR REVIEW

Paul request that the LYO service Sundays be added to the calendar. They are the third Sunday of every month. No additional 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

Men's Club: Roy mentioned that one of the cement slabs out near the dumpster is uneven. One of the church members tripped recently and got bruised up. Gary is going to look at it. Paul mentioned that there is

a hole in the walking bridge that goes out to the grass parking lot and that we should think about getting that fixed as well. Roy said that he'd look at it.

WELCA: Festival of Tables is coming up on November 4.

#### TEAM REPORTS

**Executive:** Darwin Potter – We had an executive team meeting last week. Everything that was discussed will be presented at this meeting.

**Education:** Alicia Schumacher – they are gearing up for the Advent Event and looking for people who can help out with that. They have a lot of fun activities planned.

**Fellowship:** Sara Munson – November 11 there will be a “green event”, but she's not entirely sure what that will look like yet.

**Outreach:** Sarah Krogfoss – They are planning to have the “giving tree” again this year. Julie Brorby will be heading that up.

**Food Pantry:** Sarah Krogfoss – No update on the food pantry. Deb mentioned that the food drive went well. The first Food Pantry Board meeting is coming up November 12.

**Properties:** Roy Olson – They will install the new oven sometime in November. Darwin asked if Bill fixed the speaker in the kitchen but Roy wasn't sure.

**Worship:** Deb DeMoe – A couple generous people donated a pre-lit Christmas tree, so that will be used this year. The poinsettia ordering will be coming up. Val volunteered to pick up the poinsettias again this year. Decorating the church for Christmas is scheduled for the end of November. They also discussed purchasing an additional banner for baptisms.

**Youth:** Paul Strande – They had 39 kids at the last LYO event. The kids also helped organize the food donated for the food pantry. The bingo event got snowed out, so they are going to make it up on November 7th.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### **Church Checkup** (Fall Meetings)

Our fall church checkup meetings are coming up. Our first meeting is October 30. Darwin handed out copies of materials for the meetings. One of the sheets is for the meeting leaders. Darwin reminded everyone that the meetings are not meant to solve any of the issues – we just don't have enough time. Another one of the sheets contains questions to help guide the meeting. You don't have to cover every question – it's to be used more as a tool in case there is a lull in the conversation. Darwin reminded the recorders to do the best they can to record the meeting. The only thing left to do for this event is to send out the survey to members that can't make it to the meetings or those who haven't attended church for a while.

##### **President and Vice President Terms**

The executive team met and looked at 4 potential options for the President and Vice President terms. The executive team whittled it down to 2 options that they have brought to the Council for discussion. Option 1 is to leave things the way they are. Option 2 is to leave the President term as 1 year, which is what the current term is now; however, if you run for president, you would be encouraged to run for a second term. The Vice President term would be 2 years and the VP would not automatically become the President. If there are issues with the President or Vice President there is currently a process for removing them. Paul pointed out that there is a system of checks and balances, such as the Church Council, which would prevent a rogue president from making bad decisions. The biggest downside of this is that it might cause a little more work for the nominating committee. Darwin asked for input from the Council and is

hoping that we can decide what direction we want to go and make a motion. Deb mentioned that this would give the President more time to tackle things on their agenda. Sara asked if this is something that would be decided upon by the Congregation at the Annual Meeting. Darwin replied that, yes, it would have to be voted upon by the Congregation. Deb asked what other churches do. Pastor Amy replied that it varies.

Darwin asked for an unofficial vote. All but one were in favor of Option 2. One member was unsure at this point. This will be brought before the Congregation at the Annual Meeting.

### **Visual Monitors Update**

The wiring needs to be completed for the monitors. The system will be hooked up to a computer that will be located near the old piano (at the back of the church). The computer will be able to control the sound system as well, such as the volume. Darwin asked if we need to keep the piano anymore since it is only used once or twice a year. The piano was donated, so it might be better to store it somewhere. For now, it will be stored in the Rosendahl room.

Darwin also mentioned that we need to think about what kind of computer we should purchase to run the system. He's concerned about a laptop because it is more mobile and he's afraid it will be messed with or moved. Pastor Amy mentioned that a laptop could be kept locked up in the office during the week. Alicia mentioned that regardless of whether it's a laptop or desktop, it needs to be kept locked. Paul suggested that it be kept in some sort of box or storage container that can be kept locked. It doesn't need to have a lot of power, so it could even be an iPad or Surface. The Council needs to decide where the money will come from for this. Darwin asked if we want to discuss it now, or wait until November until all the current sound/visual system bills have come through and are paid. We decided to wait until the November meeting. If needed, we could also ask for donations.

### **Bookkeeper Position**

Vione has decided that she would prefer not to take on the bookkeeper position. Jamie would like to continue as the bookkeeper position, but asked if there was any way that she could work remotely. She really likes the job, but she'd like to be more flexible so that she could do her work while on the road or at kids' activities. Jamie offered to purchase a laptop and have St. Matthews load Quickbooks software on it. There are some issues with the online version of Quickbooks, so we would have to transfer the traditional version. She would keep the laptop secure outside of the church. She would only take receipts outside of church, not checks. Paul mentioned that in this day and age, if we have someone who is a good employee and devoted to the job, it makes sense to provide them with flexibility. Several other Council members agreed. We could always reimburse her a small amount for use of the laptop assuming she purchases it herself. We need to decide to either let her work remotely and figure out the details, or find a new bookkeeper.

**Motion:** Sarah motioned to accept Jamie as a bookkeeper. Paul seconded it. Motion carried.

We need to determine the details of how Jamie's position will work. There is a way that Jamie could log in remotely to the church computer, but that could get complicated if Vione is using the church computer at the same time. It is probably easier to just load the software onto a laptop. We decided that it makes sense to have Jamie purchase the laptop since she also wants to use it for personal use, and then reimburse her for a usage fee. Someone suggested that she be reimbursed \$20/month for use of the laptop.

**Motion:** Sara moved to have Jamie purchase a laptop and we will reimburse her \$20/month for use of the laptop to perform her job. Paul seconded. There was some additional discussion. Darwin asked if we could generate any issues by doing this. We will have to come up with guidelines for her use of Quickbooks and for



working remotely. Pastor Amy mentioned that there are already guidelines in place. Motion carried.

### **Sound System**

Darwin asked if we should have an external person come in and look at the system to get it figured out. We need to find someone who can come in and provide a quote. Paul suggested that we provide a base number, such as \$500, and tell them if it's going to be more than that then they need to provide a quote. Darwin is going to contact HB Sound and Light and Tricorn (from Fargo). Darwin thought that even if it was \$1000, it's worth it to get the sound system fixed. We'll have to figure out where the funds are going to come from. Sara suggested that maybe it come out of the Building Improvement Fund which has a balance of \$1,399.47.

Darwin asked for a motion on this.

**Motion:** Paul motioned that we talk to a company about getting the sound system fixed at a cost of up to \$1000. Tracie seconded. Motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Evaluations**

Everyone has copies of Pastor Amy's evaluation. Please provide input to Darwin by next Sunday. Please provide these to him in person or securely in his mailbox. The Executive Team will be conducting evaluations with Pastor Amy on November 27th and the rest of the church staff on December 10.

#### **Portico – Pastor's Benefit Package**

Darwin provided a document with prices from Portico for Pastor Amy's benefit package. In the past we have always gone with the Gold+ package. Pastor Amy is fine with staying with the same package, which is actually less expensive this year.

**Motion:** Paul motioned that we accept the Gold+ package for Pastor Amy's benefit package. Beth seconded. Motion carried.

#### **LYO Credit Card Request**

Paul explained that as LYO has grown, when he has to purchase supplies out of his own pocket it can add up. While reimbursements have come through quickly, he asked if it would be possible to get a credit card to simplify things. Pastor Amy mentioned that Vione could also purchase supplies, so that is an option as well. Darwin mentioned that when he was on the Properties Team, they had a credit card and the name on the card changed every couple of years as the Properties Team lead changed. Darwin asked Tracie if it would be a big deal to have another name added to the account.

Tracie didn't think it would tough to have another card issued; however, it could be difficult to track the expenses for LYO versus other charges. Paul suggested that for now, he try coordinating with Vione on purchasing supplies. He suggested that we put this request on hold while he sees how things work with Vione. This request has been tabled for now.

#### **Council Meeting Dates**

November Meeting: Monday, November 26th at 6:30 p.m. December Meeting: Sunday, December 16th at 11:30 a.m.

**Motion:** Paul motioned to adjourn. Sarah seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting closed at 7:42 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Beth Kurz



**Please stop by the church on Tuesday, December 11th, for our 5th annual open house from 11 am-1 pm. Appetizers and desserts 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

## **Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church**

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

### **ST. MATTHEW'S LEADERSHIP**

<b>Amy Eisenmann</b>	<b>Pastor</b> stmattspastoramy@gmail.com
<b>Vione Jordheim</b>	<b>Admin. Assistant</b> stmattsvione@gmail.com
<b>Jamie Bischoff</b>	<b>Bookkeeper</b> bischoffjamie@gmail.com
<b>Darwin Potter</b>	<b>Council President</b> darpotter14@gmail.com
<b>James Thorson</b>	<b>Council Vice President</b> thorsonja@yahoo.com
<b>Beth Kurz</b>	<b>Council Secretary</b> bkurz@undeerc.org
<b>Tracie Ivesdal</b>	<b>Council Treasurer</b> tivesdal@msn.com
<b>Sarah Krogfoss</b>	<b>Outreach Team Lead</b> smartin@polarcomm.com
<b>Sara Munson</b>	<b>Fellowship Team Lead</b> saramunson@rocketmail.com
<b>Roy Olson</b>	<b>Properties Team Lead</b> royandsandyolson@live.com
<b>Alicia Schumacher</b>	<b>Education Team Lead</b> Alicia.schumacher@gfcounty.org
<b>Paul Strande</b>	<b>Youth Team Lead</b> pstrande59@gmail.com
<b>Deb DeMoe</b>	<b>Worship Team Lead</b> deb.demoe@tps-k12.org

## **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, Ellie Schultz, Heidi Strande, Jada Welke
- 9** Larry Eliason
- 10** Penny Tomanek,
- 11** Ryan Welsh, Max Zammert
- 12** Weston Lupien
- 13** Whitney Everett, Mike Zak, Christopher Staveteig, Jettie Strand,
- 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 2- O Come, O Come Emmanuel  
Dec 9- Silent Night  
Dec 16-Joy to the World  
Dec 23-Away in a Manger  
Dec 24- O Holy Night  
Dec 30-Oh Come Let Us Adore Him

Come and join us this Advent as we celebrate the coming of Christ by singing and learning about some of the Christmas songs we love!



**Join us for worship for Christmas!**

Christmas Eve:

5 pm-Christmas Eve Family Service with Candlelight  
10 pm-Candlelight Contemplative Communion Service