

December 2019

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,

As we prepare to enter into another holiday season, we often find ourselves rushing from one thing to the next, getting so overwhelmed with the details that we forget what Christmas is all about. We get caught up in the presents to be bought and the parties to be attended, and we forget that at the heart of the story, the Christ child is coming, and we need to be ready for that as well.

So this year, on each Sunday morning during Advent, we will focus in on how we can **"Prepare in Christ's Presence"**. We will remind ourselves that Christ is already here in our midst, while taking a break from the hustle and the bustle of the rest of the world. With themes like "Do Less", "Experience Wonder", and "Hold on to Hope", we pray that Sunday mornings are a place for you to come as you are, whether you come alone or with your family/friends. We pray that you find that Sunday morning worship is a place where you can prepare your hearts and minds for the coming Christmas season and for the coming of that tiny baby in a manger just for you.

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 Sunday, **December 15**, our children will remind us of the story once more with the **Sunday School Christmas Program at 2:00 pm**. Our littlest ones have been busy getting ready to act out the story, learning their parts and the songs of the season. We hope that you can join us for their celebration.

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. Both services will offer a chance to light our candles and sing together about the silent, holy night that Christmas Eve is.

Finally, on **December 31 and January 1**, we invite you and your family to choose a time and participate in the **New Year's Prayer Vigil**. Take some time to reflect on last year, and time to listen where God might be leading you in 2020! Resources will be available for all ages.

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 can bring.

May God bless you and keep you throughout these holidays!

Pastor Amy

CHRIST

The newsletter of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Thompson, ND | Vol. 4, Issue 12

Youth Group – We will meet on Dec. 4th and Dec. 18th for the month of December. We continue to have great attendance. We are planning to serve a meal at the Northlands Rescue Mission on December 15th. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!



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 15. 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.

Congratulations to Kali LynnMarie Shaul and Kira Iva Shaul on their baptism on November 17th.

Kali and Kira's parents are Adam Shaul and Brandy Suedel. Their sponsor is Jennifer Winter.

Welcome to our Church Family Kali and Kira!



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 or Jamie Bischoff. John's email is john@schumacher.farm Jamie's email is bischoffjamie@gmail.com

Fun and Fellowship



**SAVE THE
DATE!**

**The Annual
Church
Birthday
party will**

be Sunday, January 19! Come and join us for fun and fellowship and meet the people who share your birthday month!



Please stop by the church on Tuesday, December 10th, for our 6th 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!

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

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

ST. MATTHEW'S LEADERSHIP

Amy Eisenmann	Pastor stmattspastoramy@gmail.com
Vione Jordheim	Admin. Assistant stmattsvione@gmail.com
Jamie Bischoff	Bookkeeper bischoffjamie@gmail.com
James Thorson	Council President thorsonja@yahoo.com
Scott Kuster	Council Vice President scottkuster@gra.midco.net
Angie Muhs	Council Secretary bamuhs@yahoo.com
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Bre Berberich	Education Team Lead berberich@midco.net
Paul Strande	Youth Team Lead pstrande59@gmail.com
Val Uhler	Worship Team Lead valuhler@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, 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
- 24 Bryn Adams
- 25 Jonathan Dobmeier
- 27 Sheila Wilson
- 29 Robert Hodek
- 30 Kameron Anderson
- 31 Nolan Bergeron

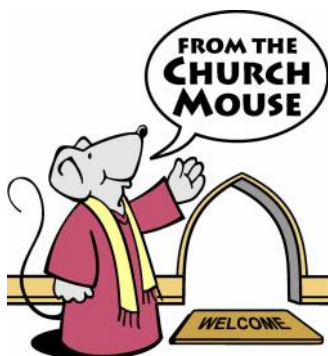
Thank you to everyone who is a part of the ministry at Saint Matthew's! Here are a few folks we would like to say a special thank you to this month! We apologize if we miss anyone!

The church mouse would like to thank:

- Mighty Foursome of Men; Bill W, Roy O, Roger G, and Scott K for moving all the tables back from the Festival of Tables event.
- Kristie A and Faul Family for doing worship slides.
- Sarah K and Sara M for organizing the Festival of Tables.
- Roy O for playing in the leaves—all 36 bags of them.
- Roger G and Roy O for keeping the lawn mowed and tidy all summer.
- Thank you to ALL of the Thompson Community for donating to the confirmands Trick or Treat for canned goods to the Food Pantry. 1,065 items were donated which included 948 lbs of food!!
- Thank you to LYO students for assisting with worship services each month. We appreciate your willingness to serve.

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 **Tuesday, Dec 31 and Wednesday Jan 1**. Take some time to reflect on last year, and time to listen where God might be leading you in 2020! 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 Fellowship Hall 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 2 at 6:30 pm at Eagles Crest 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. WELCA Bible Study will meet Monday, December 16 at Mary Mitchell's House For more information, contact the church office at 599-2081.

Pastor Amy's Office Hours for December:

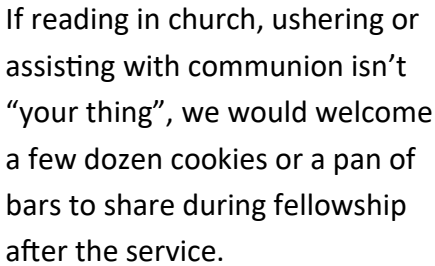
Monday: 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Tuesday Office Hours by Appointment

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

Thursday Pastor's Day Off

Friday: 10:00 am-Noon at Panera



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

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

We are practicing for our Christmas Program! All program practices will take place during opening of Sunday School! Please remember to look at the education calendar for important dates! You can find the education calendar on the church website.

You can also like us on Facebook for updates!

Education Needs:

6th grade confirmation leader, to team teacher!

Substitute teachers – Please let Bre know if you want to be added to our list!

Bre Berberich | 701.740.207 | breberberich@gmail.com

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
1 – Advent Fun Day Program Practice 8 – Program Practice 15 – Christmas Program - 2pm						

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

5 - Sunday School Resumes
26 - Kids Sing



Council Meeting on November 17, 2019

Members present: Chelsea Lupien, Bre Berberich, Scott Kuster, Paul Strande, Sarah Krogfoss, Duane Naas, Tracie Ivesdal, Val Uhler, James Thorson, Pastor Amy

Members absent: Angie Muhs

Meeting called to order at 11:31 am.

Devotions were shared as we read verses about giving thanks to God. We went around and shared what we are thankful for as well.

Agenda approval. Motion to approve the agenda. Sarah moved, Duane seconded. MPU

Minutes approval. Noted to fix date need to remove August from header, fix spelling of Frenzival, and fix Pastor Amy's 2 days remaining to Sundays not days. Motion to approve minutes. Scott moved, Val seconded, MPU

Financial Report: Gen Fund Bank Account balance is -585.51, Special Funds balance is 26,029.24 Line of Credit, we have currently borrowed 14,149.71

Net loss for Sept -2655.68, Net loss to date -23,507.37

Financial Reports: Motion to approve. Val moved, Scott seconded, MPU.

Calendar Review: Add All Church Birthday Party Jan 19.

Pastor's Report: Pastor thanked council members for serving. Pastor's report is available in the church office.

WELCA Report: Festival of Tables was on Nov 3. Had a Disney theme and was a tea. It went pretty well. Cookie Decorating happening on Nov 24 at 1:30. Will last about an hour.

Men's Report: Will be donating \$250 for Sox for Kids in Reynolds on Dec 7.

Exec Team: Didn't meet in October. Will be meeting in the next few weeks.

Education Team: Work has begun on the Christmas Program. Looking at going to digital curriculum for the winter months and then would order curriculum for the spring.

Fellowship Team: Birthday party January 19. Team is wondering about having a coffee bar with flavored syrups, etc. People think it is a good idea, space would be the question. Chelsea and her team will look into this.

Outreach Team: On behalf of outreach, we served 94 kids at Christus Rex free lunch. Caramel rolls were served for Feed My Starving Children, Angel tree going up next week

Food Pantry: Thanksgiving baskets are going out this week, trick or treat for canned goods was successful.

Properties: Mower is maintained and put away for the winter (thanks Roy and Roger). 36 bags of leaves were raked up. Thanks to those who helped.

Worship: We are slowly changing the worship service. (switching to new liturgy). Will be decorating for the holidays the first week of December. The hooks for the back banners need to be moved (due to new tv), property team will help make that happen.

Youth: Men's club bought LYO supper. Thank you! In December there will be a movie night and Christmas party. Will be serving a meal at the mission on December 15.

Old Business

Reminder that team budgets need to be in for 2020. In discussion, most teams will be leaving the budgets flat or reducing over the year. Tracie will email out a report of where budgets vs actual have been over the course of the last 3 years.

New Business

Vitality Team Report-The Team went to a retreat at Crossroads in October and learned about cultivating personal spiritual practices. They also learned that the council is the spiritual leader of the congregation and not the board of directors. The team had their first coaching session with Pastor Julie Tillberg, and is reading the book "The Liturgy of the Ordinary" together.

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm.

Next meeting will be December 22 @ 11:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Amy Eisenmann

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Welcome to worship

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School at 9 a.m.

Address service requested



Join us for the Children's Christmas program,
"A Traditional Nativity"
2 pm-Sunday, December 15



Join us to Celebrate the Season!

Christmas Eve:

5 pm-Christmas Eve Family Service with Candlelight

10 pm-Candlelight Contemplative Communion Service

December 29:

10 am-Service of Lessons and Carols