

December 2021

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*

<sup>19</sup> "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup> but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." – Matthew 6:19-21.

If there is ever a reading from scripture that cuts deep into the hearts of many people living in North America, it is this one right here. Most of us love to collect and store up things for ourselves...whether we admit it or not. When I was packing to move up north to North Dakota a few years ago, I realized that I had a lot of "stuff" that I had accumulated over the years and had no use for. I didn't need this stuff, but I had it and when I started to think about throwing some of it away or donating it, I found it to be much more difficult than I had anticipated.

I thought to myself that maybe the stuff I had was some measure of success, because if you think about it, I had come to the United States some ten or so years ago with only one suitcase and three hundred dollars in my pocket. And here I was renting a big U-Haul truck and tow for my car. I guess all the stuff in my possession was a sign of having made it, right?

Deep down in my heart though, I knew that that wasn't the case. Most of the things I had were things that I didn't need and would never use. Clothes that didn't fit anymore, books that I would never open again, electronics and gadgets that I didn't have time to use or had become obsolete with advancements in technology. I needed to give them up, but for some reason I was hanging on to them like they were some kind of precious treasure.

A few years ago, when Marie Kondo started her tidying up show, reports showed that there was an uptick in things being given away overwhelming donation centers all over the country. You should check out her show on Netflix. It's called "Tidying Up with Marie Kondo" but be careful though, because it will challenge you to take a second look at the things in your house.

The craze behind Marie Kondo's show was a symptom of our culture's problem with stuff. We love stuff and we collect and store up things that we do not need. This is also a symptom of greed – the sin that Jesus is calling out today.

Now, I'm not saying that we are all greedy people because we have things in our houses that we do not need. What I am saying is that we be careful that we are not storing up treasures for ourselves that may take us farther away from our calling as beloved children of God.

And during this season before Christmas, when Americans shop the most, overwhelming shipping and postal services, let us ask ourselves some serious questions before buying those new things. Why do we need them? What use are they for us? Can we do without them? And can we donate what we don't have use for anymore?

Happy (not) shopping...and Merry Christmas!! – Pastor Tawanda Murinda

# CHRIST

The newsletter of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Thompson, ND | Vol. 6, Issue 12

**Youth Group** – We will gather on December 1st and will be painting bowls. Our last meeting for the year will be December 15th for our Christmas party. Both meetings are at 6:30 pm. All Youth are welcome!



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 12. Angels will also be available online using SignUp Genius.** 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.



Pastor Tawanda welcomes visitors at the church office anytime during the day.

He is in the office all day on Mondays and Thursdays, please feel free to stop in. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, please contact him to set up a time to meet. His day off is on Friday.



The Food Pantry is open during December on Tuesday, December 14th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and on Tuesday, December 28nd from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

If you or someone you know could use the assistance of the Food Pantry, please let them know or come to the Food Pantry during their open hours.

**Congratulations to our  
Confirmation Class 2021**

|                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Jailin Avdem</i>   | <i>Braden Faul</i>      |
| <i>Jesse Hegg</i>     | <i>Jordan Johnson</i>   |
| <i>Taylor Johnson</i> | <i>Makenna Mikelson</i> |
| <i>Jonathan Muhs</i>  | <i>Troy Peterson</i>    |
| <i>Kali Shaul</i>     | <i>Jakob Starcevic</i>  |
| <i>William Welke</i>  |                         |



**St. Matthew's Lutheran Church**

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

**ST. MATTHEW'S LEADERSHIP**

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

# Happy Birthday in December!

- 2 LeeAnn Novak, Brock Vaagene, Stacey Duray
- 3 Susan Dobmeier, Jamie Turano
- 4 Maggie Johnson, Neil Lindell
- 5 Corbin Peterson
- 6 Jim Hanson
- 8 Ellie Schultz, Heidi Strande, Jada Welke, Jay Robinson
- 9 Larry Eliason
- 10 Penny Tomanek, Jayson Robinson
- 11 Ryan Welsh, Max Zammert
- 12 Weston Lupien
- Whitney Everett, Mike Zak,
- 13 Christopher Staveteig, Jettie Strand
- 14 Chris Walsh
- 15 Tanya Barker, Emma Wilson
- 16 Mike Brorby
- 17 Jason Bischoff, Addison Deitz, Avery Deitz, Ashlyn Deitz,
- 19 Ashley Potter
- 20 Kenley Beaudry, Mark Hagen, Shelby Mayers
- 21 Caden Kurz
- 22 Dara Faul, Kaja Starcevic
- 24 Bryn Adams
- 25 Jonathan Dobmeier
- 27 Sheila Wilson, Blake Riewer
- 28 Annistyn Laxdal
- 29 Robert Hodek
- 30 Kameron Anderson
- 31 Nolan Bergeron

# Worship

Greetings to the St. Matthew's Members!

We have celebrated Thanksgiving and are moving into Advent. How can this be? I trust you all had a Happy Thanksgiving and were able to spend time with family and friends.

I want to thank all that ordered poinsettias. We will have a BEAUTIFUL altar once again! IF you still want to order a plant, I'm sure there will be a few to ADOPT. Let me know and I can start the process.

We will be looking for MORE help during the Christmas season. Please consider helping with Worship if your Confirmand is signed up to help somewhere. These young people have shown how easy it is to help with communion AND to read! Thank you ALL so much. IF you ever have any questions please contact me at 701-739-6282. You can sign up on the St. Matthew's website under WORSHIP resources.

I'm looking forward to a WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS SEASON.

Blessings to all from the Worship Team.

Nancy Morgan / Sharon Gustafson / Cheryl Widman / Valorie Uhlir



## *December 2021*

Barker Family

Staveteig Family

Fee Family

Fretheim Family

Lupien Family

Sivertson Family

Pearson Family

John Schumacher Family

## *January 2022*

Kory & Susie Sondreal

Derek & Bobbie Sondreal Family

Sarah Krogfoss & Charlie

Tony & Paula Amborn

Paul & Brooke Bakke Family

# Ongoing Ministries

**MEN IN MISSION** St. Matthew's men gather each Sunday morning 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!

**WELCA BIBLE STUDY** This group meets at the church on the 3rd Monday of the month for Bible Study. Their next gathering will be **Monday, December 20th at 7:00pm**. All are welcome!





Join us to Celebrate the Season!

Children's Christmas Program

10am-December 19th during worship service

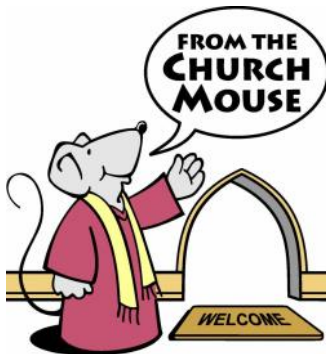
Christmas Eve:

5 pm-Christmas Eve Family Service with Candlelight

8 pm-Christmas Eve Traditional Worship with Candlelight

Sunday, December 26

10am-Hymn Sing



Thank you to everyone who is a part of the ministry at St. 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:

- ALL Worship Assistants.
- Thank you to ALL of the Thompson Community for donating to the confirmands Trick or Treat for canned goods to the Food Pantry.
- Thank you to Central Valley Public School for their donation to the Food Pantry.
- All who brought pies for Thanksgiving Eve pie fellowship.
- Our snow removal angels!
- Roy O, Roger G and Mike U for taking care of the leaves.
- Duane N for painting Pastor's office.
- Our Council members for all of their behind the scenes work.
- Christmas Elves for decorating our church for the Season!
- Thanks to ALL who are making a difference! We appreciate you!



**St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Council Meeting**

**Date:** November 22, 2021

**In Attendance:** Paul Strande, Scott Kuster, Ryan Welsh, Val Uhlir, Robyn Bohlman- joining via zoom – Pastor Tawanda, Sara Munson, Steve Hancock, Sarah Krogfoss

**Absent:** Duane Naas, Brook Fretheim

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by President Strande at 6.35pm. Pastor Tawanda led opening prayer.

**Agenda Approval:** Val Uhlir moved, Scott Kuster seconded to approve the agenda. MPU

**Minutes Approval:** Ryan Welsh moved, Paul Strande seconded to approve the minutes. MPU

Val Uhlir moved, Ryan Welsh seconded to approve minutes from special meeting minutes

**Financial Reports:** General Giving income for September was \$7005.59. As of September 30th the General Giving checking account balance is \$19,058.73. Special Giving checking is \$28,693.17. Our line of credit is \$0. Our YTD income is \$ 335.57

General Giving income for October was \$9419.48. As of October 31<sup>st</sup> the General Giving checking account balance is \$19,511.23. Special Giving checking is \$29,483.97. Our line of credit is \$0. Our YTD Net income is \$1077.98

**Approval:** Steve Hancock moved, Sara Munson seconded to approve financial. MPU

**Calendar Review:** Add Council meeting December 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:25am

**Pastor's Report:** worship attendance has been good

**Men's Club & WELCA report:** nothing from Men's Club, nothing from Welca

**Team Reports:**

*Executive Team:* nothing

*Education:* Sarah Krogfoss – no Sunday school next Sunday. Practicing for Christmas program. Program practice 10-noon on Dec 18<sup>th</sup>, Program on 19<sup>th</sup>. That will be it for Sunday school until the 9<sup>th</sup> of January. December 12 will be Donuts for Ducks

*Fellowship:* Sara Munson – nothing

*Ruby's Pantry:* Sara Munson- served over 200 families.

*Outreach:* Brook Fretheim – provided basket for the Bacon Bingo at School

*Food Pantry* – In September served 7 household got 290 lbs of food. Today handed out 8 Thanksgiving baskets

*Properties:* Duane Naas- nothing

*Worship:* Val Uhler – will be decorating the church this week. There have been over 65 people who have updated the directory.

*Youth:* Steve Hancock – cancelled last meeting since volleyball team went to state. Painting bowls at next meeting. Last meeting is Dec 15 – Christmas party

### **Old Business**

Altar, Pulpit and Baptismal Font – tabled

Bid from HB Sound - tabled

Child Care Center at St Matthew's – nothing new

### **New Business**

Link for updating Directory – Church Directory Update Link

Date(s) for employee evaluations – Exec team will meet after to set date

Date for the Annual Meeting – after worship on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Council will be on January 16th

Next council meeting will be December 19<sup>th</sup> 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



Make your voice heard and plan to attend the **Annual Meeting scheduled for January 23, 2022 at 11:05am.**

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## Welcome to worship

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Education Hour Sundays at 9:00am

All Services Live on our YouTube Channel

Address service requested

