

February 2018

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,

I want to invite you to be a part of a journey this Lent. We are going to spend our midweek and Holy Week Services learning about the different cities that Jesus walked through on his way to the cross in Jerusalem. I invite you to join us for midweek worship at 7 pm, and for soup suppers on the Wednesdays that those take place.

Sometimes during Lent, we give things up like alcohol or sweets or Facebook. This year during Lent, I am going to invite you to add a spiritual practice. As a congregation, we are going to see if we can walk/run/bike/swim/pray our way from Thompson to Jerusalem. In the coming days there will be information packets available for how you can be a part of this adventure.

The goal of participating in such an undertaking is to recognize that our physical bodies are connected to our spiritual lives, and that we need to treat our bodies well to be healthy in body, mind, and spirit.

We recognize that not everyone can walk or swim or jog, so there are options for those who might need them. You can work on increasing your time reading the scriptures, or time spent in prayer. You can increase your activity in any form (we will measure both by miles and minutes depending on your activity). All ages of Saint Matthew's are encouraged to participate in this adventure. Eventually a map will be available to show you our progress as a whole.

The information packets will be available the first Sunday in Lent, February 18. You can begin tracking miles and minutes on Ash Wednesday, February 14. Stay tuned for more details on how to do just that! If this is a project that excites you, I encourage you to be a part of the mileage team...this group of people will help us know where we are, brainstorm new ways to get miles, and offer suggestions if you are feeling stuck. Talk to me if you are interested in being on the mileage team.

Midweek worship will begin with Ash Wednesday...this year that takes place on February 14, Valentine's Day. That may seem like an odd day for Lent to begin, but Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day do go together-it is a day we are reminded how much we are loved by God who sent his Son to save us and give us eternal life.

So in this month of Love and Lent dear friends, may you be reminded that you are loved, you are forgiven, and you are made for a purpose. May this Lent be a season of remembering how loved you are, and taking some time to deepen your relationship with the God who loves you more than you can possibly imagine.

Pastor Amy

LYO-Youth Group

Youth Group Students – **LYO will meet on February 7th.** We hope everyone is enjoying the LYO students participating in Sunday service the 3rd Sunday of every month. Our kids are doing a fabulous job and hopefully everyone in the congregation enjoys seeing them be active in Sunday service. **We will be serving Soup for the February 28th Soup Supper.**

We would ask that all of our LYO attendees bring a kettle or crockpot of soup on that evening to share with the congregation before Lenten service.



We want your dimes!!! Feed My Starving Children will be collecting dimes until April 1st to donate to the Mobile Packing Event in Grand Forks. We are trying to fill a 2 liter bottle with dimes. A filled bottle will raise over \$500 and provide more than 2, 272 meals. Please check your pockets and purses and leave us your dimes. Thank you.

Education

The Sunday School Kids will be singing during Worship on Sunday January 28th and February 25th.

All Sunday School Kids are welcome to join us for Movie Sunday on February 18th at 9am. There will be a movie, craft and snack provided!

Worship

Greetings from the Worship Team!

Well, January proved to be very interesting weather wise and has led us to dreaming of Spring...



On that note, watch the bulletin for the Easter Flower order form. With that, we will be starting the Lenten Season on Feb 14th with Ash Wednesday.

The Worship Assistants for February are:

Adam & Jen Bohlman family

Blake & Gretchen Guetter family

Mark & Beth Kurz family

Darin & Angie Praska family

Troy & Sheila Wilson family

We thank you in advance for all of your assistance!

Valorie Uhlir 701-739-2554

Happy Birthday in February!

- 2 Summer Pearson
- 4 Logan Bischoff
- 6 Wendy Ackerman
- 7 Boone Guetter
- 9 Nora Berberich
- 10 Tim Hegg
- 13 Rachel Suckut
Zachary Suckut
- 15 Carmen Bohlman, Andy Naas
- 17 Lyla Schumacher
- 19 Cathy Buettner-Haugen
Don Mayers
- 22 Chris Naas,
Alexander Starcevic,
Kennedy Stevens
- 25 Steve Evanson,
Linda Schumacher
- 28 Jordyn Fossum

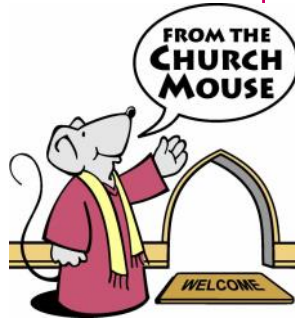
Ongoing Ministries

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:

- Trinity B, and John S for helping us get through the end of the year financials
- The Krogfoss family for providing the Christmas tree in the sanctuary
- All who purchased Christmas poinsettias
- Sarah K, Sara M, Dawn Z, Bridget P, Sonia G, Dara F, Bre B, Ruth W, Stacy P, Doris C, Kara W, and Amy B for providing cakes for our Annual Church Birthday Party!
- Thanks to Sarah K for the awesome idea of Frozen Fest, and to all who helped make it happen!

Thanks to all who participate in the ministry of Saint Matthew's! We appreciate you!



MEN IN MISSION St. Matthew's men gather each Sunday morning at 9 am for a chance to chat, drink coffee and learn together. Their topics of discussion vary. 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 Feb 27 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 February 19 at Kay Lindell's House For a copy of the book they are studying, contact the church office at 599-2081.

Donut making day will be Saturday, February 17.

If you have signed up to bring ingredients, please have them at the church by Noon on Friday, February 16. This is important as some ingredients must be set out the night before. You can bring your items any time prior to Noon on the 16th. Please put the items in the tote on the kitchen cupboard or in the fridge and cross your name off the sign up sheet. If you have signed up to bring something, please be sure to bring it.

If you would like to help make donuts or bring some ingredients, please sign your name to the sheets on the bulletin board next to Pastor Amy's office.

Fresh donuts will be for sale starting at 11:00 on the 17th. They will also be sold at the first two fish fries.



Pastor Amy's Office Hours for January:

Monday: Office Hours by Appointment

Tuesday: 11:00 am-1:00 pm

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 (near Choice Fitness)





St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Meeting December 10, 2017

IN ATTENDANCE: John Schumacher, Roy Olson, Val Uhler, Pastor Amy, Paul Strande, Beth Kurz, Darwin Potter, Sara Munson, Sharon Gustafson

ABSENT: Dianne Lundgren, Alicia Schumacher

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by John at approximately 11:27 am.

LITURGY: Pastor Amy led the Church Council in prayer.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Item 1 under new business, "Additional Leave for Pastor Amy", was removed and replaced with a new item, "Discuss Giving Opportunities through ELCA and Lutheran Social Services".

In addition, the "Finalize Budget" item was moved to just before the discussion of Pastor Amy's compensation.

The item titled "Memorial Requests" was changed to "Memorial Board".

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

MINUTES APPROVAL

No changes were made to the minutes from the November 12 Council Meeting.

Motion: Darwin motioned to approve the November 12 meeting minutes. Sara seconded. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

John summarized the financial reports for November. General Giving Income was \$10,459.79. Net Income for November was \$526.82. As of November 30, the General Giving Checking account balance was at \$3469.65. Special Giving Net Income for November was \$434.29. The Special Giving Checking account balance was at \$42,775.68.

John mentioned that we need to figure out how we handle the accounts when we double-pay items and the money is returned. Although we are over budget in a few areas, overall, we expect to come in under budget in many areas.

We discussed at the Exec Team meeting about getting rid of the miscellaneous fund and instead setting up special accounts for miscellaneous items. That makes it easier to keep track of funds or donations that are designated for a specific purpose not covered by existing accounts. Paul asked what is going on with the sound system. John said we will have speakers installed before next Sunday. We need to get that project finished up since we have money in the account.

Roy asked about the food pantry. We have a lot of money in that account. We discussed whether or not we can donate some of that money to the food pantry, or to another organization in need.

We need to revisit the idea of establishing a food pantry board since the money comes in from St. Jude's and other communities, and every donating community should have a say in how the money is spent. However, if we are unable to find people willing to serve as board members from each donating entity/community, then ultimately the organization is set up under St. Matthews and we have responsibility for the food pantry.

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

CALENDAR REVIEW

Annual reports were due today. John asked that the team leads finish them if they haven't already done so. The annual meeting date is January 28. The backup date is February 4.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Nothing to add. 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: They held the festival of tables. It went well. Sara wasn't sure how much money was raised, but estimated that it was close to a few thousand dollars.

Men's Club: The fish fry is coming up, so they will start preparing for that.

TEAM REPORTS

Executive: John Schumacher – The executive team met with all the church employees to conduct the annual reviews. We got some good feedback from everyone. The executive team also had a meeting on November 6 to review the 2018 budget, the building use form, the ministry assistant position criteria and the letter that Pastor Amy drafted for sending to inactive members of the church.

Education: Alicia Schumacher – Absent.

Fellowship: Sara Munson – They had a great dinner with the church-wide future planning meeting. There was some great feedback from members of the congregation during the event. We have lots of leftover smoked pork, which might be served during annual meeting. The next event will be the birthday bash.

Outreach: Sharon Gustafson – In October the food pantry fed 7 families with a total food weight of 356 pounds. In November, 10 families were fed, totaling 550 pounds of food. We just finished the Angel Tree and it was a great success. Lots of gifts were given to families in need.

Properties: Roy Olson – He is going to talk to Bill about installing the speakers before next week.

Worship: Val Uhlir – Nothing new to report. They have lots of flowers coming in, so they will do a little more decorating.

Youth: Paul Strande – They added a LYO event at the end of November. They are also doing another event this Wednesday – an ugly sweater event with white elephant gift giving. Attendance continues to be great.

OLD BUSINESS

Memorial Board

We had previously discussed having a memorial board for those families who want to recognize memorial donations made by family members. The memorial board will look like a tree with 24 plates for family names. We will recognize the item and year, but not the exact amount given. Val was wondering how far back we should go. If there is already a plaque up recognizing someone's donation, they will not be recognized on the new board. The total cost for the board is about \$500. We currently have 2 families that will have plates on the new board. Paul and Darwin will take care of building the board to mount the tree. The memorial board will be paid for with the remaining funds in the sign account.

Motion: Sharon motioned to approve the Memorial Board. Sara seconded. Motion carried.

Review of Constitutional Amendments

John paged through the amendments and didn't see anything really concerning. Our options for this include either adopting all amendments, or keeping our current constitution and not updating it.

However, if we don't update the constitution now, it can be a big task to update it at a later date.

At this point, we need to vote on whether or not to send it on to the congregation.

Pastor Amy read through the constitution and felt that it will be good in the long run, although she thinks that there will need some updating within the next 3 to 4 years. She doesn't like the fact that a Pastor would now be titled a Minister of Word and Sacrament.

It is important that the congregation looks at this and decides on what to do. If we continuously decide not to make the changes, then at some point we are splitting ourselves off from the ELCA. The last time we updated our constitution, it hadn't been updated in 20 years and was a huge task to go through and revise it.

Motion: Darwin motioned that we accept the changes of the constitution and bring it forward to the congregation. Sara seconded. Motion carried.

Finalize Budget

Moved to New Business.

Ministry Assistant Position Update

We had several people express interest, although only 1 filled out the paperwork. We are aiming for 10 to 12 hours a week initially; however, we included a little extra in the budget to pay for the person to help out additionally if needed.

We are going to send the position announcement to Job Services and possibly look at advertising in other spots. Currently it is only posted on Facebook and on the church website. If we need a small amount of funds for advertising, that's not a problem.

The executive team will meet to discuss this further.

Property Use Form

Copies of an example property use form were handed out at the last meeting. John asked if everyone had a chance to look at it. No one had any additional changes.

Motion: Roy moved to approve the property use form. Paul Seconded. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss Giving Opportunities through ELCA and Lutheran Social Services

The Eastern ND Synod of the ELCA is an organization soliciting funding for various causes through their "Make Mission Happen" program. Money can be pledged by church members or as an entire church.

Lutheran Social Services is also looking for donations. We have never donated to them in the past. We don't have extra funding for Mission Support at this time, but it's something to consider. John suggested that we wait to see where we decide to send next year's mission funds.

Finalize Budget

We've increased the budget by \$6500 without adding anything additional to Pastor Amy's compensation. John is thinking that we should increase the budget for the Ministry Assistant position. All expenses are listed. Benevolence funds are paid out periodically throughout the year based on months where our expenses aren't too high. Some of the categories increased slightly, including most of the special team budgets, but many categories remained the same. Historically, WELCA used to pay for the bibles, but this year it was paid out of the Education Fund, which is one of the reasons why they exceeded their budget so much. Darwin suggested that the bible expense remains in the Education Fund and if WELCA sees fit to donate towards that, they can. It's important to keep the bibles included outright in the budget so that we don't have to worry about figuring out where to come up with those funds. There are a lot of expenses (other than bibles) that are covered in the Education fund and they have historically been under funded.

Pastor Amy's Compensation

Pastor Amy stepped out of the room while we discussed her compensation. She did mention that she anticipates exceeding the current amount budgeted for mileage.

Darwin suggested a flat 2.5% salary increase. Pastor Amy does not want her housing budget increased. If we increase her salary, we also need to adjust her social security reimbursement, since it is common for employers to pay a portion of their employee's social security benefits. We pay 50% of her social security. Her benefit package will also increase, although there was already a large increase from 2017 to 2018 expenses based on Portico's online calculator.

Motion: Paul motioned to increase her salary by 2.5% (to \$45,100) and her social security and benefits package accordingly, and increase her mileage to \$3180 for the year. Darwin seconded. Motion carried. The request will be brought forward to the congregation during the Annual Meeting.

John also mentioned that at the 2017 annual meeting there was a discussion about reimbursing Pastor Amy for filling in for the Administrative Assistant Position if a replacement could not be found. We did not find someone to fill the AA position, and Pastor Amy assumed a lot of those responsibilities. The majority of the funding for that position is still in the account. John opened this up for discussion to see if we wanted to make a decision on whether or not to compensate Pastor Amy for the additional duties she assumed in 2017.

Motion: Beth motioned that we reimburse Pastor Amy \$4000 for her role as an Administrative Assistant over 2017. Sharon seconded. There was additional discussion about what a fair compensation amount would be. Many in the group felt like \$4000 was too much. All in favor: 1. All opposed: 7. Motion failed.

There was additional discussion about the topic. Darwin felt that Pastor Amy should at least be reimbursed for her mileage. The group felt that she should be reimbursed for taking on additional responsibility, but that \$4000 was too much. Darwin felt that \$100 per month for a total of \$1200 was more reasonable.

Motion: Darwin motioned that Pastor Amy be reimbursed \$1200 for her role in assuming some of the administrative assistant duties, some of which will be paid for out of the Administrative Assistant mileage fund. Paul seconded. Motion carried.

Motion: Sharon motioned adjourn the meeting. Paul seconded. Motion carried.
Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 1:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, *Beth Kurz*

Next meeting January 21 at 11:30 am.

Coming to Saint Matthew's...

Come and learn! This Lenten season, as a congregation we will be walking from Thompson to Jerusalem. The Walk to Jerusalem is an imaginary walk that encourages walkers, runners, and those who choose other forms of exercise to increase physical activity, spiritual growth, and cultural awareness.

We invite ALL of St. Matthew's members 6th Grade and up to join us on Feb 25 at 9 am for our official kick off of our Walking to Jerusalem Program.

Those who want to join our walk should pick up a packet on Feb 25 at church. Packets include a mileage log, devotions, and other information.

Persons of all ages and abilities may participate. Participation is not limited to Saint Matthew's members. In fact, we need as many people as possible to participate and record their mileage each week. That will help us make the more than 6,000 mile journey to Jerusalem!

There will also be other ways to get your miles... for example, 20 minutes of reading scripture equals a mile, **attending worship, singing hymns, praying...** all of these things will be part of the miles that get us to Jerusalem!

So come and join us for DIGG on Feb 25 and be a part of our journey!

Come and get some tips from Jennifer Haugen, a local nutritionist that morning, pick up your passport for recording your walking, and maybe some other fun goodies too! We hope you will join our walk! Talk to Pastor Amy if you have any questions, and remember that recording miles can begin on Ash Wednesday, Feb 14, the first day of Lent!



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.
Sunday School at 9 a.m.

Address service requested

ST. MATTHEW'S LEADERSHIP thru Jan 28, 2018

New leadership to be elected on Jan 28, 2018

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
bethanykurz73@gmail.com	
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	

Our Annual Meeting will be held on January 28th after worship. There will also be a potluck that day. In case of inclement weather, we will meet on February 4th.

