

February 2019

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 enter into another year of ministry together, and welcome in some new folks into leadership, I want to first say thank you. Thank you for your hard work, your dedication and care for Saint Matthew's, and your love for one another. It is a joy and blessing to be your pastor.

As we prepare to enter into the heart of February, I wanted to offer up some chances for you to renew your spirit in these deep winter days.

For 6th-12th Graders, we are braving the cold weather and hitting the slopes at **Giant's Ridge** in Biwabik, Minnesota. **March 8-10**, we will be heading to the Iron Range for a fun weekend of skiing, fellowship, and worship with one of my former congregations. For more info, come pick up a packet outside the church office.

For women, we are offering a **day retreat** on Saturday, **March 23** with an optional overnight. Come get away for the day and renew your heart and your spirit with other women from the area. Take some time to rest, fellowship, and maybe do a little pampering too. Cost for the day is \$50 and more info is available at the church office.

Some of you have been asking for more **Bible Study**. We are exploring options for this and would love to hear from you. Would you like a day time study? An evening or weekend option? An online version that you could plug in to at your own leisure? Let us know how we can help feed that part of your spirit as well.

Another way to renew your spirit would be open for anyone. Come join us on Wednesday mornings for **Responsive Prayer**. This group meets at 7:00 am each Wednesday, prays together, and then shares coffee and conversation until about 7:30 am. This is a great chance to connect with others from church and re-center yourself for the rest of the week.

In these cold, dark winter days, our spirits are sometimes stretched and tested. If you just need a friend to commiserate about the cold and offer you **conversation** and a good cup of **coffee**, I am always game for that as well, and would welcome a chance to chat. You can line that up by calling or texting me at 218-290-3982.

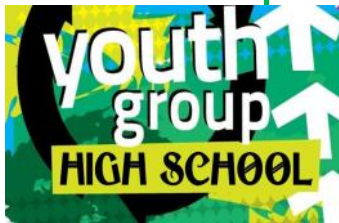
However you choose to renew and rest in this winter season dear ones, know you are not alone. We truly thank God that we get to be church family with you, and journey beside you.

May God bless you and keep you this month my friends, and may his love for you be evident!

Pastor Amy

LYO-Youth Group

Youth Group Students – LYO will meet on February 13th and 27th. We hope everyone is enjoying the LYO students participating in Sunday service. Our kids are doing a fabulous job and hopefully everyone in the congregation enjoys seeing them be active in Sunday service. We've had wonderful turnouts and have a great group of kids that come on Wednesday evenings. Pastor Amy is planning the annual ski trip in March for the weekend of the 8th-10th. This is for all kids grades 6-12, please contact her if interested in going on this trip.



Put Hunger in a Vortex!!

Donate your dimes to Feed My Starving Children. Please check out our jar in the church narthex

and give your dimes a spin on the vortex. 2 dimes=1 meal. Let's see how many meals for the hungry we can provide!

Join us for our 2nd Annual Frozen Fest on Sunday, Feb 24th at 11:00am! Our planned activities include an indoor snowball fight, gaga pit, mini gaga, kids snowflake & picture frame crafts, photo booth, winter movies and our first ever soup competition! The soups will be submitted by our church teams. Come, bring your appetite, and vote for the winner of the 'Golden Ladle'!



Education

The Sunday School Kids will be singing during Worship on Sunday January 27th and February 25th.

All Sunday School Kids are welcome to join us for Movie Sunday on February 17th at 9am. There will be a movie, craft and snack provided!

Happy Birthday in February!

- 2 Summer Pearson
- 4 Logan Bischoff, Blake Schultz
- 6 Wendy Ackerman
- 7 Boone Guetter
- 9 Nora Berberich
- 10 Tim Hegg
- 15 Carmen Bohlman, Andy Naas
- 17 Lyla Schumacher
- 19 Cathy Buettner-Haugen
Don Mayers
Dave Lopez, Chris Naas,
- 22 Alexander Starcevic,
Kennedy Stevens
Steve Evanson,
- 25 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:

- All who purchased Christmas poinsettias
- For providing cakes for our Annual Church Birthday Party!
- Travis F for connecting the 3rd tv in the Rosendahl Room
- Gary W for building the computer desk in the Sanctuary

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



We are looking for some folks to participate in dramatic reading during the Weds Mid-Week Lenten Services and Holy Week. Do you like to read in worship?

We have scripts available.

If you are willing to participate, talk to Deb DeMoe today! Deb's number is 701-740-4957 if you want more info.



We will be making donuts on Saturday, February 23, starting at 8:00 am. There will be sign-up sheets for ingredients and workers on the bulletin board by the offices.

If you have any questions, please talk to Sandy Olson or Amy Bergeron.



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 7 at 6:30 pm at Olive Garden. 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 18 at Kay Lindell's House For a copy of the book they are studying, contact the church office at 599-2081.

Pastor Amy's Office Hours for February:

Monday: Office Hours by Appointment

Tuesday: 9:30 am-11:30 am

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 (by Choice)



Greetings!

The Outreach team is gearing up for our annual 'God's Work Our Hands' event in April. We have lots of great activities planned for those who stay during worship time to work on projects. In order to make the event a success, we are collecting donations for supplies during the month of February. We will have a valentine treat tree at the church and those who wish to participate are invited to choose a valentine from the tree. Each valentine will include a treat and a list of requested items needed to complete the planned projects for GWOH. We ask that those who pick a valentine have their items returned by Sunday, February 24th. GWOH is a great way for us to have a positive impact to those outside our doors; thank you in advance for making it another great success!



Many Blessings,
The Outreach Team

Worship



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.

February

- Dylan & Sara Anderson Family
- Mark & Kristie Adams Family
- Tony & Paula Amborn Family
- Joshua & Tessa Clemetson Family
- Tim & Dena Hegg Family
- Jon & Junelle Hjelmstad Family
- Jeremy & Beth Hughes
- Trent & Tracie Ivesdal Family
- Brian & Joey Overby Family
- Brock & Ashley Vaagene Family

March

- Barry & Cheryl Arntz
- Carmen Bohlman
- Craig Bohlman
- John & Robyn Bohlman Family
- Ken Dobmeier
- Susan Dobmeier
- Scott & Jill Kuster Family
- Mickey & Sara Munson Family
- Sue Simon
- James & Suzy Thorson



COUNCIL MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE: Pastor Amy, Darwin Potter, Tracie Ivesdal, Paul Strande, Beth Kurz, Roy Olson, Alicia Schumacher, Sara Munson

ABSENT: James Thorson, Deb DeMoe, Sarah Krogfoss

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by Darwin at 11:25 a.m.

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

AGENDA APPROVAL

No modifications were made to the agenda. **Motion:** Beth moved approve the agenda as amended. Paul seconded. Motion carried.

MINUTES APPROVAL

A modification was made to the wording under "Education Team" reports. It was noted that Alicia was preparing for First Communion, not Confirmation. **Motion:** Paul motioned to approve the December 16th Church Council meeting minutes as modified. Sara seconded. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTSS

Tracie summarized the financial reports for December. General Giving income for December was \$28,990.66. Net income was \$14,744.08. As of December 31, the General Giving checking account balance was at \$9,119.58. The Special Giving checking account balance was at \$29,548.74. Net income for 2018 was negative \$8,821.32. With the end-of-the-year increase in giving we were able to completely pay off our line of credit. Our income was much less than anticipated; however, expenses were also less than planned, thus our net income for the year wasn't as bad as it could have been. **Motion:** Roy moved to approve the Financial Reports. Sara seconded. Motion carried.

CALENDAR REVIEW

Several additions were made to the agenda. The kids ski trip is March 8 – 10. The Women's Retreat is scheduled for March 23 and 24. The Fish Fry events are March 15, March 29 and April 12. 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: Nothing new to report.

WELCA: Donut making will be coming up on February 23rd. Also there is a Welca meeting on February 3rd.

TEAM REPORTS

Executive: Darwin Potter – Nothing new to report.

Education: Alicia Schumacher – They had a movie day today. They are gearing up for First Communion.

Fellowship: Sara Munson – The Birthday Bash was very successful. We had a great turnout. Chelsea Lupien has agreed to be the Fellowship Team Lead. Ruth Waller and Sara will remain on the team. They are planning a Bunco family day in March and a High Tea event for the women in May.

Outreach: Sarah Krogfoss – Darwin reported on behalf of Sarah. The Outreach Team has purchased DVDs for the congregation to check out on Sundays. Topics include things such as marriage, relationships, faith, etc... February 24th will be Frozen Fest which will include kids activities as well as a soup competition. The winner of the soup completion will receive the coveted Golden Ladle trophy.

Food Pantry: Sarah Krogfoss – Darwin gave a report for Sarah. In December 317 pounds of food were supplied to 8 households. They served 22 households over the year during 2018.

Properties: Roy Olson – Nothing new to report.

Worship: Deb DeMoe – Darwin reported on behalf of Deb. She wants to thank everyone who is going off council for everything they have done and to thank those that are staying.

Youth: Paul Strande – They had 1 LYO event since Christmas and one event is coming up this week. It was better this month trying to find kids to read during worship.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Church Check Up Ideas- Darwin asked the team leads about the suggestions based on the feedback that was received during the Church Check Up meetings.

Sara mentioned that through **Fellowship** they are going to try and find ways to encompass the different age groups within the congregation.

Roy mentioned that the **Properties Team** has been discussing church security. So far they have been focused on addressing the parking lot lights. A few of the lights have been fixed already and the parking lot is much brighter now. Roy also reminded everyone that we need to switch out the combination on the key pad. That will be done around the 3rd week of February (once all the new Council positions are in place). Roy also asked how Vione and Pastor Amy feel about having the door unlocked while they are here. Pastor Amy stated that it depends on everyone's comfort level. She leaves the door unlocked; however, some groups or individuals will lock the door while they are here. Pastor Amy mentioned that there used to be an electronic buzzer that would go off when the door was opened, but it doesn't work anymore. Roy asked if we should be more concerned about security. Darwin and Pastor Amy mentioned that the Church should remain unlocked during office hours, otherwise it will be up to the individuals or teams that meet here after hours as to whether or not the building should be locked. The Properties Team also discussed the special funds for emergencies, such as furnace repairs. He mentioned that in the past if a big expense comes up, an announcement is made during worship and the congregation usually steps up to fill the void. Darwin felt that it's better to ask for the money when needed rather than have a special fund set up for emergencies.

Paul mentioned that they don't really have any issues or things that need to be addressed on the **Youth Team**.

There wasn't a whole lot of input on the **Education** side of things, except notification of upcoming events. Alicia mentioned that they already send notices home and there is an online education calendar. The education team isn't sure what else they can do.

Darwin mentioned that in a few months (or mid-year), the Church Council should revisit the recommendations that we received from the Church Check Up meetings. He was going to mention this to James.

2. Annual Congregational Meeting -Everything was turned in and the Annual Report is complete. Hard copies of the report were made available to the Congregation today. Darwin asked the Council to review the income and expense report to make sure everything looked good and made sense. There was some discussion about the difference in the total budgeted expenses for 2018 between what is listed in the Annual report versus the budget sheets provided to the Council. The Council's budget summary sheets list heat and gas as \$6000 when it should be listed as \$3000. The amount listed in the annual report is correct.

3. Youth Team Credit Card

Paul decided that he would like to pursue the youth team credit card. He has had to purchase a lot of supplies for LYO activities in the past few months for which he has to submit reimbursement requests. In addition, Paul feels bad asking Vione to go get a lot of supplies, especially heavy ones such as large cases of drinks for the kids. Plus he dislikes asking her to run to Sam's club for one or two small items. There was some discussion about how to proceed with this and whether we need to adjust the line of credit on the card. Paul said the most he would need in a month is \$250 to \$300. Tracie thought that it would be easy just to get a card issued in Paul's name without increasing the credit amount.

Motion: Beth motioned to support issuing of a credit card to the Youth Team lead (Paul). Alicia seconded. The line of credit will remain the same on the credit card for now. Tracie mentioned that she will need the minutes from today's meeting to enact this change with the bank. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Locking Doors

There have been issues with the kitchen door being unlocked. Just a reminder to please make sure the door is locked when exiting that door.

2. WiFi Administrator

Darwin would like to have someone assigned as a WiFi administrator. He is willing to help resolve issues if any come up, but he was wondering if we could find someone on one of the teams to help here. It shouldn't be a lot of work, but we should have a person responsible for this.

3. Audit Review

The audit team performed their annual review. They focused on the general giving accounting to make sure the numbers added up because general giving income was so low. Everything checked out on that account. They also reviewed all of the line of credit expenses, which were also accurate. They discussed needing to update our inventory of equipment and property. This was brought up the last time they did their review. They would like any church property above \$250 to be included. For example, Roy mentioned that we should include the lawn mower and church tables and chairs that are out in the shed. Darwin suggested that every team could help by inventorying the equipment/property for a room to which they are assigned. The estimated replacement value for the equipment/property also needs to be included.

4. Council Meeting Dates

The suggested date for the next meeting is February 17th at 1:00 p.m. The meeting will be a retreat. James will be in touch with everyone on the exact time.

Darwin concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their help and service this past year.

Motion: Roy motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sara seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting closed at 12:27 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Kurz

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

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
Tracie Ivesdal Council Treasurer tivesdal@msn.com
Sarah Krogfoss Outreach Team smartin@polarcomm.com
Chelsea Lupien Fellowship Team chelsea.lupien@und.edu
Duane Naas Properties Team dnaas@sterlingcarpetone.com
Bre Berberich Education Team berberich@midco.net
Paul Strande Youth Team pstrande59@gmail.com
Deb DeMoe Worship Team dedem831@gmail.com

Frozen Fest is coming!

Feb 24th at 11 am!

Indoor snowball fight,
gaga pit, crafts, and
more!

Come for the golden
ladle competition,
stay for the fun!

