

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

Building Relationships in 2021

Matthew 9 & 10

³⁵Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

10:⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' ⁸Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. [⁹Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, ¹⁰no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. ¹¹Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. ¹²As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town.

Relationships are at the center of God's mission in the world. We were created to be in relationship with God and with each other.

In the reading above, Jesus sends the disciples out on mission. It says that as he went from city to city preaching the good news and curing diseases, he saw the people in those places and was filled with compassion for them. Then he sends out the disciples to go from place to place to help and serve the people there. He invites them to take nothing with them but to go and form relationships with people in those places, who in turn will host and provide for them.

He uses examples from daily life that we all can relate to here in North Dakota. The harvest is already plentiful, he says, but laborers are needed for work in the fields of daily life. That's where you and I come in.

Our world today is a big field in need of laborers to tend to it. There is a lot going on from wars, violence, racial injustices, poverty, and brokenness.

What are we to do?

Our faith invites us to go out into the world and share God's peace with those in turmoil. Our worship sends us out to love and serve those in need. We are invited to let our conversations and actions be shaped by the good news. To speak love and share the joy of salvation. To remind others that God loves them, and nothing can ever change that fact. To extend Christ's peace wherever we find ourselves. Peace that passes all understanding. And to share our bread with the hungry. Those who hunger for food as well as those who hunger for healing, love, validation, and worth.

May 2021 be a year of building relationships and reaching out. Happy New Year!

Pastor Tawanda

Education



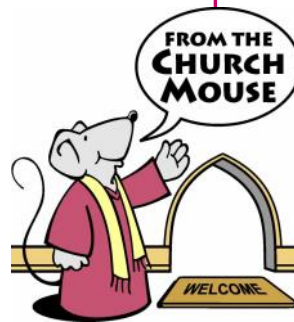
Sunday School is back in person!! They will continue to meet on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Join us then!!

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.
- Snow removal team.
- Everyone who helped with worship the past year and especially during the holidays.
- Outgoing Council members for their guidance.
- Incoming Council members for sharing their talents with us.

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



Happy Birthday in February!

- 1 Charlee Johnson, Summer Pearson
- 3 Samuel Riewer
- 4 Logan Bischoff, Blake Schultz
- 6 Wendy Ackerman
- 7 Boone Guetter
- 9 Nora Berberich, Mike Uhlir
- 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
- 25 Isaac Riewer,
Linda Schumacher
- 28 Jordyn Fossum

Ongoing Ministries

MEN IN MISSION

St. Matthew's men gather each Sunday morning at 9 am via Zoom and in-person 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!

WELCA BIBLE STUDY This group has been meeting for Bible Study the third Monday of the month in the Rosendal Room. Stay tuned for more information.

Worship

Happy New Year to You All!

I hope that you were able to enjoy your holidays in a SAFE but festive way! We here at St. Matthew's did all we could to offer a safe worship event. I hope that you were able to enjoy the services with us. IF NOT, the time is drawing closer that we will all be together again.

THANK YOU TO ALL THAT HAVE ASSISTED WITH SERVICES! 2020 was a challenge! Your willingness to answer the call is very much appreciated!

As we get back together, we will still be needing help with the services. Please look at the service listings each month and sign up for your month.

We encourage you to check out the Worship Team and offer your talents as new team members are always welcome

We look forward to seeing you in the new year. Here's to a great 2021 and spending time with each other again.

Until then, BE SAFE!

The Worship Team



February

Mark Adams Family
D. Anderson Family
T. Amborn Family
Ashley Breidenbach Family
J. Clemetson Family
J. Hjelmstad Family
J. Hughes Family

March

B. Arntz Family
J. Bohlman Family
K. Dobmeier Family
S. Dobmeier
S. Kuster Family
S. Simon
J. Thorson Family



Congratulations to Anthony and Christina Connole on the baptism of their daughter

Jocelyn Rae. Jocelyn was baptized on January 23, 2021. Her sponsors are Kevin & Danelle Wolnik and Justin & Becca Trainer.

Welcome into our family Jocelyn!

Congratulations to Pastor Tawanda and Bethany Klemetsrud on their engagement! Best wishes for a lifetime of love and happiness!!





January Council Meeting minutes January 17, 2021

Meeting attendance

Present: Pastor Tawanda Paul Strande, Scott Kuster, Valorie Uhlir, Chelsea Lupien, Steve Hancock, Kevin Cooper, Duane Naas, Brook Fretheim

Absent Bre Berberich, Angie Muhs

Meeting called to order 11:10 am

Opening prayer and devotion

Paul thanked everybody for their hard work and thanked Pastor for his leadership.

Scott asked that the Employee handbook passages 4.3 be added to the agenda under new business.

Scott made the motion to approve the updated agenda and Steve seconded the motion. MPU

Approved minutes for December's meeting. Steve made the motion and Brook seconded the motion, MPU

Financial Reports:

General Giving Income for December was \$14,661.31. As of Dec 31st, the General Giving checking account balance is \$16,126.98 while the Payment Protection Program balance is \$0.00. Special Funds checking balance is \$25,684.79. Our line of credit balance is \$0. YTD income is \$18,273.83 of which \$21,600.00 is from the Payment Protection Program. The whole PPP loan has been forgiven.

Scott made motion to approve the report and Val seconded the motion. MPU

Pastor's Report:

Pastor thanked the council for the work during this year. It was a challenging year but was very happy to be at St. Matthews.

Calendar Review:

Next Council Meeting will Be February 21st at 11:05 am after church service. Ash Wednesday Service will be February 17th at 7:00 pm. Lenten Services will start following Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Men's Fish Fry is scheduled for February 26th.

Men's Club: Fish Fry is scheduled Friday February 26th

WELCA: No update

Vitality: On hold

Executive Team:

Paul and Scott met with Jamie on 1/9/2021 and did employee review.

Education Team:

Sunday School starts on January 24th and confirmation starts on January 27th. Pastor will lead the curriculum for confirmation.

Fellowship: No update

Outreach: No update

Food Pantry:

705 lbs. to 9 households

Property: No update

Worship:

Ash Wednesday service will be on February 17th and Lenten Service to follow. Planning Maundy Thursday and 2 Easter Services.

Youth:

Will Start January 27th and do Tie blankets for foster care.

Old Business:

Discussed Annual report, 2021 Budget and no changes needed will be voted on at Annual Meeting. There were question on property taxes paid and Jamie will be available to answer questions at the Annual meeting. January 31st would be the backup date if January 24th meeting did not occur.

Discussed the list of items from Scott Landa and will keep the items for now and see if a display case could be created to display some of the items.

New Business:

Articles for Newsletter are due tomorrow. A better desk was discussed for the computers in the sanctuary since they are a permanent part of worship now.

Employee hand book under 4.3 it states:

Employees of this Church will receive a performance review from their personnel officer six months after their hire date, to discuss performance, provide feedback, or modify objectives. At the discretion of the employee's personnel officer, the employee may also receive a performance review after three months of employment. The personnel officer will monitor the schedule and process for performance reviews and a copy of the completed review will become a part of the employee's personnel file.

A change to make it Employees of this Church will receive a performance review from their personnel officer and the Executive Team six months after their hire date, to discuss performance, provide feedback, or modify objectives.

The payroll new dates will be updated under section 9.5. The Sabbatical will be added to 9.12.

Closing Prayer (Lord's Prayer)

Val made the motion to end the meeting Scott seconded the motion. MPU

Respectively Submitted by Scott Kuster



Congratulations and thank you to all incoming Church Council members. Thank you for your willingness to share your talents with St. Matthew's. New Council members are Ryan Welsh, Robyn Bohlman, Sarah Krogfoss, and Sara Munson. Continuing on the Council are Paul Strande, Scott Kuster, Duane Naas, Valorie Uhlir, Steve Hancock and Brook Fretheim.

As we say thank you to outgoing Church Council members, please know that your work on the Council has been greatly appreciated. Thank you Kevin Cooper, Angie Muhs, Bre Berberich and Chelsea Lupien.

God's Blessings to All!

Blessings to everyone who contributed to this year's Angel Tree Project! You are indeed the hands and feet of Christ! Several area families were gifted by your generosity. A special thank you to the Men's Club for donating gift cards to each family. They were greatly appreciated. Thank you also to WELCA for sponsoring the last two angels on the tree. Brook Fretheim for setting up the SignUp Genius page which made it so much easier to donate in this time of distancing. Thank you Brook.

There were many smiles, tears and hugs of gratitude that are passed along to all of you.

God bless,
Rita West, and Julie Brorby



Thank you

Thank you to all who have donated financially to St. Matthew's the past year. Your giving is greatly appreciated.

Pastor Tawanda's Office Hours for February:

He is available to meet with you any time.

Please note that he is in the office all day on Mondays and Thursdays, please feel free to stop in. Otherwise contact him to set up a time.

His day off is Friday.



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
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Welcome to worship

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

In-person and Live on our YouTube Channel

Sunday School in-person at 9 a.m.

Address service requested

ST. MATTHEW'S LEADERSHIP

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