

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

Greetings St. Mathews Friends,

I am excited to begin my time with you as your interim pastor. I felt warmly welcomed and enjoyed the energy and enthusiasm of this congregation during Lent 2022, so I expect good things to come. The agreement we have come up with for my time with you is not your typical pastoral call, so you might have some questions about why the arrangement is the way it is and how this is going to work, so let me attempt to address them.

First, you may wonder why am I being hired as an Interim? Why not just accept a position as a called pastor with no end date? This is due to my family situation and our current thoughts about our family's future. Let me tell you a bit about my family. I am married to Brian, who is a 3rd grade teacher at Ben Franklin Elementary in Grand Forks. We have a daughter, Gracia (pronounced Gray-sha), who is in her second year at St. Olaf College and a son, Micah, who is a junior at Red River High School. We are committed to staying in Grand Forks until Micah has graduated, but it is likely that we will be relocating after that. For this reason, I did not want to make myself available for a regular pastoral call but felt able to sign a contract to serve as your pastor until the end of May 2024. The church may well want to restart their call committee before I leave, and I would be very supportive of that effort and will do everything I can to help support the congregation through this process.

You may wonder how much I will be working. When I was here with you last Lent, it was primarily to provide worship leadership. At the time I was also working full time as a hospice for Hospice of the Red River Valley. For this next stretch, I plan to continue my work with hospice, but I am cutting back to only two days a week: Tuesdays and Thursdays. I will not be available for church meetings during those days but will address some church matters in the evenings when needed.

I am now contracted to work for St. Matthew's at a .8 FTE. In addition to planning and leading most worship services, I will be performing visitation, presiding at funerals or weddings, leading pre-marital counseling, baptism orientation, etc. I will be involved in helping to lead confirmation and other educational events. I will be supporting the ongoing work of the council and teams in their efforts to encourage engagement from the congregation. I may well lead book or Bible studies.

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Pastor's message continued...

It is key that we are on the same page about the limits of my role. I am not here to “take over” the work of planning or doing the ministry for the church. The primary responsibility of calling meetings and planning and leading fellowship, outreach and youth events lays with the teams, not the pastor. I will come when I can and take part, but please do not feel like you cannot move forward without my leadership. For the long-term health of St. Matthew's, it is the calling of all the people of the church to BE THE CHURCH. Be engaged, creative, forward-looking and involved! This community will be as lively and engaged as the people who are a part of it.

My plan is to generally be at the church on Mondays from 9:00-5:00 and on Wednesdays 12-8:30, unless there is a meeting or a visit I need to be at. If you would like to visit with me, it's fine to stop by during those hours, but you may want to call ahead or email me to make an appointment to make sure I am available. I will also be doing sermon writing and some planning and phone meetings off-site. Because I am not full time, I will be gone about once a month or so. On some of those Sundays, I plan to worship at the United Lutheran Church where we are members. It is good for pastors to be preached to!

Please reach out to me for any needs, questions or concerns. One of the best ways to reach me on the days I am not at the church is through my church email. It is stmattspastor@midconetwork.com. I will be checking it several times a day and will get back to you as soon as possible.

This is all an experiment and a work in progress, but then, ministry always is! I expect we will need to tweak things as we go. But if we are all flexible and are very intentional about communicating, I think we could have a fruitful and fun chapter of ministry together. That's the plan, folks. Looking forward to it!

Joyfully,

Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt



Education

Our Sunday school students will be studying the miracles of Jesus during the month of February. The last Sunday of February our 5th grade Sunday school students will begin taking their lessons to prepare them for their First Communion during Sunday school class time. Fifth grade families can expect to receive information about the classes and retreat soon. Any Confirmation students who have not yet received First Communion instruction are invited to attend the classes too!

Important dates -

No Sunday School - 2/19 & 3/19

Kid's Sing - 3/12

Palm Sunday - 4/2

First Communion Retreat for 5th Graders - 4/2

5th Graders Receive their First Communion - 4/6

Sunday school Easter egg hunt - 4/16



Thank You!

The Thompson Community Food Pantry would like to thank the area churches—East Walle, Highland, Holmes Methodist, Immanuel, NY Stavenger, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. Matthew's, St. Jude's, Walle and Zion—the many organizations, and individuals for your generous donations over the years. In addition, the youth from the churches and schools have held very successful food drives. We have received financial donations, canned goods and paper products which keep our shelves well stocked.

Thanks to all who have contributed, we have been able to serve those in need in Thompson, Buxton, and Reynolds area. With the rising cost of food, the need has gone up. The Pantry has distributed over 5,500 pounds of food to 12 to 20 families this past year. Everyone of them has expressed their appreciation many times for your generosity. And we thank St. Matthew's Church for providing a home for us. The Pantry is successful due to YOUR support. Thank you again.

Mary Mitchell and Paul Galegher, Co-Coordiators.



The Thompson Food Pantry is open on Tuesday, February 14 from 11am-1pm and Tuesday, February 28 from 6-8pm. The pantry serves the communities of Thompson, Buxton, and Reynolds. For more information on the pantry, call Mary Mitchell at 599-2870 or Paul Galegher at 741-1375.

Confirmation

Happy February!

We are so excited to welcome Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt to St. Matthew's and especially excited for her leadership in Confirmation. I met with Pastor Kristen and we have a few updates to share. Please note the following below:

1. BIBLES! Please remind your child to bring their Bible to class every week. The students will need their Bible *every Wednesday!* Seventh and eighth graders should have a Bible with a gray cover from Confirmation last year. **BRING YOUR BIBLES!**

2. Schedule updates: There were a few dates missed, especially around the Lenten season on our original schedule in the yellow Orientation folder you received. Please note the following changes:

Confirmation Class schedule through our last class on May 10.

February 1—Confirmation Class 7-8pm
February 8—Confirmation Class 7-8pm
February 15—Confirmation Class 7-8pm
February 22—Ash Wednesday—Attend worship
March 1—attend Lenten worship
March 8—attend Lenten worship
March 15—attend Lenten worship
March 22—attend Lenten worship
March 29—attend Lenten worship
April 5—no class/no worship
April 6—Maundy Thursday worship—attend if able
April 7—Good Friday worship—attend if able
April 12—Confirmation class 7-8pm
April 19—Confirmation class 7-8pm
April 26—Confirmation class 7-8pm
May 3—Confirmation class 7-8pm
May 10—Last Day Celebration 7-8pm

3. Eighth Grade Mentor Conversations: As in the past, eighth graders will be participating in Mentor Conversations during the Lenten season.

4. First Communion opportunity: any Confirmation students who haven't received his or her First Communion are invited to join the current fifth graders in their upcoming classes.

Going forward, if you have questions about Confirmation, feel free to reach out to Pastor Kristen. Jen, Trin, and Kristie are also still available to help as needed.

Thanks!
Jen Starcevic

Worship



February

Dylan & Sara Anderson Family
Mark & Kristie Adams & Bryn
Melissa Berger Family
Randy & Becky Bohlman
Ashley Breidenbach/Brock Vaagene Family
Joshua & Tessa Clemetson Family
Kodey & Kimberly Mohagen Family

March

Barry & Cheryl Arntz
John & Robyn Bohlman
Kenny & Emily Dobmeier Family
Scott & Jill Kuster & Katlyn
Sue Simon
James & Suzy Thorson
Megan Bohlman

We are looking for an organist to play for worship services.

It is a shared position along with Julie. We would love to have you be a part of our Music Team!!

Please contact a Council Member if you can help!!

Organist Needed



There are some Sunday and Wednesday services when Pastor Kristen will be off that day. These are indicated on the calendar. If you are interested in helping to lead worship and/or give the reflection/message on these days, please contact Council President John Schumacher. Pastor Kristen is happy to provide guidance if asked.

IT's TIME TO MAKE THE DONUTS!!!



WELCA

Fresh Donut Sale

February 25th

(Available starting at 10:00 am)

Where: St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Cost: \$8.00 per dozen

Pre-Order Yours Today

(Contact Heidi @ 701-740-5371)

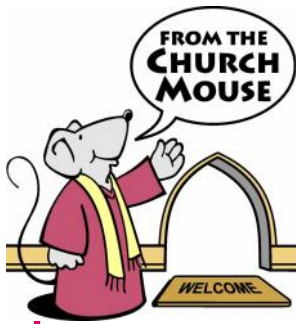


Donut making has been scheduled for Saturday, February 25, 2023!

There will be a sign up sheet posted on the church bulletin board if you would like to help that day. We usually start about 8:00 a.m. and finish around 2:00 p.m. We need help in the kitchen mixing and frying the dough and also in the cooling and bagging area. Lunch will be provided.

We are asking for donations to help with the cost of the ingredients needed. If anyone would like to make a cash donation, you can give it to either Amy or Sandy, drop it off at the church, or put it in the offering plate in an envelope marked "donuts". Amy and Sandy will purchase the ingredients.

We will have fresh donuts for sale that morning or they can be pre-ordered. Heidi Strande will be in charge of coordinating the pre-sales. If there are any donuts that are not sold, we will have them for sale at the fish fry suppers during Lent. Last year every donut was sold before the first fish fry!



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:

- Gary W for leading worship.
- Duane N and Mark K for agreeing to be our 8th Grade Confirmation Guides.
- Bre B for setting up the on-line worship assistant schedules.
- To all Council Members for their guidance the past year.

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



Congratulations to Mary Mitchell on her retirement as organist for St. Matthew's. Mary retired the end of December sharing with us 25+ years of music. Congratulations Mary!!



Happy Birthday in February!

- 1 Charlee Johnson, Summer Pearson, Morgan Connole
- 2 Austin Atkinson
- 3 Samuel Riewer
- 4 Logan Bischoff, Blake Schultz, Alex Zammert
- 6 Wendy Ackerman
- 7 Boone Guetter
- 8 Chase Bring
- 9 Nora Berberich, Mike Uhler
- 10 Tim Hegg
- 15 Andy Naas
- 16 Jocelynn Uhing
- 17 Lyla Schumacher
- 19 Cathy Buettner-Haugen, Taylor Johnson
- 21 Granger Naas
- 22 Dave Lopez, Chris Naas, 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 for a chance to chat, drink coffee and learn together. Their topics of discussion vary. New folks are always welcome to join them.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

This group meets for Bible Study the third Monday of the month at the church. Their next gathering is Monday, February 20 at 10:00 am. All are welcome!

Lent 2023 at St. Matthew's



Who
Me?

Stories of God's Unlikely Servants

Come each week to hear stories of God calling a very unusual cast of characters to the ongoing divine drama of Salvation and

Reconciliation. Families are encouraged to attend. There will be a kid's time each week.

February 22 (Ash Wednesday): Dubious David: Called to Repent

March 1: Glum Gideon: Called to Have Courage

March 8: Head-Hung-Low Hannah: Called to Persist in Prayer

March 15: MIA Moses: Called to Reluctant Leadership

March 22: Exhausted Elijah: Called to be Renewed

March 29: Judgmental Jonah: Called to Have Compassion

Soup Supper at 5:30 (except for Feb 22)

Worship at 6:30



St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Meeting

Date: January 18, 2023

In Attendance: Duane Naas, Sue Simon, Ryan Welsh, John Schumacher, Sarah Krogfoss, Beth Kurz, Robyn Bohlman, Justin Bergeron, Pastor Kristen

Absent: Chelsea Lupien, Sara Munson

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by John Schumacher at 5:35pm. Pastor Kristen led opening liturgy.

Agenda Approval: Duane Naas asked to add talking about paying for snow removal, Pastor Kristen wants to add Lent. Beth Kurz motioned to approve the agenda with additions, Sue Simon seconded the motion. MPU

Minutes Approval: Ryan Welsh motioned, Sarah Krogfoss seconded to approve the minutes. MPU

Financial Reports:

Financial Reports Summary	Novem- ber	Decem- ber
	2022	2022
General Giving Income	\$10,833	\$29,808
Year-to-Date Net Income	\$16,839	\$41,233
General Giving Checking Account	\$34,159	\$58,268
Special Giving Checking Account	\$31,697	\$32,493
Line of Credit	\$0	\$0

Took in approximately 85% of budgeted income. Expenses came in lower than budgeted also.

Approval: Duane Naas motioned to approve the financial, Sue Simon seconded. MPU

Calendar Review: Pastor Brad from the Synod will be here February 5th - there will be some sort of "installation" of Pastor Kristen. Girls Scouts Sunday will be March 12th.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Kristen would like to get a better understanding on how teams are operating or not operating. She would welcome any input on how to help energize and guide teams. Would be helpful to be invited to any team meetings that would be held. Has a new email stmattspastor@midconetwork.com Focused now on getting a vision for Lent. Will plan on being in the office Monday's during the work day, Wednesday's will probably

be about noon to 8:30. Otherwise will be working from home. Phone 701-213-6715 – be mindful that Tuesdays and Thursdays will be working with hospice so may not be able to get to messages right away.

Men's Club & WELCA report: Nothing from Men's Club, WELCA will be making donuts February 25th.

Team Reports:

Executive Team: John Schumacher-making the transition to turning the bookkeeping over to Dalene.

Education: Sarah Krogfoss – Had breakfast for the kids first day back from Christmas break. Kids will be singing Sunday, January 22. Considering bringing Vacation Bible School back to within the church and during the evenings.

Fellowship: Sara Munson – Will be turned over to Chelsea Lupien

Outreach: Beth Kurz – Looking for another day for a caramel roll fundraiser. Also looking to organize God's Work Our Hands for the same day as Feed My Starving Children.

Properties: Duane Naas- there is some electronic stuff sitting in mancave – wondering what to do with it.

Worship: Sue Simon– Will be working with Pastor Kristen on Lenten Services. Will try moving Lenten Services to 6:30

Youth: Chelsea Lupien– Will be hosting an event next Wednesday – Sara Munson will take over as team lead.

Ruby's Pantry: no distribution in January for safety of volunteers due to cold weather

Food Pantry: no report

Old Business

Annual Meeting

Budget-Justin Bergeron went over the proposed budget. Put in an increase for insurance, increase for organists, budgeted for pulpit supply and pulpit supply mileage, increased budget for office personnel-as will have some overlap the beginning of this year. Went over team budgets. Sarah Krogfoss made a motion to approve the budget to present to congregation, Beth Kurz seconded. MPU

Nominations for Vacant spots on council-the VP position is filled, need a Secretary, Properties team lead and various other positions.

Potluck or Bars – leaving up to Fellowship and Pastor Kristen as to what we will do.

New Business

Credit Card

Pastor Kristen

Dalene (Sam's also)

LYO

Beth Kurz motioned to close Chelsea's credit card and open a card for Sara, Pastor and Dalene. Sue Simon seconded. MPU

The St Matthew's Church Council approves the closing of the First State Bank LYO Credit Card for Chelsea Lupien.

The St Matthew's Church Council approves the opening of a First State Bank LYO Credit Card for Sara Munson with a limit of \$1000 and no cash advance availability.

The St Matthew's Church Council approved the opening of a First State Bank Credit Card for Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt with a limit of \$2000 and no cash advance availability.

The St Matthew's Church Council approves the opening of a First State Bank Credit Card for Dalene Jacobson with a limit of \$2000 and no cash advance availability.

Pulpit Supply – John Schumacher will lead Feb 12th. There are not many options for pulpit supply especially with short notice. Maybe we can find more members of the congregation willing to lead a service when Pastor Kristen is gone.

Audit Team Findings-Audit went well. The council considered the possible need of an appraisal of the church building and property for insurance purposes but felt what our insured value is set at is adequate. Audit team also noted there is a budget surplus this year and suggested possibly opening a CD or interest-bearing account. Council discussed and felt that the surplus this year is not the norm and council did not want to tie up funds that may be needed in the future.

Tech committee to see if there is better solution to streaming software- we should set up a committee to look into what is causing the problems and what the best solution is.

Sunday, Jan 23rd- Bre Berberich will get up and welcome Pastor Kristen.

Next council meeting will be February 19th at 11:15am.

Motion to adjourn made by Robyn Bohlman, seconded by Ryan Welsh. MPU

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Bohlman

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 Scott Kuster, Carrie Herrig, Dan Herrig. Continuing on the Council are John Schumacher, Justin Bergeron, Sarah Krogfoss, Bethany Kurz, Sue Simon, Chelsea Lupien and Sara Munson.

As we say thank you to outgoing Church Council members, please know that your work on the Council has been greatly appreciated. Thank you Ryan Welsh, Robyn Bohlman and Duane Naas. God's Blessings to All!



The next Church Council meeting will be
February 19 at 11:15 am.

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.

In-person and Live on our YouTube Channel

Sunday School in-person at 9 a.m.

Address service requested

ST. MATTHEW'S LEADERSHIP

Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt	Pastor	stmattspastor@midconetwork.com
Vione Jordheim	Admin Assistant	stmattsvione@gmail.com
Dalene Jacobson	Bookkeeper	stmattsbookkeeper58278@gmail.com
Sarah Krogfoss	Children & Family Ministry Coordinator	sarahkrogfoss@icloud.com
John Schumacher	Council President	stmattspresident@gmail.com
Scott Kuster	Council Vice President	scottkuster@gra.midco.net
Carrie Herrig	Council Secretary	carrie.herrig@outlook.com
Justin Bergeron	Council Treasurer	jbergero@yahoo.com
Bethany Kurz	Outreach Team	bkurz@undeerc.org
Sara Munson	Youth Team	smunson190@mygfschools.org
Dan Herrig	Properties Team	dan@sandsteelbc.com
Chelsea Lupien	Fellowship Team	chelsea.lupien@icloud.com
Sue Simon	Worship Team	ssimon@gra.midco.net