

January 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,

It doesn't seem possible that we are about to finish our 5th year together. As we get ready to ring in 2018, I can't help but look forward and dream about what the future brings, and look back and reflect on 2017.

2017 was a good, but challenging year for me personally. With Dad having triple bypass in September, and my cousin Curt passing away recently, it was a big wake up call for my family, reminding us just how fragile this life we have is, and reminding us all of the need to spend more time together as family.

Thankfully, and by God's grace, my parents will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this summer. I am looking forward to a wonderful chance to gather with family and friends and tell stories of the last 50 years. We are so blessed that Dad is starting to feel better and be able to get back to activities he enjoys.

We have 4 youth that will be heading to Houston for the National Youth Gathering from June 25-July 2, which is sure to be a life changing experience for all of them. We continue to be blessed with growth in our membership and our Sunday School, Confirmation and Youth programs at Saint Matthew's. It is such a blessing to watch these youth grow into leadership roles in our congregation. From the youngest kiddos who are just learning about worship to our high schoolers who lead by example in many aspects of ministry at our church, we are blessed at Saint Matthew's to have them as a part of our church family, and can learn a lot from their willingness to lend a hand.

I hope that as you look back over this last year, you too are able to see places where God has been at work, and where God has blessed you and your family, and I pray as you think about 2018, you do so filled with hope.

As we prepare to turn the calendar on another year, I pray that you can remember the promise from Jeremiah 29:11: "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

My dear friends, our God loves you and will never stop doing so. Even given the fragility of this life, even in the uncertainty that a new year always holds, God gives you a future with hope. Let us look forward to 2018 and the unexpected ways God will work. Let us continue to encourage and uplift each other. Let us continue to gather and worship together. God is at work in you, and in me. Welcome 2018!

Grace and peace, *Pastor Amy*

# LYO-Youth Group

Youth Group – Happy New Year from the Youth Team. We had a wonderful Christmas party in which of course we ate food, played some games and even decorated Christmas cookies. Our congregation has some outstanding young people. We will have two LYO nights in January, on the 10th and 24th. Thank you to the congregation for giving us the financial support to keep these young people involved in our church after confirmation.





# Giving Thanks

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:

- Bill W for putting speakers into the Rosendal Room
- Mary W for helping with Christmas Program costumes
- Bridget P, and Deb D. for lending extra hands for the Christmas Program
- Gary W for keeping our parking lot clear of snow!
- Chris and Duane N for all that you do to keep our church looking great!

Thanks to all who are making a difference! We appreciate you!



Here's the DIGG schedule for January:

**January 7**

**Emma Haugen** Tales from Brazil

Come and hear our own Emma Haugen share her experiences from living abroad in Brazil. Emma is a senior at Thompson High School and spent part of this last year living in Brazil. Come and hear about her experiences, and hopefully see some pictures too! We welcome confirmands and high schoolers to join this adult class. Bring a friend! All are welcome!



Thanks to Pastor Amy, The St Matthews Family, the

class that made the prayer shawl, and for your prayers, cards, phone calls, visits, and food that you brought to our home following Neil's shoulder surgery. It was greatly appreciated. In the first 2 weeks and with the help of our children and all of you it helped ease the burden for us. He is progressing well now and looking forward to driving again and gardening next season. ☺

In thankfulness to God and each of you,  
Kay and Neil Lindell

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. 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 all for your cards and gifts on my birthday and through the Christmas season. I truly am humbled by your generosity, encouragement and support, and thank God for all of you! May you be blessed, for surely you have been a blessing to me!

Peace, Pastor Amy



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

Council Meeting

November 12, 2017

**IN ATTENDANCE:** John Schumacher, Roy Olson, Val Uhlir, Pastor Amy, Alicia Schumacher, Paul Strande, Beth Kurz

**ABSENT:** Darwin Potter, Sara Munson, Dianne Lundgren, Sharon Gustafson

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by John at approximately 11:39 am.

### **LITURGY:**

Pastor Amy led the Church Council in prayer.

### **AGENDA APPROVAL**

We added 2 items under new business: Ministry Assistant Position and Review of Constitutional Amendments. The date for the next Council Meeting was incorrect. The next meeting is December 10, not December 17.

*Motion:* Paul motioned to approve the agenda. Alicia seconded. Motion carried.

### **MINUTES APPROVAL**

Under the Pastor's report we removed the last sentence. This was accidentally included from a previous version of the minutes.

*Motion:* Roy motioned to approve the October 15 meeting minutes (as amended). Val seconded. Motion carried.

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

John summarized the financial reports for October. Special Giving Net Income for October was \$2,007.56. General Giving Income was \$14,780.13. Net Income for October was \$1,746.98. As of October 31, the General Giving Checking account balance was at \$3,158.29 and the Special Giving Checking account balance was at \$42,331.39.

*Motion:* Paul moved to approve the Financial Reports. Roy seconded. Motion carried.

## **CALENDAR REVIEW**

Need to add "Frozen Fest" for January 21. It's a fund raiser for the Houston Trip.

The annual meeting is scheduled for January 28. Backup date will be the following Sunday.

## **PASTOR'S REPORT**

See attached report provided prior to the meeting. The main secretary book will contain an actual attached copy of the report.

Pastor Amy could use some help the next few weeks. She is swamped.

## **MEN'S CLUB AND WELCA REPORT**

***WELCA:*** Nothing new.

***Men's Club:*** Nothing new.

## **TEAM REPORTS**

***Executive:*** John Schumacher – The Exec Team met on November 6. We reviewed the membership letter that Pastor Amy drafted and thought it looked good. Pastor Amy will mail the letter to inactive members. The Exec Team also discussed several topics which we approved for discussion and review by the Council, including the building use form, the proposed 2018 budgets and the criteria for a Ministry Assistant position. The team also discussed annual reviews and decided that the Exec Team will meet with the staff of St. Matthews on November 30 to conduct their employee reviews. The annual review input form for Pastor Amy was provided to all members of the Council. John asked that they provide input by November 19 and that they please include their names on the form.

***Education:*** Alicia Schumacher – Nothing new. Just gearing up for the Christmas program.

***Fellowship:*** Sara Munson – Absent.

***Outreach:*** Sharon Gustafson – Absent.

***Properties:*** Roy Olson – Nothing new to report.

***Worship:*** Val Uhlir – They will be decorating for Christmas shortly. Sarah Krogfuss will supply the Christmas tree.

***Youth:*** Paul Strande – Continue to have great attendance at LYO activities. They consistently have 13 attend and have had as many as 23 on a couple of occasions. They might have one more get together before Christmas break, probably the week after Thanksgiving. Breakfast went well today – all the supplies were donated, so the money raised will go directly to the kids we are sponsoring through the Feed my Starving Children program. Also, Shannon Hancock will be joining the Youth Team.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Input on Property Use Form**

The executive team reviewed the Building Use Request form and decided to provide it to the Council for review. The facility use policy states that the fees are for a one-time use, but that won't apply to groups like 4H that have regularly-scheduled meetings. Paul suggested that the members of the Council have a chance to review the forms prior to approval.

Paul motioned to table this until the next meeting to give the Council time to review. Beth seconded. Motion carried.

### **Memorial Requests**

Val looked into examples for memorial requests. To have a "memorial tree", it would be \$500 or less. John suggested that her team come up with a final design and cost to bring to our next meeting for review and approval. One thing that needs to be decided was how to determine whose names are memorialized on the plaque. The Council decided that they would ask each family that makes a physical memorial donation (i.e. – an improvement to the church, an item used by the church) if they would like their family member's name memorialized on a plaque.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Budget Review**

John mentioned that we will need to approve the proposed 2018 budgets at our next meeting. We still need to decide what to do with the Pastor's salary. Otherwise, all of the proposed changes are shown in gray. Most of the team allotments have increased a little bit, except properties, but that varies quite a bit from year to year.

On an unrelated note, as we come to the end of the year, all team annual reports should be submitted by December 10.

### **Employee Reviews**

The executive team will meet with Pastor Amy, Jamie, Duane and Chris on November 30 to go through their reviews.

### **Ministry Assistant Position**

The executive team discussed a ministry assistant position to assist Pastor Amy. It would be 10 to 12 hours a week. The person would help out with confirmation classes on Wednesday evenings and help with preparing for Sunday school on Sunday mornings, as well as other duties during the week such as data entry and purchasing supplies.

**Motion:** Paul motioned to approve hiring a ministry assistant. Val seconded. Motion carried.

### **Review of Constitutional Amendments**

The Churchwide Assembly makes amendments to the "Model Constitution for Congregations" approximately every 2 to 3 years. The Council has been provided copies of the amended constitution with all changes highlighted in yellow. Our options are to either just adopt the changes that have been made or to just go with our current constitution and wait to make/adopt changes when needed. If we wait, it can be a headache to review, address and incorporate previous constitutional amendments. John would like to review the changes and

give others an opportunity to review the changes prior to deciding on this. We will discuss this further at the annual meeting.

**Motion:** Val motioned to adjourn the meeting. Paul seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 12:29 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Beth Kurz*

Next meeting December 10 at 11:30 am.

## Ongoing Ministries

**MEN IN MISSION** St. Matthew's men gather each Sunday morning at 9 am in the Rosendal Room 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 January 19 at 6:30 pm at Eagle's Crest in 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 "Listening for the Voice of God: Growing in Faith Everyday."

WELCA Bible Study will meet Monday January 15 at Sharon Gustafson's House. For a copy of the book they are studying, contact the church office at 599-2081.

**SISTERS OF STRENGTH** This group of ladies meets the last Wednesday of the month to share stories, bible study and support each other. They will be gathering January 25 at noon at Panera. Come and join this group of encouragers and give yourself a boost!



If you have crafts, such as scrapbooking, card making, sewing, etc. you would like to work on, join us at St. Matthew's on Friday, January 17 from 9a.m.-9p.m. to Saturday, January 18 from 9a.m.-6p.m. for a crafting weekend. If you come on Friday and are there for noon, please bring a sack lunch, for supper we will order pizza

from S & T. On Saturday a meal will be provided. Please bring beverages for yourself. If you want snacks, please bring a salty snack if your last name begins with A-K and sweet if your last name begins with L-Z. There will be a free will donation for the use of the church. Please let Sharon Gustafson know if you will be coming and for which days or if you have any questions. Her number is 701-740-1803 or 599-2683.



Pastor Amy's Office Hours for January:

Monday: 11:00 am-1:00 pm

Tuesday: Office Hours by Appointment

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  
Health and Fitness



## Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

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

### ST. MATTHEW'S LEADERSHIP

**Amy Eisenmann** Pastor [stmattspastoramy@gmail.com](mailto:stmattspastoramy@gmail.com)

**Jamie Bischoff** Bookkeeper [bischoffjamie@gmail.com](mailto:bischoffjamie@gmail.com)

**John Schumacher** Council President [jschumacher@invisimax.com](mailto:jschumacher@invisimax.com)

**Darwin Potter** Council Vice President [darpotter14@gmail.com](mailto:darpotter14@gmail.com)

**Beth Kurz** Council Secretary [bkurz@undeerc.org](mailto:bkurz@undeerc.org)

**Dianne Lundgren** Council Treasurer [dlundgren44@hotmail.com](mailto:dlundgren44@hotmail.com)

**Sharon Gustafson** Outreach Team Lead

[rogersharongustafson@gmail.com](mailto:rogersharongustafson@gmail.com)

**Sara Munson** Fellowship Team Lead [saramunson@rocketmail.com](mailto:saramunson@rocketmail.com)

**Roy Olson** Properties Team Lead [royandsandyolson@live.com](mailto:royandsandyolson@live.com)

**Alicia Schumacher** Education Team Lead  
[Alicia.schumacher@gfcounty.org](mailto:Alicia.schumacher@gfcounty.org)

**Paul Strande** Youth Team Lead [pstrande59@gmail.com](mailto:pstrande59@gmail.com)

**Val Uhler** Worship Team Lead [valuhler@yahoo.com](mailto:valuhler@yahoo.com)

Financial Peace Classes begin  
on Sunday, January 14th at  
4:00 pm. A preview and  
chance to ask any questions  
you might have will happen on  
Sunday, January 7 at 11:00 am.  
For more information, contact  
John Schumacher at  
701-741-3173 or  
[jschumacher@invisimax.com](mailto:jschumacher@invisimax.com)



## Happy Birthday in January!

<sup>1</sup> Cheryl Widman

<sup>2</sup> Barry Arntz, Halley Deitz

<sup>3</sup> Angela Muhs

<sup>4</sup> Garnet Bischoff

<sup>5</sup> Averie Geatz

<sup>6</sup> Kristie Adams, Brandy George

<sup>7</sup> Samantha Johnson

<sup>9</sup> Ellie Schumacher

<sup>11</sup> Jaxon Clemetson

<sup>12</sup> Arvin Brorby, Halie Fossum,  
Jesse Hegg

<sup>13</sup> Cornelius Everett

<sup>14</sup> Zach Ackerman, McKenna DeMoe,  
Collin Hancock

<sup>16</sup> Noah Novak

<sup>17</sup> Claudia PromSchmidt,  
Elmer Robinson

<sup>18</sup> Layla Manzke

<sup>19</sup> Jailin Avdem

<sup>20</sup> Marcus Hughes, Mistie Manzke

<sup>21</sup> Joey Overby, Jason Suckut

<sup>23</sup> Kevin Cooper,

<sup>25</sup> Adrienne Jarvis, Daman Pearson

<sup>26</sup> Brook Fretheim, Richard Staveteig

<sup>29</sup> Lauren Plautz, Matthew Tweten



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church  
701 Broadway St. Thompson, ND 58278  
(701) 599-2081 | [stmatthewslutheranchurch.org](http://stmatthewslutheranchurch.org)

## Welcome to worship

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School at 9 a.m.

Address service requested



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.

