

January 2023

# 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*

Dear St. Matthew's Family,

At the December council meeting, the call committee presented their report on the search for a pastor. During their many months of work they have received several names of candidates, but some were not a good fit for our church and others accepted different church calls, leaving us still without a candidate to call as our next pastor.

Earlier in the process, a member of the call committee reached out to Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt, who had spent the Lenten season with us, to see if she was interested in making herself available to be interviewed for a pastoral call to St. Matthew's. She declined, being established in her hospice chaplaincy work. However, after leading worship with us on November 6 and learning we were still without a pastor, she contacted me and Pastor Brad in the synod office to suggest that she could possibly become available to serve as our interim pastor, on a part time basis and for a limited period of about 18 months.

To discern if this would be a good option for her and for the church, she updated her Rostered Ministry Profile. The call committee reviewed these papers and met with her for an interview in November. At the December council meeting, they unanimously recommended that St. Matthew's hire Pastor Kristen as interim pastor.

The church council in turn unanimously voted to meet with Pastor Kristen with the goal of signing an interim pastoral contract. We met with Pastor Kristen on December 21st and discussed the details of the contract with St. Matthew's. I am excited to report that Pastor Kristen has accepted an interim contract with St. Matthew's. She will start on January 16 and be with us until the end of May 2024.

This interim contract is different than most interim contracts. Usually, the Interim Pastor serves the church until a candidate is called by the congregation. In this case, the council will put a pause on the call process and not reform a call committee until the early spring of 2024. We will then begin the call process again.

This is also different from our experience with previous pastors in that while Pastor Kristen will be overseeing all worship planning and leading the education and programming of our church during this time, she is only contracted with us at 80% time, so she will be off approximately 20% of services and she also plans to continue her ministry with hospice a couple days each week.

The council is extremely excited Pastor Kristen will be sharing her gifts with St. Matthew's. If you have any questions, please reach out to me or other members of the council.

Please join me in welcoming Pastor Kristen to our St. Matthew's family!

John Schumacher  
Council President

# Learning & Growing Together

## Education News

Our Sunday school students pulled off a fantastic program! Thank you to the students for your hard work and dedication! Thank you to the parents for getting your students to practices and for practicing at home! And thank you to our Sunday school teachers for helping make the program the success it was!

As a reward for their efforts, our students will be served breakfast their first day back from Christmas break! They can plan to gather in the fellowship hall once they arrive for Sunday school.



Our first day back we will also be handing out our donuts and devotions worksheets for the month of January.

## Important Upcoming Dates -

Sunday school resumes January 8th.

There is no Sunday school January 15th.

Thank you to the Sunday School for their beautiful Christmas message!



**Thank You to our youth that participated in the 5:00 Christmas Eve service**



A few of our Confirmation kids volunteered at the Ring Family Tree Farm as a service project.

A good time was had by all!!!



## BIBLE STUDY

Come Join Us



Women's Bible Study meets the 3rd Monday of the month! Come join us on Monday, January 16 @ 10am at the Church!

All are Welcome!!

Happy  
New  
Year

# 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 on the third Monday of the month for Bible Study. They will meet Monday, January 16th @ 10:00 am at the church. All are welcome!

# Worship

Thank you to all that helped with the December services and Christmas Eve services. The confirmation students have been great at signing up and learning while serving. It's been an added bonus getting to know the parents of these youth!

A special thank you also to those of you who fill in at the last minute when we have needed you! We appreciate all of you!

An important part of our worship service is music. Thank you to the Hjelmstands for providing special music and to Julie and Mary for the many years they have been providing music. Mary will be retiring soon and we are seeking another organist to share the position with Julie. If you can help, please contact a council member.

Wishing everyone a blessed 2023!

The Worship Team



## January

Tony & Paula Amborn  
Paul & Brooke Bakke Family  
Jesse & Megan Kadrmas Family  
Sarah Krogfoss & Charlie  
Kelby & Angie Laxdal Family  
Derek & Bobbi Sondreal Family  
Kory & Susie Sondreal

## February

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



During inclement weather, the church office will follow the school building closings. If the school building is closed during the week so is the church office. Other events will be posted on the St. Matthew's Facebook page or you may receive a text from your Leaders.

The office is not open on Friday, Saturday or Sunday.

# COUNCIL MINUTES

## St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

### Council Meeting

**Date:** December 18, 2022

**In Attendance:** John Schumacher, Sara Munson, Sarah Krogfoss, Sue Simon, Justin Bergeron, Duane Naas, Ryan Welsh, Chelsea Lupien, Robyn Bohlman. Also present: Bre Berberich, Mary Mitchell and Scott Kuster from Call Committee.

**Absent:** Beth Kurz

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by President Schumacher at 7:02 who also led opening liturgy.

**Agenda Approval:** Moved call committee to beginning of meeting. Duane Naas motioned to approve the agenda with the change, Justin Bergeron seconded. MPU

**Call Committee:** Have met with potential long term interim Pastor. Recommend signing an 18 month contract with this Pastor. Feel we should do formal check-in at 6 months. Sunday's and Wednesday's would more than likely be the in-office days.

**Minutes Approval:** Sara Munson motioned, Ryan Welsh seconded to approve the minutes. MPU

### Financial Reports:

Financial Reports Summary	October	November
	2022	2022
General Giving Income	\$9,611	\$10,833
Year-to-Date Net Income	\$9,262	\$16,839
General Giving Checking Account	\$25,302	\$34,159
Special Giving Checking Account	\$36,028	\$31,697
Line of Credit	\$0	\$0

**Approval:** Sue Simon moved, Robyn Bohlman seconded to approve financial. MPU

**Calendar Review:** Christmas Eve services will be at 5pm and 10pm. Annual meeting is January 29<sup>th</sup>. Sunday school starts again on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Men's Club & WELCA report:** Men's Club gave a gift card to Pastor John. Men's Club and WELCA each donated money to get grocery gift cards for each Angel Tree family.

**Team Reports:**

*Executive Team:* Will meet with potential interim Pastor this week.

*Education:* Sarah Krogfoss – Has been busy with the Christmas program. The program was very nice!

*Fellowship:* Sara Munson – nothing

*Outreach:* Beth Kurz – distributed Angel Tree gifts to 27 families

*Properties:* Duane Naas- He has had a lot of comments on how nice the floors look. Invoice came in less than expected.

*Worship:* Sue Simon– Will need help with Christmas Eve services.

*Youth:* Chelsea Lupien– Event was cancelled this month because of the storm.

*Ruby's Pantry:* There will be no Ruby's Pantry this month – temps are supposed to be too cold.

*Food Pantry:* no report

**Old Business**

Bid from HB Light & Sound – The new system is working as it should be with services. Still having problems with the streaming audio sound input. Received a donation to cover remaining balance of the new system.

Christmas Eve Services at 5pm and 10pm

Annual meeting:

Team reports need to be submitted.

Budget – teams need to get budget requests to Justin.

Nominations for vacant spots on council: Sara Munson will be Youth Team lead, Chelsea Lupien will be Fellowship Team lead. Will possibly need to fill the positions of Vice President, Secretary, and Properties Team Lead.

**New Business**

Contract with Interim Pastor: Council went over a sample contract and proposed compensation package. Executive team will meet this week to negotiate a contract with Pastor. Chelsea Lupien motioned we offer Option 1, Sarah Krogfoss seconded. MPU

Office position – Dalene Jacobson has accepted the position as both secretary and bookkeeper. Will begin in January and will work with Vione until May when Vione retires.

Next council meeting will be Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

Motion to adjourn made by Sara Munson, seconded by Robyn Bohlman. MPU

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Robyn Bohlman

***A BIG thank you to all that helped put Poinsettias on the altar this  
Christmas Season***

***Craig & Debbie Bohlman** in memory of: Lloyd & Carmen Bohlman*

***Roger & Sharon Gustafson** in memory of: Leonard, Bernice & Dave Kjorvestad,  
Nels & Delores Gustafson, Carol Howard, Susan Stinar, Carrol & Isabel Lebacken*

***The Hancock Family** in memory of: Edith & William McMorran AND  
in honor of: Geneva & William Matejcek, Gordon Matejcek, Donna Wood  
& Karen Wallace*

***The Herrig Family** in memory of: Doyle Herrig*

***Roger & Dalene Jacobson** in memory of: Derek Jacobson, Dale Grandstand, &  
Lowell & Helen Jacobson*

***Daman & Bridget Pearson** in memory of: Roy T. Loken and Gertrude Kraft*

***Sue Simon** in memory of: Joyce & Lee Dierker, Behrle Olson*

***Cheryl & Bill Widman** in memory of: Harley & Delores Volden, George & Betty  
Widman, Lavonne Matthews*

***Mike & Valerie Uhler** in memory of: David & Iva Jones, Terry Jones, Betty Stolz*

## **Happy Birthday in January!**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>1</b> Cheryl Widman                                     | <b>16</b> Noah Novak                                      |
| <b>2</b> Barry Arntz                                       | <b>17</b> Kelby Laxdal                                    |
| <b>3</b> Angela Muhs                                       | <b>19</b> Jailin Avdem, Megan Kadrmas,<br>Shannon Hancock |
| <b>4</b> Garnet Bischoff                                   | <b>20</b> Marcus Hughes                                   |
| <b>5</b> Averie Geatz                                      | <b>21</b> Joey Overby, Hadley Plautz                      |
| <b>6</b> Kristie Adams, Brandy George                      | <b>23</b> Kevin Cooper                                    |
| <b>7</b> Samantha Johnson                                  | <b>24</b> Jordan Johnson                                  |
| <b>8</b> Kimberly Mohagen                                  | <b>25</b> Adrienne Jarvis, Damon Pearson                  |
| <b>9</b> Ellie Schumacher                                  | <b>26</b> Brook Fretheim, Richard Staveteig               |
| <b>11</b> Jaxon Clemetson, Cassie Riewer                   | <b>28</b> Christi Johnson                                 |
| <b>12</b> Arvin Brorby, Halie Fossum,<br>Jesse Hegg        | <b>29</b> Lauren Plautz                                   |
| <b>13</b> Cornelius Everett                                | <b>31</b> Zakary Kadrmas                                  |
| <b>14</b> Zach Ackerman, McKenna Wolter,<br>Collin Hancock |   |
| <b>15</b> Lucy LaRoque                                     |   |



The Food Pantry is open during January on  
**Tuesday, JANUARY 10th from 11AM-1PM**  
and on  
**Tuesday, JANUARY 24th from 6PM-8PM.**

If you or someone you know could use the assistance of the Food Pantry, please let them know or come to the Food Pantry during their open hours.



Make your voice heard and plan to attend the  
**Annual Meeting scheduled for January 29, 2023**  
following worship service.

If the weather isn't cooperative, the alternative  
storm day will be February 5, 2023.



Don't you love it when you come into church for  
worship and there is music being played.

It makes your heart SO HAPPY!

We are looking for an organist to do just that. It is a shared  
position along with Julie. We would love to have you!!

Please contact a Council Member if you can help!!

# Giving Thanks

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:

- Sarah K for organizing Sunday School and having a wonderful Christmas program.
- Once again for our Snow Angels that keep the path clear
- Pastor John for being with us as we worship on Sunday mornings and a special thank you for providing two services on Christmas Eve.
- WELCA for their help with Neil Lindell's birthday celebration
- Sunday School for joining Men in Mission and singing Happy Birthday to Neil.
- Gary W for removing snow.
- Food Pantry Workers for always going above & beyond.

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

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.



*Thank you*

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

## ST. MATTHEW'S LEADERSHIP

<b>Pastor John Ahola</b>	<b>Interim Pastor</b>	jmahola@gmail.com
<b>Vione Jordheim</b>	<b>Admin Assistant</b>	stmattsvione@gmail.com
<b>Jamie Bischoff</b>	<b>Bookkeeper</b>	stmattsbookkeeper58278@gmail.com
<b>Sarah Krogfoss</b>	<b>Children &amp; Family Ministry Coordinator</b>	sarahkrogfoss@icloud.com
<b>John Schumacher</b>	<b>Council President</b>	stmattspresident@gmail.com
<b>Ryan Welsh</b>	<b>Council Vice President</b>	rswelsh@invisimax.com
<b>Robyn Bohlman</b>	<b>Council Secretary</b>	rbohlman@invisimax.com
<b>Justin Bergeron</b>	<b>Council Treasurer</b>	jbergero@yahoo.com
<b>Bethany Kurz</b>	<b>Outreach Team</b>	bkurz@undeerc.org
<b>Sara Munson</b>	<b>Fellowship Team</b>	smunson190@mygfschools.org
<b>Duane Naas</b>	<b>Properties Team</b>	duanechrisnaas@gmail.com
<b>Chelsea Lupien</b>	<b>Youth Team</b>	chelsea.lupien@icloud.com
<b>Sue Simon</b>	<b>Worship Team</b>	ssimon@gra.midco.net

*Thank you*

Thank you from Neil and Kay Lindell for all of the birthday wishes and to all who came and celebrated Neil's 90th birthday. It was a wonderful day!!



## Holy Baptism

Congratulations to Jennifer and Ryan Schultz on the baptism of their daughter Veda Lucille.

Veda was baptized on December 4th. Her sponsors are Jared Rivard, Cassidy Mercil and Addison Bruggeman.

Welcome into our family Veda!



## Holy Baptism

Congratulations to Austin and Kaitlin Atkinson on the baptism of their son Knox Warren.

Knox was baptized on December 11th. His sponsors are Andrew Arnold and Rachael Arnold.

Welcome into our family Knox!



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.

All Services Live on our YouTube Channel

Address service requested

