

The Messenger

Dear St. Matt's Friends,

It has been an amazingly busy and beautiful May at St. Matthew's with baptisms, new members, graduation recognition and youth-led worship. I am thankful for all these signs of life and I want to encourage you all to stay connected over the summer so we can keep the momentum of church vitality. Here's one way we can do this:

This summer on June 19th and July 17 we will be trying something new. It's called "Dinner Church." This is a growing trend in churches—especially those that have a significant portion of young people. **The purpose of Dinner church is** to have a time of mid-week worship, fellowship and community connection.



June 19, 5:30-6:30pm

July 17, 5:30-6:30pm

COME for a casual meal, informal worship, connection, conversation and Holy Communion- all around the table in the fellowship hall. Bring family, friends and your outdoor games for after!
Let's celebrate summer and the gift of community.

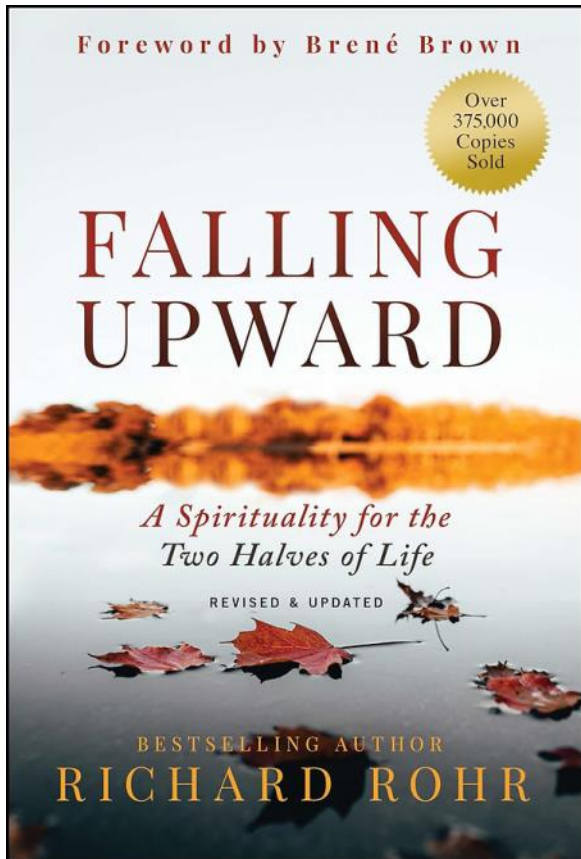
What does Dinner Church look like?

1. A simple meal served family style. On the 19th some of the men's club have agreed to grill and we are working on preparing some simple side dishes as well. This is not a potluck, as we want people to be able to come right from work if they need to. There will be a free will offering received.
2. Casual worship around the table that includes some scripture, reflection and discussion opportunities, and communion served, right around the table.
3. Music. John and Junelle Hjelmstad will be playing and we will be singing a bit.
4. Connection and community and time to praise God together! Bring your friends! Bring family! Get to know someone new to you. Bring outdoor games for after and stay and play.

It's going to be so **fun**!!! I hope to see you all there.

Reveling in the gift of community, Pastor Kristen

Lawnchair Book



on **FALLING UPWARD**

With Pastor Kristen

Wednesday June 26, 6:30-8p
Meeting Outside St. Matt's
(weather permitting)

Bring a lawnchair or use one of ours! Most of us tend to think of the second half of life in chronological terms, but Richard Rohr is not primarily focused on aging. Spiritual maturity is found "when we begin to pay attention and seek integrity" through a shift from our "outer task" to the "inner task" of accepting our dependence on God and fully *being* who we are created to be. Sometimes we can only experience this "upside" after we have experienced falls in life.

Falling Upward is an invitation to live a life of love and meaning and a call to ongoing transformation in the midst of the challenges of this life.

****Please order or buy your book on your own and read as much as you can before we meet. But hey, if you don't get it read, come anyway!***

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Faith Formation

July 29 - August 1
5:30-8:00 PM

Dive into fun at St Matthew's Church for **Scuba VBS 2024!** Kids ages 3 through 6th grade can explore the oceans with games, snacks, hands on lessons, silly skits and so much more!

Register Today!

diving into friendship with GOD



Dates to remember:

- **August 28**—Teacher/Guide Orientation
- **September 4**—Student/Parent Confirmation Orientation
- **September 8**—Rally Sunday!

Confirmation Students

Remember to finish your 2023-24 requirements!

Hey St Matt's we'll need your help to make VBS a memorable one for all our youth!! Be on the look out for our SCUBA needs to show up in the Narthex!

Things to watch for:

- * 2024-'25 Sunday School & Confirmation Registration

HELP WANTED!!! If you or your confirmation student or older are interested in helping with VBS, please let me know! Also, if you are interested in helping with Sunday School or Confirmation for the '24-'25 school year, let me know!

Bre Berberich



New Member Sunday, June 19th, 2024
Welcome to St. Matthew's Church!
We are so glad you are here!



**Megan Myrdal and Kade Sveen and children
Hakkon, Leif and Harrison**



**Nolan and Bree Belle and children
Elise and Reese**

LYO News

LYO met on May 8th for our last regular meeting of the year. We celebrated our seniors with a meal from Olive Garden and played yard games outside. We also tied 10 blankets that were given to the Red River Children's Advocacy Center. They conduct forensic interviews for children in the Grand Forks area community who may have been a victim of a crime/abuse. After the interviews, they send all the children who come through the center home with some comfort items, and one of those items is a blanket.

The seniors were also celebrated on Sunday, May 19th, for Graduation Sunday



"May God give you more and more grace
and peace as you grow in your knowledge
of God and Jesus our Lord."
2 Peter 1:2



These summer months are a time for reflection and growth. The St. Matt's Council is meeting on June 9 to think and pray and plan about our purpose, mission and values. Please keep the over-arching ministry of St. Matthew's Lutheran in your prayers and consider how you might be led to grow in your own faith and participation in the months to come.

**"I KNOW
the PLANS
I HAVE for YOU."
~JEREMIAH 29:11
CLASS OF
2024**

Congratulations to our graduating Seniors!



Zane Schumacher and Gary Welsh. Gary presented Zane with the shovel that Zane used at the groundbreaking of St. Matthews Church

Pictured Left to right: Zane Schumacher, Jordan Johnson, Carson Miller, Ava Anderson, Drew Overby, Layla Gemmill



**Congratulations to those baptized
on May 5th, 2024.
Welcome to the Lord's family!**



Evie Loretta Vathauer,
daughter of Travis and Shelby
Vathauer

Sponsors:
Cole & Brooke Wagner,
Casey Clement



Reese Lee Belle,
Daughter of Nolan and Brianne
Belle

Sponsors:
Jessica Soli, Derek Belle



Edison Michael Uhlir,
Son of Justin & Amber Uhlir

Sponsors:
Ryan Latozke, Mark Lentz



We have received a Thank you card from the Global Friends Coalition for our generous donation from our "Noisy Offering". "Thank you so much for your generous gift to Global Friends Coalition. Your "Noisy Offering" makes a big difference to the families we are resettling. Thank you for opening your hearts."

All women of St. Matthew's
Lutheran Church are welcome to Women's Bible Study
Monday, June 17th at 10:00 am at the Church



Youth Lead Worship

Sunday, May 12th





Worship Assistants



Anyone can be an usher, reader, communion server, or acolyte. **This is especially needed in the summer, when**

there are less kids in worship. Can you help? You

can sign up to by scanning this QR code or you can sign up on the paper in the entryway.



Thank you to everyone for your helping hands. We apologize if we missed anyone, know that you are all appreciated!

- Sue Simon for purchasing and planting flowers and helping decorate
- Paul Strande, Scott Kuster and Kristie Adams for helping lead worship
- Sunday School teachers, confirmation small guide leaders and LYO leaders for being faith mentors to our kids
- Everyone who helped with the Youth Led Worship on May 12th
- Layla Gemmill, Jonathan Muhs and Astacia Hanson for helping with our “Jesus Prays for Us” conversation during the Youth Led Worship



The Food Pantry is open during **June on Tuesday June 11th from 11am-1pm and Tuesday, June 25 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 pantry during their open hours

Happy Birthday in June!



- 2 Michele Burger, Camden Henningsgard
- 3 Ursula Hovet
- 4 Ridge Mayer
- 5 Susie Sondreal
- 7 Cynthia Prom
- 8 Kenny Dobmeier, Val Uhler
- 10 Lola Anderson, Brooke Bakke, Robyn Bohlman, Megan Myrdal
- 11 Darin Praska
- 12 Grace Burger, Case Moen,
- 13 Katelyn Kuster, Ryder Setness, Kade Sveen
- 14 Lilly Fretheim, Dean Larson
- 15 Astacia Hansen, Mary Mitchell
- 16 Halle Bohlman, Devan Praska
- 17 Ryan Fretheim, Kali Shaul
- 18 Heather Foote, Brandon Moen
- 19 Mavrik Peterson, Hakkon Sveen
- 20 Hadley Johnson, Michael Schlenker
- 21 Willa Monson
- 24 Cindy Eliason
- 25 Knox Atkinson, Kjersten Lopez, Allison McGauvran, Bill Mitchell
- 26 Natalie Berger
- 28 Marcus Benoit, Larin Ivesdal, Cece Johnson
- 30 Easley Laxdal

MEN IN MISSION St. Matthew’s men gather on Sunday mornings at 9am in the Fellowship Hall for a chance to chat, drink coffee and learn together. Their topics of discussion vary, but new folks are always welcome to join them.

COUNCIL MINUTES

A Note from your Church Council:

The school year has ended, graduation celebrations are winding down, and we are settling into the joy of the summer season. I stumbled upon a beautifully written article entitled “Every Summer has a Story” written by Sarah Lundgren and I wanted to share a bit of it with you.

“Just as every *natural* summer has a story, so does every *spiritual* summer. We will each walk through the spiritual seasons many times. Autumn is a time of change. Winter is a time of barrenness and preparation. Spring is a time of rebirth. And summer is a time for bearing fruit and embracing the abundant life that surrounds us.

The key to embracing our spiritual summer, no matter what time of year it is in the natural, is to remember to seize the joy of the season. This is a time to feel the heavenly warmth on our face and revel in the beauty that surrounds us. Relax, have fun, celebrate, and abide in gratitude for the blessings that surround. Fall and winter will come, but don’t let thoughts of the unknown rob you of the joy of the moment.

Embrace the summer and all of its goodness. Start each day with a prayer of gratitude to our Father, and then go and enjoy the sunshine! Go to the beach, savor an ice cream cone, run through a sprinkler, tend to your garden—whatever brings you summer joy. If you want to take this challenge even further, see how you can incorporate the fruits of the spirit into your summer activities. Maybe share the joy and invite friends over for the afternoon. Practice patience with your children as they call your name for the millionth time. Exhibit self-control when you are offered your tenth s’more. Offer peace when there is fighting over the last slice of watermelon. Show yourself an extra dose of kindness when you slip on your bathing suit after eating those nine s’mores, knowing priceless memories are being made.

Dear friends, we can do this. Be courageous, and let’s be brave enough to defend our joy with an ice cream cone in one hand and God’s Word in the other!”

Church Council News

Below, you will find a current summary of our Finances and updates impacting the entire congregation.

Summary of Finances

Financial Reports Summary	March	April
	2024	2024
General Giving Income - YTD	\$45,162	\$52,614
General Giving Income - Month	\$24,372	\$7,452
Net Income - YTD	\$5,025	(\$3,609)
General Giving Checking Account	\$33,649	\$27,449
Special Giving Checking Account	\$50,835	\$50,104
Line of Credit	\$0	\$0

COUNCIL MINUTES

Updates

Alleluia Offering

On May 12 our Alleluia Offering Campaign ended. \$4,350 was generously given by you, our members, and visitors to St. Matt's over the course of the 7-week campaign. On behalf of the Council and Pastor Kristen, we thank you all for generously giving and supporting the work of the church. At our May meeting, your Council voted and approved doing this campaign annually moving forward. We are blessed to be in community with you and again thank you for your generosity.

Tithe & Offering Giving

As you know, our faith teaches us to have a giving spirit and help those around us. Giving not only helps out your community, but it also builds your character and brings blessings into your life. During the summer season, attendance during worship services drops as we enjoy trips to the lake, vacations, and precious time with family and friends.

In light of this, we hope you will take the time to update your online giving or set up an online giving account.

[Vanco Mobile Online Giving](#)

With your help, the church will be able to thrive and provide for our community in so many important ways. Whether you decide to contribute or not, we again thank you for being such a valued congregant of St. Matt's. We're always here if you need anything and appreciate your dedication to our mission.

Council Retreat is set

On June 9, the Council will be taking part in a 3-hour retreat to revise and/or develop St. Matthew's purpose, mission, vision, core values and our strongest missional tugs. All this work is designed to ensure we are leading the congregation in its mission, staying on top of financial and property matters and following the constitution.

Council Meetings

We invite all members of St. Matthew's to attend our Council meetings which generally will be held the second Wednesday of every month from June-August. Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 12 at 6:30 pm. Approved meeting minutes will be made available upon request.

If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached via email at carrie.herrig@outlook.com or by phone at 701-793-8948.

I encourage you to stay connected to what is happening at St. Matthew's via our Facebook and Instagram pages, the church website, and of course through announcements made during Sunday service.

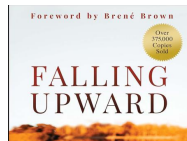
It is truly a blessing to be in fellowship and service with all of you. Thank you for taking the time to read this information.

Respectfully submitted on the behalf of the Church Council by Carrie Herrig, Council President

JUNE 2024

Sun **Mon** **Tue** **Wed** **Thu** **Fri** **Sat**

						1
2 9am Men in Mission 10am Worship	3 7pm Quilting	4 9am Quilting	5	6	7	8
9 9am Men in Mission 10am Worship 3:30pm Council Re-treat	10 2pm Dwelling in the word 7pm Quilting	11 9am Quilting 11am Food Pantry	12 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	13	14	15
16 9am Men in Mission 10am Worship	17 10am Bible Study 2pm Dwelling in the word 7pm Quilting	18 9am Quilting	19 5:30pm Dinner Church	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22
23 9am Men in Mission 10am Worship	24 2pm Dwelling in the word 7pm Quilting	25 9am Quilting 6pm Food Pantry	26 6:30pm Lawnchair Book Discussion	27	28	29
30 9am Men in Mission 10am Worship						



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.

Education Hour Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

All services live on our YouTube Channel

Address service requested

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

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

ST. MATTHEW'S LEADERSHIP

Pastor: Kristen Larsen-Schmidt stmattspastor@midconetwork.com

Administrative Assistant: stmattsadmin@midconetwork.com

Bookkeeper: John Schumacher stmattsbookkeeper58275@gmail.com

Council President: Carrie Herrig carrie.herrig@outlook.com

Council Vice President: Unfilled. Interested? Please talk with a council member!

Council Secretary: Claire Herland cherland@gra.midco.net

Council Treasurer: Kristie Adams kmadams4@rocketmail.com

Outreach Team Lead: Beth Kurz bkurz@undeerc.org

Fellowship Team Lead: Shannon Johnson shannonraye@hotmail.com

Properties Team Lead: Dan Herrig dan@sandsteelbc.com

Education Team Lead: Bre Berberich breberberich@gmail.com

Youth Team Lead: Dara Faul darafaul@gmail.com

Worship Team Lead: Mary Mitchell