

March 2020

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!

My name is Pastor Tawanda Murinda and I look forward to doing ministry with all of you in this new position as your interim pastor. The word "interim" often times is associated with short, impersonal experiences. But, if you think about it, all of life is really "interim." So, I hope we can get to know each other deeply and personally. I honestly have no idea how to be impersonal and I can't help myself but be open and relational as is my nature. You will find that I am an outgoing person who is always available for a conversation. I invite you to stop by the church for a visit so that we can get to know each other better.

I published a short bio a couple of weeks ago, but I wanted to add a few more things about myself as we get acquainted.

My "mission statement" comes from a favorite song of mine, ELW 720 – We Are Called by David Haas. If you noticed, we sang it at my first service with you, and we will sing it a few more times during our time together. I believe we are called to a life of service:

"We are called to act with justice.

We are called to love tenderly.

We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God."

By serving one another, we are serving God. The best way we can show our faith is to reflect the love that God gives us onto others. We care for those in need, we care for the planet, we lift up the marginalized, we treat each other as equal human beings. That's the life of a Christian.

Lastly, I am excited to continue the amazing work that you all have been doing with your young people. I love working with the youth and I consider youth ministry to be a passion and a strength of mine. I am, however, open to new ideas and all the help that I can get. That will be greatly appreciated.

It is a joy and an honor to be amongst you in this capacity. Thank you in advance for allowing me this opportunity to answer God's call on my life. I look forward to all the amazing ways God will be revealed to us in this time together!

Pastor Tawanda

LYO-Youth Group

Youth Group News – Due to the Lenten season we will not have any regular LYO nights in March. We will be serving the soup supper on March 11th. We will have regular LYO meetings again starting in April after Easter. Thank you to the congregation for their continued support of our youth at St. Matthew's.



Fellowship

Join us for fellowship and potluck on Sunday, March 15th! The Fellowship Team will provide the meat for the meal if folks would bring a salad, bread, side, or dessert!

Thank you,

Chelsea Lupien Chelsea.lupien@und.edu 701-520-9903

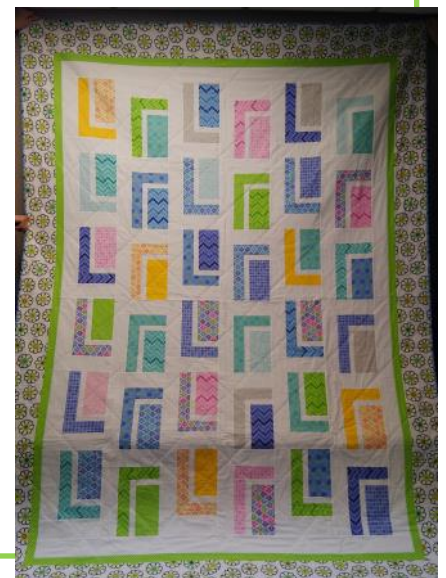


Community

In case you missed it, the Quilting Ladies were featured in the 2020 Winter Newsletter of the Northlands Rescue Mission. It is posted on the board outside the office. Be sure to stop and take a look. GREAT JOB LADIES!!

And with that.....The quilting group is selling raffle tickets on this beautiful quilt. It is 104"x76" and handmade!! The tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The drawing will be held on April 3 after the last fish fry. Tickets are available at each of the fish fry events or from one of the quilters.

Last year this group made over 50 quilts and donated them to the Northland Rescue Mission, CVIC, Valley Elder Care and Community Action. The money from the tickets will be used to purchase fabric and supplies to enable them to continue with this mission.



Education

Sunday School News

Mark your calendars now!

- Kids sing in church on March 1
- **No Sunday School** March 22
- Kids sing Palm Sunday April 5

Our 5th graders will begin their 1st Communion Milestone Ministry on March 1. You can sign your child up for 1st Communion classes, taking place on Sunday mornings during Sunday School, by emailing breberberich@gmail.com. Their 1st Communion retreat will take place on Wednesday April 8 at 6 pm. They should attend this event with their parents.



Confirmation News

REMINDER – Watch your Confirmation requirements, to be sure you are taking responsibility. All requirements and statuses are posted outside the office door for your review. Sermon notes and discipleship forms should be filled in upon completion. If you are needing help, please speak with your confirmation teacher or you can reach out to Bre.

Confirmation Retreat – The confirmation retreat that was scheduled for March 1 has been cancelled.

Confirmation Classes, Mentor Conversation (8th Graders) & Lenten Services – March 4 – April 1

Soup Suppers – Each class and their parents are asked to provide and serve one meal together.

8th Grade – March 4th

7th Grade – March 18th

6th Grade – March 25th



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!

- Dalene J and Val U for proofing the bulletins and slides.
- All the ladies who helped make WELCA donuts...a special shout out to Sandy O and Amy B for organizing the donut making day!
- Sarah Krogfoss and the Vitality Team for a successful Eat, Pray, & Love Thy Neighbor event!
- All who helped with Pastor Tawanda's move.
- John S and Jamie B for teaching another year of Financial Peace University

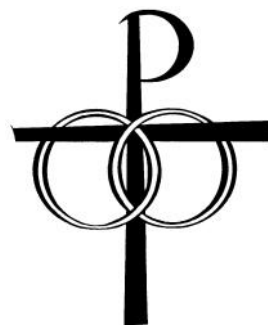


Thanks to all who are making a difference! We appreciate you!

Congratulations to
Madison Walsh and
Nicholas Simmons!

On February 22, 2020 Madison and
Nicholas vowed to love, cherish, honor
and support each other as
husband and wife.

May God Bless their marriage!
Congratulations to the
Walsh and Simmons Families!



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 has not been determined as of yet. The February gathering was "frozen" out! 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 dessert, coffee and Bible Study. WELCA Bible Study will meet Monday, March 16 at Carmen Bohlman's House. For more information contact the church office at (701) 599-2081.

Worship



If reading in church, ushering or assisting with communion isn't "your thing", we would welcome a few dozen cookies or a pan of bars to share during fellowship after the service.

March

Barry & Cheryl Arntz
Carmen Bohlman
Craig Bohlman
John & Robyn Bohlman Family
Ken & Emily Dobmeier Family
Susan Dobmeier
Scott & Jill Kuster Family
Mickey & Sara Munson Family
Sue Simon
James & Suzy Thorson

April

Steph Albin Family
Adam & Jen Bohlman Family
Trinity Bohlman Family
Nathan & Bre Berberich Family
Travis Dearinger Family
Deb DeMoe Family
Blake & Gretchen Guetter Family
Marc & Beth Kurz Family
Leann Novak Family
Derek & Stacy Plautz Family
Randy & Becky Bohlman
Deann Wieler Family

Worship Assistants are needed during mid-week Lenten services and Holy Week.
Please sign up on the sheets by the front door.

Hello from the Worship Team!

For those of you that missed the service on the 16th, you missed welcoming Pastor Tawanda as our Interim Pastor. I feel the first service went well!!

I hope that many of you attended the Eat, Pray and Love Thy Neighbor event on the 23rd. It's was a GREAT event!

This is a busy season for us as we ramp up for Lent starting with Ash Wednesday service on the 26th of February at 7PM. Then each Wednesday to follow there is Soup Supper at 5:30 PM to follow with services at 7 PM. The theme this year is **"Let Go and Let God"**. Then we will be preparing for Maundy Thursday and First Communion for the 5th Graders. Friday, April 10th is Good Friday with the stripping of the altar and the Celebration of Easter on the 12th with the Celebration of the Risen Lord at an early service at 7 Am and the regular celebration service at 10AM.

***Reminder: Please sign-up for Sunday & Wednesday readings. Wednesday readings are only one Bible passage and Sunday readings are all 3 Bible passages.**

Blessings for a Wonderful March...Please join our team.

Cheryl Widman, Nancy Morgan, and Valorie Uhler 701.739.6282

Pastor Tawanda welcomes visitors Mondays through Thursdays at the church office anytime during the day. **Days/times that he will be out of the office during March:**

Tuesday afternoons

March 5 in the afternoon

March 12 in the afternoon

March 16 & 17

Fridays are his day off



Don't forget that **daylight savings time begins on Sunday March 8!** Spring forward and come join us for worship!

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

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

ST. MATTHEW'S LEADERSHIP

Tawanda Murinda	Interim Pastor	pastor@stmatthewsthompson.org
Vione Jordheim	Admin. Assistant	stmattsvione@gmail.com
Jamie Bischoff	Bookkeeper	bischoffjamie@gmail.com
Paul Strande	Council President	pstrande59@gmail.com
Scott Kuster	Council Vice President	scottkuster@gra.midco.net
Angie Muhs	Council Secretary	bamuhs@yahoo.com
Kevin Cooper	Council Treasurer	kevin.j.cooper@outlook.com
Brook Fretheim	Outreach Team	brookweber@hotmail.com
Chelsea Lupien	Fellowship Team	chelsea.lupien@und.edu
Duane Naas	Properties Team	dnaas@sterlingcarpetone.com
Bre Berberich	Education Team	berberich@midco.net
Steve Hancock	Youth Team	shannonandsteven@gmail.com
Valorie Uhler	Worship Team	valuhler@yahoo.com

Happy Birthday in March!

- 1 Kambra Deitz, Scott Kuster
- 4 Tom Naas, Lisa Strand
- 5 Roy Olson
- 6 Donny Ackerman
- 8 Kari Berthold, James Thorson
- 9 Alex Senger
- 12 Sonia Galegher, Jason Naas
- 13 Hannah Halvorson, Mary Reineke, Christian Widman
- 17 Sarah Fee
- 19 Kenzie Hughes, Ruth Waller
- 20 Danica Tomanek
- 21 Kay Lindell, Oliver LaRoque
- 24 Suzy Thorson
- 25 Becky Bohlman, Dave Fugleberg
- 26 Beth Lopez, Dianne Lundgren, Lynnea Mayer, Mike Morgan, Evie Pearson, Timmy Pearson
- 28 Josh Faul
- 30 Tony Amborn
- 31 Chance Danner

Living Lent



This year we are once again having soup suppers before most of our Midweek Lenten Services. **Soup will be served from 5:30-6:45 or until the soup runs out.** Soup schedule of servers for this Lent is:

March 4th—8th grade;

March 11th—Youth Team; March 18th—7th grade; March 25th—6th grade;

April 1st—Vitality Team.

Thank you to everyone who helped make Donut Day 2020 a huge success! Thank you to everyone who helped with the set up, and helped on Saturday. We have an awesome crew! Also thank you to everyone who helps support this WELCA project by buying the donuts. Special thank you to Amy B and Sandy O for organizing our donut crew again this year! We appreciate you!



Great Crew and
So Many Donuts



Join us for Friday Lenten Fish Fry!

The Men in Mission will once again be hosting the Fish Fry every other Friday during Lent. The Fridays that we will be hosting at Saint Matthew's are: **March 6, March 20, and April 3.** Food served will be: Walleye Fillet, Baked Potatoes, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Roll, Ice Cream and a Beverage.

Prices are: Adult Single Fillet Meal \$14, Adult 2 Fillet Meal \$20, Kids Meal \$7, Kids under 5 Free. WELCA will also be selling pieces of Pie.

Grab your friends and neighbors and come join the fun!

Proceeds support various Men In Mission donations to programs such as: Angel Tree, Feed My Starving Children, Thompson After Prom Party, Sox for Kids and Spin for Kids.





UNOFFICIAL COUNCIL MINUTES—February 16, 2020

Present: Paul Strande, Scott Kuster, Duane Naas, Bre Berberich, Angie Muhs, Valorie Uhler, Chelsea Lupien, Steve Hancock, Kevin Cooper, Pastor Tawanda

Absent: None

Meeting called to order at --11:40 AM. Bre motioned to start meeting, Scott Seconded.

Opened with devotional provided us with devotion and prayer.

Meeting agenda shared. Added mileage for Pastor Tawanda to new business. Scott moved to approve the agenda and Bre seconded. MPU

Minutes from January council meeting were shared.

Steve moved to approve the minutes, Val seconded, MPU.

Financial Report:

As of latest report, General Checking has \$29,714.74. Special Funds Checking has \$26,849.84. Line of credit balance is \$0. Total Expenses were \$8060.74, leaving a Net income of \$5801.37 and YTD Net gain of \$5801.37.

Income for January exceeded budget, which is great.

Kevin will talk to Jamie regarding overall budget including Guatemala line item. Plan is to transfer funds in the Guatemala line item to a different account.

Valorie made a motion to approve the financial report. Bre seconded it. MCU.

Calendar Review:

Offices will close on Fridays starting in two weeks.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Tawanda has been at St. Matthew's one week. He will have an official report moving forward. Pastor Tawanda is moving to GF the weekend of February 23. Cost to break lease in West Fargo has a fee of \$725 plus rent until apartment is re-rented.

Men's Club Report: Scott ~ Gearing up for fish fry. Flyer to be sent out. Fish fry dates are March 6, 20 and April 3. Donated funds to Thompson prom after party. Also will donate to Pastor Penny's church project downtown to be painted.

WELCA update: Paul updated council. WELCA made 329 dozen donuts and have sold most of these as well. Plan is to serve pie at the fish fry.

Team Reports:

Exec- Paul – Scott, Kevin, Paul, and Angie on phone met to discuss and interview pastor Tawanda.

Education-Bre – Working on milestone prep for Sunday school. Students will be presenting milestones last day of Sunday School. Kids sing March 1st and Palm Sunday. Planning Wrap up Sunday to include a cook out. Education team is helping with soup supper planning.

Fellowship- Chelsea – All congregation birthday Sunday last weekend was successful. Goat yoga planned two times this next summer with dates to be determined. Fellowship is planning a free will offering for this event. Also hoping for a few potlucks this spring.

Outreach- Paul updated- Looking for an outreach leader.

Food Pantry- Paul via message from Kristy Adams –486lbs of food served in January to 11 families.

Property- Duane – Plan is to clean floors. Please let Duane know if anything needs assistance.

Worship- Val – Planning for Ash Wednesday, Lenten services, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

Youth- Steve – LYO one time Feb and March. Youth will serve soup suppers. Jump and Jam January and had 25 youth attend.

Vitality team- Kevin- Planning a creative service on Sunday called Eat, Pray, Love thy Neighbor for Sunday school students and their families and the congregation as a whole on February 23. Free will offering for general funds that day.

Mission: Deepen our faith in mission by discerning, sharing, and building our faith practices in order to encourage enthusiastic involvement.

Old Business

Vione's credit limit is \$3400

Steve will be in charge of youth card. Limit is \$500.

New Business

Sam's club card

Pastor is primary and Alisha Schumacher is secondary. Motion made to make Vione the primary and Bre the secondary on this card. Steve made motion, Scott seconded motion. MPU

Coffee cart ~ Fellowship team

Discussion related to upkeep and how to manage this cart. Fellowship team will discuss this on Wednesday at fellowship meeting and Chelsea will report back to council.

Plan is to cover/store the cart on Wednesday due to coffee spilling and youth misuse.

Days church is closed

Both Pastor Tawanda and Vione will be out on Fridays.

Authorization for a credit card for Pastor Tawanda

Motion made to add Pastor Tawanda to credit card. (\$1000 limit) Steve motioned, Chelsea seconded. MPU

Total on card is \$5000

Vione \$3400

Steve \$500 ~ Youth

Pastor Tawanda ~ \$1000

How to increase number of people auto giving?

Conversation surrounding this topic. Will consider how to assess what would make giving easier/automatic, etc. for our members and to sustain the church budget especially throughout the summer.

Audit team to take lead in this journey by assessing and creating suggestions to bring to the council.

We need to get the Line of Credit signed at the bank in March. LOC last year was \$20,000. Need a motion to create a line of credit at the bank and need to decide who should sign for it.

Steve made motion to open the \$20,000 line of credit with signing ability given to Paul Strande and Kevin Cooper, Duane seconded motion. MPU

Mileage for Pastor Tawanda

He is moving to Grand Forks next weekend. Volunteers are organizing to assist him in moving next weekend from West Fargo.

Motion made by Scott to pay \$725 fee for Pastor Tawanda to break his lease in West Fargo. Seconded by Steve. MPU

Motion to compensate for his mileage at \$50/day for trips between W. Fargo and Thompson until he lives in GF next weekend. Steve made motion, Chelsea seconded. MPU

March meeting:

Wedding, funeral coordinator conversation.

Possible change codes for locks.

Hoping for team lead positions filled.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 1:43 PM

Duane made motion to adjourn, Steve seconded. MPU

Next Meeting March 22, 2020 @ 11:30 AM.

Submitted by:

Angie Muhs

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

Welcome to worship

Mid-week Lenten Worship 7:00 pm
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School at 9 a.m.

Address service requested



Let go
and
let God....

February 26- Ash Wednesday Worship at 7 pm

March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1-

Soup at 5:30

Worship at 7 pm

**April 9- Maundy Thursday Worship at 7 pm
with First Communion**

April 10- Good Friday Worship at 7 pm

**April 12- Easter Sunrise Worship at 7 am
Festival Worship at 10 am**

Lead You into Faithfulness – March 4

Lead You into Justice – March 11

Lead You into Gladness – March 18

Lead You into Forgiveness – March 25

Lead You into Salvation – April 1