

March 2021

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

Listening as a Lenten Practice

During my days as a Youth Ministry Coordinator, I once asked the youth in my Confirmation class what they wanted to be when they grow up. We were talking about vocation and in explanation of what that meant, I quoted Frederick Buechner. Buechner writes that, "The place God calls you to, is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." So, I asked the youth, "What is your deep gladness, what is it that you love to do, what brings you joy? And then, what does the world hunger for, what are the needs in the world today? The intersection of those two things, that place, that's your calling. Imagine, if money was not an issue, what would you like to do?"

The responses I got from the youth impressed me. Someone wanted to be a photographer, to capture the beauty in the world that a lot of people miss because they are often too busy to notice the grandeur of creation. Another wanted to be a professional basketball player, because what else captivates people's emotions and entertains them the way sports do? Others wanted to be doctors, visual artists, and one even wanted to spend a year volunteering abroad through the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM).

What I was asking the youth that day, was to do an introspection. To think carefully about themselves, who they are and their deepest desires. And then, instead of directing their desires inward, I asked them to look outward. To look at the world, and others, and think about how they can be involved in what's going on around them.

I asked them to listen. I asked them to discern. To sift through the many voices calling out to them because God's voice is not the only voice in this world, especially today. This is what makes figuring out one's calling so hard. What is the voice of God amidst pop culture, society, and self-interest?

Buechner offers some advice, he says, "By and large a good rule for finding out is this: the kind of work God usually calls you to is the kind of work (a) that you need most to do and (b) that the world most needs to have done." You look inward and then you look outward and then you listen.

Figuring out what God is up to in our lives and in the world requires of us to listen. One has to listen to his or her life. In the exciting peaks, as well as in the deep, dark valleys. What are the moments of happy tears, and where are the moments of surprise laughter? When we pay attention to those moments, we will discover something important about ourselves. And even more, such moments are whispering something about the kind of work God has given our lives to do.

One also has to listen to others. Who are the people who have come before you and paved the way for you to be where you are today? Who are the people that believe in you, who cheer you on, who want you to succeed? God uses other people to speak to us. In listening to them, we might figure out what God is calling us to.

And then lastly, one has to listen to the world. If you go outside and close your eyes, what do you hear? Watch the news with the sound turned off, what do you see? Look at your friends, look at your neighbors, take a walk downtown, go to the places that people gather, what is the world saying to you? Listening to God in the world asks us to look at the world in its most honest moments, at the world in all its pain and anguish and deep hunger and ask, "How can your deep gladness touch this?"

LYO-Youth Group

Youth Group News – Due to the Lenten season we will not have any regular LYO nights in March. Regular LYO meetings will start again in April after Easter. Seniors will be recognized at our meeting on May 19th.



Education

Greetings from the Education Team!



Our Sunday school students will begin studying 'The Story of Easter' on Sunday, February 21st through Sunday, March 28th. While our Pre-K through 4th grade students are learning this story, our 5th grade students will be preparing for their First Communion during Sunday school class time.

Important dates -

No Sunday School - 3/21
Sunday School singing on Palm Sunday - 3/28
First Communion Retreat for 5th Graders - 3/28
First Communion for 5th Graders - 4/1
Children's Good Friday Service - 4/2
No Sunday School - 4/4
Easter Egg Hunt - 4/11
Last Day of Sunday school - 5/2



Confirmation

The 6th and 7th graders will **NOT** have class during Lent however they are required to attend Mid-Week Lent worship services.

8th graders will meet during Lent for Mentor Conversations beginning on February 24th through March 24th at 6:00 p.m. They are also required to attend mid-week Lent worship services.

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 Quilting Ladies for the beautiful quilts given as baptism gifts.
- Duane N and Roy O for keeping the church "freeze free" and taking care of the necessities.
- Sarah K for the seasonal altar display.
- St. Matthew's Men for preparing the delicious fish and fixin's.
- Snow removal team.

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



Congratulations to Shane & Lindsay Johnson on the baptism of their daughter Alexandra Evelyn Johnson. Alexandra was baptized on February 20, 2021. Her sponsors are Mandi Nohner, Andy Nohner, Nick Bartuska, and Steph Powers.

Welcome into our family Alexandra!



Congratulations to Kodey Schuppert and Kimberly Mohagen on the baptism of their daughter Aubrey Olivia Schuppert. Aubrey was baptized on February 21, 2021. Her sponsor is Dylan Duffy.

Welcome into our family Aubrey!



Ongoing Ministries

MEN IN MISSION St. Matthew's men gather each Sunday morning at 9 am in the Rosendal Room and on-line 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!

WELCA BIBLE STUDY This group usually meets on the 3rd Monday of the month. Currently they are on hold but hope to be getting back together soon. Stay tuned for more information.

Worship



March

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

April

Steph Albin Family
Adam & Jen Bohlman Family
Trinity Bohlman Family
Nathan & Bre Berberich Family
Travis Dearing Family
Blake & Gretchen Guetter Family
Marc & Beth Kurz Family
Derek & Stacy Plautz Family

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

Greetings from the Worship Team!

As you read this it SHOULD be warmer and we have started the Lenten Season with an Ash Wednesday service. The theme this year is "The Road Back to God". There is a daily devotional booklet that can be picked up at the church during the day or on Wednesday evenings at the service. We hope to see you there as the church is open with precautions.

You will also see a seasonal display on the Alter. We are going to try and keep some type of display going for the whole year SO if any of you are creative AND would like to serve in a less public way please contact me. We can always use more creative help and this can be done in the evenings as well

On that note, more Worship Team members are needed and welcome.. Don't worry, I'll still be the one to go to the council meetings, so that won't be a requirement.

Easter flower orders can be found in the entryway to the sanctuary. Information is also available on page 6 of the newsletter. Please help us decorate the Sanctuary this Easter.

Thank you to all and we're looking forward to seeing you all back in church!

God Bless you - Nancy M, Sharon G, Cheryl W, and Valorie U

Pastor Tawanda welcomes visitors at the church office anytime. He is in the office all day on Mondays and Thursdays, please feel free to stop in. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, please contact him to set up a time.

Pastor Tawanda's day off is Friday.



Don't forget that **daylight savings time begins on Sunday March 14!** 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

Pastor Tawanda Murinda	Pastor	pastor@stmatthewsthompson.org
Vione Jordheim	Admin Assistant	stmattsvione@gmail.com
Jamie Bischoff	Bookkeeper	stmattsbookkeeper58278@gmail.com
Paul Strande	Council President	stmattspresident@gmail.com
Ryan Welsh	Council Vice President	rswelsh@invisimax.com
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Duane Naas	Properties Team	duanechrisnaas@gmail.com
Sarah Krogfoss	Education Team	sarahkrogfoss@icloud.com
Steve Hancock	Youth Team	shannonandsteven@gmail.com
Valorie Uhler	Worship Team	valuhlir@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, Annie Jo Uhler
- 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



Join us for Friday 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 St. Matthew's are: **February 26, March 12, and March 26.** Meals will include: Walleye Fillet, Baked Potatoes, Baked Beans, Coleslaw and Roll. Prices are: Adult Single Fillet Meal \$14, Adult 2 Fillet Meal \$20, Kids Meal \$7.

All meals will be **TAKEOUT ONLY.**

Easter Flowers for the Sanctuary



Easter flower orders can be found in the entryway to the sanctuary. The basic information is also below.

Let's decorate the Sanctuary and celebrate our risen Lord!!

Easter Lily	\$15.00	Hyacinths	\$13.00
Tulips	\$13.00	Azaleas	\$28.00
Hydrangeas	\$30.00	Mums	\$16.00

Orders need to be placed by March 7th. Orders can be placed in Val Uhler's mailbox, texted to her at 701-739-6282, or e-mailed to valuhlr@yahoo.com

5th Graders will gather for a retreat on Sunday, March 28th at 2:00 pm. Parents and children will learn about what it means to be welcomed to God's Table.

5th Graders will receive their first communion on Maundy Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 pm.

First Communion





UNOFFICIAL February council minutes, February 21, 2021

Present: Pastor Tawanda Murinda, Paul Strande, Scott Kuster, Duane Naas, Valorie Uhler, Sara Munson, Sarah Krogfoss, Ryan Welsh, Steve Hancock, Robyn Bohlman

Absent: Brook Fretheim

Meeting called to order at 11:16AM by Council President Strande.

Opening prayer and devotional provided by Pastor Tawanda

Pastor motioned to approve agenda; Steve seconded, MPU.

Paul moved Val Seconded to have Scott Kuster finish Kevin's year as treasurer

Minutes from January council meeting were shared and reviewed.

Sara Munson moved to approve the January Council minutes as presented; Scott seconded, MPU.

Financial Report:

General Giving Income for January was \$10171.16. As of Jan 31, the General Giving checking account balance is \$16151.61 Special Funds checking balance is \$31723.89. Our line of credit balance is \$0. YTD income is \$10171.16.

Steve motioned to approve financials, Ryan seconds motion. MPU

Pastor's Report: Please see Pastor's full report. Working with Val on worship, Holy week and Easter. Introducing Good Friday children's service. Lots of baptisms – questioned whether we ever turn down baptisms – even if they don't have intention of joining?

Calendar Review:

March 21 no Sunday School

March 28 kids singing in church

March council meeting will be March 14

Paul went thru binder.

Men's Club Report: Scott – Fish Fry Friday – take out only 5-7

WELCA: Sara – meeting in March.

Team Reports:

Exec- Paul – No meeting last month.

Education- Sarah – Friday children's service. Hjelmstads will offer special music. 8 5th graders will begin First Communion classes Wednesday. Will be mini retreat. Easter Egg hunt on 11th during Sunday school. Kids singing on Palm Sunday.

Fellowship- Sara – questioned how to go about starting to plan events. Events ideas should be sent to Paul to get approval from executive team during pandemic.

Outreach- Brook- No update

Food Pantry- 446 lbs food went to 9 households

Property- Duane – general maintenance. When it gets nicer out (spring) will check with Dan at school about getting machine to clean carpets.

Worship- Val – thanked Sarah for items on altar. Looking for someone good at decorating to work with Sarah. Put something in newsletter. Lenten festivities being worked on. Looking for more people to help with screens.

Youth- Steve – made valentines for section of nursing home. Sara Munson shared that Thompson Days will be July 8-11. Float? Service?

Old Business

- List of items from Scott Landa. Items in vestry – possibly building display for confirmation pictures.

- Better desk for the Computers used for worship – Paul looking at building something that also has box that locks to keep computers in. Use funds in building improvement for materials needed.

New Business

- Combining property lots into one property-received letter from city. Makes billing easier and would save money. Paul made motion to have Scott sign form to do this, Steve seconded.

- Desk for the tech team- already discussed

- Repair of the altar and pulpit. – Ryan and Paul will look at it. Baptismal font may need to be looked at first.

Location to put scanned documents- are being put in Scotts mailbox after sent to Jamie. Give back to Vione to put in locked cabinet. Scott will contact Jamie about this.

Renewing the \$20,000 line of credit at the bank for 2 year. Who will sign? Steve Hancock made a motion to renew and have Paul Strande and Scott Kuster sign. Duane Naas seconded. MPU Change secondary on Sam's Club card - Val motioned Ryan second to change from Bre to Sarah Krogfoss. MPU

Scott motion to adjourn Steve second

Closing Prayer (Lord's Prayer)

Next Meeting: March 21 at 11:00 AM / after church service

Respectfully Submitted by:

Robyn Bohlman

ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



Ash
Wednesday
Sacrifice
Almsgiving
Prayer
Fasting
Lent

Holy Week
Holy Thursday
Good Friday
Holy Saturday
Easter
Palm Sunday
Purple

Palm Branch
Forty Days
Jesus
Passover
Foot Washing
Resurrection
Love



How Do You Celebrate Lent?

How do you celebrate Lent with your family?

Here are 10 easy ways to connect with Christ during this season of Lent!

- * Attend a traditional Lenten service as a family.
- * Do daily devotions. A good resource during Lent is the “Road Back to God” devotional which you should have already received or one can be picked up at the church.
- * Plan a daily prayer time focusing on Lent.
- * Sacrifice something for 40 days. You can do this as a family or each individually. Whatever you decide, it should have meaning. Sacrificing for Lent isn’t about proving how holy you are. It’s practicing the denial of something.
- * Take the opportunity to show hospitality to someone and show them the love of Jesus through yourself.
- * As a family, volunteer to help with worship services, special music, projects.
- * Understand your needs. As a family, take a few minutes to talk about things you might be struggling with or that you need a prayer for.
- * Prayerfully consider the needs of others around you.
- * Slow down your heart and mind. Spend time together as a family and do something together. You might need to say no to a few other things in order to do this.
- * Set up a giving box. Each day or week during Lent take one thing from your pantry and put it in a box. At the end of Lent, take the box to our local food pantry.

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
701 Broadway St. Thompson, ND 58278
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Welcome to worship

Mid-week Lenten Worship 7:00 pm
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
In-person and live on our YouTube Channel
Sunday School at 9 a.m.

Address service requested



February 17- Ash Wednesday Worship at 7 pm

February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24

Worship at 7 pm

March 28-Palm Sunday Worship at 10am

**April 1- Maundy Thursday Worship at 7 pm
with First Communion**

April 2 - Children's Good Friday Service

Worship at 5 pm

Good Friday Worship at 7 pm

April 4- Easter Sunrise Worship at 7 am

Festival Worship at 10 am

