

March 2022

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

Hello, new friends at St. Matthew's!

My name is Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt and I will be serving as your part time Interim Pastor for the months of March and April. That means we will be spending all of Lent together.

I see from the notes I have received that the planned theme for Lent is "A Way in the Wilderness: How Far We Have Come and How Far We Still Have to Go." That sure seems to fit where St. Matthew's is at right now. You are all are going through a wilderness of transition as you prepare to say goodbye to Pastor Tawanda, not knowing who or what to expect next. You are facing these big changes after making countless adjustments for the pandemic the last couple of years. That's a lot to get through as a congregation. You are hanging on tightly to your faith, trusting God is still speaking to and through you all. I believe that faith is well founded!

My goal for the next couple of months is just to bring a little stability and breathing room to the St Matthew's community so that you can feel assured that worship leadership and pastoral care will be taken care of during this very precious time of Lent. I will also lend assistance and guidance to the council in whatever way they deem appropriate as they plan the next steps.

At the same time, I will continue my full-time work as a chaplain for Hospice of the Red River Valley. As a chaplain, I work with a team of nurses, social workers, and CNAs to provide care for individuals and their families in the last stages of their life. This work is 8-5, Monday through Friday, and involves a lot of driving. That means that I will not be at the church much beyond worship and meeting times. However, I have some flexibility in my schedule, so please feel free to call me during working hours with any needs or questions that arise. (My number is below). If I don't answer, please leave a message and I will call you back shortly.

A little background on me: I live in Grand Forks with my husband Brian (a third grade teacher). We have a daughter who is a first year student in college and a son who is a sophomore in high school. I started my chaplaincy work with HRRV about three years ago. Before that I served nearly 10 years as a pastor at Calvary Lutheran in Grand Forks and my first call was with First Lutheran in Mahanomen, where I served for 6 ½ years after graduating from Luther Seminary in 2002. The closest thing I have to a "Hometown" is Fergus Falls, MN, where I graduated High School.

While my call as a chaplain is my primary vocational focus at present, I still enjoy leading worship and helping to build up Christian communities when it is workable with my schedule. I have served a couple of other short-term interims for parishes in our synod in the last few years, giving me a glimpse into the unique ways different congregations carry out their callings. I already see many signs of vibrant ministry happening in and through the community of St. Matthew's and am excited to learn more.

Though my time with you may be brief, I trust that lasting value can come from our shared worship, prayer and discussions. I am looking forward to getting to know you as we move through this season together, journeying with Jesus through the wilderness toward both the cross and the resurrection.

In peace,

Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt Cell: (701) 213-6715

LYO-Youth Group

Youth Group News –

Thank you to Paul & Heidi Strande, Shannon Hancock and Michelle Potter on organizing and serving the February LYO meeting. Your dedication to our kids is very much appreciated!

Due to the Lenten season we will not have any regular LYO nights in March. We will be serving the soup supper on March 9th.

Regular LYO meetings will start again after Easter with meetings from 6:00-8:00pm on April 20, May 4 and May 18. Thank you to the congregation for their continued support of our youth at St. Matthew's.



Education



During the months of March and April our 5th graders will be taking their First Communion classes during Sunday school class time. If you have a student in 5th grade or in Confirmation class who has not yet received First Communion instruction, please contact the church to get

them registered.

The rest of the Sunday school classes will be beginning their studies of Queen Esther during the month of March.

Dates to remember -

Kids sing March 13th

No Sunday school March 20th

Monthly 'Donuts for Ducks' Day March 27th



During Lent, the 8th graders are meeting with their mentors weekly in preparation for their upcoming Confirmation next fall. The 6th, 7th, and 8th graders will not have formal classes during the Lenten season but are strongly encouraged to attend Wednesday Lent services with

their families. Each grade/class will be hosting one of the soup suppers; March 16-7th grade; March 23-8th grade; April 6-6th grade. Regular confirmation classes will resume the Wednesday after Easter.

In His Grace,
The Education Team

Living Lent



Join us for our 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 St. Matthew's are: **March 11, March 25, and April 8** *AND* WELCA will be selling pieces of pie to top off your meal. Meals will be sit down or by take out.

Grab your friends and neighbors and come join the fun!



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 9th—LYO; March 16th—7th grade; March 23—8th grade; March 30—Church Council; April 6—6th grade.



Don't forget that **daylight savings time begins on Sunday March 13!** Spring forward and come join us for worship!

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.

WELCA BIBLE STUDY

This group meets for Bible Study the third Monday of the month in the Rosendal Room. Their next gathering is **Monday, March 21.** Please note the time change. All are welcome!

Worship



March

Barry & Cheryl Arntz
John & Robyn Bohlman
Kenny Dobmeier Family
Scott & Jill Kuster and Katelyn
Sue Simon
James & Suzy Thorson
Megan Bohlman

April

Trinity Bohlman & Halle
Nate & Bre Berberich Family
Deann Wieler/Leo & Wyatt Dearing
Blake & Gretchen Guetter Family
Mark & Beth Kurz Family
Derek & Stacy Plautz Family

Thank you

WELCA Members and St. Matthews Church congregation:

On behalf of my family and myself, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for all the prayers and thoughts that you gave us after the death of our Mom, Mary Loing. The prayers helped us through a very difficult time.

And, getting the meal fixed and served was fantastic! Everything was so good and we really appreciated it! It was a blessing to be able to get together with friends and relatives after the funeral and remember things about Mom. It is a

process that helps the healing!

Thank you for getting the church ready for the service and fellowship afterwards.

Thank you to Pastor Tawanda for the great sermon and for leading the service.

I don't want to mention any names, because I know I will leave one or two out, and I don't want to do that! But, just know that I thank God for the wonderful church family we have at St. Matthews. You were thought of by Mom even though she hadn't been able to attend any services the last couple of years.

God bless all of you and keep you in His tender, loving care! THANK YOU!

In Him,

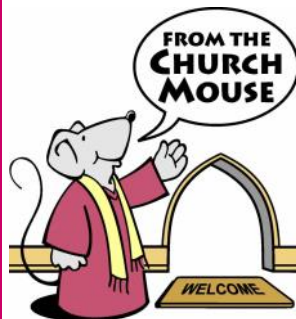
Jim and Audrey Vind

Nancy and Doug Rothe; Dustin Rothe, Melissa Rothe, Josh and Cassie Rothe

Janet and Randy Hanson; Jenny and Lance Ekern, Sarah Hanson, Abby and Ethan Courtemanche

Randy Loing; Jacob and Hailey Loing, Jared Loing

Ruth Waller; Kevin Waller, Elizabeth and Paulo Malater



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!

- Our snow removal team that has been overworked this year
- Roy O for fridge and freezer cleaning
- Andy N for helping to keep the church tidy
- Duane N and the furnace crew for heating things up

And as always, THANK YOU to all who are making a difference! We appreciate you!

It's time to make the donuts...over 302 dozen donuts!



Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

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

ST. MATTHEW'S LEADERSHIP

| | | |
|------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Pastor Kristen | Interim Pastor (Mar & April) | 701-213-6715 |
| Vione Jordheim | Admin Assistant | stmattsvione@gmail.com |
| Jamie Bischoff | Bookkeeper | stmattsbookkeeper58278@gmail.com |
| Sarah Krogfoss | Children & Family Ministry Coordinator | sarahkrogfoss@icloud.com |
| John Schumacher | Council President | stmattspresident@gmail.com |
| Ryan Welsh | Council Vice President | rswelsh@invisimax.com |
| Robyn Bohlman | Council Secretary | rbohlman@invisimax.com |
| Justin Bergeron | Council Treasurer | jbergero@yahoo.com |
| Bethany Kurz | Outreach Team | bkurz@undeerc.org |
| Sara Munson | Fellowship Team | smunson190@mygfschools.org |
| Duane Naas | Properties Team | duanechrisnaas@gmail.com |
| Chelsea Lupien | Youth Team | chelsea.lupien@und.edu |
| Sue Simon | Worship Team | ssimon@gra.midco.net |

Happy Birthday in March!

- 1 Kambra Deitz, Scott Kuster
- 4 Aubrey Schuppert, Lisa Strand
- 5 Roy Olson, Madison Rood
- 6 Donny Ackerman
- 8 Kari Berthold, James Thorson
- 9 Alex Senger
- 12 Sonia Galegher
- 13 Hannah Odegard, Mary Reineke, Christian Widman
- 15 Tiffany Rood
- 17 Sarah Fee
- 19 Kenzie Hughes, Ruth Waller
- 21 Kay Lindell, Oliver LaRoque
- 24 Suzy Thorson, Annie Jo Uhlir
- 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



St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Meeting

Date: February 27, 2022

In Attendance: Ryan Welsh, Sue Simon, John Schumacher, Justin Bergeron, Sarah Krogfoss, Pastor Tawanda, Duane Naas, Beth Kurz

Absent: Sara Munson, Chelsea Lupien

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by John Schumacher at 11:48. Pastor Tawanda led opening prayer.

Agenda Approval: Pastor will join until team reports and then he will be excused. Add Ruby's Pantry to Team Reports. Ryan Welsh moved, Justin Bergeron seconded to approve the agenda. MPU

Minutes Approval: Duane Naas moved, Beth Kurz seconded to approve the minutes. MPU

Financial Reports: General Giving income for January was \$13,106. As of January 31, the General Giving checking account balance is \$17,280. Special Giving checking is \$31,131. Our line of credit is \$0. Our YTD income is -\$32.00 The Benevolence will be paid in February.

Approval: Robyn Bohlman moved, Ryan Welsh seconded to approve financial. MPU

Calendar Review: March 6 is Girl Scout Sunday. March 13 – Pastor Brad will be here from Synod. We will have a short meeting with him after service. March 30 the Council will provide the soup.

Pastor's Report: The blessing of doing ministry here at St Matthew's is the youth, the children. That is an area to really invest our money. Lots of new young families. Space is needed. Pastor's struggle was fitting into the community of Thompson outside of the church building. Being a Pastor at St Matthew's was easy because of the support system within the church.

Men's Club & WELCA report: Men's Club is planning on having the fish fry's in person.

Team Reports:

Executive Team: Met with Pastor Kristen

Education: Sarah Krogfoss – Kids sing on March 13. First Communion classes started February 27. Bre Berberich is teaching those classes.

Fellowship: Sara Munson – none

Outreach: Beth Kurz– Between Welca, Outreach & Fellowship they are going to work together on activities. Looking for more members for team.

Food Pantry -

Properties: Duane Naas- needs to check front door – not latching. Will look at the women's toilet as it seems to keep running.

Ruby's Pantry: next distribution will be March 17

Worship: Sue Simon– Sue and Val are coordinating everything

Youth: Chelsea Lupien–

Old Business

Altar, Pulpit and Baptismal Font –take off the agenda for now

Bid from HB Sound – Beth made a motion to get a quote from HB Sound. Sarah Krogfoss second. Should look at tying in whole system. Duane will contact them to get a quote. MPU

Child Care Center at St Matthew's- take off the agenda for now

Pastor Sabbatical: Put the amount budgeted on hold for now. Table until we have a Pastor.

New Business

Pastor Kristen: Contract is done. She will start this Wednesday (Ash Wednesday)

Pastor Tawanda's last service: done

Increasing Vione's hours: John spoke with Vione and she is willing to help as needed with the transition. May need to increase her hours and may be over budget for that if needed.

Offering Plate responsibilities: Used to be ushers responsibility to make sure the offering gets where it needs to be. Justin recommended the Tech helpers be responsible for putting the offering away. John mentioned to keep generally the same as has been to have the adult Greeter responsible for this. Sue will mention it to the worship team.

Facebook: Who should be editors? Team leads? John will talk to Pastor Amy about getting use back of the church's Instagram acct. moved Beth second to have Vione Add Angie from fellowship as being able to edit St Matthew's Facebook and to get control of the Instagram account back. MPU

Next council meeting will be March 13, 2022 after we meet with Pastor Brad.

Motion to adjourn made by Sue Simon, seconded by Ryan Welsh . MPU

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Bohlman

God's Blessings to Pastor Tawanda on his new journey!



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.
In-person and live on our YouTube Channel
Sunday School at 9 a.m.

Address service requested



A Way in the Wilderness

How Far We Have Come and How Far We Still Have to Go

March 2- Ash Wednesday

Worship at 7 pm

March 9 – Soup Supper at 5:30 – LYO hosting

Worship at 7pm – "Journey in the Wilderness"

March 16 – Soup Supper at 5:30 – 7th grade hosting

Worship at 7pm – "Life and Hope on the Journey"

March 23 – Soup Supper at 5:30 – 8th grade hosting

Worship at 7pm – "Vulnerable in the Wilderness"

March 30 – Soup Supper at 5:30 – Council hosting

Worship at 7 pm – "Transformed in the Wilderness"

April 6 – Soup Supper at 5:30 – 6th grade hosting

Worship at 7pm – "A New Way"