

March 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. Matt's Friends,

I wanted to share with you a little bit about our Lenten Theme, "Who Me? Unlikely Servants of God."

I will be honest, I have not had a whole lot of time to pre-plan Lent since starting with you Feb 16. None of the pre-packaged options I looked at grabbed my attention. So I was inspired to create a series for us, which I am still needing to flesh out. So far I have picked a theme and stories to focus on, and I want to share the **WHY**.

For starters, the confirmation kids are studying the Old Testament this year so that's where I went looking for stories that would reinforce and expand on what they have been learning since they **will be** in church. Also, since we so often focus on the gospel readings on Sundays (you know, because we are a little bit Jesus-centric), I thought it might be nice for all of us to revisit some of these stories we don't get to hear as often.

I picked the theme **"Who me? Unlikely Servants of God"** because I think that some of you might be thinking or feeling that way at St. Matt's these days.

It is my conviction that St. Matt's is in a critical season--hopefully one of learning and growing. First, like every other congregation on the planet, we are trying to regain footing after Covid-19. Things look different now. Some people left and may not be back. Some are new. Given the circumstances, St. Matt's is a remarkably resilient and active congregation carrying on with ministry. However, there are still some challenges and uncertainties in rebuilding. After listening to you and engaging with the ministry teams and groups, I hear a lot of discussion about how things that used to happen aren't happening in the same way anymore or at all.

That's not *all* bad. When you are going through change, it is a good time to ask what purpose traditions and activities were designed to serve and consider whether they are still working. Which are definite keepers and which ones should stay gone? What patterns or plans need to be adapted or developed for this moment and the people here now? How will it happen? Who will lead the effort? I hear a lot of those kinds of conversations happening at St. Matt's right now.

In addition to all that, you have brought me into the mix! And I am glad to be here to lend thought, prayer and guidance to the cause. But since I am not contracted to work with you full-time, I will be gone some Sundays and I am not at the church as often during the week as some of your former pastors. This means that some things that have been done by pastors in the past will need to be organized or led by members of the church, or they aren't going to happen. **Some worship leadership, sharing of messages, Bible studies, fellowship, outreach, education and service opportunities are all waiting to be developed, explored and enjoyed BY YOU ALL! Yay!!!**

And to that, you might respond, **"Who me? I don't think so."**

Well, I get it. In fact, that's how God's people have often responded to God's callings. The most unlikely people in the world have been called to serve God in the most extraordinary ways....sometimes in very public roles, and sometimes behind the scenes. They came in all forms—men, women, old, young, rich, poor. But if you spend much time reading the Bible you will find that almost all the folk that find themselves called by God to some thing—really any *thing*—are generally surprised, skeptical and scared. They almost never felt ready. And then, slowly, they started to believe and even get excited, and found themselves empowered to faithfully act in truly amazing ways....all with God's help. These stories are fun, because God is always surprising people. Even now.

We do not know what shape the ministry of following Jesus will take in the future...at St. Matt's or anywhere. But God knows, and God is already making the way for it. **God is busy at this moment calling and equipping a whole new crop of unlikely servants to new adventures here at St. Matt's...including you! Yes, really. You.**

Together with you in the ranks of the totally unqualified and woefully unprepared, your servant, **Pastor Kristen**

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 8th.

Regular LYO meetings will start again after Easter with meetings from 6:30-8:00 pm on April 12 & 26 and May 10.

On April 12th LYO & Confirmation classes are encouraged to attend the inspirational talk 'Finding Faith in the Field' by Ben Hylden at Thompson Public School at 7pm. More information is on the bulletin board by the office.

Thank you to the congregation for their continued support of our youth at St. Matthew's.



Education

Our Sunday school students will be studying the story of Jonah and the Whale during the month of March. On Sunday, February 26th the Fifth grade class will begin their First Communion classes and they will receive their First Communion during Maundy Thursday worship services.

On Palm Sunday, in lieu of regular lessons, the Sunday school students will experience the stations of the cross to learn more about Jesus' journey to the cross and His resurrection in an interactive way. They will also sing during worship that day and lead the palm branch processional.

Important dates -

Kids Sing - 3/12

No Sunday School - 3/19

Kids Sing - Palm Sunday - 4/2

First Communion Retreat for 5th Graders - 4/2

First Communion for 5th Graders - 4/6

No Sunday School - 4/9

Easter Egg Hunt - 4/16



Confirmation

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 1st—7th grade; March 22--8th grade parents; March 29th--6th grade. Regular confirmation classes will resume the Wednesday after Easter.

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 3, March 17 and March 31 from 5-7pm** AND WELCA will be selling pieces of pie for \$2 to top off your meal.

The menu includes: walleye fillet, baked potato, coleslaw, baked beans, drink and ice cream. Prices are: adults \$16, 5-12 years \$7, under 5 Free and 2 fillets are \$24.

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 5:15 pm—6:15 or until the soup runs out.**

Soup schedule of servers for this Lent are:

March 1—7th grade; March 8—LYO; March 15—Church Council;
March 22— 8th grade parents; March 29—6th grade.



Don't forget that **daylight savings time begins on Sunday March 12!** 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 Fellowship Hall. Their next gathering is **Monday, March 20 at 10:00am.** All are welcome!

Worship



March

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

April

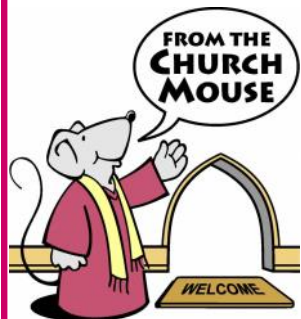
Trinity Bohlman & Halle
Nate & Bre Berberich Family
Deann Wieler/Leo & Wyatt Dearing
Blake & Gretchen Guetter Family
Mark & Beth Kurz Family
Derek & Stacy Plautz Family



We are happy to announce that we have secured a spot at this year's Feed My Starving Children food packing event! Our time slot is from 9:00 am to 11:00 am on Saturday, March 25, and we have room for 35 volunteers from St. Matthew's. As in past years, we will provide transportation to the event which is being held at the Minnkota Power facility in Grand Forks. If you are interested in participating, a sign-up sheet will be located

outside of the sanctuary at St. Matthew's over the coming weeks, or, feel free to contact Beth Kurz (bethanykurz73@gmail.com; 701-740-5488) and she can add your name to the list. If you have a confirmation student, this is a great way for them to earn some volunteer hours!

During the month of March we will be taking a **Noisy Offering** during the worship services with the proceeds going to Feed My Starving Children.



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
- Bre B for serving as our confirmation tech and for all of her computer expertise & help
- For the appreciation signs on the office doors
- John S for all his patience and guidance as a "teacher"

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



On Sunday, February 5th along with Pastor Brad Skogen, of the EaND Synod, we welcomed and blessed our partnership in ministry with Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt. We are so happy and thankful to have her with us through May 2024.

Welcome Pastor Kristen!

Happy Birthday in March!

- 1 Kambra Deitz, Scott Kuster
- 4 Aubrey Schuppert, Lisa Strand
- 5 Roy Olson, Madison Rood
- 6 Donny Ackerman
- 7 Hadley Jallo
- 8 Kari Berthold, James Thorson
- 9 Alex Senger
- 12 Sonia Galegher
- 13 Hannah Odegard, Mary Reineke, Christian Widman
- 14 Sharon Eichhorst
- 15 Tiffany Rood
- 17 Sarah Fee
- 19 Kenzie Hughes,
- 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

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

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

ST. MATTHEW'S LEADERSHIP

Pastor Kristen	Interim Pastor	701-213-6715
Vione Jordheim	Admin Assistant	stmattsvione@gmail.com
Dalene Jacobson	Bookkeeper	stmattsbookkeeper58278@gmail.com
Sarah Krogfoss	Children & Family	sarahkrogfoss@icloud.com
John Schumacher	Ministry Coordinator	stmattspresident@gmail.com
Scott Kuster	Council President	scottkuster@gra.midco.net
Carrie Herrig	Council Vice President	carrie.herrig@outlook.com
Justin Bergeron	Council Secretary	jbergero@yahoo.com
Bethany Kurz	Council Treasurer	bkurz@undeerc.org
Chelsea Lupien	Outreach Team	chelsea.lupien@und.edu
Dan Herrig	Fellowship Team	dan@sandsteelbc.com
Sara Munson	Properties Team	smunson190@mygfschools.org
Sue Simon	Youth Team	ssimon@gra.midco.net
	Worship Team	



St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Minutes from February 19, 2023

(minutes still need to be accepted and approved by Council)

In Attendance: Sue Simon, John Schumacher, Sarah Krogfoss, Beth Kurz, Justin Bergeron, Paster Kristen, Scott Kuster, Carrie Herrig

Absent: Dan Herrig, Chelsea Lupien, Sara Munson

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by John Schumacher at 11:25 am. Paster Kristen led opening liturgy.

Agenda Approval: Sue Simon motioned to approve the agenda; Scott Kuster seconded the motion. Motion Passed Unanimously (MPU)

Minutes Approval: Justin Bergeron motioned to approve the January minutes; Beth Kurz seconded the motion. MPU

Review "council nuts and bolts": The Council reviewed their mission/purpose along with the structure and procedures we are to follow as we welcomed new and returning members to the Council.

Financial Reports:

Financial Reports Summary	December	January
	2022	2023
General Giving Income	\$29,808	\$14,806
Year-to-Date Net Income	\$41,233	\$6,773
General Giving Checking Account	\$58,268	\$60,205
Special Giving Checking Account	\$32,493	\$33,962
Line of Credit	\$0	\$0

Dalene Jacobson has been serving as Church Bookkeeper for a month, the transition is going smoothly. Team Leads, Paster Kristen, and Dalene have received their Credit Cards and limits have been increased where needed

A new Organist will be starting in March, and we will begin to compensate Julie and our new organist \$100 per service approved within our budget. Young adults will simply receive their service hour at this time

Takeaways from 1/29/23 Annual Meeting: More transparency with the congregation about finances when Team budgets have gone over is needed

Approval of Financial Reports: Scott Kuster motioned to approve the January Financial reports; Sue Simon seconded the motion. MPU

Pastor's Report: Pastor Kristen has led our congregation now for 5 weeks and it has been a full and rich time for her. Over the past several weeks she has engaged in individual and team meetings with: Worship, Education, Youth and Outreach. Highlights of these meetings include:

- Planning for the upcoming Lenten Services with Worship and Music Teams

- Coordinating with Sarah Krogfoss for 5th grade communion preparation during lent and the plans for summer VBS

- Recruiting additional 8th Grade Confirmation Guides as the class is large and in doing so, we created a more meaningful and engaging experience for all. Pastor has been creating and teaching curriculum following the Old Testament series they are on

- Preparing 8th Graders and their Mentors for the five Lenten conversations they will engage in and developing the conversation guides for them

- Brainstorming with Youth team lead Sarah Munson about ideas for LYO

- Hearing and supporting the plans of the Outreach Team

Looking ahead Pastor has developed a plan for Lent—the unlikely servants of God. The first will be Dubious David, for Ash Wednesday. She will be writing sermons/monologues/dialogues as we go. Also, Pastor would like to start a list of prospective members and hold two New Member Orientations a year with the first potentially held this spring.

Team Reports:

Executive Team: John Schumacher

The team has not officially met but will soon. Dalene Jacobson continues to learn and get comfortable in her role; she is doing a great job. Priority one for her is Bookkeeping and second is the Newsletter. Everything else will come in time.

Education: Sarah Krogfoss

Team meeting was held on February 15 and items discussed were:

- Supporting the family of Ashley Breidenbach.

- Technology support for Confirmation on Wednesday nights has been found

- Bibles were ordered for 6th grade confirmation class as they did not have the same version as the 7th and 8th grade classes; WELCA covering this expense

- First Communion classes for the 5th graders start Feb. 26. Their Retreat is April 2 with their First Communion to follow on April 6, Maundy Thursday

April 2 is Stations of the Cross with the Easter Egg Hunt to follow on April 16

VBS will be done in-house this year with the intent of saving money and expanding our reach as numbers have been lower. Tentative Date for VBS August 6-10, 2023

Fellowship: Chelsea Lupien (No report)

John Schumacher shared the Lenten Soup Suppers will start March 1 and the Church Council will serve on March 15.

Outreach: Beth Kurz

Team Meeting was held on February 13 and Pastor Kirsten attended. Items discussed were:

Generated a few new ideas and/or activities. More will be shared as these are developed. We also discussed how can engage our congregation more in these events.

The Church Directory is out of date. Our first step is getting our members to update their personal information. On our church website there is a location for members to do this themselves. This is something we will communicate to the congregation.

St. Matthew's will help with Feed my Starving Children on Saturday, March 25. We have 35 spots from 9:00-11:00 am. Transportation will be provided for those who sign up and Roger Jacobson has agreed to drive the bus. WELCA, Men in Mission, and Outreach together are covering the fees associated with our participation.

Properties: Dan Herrig

Team Meeting was held on February 2. Items discussed were:

Identified outdated testing and certifications for the fire extinguishers located throughout the church. A quote has been requested from Northern Fire Equipment and we hope to have this resolved soon.

The mop sink faucet in the food pantry requires service. The repairs will be completed within the week as parts have been obtained.

The AED machine needs service including replacement of the battery and pads, an estimated cost of the replacement components is approximately \$250.00, there also may be some additional cost for service and testing of the machine. Discussion of providing training on how to use the AED was had and Sue Simon has a contact who could provide this for us.

Worship: Sue Simon

We have added two communion lines for worship and have additional worship services for the Lent and Easter seasons. This increases our need for more worship assistants.

We encourage our congregation to visit the website and sign up if they are available for any of the coming services.

Sue is also sending out an email to St. Matthew's members personally inviting them to give of their time and talents.

Youth: Sara Munson (No report)

Men In Mission: John Schumacher Fish Frys will soon start.

WELCA: Donut Saturday is February 25, and all have been sold.

Food Pantry: No report

Ruby's Pantry: March 28 will be the next distribution a Tuesday instead of Thursday. And an indoor location has been secured for next winter.

Old Business: No Old Business on the agenda

New Business

Council approval renewing the \$20,000 credit line, John Schumacher authorized to sign for St Matthew's.

Beth Kurz motioned to approve the \$20,000 line of credit with First State Bank – Thompson with

John Schumacher as the authorized individual to sign. Scott Kuster sectioned the motion. MPU

Council to approve John Schumacher, Scott Kuster, and Justin Bergeron as authorized signatures on bank accounts.

Sue Simon motioned to approve John Schumacher, Scott Kuster, and Justin Bergeron as authorized signatures on bank accounts. Sarah Krogfoss seconded the motion. MPU

Next Council Meeting will be held Sunday, March 12 at 11:15 am; John Schumacher will lead devotions.

Motion to adjourn made by Beth Kurz; seconded by Sara Krogfoss. MPU



Join us for our Mid-Week Lent Worship on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

Prior to worship, soup suppers will be served from 5:15-6:15.

We will be using the Holden Evening Prayer

Service and are thankful for these wonderful ladies who agreed to be our song leaders.

Come join us and let's learn together about some of God's Unlikely Servants! See you there!





Would you like to help in enhancing our altar area this Easter by ordering Easter flowers?

Orders can be placed by filling out the order form at the church, calling or texting Val Uhler 701-739-6282 or by emailing Val at valuhler@yahoo.com

Let her know what kind of flower and if it is in memory or honor of someone.

THANK YOU!!!

Easter Lily	\$16.25	Hyacinths	\$14.00
Tulips	\$14.00	Azaleas	\$29.00
Hydrangeas	\$30.00	Mums	\$17.25

These Ladies are smiling because they made 378 dozen donuts!!!

Thank you Ladies for all that you do and for the yummy donuts



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

Welcome to worship

Mid-week Lenten Worship 6:30 pm
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
In-person and live on our YouTube Channel
Sunday School at 9 a.m.

Address service requested

Lent 2023 at St. Matthew's

Stories of God's Unlikely Servants

March 1: Glum Gideon: Called to Have Courage

March 8: Head-Hung-Low Hannah: Called to Persist in Prayer

March 15: MIA Moses: Called to Reluctant Leadership

March 22: Exhausted Elijah: Called to be Renewed

March 29: Judgmental Jonah: Called to Have Compassion

Soup Supper at 5:15-6:15

Worship at 6:30