

May 2017

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

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

God's Work, Our Hands 2017

We had a wonderful 4th Annual God's Work Our Hands day this year! We sent 40 folks on the bus to pack meals for Feed My Starving Children. The rest of us (about 55 additional folks) did projects at church that included: making breakfast bags for Northlands Rescue Mission, making Chemo care kits, making care packages for our college students, assembling socks of love for the homeless, putting together appreciation gifts for Thompson Public School Staff and more! Here are some pictures from this year's God's Work Our Hands Day...for more pictures check out our church Facebook page!



From the Pastor's Pen

Taking off for part of summer? Take church with you!



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
As I write this to you in flip flops and a sweat shirt, I am well aware that summer is looming and we are all dreaming of trips we might be taking or time we will get away and relax.

Sabbath time, time away from what we regularly do is essential to our well being. It helps us renew, restore and reconnect with God in a way that nothing else can.

I hope that this summer you and your family have scheduled in time to just relax and renew. I hope you get some well deserved time away from busy schedules and hectic lives. I hope that you are able to get out and enjoy the beautiful weather

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that summer brings and also have a chance to spend some quality time with friends and family that is so lacking in our busy lives these days.

I also hope that if you are in town on a Sunday, you will come join us for worship. I know that it can be easy to sleep in and take summer off, but we are still here doing ministry and sharing the Good News with one another and with the community all summer long we hope that you can come join us, whether that is for Sunday worship, Vacation Bible School, the Family Tie Die Party, or all of those things!

I also wanted to offer you some ways to take church with you when you are on

trips, at the lake, or just needing some down time this summer. So we are offering the following summer options for ways to stay connected with St Matthew's when you are out and about:

Take Out Church-Come to church on Mother's Day and get a take out church box for your family (or for yourself if you live alone). The box is filled with ideas on how you can still practice the faith while you are out in the world...from Flat Jesus to prayer ideas, from games to play to some snacks for the road, we promise that Take Out Church will have fun for all the ages found in your family.

Faith 5— Our Walking Wet Blog <https://saintmattswalkingwet.blogspot.com/> will once again go live from Memorial Day Sunday through Labor Day Sunday giving you simple devotions and activities to do with your family whether you have toddlers or teens. New this year will also be options for those households who only have adults or who are households of one.

Facebook Fridays-Since Friday is often a day when folks are on the road traveling for the weekend, check out the church Facebook page each Friday of summer for a new post of pictures, a video or some other connection to living our faith in the community. Like our Facebook Page here: <https://www.facebook.com/SaintMatthewsLutheranChurchThompsonNd/?fref=ts>

However you spend your summers friends, I hope you share it with us, and that it is a summer of growing our faith and staying connected to our church family. Thank you so much for being a part of Saint Matthew's. We are blessed by YOU!

Pastor Amy

Loving Neighbors



Thanks to everyone who helped out at our Annual God's Work/Our Hands Sunday. 40 people attended the Feed My Starving Children food packing event in Grand Forks. We packed 35,856 meals which will feed 98 children for a year! We also raised \$2,572,30 to help cover the cost of those meals.

Also many thanks and blessings to the 55 folks who helped with the over 520 projects at the church. There were breakfast bags packed for the Northland Rescue Mission, chemo care kits made, college care packages packed, gifts for teachers and staff at the school, socks of love for the homeless and so much more!

The Sunday school also participated this year by making thank you gifts for Officer Dave and the Fire Department, thank yous to the Thompson Postal Workers, appreciation gifts for our cleaning folks and keyboardists, and the Pre-K even washed the nursery toys!

God's love surely shined through us on this fun and productive day. What we can do in just a couple short hours is amazing when we work together. Thanks to all of you who donated items, money, and time to help make this God's Work, Our Hands day such a success!

-The Outreach Team

Mark your calendars now for a Family Tie Die Party on August 2! Come and bring some food to share, we will eat dinner together and then tie die everything from clothes to pillow-cases and more! Grab your kids, grab your neighbors and come join the fun!



Thompson Food Pantry

The Thompson Food Pantry is open on Tuesday, May 9th from 11am-1pm, and Tuesday, May 23rd from 6pm-8pm. The pantry serves the communities of Thompson, Buxton, and Reynolds. For more information on the pantry, talk to Kristie Adams at 701-599-2091.



Our Pre-K Class helping give the nursery toys a bath! They also raised \$40 for Feed My Starving Children! Way to go Pre-K!



Save the date!

Vacation Bible School for children in K-5th grade will be Aug 7-9. See page 5 for more info, or go online to www.stmatthewslutheranchurch.org/education.html and register today!

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, but 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. They spend time in responsive prayer, and then enjoy a cup of coffee as well. This group is then 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 will be determined soon. Check the calendar for details or call the church office! 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 desert, coffee and Bible Study. Currently they are working through the book "Listening for the Voice of God:

Growing in Faith Everyday." This month the WELCA women will be meeting on May 15 at Ruth Waller and Mary Loing's house. For directions, or copies of the book they are studying, contact the church office at 599-2081.

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Mondays Pastor's Day Off
Tuesdays 2:00 pm-4:00 pm
Wednesdays 7:30 am-9:30 am
Thursdays Office hours by Appointment Only
Fridays 10:00 am-Noon at Bully Brew on South Washington

Faith Formation

From the Education Team



Our Sunday Schoolers had a lot of fun on Palm Sunday!

The Sunday School students will be making their own pots and planting flowers for the mothers of their lives on Sunday, May 14 during Sunday School, so have an outfit that might get a little dirty that day too! We love hands-on learning!

May 14 will be the last day of Sunday School for this school year! All the kids will be sharing music and their memory work in worship on Mother's Day! Thank you for all the ways you support the Education ministries of Saint Matthew's!

Many Blessings, The Education Team

LYO-Youth Group



Youth Group Students – We only have two LYO nights left for the school year. It has been a very fun year and we have had great attendance every week. We will meet again on May 3rd to clean up the back of the church. Please bring rakes and gloves so you can give a hand. Won't take long if we get a good amount of help. May 17th will be our final night of LYO for this school year and we will be meeting at Southbrook Park for pizza and to play Giant Jenga. We welcome all of this year's 8th graders to join us for the final evening of LYO on the 17th. Have a great summer!!!!

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From the Church Mouse

It has been a busy month at church, between God's Work Our Hands, and the big project day that happened mid-April. We apologize if we miss anyone! The church mouse would like to thank:

- Paul and Heidi Strande for leading LYO and keeping our hard working LYO crew energized and fed!
- Megan Bohlman, Josie Schumacher, Averie Geatz, Trinity Bohlman, Dara Faul, Ellie Schumacher, Beth Kurz, Kristie Adams and Jill Schumacher for teaching Sunday School this year!
- Kevin Cooper, Bre Berberich, Deb DeMoe, and John Schumacher for teaching Confirmation this year!
- Cheryl Widman, Jen Bohlman, Deb DeMoe, Terrie Halvorson, Paul Strande, Sara Munson, Sharon Gustafson, Kevin Cooper, and Traci Ivesdal for your willingness to be confirmation mentors!
- Roy Olson and Roger Gustafson for trimming the trees at church...they look great!
- All who helped with Holy Week Services!



Together we can do God's Work with Our Hands!

May Worship Assistants

RaeAnn Burger
Travis & Brook Fretheim
Roger & Sharon Gustafson
Trent & Tracie Ivesdal family
Mary Mitchell
John & Jill Schumacher family
Jason & Angela Suckut family

June Worship Assistants

Ryan Avdem Family
Joshua & Tessa Clemetson Family
Brent & Terrie Halvorson Family
Ron & Krista Kornkven Family
Neil & Kay Lindell
Linda Schumacher
Mike Sundberg Family

Acolytes for May are:
May 7 Jada Welke
May 14 Jasmine Welke
May 21 Blake Schultz
May 28 open



From the Worship Team

Greetings from the Worship Team! I trust that everyone had a wonderful Easter celebration spent with us at St Matthews and then with family. What a great weekend we had.

Starting with Palm Sunday, followed by Maundy Thursday and the Fifth graders receiving First Communion; Holy Week was a wonderful time. The noon Good Friday Service for the little ones was well attending with about 25 taking part. This looks like a great addition to our Holy Week services.

Good Friday services got us to think about all that Jesus did for us and the two Easter Services only accentuated God's love for us all!

I want to thank ALL that made the Holy Week Services the success they were. THANK YOU!

We now will start thinking about graduation, Summer, and Lake time, or what ever you do to replenish for the Fall.

We will keep Sunday services at 10AM as we did last year and there may be a Summer concert some time in June as an extra special get together. Time will tell!

With Gratitude:
The Worship Team
Valorie Uhlir 701-739-2554





Did you know?? Pastor Amy's day off changes for the summer!
May-August Pastor's Day Off will be on Mondays. Thanks for helping her have some Sabbath time to rest and renew!

Next Big Youth Trip in the Works!

In case you haven't already heard, we are in the beginning stages of planning our next major youth trip down to the National Youth Gathering in Houston of 2018.

Any youth that are currently in grades 7th and up are invited to attend.

Our next meeting will take place on Sunday, April 30 at 11:00 am, where we will briefly get an update on who is attending and start talking about raising money doing Youth for Hire projects.

If you are interested in attending the gathering, fill out the forms and then come to the meeting or talk to Pastor Amy today!



Saint Mathew's Lutheran Church Leadership

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

Amy Eisenmann	Pastor stmattpastoramy@gmail.com
Jamie Bischoff	Bookkeeper bischoffjamie@gmail.com
John Schumacher	Council President jschumacher@invisimax.com
Darwin Potter	Council Vice President darpotter14@gmail.com
Beth Kurz	Council Secretary bkurz@undeerc.org
Dianne Lundgren	Council Treasurer dlundgren44@hotmail.com
Sharon Gustafson	Outreach Team Lead rogersharongustafson@gmail.com
Sara Munson	Fellowship Team Lead saramunson@rocketmail.com
Roy Olson	Properties Team Lead royandsandyolson@live.com
Alicia Schumacher	Education Team Lead Alicia.schumacher@gfcounty.org
Paul Strande	Youth Team Lead pstrande59@gmail.com
Val Uhler	Worship Team Lead valuhler@yahoo.com

Happy Birthday!

- 1 Jeremy Anderson
- 3 RJ Anderson
- 4 Rae Ann Burger, Weston Wilson
- 5 Jordyn Bohlman, Sara Larson, Ashley Vaagene
- 6 Paisley Albin
- 7 Murphy Landa
- 8 Lincoln Staveteig
- 10 Brittney Munson
- 11 Zachary Peterson
- 12 Lindsay George
- 14 Calen Broyles, Evelyn Lowe, Kaycee Wyatt
- 15 Nathan Berberich, Jen Bohlman
- 16 Marjean Greene
- 17 Laura Benoit
- 18 Cash Danner, Riley Kornkven
- 19 Pat Hanson, Sara Munson
- 20 Pierce Cooper
- 22 Dex Avdem, John Berthold, Barbie Larson,
- 23 Dylan Anderson
- 24 Christine Sivertson, Kory Sondreal, Andy Wilson
- 25 Lyla Vaagene
- 26 Travis Fretheim
- 27 Deann Dearing, Bruce Loyland
- 28 Teresa Evanson
- 30 Ki Hagen, Terrie Halvorson
- 31 John Schumacher



Council Meeting March 19, 2017

IN ATTENDANCE: John Schumacher, Pastor Amy, Paul Strande, Sara Munson, Roy Olson, Beth Kurz, Sharon Gustafson

ABSENT: Darwin Potter, Diane Lundgren, Alicia Schumacher, Val Uhler

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by John Schumacher at approximately 11:23 am.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Two corrections were made to the meeting agenda under the Team Reports section. The Fellowship Team lead should list Sara Munson, not Ruth Waller, and the Properties Team lead is Roy Olson, not Duane Naas.

Four items were added under the New Business section. They include the following:

4. Garden Spot
5. Church Sign Update
6. Easter Breakfast
7. Building Improvement Fund

Motion: Paul motioned to approve the agenda with the noted additions. Sara seconded. Motion carried.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion: Paul motioned to approve the February 19 meeting minutes. Beth seconded. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The net income for February was \$2367. Special giving for February totaled \$2075. The YTD income is \$3195. As of February 28, the General Fund balance was \$15,156 and the Special Giving account balance was at \$54,706.

John mentioned that we accidentally sent a check to Valley Memorial for \$1700 that was supposed to go to ELCA. Valley refunded us the money this past month.

Sharon asked what expenses have been paid out of the miscellaneous fund, which contains the money that was donated for a new church sign. John explained that the trip for Joy Ranch was paid out of miscellaneous funds, and that the full \$10K donation was still available for a sign. A separate account will be set up for the sign money.

Motion: Roy moved, Sara seconded, to approve the Financial Reports. Motion carried.

CALENDAR REVIEW

No changes were made to the calendar.

PASTOR'S REPORT

See attached report she provided prior to the meeting. The main secretary book will contain an actual attached copy of the report.

MEN'S CLUB AND WELCA REPORT

No report from WELCA. There is a WELCA meeting next Sunday, March 26.

The next fish fry will be held this Friday, March 24.

TEAM REPORTS

Education: Alicia Schumacher absent. Nothing new reported.

Fellowship: Sara Munson – Nothing new to report.

Outreach: Sharon Gustafson – They are collecting names of people that will go to the Feed My Starving Children event in Grand Forks. John mentioned that we need to figure out how we're going to run the food pantry – if it will be a community venture or solely a St. Matthew's program, but John would like the outreach team to work more closely with Kristie Adams as a means of having checks and balances on the accounting, and also to help support Kristie so she is not running it alone. Sara also mentioned that we should have a community-based committee to help oversee the food pantry. In addition, every congregation from the communities involved should get a report on the status of the food pantry, such as how many people we serve, account balance, special needs, etc...

Properties: Roy Olson – Once the weather warms up the new doors will be installed and the youth group will do some yard clean-up (raking, cleaning trees). Paul mentioned that the bushes in back of the church property only serve to collect garbage and asked if we really need them. If they are not serving a function, we might want to remove them. Roy will check with the team to see what they think. The blinds have all been installed.

Mission Support: Position currently vacant. Nothing new to report.

Worship: Val Uhler absent. Nothing new reported.

Youth: Paul Strande – The youth group served the soup supper the first week of Lent. He said it went really well. Most of the kids were there and helped to serve and clean up. Currently there are no upcoming activities until after Easter. The kids would like to do a trip to Northern Air one evening, so Paul will be setting that up.

OLD BUSINESS

Sound System:

Bill Widman reached out to a company called DELL-COMM about the sound system. They came out and checked everything out at St. Matthew's. Altru's system will not work for us, but DELL-COMM agreed to sell us a system at cost. Most of the existing speakers are fine and will work with the new system, but Bill thought that we should add a few speakers in the back. He is not sure on the costs yet, but he is going to meet with Gary this week to figure out the details. Sara asked if it would be an option to have a microphone and sound system in the fellowship hall area, and Bill indicated that it would not be a problem to include those options.

Ministry Coordinator Position:

We'll continue to consider this. We will schedule an executive team meeting to discuss it further.

Changing Terms for President and Vice President:

John will talk to Kevin and Cheryl about this.

Special Fund Payouts

John found some errors in the budgets for the special fund payouts. He and Jamie went through the budgets to make sure that all the numbers are now correct. Nothing has been paid out on this yet, but they will be paying out the funds in the Uphold and Guatemala accounts. There is a little extra money in the Mission Fund money and we need to decide where to send it. Sara mentioned in the past that we have given money to the Community Violence Intervention Center (CVIC) and the Women's Pregnancy Center. She also suggested that we could provide a donation to the Northlands Rescue Mission. Pastor Amy mentioned that CVIC just built a new rescue center and that our donation could help support that effort. Altru is also building a Sunshine Hospitality Home that we could donate to. The committee decided to split the balance between the Northlands Rescue Mission, CVIC and the Sunshine Memorial Foundation (at Altru).

Motion: Sara moved, Sharon seconded. Motion carried.

John reminded the council that he'd like to pay out the money in the Mission, Guatemala, Uphold, Holy Cow and Holy Hippo accounts more frequently. We'll decide quarterly how to pay out any remaining Mission money.

Motion: Paul moved, Roy seconded. Motioned carried.

Congregation Property Use Form

Beth looked through the old meeting minutes and found mention from past council members that a form should be developed, but there was no record of a form actually haven been developed. Sharon said that we need to have a form to keep track of who is borrowing these items. Roy has a form from Duane that is for checking out tables and chairs. The form states that you need to be a member of the church to borrow these items. There is a disclaimer stating that the borrower is responsible for the items. John mentioned that we need to consider how many items we rent out to make sure we still have enough for church use, and that we should keep a basic amount of tables and chairs in the fellowship hall area for Saturday or Sunday graduation parties at the church. Renting will be on a first come, first serve basis, but first priority for renting would be church members. Paul mentioned that we have a lot of folding chairs and we could allow the classroom tables to be rented. Sara mentioned that there is general wear and tear on the equipment and that it would be good to collect a small fee that could go into the building fund so that we could replace equipment as needed. Paul is going to see what the policy is at St. Jude's because it would make sense if both churches have the same policy. He will also check to see what the Community Center policy is for renting equipment. John would like a committee of folks to meet with the property team to help Roy figure out a rental agreement form. He suggested that the properties team have a meeting to discuss this, and any council members that want to participate should attend. Sara volunteered to help out the properties team.

Replacement for Valley Memorial Voting Delegate

Sara agreed to be the new Valley Memorial voting delegate. This was approved by the Council.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Meeting Times and Dates:

The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 19 at 8:00 pm.

Motion: Paul moved, Beth seconded. Motion carried.

For the summer months, council meetings will be held at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday of the month from May through August.

Motion: Beth moved, Sara seconded. Motion approved.

Replacement for Mission Support:

Stephanie stepped down as the Mission Support lead. The council discussed how we can better define this role. We will have an executive team meeting to discuss this role further.

Mutual Ministry:

Pastor Amy discussed how we need a second group of ears-to-ground people that will interact more with the congregation to better determine what our members would like to see, or if there are things we can do better to encourage non-active members to be more active.

Garden Space

Sara Munson had someone ask her if we are going to do the pumpkin patch this year. Sarah Krogfoss volunteered to oversee the pumpkin patch and would like to have a fall festival. The money raised from the pumpkins would go to the youth group. Beth said that she and Marc would be willing to help out with planting. This will be the responsibility of the fellowship team.

Sign Update

Sharon and Roger talked to the folks at Custom Strike, who built a sign for a church in Warren for about \$13,000. That cost included all cement work and electrical. They are going to send Sharon additional information, which she will share once it arrives. John mentioned that the Men's Club is also willing to donate their time to assist with welding, cement work, etc...

Easter Breakfast

Pastor Amy looked through the records and last year WELCA and Men in Mission handled Easter breakfast. Last year we asked for 10 to 15 egg bakes to be dropped off by 8:00 am. Sara asked if the Bible Campers could take it on as a fund raiser, and the committee agreed. This event will be organized by the Bible Campers and breakfast will be served after the first service at 7:00 a.m., and also after the second service at 9:15 a.m.

Building Improvement Fund

The blinds have all been installed. The council agreed that the blinds should be paid for out of the building improvement fund.

Motion: Paul motioned to use the building improvement fund to pay for the blinds, Sara seconded. Motion carried.

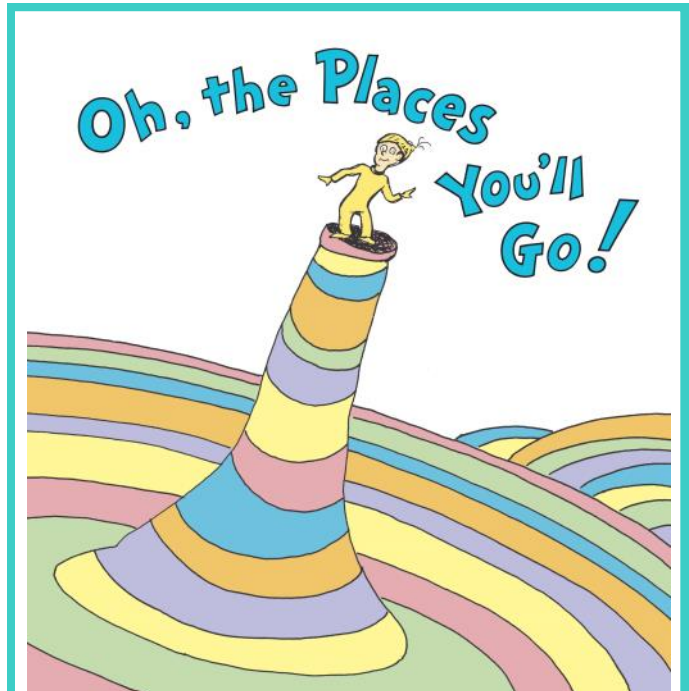
Motion: Paul moved to adjourn at 12:54 p.m. Sara seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bethany Kurz



Did you know that you can hire some of the Youth of Saint Matthew's for jobs this summer? Whether you need a babysitter or a pet sitter or a dog walker or help in the garden, or help cleaning your house, the opportunities are limitless! Just call the church office with a description of the job you need done, how many youth you will need, how long it will take, and we will connect you with youth that want to help! All proceeds from Youth for Hire go to helping our kids get to the National Youth Gathering in Houston next summer!



Graduate Recognition.

St. Matthew's high school seniors will be blessed by the congregation on May 14 during worship. If you have a senior that is graduating, please let the church office know by May 1!



Congratulations to Tenley Monica George, daughter of Lindsay and Brandy George who was baptized on March 12, and to Lyla Rosalie Schumacher, daughter of Alicia and Jason Schumacher who was baptized on April 23. Welcome to our church family Tenley and Lyla!

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
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Welcome to worship

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Address service requested



**Blessing of the Bible Campers will be during
Worship on June 11th!** Please let the church
office know if your kiddo is going to camp so that
we are sure we have enough gifts for all of them!



Join us for the Cup of Our Life Women's Re-
treat at Joy Ranch May 19-21! It's a chance
to get away, rest and renew for women of
all ages! Last day to sign up is May 7th.
Sign up TODAY!

