

May 2018

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 2018

We had a wonderful 5th 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 did projects at church that included: making breakfast bags for Northlands Rescue Mission, making gifts for the nurses at Altru, putting together appreciation gifts for Thompson Public School Staff, Fire Department, Police 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 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 it is for Sunday worship, Vacation Bible School, the Family Tie Die Party, or all of those things!

I also want 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 jar

for your family (or for yourself if you live alone). The jar 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. This will also be the place to get updates from the youth who are going to Houston June 25-July 2.

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 34,128 meals which will feed 93 children for a year! We also raised \$2,771,94 to help cover the cost of those meals.

Also many thanks and blessings to the folks who helped with all the projects at the church. There were breakfast bags packed for the Northland Rescue Mission, baskets for the nurses, gifts for teachers and staff at the school, socks for the elderly and so much more!

The Sunday school also participated this year by making pet toys for the animals at the humane society, and art for our shut-ins.

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



Thompson Food Pantry

The Thompson Food Pantry is open on Tuesday, May 8th from 11am-1pm, and Tuesday, May 22nd 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.

Mark your calendars now for a Family Tie Die Party on August 1! Come and bring some food to share, we will eat dinner together and then tie die everything from clothes to pillowcases and more! Grab your kids, grab your neighbors and come join the fun!



The crew that rode the bus and helped at Feed My Starving Children this year! Thanks to all who helped on April 8!

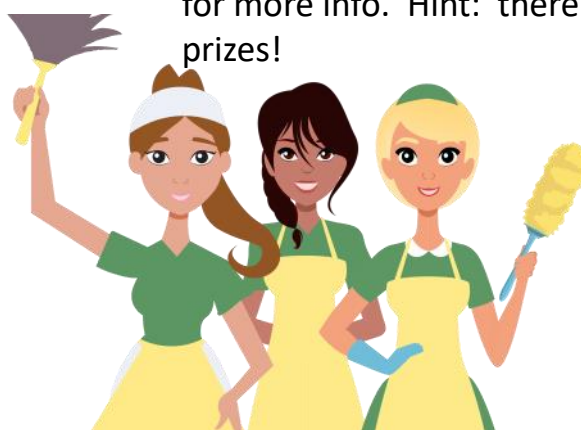


We are excited to announce that Vione Jordheim has agreed to become the new Administrative Assistant at St. Matthew's! We welcome her to the Saint Matthew's staff, and look forward to having her on the team! Vione's first day in the office will be May 7th. Her office hours will be posted in upcoming newsletters. Stay tuned for an open house that will be scheduled in June, to meet Vione and celebrate her joining our staff!

Attention WELCA members!

Mark your calendars for the annual Kitchen Kleaning Party (formerly Maids & Margaritas) **June 7th at 6:30.**

We are changing it up this year so check out the June Newsletter for more info. Hint: there will be prizes!



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 at Sickie's in East Grand Forks on May 23 at 6:30 pm. 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 "Finding Rest in a Busy World." This month the WELCA women

will be meeting on May 21 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 Office hours by Appointment Only
Tuesdays 10:00 am-12:00 pm
Wednesdays 7:30 am-9:30 am
Thursdays Pastor @ Continuing Education in Fargo
Fridays 10:00 am-Noon at Bully Brew on South Washington

Faith Formation

From the Education Team

May 13 (Mother's Day) 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 this day! Thank you for all the ways you have supported the Education ministries of St. Matthew's over the past year! -The Education Team

VBS is Coming!!

August 5-7th: Park River Bible Camp will be coming to St. Matthew's to offer a Vacation Bible School Day Camp for children Grades 1-5.

Half day VBS will also be offered for Pre-K and K Children.

Registration is available online on the St. Matthew's Website.

We are also in need of some volunteers to help during VBS this year. Please contact Alicia Schumacher at 701-740-6109 if you are interested in volunteering for this fun event!

Teachers Needed!

We are seeking Sunday School and Confirmation Teachers for the 2018-2019 School Year. Please contact Alicia Schumacher at 701-740-6109 if you are interested. We are also in need of Substitute Teachers. Team/shared teaching with other individuals could also be arranged.

LYO-Youth Group



Youth Group Students – Last night of LYO for the school year will be May 9th. 8th Graders are invited to join us for this gathering since they will be in LYO in the fall!

We have had a great year with a great group of kids. Have a great summer!!!!

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!
- Sarah Krogfoss, Kameron Anderson, Ellie Schumacher, Tanya Barker, Megan and Jordyn Bolman, Beth Kurz, Angie Muhs, Dara Faul and Derek Plautz for teaching Sunday School this year!
- Steph Albin, Trinity Bohlman, Audrey Haskell, Sharon Gustafson, Robyn Bohlman, Sonia Galegher, Deb DeMoe, Brent Halvorson, Terrie Halvorson, Derek Plautz, Doris Cooper, Marlyce Peterson, Gary Welsh, Dara Faul, Duane Naas, and Michelle Bredemeir for your willingness to be confirmation mentors for our 8th graders this Lenten season!
- Shannon Hancock, Deb DeMoe and Val Uhlir for helping out during Lent and Holy Week with needed tasks
- Darwin Potter, James Thorson, Tracie Ivesdal and Beth Kurz for all your help with the hiring process



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

May Worship Assistants

Amy & Justin Bergeron Family
Roger & Sharon Gustafson
Krista & Ron Kornkven Family
Neil & Kay Lindell
Bruce Loyland
Roy & Sandy Olson
Alex & Jen Starcevic Family
Mike Sundberg Family
Kara & Chuck Welke Family
Troy & Sheila Wilson Family

For June & July we are inviting ANYONE to help with worship. Can you help on one Sunday? Thanks for doing God's work with your hands!

From the Worship Team

Upcoming worship events in May:

May 6 Bible Camp Sunday

May 13 Mother's Day; Last day of Sunday School - The kids will be singing in church and also will be reciting their memory work.

May 20 LYO Sunday & Blessing of the Graduates

May 27 Memorial Day weekend; and Baptism of Damon and Bridget Pearson's twins, Evelyn and Timothy

We have revised and updated our monthly Worship Duty "Team" List. The newly revised May Worship Teams are included in this newsletter.

Also, if you (children, teens, & adults) play an instrument, or sing, and would like to provide special music in church, we would love to have you show off your talents!!!

If you are willing/able to help in worship in any way, talk to me today!

Deb DeMoe, Worship Team Chair





A 50th Anniversary Open House for Roger and Sharon Gustafson will be held Sunday, May 20 from 1-3 pm at Saint Matthew's.

Come and celebrate with them!

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church Leadership

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

ST. MATTHEW'S LEADERSHIP

Pastor: Amy Eisenmann stmattspastoramy@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: Vione Jordheim stmattsvione@gmail.com

Bookkeeper: Jamie Bischoff bischoffjamie@gmail.com

Council President: Darwin Potter darpotter14@gmail.com

Council Vice President: James Thorson thorsonja@yahoo.com

Council Secretary: Beth Kurz bkurz@undeerc.org

Council Treasurer: Tracie Ivesdal tivesdal@msn.com

Outreach Team Lead: Sarah Krogfoss smartin@polarcomm.com

Fellowship Team Lead: Sara Munson saramunson@rocketmail.com

Properties Team Lead: Roy Olson royandsandyolson@live.com

Education Team Lead: Alicia Schumacher Alicia.schumacher@gfcounty.org

Youth Team Lead: Paul Strande pstrande59@gmail.com

Worship Team Lead: Deb DeMoe deb.demoe@tps-k12.org

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, Olive Dobmeier
- 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



Church Council Meeting March 25, 2018

IN ATTENDANCE: Pastor Amy, Darwin Potter, James Thorson, Tracie Ivesdal, Roy Olson, Paul Strande, Beth Kurz, Sara Munson, Alicia Schumacher, Sarah Krogfoss **ABSENT:** Deb DeMoe

CALL TO ORDER Meeting was called to order by Darwin at approximately 11:25 a.m.

LITURGY: Pastor Amy led the Church Council in prayer prior to our meeting.

AGENDA APPROVAL Item 5 under “Old Business” is going get pushed up to Item 1.

Motion: Sarah moved approve the agenda. Paul seconded. Motion carried.

MINUTES APPROVAL Under the Youth Team report, it should state that they made 3 “tie” blankets, and that the “kids voted to continue supporting the international child.” Under outreach, the wording was changed to “they are still trying to recruit outreach team members”.

Motion: Roy motioned to approve the February 25 meeting minutes. James seconded. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS Tracie summarized the financial reports for January. General Giving income was \$11,354.49. Net income for February was negative \$83.19. As of February 28, the General Giving checking account balance was at \$8,288.38. Special Giving net income for February was \$1,797.31. The Special Giving checking account balance is at \$44,565.87. Tracie did point out that the food pantry income continues to grow. We’ll have an update on that from Sarah later in the meeting. They made a decision on where to send the Guatemala Funds. \$150 will be used to support Feed My Starving Children and \$85 will be sent to the Central African Republic. Tracie is also going to start providing more detail on the team funds and encourages any of the team leads to let her know if they would like to see something specific. Roy asked what funds the bathroom supplies come out of. Pastor Amy replied that those supplies come out of the Properties Budget.

Motion: Paul moved to approve the Financial Reports. Alicia seconded. Motion carried.

CALENDAR REVIEW There is a piano recital that was added to the afternoon of April 22. There is also an anniversary party added to the afternoon of May 20. Darwin pointed out that the time listed for our next Council meeting on the calendar is not consistent with the time on our agenda. We decided to go with 11:32 a.m.

PASTOR’S REPORT Pastor pointed out that she will be out on vacation April 20 and 21. See attached report provided prior to the meeting. The main secretary book will contain an actual attached copy of the report.

MEN’S CLUB AND WELCA REPORT WELCA: They decided to give \$700 to support Feed My Starving Children and they are going to pay for ½ the shed that is being raffled. **Men’s Club:** The Men’s Club will be paying for the other ½ of the shed for the raffle. They had close to 200 this past Friday for the fish fry.

TEAM REPORTS

Executive: Darwin Potter – We've been meeting to discuss the applicants for the church assistant position and to interview the candidates.

Education: Alicia Schumacher – The Easter Egg hunt will be April 15. Mother's Day will be the last day of Sunday school.

Fellowship: Sara Munson –

Outreach: Sarah Krogfoss - Gods Work our Hands will be April 8. For Sunday school they will be working on toys for cats and dogs to be donated to the Humane Society. They will be making two different freezer meals through worship for those in the community who could use a little support. Oatmeal bags will be prepared for Northlands Rescue Mission. Care packages for nurses will be made and will include bath bombs, lotion, tea, lemonade, etc... A care package will be made for each of the 18 nurse's stations at Altru. They will also be preparing gifts for school staff and "Thank You" cards for the local firefighters. Julie Brorby will continue to be in charge of Feed my Starving Children, but they've recruited Brook Fretheim and Tanya Barker to assist.

Food Pantry Update: They gave 539 lbs of food to 10 households in January. In February 422 lbs of food was provided to 8 households.

Properties: Roy Olson – They've been doing bathroom repairs. We also had a furnace break down and CL Lindfoot came out to repair it. They also had to replace the handle for the west door. Worship: Pastor Amy (on behalf of Deb DeMoe) – Deb is still working on setting up the worship schedule. Youth: Paul Strande – They went curling yesterday. There were 9 kids and 3 adults.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Food Panty Support and Communication** Sarah spoke with Kristie about the food pantry. Kristie is getting all the help she needs. Kristie didn't feel like there needs to be a joint committee with St. Jude's – she provides them with updates on how much food is distributed. Darwin asked if Kristie had any input on forming a committee to help oversee the financials of the food pantry. Sarah didn't specifically discuss that with Kristie, but Sarah mentioned that the billing for food pantry items goes through Jamie, so Kristie has some support there. Pastor Amy suggested that we send a letter to the other churches/communities that support the food pantry to see if they would be willing to participate in a governing board for the food pantry. If not, then we should consider St. Matthews taking full responsibility of the food pantry. Darwin asked if Beth could draft a letter that we can send to the churches from the other communities that support the food pantry.

2. **Sound System Update** James, Josh and Darwin have been involved in this. They currently have a bid for about \$2200 for all the equipment. They also have an estimate for the labor to install the system of approximately \$1000 to \$1500. The only additional equipment they want to purchase right now is a CD player that is Bluetooth compatible. That would cost anywhere from \$200 to \$600. At some point in the future they would like to purchase a monitor, which would be about \$3500. They aren't going to purchase that right now, but Darwin wanted the council to be aware of it. We have \$8000 in the account. Darwin asked if we could make a motion approving the Sound System committee to use all of the money in the sound system account, noting that in the short term they will only be spending about \$4000 of the \$8000 in the account. When all is said and done, they will have a total of 17 speakers, not including the big ones in the front.

Motion: Roy motioned to grant approval to the Sound System committee to use the money designated in the budget for sound system updates. Sara seconded. Motion carried.

3. Wireless System Update The new system is installed. There are two internet access points in the building. The new system is able to accommodate up to 50 people online.

4. Administrative Assistant Position Update We have four top applicants for the position. The Executive Team has interviewed three of the applicants and will interview the fourth candidate tomorrow night. We told them we would notify them by March 29th to inform them if they weren't selected or to invite them for a second interview.

5. List of Classroom Needs, Repairs and/or Removal of Items Darwin would like to have a list of classroom and/or room needs, repairs or items to be removed from everyone by next council meeting. He already has Sara Munson's list. Alicia will provide one for the Education Team. Darwin asked Roy to provide one for the entry way. Alicia asked if we could put safety devices in the outlets since we have some special needs kids that could tamper with them. Darwin asked Pastor Amy for a list of items for her office. The mechanical room also needs to be cleaned out. Duane has been helping with this. We're looking at storing most of the tables from the Man Cave in a shed outdoors.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Increasing the Church Credit Limit on Credit Card They are looking to raise the credit card limit from \$2000 to \$5000. Pastor Amy had issues with the credit card during the recent ski trip. Darwin recommended that we find a different credit card company since we have had 2 issues in the past month. Tracie point out that one of the issues was a fraud alert and the other issue was that the card was declined because we were over the limit. These issues could happen with any card provider. She agreed that we do need raise the limit. Darwin asked for a motion to increase the credit card limit from \$2000 to \$5000.

Motion: Beth motioned to increase the credit card limit from \$2000 to \$5000. Tracie seconded. Motion carried.

2. Reimbursing Pastor for Administrative Duties Alicia requested that we reimburse Pastor Amy for her administrative duties for the months of January, February and March using the funds that have been designated for the administrative assistant position. Darwin mentioned that we've spent some of that money for the wireless system update (approximately \$458). We also used this account to pay for advertising of the position. That would leave about \$1302 available in the account, which would be closer to reimbursing her for two months of filling those duties, rather than three months.

Motion: Alicia motioned that Pastor Amy be reimbursed the \$1302 that remains in the account. Tracie seconded. Paul brought up that we already voted to increase Pastor's Amy salary and our general income was down – he is concerned about how we are going to make this up. Beth mentioned that we already have this expense in the budget to pay for an assistant, so it's not a new expense. Roy commented that we can create budgets but if the funds don't come in to support them, it doesn't do much good. No further discussion. Seven in favor. One opposed. Motion carried.

3. Re-Keying the Church The key for the west door was missing, but now it is back. Darwin brought up that there are a lot of keys out there and we're not even sure who has keys. He believes that to insure safety, we should probably rekey the main doors to the building. Alicia brought up that everyone seems to know the code for access the key to the front door. Darwin and Pastor Amy have discussed this and a key question is how often we should change the code. It will cost approximately \$250 to rekey the 3 main doors (the front door, the east door and the west door). These costs would come out of the properties budget. Roy asked if there has ever been a theft or problem here. Although there hasn't, there have been a lot of thefts lately in Grand Forks and at surrounding churches. Darwin stated that we need to decide who should have keys. James brought up that if we have the lockboxes for the keys, we can minimize the amount of keys that are given to staff or others. Key staff, like Pastor Amy, Jamie, Duane and the

administrative assistant should have a key. We should also have a spare key and a key for each of the two lock boxes. That is a total of 7 keys.

Motion: Paul motioned to have 7 keys made – one for each of the 4 staff, a spare and one for each of the 2 lock boxes. James seconded. Motion carried.

There was some discussion about how many people have knowledge of the codes for the lockboxes and how often those codes are changed. Darwin thinks it would be reasonable to change the code a couple of times a year. Tracie suggested that we change the codes according to the seasons. Alicia suggested that we change the code at the beginning of the Sunday School Year. Pastor Amy mentioned that this would help insure that the various outside groups reregister their activities every year.

4. **April Meeting on the 22nd at 11:32 a.m.** Just a reminder on the date and time for our next meeting. 5. Discuss May's Potential Meeting The May council meeting is currently scheduled for May 20, which conflicts with graduation activities and other church-related activities. We changed the meeting date to May 30 at 6:30 p.m.

Motion: Sara motioned to adjourn. James seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting closed at 12:43 pm. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

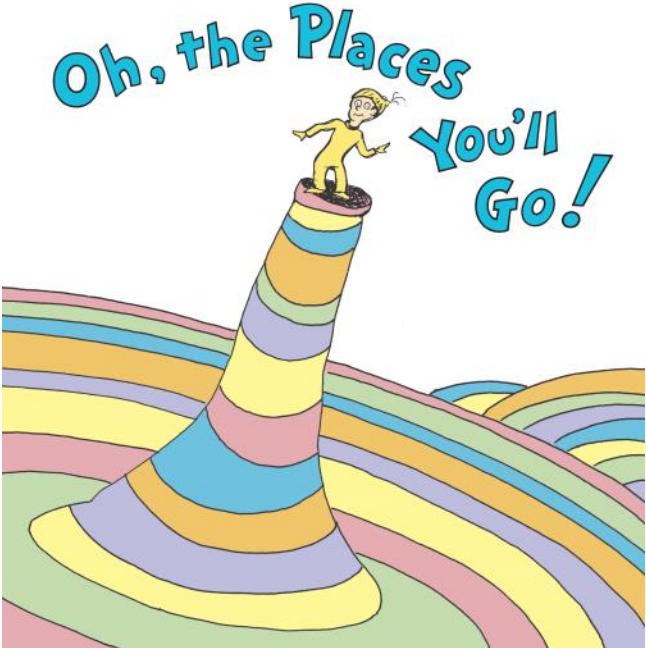
Beth Kurz



Congratulations to our First Communion Students this year! They received their 1st Communion on Maundy Thursday, March 29, 2018

Left to right back row: Jesse Hegg, Jailin Avdem, Evie Janousek, Jakob Starcevic, Jonathan Muhs

Left to right front row: Kate Janousek, Halley Deitz, William Welke, Braden Faul, Troy Peterson



Graduate Recognition.
St. Matthew's high school seniors will be blessed by the congregation on May 20 during worship. If you have a senior that is graduating, please let the church office know by May 1!

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

Welcome to worship

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Address service requested



**VACATION
BIBLE
SCHOOL**

Save the date!

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