May 2020

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

The Messenger

Thanksgiving

The last few months have been difficult for all of us. The world has been grounded and life has been disrupted. I have been thinking a lot about students across the world who have had to put their education on hold and the graduating classes that will celebrate milestones a lot differently this year. Around this time last year, I was making final arrangements for my own graduation from school. Everything happening to the seniors hits close to home because I know what it's like to celebrate your accomplishments with friends and family. And I can't imagine not having the opportunity to do just that.

My other thought these last few days has been about thanksgiving. I received a very generous gift last week and I have been wrestling with myself over how to best show my appreciation. All I can think of right now is a promise to myself that I will pay it forward in every way I can.

I am a beneficiary of a lot of other people's generosity. And sometimes, when the world seems dark and gloomy, it is so easy for me to forget about all the generous people in my life. And so, during these days of COVID-19, I have decided to dwell on the goodness that I have received and to give thanks to God for it. One way I can do that is by sharing with you all stories from my life that highlight this generosity and thanksgiving. This first story comes from childhood.

"My journey has modest origins. My parents worked hard to provide for me and my two brothers. We never went to bed hungry, but we did struggle every now and then. In the early 2000s, my beloved Zimbabwe went through a devastating political and economic crisis. My family felt its effects and we lost a lot. My parents had to make some difficult choices including selling their property and car so that my brothers and I could remain in school and have a somewhat decent life. They bought some land in a new residential area with no electricity or running water. They built a three roomed "cabin" – their bedroom, the boys' room, and a lounge/dining/gathering room. I was in my early teens then, but I fully understood what was happening. We were in a predicament.

But, on the very first day of us moving in, my grandfather – who had been helping us move, sat everyone down in that small gathering room. He was going to pray and bless the house. I vividly remember this occasion…He started praying, "Pamusoroi Mwari, ndini Levison Manda, muranda wenyu, ndiri pano" – (Excuse me God, may I have your attention. It is I, Levison Manda, your servant, I am here).

I had never heard anyone start a prayer like that before, so I opened my eyes and observed my grandfather sitting forward, hands clasped, head bowed down, and in complete obeisance to God. He continued praying, praising God for providing my family with a beautiful place to live. His prayer was one of thanksgiving to God whom he kept referring to as if God was with us in that room.

I will never forget that prayer because it taught me a lot about faith and gratitude. Even in a difficult situation, when it was clear to everyone else that things were really bad, my grandfather was full of praise and thanksgiving to God. That day, I also learned about God's abiding presence. I had always thought of God as some distant being, but on that day, God became a very real presence in my life. God was there with us, in that difficult moment. God never left, nor abandoned us. In our darkest times, God was with me and my family."

I will be sharing more stories like this in sermons and future newsletters, when the opportunity arises. Easter blessings.

Rev. Tawanda Murinda, Interim Pastor.

Ongoing Ministries

MEN IN MISSION
St. Matthew's men continue to gather "virtually" each Sunday morning at 9 am 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 on hold at this time. They usually meet 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. Soon you'll be able to come and join us as a great way to focus midweek!

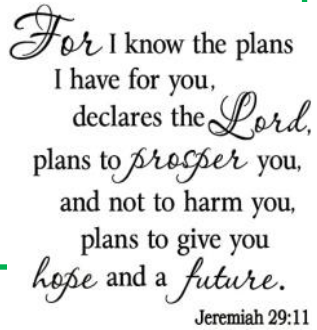
WINE, WOMEN & THE WORD
This group is on hold at this time. We're hoping that our next gathering won't be too long in the future. This relaxed group of gals meets once a month for dinner, conversation, and bible study. New folks are always welcome to join us!

BIBLE STUDY
Join us for our Virtual Bible Study Series on the Book of Jonah. We will continue to meet on Monday's at 7pm for about an hour. Our last two sessions will be on May 4 and May 11. Join in whenever you can. No need to have read the story before. The Zoom link will be sent out every week and you can join on your computer or phone. All ages can participate. Make it a family event!

This month, we would like to celebrate our High School Seniors and wish them well in their future endeavors. We know that this school year has been disrupted but we would like the Seniors to know that we are thinking of them and praying for them.

Congratulations to our Thompson High School Graduates!

Jordyn Bohlman
Chance Danner
Alex Senger
Wade Strande
Pierce Cooper
Ellie Schumacher
Kaia Sorby



Education

Sunday School News

We sure do miss seeing all of you on Sunday morning! We have decided to not resume Sunday School for this year. We are planning VBS for the end of summer, planning for July 27-29 or August 3-5. More details and registration coming soon.

1st Communion – When we can resume activities in person, we will plan out the remaining lessons and then plan a Sunday for the 1st Communion celebration.

If you are interested in teaching Sunday school next year or have any questions, please contact Bre Berberich. breberberich@gmail.com or

Confirmation News

As communicated, we will not resume confirmation until the fall. Requirements are still required to be completed. Sermon Notes and Discipleship forms are now available via google forms. If you need the link or have questions on completed requirements, please contact Bre.

Enjoy your summer and we'll be in touch for the fall confirmation meeting date!!

Bre Berberich – 701.740.3207 or breberberich@gmail.com

LYO—Youth Group

LYO will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, May 6th at 7:00 pm. This will be a great opportunity to catch up with your friends and have an evening of games & fun. See you on the screen!!

Properties

Mowing season will soon be here!!! If you are able to help out by mowing the church lawn, we'd greatly appreciate your help. REMEMBER—-All people operating the mower or weed wacker must be at least 16 years old. If you have questions please contact Duane at 701-215-1809.
Thanks for helping to keep our church yard looking good!!!

Worship

Greetings from the Worship Team!

Despite the unusual circumstances we were able to celebrate Palm Sunday with a Palm Parade and two Easter services! Pastor Tawanda has certainly come through for us. The Easter services also included trumpet solos provided by Justin Uhlir, Thompson Music Director. Thank you to all that purchased flowers for the altar. Just one more way of keeping things as normal as possible.

Again we need to thank Wade and Paul Strande for all they've been doing to help us worship "together". In that light, we're all hoping we can be together soon, but we'll continue to improve our webcasts either way.

Until we're all together again: STAY SAFE—STAY HEALTHY—STAY HOME
God loves you!

Valorie Uhlir 701-739-6282

Bible Study

Join us for our Virtual Bible Study Series on the Book of Jonah. We will continue to meet on Monday's at 7pm for about an hour. Our last two sessions will be on May 4 and May 11. Join in whenever you can. No need to have read the story before. The Zoom link will be sent out every week and you can join on your computer or phone. All ages can participate. Make it a family event!

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Tawanda's visiting office hours will continue to be by telephone at the church office or if you have internet availability by Zoom teleconferencing. He will be available from 10am to Noon on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The church office number is 701-599-2081.

The Thompson Food Pantry will be open on Tuesday, May 12th from 11am-1pm, and Tuesday, May 26nd from 6pm-8pm. The pantry serves the communities of Thompson, Buxton, and Reynolds. For more information on the pantry, talk to Kristie Adams at 701-741-7669.

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church Leadership

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

ST. MATTHEW'S LEADERSHIP

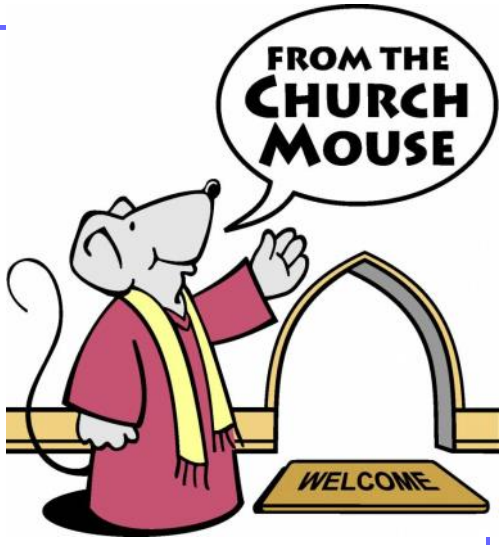
Tawanda Murinda	**Interim Pastor**	pastor@stmatthewsthompson.org
Vione Jordheim	**Admin. Assistant**	stmattsvione@gmail.com
Jamie Bischoff	**Bookkeeper**	stmattsbookkeeper58278@gmail.com
Paul Strande	**Council President**	stmattspresident@gmail.com
Scott Kuster	**Council Vice President**	scottkuster@gra.midco.net
Angie Muhs	**Council Secretary**	bamuhs@yahoo.com
Kevin Cooper	**Council Treasurer**	kevin.j.cooper@outlook.com
Brook Fretheim	**Outreach Team**	brookweber@hotmail.com
Chelsea Lupien	**Fellowship Team**	chelsea.lupien@und.edu
Duane Naas	**Properties Team**	dnaas@sterlingcarpetone.com
Bre Berberich	**Education Team**	breberberich@gmail.com
Steve Hancock	**Youth Team**	shannonandsteven@gmail.com
Valorie Uhlir	**Worship Team**	valuhlir@yahoo.com

Happy Birthday!

2 Jon Hjelmstad
4 Rae Ann Burger,Weston Wilson
5 Jordyn Bohlman, Sara Larson, Ashley Breidenbach, Brandon LaRoque
6 Paisley Albin, Bob Foote
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 Wieler, Bruce Loyland
29 Jesse Kadrmas
30 Terrie Halvorson
31 John Schumacher

Thank you to everyone who is 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! The church mouse would like to thank:

- Steve and Shannon Hancock and the rest of the Youth Team for leading LYO!
- Sarah K, Grace C, Kjersten L, Jamie B, Jessica H, Stephanie B, Trinity B and Derek P for teaching Sunday School this year!
- Astacia & Ava for helping with Sunday School!
- Thank you to our confirmation mentors for our 8th graders this Lenten season!
- Jared L, Dara F, Sara M and Jill Schumacher for teaching Confirmation this year!
- Everyone who helped out during Lent and Holy Week!
- Duane and Chris for the special cleaning they are doing during this pandemic!
- Kristi A for organizing Food Pantry and their volunteers!
- Wade S and Paul S for keeping our worship services live so we can bring them to you!



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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

If reading in church, ushering or assisting with communion isn't "your thing", we would welcome a few dozen cookies or a pan of bars to share during fellowship after the service.

May

Justin & Amy Bergeron Family

Roger & Sharon Gustafson

Neil & Kay Lindell

Brue Loyland

Roy & Sandra Olson

Linda Schumacher

Alex & Jen Starcevic Family

Mike Sundberg Family

Chuck & Kara Welke Family

Troy & Sheila Wilson Family

There are no assigned families for the month of June. However, if you are willing/ able to help in worship in anyway, please talk with Val Uhlir. Also, if you play an instrument or sing and would like to provide special music in church, we would love to have you show off your talents!!

Minutes of St. Matthew's Council Meeting, April 8, 2020 via Zoom

Present: Paul Strande, Pastor Tawanda, Scott Kuster, Bre Berberich, Angie Muhs, Valorie Uhlir, Steve Hancock, Duane Naas, Kevin Cooper.
Absent: Chelsea Lupien, Brook Fretheim
Meeting called to order at 7:08 PM. Duane motioned to approve agenda. Steve seconded. MPU
Opening prayer provided us by Pastor Tawanda.

New Business
Approve the Pastor Call Committee
Scott Landa – (Chair), Bethany Kurz, Ryan Welsh, Kristie Adams, Jon Hjelmstad and Ellie Schumacher
Bre motioned to approve the call committee, Scott seconded motion. MPU

Approval to apply for the Paycheck Protection Project through the Cares program -SBA Loan/Grant program

Paul Strande will fill out and submit the application to First State Bank. Once the loan is approved, Paul Strande is authorized to then sign the paperwork with the bank to complete the loan process.
This project will help with salaries and other expenses. We are able to receive approximately $20,000. This is a grant if used for employees and a low interest loan if used for utilities. Paul will fill out and submit the application.
Kevin motioned to approve applying for the Paycheck Protection Project through the Care's SBA loan/grant program. Steve seconded motion. MPU

Closing Prayer (Lord's Prayer)

Val motioned to adjourn meeting. Bre seconded. MPU
Meeting adjourned 7:27 PM

Next Regular Meeting, April 26th, 2020 at 11:30AM *** Date Change***

Respectfully Submitted by:
Angie Muhs

UNOFFICIAL April Council Minutes, April 26, 2020 via Zoom

Present: Paul Strande, Scott Kuster, Bre Berberich, Angie Muhs, Valorie Uhlir, Steve Hancock, Kevin Cooper, Brook Fretheim, Pastor Tawanda, Duane Naas

Absent: Chelsea Lupien

Meeting called to order at --11:42 AM. Val motioned to begin meeting.

Opening prayer provided us by Pastor Tawanda.

Steve motioned to approve agenda, Scott seconded, MPU.

Minutes from March council meeting were shared and reviewed.

Bre moved to approve the minutes as written, Brook seconded, MPU.

April 8th special council meeting minutes shared and reviewed.

Val moved to approve the minutes, Bre seconded, MPU.

Financial Report:

As of latest report, General Checking has $ 25,548.54, Special Funds Checking has $ 27,969.25. Line of credit balance is $0. Total Expenses were $ 14,286.31, leaving a Net loss of $ 3,955.21and YTD Net loss of $1,049.02

Update on Give+. Members are using this app which has aided us in trying to maintain our budget. Increased giving has been observed from many members. Line of credit has not been needed as a result.

Cares act grant/loan has helped support our staff salaries. 75% must be used for salaries and 25% can be used for utilities.

Bre made a motion to approve the financial report. Kevin seconded it. MCU.

Calendar Review:

Online services will continue on Sunday's.

No in person events until future notice with exception of Wednesday responsive prayer group who will continue to meet as there are less than 10 people.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Tawanda provided his Pastor's report and addressed the importance of being creative at the present time. All future worship will be online. The full report will be posted in the church binder at St. Matthew's.

Pastor Tawanda has been calling members of St. Matthew's to check in.

Men's Club Report: Scott – No updates

WELCA update: No updates

Vitality team- Kevin- Members have been contributing blog posts.

Team Reports:

Exec- Paul – No updates

Education-Bre – Confirmands are still doing sermon notes and discipleship forms. VBS is tentatively scheduled for last week in July with Park River Bible Camp.

Would like to hold a special service to highlight and blessing of our graduates. Options are being considered.

Fellowship- Chelsea. No new updates.

Outreach- Brook- No new updates. Brook asked for feedback regarding options during this time.

Food Pantry- No new numbers.

Property- Duane – Discussion regarding mowing summer 2020. Clorox wipes will be available to wipe down mower.

Discussion around Giving+ app and wondering if a special fund could be set up for future projects, such as, "Carpet 2023" for example.

General maintenance is progressing. Cleaning and disinfecting is maintained.

May need to consider patching pothole that is developing in church parking lot. Not moving forward on parking striping this summer at this point in time.

Worship- Val – Need to prepare for continued broadcast of our services. May need to update equipment to make broadcasting and technology better. Hoping for a Tea before winter. Goal is to acknowledge graduates.

Y**outh-** Steve – Google hangout last week. Ellie Schumacher talked to kids about call committee. Goal is to stay connected to youth.

Old Business

List of congregation members to check up on

Council members have been checking in on members.

Check in's will continue.

Pastor's Lease – Bought out the last 3 months at 50%. Pastor will get his deposit back in May.

Buyout taken care of. Deposit will be sent soon from rental company.

New Business

Money left in the wedding account. Jamie says it should be zeroed out now. What do we do with the money?

Steve made motion to give Val $200 for organizing and coordination of wedding, Paul seconded.

Discussion occurred. Amount amended provide $100 to the coordinator and the remaining to general fund. MPU.

Duane thinks we should add a possible donation choice to the envelopes for new church carpeting to build up a fund for replacement in the next few years.

Tabled until the next meeting.

Jamie is moving but would like to stay on as bookkeeper.

Discussion occurred between Jamie, Paul, and Kevin. Consulted with Trinity Bohlman. This could be done. Check signing would not be viable in new location. Felt this could still be timely and streamlined. Training curve of finding a new bookkeeper would be difficult. This will prevent us from finding/training a new bookkeeper at present time. Jamie has done a great job thus far. Will start operating as if she is already gone so to prepare for any barriers.

Scan receipts in on the copier for Jamie to get reimbursed.

Info. that the call committee needs for the Ministry Site Profile from council

Discussed experience. No set years of experience preferred.

Salary: open to negotiation based on experience and will honor synod guidelines.

Pension, Medical are provided.

No current sabbatical. Working on a policy for this.

Mileage and travel are reimbursed.

Professional expenses are reimbursed.

Continuing education is reimbursed.

Background checks are required.

Weeks of vacation: 2.5 days for every 10 weeks (Synod guidelines) 5 weeks in a calendar year.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 12:56 PM

Steve made motion to adjourn, Scott seconded. MPU

Next Meeting May 17, 2020 @ 11:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Angie Muhs

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Welcome to worship
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Address service requested

Coming this summer!

More details and registration will be coming soon!