

May 2021

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

# The Messenger

Can we talk about racism for a few minutes? As a 30-year-old black man, who is also an immigrant, and living in Midwest America, I HAVE to talk about racism. I do not have the luxury of ignoring issues of race because I tend to stick out wherever I am in our community. I will be married this September and hopefully, someday, we will have kids of our own. They will be black kids in a very white community...so I REALLY need to talk about racism...for the sake of my future children – if not for my own sake.

We just celebrated Easter – a day filled with optimism and joy. Our Savior is risen from the dead and by this glorious act of sacrifice, we are all freed from sin and death. Jesus saves us and gives us new life! It is a season of hope.

However, some of the other things happening around us, are not as full of hope as Easter. The realities of life in America are not always as cheerful as this season wants to paint them to be. We live with the realities of racial and political injustices. We live in a country where a group of minorities feel the need to protest under the banner of Black Lives Matter.... because they feel that there is a group of Americans who believe that not All Lives Matter.

I know that my last statement here is a trigger for a lot of people. Depending on your political affiliations, you are either dismissing me right now or you are becoming very defensive. But hear me out please: this is not a political statement. This is simply the truth about the lives of certain people, including me – your pastor. Black people are dying, at a scary rate, mostly because of their skin color and the stereotypes associated with being black in America. For some reason, black people, especially men, have been painted as aggressive and violent. But you all know me – am I like that? Then why should I be perceived like that?

I'm sure most of you have never thought about how you would be perceived depending on the clothes you wear. But I constantly think about that. I don't wear hoodies when going shopping, even to the gas station across the street from our church. I wear very bright clothes when biking or walking on trails. I drive a bright blue car by design – to make me look less intimidating and avoid police stops.

A couple of years ago – see how sad this is? – when a black man was shot dead while trying to reach for his driver's license in his pockets, I posted a sarcastic comment online about how I would start driving with my license taped to my windshield just in case I got pulled-over and wouldn't have to reach for my pockets.

When my dad saw that post, he privately told me to be careful with my words and to be safe and respectful. I thought about this for days. And then I remembered a discussion I had been part of with the men's group of my previous church in Iowa.

We went for a retreat and there, we talked about being men of integrity, about setting boundaries but also building bridges. I remembered the covenant we made. We promised to ask ourselves these four questions each time before we speak:

Are my words honest? Are they true? Are they kind? And are they helpful?

I've asked myself these same four questions over and over, the last few days. How do I respond to issues of racism in a way that is honest, true, kind, and helpful? The same question can be put out to you as well as you think about these issues.

It is easy for us to throw out words and make comments on these issues without understanding their effect and power. Our words can be honest and true, but if they are hurtful and unhelpful, they should be kept just to ourselves. I believe our country needs this more so today when truth is subjective, and everyone lays claim to what is true. But we can all agree on what is kind and what is helpful. That is the place we need to gather and meet each other if we are going to create safe spaces for all people, regardless of their skin color. From there, we can discuss what is true and what our faith instructs us.

I welcome conversations regarding this topic. Let's talk about how we can make our community welcoming for ALL people. Let's ignore the national news for a minute, and start with our small church, town, and community.

Pastor Tawanda Murinda

# LYO—Youth Group



**Youth Group Students** – It has been a great year with the kids. Enjoy the pictures from the Cornhole Tournament!! There are only two LYO nights left for the year; May 5 and May 19th. On May 19th we will welcome the 8<sup>th</sup> graders that will be confirmed next fall and we will recognize our graduating Seniors. Thank you to the congregation for your continued

support  
of our  
youth.



## WELCA

We will have a WELCA meeting on Sunday, May 2nd @ 11:15am in the Sanctuary after Church. Because of Covid—we have not met as a group for over a year.

We have several things to review, plan, and we also need to elect new officers.

Reminder—WELCA is for all confirmed women of St. Matthew's. WELCA's

Purpose Statement: As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

If you are unable to join us in person, please plan to join us via zoom:



Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84457970168?pwd=M1Z3S3lseG9HbzdYdEFZNkVvT1IRZz09>

Meeting ID: 844 5797 0168 Passcode: 7k9Ysz



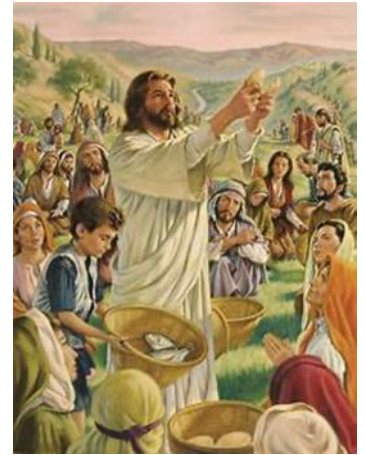
# Education

Greetings from the Education Team!

We will be wrapping up the final few days of Sunday school this year by studying the stories of 'The Miracles of Jesus'. We have studied the story of Jesus calming the storm and we have also studied the miracle of Jesus walking on water.



Our Last Day of Sunday school will be Sunday, May 2nd. On that day the children will be hearing the story of how Jesus fed 5,000 with only five loaves of bread and two small fish! And, in honor of this miracle, we encourage the students to bring a canned food item to donate to our pantry!



On the last day of Sunday school we will be recognizing our Sunday school and confirmation teachers and the children will also be singing during worship!

Thank you to the following Sunday school and confirmation teachers who volunteered their time, talents and resources to make our year of Christian education a success!

## Sunday School Teachers

Pre-K: Sarah Krogfoss  
Kindergarten: Sara Derosier & Stacy Plautz  
1st Grade: Grace Cooper & Kjersten Lopez  
2nd Grade: Bridget Pearson  
3rd/4th Grade: Jessica Haugen  
5th Grade: Derek Plautz

## Confirmation Teachers

6th Grade: Jen Starcevic  
7th Grade: Jerod Lupien  
8th Grade: Sara Munson  
6th-8th Grade: Pastor Tawanda



We are excited to welcome back Park River Bible Camp to share their VBS ministry with us! VBS will take place Saturday, August 7th - Tuesday, August 10th. \*Please see the registration form on page 4.



**VBS 2021 - A LOVE THAT NEVER ENDS**  
*We love because God first loved us - 1 John 4:19*



VBS registration is open for children ages 4–12. Kids meet friends, explore Bible stories, do fun activities, sing songs, make crafts, play games, and eat snacks. The 1/2 day Pre-K program is available to 4 year olds. The full day program is available to those children who will be entering Kindergarten this fall through the 5th grade.

Dates: Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>  
**Camp Kick-Off Cookout Saturday Evening!!! (Time TBD)**  
 Time: 9:00am - 3:00pm  
 Location: St. Matthew's Lutheran Church  
 Cost: \$10/Pre-K (1/2 day - Age 4 - 9am - 12pm)  
 \$25/Kindergarten - 5th Grade (Full Day/Ages 5 - 12)  
*No more than \$50/family*

***Full day participants are asked to bring a bagged lunch. Snacks will be served.***



Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age/Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Students' Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age/Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Students' Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age/Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies/other medical conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Does St. Matthew's have permission to use your child(s) image on our website and/or social media? Please circle one: Yes/No

Please make checks payable to St. Matthew's. *Thank You*

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your completed forms to:

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

701 Broadway Street

Thompson, ND 58278

Or place in the education mailbox at the church.

Questions: Contact Sarah @ 218-791-2416



# Worship

Greetings from the Worship Team!

Well, even though winter has returned briefly, I trust you are all enjoying the prospects of Spring. I want to thank all that purchased flowers to decorate the Altar. There are a few that can be adopted, if someone is interested.

I certainly appreciate ALL that helped with the Easter Week Services.

We are still looking for additional Tech help. This would only entail one Sunday a month, if we can get enough to sign up.

Again, I will remind ALL, that we are looking for someone to assist with Altar decorating. This wouldn't involve any cost to you ONLY time and the talent to design a display. The next display will be needed by May 23.

Contact me if there is an interest in decorating OR joining the Worship Team.

Blessings from the Worship Team, Valorie Uhlir 701-739-6282

## *May Worship Assistants*



Justin & Amy Bergeron Family

Roger & Sharon Gustafson

Neil & Kay Lindell

Bruce Loyland

Roy & Sandy Olson

Linda Schumacher

Alex & Jen Starcevic Family

Mike Sundberg Family

Chuck & Kara Welke Family

Troy & Sheila Wilson Family

# Loving Neighbors

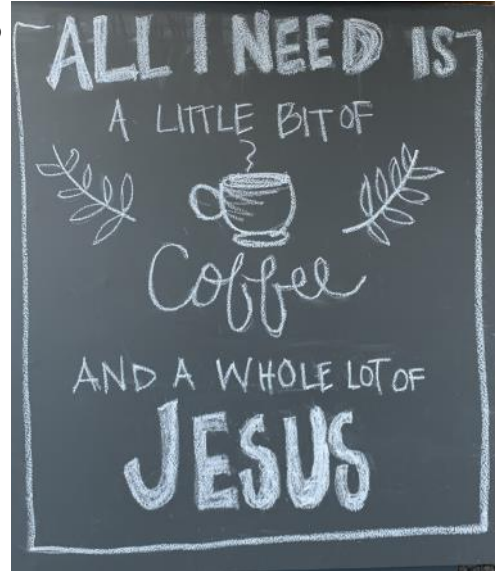


## **Thompson Food Pantry**

The Thompson Food Pantry is open on Tuesday, May 11th from 11am-1pm, and Tuesday, May 25th from 6pm-8pm. The pantry serves the communities of Thompson, Buxton, and Reynolds. For more information on the pantry, talk to Mary Mitchell (701-599-2870) or Paul Galegher (701) 741-1375.

# Fellowship

A Note from your Fellowship Team: We are beyond excited to bring back - "The Bean of Life" - St. Matthew's coffee cart. The Bean of Life will be housed with a Keurig (coffee & tea k-cups), creamer, cups / lids and stir straws, and a small prepackaged food item. A fridge on the backside will house bottled water and sparkling water. All items are self serve and we ask that you pick up after yourself. If items are needed on the cart, please restock items that are located on the backside of the cart - your fellowship team will also make sure all items are stocked and ready to go. The Bean of Life mission is to show newcomers and regulars that St. Matthew's cares about you! Coffee and tea have become a hospitality ritual today. It is also a comfort food, if you will. So if you put the two together, one would surmise, coffee or tea creates a sense of warmth, of hope and trust you can hold in your hands. Let's face it, for a real coffee or tea lover, it doesn't get much better than a warm cup of coffee or tea in your hands to relax and rejuvenate your spirit almost anytime. So please do not hide The Bean of Life - embrace it, offer it, and help us share with everyone that enters St. Matthew's. If you would like to provide dollars to support this mission, please identify so on your offering.



**"All I need is a little bit of coffee and a whole lot of Jesus"**

## **Women's Bible Study**

**May 17 @ 7pm**

**at the church**



**Women of all ages  
are welcome!**

# Ongoing Ministries

## **MEN IN MISSION**

St. Matthew's men gather each Sunday morning at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall 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!

## **WELCA BIBLE STUDY**

This group has been meeting at the church on the 3rd Monday of the month for an evening of Bible Study. Their next gathering will be on Monday, May 17 @ 7:00pm.

# OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Tawanda welcomes visitors at the church office anytime.

He is in the office all day on Mondays and Thursdays, please feel free to stop in.

Tuesdays and Wednesdays, please contact him to set up a time to meet.

Pastor Tawanda's day off is Friday.

The Quilters have been busy! They have worked through the pandemic either at church or in their homes to provide a great need. Join us on Sunday, May 9th for *Blessing of the Quilts* during worship service. Thank you so very much to these ladies for their faith and dedication.



## Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church Leadership

### ST. MATTHEW'S LEADERSHIP

<b>Pastor Tawanda Murinda</b>	<b>Pastor</b>	<a href="mailto:pastor@stmatthewsthompson.org">pastor@stmatthewsthompson.org</a>
<b>Vione Jordheim</b>	<b>Admin Assistant</b>	<a href="mailto:stmattsvione@gmail.com">stmattsvione@gmail.com</a>
<b>Jamie Bischoff</b>	<b>Bookkeeper</b>	<a href="mailto:stmattsbookkeeper58278@gmail.com">stmattsbookkeeper58278@gmail.com</a>
<b>Paul Strande</b>	<b>President</b>	<a href="mailto:stmattspresident@gmail.com">stmattspresident@gmail.com</a>
<b>Ryan Welsh</b>	<b>Vice President</b>	<a href="mailto:rswelsh@invisimax.com">rswelsh@invisimax.com</a>
<b>Robyn Bohlman</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<a href="mailto:rbohlman@invisimax.com">rbohlman@invisimax.com</a>
<b>Scott Kuster</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<a href="mailto:scottkuster@gra.midco.net">scottkuster@gra.midco.net</a>
<b>Brook Fretheim</b>	<b>Outreach Team</b>	<a href="mailto:brook.fretheim@tps-k12.org">brook.fretheim@tps-k12.org</a>
<b>Sara Munson</b>	<b>Fellowship Team</b>	<a href="mailto:smunson190@mygfschools.org">smunson190@mygfschools.org</a>
<b>Duane Naas</b>	<b>Properties Team</b>	<a href="mailto:duanechrisnaas@gmail.com">duanechrisnaas@gmail.com</a>
<b>Sarah Krogfoss</b>	<b>Education Team</b>	<a href="mailto:sarahkrogfoss@icloud.com">sarahkrogfoss@icloud.com</a>
<b>Steve Hancock</b>	<b>Youth Team</b>	<a href="mailto:shannonandsteven@gmail.com">shannonandsteven@gmail.com</a>
<b>Valorie Uhler</b>	<b>Worship Team</b>	<a href="mailto:valuhlr@yahoo.com">valuhlr@yahoo.com</a>

# 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, Melissa Berger
- 10 Brittney Munson
- 11 Zachary Peterson, Kate Janousek
- 12 Lindsay George, Alexandra Johnson
- 14 Calen Broyles, Kaycee Wyatt
- 15 Nathan Berberich, Jen Bohlman
- 16 Marjean Greene
- 17 Laura Benoit, Mak Mikelson
- 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 & Shannon Hancock and the rest of the Youth Team for leading LYO and keeping the LYO crew energized and fed!
- Sarah K, Stacy P, Sara D, Grace C, Kjersten L, Bridget P, Jessica H and Derek P for teaching Sunday School this year
- Jen S, Jerod L, Sara M and Pastor Tawanda for teaching confirmation this year
- Amy B, Angie M, Mickey M, Bre B, Sara M, Derek P, Dena H, Charla P, Ryan A, Kay L for your willingness to be confirmation mentors for our 8th graders
- Everyone who put in extra time to help out during Lent and Holy Week with needed tasks
- Everyone who helped with the Fish Frys
- Duane and Chris for all the extra cleaning they have been doing during this pandemic and during the busy church season
- Mary M and Paul G for organizing the Food Pantry and their volunteers

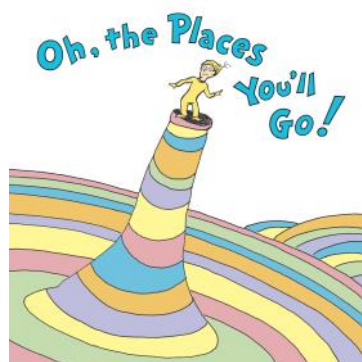


**Together we can do God's  
Work with Our Hands!**



*Congratulations to our 5th graders  
receiving their First Communion*

Lola Anderson, Carly Berberich,  
Halle Bohlman, Summer Pearson,  
Mak Mikelson, Jordan Barker,  
Natalie Berger, Jaxon Clemetson



## **Graduate Recognition.**

St. Matthew's high school seniors will be blessed by the congregation on May 23 during worship. If you have a senior that is graduating from high school or college, please let the church office know by May 12!





## **St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

Council Meeting Minutes—April 11, 2021

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Present: Paul Strande, Steve Hancock, Scott Kuster, Duane Naas, Val Uhler, Pastor Tawanda, Sarah Krogfoss, Ryan Welsh, Robyn Bohlman, Sara Munson

Absent: Brook Fretheim

Meeting was called to order by President Strande at 11:10

Opening Devotional - Pastor Tawanda

Agenda: Add to new business piano, panning camera and audience microphones. Motion to approve agenda was made by Steve seconded by Scott: MPU

Minutes from March's meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept minutes by Sara seconded by Ryan: MPU

Financial : General Giving Income for March was \$34,319.50.\* As of March 31st the General Giving checking account balance is \$34,608.23. Special Giving checking is \$32,057.86. Our line of credit is \$0. Our YTD income is \$15,712.17. Please note the \* the Paycheck Protection Loan #2 contributed \$21,600 of the \$34,319.50 income of March. The General Giving Income of March without the Paycheck Protection Loan #2 was \$12,719.50.

Val Made a motion to accept financial. Sarah Seconded. MPU

Pastors Report- see Pastor's full report.

Calendar Review: Kids will be singing on May 2. Thursday, May 6 Duane would like to clean the entry carpet.

Men's Club Report: nothing

WELCA Report: meeting was pushed to either April 18 or 25th

### **Team Reports**

Executive Team Paul Strande- met and put together plan for opening up church more.

Education Sarah Krogfoss-had Easter egg hunt. Good Friday children's service was not very well attended. Last Sunday of Sunday school kids will be singing, sharing memory work and thanking teachers.

Fellowship Sarah Munson -Coffee Cart was fixed up, add snacks to go and something more kid friendly  
Outreach Brook Fretheim -nothing  
Food Pantry 315lbs of food in March – 5 households  
Properties Duane Naas-Gary Welsh would like to pour concrete pad for where garbage dumpsters sit.  
Worship Val Uhlir-Easter display will stay up until 9<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> and then replace with something festive or summerlike. Will stay with communion every Sunday  
Youth Steve Hancock- only 9 kids this past Wednesday.

#### Old Business

Altar, Pulpit and Baptismal Font – set up small group to pick design. Ryan, Pastor and Val should be in this group. Order should be pulpit, baptismal font then altar.  
Upgraded church copier will be installed this week.  
Security cameras will also be installed this week.  
New member Sunday-Pastor recommended to move to fall. Possibly early September. Pastor will coordinate with Sara and Brooke to get some sort of new member packet put together.  
PPP Loan, recommended put into a savings acct. Paul made a motion to put the money into a money market account. Val seconded. MPU Scott will check into this at bank.  
Code to door-Duane will change after last day of Sunday School

#### New Business

Set a day to clean the church windows. May 1 or May 8. Sara will mention it at WELCA.  
Piano – needs to be removed. Scott made a motion to give the piano to Sarah Krogfoss AFTER May 21, Paul seconded. MPU  
Audio microphones – check into getting microphones that will pick up congregation responses, singing to make more of an interactive service for those watching online. Right now, they don't hear the congregation participation.

#### Closing Prayer (Lord's Prayer)

Val motioned to adjourn, Paul seconded. MPU

Next Meeting: May 16, 2021 at 11:05AM / after church service

Respectfully Submitted by:

Robyn Bohlman



*Happy Mother's Day to all the wonderful women of our Church!*

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## Welcome to worship

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

In-person and live on our YouTube Channel

Address service requested



Join us in Worship and a Celebration Cookout, **Sunday, May 2**  
in honor of Teacher Appreciation Sunday and  
the last day of Sunday School!!

The Kids will be singing during the 10am worship service and  
the cookout will follow.

Please bring a dessert of your choice—everything else will be provided.

Join us as we celebrate our Kids and our Teachers!!