

May 2023

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

The Messenger

Dear St. Matt's Friends,

With Mother's Day coming up, I am thinking about my role as a mother and how it has changed over the years. My son is a junior in high school and my daughter is a sophomore in college, so my mothering is not as "hands-on" as it once was. But I am still asking myself, "What am I modeling to my kids? What values am I handing on to them?" This gets me thinking about lessons I have learned from my mom along the way. Here are a few I'd like to share.

Five Life Lessons I Learned From My Mom

1. Pray for your kids, *with* your kids, and in front of your kids

All my life I know I have been prayed for every day. At my bedside as a child, in the car before family trips, on my wedding day. When I was growing up my parents ended their devotions every night by praying for the needs of the community, the world and their kids. I know they did, because I heard them, and they also told me that they were praying for me. When I was pregnant with my daughter, my mom gave me a book of prayers for the mother-to-be, reminding me to pray over this little one growing inside, part of her pattern of tutoring me in a life of prayer. I am reminded to tell my kids how I pray for them daily, and to let them hear my prayers.

2. Be Real

There are some things my mom felt strongly about; like if people called her "Mrs. Stanley Larsen" she says, "My name is Ruth, thank you." She has always been free with her opinions, sometimes I have thought *too* free. But you know where you stand with her. She doesn't smile to your face and then talk behind your back. She is loyal to her family, her church, and community but she doesn't pretend everything is ok if it's not. Frustrations come out but so do hugs and forgiveness. What you see is what you get, and while it may not always be pretty, there is a freedom in her "real-ness" that allows other people to relax, feel accepted and be honest about who they are too.

3. Never Fail to Show Hospitality

My mom's home was never perfectly tidy. For many years there was a sign that hung in the kitchen that said, "God Bless this Mess" and she meant it. But the coffee pot was *always* on for whoever might stop by, or whoever happened to be walking by that mom could flag down and persuade to come in. When we lived in a parsonage in rural Fergus Falls, we would have to have our water hauled out from town regularly. Every time, my mom would invite in the delivery man to sit down for coffee and "a little something." She taught me to look beyond the service rendered to SEE the person and their life. But her hospitality goes *beyond* her cooking and her home. She embodies it. It is an attitude of welcome that travels with her. She offers herself, her attention, and trusts that it is enough.

4. Look out for the overlooked

Time after time I have seen my parents actively reach out to those who were left out, forgotten, or down and out. They did this with their pocketbooks, sponsoring children, giving generously to aid organizations. But they also did it in person, and with their family. From the time when I was about three, I remember going as a family to the nursing home in Beach every month to sing for the residents and visit with them. I also remember kids in the congregation whose families were having trouble coming to stay with us for a while. When my siblings went off to college, it was typical that they would bring foreign exchange students home with them from college. The lesson was repeated often: God has blessed us to be a blessing. (continued on page 2)

Pastor Kristen's message continued.....

5. Bloom Where You are Planted

This is my mom's favorite expression. It might have something to do with the fact that as a pastor's family, we did our share of moving. I take it to mean, "don't waste your time wishing you were somewhere else, or that you were someone else. Look around. See the richness of the soil you find yourself in right now. Develop and use your unique gifts wherever you are now."

My mom has taught me a lot, and I pray that I can live out these life-lessons in my own home and family, even when they are no longer at home. But you know, come to think of it, each of these are pretty important lessons for our church's household of faith as well, don't you agree? And you? Do you have some other "lessons from mom" (or dad) you would add to the list that would be helpful for our life together? Pass it on!



Indebted to the wisdom handed down to me,



ROBYN BOHLMAN

EMILY DOBMEIER

KIMBERLY LAGGE

KJERSTEN LOPEZ

BAILEY BRYANT

MICHELE BURGER

JESSICA HAUGEN

TRIN BOHLMAN

JEN STARCEVIC

KRISTIE ADAMS

DUANE NAAS

MARC KURZ

PASTOR KRISTEN

Education



Youth Group Students – The last night of LYO is set for May 10 at 6:30 pm. Come enjoy fellowship before summer begins. Thank you to Sara Munson and Chelsea Lupien for your Leadership!

CONFIRMATION

The end of year celebration will be at 7:00pm on May 10th.



Sunday School News!

Our last two days of Sunday school will be focused on making plans for summer! On **May 7th** we will have a 'Bible Camp' Sunday and we will learn a Bible camp song during Sunday school opening. We will also be discussing some fun camp opportunities available at **Park River Bible Camp** and doing some Bible camp activities during Sunday school class time. Following worship there will be a presentation for parents to join their students to see all that Park River Bible Camp has to offer and available dates. It is our goal to get our youth out to Park River Bible Camp for a day or a week to experience faith building opportunities outdoors!



May 14th will be our final day of Sunday school. On this day we will be talking about and getting excited for our Vacation Bible school that will be happening in August!

At Stellar VBS, we will be shining a light on Jesus' love! Kids will be launched on a cosmic quest where they'll have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world. Stellar will rocket our kids on an out-of-this-world adventure that's light years of faith-building fun! VBS will take place 8/6 - 8/10 during the evenings, 6pm - 8:30pm.



Worship

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make the Lent and Easter services special. We discovered new acting and singing talents in our youth as well as our older members! We appreciated your willingness to share your talents and personal experiences. Special thanks to Justin Uhlir for enhancing our Easter music on trumpet.

Thank you to my worship team members who helped decorate and to those who purchased the Easter flowers that made our church welcoming and beautiful. Thank you to Nancy Morgan for making and donating all the materials for the beautiful wreaths that adorn the doors and Val Uhlir for donating the pots for the flowers outside and Emily Dobmeier for the beautiful Lent and Easter signs. We have so many talented people in our congregation!

Thank you to Cheryl Arntz for assisting the First Communion class in making the communion bread.

Thank you to Gary Welsh for making our new worship white board easel.

Thank you to everyone who signed up as worship assistants. You are so appreciated! Please note that there are no families assigned during the summer months of June and July, so please if you plan on attending worship, consider signing up to assist during these months. You can sign up on the website or by calling Sue.

Thank you to Pastor Kristen for her leadership, new ideas and inspiring messages. We are so fortunate to have you as our Pastor!

So many wonderful people to thank!! I hope I haven't forgotten anyone but if I did please know you are very much appreciated!

Sue Simon Worship Team Leader

Team Members: Val Uhlir, Sharon Gustafson, Cheryl Arntz, Nancy Morgan, Mary Mitchell and Julie Brorby.



May

Justin & Amy Bergeron Family

Roger & Sharon Gustafson

Roy & Sandra Olson

Linda Schumacher

Alex & Jen Starcevic Family

Chuck & Kara Welke Family

June & July

There are no families assigned during the summer months of June and July. Please consider assisting during these months by signing up on the website or by calling Sue.

Outreach

The Outreach Team would like to thank all who attended the new member interest brunch that was held on April 23! We had a great turnout and hope that it was useful for our newcomers to learn more about what we do at St. Matthew's and to meet some of the members of our congregation. A big thank you to all who brought food and helped to prepare for the event. A special thanks to Pastor Kristen for initiating and leading the event, and to Pastor and Vione for preparing the materials for the meeting.



Join us on

Sunday, April 30th at 10:00am as we WELCOME

the Robinson Family, the Popova Family, the Carrier Family, the Johnson Family, the Setness Family and the Wojciechowski Family.



BAPTISM

Pastor Kristen will be hosting a **Baptism orientation class on Sunday April 30 @**

11:15 am and on Wednesday, May 17 @ 5:30 pm.

This is for anyone interested in being baptized or planning to have their children baptized in the near future. Please plan to attend **ONE** of the two dates and contact the church office to let us know of your plan. Childcare will be provided for children 4 and under if we know in advance they are coming. Older kids can participate in the session. In addition to learning about baptism, it will be a great opportunity to connect with other families. New comers to the church are welcome.



**Women's Bible Study
May 15 @ 10:00 am
at the church**

**Women of all ages are
welcome!**

Loving Neighbors



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 Mary Mitchell (701-599-2870) or Paul Galegher (701) 741-1375.

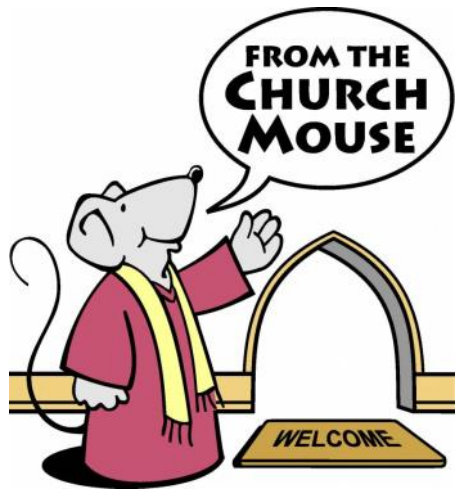
Ruby's Pantry will be distributing food shares in St. Matthew's parking lot during the month of May on May 18th from 5pm-7pm. For more information on the pantry go to Ruby's Pantry-Thompson, ND on Facebook or contact Chelsea Lupien.



- 2 Jon Hjelmstad, Alivia Hancock
- 4 Rae Ann Burger, Weston Wilson, Ella Herrig
- 5 Jordyn Bohlman, Sara Larson, 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 Aasen
- 16 Marjean Greene
- 17 Laura Benoit, Mak Mikelson
- 18 Cash Danner, Riley Kornkven, Carson Rood
- 19 Pat Hanson, Sara Munson

Happy Birthday in May

- 20 Pierce Cooper
- 22 Dex Avdem, John Berthold, Barbie Larson, Olive Dobmeier
- 23 Dylan Anderson
- 24 Christine Sivertson, Kory Sondreal, Vione Jordheim, Andy Wilson
- 25 Lyla Vaagene
- 26 Travis Fretheim, Kody Schuppert
- 27 Deann Wieler, Bruce Loyland, Sean Burger
- 29 Jesse Kadrmas
- 30 Terrie Halvorson
- 31 John Schumacher, Christina Connole



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:

- Gary W for always making a path to the door!
- ALL of the musicians during Lent, and Holy Week and our Easter Celebration!
- Pastor Kristen for leading and Cheryl A for assisting in the First Communion Retreat.
- Our Easter musicians and assistants.
- Our actors and actresses during Lent.
- ALL of the Ruby's Pantry volunteers!!!

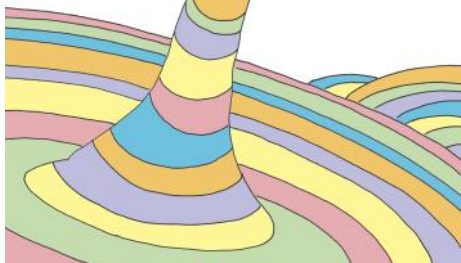
Congratulations to our 5th graders receiving their First Communion



Kennedy Carrier
Larry Eliason
Owen Gallant
Ella Herrig
Annistyn Laxdal
Isaac Riewer
Ryder Setness
Kayle Sondreal
Lyla Vaagene



*Oh, the Places
You'll
Go!*



Congratulations to our Graduates!

Please join us as our High School Graduates will be blessed by the congregation on Sunday, May 21st during worship.

Graduating Seniors, please submit a picture to the office along with your future plans by May 10th. We would love to include you in our PowerPoint presentation and recognize you for all of your accomplishments!



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

A Note from your Church Council:

Greetings members of St. Matthew's. We are coming out of a beautiful Lenten season and are so grateful to Pastor Kristen for her leadership and design of our Wednesday evening and Easter Sunday services. We know the amount of time and effort she put in to make this time of year not only meaningful but incredibly special too. Thank you to everyone who assisted and supported her. It takes all of us to do God's good work. With this said, the energy we have as a congregation right now is simply amazing and we know the importance of carrying it forward.

During the weeks ahead, we will have many joining our church family through Membership and Baptism. And, with spring in the air we look forward to celebrating our Graduates, Sunday School Teachers, and all the other special moments we have coming up at St. Matthew's. It truly is a joy and blessing to be a part of this congregation.

We informed you last month that we, the Council, will now provide a summary of our Finances and updates impacting the entire congregation rather than share our monthly Council Meeting Minutes. Members are always invited to attend Council meetings. Our next meeting will take place on Sunday, May 21 following worship. Approved meeting minutes will be made available upon request.

Summary of Finances

Financial Reports Summary	February	March
	2023	2023
General Giving Income	\$10,896	\$9,721
Year-to-Date Net Income	\$2,484	-\$6,762
General Giving Checking Account	\$58,017	\$46,202
Special Giving Checking Account	\$33,766	\$34,809
Line of Credit	\$0	\$0

Our expenses for the month of March were higher. Church Council Treasurer, Justin Bergeron identified and explained the following reasons for why:

The Pastoral Benefits Package was due and paid for.

Administration costs are ahead of budget due to an accounting error and will be corrected this month.

There was one less Church service held due to the weather.

Church Council News

The Executive Team continues to work to fill the Administrative Assistant position. Carrie Herrig, Church Council Secretary is in the process of updating the position description and will handle the interview process with the help of other council members and Pastor Kristen. We have had interest and hope to finalize a replacement soon. John Schumacher continues to serve as our church Bookkeeper and Scott Kuster has agreed to take over the entering the Offering in Church 360 and sending out Offer Statements.

The summer months will soon be upon us, and we know our Sunday service attendance will decrease. Together, with Pastor Kristen we are exploring new ideas to keep you engaged during these months. Whether at the lake or enjoying those summer vacations, did you know you can still support St. Matthew's through Online Giving. With the help of [Vanco Mobile Faith Giving](#) you can set up a one time or reoccurring donation. Please take a moment to visit the site and we thank you in advance for your generosity.

The Church Council is also seeking members of our congregation to help with music and worship. If you are interested in sharing your music muscle with the congregation through song, instrument, or running the Clavinova please let us know. And there are many opportunities for our members to serve as Worship Leaders. The upcoming dates we are looking to fill are May 28, June 4 and 18. Please contact John Schumacher or Pastor Kristen if you wish to lead on one of these dates. We will say it again, it takes all of us to do God's good work.

Please let us know if we can answer any questions you may have. Thank you for taking the time to read this information. It is truly a blessing to be in fellowship and service with all of you.

Respectfully submitted on the behalf of the Church Council by Carrie Herrig, Council Secretary



to all the wonderful women of St. Matthew's!



Prairie Harvest Mental Health in Grand Forks has been chosen as the recipient for our NOISY OFFERINGS during the month of May!

Their mission is to promote independence and an enhanced quality of life for adults with serious mental illness.

Prairie Harvest Mental Health envisions people with serious mental illness living free from stigma and fully integrated into our community.

You can learn more about Prairie Harvest on their website at <https://www.prairieharvest.net/>



Thank you!

Thank you to Everyone for your thoughts, prayers and flowers at the time of my Mom's passing. The reminder that there are angels watching over us from heaven and walking beside us on earth brings comfort knowing we are surrounded in love.

Vione

Ongoing Ministries

MEN IN MISSION

St. Matthew's men gather each Sunday morning at 9 am for a chance to chat, drink coffee and learn together. Their topics of discussion vary, but new folks are always welcome to join them.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY This group meets at the church on the 3rd Monday of the month for Bible Study. Their next gathering will be on Monday, May 15 @ 10:00 am.

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Welcome to worship

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

In-person and live on our YouTube Channel

Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.

Address service requested

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church Leadership

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

Pastor Kristen	Pastor	stmattspastor@midconetwork.com
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John Schumacher	Bookkeeper Children & Family	stmattsbookkeeper58278@gmail.com
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John Schumacher	Council President	stmattspresident@gmail.com
Scott Kuster	Council Vice President	scottkuster@gra.midco.net
Carrie Herrig	Council Secretary	carrie.herrig@outlook.com
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