

November 2018

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

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter the month of November, there are so many things to be thankful for. I am thankful for the 14 confirmands who were confirmed here last Sunday. I am thankful for the generosity of the Thompson Community in our latest food drive for the Food Pantry. I am thankful for all the ministry that happens within and outside our walls at Saint Matthew's. I am thankful for our youth who are so energetic, and the wisdom of our elders, and the stories they have to share, and most of all, I am thankful for YOU.

**Each one of you has an important part to play in our ministry.** Each one of you is an important part of our church family. We don't always get a chance to connect on Sunday mornings, but I want you to know that **we are blessed because YOU are a part of our congregation and our church family.**

In the coming days, as church check up meetings begin, I hope you will be joining us for at least one of the meetings. Because **your voice is important and needs to be heard.** You have ideas we haven't even thought about yet, and we are better when we take the time to listen and hear each other. **We are stronger together,** and we need your voice as we look at how we are going to move into the future.

If there is something that I can do to better serve you as your pastor, please don't hesitate to let me know that too. You can always reach me at the church office at 599-2081 or by emailing me at [stmattspastoramy@gmail.com](mailto:stmattspastoramy@gmail.com). I would welcome a chance to meet you for coffee or lunch and hear how you are and what you are thankful for this month. I would love a chance to hear how God has been working in your life.

So, let's get together and celebrate how God is at work. Let's have a conversation and pray together about how we might follow God's lead together. Let's spend some time listening to what God is saying to us and calling us to next.

Have a wonderful November friends. And know that when I am giving thanks for my blessings this year, I am counting you among them!

Grace and peace,  
*Pastor Amy*

# Faith Formation



Congratulations to all of our Preschoolers who received Bible Story Books, to our 3rd Graders who received their Bibles this month, and to our kindergartners who participated in the prayer milestone and got their prayer pillows! It is so fun to see you growing in the faith!!



We All Wear Green Sunday November 11.

We will have a guest speaker from Christus Rex joining us during DIGG at 9am and a special offering will be taken during worship service which will be divided between Christus Rex, Cross Roads and TEEF.

Get your **GREEN** on and join us!

This year in lieu of a formal Christmas program we will be having an Advent event for the children and their families to attend. Anyone you would like to celebrate this event with is welcome to attend with your child. This is an effort to make things less stressful on the children and families over the advent season, along with provide an opportunity for time to have fun and enjoy one another. The children will also be singing Christmas songs during worship the following day to celebrate Jesus' birth!

Save the dates for the Upcoming Christmas events:

**Advent Family Event: Saturday, December 15th 10am-12pm at St. Matthew's.**

**Singing during Worship: Sunday, December 16th 10am (There will also be Sunday School on this day).**

**Volunteers are also needed for the Advent Fest on December 15th.**

If you are willing to share your time and would like to help out please contact Alicia at 701-740-6109.



# Ways to get involved...



Thanks to all who took part in Blessing of the Pets. It was a joy to meet all of our furry, finned, fanged and feathered friends and give thanks to God for their companionship!



## WELCA's Annual Festival of Tables

Sunday November 4th, starting at 3:30 p.m.  
For those individuals who would like to attend, please notify Sara Munson. Cost to attend event is \$20.00. This includes entertainment, door prizes, a catered meal, and a chance to win prizes for \$1. For more information - please contact Sarah Krogfoss at 218-791-4216.



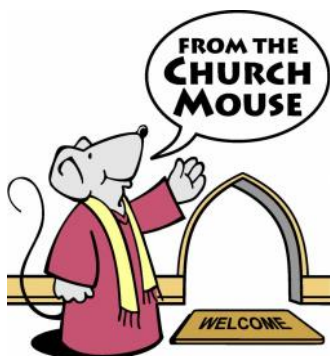
Caramel rolls will be available Sunday, November 18th following worship service. Funds raised will go to Feed My Starving Children. Come and enjoy these yummy treats and support fundraising efforts to help those that aren't as fortunate.



Thank you to everyone who is a part of the ministry at Saint 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 and Mary W for preparing the confirmation banners
- Cheryl W for cleaning the mechanical room
- All the quilters for making our kindergarten prayer pillows
- Sara M and Sarah K for all of the fun put into Fall Frenzival
- Deb D for helping with the confirmation retreat
- Heidi S, Sara M, and Devona J for ironing names on confirmation stoles
- Bridget P for leading Sunday School movie day!



# LYO: Youth Group

Our group has grown since last school year. We now usually have had over 30 of our high school students join us for each night of LYO. It is great to see and everyone has a really good time.

Due to the snow event in October, we will play Bingo on November 7th.

We will also hold LYO on Nov. 14th and 28th.

Special thanks to all LYO youth who helped with the Food Drive sorting too! Great job!



## 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, and 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. This group spends time in responsive prayer, and then enjoys a cup of coffee as well. They are 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 on November 21 at 6:30 pm at Red Lobster in Grand Forks. 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 dessert, coffee and Bible Study. Currently they are working through the book "Listening for the Voice of God: Growing in Faith Everyday."

WELCA Bible Study will meet Monday November 19 at Mary Mitchell's Home. For a copy of the book they are studying, contact the church office at 599-2081.

### Pastor Amy's Office Hours for November:

Monday: 11:00 am-1:00 pm

Tuesday Office Hours by Appointment

Wednesday 7:30-9:30 am, 6:00-8:00 pm

Thursday Pastor's Day Off

Friday: 10:00 am-Noon at Bully Brew South by Choice HF



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.

## November

Paul & Sonia Galegher  
Curt & Debbie Gilberg  
Rick & Claire Herland  
Rob & JoEllen McGauvran Family  
Mary Mitchell  
Mike & Nancy Morgan  
Jason & Alicia Schumacher  
Mike & Val Uhler  
Ruth Waller  
Shawn Widman Family  
Mike & Dawn Zak Family

## December

Josh & Tanya Barker Family  
Jason & Jamie Bischoff Family  
Todd & Sarah Fee Family  
Travis & Brook Fretheim Family  
Jerod & Chelsea Lupien Family  
Kelly & Lynnea Mayer Family  
Damon & Bridget Pearson Family  
John & Jill Schumacher Family  
Tim & Christine Sivertson Family  
Richard & Mindy Staveteig Family  
Kevin & Lisa Strand Family

Do you like to bake? Do you like to eat pie? We are looking for folks who might be willing to bake or purchase a pie to donate to the Thanksgiving Eve Pie Fellowship. Sign up on the bulletin board outside the office, and then make plans to join us for worship and pie fellowship on Thanksgiving Eve starting at 7 pm!



St. Matthew's and St. Jude's churches will once again sponsor the Angel Tree project. This project distributes Christmas gifts to families in need in the surrounding community. The Tree will be setup the Sunday after Thanksgiving. **Members are asked to pick an angel from the tree, purchase the gift that is written on the Angel and then return it, wrapped, to the tree.** If you know of someone in our community who should be included in the Angel Tree Project this Christmas Season, please contact Julie Brorby(701-740-2906) or Rita West (701-213-7275). All names are kept confidential.





## **September 23, 2018**

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

**ABSENT:** Roy Olson, Alicia Schumacher

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by Darwin at 12:12 p.m.

### **LITURGY**

Pastor Amy led the Church Council in devotion prior to the meeting.

### **AGENDA APPROVAL**

There was a request to move the “New Business” items ahead of the “Old Business” items.

**Motion: Paul moved approve the agenda as amended. James seconded. Motion carried.**

### **MINUTES APPROVAL**

No modifications were made to the August 28 Church Council meeting minutes.

**Motion: Deb motioned to approve the August 28 meeting minutes. Sarah seconded. Motion carried.**

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Tracie summarized the financial reports for August. General Giving income was \$9,561.00. Net income was negative \$4,188.49. As of August 31, the General Giving checking account balance was at negative \$633.03. Special Giving income for August was \$1,428.37. Special Giving net income was negative \$1,045.63. The Special Giving checking account balance as of August 31 was \$38,070.42. Total combined assets are at \$37,437.39. General giving was up from August of last year, but expenses were also up. The biggest difference was that insurance was paid out in August. Per our last meeting, the Uphold dollars were put into the Mission fund and the remaining Church sign funds were put into the Sound System fund.

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

### **CALENDAR REVIEW**

Sarah asked if we should add “Harvesting Pumpkins” to the calendar for October 13 @ 10:00 am. This can count as discipleship points, so any kids interested in helping will earn point. No additional changes were made to the calendar.

### **PASTOR’S REPORT**

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**

Men’s Club: No update.

**WELCA:** WELCA just donated towards a new lawn mower. (The Men's Club donated towards this as well.) The festival of tables will be November 4th. Darwin asked if we could plan on having one of the Church Check Up meetings during one of WELCA's meetings.

## **TEAM REPORTS**

**Executive:** Darwin Potter – Nothing new to report. We will be meeting once beet harvest is done.

**Education:** Alicia Schumacher – Absent. Nothing new reported.

**Fellowship:** Sara Munson – Fall Frenzival is coming up (October 14), as well as New Member Sunday. Pastor Amy mentioned that we have at least 10 new members (individuals) joining St. Matthew's.

**Outreach:** Sarah Krogfoss – In August they held the Teacher Luncheon led by Julie Brorby. Sharon Gustafson helped out with that as well. Sarah reminded everyone that each team is supposed to bring a hotdish to provide food for the Fall Frenzival on October 14th. Sarah also talked to Pastor Amy about giving kids advent calendars to hand out to their friends.

**Properties:** Roy Olson – The properties team painted the fellowship hall, so now that area is painted as well as all the classrooms. A new lawn mower was purchased with donations from WELCA and Men in Mission.

**Worship:** Deb DeMoe – The kids sing in church next Sunday. The Worship Team is going to go back to sending letters or postcards out to the monthly church worship assistant families.

**Youth:** Paul Strande – They had their first night of LYO 10 days ago and had 32 kids attend. Participation in LYO has grown tremendously – normally they might have 10 or 12 kids. They handed out a behavior covenant for the kids to sign. They normally don't have issues with behavior, but it is a good reminder. They have 9 youth team leaders now, so that's grown along with the increasing number of kids that participate. There are 6 to 8 kids from other congregations that come regularly to LYO. They are planning a youth Bingo event at Southbrook Park in October. They did that last year and it was a big hit.

**Food Pantry:** Sarah Krogfoss – They will be offering training for new volunteers on Tuesday. We are up to 7 or 8 people from different parishes that have agreed to serve on the food pantry board.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Church Check Up (Fall Meetings)**

Pastor Amy and Darwin met this past week to develop a meeting schedule. They developed a sheet explaining the purpose of the meeting and dates to sign up. The sign-up sheet was passed around to the Council Members to help lead and record notes at each meeting. There are various meeting times, dates, venues, etc...The next step will be to develop a survey to send to folks that don't come to church regularly.

### **2. President and Vice President Update**

Darwin spoke with Scott Landa about options for amending the constitutional bylaws if the President and Vice President terms were changed to 2 years. There are a few key options, including the option to vote the President in to the 2nd year of their term, and also possibly adding language so that there is a process to remove any Church Council members who aren't performing their duties. Darwin asked the Council to look at the different options and provide feedback on how they think we should proceed, if at all. Based on the feedback from the Council, the Executive Team will meet to prepare something to bring the Council. Paul mentioned that there are already some checks and balances to help insure that the President doesn't make crazy decisions. The whole goal of this is to give the President some extra time to implement items on their

agenda, rather than the 1-year term where they spend a lot of that time playing catch up. The downside of having a 2-year president term is getting someone to commit to 2 years, and the possibility of someone not meeting their commitments. James mentioned that there is always the option for someone to step down if they feel they are not meeting their commitments. If we move forward with this, we will have to redefine the role of the Vice President. The next step is for the Executive Team to meet and clarify the potential options.

### **3. Visual Monitors Update**

James provided an update on the monitors. We approved moving forward with purchasing the recommended items on Mark's list, so James reached out to him and all the items have been ordered. Once the items arrive, we'll rely on volunteers to help get everything installed. Mark has agreed to help with the final hookups. The only other item left will be to order the desktop computer to run the system. James doesn't see any reason why this shouldn't be done before Christmas. This will help to reduce the length of the bulletins that are printed every week. Once everything is in, James will help to assemble a crew to install everything.

### **4. Sound System**

They found out this last week that Pastor Amy's lapel microphone was not plugged in and running properly with the new system. Bill looked into it and there was an old microphone that was still plugged in to the system that was causing interference and feedback. Paul mentioned that we just need to do whatever it takes to fix it and get it right because it is distracting for Pastor Amy. Pastor Amy suggested trying a new cord as a quick and easy fix to see if it helps. If that doesn't help, we just need to hire someone to come in and get it figured out.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Financial Records from 2005-2011** - Shredding Darwin was informed that we are out of document storage space, so he suggested that we shred the financial records from 2005 to 2011 to free up some space. We will probably have someone like DocuShred come in and do this. Paul suggested that we get in the habit of doing this every year.

**Motion: Deb made a motion to have the financial records from 2005 to 2011 shredded. Paul seconded.**

**Motion carried.**

### **2. Preschool Questions**

One of the Council members asked if there was any consideration given to having a preschool at St. Matthew's. Darwin provided a quick overview of the past history related to this topic. A couple of years ago, the Thompson Public School came to the church and asked if we had any interest in having a preschool at St. Matthew's. At that time, we declined because of issues related to upkeep, maintenance, additional cleaning needs, possible conflicts over use of space, etc... The school has put it on the back burner because St. Matthew's just doesn't have the space. Sarah brought up that if we ever decided to build an education wing, maybe we could accommodate a preschool. Darwin suggested that if anyone wanted to pursue this further, they should come up with a discussion plan and potential options that could be presented to the Church Council or discussed during our Church Check Up meetings.

### **3. Council Meeting Dates**

There are a couple of conflicts for the October Council meeting time. We changed the time for the October meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. November Meeting: Monday, November 26th at 6:30 p.m.

**Motion: Sara motioned to adjourn. Paul seconded. Motion carried.**

Meeting closed at 1:31 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Beth Kurz





During this month at Saint Matthew's, we are going to take some intentional time to stop and listen to what you have to say. We want to hear what you like, what you'd like to change, how you see God at work here, what dreams you have for the future and how you would like to be a part in making that future happen.

These times of intentional listening are going to be called Church Check Up Meetings. It is a chance for members of Saint Matthew's to share what is on their heart about the ministry that is happening. It is a chance for the leadership of St. Matthew's to hear from ALL of our members, whether you come regularly or rarely or never. We want to hear what keeps you coming back. We want to hear what keeps you from coming. We want to hear how we can partner with you to make our church healthier, and better for the good of all in our community.

Date Options Include:

Tuesday, Oct 30 at 11:30 am at Quilters (lunch served)

Sunday, Nov 4 at 11:00 am

Tuesday, Nov 13 at 6:30 pm

Wednesday, Nov 14 at 6:30 pm

Thursday, Nov 15 at 6:30 pm

Sunday, Nov 18 at 9:00 am at Men in Mission

Sunday, Nov 18 at 6:30 pm

There also will be an online survey available to give your ideas and feedback. The link to that survey will be on the home page of our church website at: [www.stmatthewslutheranchurch.org](http://www.stmatthewslutheranchurch.org)

If you would prefer to have your conversation one-on-one, we invite you to contact Pastor Amy or President Darwin Potter and set up a time to do so.

Thank you for taking the time to give your ideas and feedback. We are so thankful that you are a part of our church family!



Thanks to all who have assisted with worship duties. The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board just to the left of the main entrance of the church.

**It's that time of the year to order your poinsettias in memory/honor of someone.** Checks can be made payable to St. Matthews, and order forms, along with payment, can be placed in Val Uhlir's church mailbox. The poinsettias will be displayed in the sanctuary throughout the Christmas season.

Members of the Worship team will be decorating the church the end of November for the upcoming Advent season. Thank you to Cheryl Widman and Sharon Gustafson for the donation of a new pre-lit Christmas tree to St. Matthews.

Thank you!

-Deb DeMoe, Worship Team Lead

## Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

### ST. MATTHEW'S LEADERSHIP

Amy Eisenmann	<b>Pastor</b> stmattpastoramy@gmail.com
Vione Jordheim	<b>Admin. Assistant</b> stmattpvione@gmail.com
Jamie Bischoff	<b>Bookkeeper</b> bischoffjamie@gmail.com
Darwin Potter	<b>Council President</b> darpotter14@gmail.com
James Thorson	<b>Council Vice President</b> thorsonja@yahoo.com
Beth Kurz	<b>Council Secretary</b> bkurz@undeerc.org
Tracie Ivesdal	<b>Council Treasurer</b> tivesdal@msn.com
Sarah Krogfoss	<b>Outreach Team Lead</b> smartin@polarcomm.com
Sara Munson	<b>Fellowship Team Lead</b> saramunson@rocketmail.com
Roy Olson	<b>Properties Team Lead</b> royandsandyolson@live.com
Alicia Schumacher	<b>Education Team Lead</b> Alicia.schumacher@gfcounty.org
Paul Strande	<b>Youth Team Lead</b> pstrande59@gmail.com
Deb DeMoe	<b>Worship Team Lead</b> deb.demoe@tps-k12.org

## Happy Birthday in November!

- 1 Eric Berthold
- 2 Marc Kurz
- 3 Zane Schumacher
- 5 Bre Berberich
- 6 Allie Ivesdal, Evan McGauvran, Joyce Morgan, Jonathan Muhs
- 8 Bethany Ivesdal, Mindy Staveteig, Nathan Sundberg
- 11 Ian Haugen
- 12 Sue Simon, Steven Widman
- 13 Sharon Gustafson
- 15 Liz Welsh
- 16 Heather Shimek, Kaia Sorby
- 18 Reese Danner, Claire Manzke
- 21 Jill Kuster, Kelly Mayer, Connor Welsh
- 22 Grace Cooper, Sandy Olson
- 23 Morgan Derosier
- 24 Taylor Zak
- 25 Renee Fossum, Kayle Sondreal
- 26 Ryan Benoit
- 27 Rorie Anderson, Sue Hovet, Richard Morgan
- 28 Brent Halvorson, Sarah Krogfoss
- 29 Mason Albin

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church  
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## **Welcome to worship**

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School at 9 a.m.

Address service requested



Join us for worship at 7pm on Thanksgiving Eve, followed by pie fellowship! Want to bring a pie? Sign up on the bulletin board or call the church office at 599-2081.



**Nov 4-Festival of Tables**

**Nov 21-Thanksgiving Eve Worship**

**Dec 2-Advent Begins!**

**Dec 15-Advent Festival**