

November 2021

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

On the way back from Zimbabwe, we had a layover in Dubai before embarking on a 16-hour flight to Dallas. I was already feeling defeated by the prospect of such a long flight. And so, it was very frustrating to me when during the flight, I tracked the path of our plane and saw that we were heading North, instead of West. In fact, the plane was heading at what looked like Northeast to Russia, before it turned West for the North Pole, and then South over Canada, the Dakotas, and eventually landing in Texas. This route did not make any sense to me at all. I was tired and lacking sleep and the flight plan only made me upset. Beth tried to explain to me why it seemed like we took the longer way home...she said something about the earth's curvature – something I now know as "great circle" routes. But at that time, I simply complained to her that it did not make sense. I wanted the plane to follow the path I had in mind and not what the pilot and all the experts knew better.

(If you have a globe, the logic of this flight plan makes sense. Have fun experimenting!)



I imagine that in life we all sometimes have a path and plans laid out for how we want our lives and days to go. We want things to go linear, in straight lines. We have plans laid out to the finest details, with every step labeled and thought out.

But my life has shown me that sometimes things don't go as planned. Sometimes our best plans are not what's good for us. Sometimes, instead of going linear, we need to go in a circle. And sometimes we need to let go of what we thought we knew and trust that there are people who know better than us.

This is a hard thing for us to do but the life of faith calls on us to trust that the Higher Power above knows what's best for us. It may not make sense immediately, but we need to believe that God has a plan for us.

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope" – Jeremiah 29:11

"Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning, for in you I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul" – Psalm 143:8

"The human mind may devise many plans, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will be established" – Proverbs 19:21

Pastor Tawanda Murinda



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.



Confirmation Students
Grades 6-8—We will meet at St. Matthew's at 5pm on Friday, November 12. We will have dinner before heading out and our plan is to be back at

St. Matthews on Saturday, November 13 around 8 pm. We will be staying at Lakewood Park Bible Camp in the Devil's Lake area. Please check your emails for more information!!

Students preparing for Confirmation Sunday which was October 31, 2021!

Jailin Avdem	Braden Faul
Jesse Hegg	Taylor Johnson
Makenna Mikelson	Jonathan Muhs
Troy Peterson	Kali Shaul
Jakob Starcevic	William Welke
Jordan Johnson	



November

Paul Galegher Family
 Rick Herland Family
 Mike Morgan Family
 Mickey Munson Family
 Jason Schumacher Family
 Johnson/Ulland Family
 Ruth Waller

Worship

Greetings from the Worship Team!!

Halloween AND Confirmation are upon us. Where did the time go?

I want to congratulate the Confirmation students and all of the hard work they put in during these crazy times.

Please order your Poinsettias as soon as possible in the hopes that we are able to get the color choices we want.

I'm very pleased to see that people are using the google app to sign up for Sunday services. You are all making this position MUCH easier. Please also consider signing up as Tech assistant.

Lastly, I appreciate all of you that have updated your contact information. This too makes this job easier.

To all a Happy Thanksgiving. May it be a wonderful celebration with family and friends giving thanks for all we DO have this year.

Prayers to you from the Worship Team 🙏 🙏



We will gather together to give God thanks and praise on **Wednesday, Thanksgiving Eve, November 24th at 7:00 pm.** Come join us as we PRAY and GIVE THANKS!!

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!



Faith Formation

Education News

We have a ton of fun things happening each Sunday morning during Sunday school! We LOVE seeing your children's happy faces and sharing songs of worship and the gospel with them.

The students are very committed to each of their individual class goals for our outreach program. They have been diligently bringing their Bibles each Sunday, attendance has been excellent and their behavior has been outstanding!



We are committing the bulk of our class time to learning the songs for the Christmas program. There have been some take home notes and emails sent with links to the songs for at home practice. We strongly encourage and request that your student listens to the songs at home as we only have a limited amount of time to learn our songs and the program. Thank you in advance for making our program a success!!

Our classes have begun learning the Story of Jesus' birth. We are enjoying sharing this story with them through videos, reading, crafts, and using their Bibles to find the daily passages about the story.



Our next 'Donuts for Ducks' day will be Sunday, November 7th (changed from 11/21). On our 'Donuts for Ducks' days the students are encouraged (but not required) to bring some of their spare change to contribute to their individual class outreach funds. Each class has chosen the animal of their choice and knows how many points they need to reach that goal. And, we will have donuts for snack that day!

Important Upcoming Dates -

'Donuts for Ducks' - November 7th

Morning Practice for Christmas Program - Saturday, December 18th - 10am - 12pm

Christmas Program - Sunday, December 19th during worship at 10am.

In His Grace,
The Education Team



A Good Time was had by ALL!!! Thank you to everyone that took part in the Fall Festival!



Your church mailbox may have moved location to make room for our new members!!

Be sure to check before removing anything!



LYO: Youth Group

LYO group is doing a community service project. The kids decided to collect items for the North Dakota Veteran's home in Lisbon, ND for the whole month of November and then we will get the donations to the Veterans home in December. If anyone in the congregation would like to donate items that would be great because I am sure everyone in the congregation knows a Veteran or has a family member that is a Veteran. The Veterans home wish list is shown below. Our American Legion Post 181 in Thompson also donates money to the home each year. Thank you.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| *Bird feeders/bird seed | *Large print books |
| * 70 X 90 quilts | * Large to XXX Large sweatpants (black or gray) |
| * Men's slippers | * Stamps |
| * New furniture (recliners) | * Monetary donation to the Aromatherapy fund |
- (aromatherapy is used for calming instead of always using medications)

North Dakota Veteran's Home
 PO Box 673
 Lisbon, ND 58054



LYO will meet on November 3rd and November 17th at 6:30 pm. All Youth are welcome!

Order a Poinsettia to celebrate the Season!

6 ½" Single Poinsettia available in the colors below:	\$13.50
7 ½" Double Poinsettia in: Red or White	\$21.50
10" Triple Poinsettia in: Red or white	\$37.50

Please place your order as soon as possible, as the **final order date is November 21st**. The order can be texted to me or e-mailed **OR** fill out a form available at the church and place in my mailbox.

Thank you, Valorie Uhler – 701-739-6282 valuhler@yahoo.com



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 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!

WELCA BIBLE STUDY This group meets at the Church on the 3rd Monday of the month for Bible Study. Their next gathering will be **Monday November 15 at 7:00 pm**. All are welcome!

Ruby's Pantry is Coming to Thompson, ND

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church is pleased to partner with Ruby's Pantry to bring corporate surplus food to help fight hunger in the Grand Forks area. Ruby's Pop-Up Pantry will be held at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in **Thompson, ND** on the on the **3rd Thursday of every month, starting Thursday, November 18, 2021**. *Ruby's Pantry will be held as a drive-thru distribution from 5:30-7:00 PM. St. Matthew's Lutheran Church is located at 701 Broadway Street, Thompson, ND.*

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church is dedicated to the mission of loving thy neighbor and sharing God's love through outreach opportunities such as this and welcomes you to join in worship as we grow together in Christ.

Ruby's Pantry is in its 19th year of serving rural communities in Minnesota and Wisconsin with donated overstocked food. It is a faith based non-profit organization that has become a household name for many over the last 17 years allowing families to stretch their grocery dollar. Ruby's Pantry has grown to over 16,000 volunteers that serve 250,000 families and distribute 18.5 million pounds of food each year to 83 different Pop-Up Pantry location. Ruby's Pantry runs its operational costs on \$18 of the \$20 per food share donation it receives. The other \$2 per guest (10%) stays with the local sponsoring church to be used to assist families in their own community with things like food, gas cards, utilities, and other needs.

There are no income or residency guidelines to attend a Ruby's Pop-Up Pantry. **Anyone that eats is welcome to attend.** Guests bring two large boxes or baskets to collect their food share. Each guest receives an abundance of food. Ruby's Pantry receives no state or federal funding and is funded primarily by the \$20 donation per participant for operational costs.

Ruby's Pantry is part of Home & Away Ministries, a 501C3 non-profit corporation, which is headquartered in North Branch, Minnesota at 5833 Pecan Street, North Branch, MN. Ruby's Pantry continues to serve families with its 19,000 square foot warehouse in Waupaca, WI to serve families of Eastern Wisconsin and a 30,000 square feet of warehouse space in North Branch, MN serving Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

Please feel free to reach out to Chelsea Lupien if you feel called to volunteer or contribute to this ministry.

Chelsea.lupien@und.edu or 701-520-9903

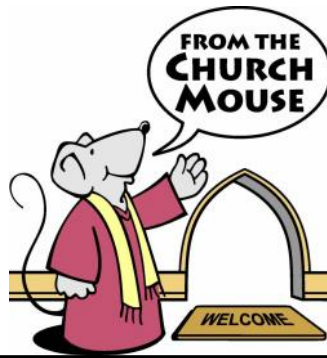
The Food Pantry is open during November on Tuesday, November 9 from 11:00 am-1:00 pm and Tuesday, November 23 from 6:00-8:00 pm.



If you or someone you know could use the assistance of the food pantry, please let them know, or come to the pantry during their open hours.

Thank you to everyone who is a 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:

- Everyone participating in the Fall Festival.
- Dalene J for ironing names on confirmation stoles.
- Duane N for painting Pastor's Office
- All that helped with set up for Confirmation Sunday
- All that contributed to the Food Pantry donations.



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

Pastor Tawanda welcomes visitors at the church 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. His day off is on Friday.



Happy Birthday in November

- 1 Eric Berthold
- 2 Marc Kurz
- 3 Zane Schumacher
- 5 Bre Berberich, Kira Shaul
- 6 Allie Ivesdal, Evan McGauvran, Joyce Morgan, Jonathan Muhs
- 7 Steve Hancock
- 8 Bethany Ivesdal, Mindy Staveteig, Nathan Sundberg, Anthony Zammert
- 10 Ethan Gallant
- 11 Ian Haugen
- 12 Sue Simon, Steven Widman
- 13 Sharon Gustafson
- 15 Liz Welsh, Bob Eichhorst
- 16 Heather Shimek, Kaia Sorby
- 18 Reese Danner
- 19 Kendra Zak
- 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, Christina Sondreal
- 27 Sue Hovet, Kris Moen, Richard Morgan
- 28 Brent Halvorson, Sarah Krogfoss, Taylor Sivertson
- 29 Mason Albin



ST. MATTHEW'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Meeting

October 11, 2021 met via zoom at 6:30PM

MEETING MINUTES

In Attendance: Paul Strande, Sarah Krogfoss, Ryan Welsh, Sara Munson, Val Uhler, Steven Hancock, Scott Kuster, Robyn Bohlman, Duane Naas. Also present Chelsea Lupien.

Absent: Pastor Tawanda, Brook Fretheim

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by President Strande at 6:29pm

Opening Devotional: led by President Strande

Agenda Approval: Steve Hancock motioned, Ryan Welsh seconded the motion. MPU

Ruby's Pantry Info from Chelsea Lupien: Ruby's Pantry is a 501C3 non profit. Receives donations of grocery/ household excess from large businesses like Target (overstock) and items are different every month. People can buy "shares" which equal an "order of fresh, frozen, non expired shelf items". Items are distributed the same day they come in so St Matthews would not have to store anything. Is operated by volunteers. Chelsea has had people reach out already willing to volunteer. Ruby's Pantry is held once per month. Would not be a 'competition' to the Food Pantry, but would be in addition to the food pantry as they are able to carry fresh produce and frozen items.

Paul Strande made a motion to go forward with Ruby's Pantry, Val Uhler seconded. MPU Sara Munson will let Chelsea know.

Financial Reports: no financials available yet.

Pastor's Report: Pastor had emailed his report before leaving on trip. He thanked everyone again for allowing him time to travel to see his family. We welcomed 9 new families and have 2 others in the process of joining. Youth activities have started up again.

Calendar Review: Festival of Tables, which was scheduled for November 7 is not happening this year. There will be Christmas program practice on December 18th with the Christmas program being December 19th.

Men's Club & WELCA report: nothing from Men's club. WELCA will have a meeting on 10/31 at 9am.

Team Reports:

Executive Team: The team met with Pastor Tawanda. Now that he is married, he no longer needs health insurance as he will be under Bethany's. The amount that was designated towards health insurance will be used to increase retirement and a HSA.

Education: Sarah reported they have had great attendance for Sunday School so far. Busy getting ready for the Christmas program which will be December 19th during worship.

Fellowship: nothing new

Outreach: The Fall Frenzy was well attended despite the rainy weather. They had lots of help from the youth.

Food Pantry: The board met and sent out flyers to schools, etc.

Properties: Duane reported they got the old floor cleaner hauled to the city dumpster. Will cut down branch in the back of the church. Mike Uhlir sprayed the property for weeds. Will also be painting Pastor's office sometime this fall/winter. Looking at putting up a dumpster corral – will possibly be in spring. Steve reported that the gas grill the youth group uses is in bad shape. Should probably be hauled out and look at getting different one. The concrete at the entrance to the parking lot is breaking up. Will look into fixing this.

Worship: Val reported that people can now sign up to help with church services on the church's website. On the website, look under worship. It is also poinsettias order time. Order forms will be available and will be due by mid-November.

Youth: Steve reported they will have LYO this week serving spaghetti and playing Bingo. This will be Steve's last LYO as he has surgery coming up. They need to find a new leader.

Old Business:

1 Altar, Pulpit and Baptismal Font – tabled

2 Bid from HB Sound for improving audio system – will be tabled until we have decided on items for sanctuary

3 Ruby's Pantry – was covered at beginning of meeting while Chelsea was here.

4 Child Care Center at St Matthew's – working to set up a meeting for executive team with Red River Regional Council

5 Budget amounts for 2022 for each team. Scott asked each team for a projected budget for 2022. Each team said they would leave their budgets the same as last year.

New Business

Filling Youth Team Leader Role – Paul sent letters to freshman parents to see if anyone will step up. Dara Faul, and Chuck & Kara Welke have agreed to help with the Youth group team but a leader is still needed to fill Steve's position.

Link for updating Directory. There will be a link on the church's website where families can update their information as the last directory is getting outdated.

Scott Kuster made a motion to end the meeting, Ryan Welsh seconded: MPU

Closing Prayer (Lord's Prayer)

Next meeting: November 21 at 11:25am



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

Welcome to worship

Address service requested

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Education Hour Sundays at 9:00 am

All services live on our YouTube Channel

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

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

ST. MATTHEW'S LEADERSHIP

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