

# The Messenger

*Dear St. Matt's friends,*

**It is a season for thanksgiving and I am indeed, very thankful. For YOU!!!**

**THANK YOU** all for the beautiful outpouring of love and support I received for "Pastor Appreciation Sunday" on October 15. What a wonderful surprise! The beautiful flowers from the Youth and Sunday School, the gifts and cake and prayer for me and for my family—the only word I can think of is "Wow!" I certainly did feel very appreciated!

And **I feel big-time appreciation in return** for the opportunity to serve as your interim pastor at for this chapter and the way we have worked it all out. Since I started last January, there have been significant challenges we have faced getting our bases covered to carry out St. Matthew's ministry. But I am amazed by how this congregation rises to the occasion again and again to meet the needs of the church with enthusiasm and a **"God's Got Us-- and We Got This"** attitude.

Ministry does not happen without people willing to say "Yes. I can do that. " Here are some folks who I am so thankful to for stepping up to serve in recent months:

- For **Jill Schumacher** who filled in as our Administrative Assistant from June to September.
- For **Dalene Jacobsen** who has agreed to try it for 8-10 hours a week and is well underway!
- For **Carrie Herrig** who has been creating PowerPoint slides for worship.
- For **Bridget Pearson** who has been helping put together the newsletter the last three months.
- For **John Schumacher**, who has been taking care of the financial bookkeeping.
- For **Bre Berberich** who is administrating and helping facilitate all education ministries so well.
- **For all the amazing Sunday School Teachers, Confirmation guides and supporting parents.**
- For **Dara Faul** who stepped up to offer to lead LYO last month
- For **Sue Simon** who helps find worship assistants and sets up for communion and helps everything run smoothly (every week!!)
- For **Julie Brobry** for playing for worship, pre-recording and finding volunteers when absent!
- **The Tech Team—Paul Strande, Dara Faul, Scott Kuster, Amy Bergeron** hard at work!
- For those who make our church home beautiful (**Val Uhler, Emily Dobmeier, Sue Simon**)
- For **Duane and Chris Naas** for keeping our church home clean and for **Dan Herrig and the properties team** for keeping it in good repair. For **Roy Olson, Mike Uhler and Roger Gustafson** who mowed all summer and **Gary Welsh** who is even now firing up the plow!
- For all those who have courageously and faithfully led worship and offered messages when I am absent including Scott Kuster, Carrie Herrig, Derek Plautz and John Shumacher.
- For the Quilters, WELCA and the Men's Group and the Food Shelf and all the gifts you give!
- And for the Church Council, always working to anticipate the needs of the church and striving to think broadly and deeply about our mission of following Jesus in this corner of the world.
- For **ALL OF YOU--** members and guests, who gather to worship and offer gifts of time and talent and money week after week.

**Faith Is a Team Sport! I am very thankful to God for placing me on your team for this season!**

*In Gratitude, Pastor Kristen*

# Faith Formation

When life feels dark,

SHINE JESUS' LIGHT!



- To Ruby's Pantry for purchasing 2 new smart TV's for our rooms!
- To Dan from Properties for installing our new TV's!
- To our teachers & subs for being there every Sunday!
- To Carrie for preparing our papers for each Sunday & for helping us learn a new song to sing!
- To WELCA for purchasing our new bibles!

5 - Sunday School @ 9 am  
 12 - No Sunday School  
 19 - Sunday School @ 9 am  
 19 - Kids Sing @ 10 am  
 26 - No Sunday School

NOVEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

3 - Sunday School @ 9 am  
 10 - Sunday School @ 9 am  
 16 - Program Practice Time TBD  
 17 - Sunday School @ 9 am  
 17 - Christmas Program - 2:30 pm  
 24 - No Sunday School  
 31 - No Sunday School

DECEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



Sunday School Christmas Program  
 Sunday December 17  
 2:30 pm

No Sunday School or Confirmation

November 12, 22 & 26





The Confirmation Students had a great night Trick or Treating for canned goods for the Food Pantry! Special thanks to our volunteer drivers, sorters and those who provided snacks: Marc and Beth Kurz, Ryan Avdem, Mindy and Lincoln Staveteig, Angie Laxdal, Brock Vaagene, Carrie Herrig, Melissa Berger, Robyn Bohlman, Stephanie Broyles, Tiffany Rood, Stacy, Derek, Lauren & Hadley Plautz, Bridget Pearson, Trinity Bohlman, Bobbi Sondreal, Craig Moen and to Mary Mitchell, Paul Galegher and Doug Berg from the Food Pantry!



St. Matthew's LYO is off to a great start! We held our kick-off event on October 11th and had a great turnout! 21 kids from 9th through 12th grade enjoyed pizza, games and fellowship. We had a special visit from Pastor Kristen and also spent some time planning for future activities and discussing ways we can share our faith through service opportunities.

LYO is open to all area youth in grades 9-12. Students do not need to be members of St. Matthew's to attend. Please encourage all high school youth to join us!

**2023 LYO Meeting Dates: 6:30pm-8:30pm**

**November 1st**

**November 15th**

**November 29th**

**December 6th**

**\*Updates and activities will be shared on St. Matthew's Facebook Page**

**Special thank you to Beth Kurz, Sarah Fee, Angie Muhs and Amy Bergeron for helping out with our first meeting.**

**If you are interested in helping or have suggestions for service opportunities please reach out to Dara Faul at [darafaul@gmail.com](mailto:darafaul@gmail.com)**





**Congratulations to our cherished Confirmands!  
God bless you as you continue your faith journey.**



**Front Row (Left to Right): Pastor Kristen, Cynthia Eliason, Haley Hegg, Morgan Muhs,  
Kaylee Kurz, Addysen Lopez**

**Back Row (Left to Right): Nolan Bergeron, Mason Mikelson, Bryn Adams, Landon  
Geatz, Jacob Zak, Jevin Fee, Kamren Johnson**

**Special Thank You to Angie Muhs for the wonderful photos!**





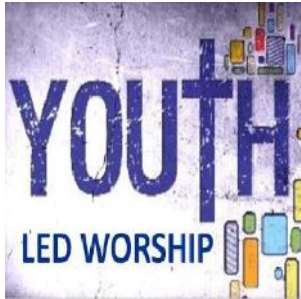
## Thanksgiving Eve at St. Matthew's!

**Worship at 6:30, Pie Social at 7:15!**

**Can you bring a pie, ice cream or help serve? Please sign up in the entryway!**

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**"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his love endures forever."**



Please join us for a special worship on **Sunday, November 19th** with Bishop Tessa Moon-Lieseth. In addition to the Bishop being here our worship service will be a children's lead service! Our Sunday Schoolers are looking forward to helping make this a very special Sunday!

### From The Fellowship Team

On **Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>** we will be selling fresh and frozen caramel rolls, and also serving freshly-baked caramel rolls during fellowship! The frozen caramel rolls are great to have on hand as an easy and yummy item to serve for breakfast during the holidays. All proceeds will be donated to the Sox for Kids program.



### Looking ahead to Christmas Eve!

Worship Services will be held at **4:30pm and 7pm** this year. Both will have a special time for children and candle lighting.



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.

### Order a Poinsettia to celebrate the Season!

6 1/2" single poinsettia \$13.00 (Red, White, Pink & Novelty)

7 1/2" Double Poinsettia \$21.50 (Red or White)

10" Triple Poinsettia \$37.75 (Red or White)

Please place your order as soon as possible, as the final order date is **November 26th**. The order can be texted to me OR fill out a form available at the church and place in my mailbox. Checks can be made out to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church.

Thank you,

Val Uhlir-(701)739-6282





You are invited to join Pastor Kristen  
**EVERY MONDAY at 1PM** for an informal time of  
 connecting with God and with one another through  
 scripture, coffee, conversation and prayer.

No homework.  
 No experience necessary.  
**ALL are WELCOME!**

## **All Saints' Sunday is November 5**

On this day we will light candles to give thanks for those who  
 have inspired us in our faith and in remembrance of all those  
 we love who have died in the faith and are now gathered  
 home to God and we give thanks to those who light the path  
 of faith for us who are still living.  
 worship on November 5.



**The Food Pantry is open**  
**during October on Tuesday,**  
**October 10 from**  
**11:00 am-1:00 pm and**  
**Tuesday, October 24 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.



All women of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church  
 are welcome to

Women's Bible Study

Monday, November 20th at 10:00 am

**MEN IN MISSION** St. Matthew's men gather  
 on Sunday mornings 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.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** This group meets  
 at the Church on the third Monday of the  
 month. Their next gathering will be on Mon-  
 day, October 16th at 10:00 am. All women of  
 St. Matthew's are welcome!





## December

Josh & Tanya Barker Family  
 Todd & Sarah Fee Family  
 Travis & Brook Fretheim Family  
 Craig & Chelsea Moen Family  
 Jarod Lupien Family  
 Damon & Bridget Pearson Family  
 John & Jill Schumacher Family  
 Richard & Mindy Staveteig Family  
 Dan & Tressa Setness Family

## November

Paul & Sonia Galegher  
 Rick & Claire Herland  
 Mike & Nancy Morgan  
 Mickey Munson & Family  
 Chris & Tiffany Rood Family  
 Dan & Carrie Herrig & Family  
 Mike & Dawn Zak and Jacob  
 Sean & Michele Burger & Family

## Happy Birthday in November!

- 1 Eric Berthold,
- 2 Marc Kurz
- 3 Tony Connole, Zane Schumacher
- 5 Breana Berberich, Kira Shaul
- 6 Allie Ivesdal, Evan McGauvran, Joyce Morgan, Jonathan Muhs
- 7 Steve Hancock
- 8 Bethany Ivesdal, Mindy Staveteig
- 10 Ethan Gallant,
- 11 Ian Haugen
- 12 Sue Simon, Steven Widman
- 13 Sharon Gustafson
- 15 Liz Welsh
- 16 Heather Shimek, Kaia Sorby
- 18 Reese Danner
- 21 Jill Kuster, Kelly Mayer, Connor Welsh
- 22 Grace Cooper, Dan Herrig, Sandy Olson
- 23 Morgan Derosier,
- 24 Taylor Zak
- 25 Kayle Sondreal
- 26 Ryan Benoit
- 27 Sue Hovet, Kris Moen, Richard Morgan
- 28 Brent Halvorson, Sarah Krogfoss
- 29 Mason Albin,

## All Teams Meeting

**November 8th at 6pm**

If you are interested in joining a team please reach out to Pastor Kristen.



Thank you to everyone for your helping hands. We apologize if we missed anyone, know that you are all appreciated!

- Emily Dobmeier for the beautiful harvest décor in the fellowship hall and around the altar.
- Dan Herrig and the properties team for their help with setting up the chairs and tables for Confirmation Sunday.







## A Note from your Church Council:

“The eleventh month, oh sweet November, autumn's end and Winter's ember, leaves falling, crisp and gold.” – Catherine Pulsifer

We have been blessed with a beautiful fall and safe harvest. The days are growing shorter, and we may already be dreaming of spring. However, we hope this time of year begins to fill you with wonder as we cannot forget a child will soon be born.

As a congregation we have much to be thankful for. Our membership has grown, financially we are stable, and God continues to provide what we need. As we prepare our hearts for Thanksgiving take the time to reflect upon God’s blessings and then give thanks unto Him for those blessings. It is also an opportunity to thank others for the ways they have benefited your life. Let us pause and take a moment to thank all of you and may you know we are blessed by your stewardship and support.

We wish you a happy and blessed Thanksgiving!

## Church Council News

Below, you will find a current summary of our Finances and updates impacting the entire congregation.

### Summary of Finances

| Financial Reports Summary       | August     | September  |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|
|                                 | 2023       | 2023       |
|                                 |            |            |
| General Giving Income - YTD     | \$82,566   | \$94,758   |
| General Giving Income - Month   | \$7,406    | \$12,191   |
| Net Income - YTD                | \$(27,662) | \$(27,455) |
|                                 |            |            |
| General Giving Checking Account | \$27,900   | \$28,106   |
| Special Giving Checking Account | \$36,921   | \$36,926   |
| Line of Credit                  | \$-        | \$-        |

## Updates

By the end of the month, we will have deployed the Nomination Committee as we have five officer positions to fill in the New Year.

Audit Team Member – 3-year term

Worship Team Lead – 2-year term

Outreach Team Lead – 2-year term

Treasurer – 2-year term

President – 1-year term

If you would like information about any of these openings, please speak with a member of the Church Council or Nomination Committee. We tentatively plan to hold our Annual Meeting on January 21, 2024 and this is when our new officers would begin their term.

We are also working on putting our next Call Committee together. The Call Committee will consist of a Chair and 6 additional members of the church. We hope to convene the committee for at least one meeting before the end of the year. During Bishop Tessa Moon Lieseth visit we will discuss with her the status of the Synod and hear how filling the Call for a Pastor has been difficult across the synod and nation.

Pastor Kristen and our Teams are busy planning a wonderful holiday season. We as a Council are excited to come together for fellowship and celebration. Stay connected to what is happening via our Facebook and Instagram pages, the church website, and of course through announcements made during Sunday service.

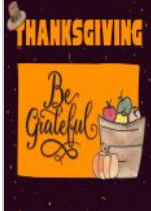
We invite all members of St. Matthew's to attend our Council meetings which generally will be held the second Sunday of every month. Our next meeting will take place on Sunday, November 12 worship. Approved meeting minutes will be made available upon request.

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



# November 2023

| Sun                                                                                                       | Mon                                                                                           | Tue                                    | Wed                                                          | Thu                                                                                         | Fri | Sat |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|
|                                                                                                           |                                                                                               |                                        | 1<br>6:30pm LYO<br>7pm Confirmation                          | 2                                                                                           | 3   | 4   |
| 5 All Saints Sunday<br>9am-Men in Mission<br>9am- Sunday School<br>10am-Worship<br>1pm Festival Of Tables | 6<br>1pm Dwelling In the Word<br>7pm Quilting                                                 | 7<br>9am Quilting                      | 8<br>6pm All Teams Meeting<br>7pm Confirmation               | 9                                                                                           | 10  | 11  |
| 12<br>9am-Men in Mission<br>10am-Worship<br>11:15am Council Meeting                                       | 13<br>1pm Dwelling In the Word<br>7pm Quilting                                                | 14<br>9am Quilting<br>11am Food Pantry | 15<br>6:30pm LYO<br>7pm Confirmation                         | 16                                                                                          | 17  | 18  |
| 19 Youth Lead Service<br>9am-Men in Mission<br>9am- Sunday School<br>10am-Worship                         | 20 Newsletter Deadline<br>10am Womens Bible Study<br>1pm Dwelling In the Word<br>7pm Quilting | 21<br>9am Quilting                     | 22<br>6:30pm Thanksgiving<br>Eve Service<br>7:15pm Pie Party | 23<br> | 24  | 25  |
| 26 Christ The King<br>9am-Men in Mission<br>10am-Worship                                                  | 27<br>1pm Dwelling In the Word<br>7pm Quilting                                                | 28<br>9am Quilting<br>6pm Food Pantry  | 29<br>6:30pm LYO<br>7pm Confirmation                         | 30                                                                                          |     |     |



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

## Welcome to worship

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Education Hour Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

All services live on our YouTube Channel

Address service requested

## Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

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

### ST. MATTHEW'S LEADERSHIP

**Pastor:** Kristen Larsen-Schmidt stmattpastor@midconetwork.com

**Administrative Assistant:** stmattsadmin@midconetwork.com

**Bookkeeper:** John Schumacher stmattsbookkeeper58275@gmail.com

**Council President:** John Schumacher stmattpresident@gmail.com

**Council Vice President:** Scott Kuster scottkuster@gra.midco.net

**Council Secretary:** Carrie Herrig carrie.herrig@outlook.com

**Council Treasurer:** Justin Bergeron jbergero@yahoo.com

**Outreach Team Lead:** Beth Kurz bkurz@undeerc.org

**Fellowship Team Lead:** Emily Dobmeier ebakke54@gmailmail.com

**Properties Team Lead:** Dan Herrig dan@sandsteelbc.com

**Education Team Lead:** Bre Berberich breberberich@gmail.com

**Youth Team Lead:** Unfilled. Interested? Please talk with a council member!

**Worship Team Lead:** Sue Simon ssimon@gra.midco.net