

October 2017

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

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Before I say anything else, I need to say thank you. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers during my Dad's surgery, thank you for your continued support and encouragement along the way, and thank you for minding the gap while I was down in the cities, and spending time at the hospital with my family. You reminded me once again just how blessed I am to be a part of this church family, so thank you for being God's love with skin on to me these last few weeks.

When we enter into these shorter days, and we get really busy with fall schedules and the like, it can be hard sometimes to see God at work in us and in the world around us. When we turn on the news it can be discouraging and even frightening sometimes, and we can feel alone in a challenging world.

So how do we keep the faith in the midst of trying times? How do we have the courage to lean on each other when we are struggling? How do we know when our friends are in need and need us to step up and help?

Here's what I know from these last few weeks...**even when we are completely worn out, God is still at work.** When we think we can't do anything else, God sends people our way to help us make it through. We **are NOT in this journey alone...that is the beauty of being a part of a church family.** That in the trying times, we have each other to help us carry the load.

As we begin another beet season, we have some families who could use friends to lean on. Some have been volunteering or working all summer and could use a rest. Some are going to be working crazy long days this month, and need our prayers. Some won't see their loved ones much at all this month and could use some encouragement. Some are facing tough health news and need the reminder that eventually the day will come when there is no more pain and no more tears. Some are grieving the loss of loved ones and could just use a hug.

And at the same time, some of our families are in an incredibly joy filled season. They are celebrating a new baby or a new marriage. They are celebrating becoming grandparents or they are rejoicing that they have finally gotten a chance to retire and have more time to do what they want to do. They are ready to rejoice and celebrate. They are filled with the joy that comes from knowing that God is at work in their lives, and they feel like their blessings are over flowing.

Whatever place this season finds you, I hope that you are able to remember that God holds you in the palm of His hand, and we are walking this journey with you. We pray for you when you are struggling, we rejoice with you when things are going well, and we are here for you, should you need someone to lean on. That my friends, is being God's love with skin on. It's hard work, it is important work, and I am thankful that we can do it together. May God bless you and keep you friends, this month and always!

Peace be yours, *Pastor Amy*

LYO-Youth Group



The LYO crew from Sept 13!



We had a fantastic first night of LYO with 21 students in attendance!

Hopefully, we will see even more students in the coming nights when we meet.

We will be having a **breakfast and bake sale after church service on Sunday, November 12th** to raise funds to support Nilsa, a student we are sponsoring as a group from ChildFund International.

Kids Education News

Bible Sunday will take place on October 1st! Join us in worship as the Preschool and 3rd graders will be receiving their bibles and the Sunday school kids will be singing! After the potluck there will be a special event for 3rd graders and parents to experience the Bible together!

October 14th will be the Kindergarten/Parent Prayer Event starting at 10am. Please let the church office know if you plan on attending.

October 22nd will be Sunday School Movie Day! There will be a snack, craft, and a movie for the kids to enjoy!

Thank you for sharing your kids with us!



Join us Sunday October 15 at 10 am for a hymn sing! Whether you have a beautiful voice or not, we invite you to join us as we sing hymns of praise! The Bible tells us to make a joyful noise, so come and help us make that happen!

Loving Neighbors

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Mondays	11:00 am-1:00pm
Tuesdays	Office Hours by Appointment
Wednesdays	7:30 am-9:30 am, 6-8 pm
Thursdays	Pastors Day Off
Fridays	10:00 am-Noon at Bully Brew South by Choice Fitness

The families on the list to help with worship for OCTOBER are:

Stephanie Albin family
John Berthold family
Steve & Teresa Evanson
Zac Haugen family
Brenda Peterson family
Derek Sondreal family
Kory & Susie Sondreal
Vaughn & Linda Quarn



We want your dimes!!! Feed My Starving Children will be collecting dimes until April 1st to donate to the Mobile Packing Event in Grand Forks. We are trying to fill a 2 liter bottle with dimes. A filled bottle will raise over \$500 and provide more than 2, 272 meals. Please check your pockets and purses and leave us your dimes. Thank you.



**Come and join us for our Fall Frenzival -
October 8th, 2017 from 11am - 3pm!**

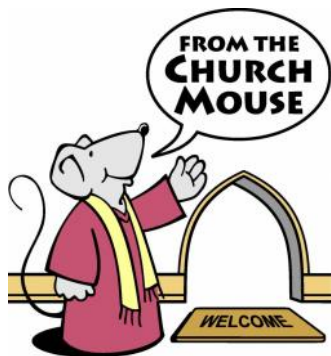
There will be pumpkins for sale, a photo booth, face painting, hay ride, pumpkin bowling, scarecrow bean bags, pumpkin seed spitting contest, gaga pit, kid's craft station, and the community scarecrow contest is returning!

Each team will be preparing a hot dish for this years' Fall Frenzival - winner will have bragging rights for the entire year and receive the prestigious "Traveling Tater Tot Trophy"! There is something for everyone! Free will donation to

benefit our youth who will be attending the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas.

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:

- Cheryl W for helping Pastor Amy get caught up after being gone
- Sarah K and Alicia M for making Rally Sunday such a success
- Bill W, Gary W, and Roy O for putting our new church sign in place!
- Duane and Chris N for keeping our church sparkling!
- Sharon G for helping take pictures of New Members
- Roy O, Bill W, Roger G., Darwin P, Duane N. for lending your time to help a member in need



This fall and winter we have several wonderful opportunities with guest speakers at DIGG (Delighting in God's Grace), our Adult Education class. Once a month at 9 am we will join the men in mission and welcome a speaker to come and join us and share about a particular subject.

Here's the DIGG schedule for October:

October 22

CVIC *Community Violence Intervention Center*

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. 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 October 24 at 6:30 pm at Olive Garden. 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 desert, coffee and Bible Study. Currently they are working through the book "Listening for the Voice of God: Growing in Faith Everyday." WELCA Bible Study has taken the summer off, but will resume on Monday October 16 at Mary Welsh's House. For a copy of the book they are studying, contact the church office at 599-2081.



COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Meeting-August 23, 2017

IN ATTENDANCE: John Schumacher, Roy Olson, Val Uhlir, Pastor Amy, Dianne Lundgren, Sharon Gustafson, Paul Strande, Beth Kurz, Darwin Potter, Sara Munson

ABSENT: Alicia Schumacher

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by John at approximately 7:32 pm.

OPENING DEVOTIONAL

Pastor Amy led the team in the 2017 Council Liturgy.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Darwin requested that we add an item under old business for "Parking Lot Usage".

Motion: Roy motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Val seconded. Motion carried.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Beth had a couple of minor grammatical corrections.

Motion: Darwin motioned to approve the June meeting minutes. Paul seconded. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Special giving income for July was \$710.00. The special giving checking account balance as of July 31, 2017 is at \$50,629.53. The general giving income was \$9489.30. The net general income for July was negative \$998.93. The general giving account balance as of July 31, 2017 is at \$9,340.13.

Roy enquired where he should turn his S&T gas receipts in. John said to turn them into Jamie to make sure they correlate with our account at S&T.

Darwin asked about the negative balance on the Miscellaneous Fund of -\$247.16. John mentioned that the account was accidentally overcharged and that we should cover the negative balance out of the Thrivent Choice account.

Motion: Darwin motioned to have Dianne move \$247.16 from the Thrivent Choice account to cover the negative balance. Val seconded. Motion carried.

There was some discussion about how the church teams need to be cognizant of their account balances to make sure they don't accidentally spend more than they have budgeted. John reminded the team that it's okay to go over a little, but not by a significant amount. The team leads should also make sure to review the budgeted amounts every year to make sure they are still appropriate.

Motion: Sara motioned to approve the June and July Financial Reports. Roy seconded. Motion carried.

CALENDAR REVIEW

Paul mentioned that they need to add the youth service Sundays to the calendar. Paul would also like to have a youth fund raiser in later October or early November.

PASTOR'S REPORT

See attached report provided prior to the meeting. The main secretary book will contain an actual attached copy of the report.

Pastor Amy pointed out the special dates for events related to the wellness wheel and spiritual well-being.

MEN'S CLUB AND WELCA REPORT

WELCA: Sara – They will be meeting October 1 to gear up for the Festival of the Tables.

Men's Club: Nothing to report.

TEAM REPORTS

Executive: John Schumacher – The executive team met on August 1. The primary discussion was on the Congregation Celebration event that is scheduled for November 19.

Education: Alicia Schumacher – There were 12 more kids signed up this year than last year for vacation bible school. Registrations for Sunday school have also increased from last year.

Fellowship: Sara Munson – They will be handing out approximately 75 snack bags to beet truck drivers. They will also be doing the Fall Frenzival, random acts of kindness and the birthday bash.

Outreach: Sharon Gustafson – They fed the Thompson School teachers and staff today – 49 in total. The food pantry served 9 households in June for a total of 524.5 pounds of food. In July 4 households were served with a total of 229.5 pounds of food.

Properties: Roy Olson – They are going to pour concrete for the sign soon. They'll also have a locate done so they can install the sign. The sign will be set up and working within 2 weeks.

Bill brought some paint in so they can touch up the door frame.

They are going to clean the carpets soon, probably September.

They started siding the shed, but they ran out of siding. Roy said that it needs to get done, plus there is some damage to the siding on the church. Roy found some extra siding, but we're going to save it for the church because you can't find that same siding anymore. They are going to redo the shed siding with a similar but different color to save the remaining siding for the church.

Mission Support: Position currently vacant. Nothing new to report.

Worship: Val Uhlir – They are proceeding with everything as normal. Mark Ellingson will be coming in on Sunday to cover. They also found someone to cover on Labor Day weekend.

Youth: Paul Strande – They had their back-to-school bonfire this past Sunday. Fourteen kids participated. They also talked about planning meals for youth service Sundays. They are also planning to do a fund raiser for the Child Fund International.

OLD BUSINESS

Parking Lot Committee:

Nothing new to report. John is still trying to figure out the drainage ditch issue.

Parking Lot Usage: We allowed a family to use the church parking lot to sell produce. This brought up some potential issues related to parking lot usage by outside parties. We aren't always sure who is using the parking lot, but it could pose a liability issue for St. Matthews. In addition, it is not uncommon for unknown people to park their vehicles in the lot overnight, and sometimes for multiple days/nights. Pastor Amy doesn't have an issue with people using the parking lot; however when unknown people park long-term, or when multiple people take up parking spots when we need the space, such as during a funeral, it could create problems. Especially when we don't know whose vehicles are parked in the lot and how to contact the owners. We decided to table the discussion until next meeting.

Sound System Update: There are still people donating for the sound system; however not much progress has been made on it at this point. We still aren't sure how much the sound system will cost. There is ~\$7600 in the fund right now. We should notify the people who are currently donating to the sound system that it's on hold for now. Darwin suggested that once the account balance reaches \$10,000, we ask the members to stop donating. John will talk to Bill about it and see if we can get some improvements made before Christmas.

Sign Update: They are going to pour the concrete on Friday or Monday and then let the concrete set up. The sign should be installed within the next 2 weeks. It's a wireless system, so it will be much more operator-friendly.

NEW BUSINESS

Property Use Form: Darwin wants the councils' input on what we should have on the property use form. He is going to put together a generic form based on this evening's input. After the form is drafted, he'll provide it back to the team for review. Members provided input to Darwin on the various items that should be included.

Congregation Celebration on November 19: At our executive team meeting on August 1, we discussed how we can better define the future goals and priorities for the St. Matthews. Pastor Amy talked to the synod and they are willing to come in on November 19 and have a conversation with the congregation to discuss where we've been and our vision for moving forward in the future. It is basically a strategic planning meeting. There will also be a potluck. The conversation will start during worship and continue afterward. Sara asked if the Fellowship Team should provide food rather than have a potluck to try and entice more people to attend. The synod suggested 4 hours, but it won't be that long. We'll have childcare available, but we would also like the youth to participate in the conversation.

Fall/Winter Meeting Schedule: Meetings will be held (tentatively) on the third Sunday of every month at 11:30 am.

The next meeting will be September 17 at 11:30.

Motion: Darwin moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Sharon seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bethany Kurz

All Ages Congregational Event:

Mirrors and Windows: Reflection with a View



Who: All people of St. Matthew's, and Keith Zeh of the Eastern ND Synod Office

What: A Day of Reflection and Dreaming

When: Sunday, November 19

Where: St. Matthew's

Why: To look back on where God has been at work in our congregation, and to look forward and dream together of where God might be calling us next.

What else do I need to know: We will have worship together where this event will begin, then eat together and continue the conversation. Childcare will be available for our youngest friends who might get restless, but we really encourage youth and adults of all ages to participate!

Happening in worship...

We welcomed the following child to our Saint Matthew's Family through baptism in September:

Ridge Steven Mayer, son of Kelly and Lynnea Mayer.

Ridge's godparents are Nichole Lass, and Zach & Elizabeth Bjerke.

Welcome to our church family Ridge!



We welcomed the following New Members into our church family on September 24:

Chris and Kambra Deitz, Haven, Halley, Addison, Avery, Ashlyn

Todd and Sarah Fee, Jevin and Jaxon

Steve & Shannon Hancock, Alivia and Collin

Jill and Scott Kuster, Katelyn

Kelly and Lynnea Mayer, Ridge

Gretchen Peterson

We are so glad to have you here!



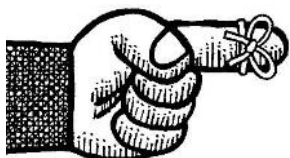
WELCA News...

Festival of Tables will be on November 5,

2017 @ 5pm. For individuals interested in hosting a table (anything goes for the theme of your table), or for individuals wanting to donate prizes for the Lucky Buck Auction, or for those individuals who would like to attend - please notify Sara Munson. Cost to

attend event is \$25.00. This includes entertainment,

door prizes, a catered meal, and a chance to win prizes for \$1. For more information - please contact Sara Munson @ 701-330-3630 or saramunson@rocketmail.com



Next WELCA Meeting will be Sunday, October 1 at 11:30 All women of St. Matt's are encouraged to attend!



Greetings from the Worship Team!

Here we are back into Fall and getting ready for a great kickoff of the Church year with "FRENZIVAL" ON October 8th. What a great way to get back into the swing of services and helping out!

There will be a new Worship Assistant List on the website soon. Please check out which month is yours. If that doesn't work, please sign up any time. Pastor Amy or I would be more than happy to go over the duties with you.

If you have someone in confirmation, please consider helping with the service when your youth is signed up to acolyte.

Thank you in advance for sharing your time and talents! Valorie Uhler, Worship Team Lead

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

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ST. MATTHEW'S LEADERSHIP

Amy Eisenmann	Pastor	stmattspastoramy@gmail.com
Jamie Bischoff	Bookkeeper	bischoffjamie@gmail.com
John Schumacher	Council President	jschumacher@invisimax.com
Darwin Potter	Council Vice President	darpotter14@gmail.com
Beth Kurz	Council Secretary	bkurz@undeerc.org
Dianne Lundgren	Council Treasurer	dlundgren44@hotmail.com
Sharon Gustafson	Outreach Team Lead	rogersharongustafson@gmail.com
Sara Munson	Fellowship Team Lead	saramunson@rocketmail.com
Roy Olson	Properties Team Lead	royandsandyolson@live.com
Alicia Schumacher	Education Team Lead	Alicia.schumacher@gfcounty.org
Paul Strande	Youth Team Lead	pstrande59@gmail.com
Val Uhler	Worship Team Lead	valuhler@yahoo.com

Happy Birthday in October!

- 1** Nick Berthold, Bailey Munson
- 2** Josie Schumacher
- 4** Reese Barker
- 5** Josh Barker, Gretchen Guetter, Hailey Hegg
- 6** Mary Welsh
- 8** Kaylee Kurz, Zach Sivertson
- 11** Haleigh Krogfoss
- 12** Taylor Krogfoss, Chuck Welke
- 13** Curtis Gilberg, Kinsley Pearson, Logan Widman
- 15** Jill Schumacher
- 16** Layne Johnson
- 18** Rebecca Derosier, Terry Hovet, Darwin Potter
- 19** William Welke
- 21** Cheryl Arntz, Amy Benoit
- 22** Reece Berberich
- 24** Sam Halvorson, David Krogfoss, Emma Schumacher
- 26** Amy Bergeron, Drew Overby, Shawn Widman
- 27** John Sorby
- 29** Jordan Senger
- 30** David Stevens

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Welcome to worship

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School at 9 a.m.

Address service requested



**Fall Frenzival is October 8th
at 11 am! Come join the fun!**



Oct 8 Fall Frenzival

Oct 14 Prayer Event for Kindergarteners & Parents

Oct 15 Hymn Sing for All Ages

Oct 15 9th Grade Confirmation Retreat

Oct 29 Confirmation

Nov 5 Festival of Tables