

October 2019

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,

On Sept 15, Pastor Jessica Daum, the Director of Evangelical Mission for the Synod office came and spent the morning with us in DIGG (Adult Ed), preached at worship, and joined us at our council meeting. There it was decided that we would become part of a newly forming "Vital Signs" program.

Vital Signs recognizes that our congregation is called to grow in life-giving relationships with God, each other, and the world, and that every vital congregation can become even more vital! This two-year process will help us get in touch with God, discover our congregation's unique call, and engage in holy experiments to be a sign of God's abundant love for our community.

We already have a couple of people who are excited to be on this team and walking with you through the process. We are looking for a few others. You can read more later in this newsletter about what it means to be on the team, and how you could also be a part of it!

We have also been busy welcoming new families into our church, new children into Sunday School and confirmation, and new groups gathering as well. The Lysa Terkeurst book study on Sunday nights has 30 people involved! So awesome!


We also will be holding a "What Does this Mean?" class where we, as adults can come together and remind ourselves what it means to be Lutheran. This class is for those who have never read the Small Catechism, and for those who know it well already. The purpose of this class is to create space for conversations with Luther's Small Catechism, and for all of us to be reminded of what it means to be Lutheran in today's world. The class will most likely be offered on Tuesday evenings, but time and date depend on the availability of those who sign up. If you are interested in attending this class, we ask that you call the church office at 599-2081 so that ensure we have enough materials for everyone.

There are also lots of fun things happening on Sundays this October. From the Fall Frenzival on Oct 6 to the Blessing of the Quilts and Pets on Oct 13, there truly is something for everyone. We hope you will read more about what is happening inside this newsletter and find a fun way to engage all the people in your family at something happening at Saint Matthew's!

As always dear ones, thank you for being part of our church family. We are blessed by your presence, your care, and your faith. Have a wonderful October!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Amy <><



Youth Group Students – We had a fantastic first night of LYO with 29 students in attendance. In October, we will meet on October 9th and 23rd. As a group, we will be doing a service learning project on October 9th.

We will be harvesting the pumpkins on September 28 @ 1pm in preparation for the Fall Frenzy. **Confirmation kids can earn a discipleship requirement for helping.**

Come join the fun!



Blessing of the Pets and Stuffed Animals will be Sunday, October 13 at noon! Bring your furry, finned, fanged, or feathered friends to be blessed as we celebrate together God's awesome creation!

Don't have a pet? Bring your stuffed animal friend and we will bless them too!



October

Matt Fossum Family
 Steve & Shannon Hancock Family
 Dan & Sue Hovet
 Terry & Ursula Hovet
 Maggie Johnson/Newell Ueland
 Travis & Mistie Manzke Family
 Duane & Chris Naas
 Brenda Peterson Family
 Ryan & Liz Welsh Family
 Bill & Cheryl Widman

November

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



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.

Loving Neighbors



Join us for our annual Fall Frenzival on Sunday, October 6! Activities will include Bean Bag Toss, Pumpkin Bowling, Photo Booth, Selling Pumpkins, Hotdish Competition, Face Painting, Hayrack Ride, GaGa Pit, Craft Table, Treat Bags, Apple Bobbing, and more! Invite your friends and neighbors to come and join us for worship at 10, activities will begin following worship at 11! All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

QUILTER'S BLESSING

May your Bobbins
be full and everflowing.

May your Stash
be rich, colorful,
and abundant.

May your
Stitches-in-the-Ditch
be even and straight.

And may your heart
be joyfilled and
your life...

SEW BLESSED.



Blessing of the quilts will be Sunday, October 13. Come see the beautiful handiwork of our Quilting Ladies!



The Food Pantry is open during October on Tuesday, October 8 from 11:00 am-1:00 pm and Tuesday, October 22 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.

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help in the Food Pantry. Morning and evening shifts are available. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Kristie Adams 701-741-7669

Thank you for all the ways you help to keep this important ministry running!





Our annual **Festival of Tables** event is coming up on Sunday, November 3rd at 3:30 pm!

This year the festival of tables will be a tea. The theme for this year will be ***"Disney; A Dream Is What Your Heart Makes"***. Tickets are \$25 each

OR Mother and daughter tickets purchased together receive a \$5 discount; so are only \$45 for two!!

On Sunday, August 11th we welcomed Charlie and McKenzie Johnson into our church family! Charlie and McKenzie's parents are Brody and Christi Johnson. Their sponsors are Brittany Johnson and Kimberly Wesby.

Welcome to our church family Charlie and McKenzie!



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 28 at 6:30 pm at Mamma Maria's in East 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 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 will be held on Monday October 21 at Dianne Lundgren's House. For a copy of the book they are studying, contact the church office at 599-2081.

Faith Formation

Education News

We are off to a great start for Sunday School, welcoming lots of new kids to our crew! We have about 70 kids in Sunday School! With the increased numbers, we are getting creative with spaces! We are still looking for a 3rd grade teacher!

Want to know how you can help? We are still looking for Sunday School Substitute teachers!
We are looking for individually wrapped treats for the kids!

Contact Bre for more information! 701-740-3207

Dates to remember!

- ⇒ Bible Sunday – September 29
PreK & 3rd Graders receive their bibles
Kids sing in church
- ⇒ No Sunday School October 20
- ⇒ Kids sing in church November 3



Saturday, October 12 will be the Kindergarten Prayer Milestone! Parents and Kindergarteners will gather to play and learn about the different places and ways they can pray. Kindergarteners will receive a special prayer pillow made by our quilters. Be sure to RSVP as soon as possible if you want to attend.

October 13th at 3pm the 9th graders will be gathering for the Fall Confirmation Retreat. They will work on faith statements, stoles, banners and everything else they need to do before Confirmation Sunday which is October 27th.

Confirmation Kids will be going
Trick-or-Treating for canned goods for the Thompson Food Pantry on **Wednesday, October 30** from **6:30-8:30 pm**.

Items most needed by the Food Pantry at this time include: pasta sides, rice sides, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, pancakes, syrup, mashed potatoes, stuffing, canned gravy and also toiletries.



Please, **NO EXPIRED FOOD**

Thank you for your generosity in your giving, it is always appreciated!

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

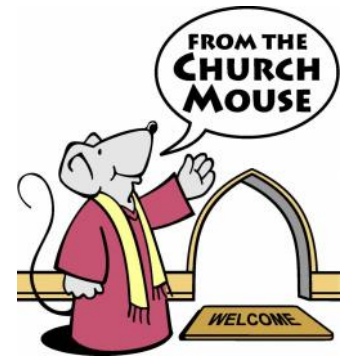
Mondays: By Appointment Only
Tuesdays: 10:00 am-1:00 pm
Wednesdays: 7:30 am-9:30, 6:30-8:30 pm
Thursdays: Pastor Amy's Day Off
Fridays 10:00-Noon at Caribou on South Washington in Grand Forks
**Pastor Amy is also available at other times by appointment

From the Church Mouse

Thanks to everyone who lends a hand for making the ministry at Saint Matthew's happen! Here are a few folks we would like to thank this month! We apologize if we miss anyone!

The church mouse would like to thank:

- Gary W for keeping us caffeinated on Sunday mornings!
- Duane and Chris N for helping the church to shine!
- Duane N for trimming the trees and shrubs
- Nancy M for being faithful and changing the altar cloths and banners
- Val U for baking communion bread
- Kay L for being our trusty communion prep gal
- Quilting Ladies for bringing warmth and love to those in need in our Community
- Scott K and James T for leading worship when Pastor Amy was gone.



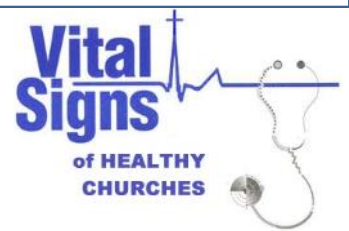
**Together we can do God's
Work with Our Hands!**



A trip to experience the Holy Land will change you in many ways.

You are invited to come and hear more about a travel opportunity in Nov/Dec 2020. Join Pastor Sarah Raymond as she gives information about this trip to the Holy Land, plus an optional extension to Jordan. The informational meeting will be on Thursday, October 24 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Thompson. All are welcome.

We are looking for a few more members to be a part of our team who will walk the congregation thru the vital sign process. We will be starting with a retreat on October 4 & 5 in Fargo. Please let Pastor Amy know if you would be interested!



At the printing of this newsletter, we have borrowed \$7,000 on our line of credit to pay bills for the general fund (things like electricity, water, staff salaries, team budgets, etc). If you have questions, feel free to contact the church office or Tracie Ivesdal, our church treasurer.

What is Vital Signs?

September 15 our congregation began moving forward as a part of the new Vital Signs program. So what does that mean for you as a congregation participant? It means, as a congregation we have promised to:

1. Pray regularly, study Scripture, listen expectantly for God's voice and dream for the congregation.
2. Grow in discipleship and personal financial stewardship practice (growth giving or tithing and beyond.)
3. Promote healthy, Christ-centered relationships and decision making, refraining from gossip and negativity.
4. Be full partners in the task of evangelism: sharing faith and inviting people into ministry, partnering in the tasks of visitation and follow-up.
5. Cultivate a climate of intentional hospitality for people new to life in the church.
6. Relieve the pastoral leader of some routine tasks, i.e. clerical, administration, some pastoral care, excessive meetings, etc. to free them for the work of developing leadership, equipping laity, and evangelism.
7. Pray for and financially support evangelism/outreach activities in the community.
8. Provide pastoral salary, housing and benefits commensurate with job and synod guidelines.
9. Change existing ministries and practices in order to live out God's dream more fully - with leadership provided by the pastoral leader and leadership team.
10. Support the outreach of the wider church with mission support. At a minimum, commit to grow Mission Support by 1% of your congregation's annual budget each of the two years of the Vital Signs process. Strive ultimately to support at the level of 10% of your regular giving.
11. Attend worship regularly and actively participate in fellowship events.
12. Invest the cost of this program, \$500 a year for two years = \$1,000 total payable to the Eastern North Dakota Synod. This fee will cover your monthly coaching for 24 months (a \$1,200 value) and the cost of two program 24 hour retreats for 4-7 people (your Transformation Team.)

Happy Birthday in October!

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



Unofficial Council Minutes from September 15, 2019

Present: James Thorson, Scott Kuster, Duane Naas, Bre Berberich, Angie Muhs, Pastor Amy Eisenmann, Pastor Jessica Harris-Daum, Sarah Krogfoss, Valerie Uhlir.

Absent: Chelsea Lupien, Tracie Ivesdal,

Meeting called to order at 11:35 AM.

Pastor Amy started us with prayer.

Meeting agenda shared. Scott moved to approve the agenda with the revision to move Vital Signs up to the start of the meeting, Paul seconded, MPU.

Minutes from August Council meeting were shared. Paul moved to approve the minutes, Scott seconded, MPU.

Financial Report:

As of latest report, General Checking has \$-48022.01 Special Funds Checking has \$25,632.94. General Income was \$11,310.00 Total Expenses was \$17,336.85, Leaving a Net Income of \$ -6026.86 and YTD Net income of \$-22,134.79.

Scott moved to approve the financials as amended. Val seconded. MPU

Calendar Review:

The next council meeting will be October , 2019 @ 11:30 AM.

September 28th @ 2 PM Clara Wilde's celebration of life.

September 28th @ 1 PM Harvesting of pumpkins

October 6th No coffee klatch

October 6th Hot dish competition

No WDTM in September

October 24th @ TBD Wedding

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Amy gave her pastor's report. She is working on creating healthy boundaries with technology.

Pastor Amy's full written report can be found in the minutes' binder in the church office.

WELCA/Men's Club Report: No new updates from Men's club.

WELCA updates: Festival of Tables in November. The plan is to purchase new platters for the kitchen. Plan is to offer a cookie decorating class prior to the holidays

Team Reports:

- Exec- No new updates.
- Education-Bre reported that we have 6 new children in Sunday School. Will add dividers to a room that holds two grade levels.
- Fellowship- No update
- Outreach-. Fall Frenzival coming up. Please provide names of hot dish to Sarah for the competition. Will include a hayride, photo booth, face painting, gaga pit, crafts and other fun events.
Caramel rolls to raise money for feed my starving children.
Angel tree will be here again.
- Food Pantry- Update:

January: 7 households, 339lbs food.	May: 8 households, 346lbs
February: 6 households, 275lbs.	June: 9 households, 375lbs
March: 10 households, 456lbs	July: 10 households, 347lbs
April: 8 households, 458lbs	August: 9 households, 345lbs
- Property-Duane provided an update on the parking lot. Plan is to wait on paving new lot until spring.
- Worship- Val Uhlir provided an update. Making some exciting changes to our service. Hjelmstads will provide music at times.
- Youth- Paul provided an update. First LYO last month with 29 kids participating. It has been hard to find youth to help with LYO service.

Old Business:

Welcome to Val Uhlir to the council.

New Business

Vital Signs

Monthly coaching sessions, retreat opportunities, support, learning sessions, and guidance to assist our church and congregation to be “vital” and continue to grow and change with the times. Two-year program along with eleven other congregations during these two years.

Three critical thinking concepts:

This time is a “do or die”.

We need to change

We don’t know how

Urgency, humility, honesty

Pathways of changes are specific to each congregation.

Three areas include looking at our history, looking inward at our members, strengths, & assets, and then looking outwardly into the community. This helps define how to move forward. This will help to create deep change to move our congregation forward into a healthy and vital place into the future.

Goal is to change culture to be agile for the future.

Retreat October 3 and 4 around spiritual practices. How to engage scripture and prayer into our day.

Possible make up day in November for those who cannot make it through zoom.

Goal would be to eventually aide other congregations financially with in entering into their own vitality journey.

Looking for team members and leaders from the congregation, not the council members.
Sarah Krogfoss will be a transformation team member.

Additional storage purchase needed for Pastor Amy's surface (Computer storage).
We will purchase a new external hard drive, as it's needed for prep and programs. Scott moved to take money out of the software budget, Bre seconded. MPU.

Internet access Facilitation

Looking at connection options as it has been slow. Will connect with Darwin Potter.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 12:36 PM

Greetings from the Worship Team!

Some may know, but I have taken over the Worship Lead duties for Deb DeMoe. She was asked to teach a class in Tioga for the 2019-2020 school year and with her husband working out of Tioga she just couldn't refuse AND I could not refuse her request to finish out her term as Lead! Deb is sorely missed already but we are all so glad that she had this offer that made it possible to be with her husband full time. We wish them for the best and look to seeing her soon!

On that note, I want to Thank Kay Lindell for communion prep she does each Sunday! Much appreciated, Kay!!

When you see the LYO kids please thank them for their service on LYO Sundays. What a joy to see the youth take part in the service AND do it so well.

You may have noticed a slight change in the church service. Keep an eye, and ear, open for the next change that will be implemented in October. I hope that you enjoy the changes..

IF you stay for Koffee Klatch on Sundays, please consider bringing a treat to share. It doesn't need to be homemade! IF you don't stay, please consider checking it out. It's a great way to start the new week visiting with fellow members and getting to know them better.

Come check out the worship team when we meet next on October 9 at 6:30. We are always looking for people to join us and it really isn't much work!

I look forward to serving the balance of Deb's term - Valorie Uhlir

The worship team of Nancy Morgan, Cheryl Widman, and Valorie Uhlir (701-739-6282)

Do you want a daily text to have as your devotional this year? Sign up on the church bulletin board so that we can get them ordered and have them here by January 1!



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
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Welcome to worship

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Education Hour Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Address service requested

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

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

ST. MATTHEW'S LEADERSHIP

Pastor Amy Eisenmann stmattpastoramy@gmail.com

Vione Jordheim, Admin. Assistant stmatstvione@gmail.com

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James Thorson, Council President thorsonja@yahoo.com

Scott Kuster, Council Vice President scottkuster@gra.midco.net

Angie Muhs, Council Secretary bamuhs@yahoo.com

Tracie Ivesdal, Council Treasurer tivesdal@msn.com

Duane Naas, Properties Team dnaas@sterlingcarpetone.com

Deb DeMoe, Worship Team dedem831@gmail.com

Paul Strande, Youth Team pstrande59@gmail.com

Bre Berberich, Education Team berberich@midco.net

Sarah Krogfoss, Outreach Team smartin@polarcomm.com

Chelsea Lupien, Fellowship Team chelsea.lupien@und.edu



Oct 6 Fall Frenzival

Oct 12 Kindergarten Prayer Event

Oct 13 Blessing of the Pets

Blessing of the Quilts

Oct 27 Confirmation Sunday

Oct 30 Trick or Treat for Canned Goods