

The Messenger

October 2023

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

Dear St. Matt's friends,

This October we are celebrating the gift of Holy Scripture. On October 1, parents will fulfill part of their baptismal promises to their children by placing Bibles into the hands of their 3rd graders and storybook Bibles into the hands of kids new to Sunday School. The 6th graders also received age-appropriate Bibles from their parent's hands as they started confirmation last month. We are so thankful to our WELCA ladies for their generosity in purchasing these Bibles!

A confirmation student recently asked, "Why is so much of confirmation about learning the Bible?" Here is my response to her, in a bit longer form:

Through reading the Bible, we get to know our family history, starting with Adam and Eve, through the family tree of Abraham and Sarah, Jacob and Joseph and his 11 brothers, Moses, Esther, Ruth and Naomi, King David and the prophets. Our mothers and fathers of the faith were far from perfect, but through their stories we learn of God's faithfulness to them through the ages. We learn how the promises God made to them--of a homeland, an eternal kingdom, and a legacy of blessing all the families of the world-- are fulfilled in Jesus. And we learn that in Jesus, the promises were for us too, all along.

We get to know Jesus himself. We learn *about* him--his miracles, his surprising teachings, his advocacy for the poor and sick and marginalized. But **we also get to know him personally**, as God's divine son who became human at a particular time and place, but who then *transcended* that historical moment through his death and resurrection to be *a messiah for all of us*, right here and now--the pioneer and perfecter of OUR faith (Hebrews 12:2), the one who knows us each intimately and calls us, (yes, us!) to follow him as "the way, the truth and the life." (John 14:6).

We learn Who We Are, ("You are precious in my sight, and honored and I love you" *Isaiah 43*) and **how to live a life that is "really life; " a life defined by integrity, love, and service.** Through the 10 commandments--and all of the people who broke those commandments, through Jesus' teachings about the ways of God's kingdom, and through all the New Testament writings, we learn that the command to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind and strength and love your neighbor as yourself" is at the heart of all of it all.

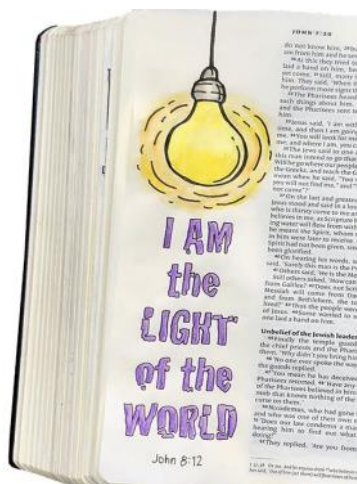
Studying the Bible isn't just for kids! Just ask the guys who gather every Sunday to drink coffee, tell jokes, and....YES, read and discuss scripture. As they soak up the word and engage in honest conversation, they are gaining insight and hope for their everyday lives. I get to see it in real time and it's very cool. Newcomers are always welcomed by the way!

This month I am trying something new. Every Monday at 1pm, I am inviting whoever is interested to an informal time of Dwelling in the Word, where we will ponder one of the scriptures for Sunday and have coffee and conversation about how God is guiding us. Absolutely no experience necessary, and extra Bibles are on hand. All are Welcome.

Leaning on God's Word, Our Great Heritage, Throughout All Generations.

Pastor Kristen

When life feels dark, **SHINE JESUS' LIGHT!**



Sunday School and confirmation are getting back into the swing of things this school year! Thank you for taking the time to register your child(ren)! Upcoming events for October include Bible Sunday on October 1, Kid's Singing in church on October 15 and confirmation students and youth Treat or Treating for Canned Goods on October 25. Our 3rd Graders and parents met on 9/27 to learn about their new bibles and they continue their faith journey.

If ever you have ideas, concerns or want to know how you can help please contact Bre Berberich - 701-740-3207 or breberberich@gmail.com

Confirmation Dates to Remember

October

- 4 – Class – “Jesus the Teacher, Part 2” – Parables
- 11 – Class – “Jesus the Miracle Worker”
- 18 – No Class – NDEA
- 25 – Service Project – “Trick or Treat for Canned Goods” – For Thompson Food Pantry



1 - Sunday School @ 9 am
1- Bible Sunday @ 10 am
 8 - Sunday School @ 9am
 15 - Sunday School @ 9 am
15 - Kids Sing 10 am
 22 - No Sunday School
 29 - Sunday School @ 9 am

OCTOBER 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				

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		



Kids will sing in church on
 Sunday October 15!



We have some **BIG** Thank You's to shout out!

- ♦ Sunday School **Teachers** for volunteering their time and talents each Sunday!
- ♦ Confirmation **Guides & Pastor Kristen** for their time and discussions with our confirmation kids!
- ♦ **Ruby's Pantry** for the donation of 2 TV's that needed to be replaced in our Sunday School rooms!



**Trick or Treating for
Canned Goods**

**Wednesday October
25th at 6:30 PM**

Adult volunteers needed!

Choir Coming Back to St. Matt's!

Do you like to sing? We are so excited that Justin Uhler has agreed to lead an "Occasional Adult/youth Choir" that will sing for some select Sundays in the year ahead. Plans are in the works. Stay tuned for more info!



**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.



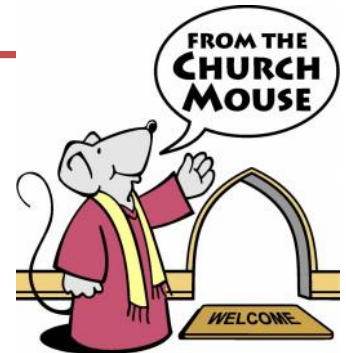
On **Sunday, October 8th** our Outreach Team will be hosting a **New Member Interest Brunch after worship**. This will be an informal time for prospective members to meet each other, learn more about our church and meet a few of our leaders. Children are welcome, and childcare in the nursery will be provided. Please contact the office to let us know if you plan to attend or if you know of someone who should be invited.

**New Members will be received in worship
on Sunday, October 15th**

Thanks to everyone who lends a hand for making the ministry at St. 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:

- Bre Berberich, Carrie Herrig and Pastor Kristen for all of their hardwork to organize Education for our kids!
- Thank you to all who stepped forward to teach our youth!
- Thank you to the quilters for donating their beautiful quilts, made with love, to several organizations in our region



Update on Administrative Assistant position:

Jill Schumacher has very graciously been filling in as best she can since Vione retired at the end of May. She has done so during a very busy time in her own life. Now that she is back to work at school full time, she is not able to continue to fulfill this role. We are very thankful for her willingness to serve these past four months. **THANK YOU JILL!!!**

We also owe a debt of gratitude to the following volunteers who have helped to fill the gap:

- Bridget Pearson who has been helping to put the newsletter together the last couple of months
- Carrie Herrig, who has been helping with the powerpoint
- Bre Berberich for administrative leadership of all our education programming
- John Schumacher who has been fulfilling the roll of bookkeeper since last January.

Truly, we are incredibly blessed with faithful volunteers, AND we still need a consistent Administrative Assistant to help our congregational life run smoothly. This is absolutely crucial. The good news is that we have a strong lead of a candidate to fill this role! We will know very soon if it will work out. Please stay tuned!



October

Ryan & Stephanie Broyles Family
 Steve & Shannon Hancock Family
 Justin & Jill Johnson Family
 Duane & Chris Naas
 Blake & Cassie Riewer Family
 Ryan & Liz Welsh
 Bill & Cheryl Widman
 Sara Berg & 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

Update On Pastor Kristen's Schedule:

I wanted to share with you all that after much discernment, prayer and discussion with my family this summer, I came to the conclusion that it would be best for me to discontinue my work as a chaplain for Hospice of the Red River Valley. My last day in that role was August 8. Although I highly value that work and I certainly miss my patients and colleagues, I felt that it was just becoming too stressful to try to faithfully serve both as Chaplain and as a pastor at St. Matthew's. I concluded that I had completed my time of service with hospice.

That being said, I just want to remind everyone (and myself!) that I am contracted with St. Matthew's as an Interim Pastor until the end of May at 80% time. This allows me the flexibility to be gone about one weekend a month for family commitments, and I am thankful for this.

I will continue my schedule of being at St. Matt's on Mondays and Wednesdays. I will plan to do parish work and planning from home on Tuesdays, and will often have additional work to do from home on Thursday when needed. As much as possible, I will be reserving the bulk of Thursday and Friday for professional and personal projects outside of St. Matthew's work. You may still feel free to call or email me, but please understand that I may have other commitments that prevent an immediate response unless it is an emergency.

Thank you for your consideration! - Pastor Kristen



All women of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

are welcome to

Women's Bible Study

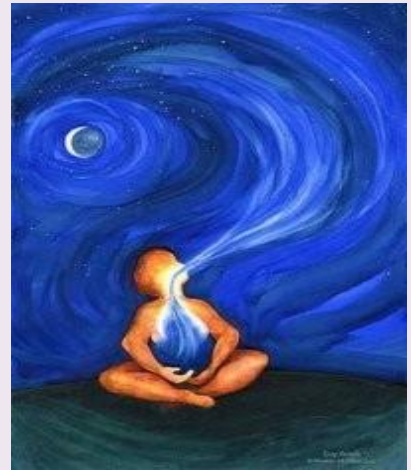
Monday, October 16th at 10:00 am

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 Monday, October 16th at 10:00 am. All women of St. Matthew's are welcome!

Introducing **breathe...**

For busy people who need to tend to their spirits and bodies.



Thursday October 26 at St. Matt's 6:30-8pm

In the first half of this class, we will reflect on a scripture passage grounding us in our identity as God's beloved ones. Then we will transition to a time of gentle movement and breathing exercises to help us focus, unwind, and pray.

Please sign up on the sheet in entry of the church or on the Facebook Event if you plan to attend.

***Wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat or beach towel.**

There is no cost for this class but a free will offering will be accepted.

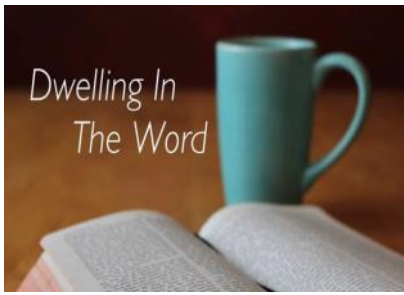
Reflection and conversation will be facilitated by Pastor Kristen.

Movement/Mindful Meditation portion will be led by Tara Kulack

Tara is a certified yoga instructor at Choice Health and Fitness and Lotus Yoga. A statement from Tara: *"I was introduced to yoga in 2012 and I fell in love with the practice. Yoga has allowed me to make time for myself and have grace with myself. I crave the mind body connection and the experience of feeling breath and movement in my body. I love connecting to myself through yoga and finding a sense of community in sharing yoga with others. My intention is to provide a safe and supported space and a whole-body experience.*

Mind, Body, Breath and Soul."

ALL (ages, genders, abilities, etc.) ARE WELCOME.



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

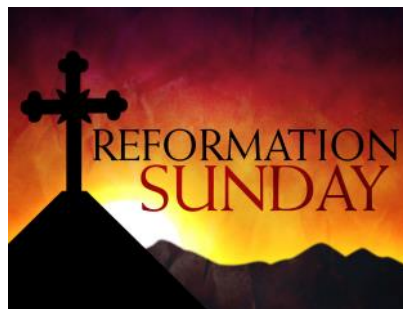


On this day we will light candles to give thanks for those who have inspired us in our faith and in remembrance of all those we love who have died in the faith and are now gathered home to God.
If someone you love has died since last November, we encourage you to write their name on the sheet in the entry and we will give thanks for their lives during our prayers in worship on November 5.

Reformation & Confirmation Sunday

October 29th, 2023

Reformation Sunday is a day when we remember and re-tell the family stories of our Lutheran faith and when we celebrate the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in nurturing faith in the next generation. On this day our 9th graders will affirm and make public profession of their baptismal faith, and we will offer prayers and blessings for them and celebrate their faith journey.



Red is the color of the Holy Spirit, as we envision the tongues of flame over the heads of those present on the day of Pentecost – as the spirit rushed in to take away their fear, and send them out to do the work God had prepared them to do.

Please wear **RED** to worship on October 29!

Happy Birthday in October

- 1 Nicholas Berthold, Bailey Munson
- 2 Josie Schumacher, Lydia Peterson
- 4 Reese Barker
- 5 Josh Barker, Gretchen Guetter, Haley Hegg
- 6 Mary Welsh
- 7 Nash Wojciechowski
- 8 Kaylee Kurz, Zachary Sivertson
- 9 Reese Barker
- 10 Kelsie Carrier
- 11 Haleigh Krogfoss, Charlie Johnson
- 12 Taylor Krogfoss, Chuck Welke
- 13 Kinsley Pearson
- 15 Jill Schumacher, Chance Berger
- 16 Layne Johnson
- 18 Rebecca Derosier, Darwin Potter
- 19 William Welke
- 20 Delayne Wojciechowski
- 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, Klay Robinson
- 29 Jordan Senger, Liam Berger
- 30 David Stevens, Chris Rood



A Note from your Church Council:

Autumn reminds us of the impermanence of everything. It is a reminder that our bodies, minds, and surroundings are always developing. We have experienced the budding of life in spring and the flowerings and profusions of summer. Soon the leaves will fall, and the bare branches will remind us of the fleeting nature of all things.

When autumn comes, it's a signal that the end of the year is near. It's not only a time of Thanksgiving but it's also a time for reflection as we prepare to set goals for a new year. May this autumn season bring you endless joy.

Can you believe we are two months away from the Advent season? The days and years certainly go by faster and faster. Your Church Council is excited to make the most of the remaining months ahead and we have lots of great things planned to bring us 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.

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	July	August
	2023	2023
General Giving Income - YTD	\$ 75,160	\$ 82,566
General Giving Income - Month	\$ 8,998	\$ 7,406
Net Income - YTD	\$ (21,938)	\$ (27,662)
General Giving Checking Account	\$ 31,619	\$ 27,900
Special Giving Checking Account	\$ 32,984	\$ 36,921
Line of Credit	\$ -	\$ -

Church Council Treasurer, Justin Bergeron had these noteworthy items to share with the Council and the Congregation:

Year-to-date gross income is at approximately 66% of budget.

Year-to-date expenses are at approximately 87% of budget.

The Food Pantry received \$5,000 in August.

Updates

Sunday School and Confirmation are underway. We are incredibly grateful to our Sunday School Teachers, Confirmation Guides, Pastor Kristen, and Bre Berberich for their time and dedication in helping our children grow in faith and service to Jesus.

October is Pastoral Recognition month. This is a time for our church family to honor and show our appreciation to Pastor Kristen and her family for their commitment and dedication to St. Matthew's. Since, accepting our call as Pastor, Pastor Kristen has gone above and beyond to help us all grow in our faith, our service to the Lord, and become stronger as a congregation. With her support, encouragement, and enthusiasm we have successfully done these things. We encourage you all to find a way to show your appreciation and gratitude to Pastor Kristen and her family this month. To let her know we appreciate all she has done and will continue to do for us. Pastor Kristen, you are truly a blessing to us all.

This month a few members of the congregation will begin assisting in the office and they will focus on the absolute needs of the church. The recruit of a Part-Time Administrative Assistant remains a top priority for the council. We have determined some work can be done remotely, however some office hours are required to best assist Pastor Kristen, members of our congregation, and our teams. The Council feels incredibly blessed to have had Jill Schumacher assisting us during the months of June-September. Thank you, Jill, for your service and sharing your time and talents with us. Please continue to help spread the word of our need and pray.

Don't forget about the [Worship Assistant Groups](#). Each family within our congregation has been assigned a month to assist with Church Services and you are encouraged to [sign up](#) to be a Reader, Usher/Greeter, Acolyte, and/or Communion Assistant. You can find this information on our website and in the monthly newsletter. If your family has not been assigned a month, please contact Sue Simon and she will happily do so.

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, October 15 following 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

October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Bible Sunday 9am-Men in Mission 9am- Sunday School 10am-Worship 1-3: Mini-Retreat for 9th Grade Confirmation	2 1pm-Dwelling in the Word (Bible study with Pr. Kristen) 7pm-Quilting	3 9am-Quilting	4 7pm-Confirmation	5	6	7
8 9am-Men in Mission 9am- Sunday School 10am-Worship 11:15: New Member Interest Brunch	9 1pm-Dwelling in the Word (Bible study with Pr. Kristen) 7pm-Quilting	10 9am-Quilting 11am-Food Pantry	11 7pm-Confirmation	12	13	14
15 New Member Sunday 9am-Men in Mission 9am- Sunday School 10am-Worship 11:15: Council Meeting	16 10am-Women's Bible Study 1pm-Dwelling in the Word 7pm Quilting	17 9am-Quilting	18 No confirmation	19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21
22 9am-Men in Mission (NO Sunday School) 10am-Worship	23 1pm-Dwelling in the Word (Bible study with Pr. Kristen) 7pm-Quilting	24 9am-Quilting 6pm-Food Pantry	25 6:30-Confirmation Youth Trick or Treating for Canned Goods	26 6:30-8 pm: Breathe: Mindfulness, Reflection and Movement	27	28
29 Confirmation Sunday 9am-Men in Mission 9am- Sunday School 10am-Worship- Wear RED	30 1pm-Dwelling in the Word (Bible study with Pr. Kristen) 7pm-Quilting	31 9am-Quilting	Nov 1 7pm-Confirmation	2	3	4



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Color the picture and bring back to church for the bulletin board

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