

September 2023

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

The Messenger

Dear St. Matt's friends,

September is the season of HOMECOMING. I am not talking about the high school dance, though that will also happen this month. I am talking about a **Season of Returning**. Some are coming home from vacation. Students of all ages return to their second home--school. Hopefully it is a time when people feel the nudge to return to church as well? Because I miss seeing some of you!

I get it. Summer is filled with travel and commitments that take us away from town. For me too. And then, well, some people have been away from church for longer than just the summer, right? Maybe it's been a year or two. Maybe some checked out during covid times and haven't really been back since for various reasons. Maybe that's you or someone you know. Maybe I can't miss you because I've never met you. If so, maybe it's time to come on home to the rhythm of worship.

In many churches in the south, they have a Sunday that they designate as **"Homecoming Sunday."** It is a wide-open invitation for those who have been away from church for a while to come back, or come for the first time--with no judgment, no need to explain, just as you are, come.

Rally Sunday is going to be a day like that for us here at St. Matthew's. On September 10, Sunday School starts back up, and we welcome all kids—whether their families are members or not. But it is also a day when we welcome adults, to come and reconnect with God, with other folks trying to walk the path of faith, to reconnect with your own spirit. The invitation is to **COME HOME** to God and to your own deepest self. Come find your place at the table and be fed with grace. That's why we're here. We are all making our way home to get our cups filled with love.

One of the things we are planning for September 10 is an **OPPORTUNITY FAIR**. This will be a time when the different teams of our church (Education, Youth, Worship, Fellowship, Outreach, and Properties –and perhaps WELCA, Men in Mission, Quilters, etc) will be stationed at tables ready to visit with people about their area of ministry. Our hope is that *everyone* in the church will become connected with at least one of these ministry teams. Being connected and involved is how we find meaning, purpose and a sense of belonging at church. It's how we, together, create a community where everyone feels at home.

So please plan to join us on Rally Sunday, September 10. Sunday School and Men in Mission Bible Fellowship is at 9, Worship is at 10. Fun and fellowship with the Opportunity Fair will be happening all morning, Invite your friends and neighbors and those you haven't seen in a while. To one and all—Welcome HOME.

With my whole heart,

Pastor Kristen



701 Broadway St. Thompson ND 58278

A Letter from St. Matthews Church Council President

Members of St Matthew's,

This letter to inform you that, Sarah Krogfoss has resigned from the Children & Family Ministry Coordinator position. Sarah's last role was to lead our VBS program. From all accounts, it was a huge success, as over 50 kids and their families participated. As with every ministry at St Matthew's, it takes more than one person to make an event successful, but a fully invested leader is crucial to that ministry. Sarah was that leader. Her creativity and love of our children at St Matthew's will be missed. Please take the opportunity to thank her for all she has done for the ministry of St Matthew's.

Currently, the Church Council has made no decisions on how or when to replace this exact position. However, plans are being worked on to ensure our Children's program runs this year. Moving forward, Bre Berberich will be collaborating with Pastor Kristen and the Education Committee to launch another fantastic year of Sunday School and Confirmation. We are grateful to Bre for her willingness to step in and take the lead. Registration is open for both these programs, and we encourage you to sign up your children today!

There is another important role we need to fill to support the children in our congregation as well. We are currently seeking a LYO Team Lead. Sara Berg has done an outstanding job leading the program and connecting our high schoolers to their faith and ministry. We are grateful for her time and talents as well. If you are being called to serve in this role, please contact Scott Kuster or myself as soon as possible as we wish to kick off LYO programming in September.

If you should have any questions or concerns related to the status of our Children's and Family Ministry program, please contact me directly.

Thank you for your continued support.

John Schumacher
Council President
(701)741-3173
john@schumacher.farm

St. Matthew's Faith Formation

Sunday School and Confirmation is about to begin! Are your kids registered? You may register your child(ren) using the QR codes or through these links - [Sunday School](#) or [Confirmation](#).

Sunday School will take place on Sunday morning from 9:00 am - 9:50 am, starting Sunday, September 10th. Students will meet in the sanctuary for WELCOME time followed by classroom time to HEAR, RESPOND and LAUNCH with their corresponding grade level, Pre-K to 5th Grade.



Confirmation will take place on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm. We will kick off confirmation with a student and parent meeting on Wednesday September 13th at 7 pm. Students and guides will begin the meeting on Wednesday September 20th.

We are so blessed to have all the Sunday School and confirmation teacher positions filled!! Thank you to all who said YES for sharing your time and talents with us! We are still looking for subs to have a list ready when the teachers need to be gone. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Bre Berberich - by phone 701-740-3207 or email breberberich@gmail.com

Sunday School Dates to Remember!

10 - Rally Sunday @ 9 am
17 - Sunday School @ 9 am
24 - Sunday School @ 9am
27 - 3rd Graders & Parents
Bible Retreat @ 5:30-6:45

SEPTEMBER 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

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				



September 10

Join us for Rally Sunday School
at 9 am with Worship following
at 10 am!

I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH
HIM WHO GIVES ME STRENGTH.

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

Faith Formation

Bible Sunday & 3rd Grade Bible Event

Sunday October 1st at 10 am

Incoming Pre-K & 3rd Graders will receive their NEW BIBLES during worship! Parents and students please attend worship as we reconfirm your baptism promise!

3rd Graders & Parents we are busy planning and excited to have you join us at your Bible Event!! Students and parent(s) should attend with their student! Pizza will be served.

Join us - Wednesday September 27 5:30pm to 6:45pm.



Confirmation Details to Remember

Attention 6th through 8th Graders and Families

9/6 Confirmation Group Guide Huddle with Pastor at 6:30 pm

9/13 – 6th through 8th grade Orientation with Parents or guardians and group guides from 7- 8:15, a welcome to students and families. This will be an overview and an introduction to this year's focus.

Regular class meeting for 6th through 8th grade will be from 7:00 to 8:15 on 9/20, 9/27, 10/4, and 10/11. There will be no class on 10/18.

10/25 will be a Service Project – “Trick or Treat for Canned Goods” – For Thompson Food Pantry. Stay tuned for more information about the time .

Attention 9th graders and families:

Your presence is requested at a retreat to be held on October 1st from 1:00—3:00 with pastor Kristen at the Church. This retreat will help you prepare to affirm your faith at your confirmation service. Parents or guardians are requested to join students for the second half of the event.

Confirmation Sunday will be October 29th at 10:00 am.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"



WELCA Fall Meeting

Please join us for our Fall meeting

When: September 24th

Time: Following Worship

A few of the items we will be discussing are our spring fundraisers and our upcoming Festival of Tables event.

We hope you can join us!

**Let Us Not Love With Words Or
Speech But With Actions
And In Truth**



Festival Of Tables Hostesses Wanted!!

We are currently looking for hostesses for Festival of Tables, on November 5th at St. Matthew's. If you are interested in hosting a table or for more information on the upcoming event, please contact Liz Welsh at 701-740-2443



God Bless

Klay Milton Robinson

son of Kevin and Lorelei Robinson

Aspyn Reese Robinson

daughter of Kevin and Lorelei Robinson

Maverick Marvin Robinson

son of Kevin and Lorelei Robinson

Emma Mae Hanson Moore

Daughter of Michael and Candice Moore

*On their Sacrament of
Holy Baptism*



The Food Pantry is open

on Tuesday, September 12 from 11:00 am-1:00 pm and Tuesday, September 26 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.

Ongoing Ministries

MEN IN MISSION St. Matthew's men gather each Sunday morning at 9 am in the Rosendal Room for a chance to chat, drink coffee and learn together. Their topics of discussion vary, but new folks are always welcome to join them.

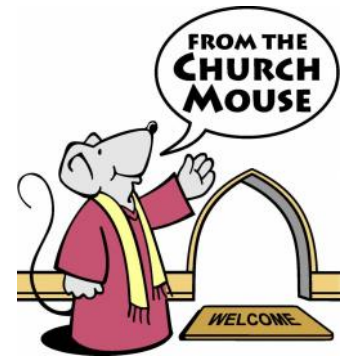
WELCA BIBLE STUDY This group meets at the church for coffee and Bible Study. They meet from September thru May at 10 am on the 3rd Monday of the month.

From the Church Mouse

Thank you to everyone who made this school year so much fun and such a success. As we prepare to head into fall, and back to school, 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:

- David and Kim Lagge for providing the fans for the classrooms during VBS
- Kevin and Lorelei Robinson for providing pizza for the VBS kids and families
- Sarah Krogfoss for organizing VBS
- All of the VBS helpers
- The Outreach team for organizing and serving the Thompson Public School Staff Luncheon
- Bre Berberich and Carrie Herrig for organizing the Sunday School supplies and rooms



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

Did you know there are different ways to financially give to Saint Matthew's?

In Person-Come to church and place your offering in the offering plate on Sunday, or in the drop box outside the secretary's door.

By Mail-You can mail your offering to 701 Broadway St. Thompson, ND 58278 if you are going to be out of town.

Automatic Bill Pay-Through your bank, you can set the church up to receive payment automatically. This helps keep the budget running even if you are away from church for an entire season.

We are set up for two different methods to donate using Vanco Faith.

1 – On the Giving Tab on the St. Matthew's website home page.

2 – Download the Vanco Mobile Faith app from the App Store or Google Play.

Welcome to Our Church! If you or someone you know is looking for a church home, we would love to have you join us! **New Member Orientation Brunch is October 8th**, and **New Member Sunday is October 15th**. For more information, talk to the church office today!



Widow/Widower Support Group

Mission: To help with grief and to help make changes and adjustments in their lives.

The Group is Spiritually centered, interdenominational, led by clergy and lay leaders. It is open to anyone in the area, for any age, who has experienced the death of a spouse. You may attend as many of the sessions as possible. There is no fee, registration is not required.

Date: Sessions begin Monday, September 11th for 6 weeks

Time: 7pm-9pm

Location: Calvary Lutheran Church

1405 S 9th St

Grand Forks, ND 58201

For more information call Phyllis at (701)775-7444 or Diane at (701) 739-3310

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

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

ST. MATTHEW'S LEADERSHIP

Pastor: Kristen Larsen-Schmidt stmattspastor@midconetwork.com

Administrative Assistant: stmattsadmin@midconetwork.com

Bookkeeper: John Schumacher stmattsbookkeeper58275@gmail.com

Council President: John Schumacher stmattspresident@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: Sara Berg saraberg@rocketmail.com

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

Happy Birthday in September!

- 1 Linda Quern, Mike Sundberg
- 2 Debra Gilberg
- 5 Owen Clemetson, Tom Hodek, Todd Fee
- 6 Randy Bohlman, Samantha Jallo
- 7 Sara Anderson, Carrie Herrig
- 9 Paul Bakke
- 10 Jera Sorby
- 11 Megan Bohlman
- 12 Jocelyn Sondreal
- 13 Ryan Avdem
- 14 Coleen Brorby
- 15 Jeremy Hughes, Duane Naas, Owen Gallant
- 16 Beth Hughes
- 17 Mark Adams, Josh Sem, Riley Stoe
- 18 Chelsea Lupien, Drevin Setness
- 19 Jen Starcevic
- 20 Jessica Haugen, Mickey Munson
- 21 Kevin Shimek, Cooper George
- 22 Charlotte Krogfoss, Brody Johnson, Lilly Murphy
- 23 Brett Sutter-Hegg, Brantley Vaagene
- 24 Tyler DeMoe
- 25 John Bohlman, Braden Faul, Jevin Fee, Paul Galegher, Julie Shirek, Gretta Wilson
- 26 Cole Potter
- 29 Lukas Starcevic, Dawn Stoe, Kevin Strand
- 30 Brycen Faul, Jessica Wyatt

COUNCIL MINUTES

A Note from your Church Council:

[School is starting and we wish all our families sending children off to school or college a great year. God says “let the wise listen and add to their learning” Proverbs 1:5. May our children grow in mind, body, and spirit.](#)

The harvest season is upon us, and we are so grateful to the farm families in our community for all they do to help put food on our tables. We wish them a safe and plentiful harvest.

Can you believe we are almost four months out from 2024? 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	June	July
	2023	2023
General Giving Income - YTD	\$66,162	\$75,160
General Giving Income - Month	\$6,344	\$8,998
Net Income - YTD	\$(19,169)	\$(21,938)
General Giving Checking Account	\$35,350	\$31,619
Special Giving Checking Account	\$33,014	\$32,984
Line of Credit	\$ -	\$ -

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

Expenses continue to be in line with budget projections.

Updates:

Vacation Bible School (VBS) at the beginning of August was out of this world. With over 50 children in attendance, they learned about Jesus through science and scripture helping them all to see how they can shine Jesus' light. On the last evening of VBS families were invited to join their child/ren for a pizza party and our Cosmic Closing. It was a full house and lots of fun. We can't express our gratitude enough to Sarah Krogfoss for her leadership and dedication to bringing VBS back in house. We also wish to thank all the volunteers who made the week possible and Lorelei and Kevin Robinson for graciously donating the pizza.

Unfortunately, we recently received the resignation of Sarah Krogfoss from the Children & Family Ministry Coordinator position. Sarah's last role was to lead our VBS program. Currently, the Church Council has made no decisions on how or when to replace this exact position. However, plans are being worked on to ensure our Children's program runs this year. Moving forward, Bre Berberich will be collaborating with Pastor Kristen and the Education Committee to launch another fantastic year of Sunday School and Confirmation. We are grateful to Bre for her willingness to step in and take the lead.

We continue to recruit a Part-Time Administrative Assistant but finding a candidate remains difficult. The Council feels incredibly blessed to have had Jill Schumacher assisting us over the summer. She has been simply amazing, and we appreciate her time and talents. Having someone in the office at least 20 hours a week is crucial. While, we have determined some work can be done remotely, office hours are required to best assist Pastor Kristen, members of our congregation, and our teams. Please continue to help spread the word of our need and pray.

This brings us to another need we have and that is many of our Teams continue to need more members. St. Matthew's is growing and with this growth means it takes more hands to do God's work. On September 10 along with Rally Sunday we will be hosting an Opportunity Fair. This will allow current and new members to learn more about the ways you can get involved. Please stop by our Team tables and consider giving your time and talents to one or more teams.

Also, 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 will now be held on the second Sunday of every month. Our next meeting will take place on Sunday, September 10 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

Blessing of the Quilts

Blessing of the Quilts
will be held

Sunday , September 24th.

Come join us for worship service at 10am and see the beautiful quilts the ladies have been working on. These quilts will be finding new homes at The Mission, CVIC, Northland Community Action and Valley Senior



THANK YOU to ALL the organizers and volunteers for their hard work putting on a STELLAR week for all!! I think if you ask any of our kids (Big Kids or Adults) about VBS, they will tell you it was STELLAR!!! Here are some pictures of the fun!!



Worship Assistants

September

Paul & Heidi Strande Family
Brandon & Leigh LaRoque Family
Neil & Kami Danner Family
Scott & Char Peterson Family
Josh & Dara Faul Family
Jess Haugen Family
Dianne Lundgren

October

Ryan & Steph Broyles Family
Blake Riewer Family
Steve & Shannon Hancock Family
Justin Johnson Family
Duane & Chris Naas
Ryan & Liz Welsh Family
Bill & Cheryl Widman

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.

Thank you to those who assisted with worship duties throughout the summer months.

September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9am Men in Mission 10am Worship	4 7pm Quilting	5 9am Quilting	6 6:30pm Confirmation Parent Meeting	7	8	9
10 9am Men in Mission 9am Sunday School-Rally Sunday 10am Worship 11:15am Church Council Meeting	11 7pm Quilting	12 9am Quilting 11am Food Pantry	13 7pm Confirmation	14	15	16
17 9am Men in Mission 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	18 10am Women's Bible Group 7pm Quilting	19 9am Quilting	20 7pm Confirmation *Newsletter Deadline	21	22	23
24 9am Men in Mission 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	25 7pm Quilting	26 9am Quilting 6pm Food Pantry	27 5:30pm 3rd Grade Bible Event 7pm Confirmation	28 5:30pm Ruby's Pantry	29	30

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Welcome to worship

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Education Hour Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Address service requested



Join us for Rally Sunday on Sept 10
at 9am for games, crafts and out of
this world treats with a special
guest appearance!



Opportunity Fair—Your chance to get involved!

All morning September 10 all the different Teams of our church (Education, Youth, Worship, Fellowship, Outreach, Properties – WELCA, Men in Mission, Quilters, Tech team, etc.) will have tables set up with info about their team and activities.

Our hope is that EVERYONE in the congregation will become connected with at least one of these teams—hopefully several—so that our shared ministry can flourish and everyone feels included. Come and find your place.