

April 2020

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

Grace and peace to you from the risen one, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

One of my favorite songs is one by a group called Twenty One Pilots. The song is titled "Stressed Out." It's a song about nostalgia. This singer remembers the days gone by when he was younger, and life was much simpler. He sings:

"Wish we could turn back time, to the good ol' days,
When our momma sang us to sleep but now we're stressed out."

He sings about how certain smells remind him of a time when he was young. He remembers the creek he and his brother used to throw stones into. He yearns for the time when as a child nothing used to matter. But now he is faced with responsibilities and things that actually matter. He talks about student loans and bills and how he now has to wake up early and go to work.

I've been thinking about this song a lot lately and reminiscing about "the good ol' days" (TWO WEEKS AGO!). When we all gathered together to worship and fellowship. We would shake hands (remember that?) and embrace. Then we would have coffee and cake. I remember helping the men with their fish fry and stuffing myself with donuts from WELCA. Life was much simpler then, wasn't it?

Friends, we are living in unprecedented times. Things are a little scary and many of us are anxious because of this COVID-19 pandemic. I worry about people like my mom who are vulnerable to the effects of the virus. I also worry about the many whose lives have been disrupted. Jobs lost, communities broken, and dreams put on hold. I have spoken a lot about hope in my sermons lately and I believe we all need to hang on to every ounce of hope that we can find.

I find hope in the Bible, in Jesus' words on his last day before the crucifixion (John 17). Hope in the flowers that are just starting to bloom and the birds that are making their way back from the south. I also find hope in all of you who are working hard to help out in these trying times. For nurses and doctors, restaurant workers and grocery store workers, truck drivers and emergency responders. Thank you, for inspiring me.

Lastly, Easter is upon us. This year, things will be different, but the message is still the same: Jesus Christ is risen, and he is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Happy Easter and blessings for the days to come.

Tawanda, Interim Pastor.



This edition of the newsletter is going to look a little different than normal. With all that is going on around us, schedules and events are constantly changing. Rather than sending you information that may rapidly change, we are limiting the unknowns at this time.

We ask that you continue to pray for our Pastor and our Council as they are needing to make difficult decisions.

Stay safe and know God Loves You!

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

St. Matthew's Call Committee is up and running! We have now met with a representative of the Eastern North Dakota Synod. Our next steps will be to assemble a profile of our church and begin the process of discerning St. Matthew's leadership needs. In doing so, we will reach out to the congregation and the ministry groups for input, to the best of

our ability in these times. Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact any of the Call Committee members.

Kristie Adams, Jon Hjelmstad, Bethany Kurz, Scott Landa, Ellie Schumacher and Ryan Welsh



The Feed My Starving Children Event in Grand Forks has been postponed to the fall.

Spin for Kids event has been cancelled.



Greetings from the Worship Team:

March has proven to be a unique time in our lives. I think now is the time to reflect on our connection with God and all that he does for us.

We have seen so many changes to worship but I pray they are short lived so that we can be back together to worship.

Pastor Tawanda, the ELCA leadership, and Paul have kept us up to date on the many changes needed and I hope that all of you understand the need to do so.

We have gone to webcasting the service. We love having you here in spirit. I know we will all be together soon.

Bless you all and trust that all will be well soon.

Faithfully,

Cheryl Widman, Nancy Morgan, and Valorie Uhlir

Notes from the Worship Team



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.

April

Steph Albin Family
Adam & Jen Bohlman Family
Trinity Bohlman Family
Nathan & Bre Berberich Family
Travis Dearing Family
Deann Wieler Family
Blake & Gretchen Guetter Family
Marc & Beth Kurz Family
Leann Novak Family
Derek & Stacy Plautz Family
Randy & Becky Bohlman

May

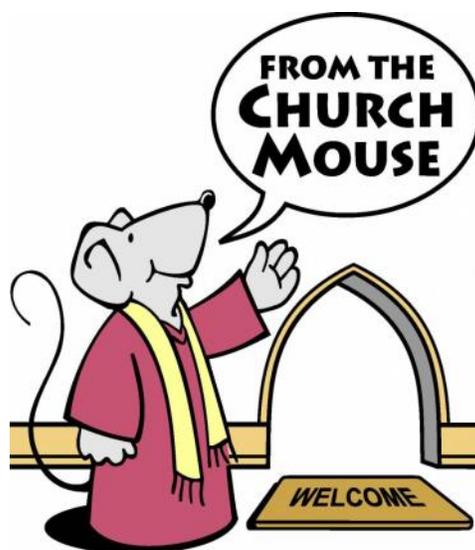
Justin & Amy Bergeron Family
Roger & Sharon Gustafson
Linda Schumacher
Neil & Kay Lindell
Brue Loyland
Roy & Sandra Olson
Alex & Jen Starcevic Family
Mike Sundberg Family
Chuck & Kara Welke Family
Troy & Sheila Wilson Family

Happy Birthday in April!!

- 1 Brooke Grey
- 2 Landon Geatz, Cassandra Hovet
- 3 Kacey Munson, Kara Welke
- 4 Dena Hegg
- 5 Tracie Ivesdal
- 6 Gary Welsh
- 7 Scott Peterson, Junelle Hjelmstad
- 10 Stacie Moen, Earl Haugen,
Jerod Lupien, Nancy Morgan
- 11 Claire Herland
- 12 Christopher Deitz, Brady Wilson,
Alivia Wyatt
- 13 McKenzie Johnson
- 14 Danean Landa, Connor Praska
- 16 Brian Muhs
- 17 Newell Ueland, Elise Belle
- 20 Charla Peterson
- 23 Scott Landa, Jakob Starcevic,
Mack Starcevic
- 24 Haven Deitz, Ryan Broyles
- 25 Ava Anderson, Julie Brorby,
Stacy Plautz
- 26 Cody Wilson
- 27 Trinity Bohlman
- 28 Blair Peterson
- 29 Jamie Bischoff, Isabelle Kadrmas

OFFICE HOURS

At this time, Pastor Tawanda's visiting office hours will be by telephone at the church office or if you have internet availability by Zoom teleconferencing. He will be available to your calls from 10am to Noon on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The church office number is 701-599-2081 or click on the following link for Zoom teleconferencing:



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!

- All those who helped with the Fish Fry and pie sales on March 6th.
- John S for organizing Men's Fish Frys again this year.
- The Council for their diligent work in keeping us safe during this trying time in our world.
- The Boy Scouts for bringing in 395 lbs of food to the Food Pantry!
- Food Pantry donations from the St. Jude's drop off site.
- Wade S for his technical abilities.
- Paul S and Steve H for their help in stuffing and addressing envelopes.

Thanks to all who are making a difference! We appreciate you!

COUNCIL MINUTES

MINUTES of Special Council Meeting March 4th 2020

Present: Paul Strande, Scott Kuster, Kevin Cooper, Valorie Uhlir, Steve Hancock, Bre Berberich.

Absent Angie Muhs, Duane Naas, Chelsea Lupien.

Meeting Called to order at 8:04 P.M.

Kevin made motion to start meeting Steve second the motion. All voted to start Meeting.

Pastoral Budget for 2020	Budget	Spent
January budgeted amount for Pastoral Expenses -5500	\$7,660.48	\$3,382.21
February budgeted amount for Pastoral Expenses-5500	\$7,660.48	\$5,317.65 (this was check to synod for \$4092.65 2/3 month pastoral expenses, \$500 for mileage, \$725 for lease buyout
March budgeted amount for Pastoral Expenses-5500	\$7,660.48	\$6,108.43 (this will be the amount we will send to synod for the March Contract.)
Budgeted amount for Jan.-March	\$22,981.44	\$14,808.29
Savings for first 3 months of Pastoral Expenses	\$8,173.15	

Paul reported that he called synod to see if they would help with the rent with the West Fargo apartment. Synod replied they would not.

Steve made the motion to St. Matthews pay the March Rent of the West Fargo Apartment for \$1450, and then address at the March Council meeting if the need for paying in April is needed. Scott second the motion. All voted yes.

The check will be made directly to Skaff Apartments.

Closed meeting with the Lord's Prayer

Val motioned to adjourn the meeting and Scott second motion. All voted to end meeting

Meeting Adjourned 8:27.



MINUTES of Special Council Meeting March 17, 2020

Meeting called to order 7:02 Motioned: Brook Fretheim, Seconded Steve Hancock

Present: Paul Strande, Tawanda Murinda, Kevin Cooper, Steve Hancock, Valorie Uhlir, Brook Fretheim, Jamie Bischoff, Chelsea Lupein, Bre Berberich, Scott Kuster, Duane Naas, Angie Muhs.

Prayer provided by Pastor Tawanda

Outreach team lead:

Brook Fretheim agreed to be the outreach team lead. Steve motioned to approve Brooke Fretheim as Outreach team lead, Scott seconded, MPU

Offering options:

Conversation regarding online giving options was had, especially in light of the current global situation regarding Covid-19. Financial concerns over minimal attendance and the possibility of pausing all live services. St. Matthew's is also preparing for summer attendance and lower giving trends which we want to avoid. Online giving options were explored to improve consistent giving.

Discussion around "Give Plus" as it works with church 360. Goal is to increase consistent giving and provide an alternative with attendees are unable to be at church or forget offering. There would be a text option as well and many features. This program is also financially secure.

Discussion surrounding online worship and the hope to have online giving available so to remain financially stable.

Kevin motioned to use Give plus app, Steve seconded. MPU.

Virtual Worship:

The plan for ongoing church services were discussed amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Synod recommends that we follow CDC guidelines. Conversation occurred surrounding options. Decision was made to start virtual services only via St. Matthew YouTube channel starting tomorrow for at least two weeks and then reassess need. Options were brainstormed for those folks who do not have internet, computer, or technology access.

Scott made motion to offer on line worship only and suspend in person worship for two weeks. The executive team will reassess after March 29. Steve seconded, MPU.

Pastor Tawanda led the council in the Lord's Prayer.

Valorie motioned to end meeting. Steve second. MPU

Meeting ended at 805 PM

Respectfully submitted, Angie Muhs



UNOFFICIAL Minutes of St. Matthew's Council Meeting, March 22, 2020 on Zoom

Present: Paul Strande, Scott Kuster, Bre Berberich, Angie Muhs, Valorie Uhlir, Chelsea Lupien, Steve Hancock, Kevin Cooper, Brook Fretheim, Pastor Tawanda.

Absent: Duane Naas

Meeting called to order at --11:33 AM. Val motioned to approve agenda with addition of Pastor's lease to new business, Steve seconded, MPU.

Opening prayer provided us by Pastor Tawanda.

Minutes from February council meeting were shared.

Correct February minutes. Add Pastor Tawanda, correct month.

Bre moved to approve the minutes with changes, Steve seconded, MPU.

March 4th special council meeting minutes shared.

Brook moved to approve the minutes, Chelsea seconded, MPU.

March 17th special council meeting minutes shared.

Kevin moved to approve the minutes, Valorie seconded, MPU

Financial Report:

As of latest report, General Checking has \$26804.89 Special Funds Checking has \$26,571.21. Line of credit balance is \$0. Total Expenses were \$11,745.28 leaving a Net loss of \$2800.04 and YTD Net gain of \$2901.33.

Synod has been sent March checks. We have not needed to use any money from line of credit.

Income for February is lower than projected. Due to Covid-19 impacts, teams and groups will be spending less due to no physical contact. We may need to adjust the budget.

The need for consistent giving was addressed, especially considering no in person worship and summer approaching. Give+ has been set up and people can begin to use the app now.

Bre made a motion to approve the financial report. Scott seconded it. MCU.

Calendar Review:

Online services taking place Wednesdays and Sundays.

No in person events until future notice with exception of Wednesday responsive prayer group who will continue to meet as there are less than 10 people.

April 19th Church council meeting @ 1130 AM.

May 17: Blessing of the graduates with cake after service.

May 17: Fellowship Tea @ 2 PM. Time changed from 1 PM.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Tawanda has been at St. Matthew's 6 weeks. He provided his Pastor's report and addressed the importance of being creative at the present time. All future worship will be online. The full report will be posted in the church binder at St. Matthew's.

Men's Club Report: Scott – Met last Sunday. Cancelled fish fry.

WELCA update: Sara Munson- No updates

Vitality team- Kevin- Will get ahold of Sara Krogfoss. They will inquire about their next steps with Synod.

Team Reports:

Exec- Paul – Team put together four phases relates to how to deal with Covid-19. We are now in phase three.

Education-Bre – Waiting back on confirmation regarding VBS dates. Looking at last week of July. Working through first communion issues. May push first communion back to first Sunday back in session. It is currently postponed.

Confirmation: Youth must complete sermon notes for online worship unless the notes are completed.

Fellowship- Chelsea – Cancelled potluck. In a holding pattern based on Covid-19. They are not scheduling anything new.

Outreach- Brook- No new updates. Waiting to see what happens before scheduling.

Food Pantry- Paul talked to Kristie Adams. Feb: 11 families received 500lbs of food.

Open Tuesday 6-8 PM. Kristie will decide how to move forward.

Property- Duane – No new updates.

Worship- Val – New microphone worked very well today. People spoke from the center and that helped. Planning to decorate the sanctuary even if virtual services only.

Youth- Steve – He is maintaining contact with youth. Asked youth to send a letter to elderly.

Old Business

1. 3 Credit Cards – Vione - \$3,400, Pastor Tawanda - \$1,000, Steve Hancock - \$500
2. Sam's Business Cards - Vione is primary and Bre is secondary
3. Give+ -- Kevin, Jamie and Paul went through application and it was submitted Wed. AM. It is now working.
4. Line of Credit is good until March 15th, 2021 in the amount of \$20,000.00.
5. Audit team Recommendations – Build conservative budget, regulate expenses, explore electronic giving, work with Church Mutual on sufficient insurance for church and its contents.

New Business

1. Team Leader Descriptions- Paul provide these to all. Please look at them and make and changes necessarily so that they are all up to date and accurate.
2. Divide up list of members to check on them and roster cleanup for Church 360 . Paul sent newest version of church directory. Asterisk (*) means family member is not a member of St. Matthews. Discussed possibility of creating a google spreadsheet so to take notes on each family so to update the directory accordingly.
3. Develop an emergency action plan for St. Matthew's - Tabled for now
4. Short Term Goals for Pastor, Council, Congregation – Eventually we would like to create 2020 goals. However, the current focus is on stability and learning how to provide pastoral care, community and support in this Pandemic. Eventually, we will engage in a council retreat to explore goals.
5. Cost of Web Camera, which fund to take from - \$38.60 - Paul paid for this. It will be paid out of sound system.
6. Pastor's lease. This was discussed after Pastor Tawanda left zoom call. Council agreed to pay for his lease for April 2020. We plan to ask his Fargo lease holder if they would compromise on a fee for his remaining months. \$4350 is full price if we paid out remaining lease. Chelsea motioned that Paul try to negotiate a buy out with the landlord for a discounted price and if they don't negotiate a deal, we will continue to pay them monthly. Valorie 2nd. MPU

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 1:16 PM

Kevin made motion to adjourn, Steve seconded. MPU

Next Meeting April 19, 2020 @ 11:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Angie Muhs



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

701 Broadway St., Thompson, ND 58278

www.stmatthewslutheranchurch.org

701-599-2081

March 25th, 2020

Dear St. Matthew's Members,

I hope all of you are doing well. Hopefully we can all get through this Pandemic and next year it will be a memory we feel fortunate to have survived and moved on from. In case you haven't seen or heard, St. Matthew's will be live streaming our services through our YouTube Channel until we can again meet in person. Just 11 days ago this was a thought but is now a reality. It can be found by searching **St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Thompson, ND** on YouTube. We hope the airing of these services provide faith and hope during this time of uncertainty. If you aren't already following us on Facebook, you can like our page at

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church- Thompson, ND for updates as they come out as well.

I would like to outline some ways you may consider giving an offering to St. Matthew's during this time. For some at this time, there may be income uncertainty. We hope and pray it is short-lived for all. For others, your income will continue to remain stable for you and your families. Money is never an easy thing to discuss but I hope everyone understands that St. Matthew's, just like families and other organizations, continue to incur financial obligations. Provided below are options for you to consider in how you can help St. Matthew's sustain itself financially, not only now, but in the future as well.

You can mail your offering to St. Matthew's at the address above.

You can make a payment directly from your bank through online bill payment.

You can now use the Give+ app/program. We are set up for three different methods to donate using Give+:

Click on the Giving Tab on the St. Matthew's home page and go to the Give+ link at the bottom of the page.

You can download the Give+ app from the App Store or Google Play. This is very simple to download, setup your account and make your donation. Less than 10 minutes total. When it asks for which church to donate to, you can type in 58278 under the zip code and you will see St. Matthew's as one of the choices. Very Easy!!!

Text to Give: To use text messaging to give, send a text with the amount to give to:

844-934-1585 You will then type the amount you want to give, ex. \$25 just type 25 and send. Within 15 seconds you should get a message to finish your offering. \$3 Min. for text to give.

A couple of things to make you aware of. When you donate using Give+, there are the following charges:

Debit/Credit Card: 2.35% + \$0.35 / transaction fee

ACH from Checking/Savings: 0.80% + \$0.35 / transaction fee

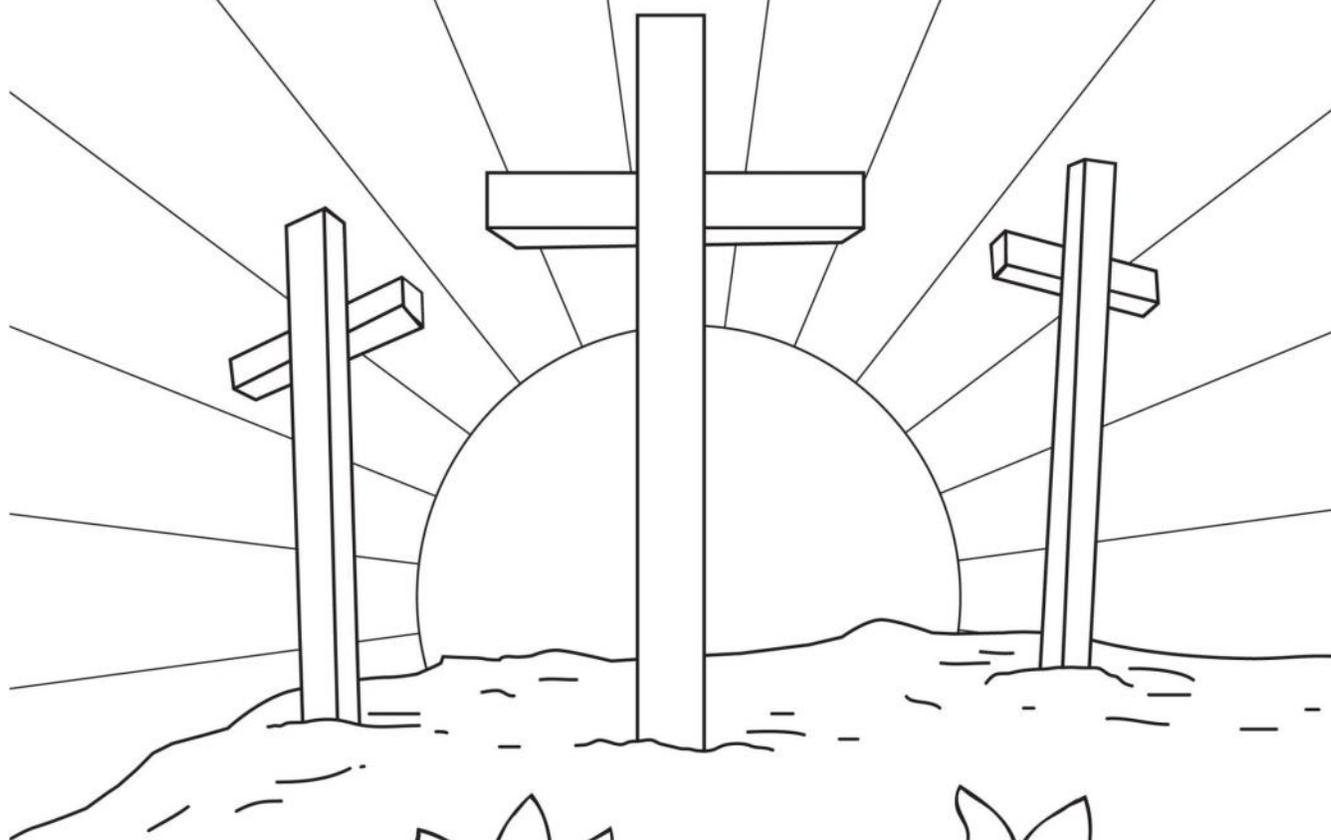
You can also choose to absorb the fees yourself. For example, you want to make a \$20.00 offering to the church, through the app, you can choose to pay the fees yourself. That means you would have \$20.82 deducted from your account so \$20.00 goes to St. Matthew's and you absorb the \$0.82 in fees.

I hope that everyone is doing well. If you have questions or are in need of someone to talk to during this time, feel free to reach out to myself, council members or Pastor Tawanda. Your church is here for you, even if we cannot meet in-person for the time. Together we all make up St. Matthew's Lutheran Church.

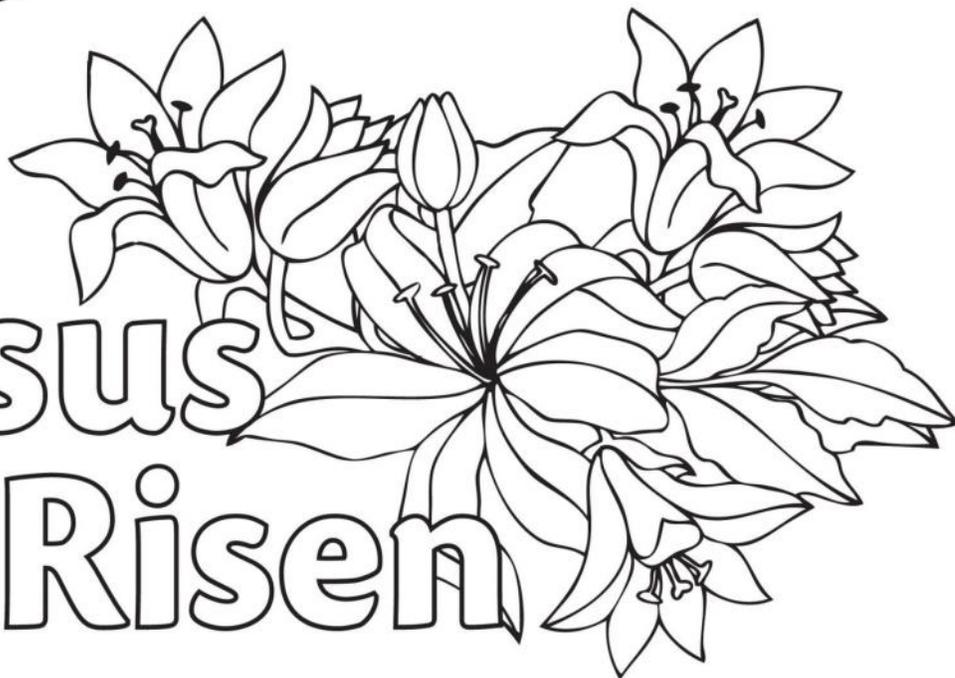
God Bless you all and I cannot wait until we can all gather and celebrate God's Blessings in person,

Paul Strande, St. Matthew's Church Council President

HAPPY EASTER



**Jesus
Is Risen**



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.
Sunday School at 9 a.m.

Address service requested

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

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

ST. MATTHEW'S LEADERSHIP

Tawanda Murinda	Interim Pastor	pastor@stmatthewsthompson.org
Vione Jordheim	Admin. Assistant	stmattsvione@gmail.com
Jamie Bischoff	Bookkeeper	bischoffjamie@gmail.com
Paul Strande	Council President	pstrande59@gmail.com
Scott Kuster	Council Vice President	scottkuster@gra.midco.net
Angie Muhs	Council Secretary	bamuhs@yahoo.com
Kevin Cooper	Council Treasurer	kevin.j.cooper@outlook.com
Brook Fretheim	Outreach Team	brookweber@hotmail.com
Chelsea Lupien	Fellowship Team	chelsea.lupien@und.edu
Duane Naas	Properties Team	dnaas@sterlingcarpetone.com
Bre Berberich	Education Team	breberberich@gmail.com
Steve Hancock	Youth Team	shannonandsteven@gmail.com
Valorie Uhler	Worship Team	valuhlir@yahoo.com

