

October 2020

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

With "harvest season" under way in our corner of the world, I have been thinking about the meaning of stewardship as it relates to the possessions we have and the product of our hard work. I found Martin Luther's Small and Large Catechisms helpful on this topic. Martin Luther's Catechisms help us to see the connection between our faith and our daily lives. Most importantly, they show us how God has called us into community with God, others, and what God has given and done for us. This community of relationships is what stewardship is; the relationship we have with who we are and what we possess.

Luther explains that the Apostle's Creed shows us who God is and what God does for us. God creates (First Article), God redeems (Second Article), and God sustains (Third Article). In explaining these articles, Luther explains how generous our God is. God has given us gifts in creation, gifts in redemption, and gifts in sustenance by the Holy Spirit. Everything that we have is from God. What is ours actually belongs to God.

In explaining the Ten Commandments, Luther explains how trust in God comes first before everything else. In God we find life, goodness, and help. The commandments show us God's will for humankind which can be summarized in loving God and loving others. We do this by devoting our lives and possessions to service to God and to others. We also do this through the relationships God has given us in the world and in the Church that God has gathered us into.

Our response then, is to use what we possess in ways that thank and praise God. Luther writes, "...because everything we possess, and everything in heaven and on earth besides, is daily given, sustained and protected by God, it inevitably follows that we are in duty bound to love, praise, and thank [God] without ceasing, and, in short, to devote all these things to [God's] service, as [God] has required and enjoined in the Ten Commandments."

- Pastor Tawanda Murinda



Thank you to the youth who put up tents for Rally Sunday worship last month. Your help is very much appreciated.

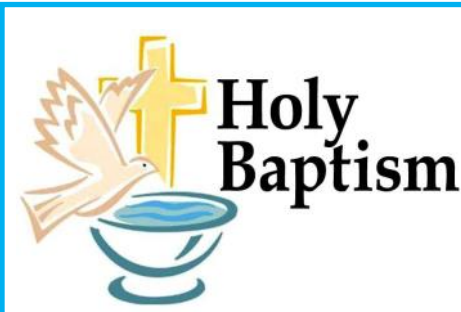
Stay tuned, planning is underway for youth activities!!



Confirmation Kids will be going **Trick-or-Treating for canned goods** for the Thompson Food Pantry on **Wednesday, October 28** from **7:00-8:00 pm**.

Please, **NO EXPIRED FOOD**

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



On Saturday, September 19th we welcomed Annie Jo Uhlir into our church family! Annie Jo's parents are Justin and Amber Uhlir. Her sponsors are Nick and Michelle Schumacher.

Welcome to our church family Annie Jo!



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE for continuing to follow the guidelines the Church Council has set in place.

Everyone has been great about wearing their masks indoors and social distancing whenever possible. It has allowed us to remain open and worship together!

Keep up the good work!!!

Faith Formation



We're off to a great start this year for Sunday School and Confirmation! The kids are doing great with keeping masks on and social distancing! A BIG Thank You to the teachers for taking time to teach our kids! We have about 40 attending on Sunday Mornings and 35 on Wednesday evenings!

Mark your Calendars!

Sunday October 18 – 9th Grade Confirmation Retreat 2-5 pm

Wednesday October 21 – No Confirmation

Sunday October 25 – 9th Grade Confirmation 10 am

Sunday October 25 – No Sunday School

Wednesday October 28 – Confirmation Trick or Treat for Canned Goods

In Sunday School the kids learned about Noah's Ark in September! We handed out Whirl Storybook Bibles to our new preschool kids and Whirl Bibles to our 3rd graders! It's always exciting to see their faces light up when they receive their OWN Bible! Thanks to WELCA for the donation to pay for our bibles! In October, we will begin learning about someone new!

Confirmation kids received their workbooks and will begin learning from new curriculum this year! We have begun using the new Worship Notes and will be sharing periodically where everyone is at with requirements!

Educating Together – Bre, Bridget, Jen, Dara, Beth, Stacy

First Communion Class 2020



Congratulations to these students on receiving their First Communion on Wednesday, September 2, 2020.

Bryn Adams
Cindy Eliason
Landon Geatz
Kaylee Kurz
Mason Mikelson
Kali Shaul
Lukas Starcevic

Nolan Bergeron
Jevin Fee
Haley Hegg
Addysen Lopez
Morgan Muhs
Kira Shaul
Jacob Zak

Greetings from the Worship Team!

Hallelujah! We have a pastor!!

We were able to start September with Pastor Tawanda back AND we have since voted to have him join us as our PASTOR!! What a great start to September. He was also able to preside over First Communion. What a blessing.

We had a great outdoor service on September 13th voting Pastor Tawanda as our called Pastor and he accepted. NOW we can get a little closer to normal. We are so glad to enter the Fall and Advent Season with a more clear direction. Please join us in our services following Covid-19 guidelines. We are wearing masks, but are able to participate in the service along with singing (which sounds great EVEN through the masks)!

There is a sign-up sheet to assist with services now posted inside the front door. The assisting is MUCH easier, so please take advantage.

The acolyte signup is on the St. Matthew's website, and I have listed those that have signed up on the sheet too. Please come 10-15 minutes early so that the candles are lit before we go live. THANK YOU TO ALL THAT HAVE SIGNED UP!

Tech help is listed also, and PLEASE sign up so that we can continue to go live. We do need your help (all you techies)! Josh Faul has a google doc that is being used to sign up.

Thank you to all that make this service special! We would welcome new team members.

Worship Team: Cheryl Widman, Nancy Morgan, Valorie Uhler



Steve & Shannon Hancock Family

Maggie Johnson/Newell Ueland

Duane & Chris Naas

Ryan & Liz Welsh Family

Bill & Cheryl Widman



The Food Pantry is open during October on Tuesday, October 13 from 11:00 am-1:00 pm and Tuesday, October 27 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.

A message from your Council President.....

While this year has been a very challenging year, a lot has been achieved at St. Matthew's. After a long journey, we finally were able to vote Pastor Tawanda Murinda as our call pastor. Pastor Tawanda has done many great things in a short time. I believe if you have had a chance to either meet Pastor Tawanda or listen to his sermons via our Livestream, you have seen why he was voted as our pastor. He brings a great amount of energy & enthusiasm to our church and I look forward to seeing how St. Matthew's grows under his leadership.

I would also like to share some Thank You's.

--Thank you to the church council for all the extra meetings they attended during our search for a pastor and throughout the pandemic. They certainly had more meetings than expected.

--Thank you to Roy Olson for keeping the church grounds mowed and trimmed weekly, to Duane and Chris Nass for keeping the church clean and sanitized and to Jamie Bischoff for keeping our accounts organized and issuing payments at times on short notice.

--Thank you to Val Uhlir for keeping things so organized for worship whether it's been in-person or online. Thank you to Bre Berberich and the education team for having our education program ready to roll once the school year started.

--Thank you to the call committee led by Scott Landa that remained dedicated to finding a call pastor for St. Matthew's. It wasn't easy during the pandemic but they did great work.

--Thank you to Pastor Tawanda for believing in St. Matthew's. He had a chance to take a full call position on the same day he interviewed to be our interim pastor and he believed in what was going on at St. Matthew's.

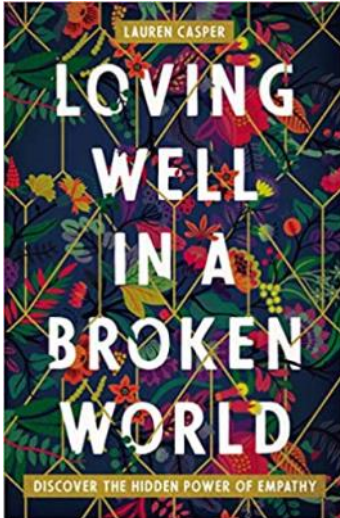
--Thank you to the congregation for all your understanding and patience as we made decisions about closing and then re-opening. These were very difficult decisions but we always kept in mind that we were taking the information we were getting to make the best decisions for the health and safety of the congregation. And also Thank You to the congregation for continuing to make their offerings so the church could stay on solid financial footing.

--Thank you to Pastor Tawanda and Wade Strande for getting our church live-streaming up and running. This was so very important to keep our congregation connected while we had to close the doors to St. Matthew's.

--And a final Thank You to Vione Jordheim. As many of you know and everyone should know that we could never have made it from the time Pastor Amy left to the time we voted on Pastor Tawanda without Vione. Not only has she held the church together in the 10+ weeks we were without a Pastor, she has been extremely important in making Pastor Tawanda's transition smooth and efficient. We are so incredibly lucky to have Vione working at St. Matthew's.

Blessings and continued health and safety to all of you, your family & friends,

Paul Strande



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church invites you to join us for our second annual Fall Book Study! This year we will be doing things remotely, utilizing Zoom for meeting times and a Facebook group to interact with each other. This fellowship opportunity is open to all in Thompson, regardless of church membership status. This year we will be reading *Loving Well in a Broken World: Discover the Hidden Power of Empathy* by Lauren Casper. We chose this book with the intent to have important conversations around the divided world we're living in, get out of our comfort zones and step away from judgement.

Please register here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MGZQYVV>

Our world is becoming increasingly divided, fearful of other, and isolated. How can we live out our call to love our neighbors as ourselves if we can't empathize with them? We can't.

Together (virtually), we will use the six-week study guide as a launching pad for discussing, learning, and growing in empathy and love with one another. Each week focuses on a specific way we can cultivate empathy in our lives, but first it's important to understand what empathy is. Empathy is the ability to see another's pain, understand the cause of it, and to join them in their feelings. It's a three-step cycle of seeing, understanding, and joining.

Loving our neighbor requires a barefoot moment, a vulnerable stepping out of the known into the unknown so we can walk around for a while in someone else's shoes. In each week's lesson, you'll find an inspirational quote, a supporting scripture, a brief story called "barefoot moments", ideas for immediate action that you can try that week, an idea or two for some more long-term actions to take, and resources for further learning. There is also room to journal your own thoughts, feelings, and action ideas.

Registration to participate in this book study is open through Sunday, October 4th and books will be provided by the fellowship team of St. Matthew's. Schedule is as shown below and all meeting times will go from 7-8 PM.

Sunday, October 11 - Chapters 1, 2 & 3
Sunday, October 18 - Chapters 4, 5 & 6
Sunday, October 25 - Chapters 7, 8 & 9
Sunday, November 1 - Chapters 10, 11 & 12
Sunday November 8 - Chapters 13, 14 & 15
Sunday, November 15 - Chapters 16 & 17 + whole book overview

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:

- Bre B for all of her work to organize Education for our kids
- Jon & Junelle H for loaning their equipment and help in setting up the microphones and speakers for our outdoor worship
- Duane N, Paul S, Scott K, Val U for your help in set up and making sure everything was ready to go for outdoor worship
- Grace C, Jordan S and Kevin C for assisting with outdoor worship
- Dalene J in helping organize the classrooms to get ready for Sunday School
- Gary W for shaping up the overflow parking area

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



**NO CLASSES for Confirmation
on October 21**

**NO CLASSES for Sunday School on
October 25**

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, 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



September council minutes, September 20, 2020

Present: Pastor Tawanda Murinda, Paul Strande, Scott Kuster, Duane Naas, Valorie Uhler, Angie Muhs, Bre Berberich

Zoom attendance: Steve Hancock, Kevin Cooper, Chelsea Lupein

Absent: Brook Fretheim

Meeting called to order at 11:05 AM by Council President Strande.

Opening prayer and devotional provided by Paul Strande

Bre motioned to approve agenda; Scott seconded, MPU.

Minutes from August council meeting were shared and reviewed as well as congregation meeting minutes from September 13, 2020.

Bre moved to approve the August Council minutes as presented; Scott seconded, MPU.

Val moved to approve the September Congregation minutes as presented; Scott seconded, MPU.

Financial Report:

General Giving Income for August was \$8,934.76. As of Aug 31, the General Giving checking account balance is \$28,162.20 while the Payment Protection Program balance is \$0.00. Special Funds checking balance is \$27,846.73. Our line of credit balance is \$0. YTD income is \$30,577.97 of which \$21,600.00 is from the Payment Protection Program.

Scott motioned to approve financials, Duane seconds motion. MPU

Calendar Review:

Bible Sunday is September 27, 2020

Confirmation retreat is Oct. 18th 2-5 PM

Confirmation is October 25th

Trick or Treat for Canned goods October 28th

No Sunday School December 20th

Pastor's Report: Please see Pastor's full report. He is waiting for his Visa paperwork to have in hand, but it

has been approved. Working on copyrights for our online worship. There have been some internet speed issues so we increased our internet speed x2. Addressed new member process. Would love to continue to strengthen our youth group.

Men's Club Report: Scott – No update

WELCA: No update

Vitality team- Kevin- Met last week. No report.

Team Reports:

Exec- Paul – No meeting last month. Will plan to meet in Oct related to employee evaluations.

Education-Bre – 55 Sunday School registered, 35 students registered for confirmation. 34 and 36 students attended last two weeks for Sunday School respectively.

Fellowship- Chelsea – Fall book study virtually. Book: Loving while in a Broken World, Able to get free companion guides for this book from the author.

Outreach- Brook- No update

Food Pantry- June 339lbs to 8 families. July 483lbs to 10 families, August 581lbs to 9 families.

Property- Duane – No major maintenance needed. Will plan on striping parking lot next year. Hoping to make surround for garbage, but shortage of materials has been an issue. Thank you to Gary for adding a load of gravel to our parking lot. Pothole at entrance has been temporarily fixed.

Worship- Val – Season will pick up. Still need people to sign up for technology/video help. Youth have signed up for acolyte.

Youth- Steve – Thank you to the youth who put up tents for last week's meeting. Planning underway for youth activities.

Old Business

Update on PPP loan status – Signed change in terms agreement.

Donation to Park River Bible Camp

Update on bracelet idea

Met with Brook and found design for bracelet. Vione ordered 1000 bracelets.

Update church membership roster

Planning to meet with Vione to make changes and upgrade/update lists.

Sound/camera system – not paid off – account is -\$236.32. A charge on the church credit card HB Sound was not accounted for.

Plan is to take this amount from Thrivent line item to pay this off.

Duane made a motion to pay this off with Thrivent fund, Scott seconded this. MPU

New Business

Church clutter – Bre has some things to share

There is clutter around the church in all area. We need a plan to care for our church, put items away, and for all to take responsibility in putting items away and caring for our space. If one's group has items stored at church, how can they label, care for, and store the items?
Organizational plan needed.

FMSC and Caramel Rolls

Will make and sell caramel rolls. Oct. 11. No consumption of rolls in the church.

New member request question

Addressed during pastor report.

What happens if Pastor gets COVID or close contact

Possible zoom, recording of sermons, and coverage by members.

Church credit cards – Sams Club card

\$1000 limit; \$500 for Education (Bre), \$500 Vione

Change in credit limit for Pastor and Vione's credit cards. \$5,000 is our limit and since March it has been broken down as \$500 Youth Team (Steve Hancock), \$3,400 for Vione and \$1,000 for Pastor Tawanda

Amounts will be changed to \$500 for Youth Team, \$2000 for Vione, and \$2000 for Pastor.

Paul made motion to change Pastor's account limit to \$2000, Vione's to \$2000, and Youth Team will continue with \$500. Scott seconded this motion. MPU

Looking at computer option for Pastor Tawanda. He will look at options and get back to council regarding his needs.

Closing Prayer (Lord's Prayer)

Next Meeting: October 18, 2020 at 11:00 AM / after church service

Val motioned to adjourn meeting @ 12:31 PM, Bre seconded, MPU

Respectfully Submitted by:

Angie Muhs

MEN IN MISSION St. Matthew's men gather each Sunday morning at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall or via Zoom 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 This relaxed group of gals meets once a month for dinner, conversation, and bible study. They haven't been able to meet yet but stay tuned, we're hoping it won't be long. New folks are always welcome to join us!

WELCA BIBLE STUDY This group meets in the Rosendal Room on the third Monday of the month. Their next gathering will be on Monday, October 19th at 7:00pm.

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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 Tawanda Murinda	Pastor	pastor@stmatthewsthompson.org
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Jamie Bischoff	Bookkeeper	stmattsbookkeeper58278@gmail.com
Paul Strande	Council President	stmattspresident@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
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