

September 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

Happy Fall!

It is definitely in the air! You can feel it in the cool morning, our children and grandchildren are heading back to school, the farmers are heading to the fields for harvest and even though it is a scary time right now we go about what we need to do. This is faith! To go about what we do knowing that God is watching over us and will take care of us.

Last week one of the devotionals from Christ in Our Home spoke on faith. Ruth Waller summed it up in her Wednesday Worship Words. Jesus cured a man from leprosy. He could see the faith the man had. The man was cured and was able to live a normal life after his encounter with Jesus. The same with the army officer who asks Jesus to cure his servant. When Jesus says He will go and cure the servant, the officer says that he is not worthy for Jesus to come to his house; but he adds, Jesus only has to say the word, and the servant will be healed. Jesus tells others that this officer has more faith than any anyone in that country. He then tells the officer that his faith has made the servant well.

God doesn't care what we look like or who we are. He doesn't care what we do for a living. He only wants us to know that we are His and He is ours. We've all had our share of ups and downs and difficult situations in our lives. But through it all we've been able to keep our heads above water not because of anything we've done on our own but because of our strong faith in Christ. God gives us strength when ours is depleted; He gives us hope in darkness when we can't see the light; He walks by our side and gives us strength to carry on. When we have faith and put our trust in God, He will be with us. He will answer our prayers and give us peace.

May each of you keep the faith and feel God's love and peace, today and always!

Blessings,

Vione

Loving Neighbors



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

Vione will be in the Office from 9am to Noon every Wednesday and Thursday and alternating Mondays and Tuesdays during the month of September.



Ongoing Ministries

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 takes turns hosting in homes for an evening of desert, coffee and Bible Study from September through May. WELCA Bible Study will resume on Thursday, September 10 at 7:00 pm in the Rosendal Room.

Faith Formation

From the Education Team



We are planning to resume Sunday School and Confirmation. We are looking at a little different flow this year, should we need to switch to or have families that would like to participate distantly.

Mark your Calendars!

Wednesday September 2 – First Communion 6:30 pm

Wednesday September 9 – Parent/Confirmand Meeting 7 pm

Sunday September 13 – Rally Sunday 9 am

* PreK – 5th grade

Wednesday September 16 – Confirmation Resumes 7 pm

* Grades 6 – 8

Sunday October 25 – 9th Grade Confirmation 10 am

First Communion – We will finish up with classes with 1st Communion being served to students and family. A message went out to all who were registered for class last spring.

Sunday School Registration – Sunday School Registration is now open! For our team to appropriately order materials, we ask that all students be pre-registered. Please register your student at the following link:

[Sunday School Registration 2020-21](#)

Confirmation Registration – Confirmation Registration is now open! We want to be able to provide the best opportunity for your confirmand, please pre-register your confirmand. Register at the following link [Confirmation Registration 2020-21](#)

WANTED | Sunday School Teachers – We are still in need of a few more teachers, subs, and music leader. If you would like to help educate our youth, please let Bre or one of the education team members know!

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



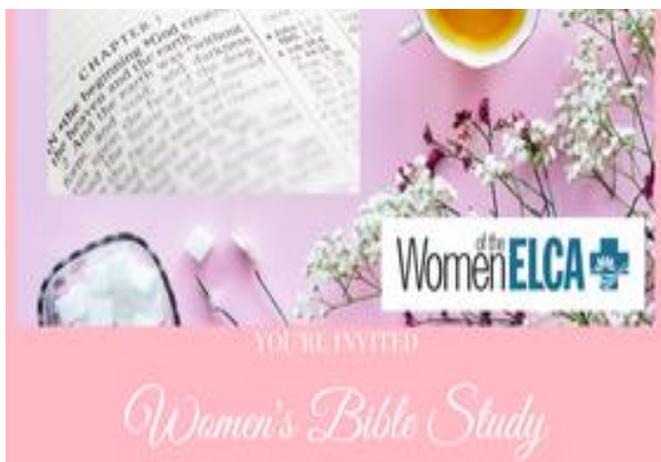
Worship

We would like to personally thank Wade Strande for all of the great work he has done to get us online! We know we couldn't have done it without him! Wade has gone off to college, but when you see him, please say thanks! THANK YOU WADE!!

The Worship Team is looking for people to join both the Worship Team and the Video Team. Contact Val if interested!

The Worship Team

Val Uhler, Cheryl Widman, Nancy Morgan



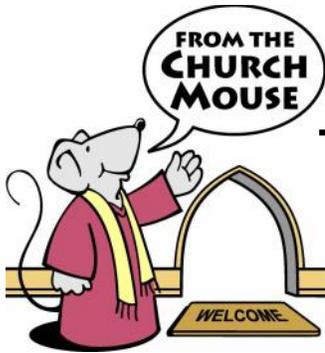
*You're warmly welcomed to Bible Study,
We would love to see you there
We want you to know the love of God
And feel His presence near.
For you are special to the Lord
And special to us, too
Your life has significance,
And there's purpose in what you do.*

Join us for Bible Study

Thursday, September 10 @ 7pm

Rosendal Room

All are welcome!!

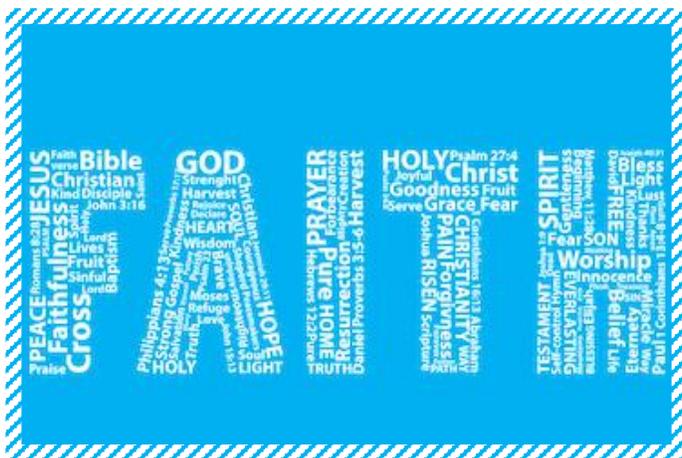


Together we can do God's Work with Our Hands!

Thank you to everyone who made this summer 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:

- Duane & Chris for all their extra work cleaning during these different times
- Duane for fixing bathroom fixtures and changing out the batteries on the alarm
- Wade Strande for tech supply throughout on-line worship
- Roy O for keeping the lawn neat and tidy
- Gary W for providing Bible studies for Men in Mission
- Sharon G, Dalene J, Val U for sorting through totes of donated fabric for quilting
- Val U for preparing communion kits



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
- 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
- 19 Jen Starcevic
- 20 Jessica Haugen, Mickey Munson
- 21 Kevin Shimek
- 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, Greta Wilson
- 26 Cole Potter
- 29 Lukas Starcevic, Dawn Stoe, Kevin Strand
- 30 Brycen Faul, Jessica Wyatt



COUNCIL MINUTES

July council minutes, July 19, 2020

Present: Paul Strande, Duane Naas, Scott Kuster, Bre Berberich, Valorie Uhlir, Interim Bishop Larry Wohlrabe, Kevin Cooper **Zoom attendance:** Angie Muhs, Brook Fretheim, Steve Hancock

Absent: Chelsea Lupein

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

Opening prayer and devotional provided us by Interim Bishop Larry Wohlrabe.

Val motioned to approve agenda adding a spot for Interim Bishop Larry Wohlrabe commenting on Pastor Twanda, Scott seconded, MPU.

Minutes from June council meeting were shared and reviewed.

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

Financial Report:

General Giving Income for June was \$8,341.87. As of June 30, the General Giving checking account balance is \$22,716.47 while the Payment Protection Program balance is \$3,054.23. Special Funds checking balance is \$28,964.88. Our line of credit balance is \$0. YTD income is \$28,327.75 of which \$21,600.00 is from the Payment Protection Program.

PPP: We have until October 2 to use it all, but it may be used by end of July.

Wedding line item was transferred July 18, 2020.

Will need to release Guatemala fund to a different category. Kevin will talk with Jamie regarding this line item.

Vione's salary will be overbudget due to Vione's extra work during this time.

Kevin motioned to approve financials, Brook seconds motion. MPU

Calendar Review:

Waiting for Sunday School pending local school plan.

August 12, 2020: All Team meeting.

Oct 25, 2020: Confirmation; No Sunday School this day.

Pastor's Report: No update

Men's Club Report: Scott – No update

WELCA: Met to discuss funeral director position.

Vitality team- Kevin- Encouraged us to contact Jim Thorson for an update. Bike-a-thon July 30th @ 6:30 PM.

Team Reports:

Exec- Paul – No meeting last month

Education-Bre – 1st communion: Review/retreat to finish curriculum. Getting ready to register for Sunday School. Will create an "at home" curriculum as well. Parents meeting to be scheduled for confirmation students and their families. Possibly no music and possibly no Christmas program. TBD.

Fellowship- Chelsea – Not present

Outreach- Brook- Fall Frenzival, no current plans due to Covid.

Food Pantry- No updated numbers for June

Property- Duane – Plan to do weed control in cracks. Mowing of lawn looks great.

Worship- Val – Working on congregation updates. Video team members: Looking for 8-10 members per month for the video team/worship. Pastors are lined up through August 16. +

Youth- Steve – Waiting to see what school does. Will be reaching out to new confirmands.

Old Business

Camera system – Is installed and functioning. Waiting for last donation from Men's Group to be paid off. Adding to envelopes & Give+ for church carpeting (Duane updated). Will be added to building improvement fund, tagged as carpet fund.

Update on PPP loan status – We have until Oct. 2, 2020 to use the funds. As of June 30, 2020, we have \$3,054.23 to use before Oct. 2.

Build a gate/fence for garbage and recycle. Also parking lot entrance patch.

New Business

Pastor Tawanda's Status – pay for July 16-17 & unused vacation days is \$2,472.50

Coverage for Sunday's – We have Sunday's covered for worship service through August 16th. We will pay Pulpit Supply to each of the Pastor's that is covering. If we need to close the doors to in-person worship, we will work with the pastors to see if they would like to do the service live or pre-record for playback at 10AM on Sunday's.

Donation to Park River Bible Camp – They have sent us a letter asking if our church would like to make a donation.

Interim Bishop Larry Wohlrabe gave an update re: Pastor Tawanda's Visa. The Synod paid for premium

processing which was denied. Immigration has requested additional information showing that he is ordained, etc, which was provided. May reach out to Sen. Hoeven regarding this process. Grand Forks (Calvary Lutheran) is helping to find coverage and assist in finding gifts for Pastor Tawanda.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer @ 12:28 PM.

Bre motioned and Scott seconded to adjourn the meeting

Next Meeting August @ 11:15 AM

Respectfully Submitted by:

Angie Muhs

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UNOFFICIAL August council minutes, August 23, 2020

Present: Paul Strande, Scott Kuster, Bre Berberich, Valorie Uhlir

Zoom attendance: Steve Hancock, Angie Muhs, Steve Hancock, Kevin Cooper, Brook Fretheim.

Absent: Chelsea Lupein, Duane Naas,

Meeting called to order at --11:07 AM by Council President Strande.

Opening prayer and devotional provided by Paul Strande

Scott motioned to approve agenda, Bre seconded, MPU.

Minutes from July council meeting were shared and reviewed.

Kevin moved to approve the minutes as presented; Steve seconded, MPU.

Financial Report:

General Giving Income for July was \$9,106.67. As of July 31st, the General Giving checking account balance is \$23,030.02 while the Payment Protection Program balance is \$176.07. Special Funds checking balance is \$29,246.70. Our line of credit balance is \$0. YTD income is \$26,111.42 of which \$21,600.00 is from the Payment Protection Program.

May need to hold separate meeting related to ongoing financial health. We are thankful for the PPE program and our congregation, as they have helped us to maintain our services and financials. Jamie continues to do a great job from a distance. Vione is doing such a great job locally. Thank you to you both!

Val motioned to approve financials, Steve seconds motion. MPU

Calendar Review:

September 02: First communion for last year’s 5th graders.

Sept. 13: Brook will contact Synod to confirm if we can/cannot have God’s Work, Our Hands event.

Oct 25, 2020: Confirmation; No Sunday School this day.

Pastor's Report: No update

Men's Club Report: Scott – No update

WELCA: Purchased and provided 14 school backpacks between WELCA and Men's Club.

Vitality team- Kevin-

Team Reports:

Exec- Paul – No meeting last month

Education-Bre – Ordered bibles. 33 enrolled for Sunday school and 22 enrolled for confirmation. Planning 1st communion Sept. 02. Student and one parent will complete lessons, make cups at 630 PM, and students can bring 4 guests for first communion at 8 PM. Pastor Jess will preside.

We will not order curriculum for Sunday school this year. Bible stories each month will be the focus. All families will have at least one storybook bible for this. No concerns with SS funding. Will purchase and start using workbooks for confirmation students. Sarah Munson will teach 8th grade confirmation this year.

Some requirements may change for Confirmation. Parents will be informed as this occurs.

Fellowship- Chelsea – Possible books study, yet hesitant due to Covid.

Outreach- Brook- Fall Frenzival, no current plans due to Covid. Brook will call Synod regarding God's Work, Our Hands.

Food Pantry- No updated numbers for July.

Property- Duane –

Worship- Val –Video team members: Looking for 8-10 members per month for the video team/worship. Google doc available to sign up for this. Video team headed by Josh and Dara Faul. Val continues to work on updating congregation directory.

Youth- Steve –Would like an outdoor social event with no food/drink.

Old Business

Update on PPP loan status – Funds are all used up. Legislation that will possibly allow no paperwork for loans under \$150,000.00

Pastor Tawanda's Status – Still waiting on immigration. Planning to meet with immigration lawyers to find out next steps. His paperwork is being processed.

Donation to Park River Bible Camp

Will donate \$500. Outreach and Fellowship will both provide \$250 to total \$500.

Paul made a motion for this donation, Val seconded. MPU

New Business

How will we handle Sunday school, confirmation and LYO at this time?

Following TPS as a lead. Goal is September 13th start date. We are prepared if we need to go online for Sunday school. Will continue to monitor the Covid situation and numbers for safety.

Following CDC guidelines.

Offering is way down. What are some things we can do to help increase the offering?

We will continue to monitor and reassess in September.

Updating of member list

Will be sending out bracelets to each family as an outreach/fellowship event.

Closing Prayer (Lord’s Prayer)

Next Meeting: Sept. 20th, 2020 at 11:15AM / after church service

Scott motioned to adjourn meeting @ 1210 PM, Bre seconded, MPU

Respectfully Submitted by:

Angie Muhs



St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church

701 Broadway Street Thompson, ND 58278 (701) 599-2081

ST. MATTHEW’S LEADERSHIP

Pastor Tawanda Murinda	Interim Pastor	pastor@stmatthewsthompson.org
Vione Jordheim	Admin. Assistant	stmattsvione@gmail.com
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
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 Uhlir	Worship Team	valuhlir@yahoo.com

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Welcome to worship

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Education Hour Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Address service requested



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

1st Communion—September 2

Parent/Confirmand Meeting—September 9

Sunday School Kick-off—September 13

Confirmation begins—September 16