

The Messenger

Dear St. Matt's Friends,

We have arrived at May. This time of year (or life) feels like a **mighty swirl of milestone events**, endings and transitions. In the next few weeks we will surround six families with love and prayer as they bring their children to be baptized. Today I put into the mail both a card for our beloved nephew for his Confirmation *and* graduate announcements bearing pictures of our beloved son. At St. Matt's, we will recognize and bless our graduates on May 19. Also on that day, we will welcome new members to our community. Such a lot of prayers raised for these people at every stage of life taking next steps!

We mark milestones as a community for a reason. We ask friends and family and the congregation to come alongside us to celebrate and support us with prayers, affirmation and accountability because **LIFE AND FAITH IS A TEAMSPORT**. We all need shepherding all along life's way, from the font to the grave. We need the Spirit of Jesus guiding us, but we also need parents, mentors, guides, coaches and teachers and wise friends to help us figure out how to trust in God and in ourselves as we navigate the next steps on life's path. These people, along with Biblical examples, are the "great cloud of witnesses that surround us" as it says in the book of Hebrews. They model how run with courage our race-- not because their lives are perfect, but rather because when they stumbled, they learned how to get back up and keep going, carrying the light of Christ with them. **We walk by faith together.**

So, then, it's really important that we adults understand how crucial our role is in helping to guide those who come after us and who are all around us. Sometimes people talk as if once their kids are done with confirmation, they are off the hook. No more need to invest in youth programming, No! We still need to **show up** in every respect. The promise we make to support one another at the time of baptism does not have an expiration date. Your presence, your participation and investment in the life of St. Matt's community are absolutely crucial to the health and wellbeing of all ages. It's also crucial for your own sense of connectedness and faith. Showing up and being invested is how we witness to our faith.

I have noticed that so much of spiritual mentoring is about simply being available to **listen deeply** to one another's stories and also to **honestly and humbly share our own stories**--what we have been through, what we have learned along the way, times when we have discovered God's grace and care. I would encourage you all to look for opportunities, both at St. Matt's and in your daily life, to make the effort to authentically connect with those around you in these ways. This is how we learn to faithfully take the next step, and the next step and the next. We are all just walking each other home.

Thank you all, for being part of my "cloud of witnesses" who show up and witness Jesus to me. I am thankful that for another year of life transitions, I will be...

Walking by faith with you, Pastor Kristen

Highlights from our Confirmation WORSHIP NOTES!



Date: 4/21 What Sunday or Wednesday of the church Year? **4th Sunday of Easter**
(Good Shepherd Sunday) Scripture: John 10



After listening to all the scriptures and sermon, write two sentences **IN YOUR WORDS** about what theme or message you heard today. How can you live out this message in your life?

Some kids wrote:

- The message I heard today was that it is hard to ask for help. We need to be able to ask because everyone needs help and it's nothing to be embarrassed about
- Today I heard that asking for help from other people is normal. We were created to be helped by other people. We almost always need guidance and health. I can live this out by knowing it's ok to ask for help.
- People need care, but so do sheep so you have to care for them and care for you. Everyone had different personalities just like sheep you just got to get to know them. If you see someone sitting by themselves at the lunch table, go sit by them even if they don't look like you, just care for them.
- The message that I heard today is just because someone is different from you or it is just an animal you should still protect them. Even if you don't care for them always keep your herd and your people protected. If someone is being harsh to another I can stop it and protect them from the harsh person.
- The message I heard was that we were not meant to be independent. Which means that we need to be better at asking for help. When Jesus is always there to help us. I can live this out by asking someone for help because It's hard to ask for help.

Let's Talk About It!

Ask someone what message **THEY** heard.

- We are sheep that needs a shepherd to keep us safe.
- God is the shepherd of all of us. We all need someone to look after us and care for us.
- Shepherds are very caring & important leaders to our flock!
- We need to be open for helping and being helped.

This week I will be praying about:



- That the Timberwolves do amazing in the playoffs!
- People fleeing their country due to war.
- Baseball games
- My family
- Everyone has good races on Thursday



Here's a question I have (and the answers Pastor Kristen gave)

Q: Why do we struggle to ask for help?

A: Because the world teaches us we are supposed to be independent.

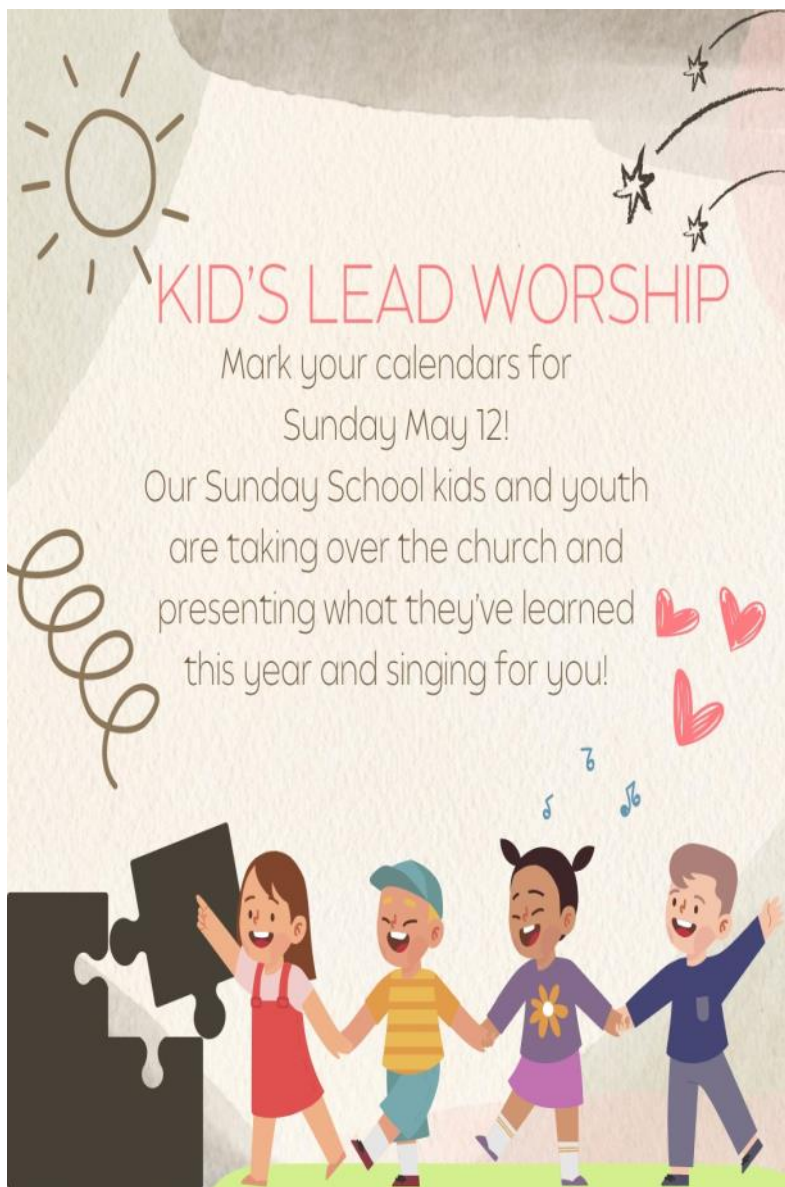
Q: What is your favorite part of church?

A: When I see someone react during a sermon—with emotion or joy or wonder and I know God has just spoken to them through the Spirit. Smile

Q: What is your favorite thing about Easter?

A: The promise that because he lives, we will too!

Faith Formation



Hard to believe we are coming to our last month of programming for the school year! We've had so much fun this year! Thank you to all our teachers, confirmation guides, Pastor, Carrie, Education Team and everyone that had a hand in making our ministry fun!

Confirmation Students—please make plans with myself if you have not yet finished your requirements!

Dates to remember:

- May 8—Last night of confirmation
- May 12—Last day of Sunday School & Kid's led Worship Service at 10:00

Things to watch for:

- * VBS Registration
- * Summer Sunday Fun
- * '24-'25 Sunday School Registration

If you or your confirmation student or older are interested in helping with VBS, please let me know! Also, if you are interested in helping with Sunday School or Confirmation for the '24-'25 school year, let me know!



KIDS get ready to take deep dive into an amazing undersea adventure where we'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God.

**Mark your calendars for
July 29-31!**



Thanks to Bridget P. for planning the games for Confirmation Fun Night on April 3! We thanked all the confirmation students for their help with the Lenten season!

Coming this Summer:



Mark your Calendars!

June 19, 5:30 pm

You are invited for a casual meal, informal worship with conversation and Holy Communion, all around the table. Plan to bring your family and friends! There's room for all. Stay tuned for more details.

Interested in becoming a member of St Matthew's Lutheran? Come to our New Member Interest Supper on Wednesday, May 8 from 5:30-6:30pm. Childcare will be provided after supper. All are welcome!

If you are interested in becoming a member but are not available on May 8, please talk to Pastor Kristen.

New Member Sunday will be on May 19.



St. Matthew's will be recognizing graduates who are connected with our congregation through membership or LYO: Ava Anderson, Reese Danner, Kate Janousek, Jordan Johnson, Zakary Kadrmas, Drew Overby, Zane Schumacher, and Layla Gemmill.

We will give thanks for them on Sunday, May 19 during worship with a reception to follow. Everyone is invited to join in the celebration of these young men and women!

Graduates (and parents), we are working on a slide show. Please send in your senior picture and pictures of your participation at

St. Matt's through the years to

stmattsadmin@midconetwork.com.

All women of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church are welcome to Women's Bible Study
Monday, May 20th at 10:00 am at the Church





**Congratulations to those baptized on April 28th 2024.
Welcome to the Lord's family!**



**Nash Wojciechowski,
son of Brandon and Delayne Wojciechowski**



**Levi Connole,
son of Christine and Tody Connole**



**Oliver Schuppert,
son of Kody and Kimberly Schuppert**

LYO News

In April, the Outreach team and LYO partnered together to send college care packages to 17 college-aged members of our community. The LYO participants wrote on notes and assembled the packages when they met on April 10th. We hope these packages bring some cheer to the recipients!

Future LYO date is May 8th. We will also plan to get together a time or two over the summer. All students in grades 9-12 are welcome to attend.



Fellowship News

Thank you to everyone who attended the fun Puzzle Palooza on April 21st!

Congratulations to our Winners!



Alleluia Offering

This Easter season, March 31 - May 12, as a way of giving thanks and praise to God, we will receive a special Alleluia Offering. An Alleluia Offering is an offering given in addition to our usual Sunday offering as a way of reflecting our joy in the new life given to us in Jesus' resurrection. Give an additional offering this Easter season! Perhaps you will give again your Sunday or monthly offering, or some other amount that is reflective of you and your family. Whatever you choose will be an Alleluia of thanks!

HOW TO GIVE AN ALLELUIA!

- Use QR code to give your Alleluia online through Vanco.
- Drop an extra offering in the plate or mail to the church. Be sure to memo it as Alleluia Offering!



May



- Justin & Amy Bergeron Family
- Roger & Sharon Gustafson
- Roy & Sandy Olson
- Linda Schumacher
- Chuck & Kara Welke Family
- Jen Aasen Family
- Jon & Junell Hjelmstad
- David & Kim Lagge Family
- Jason & Kaylee Breidenbach Family

Worship Assistants Needed!



We need volunteers who are willing to help during worship services. There is something for everyone to assist with!

Thank you to everyone for your helping hands. We apologize if we missed anyone, know that you are all appreciated!

- Gary Welsh for making our Good Friday Rugged Cross
- Shannon Johnson and the fellowship team for hosting Puzzle Palooza
- Sunday School teachers, confirmation small guide leaders and LYO leaders for being faith mentors to our kids
- Sue Simon for continuing to help with worship each week



The Food Pantry is open during **May on Tuesday May 14th from 11am-1pm and Tuesday, May 28th from 6pm-8pm.**

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

Happy Birthday in May!



- 2 Alivia Hancock, Jon Hjelmstad
- 4 Grayson Bakke, Rae Ann Burger, Ella Herrig, Weston Wilson
- 5 Jordyn Bohlman, Brandon LaRoque, Josh Marcelin
- 6 Paisley Albin, Bob Foote
- 8 Melissa Berger, Lincoln Staveteig
- 10 Brittany Muson
- 11 Kate Janousek, Zach Peterson, Maverick Robinson
- 12 Lindsay George, Alexandra Johnson, Shannon Johnson
- 14 Calen Broyles
- 15 Jen Aasen, Nate Berberich, Travis Johnson
- 16 Marjean Greene
- 17 Laura Benoit, Mak Mikelson
- 18 Cash Danner, Carson Rood
- 19 Sara Berg
- 22 Dex Avdem, John Berthold, Olive Dobmeier
- 23 Dylan Anderson
- 24 Vione Jordheim, Christine Sivertson, Kory Sondreal, Andy Wilson
- 25 Lyla Vaagene
- 26 Travis Fretheim, Kodey Schuppert, Brandon Wojciechowski
- 27 Sean Burger, Bruce Loyland
- 29 Jesse Kadrmas
- 30 Terrie Halvorson
- 31 Christina Connole, John Schumacher

MEN IN MISSION St. Matthew's men gather on Sunday mornings at 9am 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.

COUNCIL MINUTES

A Note from your Church Council:

Soon spring will turn to summer, and this means spending more time in the light. How glorious the light is. During this time of seasonal transition, I am reminded how hard it is to be in the dark. The dark makes it hard to see. The dark makes it hard to know where to walk. God's light lights our path now and forever.

There are many references in the Bible regarding light. 1 John 1:5 states, "God is the light; in him is no darkness at all." This verse assures us of two things: we can see clearly that every perfect gift comes from God because He is light, and God never changes.

And as believers, we also are light. Matthew 5:14-16 says, "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

As you continue building a closer relationship with God, don't keep your light hidden. Think of ways to be of service and let your light shine!

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	February	March
	2024	2024
General Giving Income - YTD	\$20,789	\$45,162
General Giving Income - Month	\$9,929	\$24,372
Net Income - YTD	(\$7,081)	\$5,025
General Giving Checking Account	\$21,285	\$33,649
Special Giving Checking Account	\$49,299	\$50,835
Line of Credit	\$0	\$0

Updates

Council Retreat is set

On June 9, the Council will be taking part in a 3-hour retreat to develop mission, vision, core values and our strongest missional tugs. All this work is designed to ensure we are leading the congregation in its mission, staying on top of financial and property matters and following the constitution.

COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Meetings this summer

During our meeting last month, we decided to move our Council meetings to Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm for the months of June-August. This change will allow us more flexibility and time with our families on the weekends.

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, April 14 following worship. Approved meeting minutes will be made available upon request.

Our Call Process is on hold until fall

With a feeling of immense joy, I write to inform you that on Sunday, April 14 the Church Council unanimously voted to extend Pastor Kristen's contract with us. Her vision and leadership has helped us become a stronger, more unified congregation fully committed to doing God's work. We are incredibly blessed to have her agree to serving as our Interim Pastor through May 31, 2025. This announcement may come as a surprise as the Council announced just last month that our Call Committee was being formed.

Extending our time together is good for Pastor Kristen and for St. Matthew's. There is mutual respect and affection here. This decision brings stability for us all and removes the need to rush things. We have the full support of Bishop Tessa and Pastor Brad at the Synod level. And most importantly we feel God is at work in all of this and we are following the plan he currently has for us.

Here are our next steps:

- The Executive Team has begun work on Pastor's new contract which will go into effect June 1.
- Our Call Process is on hold until August and our intent is to submit our Call Paperwork to the Synod Office in January 2025.
- The members of the Call Committee have been informed of these changes and they have been invited to remain in their roles. However, we know this new timeline may not work for them, so we have asked them to discern and let us know how they wish to proceed by May 1.
- The members of the Call Committee will be announced in May, and they will be installed and receive their Orientation from Pastor Brad in August.

We ask you to pray for the Council, St. Matthew's Lutheran Community, and Pastor Kristen as we faithfully move forward listening to God's call. Trusting in his plan, we feel blessed to have the time and space needed to walk this journey together.

If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached via email at carrie.herrig@outlook.com or by phone at 701-793-8948.

I encourage you to stay connected to what is happening at St. Matthew's via our Facebook and Instagram pages, the church website, and of course through announcements made during Sunday service.

It is truly a blessing to be in fellowship and service with all of you. Thank you for taking the time to read this information.

Respectfully submitted on the behalf of the Church Council by Carrie Herrig, Council President

May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7pm Confirmation	2	3	4
5 9am Men in Mission 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 6pm BIO Girls	6 2pm Dwelling In the word 7pm Quilting	7 9am Quilting	8 5:30pm New Member Interest Supper 6:30pm LYO 7pm Confirmation (Last Night)	9	10	11
12 9am Men in Mission 9am Sunday School 10am Worship-Sunday School Sings 6pm BIO Girls	13 2pm Dwelling In the word 7pm Quilting	14 9am Quilting 11am Food Pantry	15 5:30pm Confirmaiton Guide Huddle	16 Newsletter Deadline	17	18
19 9am Men in Mission 10am Worship-Senior Recognition, New Member 6pm BIO Girls	20 10am Womens Bible Study 2pm Dwelling In the word 7pm Quilting	21 9am Quilting	22	23	24	25
26 9am Men in Mission 10am Worship	27 Memorial Day Church Office Closed 2pm: No Dwelling In the word	28 9am Quilting 6pm Food Pantry	29	30	31	

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 stmattspastor@midconetwork.com

Administrative Assistant: stmattsadmin@midconetwork.com

Bookkeeper: John Schumacher stmattsbookkeeper58275@gmail.com

Council President: Carrie Herrig carrie.herrig@outlook.com

Council Vice President: Unfilled. Interested? Please talk with a council member!

Council Secretary: Claire Herland cherland@gra.midco.net

Council Treasurer: Kristie Adams kmadams4@rocketmail.com

Outreach Team Lead: Beth Kurz bkurz@undeerc.org

Fellowship Team Lead: Shannon Johnson shannonraye@hotmail.com

Properties Team Lead: Dan Herrig dan@sandsteelbc.com

Education Team Lead: Bre Berberich breberberich@gmail.com

Youth Team Lead: Dara Faul darafaul@gmail.com

Worship Team Lead: Mary Mitchell