

ST. MATTHEW

December
2022

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE ACTS...of God's People



12/24/22
Christmas Eve
Worship - 5:00 pm

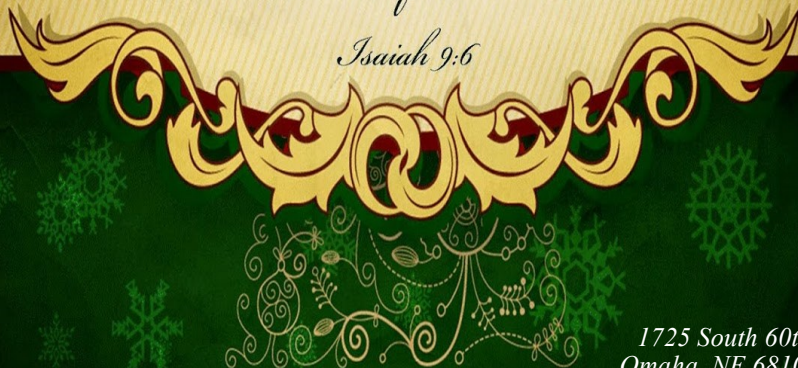
12/25/22
Christmas Day
Worship - 9:30 am



Jesus

*And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6



1725 South 60th Street
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REFLECTIONS

~ by Pastor Glen ~

*“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven ...”
Ecclesiastes 3:1*

In other words, life is a matter of knowing what time it is.

As we come into the season of Advent, that is always the first question. The rest of the world has already started Christmas – what are we doing? What is this season for? How do we make the most of this precious time that we have been given?

Advent is, first of all, a time of preparation. Especially given the way that the celebration of Christmas has evolved in our culture, this time of preparation is vital. There is just so much to do, and it seems there is hardly enough time to get it all done. There are cookies to bake and parties to organize and decorations to put up and meals to plan and gifts to purchase and cards to send and on and on and on. Sometimes the weight of those preparations threatens the enjoyment of the holiday to come, which is not good.

One would hope that the preparations would carry a joy of their own, that they would create a sense of anticipation and expectation that would fully set the stage for this day of great joy. Christmas is not a test we have to pass. It is an opportunity, a moment that has been given us to be renewed in faith and hope. Like an athlete training for a big game, we prepare for the coming of the child the Bethlehem with gratitude and excitement.

We are blessed to even be invited to this birthday party.

Advent is also a time of waiting, of patience. We are not good at waiting - which is probably why we fill these days with so much busy activity. We live in a world that is driven by outcomes, a world that does not believe it can be happy without reward and success. We are consumed by the fear of what lies ahead, beyond our control.

But patience is the great gift of faith. Learning to wait, learning to be present right where we are, accepting that this moment is enough, is the great secret to happiness and health. We cannot confess our trust in God without living believing that he will, in fact, deliver on the promise of the coming Savior.

And now we prepare. And we wait for the realization of that coming.

Advent is a passage, a pilgrimage, a journey toward and for something amazing. Our preparations are not odious chores, they are the actualization of what we wait for. Waiting is not a punishment; it is an opportunity to make the most of the moment to come even before we herald its arrival. We are not merely counting down - we are counting on, counting on this gift that God is about to birth among us.

Something great is about to happen in the world. This is the time to do the work of preparation, to actively engage together and be ready in heart and soul. For the gift of the future that is coming upon us. This is the time to wait well - with patience and hope and good cheer in the assurance of God's promise.

The day of great blessing is nigh. Let us prepare for the coming of our King!

Advent began on November 27th;
the light beckons us forward.

- Advent Vespers - Wednesdays at 6:30 pm; Coffee and Fellowship following (*bring pantry items*)
- Advent Devotions - 8:00 am Daily Online on the Facebook page or church website: www.smlutheran.com



Order your
Christmas Poinsettia
today! Forms are in the
Church Office.
Orders must be
made in advance by
December 12th.

Led by a Star...

Christmas Worship
at St. Matthew:

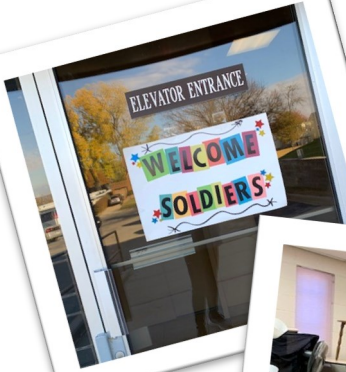
**Christmas Eve Festival Worship with
Holy Communion**
Saturday,
December 24th
5:00 pm

**Christmas Morning Worship
and Carol Sing**
Sunday,
December 25th
9:30 am



4th Annual Hike for Hunger

Preparations were made, and we warmly welcomed the Nebraska U.S. Army National Guard.



Soldiers checked in and readied for their trek, while the many donated pots of chili were heated up for their return!



Mission Complete!

A Huge Success for our Pantry!

~ by Sue Ties

On October 28th, twenty-two soldiers hiked the 12-mile-hike from Aksarben Village to Fort Street and back carrying 30 pounds of food in their backpacks! They had a beautiful day to hike, and some soldiers even jogged part of the journey!

We send a *HUGE* thank you to the men and women of the Nebraska U.S. Army National Guard and all the volunteers who participated in our **4th Annual Hike for Hunger**. I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to Sgt. Neil Wesley, SFC, U.S. Army National Guard, for coordinating this hike with me, and to the following units who participated in the hike: 2-134th Infantry BN (ABN); 126th Chemical BN; 128th Engineer BN; CERFP; R&R (North Team) and the 267th Maintenance Company.

At the end of the day, we counted over 800 items to be put on our shelves, and donated a large amount of food items to Project Hope! Without their continued generosity our shelves would not be so full! Sgt. Wesley and I are both excited to continue this event (and are already making plans for 2023)!

A *HUGE* thank you goes out to all the volunteers who helped make the **4th Annual Hike for Hunger** a success:

- Thank you to our seven volunteer families who made chilies: **Jan Kokorda, Chris Chubb, Charlotte Jensen and daughter Kari, Jen Schell, Terry & Carol Sramek, and Kent Ties**. All seven chilies were different and the soldiers loved them! Afterwards, we filled containers with the leftover chili and froze them so that we can share it with our guests who come to the pantry.
- Thank you **Hannah McCabe** for your contribution of oyster crackers.
- Thank you to our eight volunteers who helped sort, date and restock shelves: **Chris Chubb, Terry & Carol Sramek, Val Zentner-Cramer, Scott Albright, Teri Lisko, and Kent & Sue Ties**.
- Thank you to the three ladies who helped serve the chili and hot dogs: **Charlotte Jensen, Mary Peters and Hannah McCabe**.

Believe me, without the help of all these wonderful servants, the event would not have gone so smoothly! I hope that next year we can count on even more people to help!

I would also like to thank **Thrivent** for accepting my Action Plan application and awarding us \$250 to help with the costs associated with making the event a success.

Please join me in thanking all those who participated, and especially our U.S. Army National Guard men and women who unselfishly serve our community and our country.

December 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Nov 27	28	29	30
4	5	6	7
9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:45am Festival Choir Practice (Sanctuary)	8:00am On-Line Devotion with Pastor Glen 9:00am Tanzania Treasures (Classroom 4 & 5)	8:00am On-Line Devotion with Pastor Glen 9:00am Sewing for Babies (Art Room)	8:00am On-Line Devotion with Pastor Glen 6:00pm JuBELL Practice (Be 6:30pm VESPE 6:50pm Coffee
11	12	13	14
9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:45am Festival Choir Practice (Sanctuary)	8:00am On-Line Devotion with Pastor Glen 9:00am Tanzania Treasures (Classroom 4 & 5) 6:00pm Worship Ministry Team (Zoom Meeting)	8:00am On-Line Devotion with Pastor Glen	8:00am On-Line Devotion with Pastor Glen 6:00pm JuBELL Practice (Be 6:30pm VESPE 6:50pm Coffee
18	19	20	21
9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:45am Festival Choir Practice (Sanctuary)	8:00am On-Line Devotion with Pastor Glen 9:00am Tanzania Treasures (Classroom 4 & 5) 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	8:00am On-Line Devotion with Pastor Glen 9:00am Sewing for Babies (Art Room)	8:00am On-Line Devotion with Pastor Glen 6:00pm JuBELL Practice (Be 6:30pm VESPE 6:50pm Coffee
25	26	27	28
Christmas Day (United States) 9:30am CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP (Coffee & Fellowship) 10:45am Festival Choir Practice (Sanctuary)	Christmas Holiday (Observed) (United States)	1:00pm Phoebe Circle	6:00pm JuBELL Practice (Be

December 2022							January 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
							29	30	31				

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p>Dec 1</p> <p>8:00am On-Line Devotion with Pastor Glen</p> <p>1:30pm Coffee & Devotion with Pastor Glen</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:00am On-Line Devotion with Pastor Glen</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>On-Line Devotion with Pastor Glen</p> <p>Lutheran Bell Choir (All Choir Room)</p> <p>WELCA with Holden & Fellowship</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:00am On-Line Devotion with Pastor Glen</p> <p>5:00pm Jochebed Circle (Lounge - Set-up)</p> <p>6:00pm WELCA DEC. EVENT</p> <p>8:00pm Jochebed Circle</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:00am On-Line Devotion with Pastor Glen</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00am Jochebed Circle (Lounge)</p>
<p>On-Line Devotion with Pastor Glen</p> <p>Lutheran Bell Choir (All Choir Room)</p> <p>WELCA with Holden & Fellowship</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:00am On-Line Devotion with Pastor Glen</p> <p>1:30pm Coffee & Devotion with Pastor Glen</p> <p>6:30pm Aksarben Elmwood Neighborhood Association</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:00am On-Line Devotion with Pastor Glen</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:00am Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry (Fellowship Hall, Lower Level classrooms)</p>
<p>On-Line Devotion with Pastor Glen</p> <p>Lutheran Bell Choir (All Choir Room)</p> <p>WELCA with Holden & Fellowship</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8:00am On-Line Devotion with Pastor Glen</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:00am On-Line Devotion with Pastor Glen</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:00am On-Line Devotion with Pastor Glen</p> <p>9:30am Deborah Circle</p> <p>5:00pm ***CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP***</p>
<p>Lutheran Bell Choir (All Choir Room)</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>New Year's Eve (United States)</p>

ADVENT AT ST. MATTHEW

Daily - 8:00 am, Online Devotion with Pastor Glen - Join Pastor Glen every morning through the season of Advent for a brief time of Word and Prayer.

The theme this year is ***Fling Wide the Door***, as we open our hearts, hands and world to the coming of the Savior. The daily Advent devotion will be LIVE on Facebook and the church website (www.smlutheran.com) at 8:00 am.

Wed - 6:30 pm, VESPERS with Holden Evening Prayer During this special time of year it is vital to our spirit that we take a break from the business to bask in the peace and the calm of the season. Join us for vespers every Wednesday evening as we share the beautiful and familiar music of Holden evening prayer. Coffee & Devotion follows, and please bring any pantry donations collected for this week's Advent Activity.

ST. MATTHEWS FINANCIAL REPORT

NOVEMBER 2022

Beginning Balance:	\$ 17,605.86
Receipts:	\$ 13,845.73
Hickory House Sale:	\$240,000.00
Payments:	\$ 9,178.95
Transfers:	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance:	\$267,272.65

Benevolence Offerings

Receipts: \$1,334.00

Dispersed: \$1,300.00

Hunger Offerings

Receipts: \$ 40.00

Dispersed: \$ 50.00

Reserve your Christmas Poinsettia Today!

Add beauty to our Christmas Worship Service by ordering a Poinsettia Plant for placement in the Sanctuary on Christmas Day. Place your order by December 12th: Cost is ~~\$11.70~~ each, and you can choose from Red, White or Pink. Please complete an order form, include your payment, and place in the offering plate (or turn into the church office) by Monday, December 12th. (Your purchased plant(s) will be returned to you following the Christmas service on Christmas Day.)



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

WELCA December event
hosted by Jochebed Circle

“The Legend of the Candy Cane”

Thursday, December 8, 2022

6:00-8:00 pm

Upstairs Lounge

Bring an appetizer or dessert.

Please bring a gift card of any type/any dollar amount for the Yeoman Family.



LUTHERAN WOMEN OF OMAHA

Tuesday

December 13, 2022

12:00 noon

**Place: Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
61st and Western**

Cost: \$7.00

Program: “A Ring of Flutes”
(they play for the love of it)

FREE WILL Project Hope
OFFERING: Monetary

*Reservations to Mardelle Gocek—402-292-1328
by Sunday, December 11, 2022*

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Readings are e-mailed weekly on Mondays (contact the church office if you do not receive them), and if you are unable to make your scheduled service, please attempt to find a substitute and notify the church office of your unavailability and replacement. Thank you for your faithful service!

DECEMBER 2022

Date/ Time	Lector	Communion Assistant	Ushers	Camera Tech	Altar Guild
Dec. 4 9:30 am	Michael Waits	Nate Houfek Lorie Thomas	Dennis and Margie Magnuson	Derek Copenhaver	Charlotte Jensen Lucy Younie
Dec. 11 9:30 am	Lorie Thomas	Chris Chubb	Michael Lisko	Derek Copenhaver	Charlotte Jensen Lucy Younie
Dec. 18 9:30 am	Nate Houfek	Susan Hollenbeck	Dave Sherwin Rochelle Foy	Derek Copenhaver	Charlotte Jensen Lucy Younie
Dec. 24 5:00 pm	TBD	TBD	TBD	Derek Copenhaver	Charlotte Jensen Lucy Younie
Dec. 25 9:30 am	Pastor Glen	No Communion	TBD	Derek Copenhaver	Charlotte Jensen Lucy Younie

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor ~ Glen Thomas
Office Administrator ~ Lena Johnson
Music Director ~ Ric Swanson
Organist ~ Kim Hansen
JuBELLation Ringers Director ~ Ginger Britt
Custodian ~ Jack Wiese

CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION

OFFICE HOURS ~ Monday through Friday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Please call before coming to make sure we are available to assist you as needed. If no one is available, leave a message and we will call you back as soon as possible.

CALENDAR ~ All events, activities or meetings planned to be held at St. Matthew need to be placed on the church calendar. To schedule an event, activity or meeting, please call the church office and speak to Lena Johnson, our Office Administrator. She will be happy to assist you!

WEEKLY BULLETIN ~ All information for announcements need to be in the church office by Wednesday at noon.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ~ All information for the monthly newsletter (“The Acts”) is due in the church office on the 20th of each month.

PAPER RECYCLING ~ We recycle church bulletins and other printed items once no longer needed. You may leave your Sunday bulletin in the box on the table in the narthex when the service is over.

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“Empowered by God as committed disciples, we boldly care for and serve our congregation, our community and our world.”

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

This newsletter is now available on our church website and is emailed to our members and friends. To help decrease the cost of printing and postage, please notify the church office of your current email address. Thank you!



~CONTACT INFORMATION~

Office (402) 556-7030
Email: office@smlutheran.com
Web Site: www.smlutheran.com

~WORSHIP SCHEDULE~

Sunday @ 9:30 a.m.
Holy Communion Every Week

~SUNDAY COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP~

10:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall