



St. Matthew  
Evangelical Lutheran Church

# THE ACTS...of God's People

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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- ✪ Annual Meeting

~January 2022~

*Sharing worship together again is important to building up our community and fellowship.*

We will also do our best to use safe practices as we wait for the CoVid virus pandemic to pass.

Persons who are vaccinated may attend worship without masks or restrictions. You are also welcome to continue to follow the CDC recommendations of wearing masks for indoor gatherings.

If you have not been vaccinated, you must wear a mask and practice appropriate social distancing for worship.

We are now sharing the holy communion in a continuous manner for those who would like. **YOU MAY CONTINUE TO TAKE THE COMMUNION IN THE PEW IF YOU PREFER.** If you are unable to come forward, you must commune in your pew (Pastor will not be able to come to you).

There will be coffee fellowship following worship in the upstairs lounge on Sundays. Please sign up to share a turn hosting the coffee hour.

Faith Formation classes for young children are available via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 10:45 AM.

As we return to in-person indoor routines, it is important that you return to your previous services as ushers, readers and communion assistants. Because we will continue to livestream worship services on Facebook and the church website, we are always in need of technical help as well.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Glen or any Church Council member.

God bless, and we look forward to seeing you in Church on Sunday!

## ∞ Church Staff

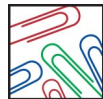
Pastor ~ Glen Thomas  
Office Manager ~ Deanna Burkins  
Custodian ~ Jack Wiese  
Music Director ~ Ric Swanson  
Organist ~ Kim Hansen  
JuBELLation Ringers Director ~ Ginger Britt

## ∞ Church Council

Glen Thomas ~ Pastor  
Brent Thomsen ~ President  
Bill Stott ~ Vice President  
Linda Hill ~ Secretary, Worship &  
Music  
Sue Ties ~ Treasurer & Staff Support

Brett Fuller ~ Social Media  
Dave Sherwin ~ Community Care  
John Hollenbeck ~ Property  
Margie Magnuson ~ Financial  
Secretary  
Luke Compton ~ Faith Formation

## ∞ Church Office Information



**OFFICE HOURS** ~ Monday through Friday 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. Occasionally staff will not be in the office during these times; therefore, 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 call the church office and speak with Deanna.

**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 collect all office related paper items, catalogs, and books for recycling. Cardboard products are not included in this recycling program. The recycling waste containers are located in the secretary’s office.

## Pastor Glen

*They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus. Acts 1:14*

Thom Ranier, author of *The Post Quarantine Church*, points to this verse to remind us of something we all already know: the importance of prayer in the life of faith. A bit too on the nose, perhaps, but in this moment in time and history, more important than ever.

There is much speculation these days about what is happening in the world. We are living in rapidly changing times, perhaps historically changing times, and it's not perfect clear right now what the path forward will be like or what we should be doing about it. We have two things going for us: we know where all of this is leading, and we have a great gift to help us in the meantime.

Prayer.

In the first days of the Christian community, as the disciples still wondered at the empty tomb and what it meant, they turned it to the one thing they knew for sure. The God who answers prayer. For us, in these uncertain times, that's a really good place to turn as well. We can learn from the disciples, we can learn from our forbearers, we can learn from Luther and from the catechism, how and when to pray. As we turn into 2022, let us rededicate ourselves to this most important gift of God.

Ranier reminds us of four things:

**1. The disciples met together for prayer.** Prayer wasn't simply an individual spiritualistic exercise, but the shared work of the entire community. While it is difficult (even dangerous) for us to gather together publicly right now in the midst of the ongoing pandemic, we must be creative in finding ways to share together the experience of prayer. We must not neglect the importance of community in our faith practice. And surely one of our prayers will always be that God will bring an end to the pandemic so that we can be safely together again.

**2. The disciples prayed frequently.** We must learn, each of us, to have prayer become more than a once-a-week-experience that happens on Sunday morning. We need to find ways to grow our daily prayer habits. We need tools and mutual encouragement to make this happen. For many of us this may become something brand new. For all of us this will be something life changing.

**3. The disciples prayed constantly.** Prayer is more than a religious activity, it is a posture of life, a spirituality that invades every moment of our day. A regular habit of daily devotion is a wonderful and important thing, but its ultimate purpose is to change the way we see and feel about everything we do and about who we are. We are called to place the entirety of our existence into God's hands. Developing a habit of prayer is the beginning of developing a prayerful life.

**4. The disciples prayed with great devotion.** Our saving grace in every trying time is the faith we have in the promise of God. It is not enough to know that we can depend on him, it is necessary for us to live out that faith and trust in every moment. Developing the spiritual tool of prayer both comes from and contributes to a closer relationship with God, which is the entire purpose of faith after all. A life centered on the Word of God and deeply engaged in prayer is a life filled with hope and joy. It is the life we need right now.

Beginning in January we will turn to the topic of prayer at every opportunity. We will found our conversations on the Lord's Prayer, and use Jesus teachings to help us grow in spirit and in faith. We will return to Luther's words in the small catechism about prayer. And in doing so, we will find the strength, the patience, the love, and the hope we need on this journey to wherever we are going.

We will get closer to God, and we will see his Kingdom unfold among us.

*~Pastor Glen*

# Calendar of Events @ St. Matthew



**SATURDAY, JANUARY 1**



**~SUNDAY, JANUARY 2~**

**9:30 AM WORSHIP LIVESTREAM  
W/IN-PERSON WORSHIP  
10:30 AM COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP**



**MONDAY, JANUARY 3**

9:30 am Tanzanian Treasures

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 4**

9:00 am Sewing For Babies  
6:00 pm Worship Ministry Team  
meeting

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5**

6:00 pm The Story Bible Study



**THURSDAY, JANUARY 6**

1:30 pm Coffee Hour

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 7**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 8**

9:00 am Jochebed Circle



**~SUNDAY, JANUARY 9~**

**9:30 AM WORSHIP LIVESTREAM  
W/IN-PERSON WORSHIP  
10:30 AM COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP**



**MONDAY, JANUARY 10**

9:30 am Tanzanian Treasures

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 11**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12**

6:00 pm The Story Bible Study



**THURSDAY, JANUARY 13**

1:30 pm Coffee Hour

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 14**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 15**

10:00 am Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry



**~SUNDAY, JANUARY 16~**

**9:30 AM WORSHIP LIVESTREAM  
W/IN-PERSON WORSHIP  
10:30 AM COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP**



**MONDAY, JANUARY 17**

9:00 am Tanzanian Treasures

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 18**

9:00 am Sewing For Babies  
7:00 pm Congregation Council  
meeting

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19**

6:00 pm The Story Bible Study



**THURSDAY, JANUARY 20**

1:30 pm Coffee Hour

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 21**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 22**

9:30 am Deborah Circle



**~SUNDAY, JANUARY 23~**

**9:30 AM WORSHIP LIVESTREAM  
W/IN-PERSON WORSHIP  
10:30 AM COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP**



**MONDAY, JANUARY 24**

9:30 am Tanzanian Treasures

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 25**

7:00 pm Phoebe Circle

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26**

6:00 pm The Story Bible Study



**THURSDAY, JANUARY 27**

1:30 pm Coffee Hour

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 28**

9:00 am Funtastic Fibers

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 29**



**~SUNDAY, JANUARY 30~**

**9:30 AM WORSHIP LIVESTREAM  
W/IN-PERSON WORSHIP  
10:30 AM ANNUAL MEETING**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 31**





HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

The holidays are behind us and the food pantry is proud to say that it served quite a few families for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We served 12 families on a cold and windy Saturday in December. We were able to give our guests a few extra items this month due to your generous contributions for our Thanksgiving basket program. It is always nice to be able to add a little something they weren't expecting into their bags! Thanks go out to my elves Kelli and Bill Stott, Andrew Roulliard, Brent Thomsen, and Kent Ties who participated in distributing the food.

Sadly though, as we begin a new year we need to be mindful that food insecurity in our world and community is not going away. We see new faces every month. Some come only once, some become regulars. It is truly a blessing to be able to provide comfort with a choice pantry and see the smiles on our guests' faces when their food is brought out to their car. Your continued support of this ministry allows us to do just that. It is my prayer that this will only continue throughout 2022.

When you are out and about collecting food items for your family, please keep in mind the needs of the pantry. Our current needs are:

- Paper towels
- Deodorant (both men's and women's)
- Kleenex
- Spaghetti
- Tomato sauce
- Bottled juice
- Saltine crackers
- Breakfast bars
- Canned beets
- Mustard
- Ketchup

Thanks for all your support of this ministry!

Sue





# Lutheran Women of Omaha

Tuesday, January 11th, 2022

12:00 noon

**Place:** St. Michael Lutheran Church  
13232 Blondo St.

**Cost:** \$7.00 *Lunch provided*

**Program:** “Saved to Serve”

Mary Mayfield

**Free Will Offering:** Magdalene House

RSVP by Sunday, January 9, 2022

To Mardelle Gocek 402 292 1328

# Worship Servants



Date	Time	Lector	Communion Assistant	Usher	Camera Tech	Video Tech
1/2	9:30 AM	Lorie Thomas	Chris Chubb	Curt Losee	Glen Thomas	Naomi Kirkvold
1/9	9:30 AM	Michael Waits	Lorie Thomas	Dennis and Margie Magnuson	Derek Copenhaver	Shane Waits
1/16	9:30 AM	Scott Albright	Marlys Hansen	Randy and Val Cramer	Derek Copenhaver	Kent Ties
1/23	9:30 AM	Linda Hill	Brent Thomsen	Michael Lisko	Derek Copenhaver	Andrew Rouillard
1/30	9:30 AM	Charlotte Jensen	Deanna Hansen	Nate Houfek	Derek Copenhaver	Lorie Thomas



## Don't Social Distance from Faith

Coffee Hour - Thursday, 1:30 pm in the lounge  
Online Worship - Sunday, 9:30 am (or anytime after) with in-person attendance. Link on church website [www.smlutheran.com](http://www.smlutheran.com) or on our Facebook page.

## Facebook



**Like and Share our St Matthew Facebook page!**

**You will find updates and news throughout the month,  
and find links to our remote services!**

# Financial Report



~November 2021~

## General Fund Activity

Beginning			Transfers	Ending
Balance	Receipts	Payments	In (Out)	Balance
24,679.51	15,145.70	16,869.61	0	26,339.02

## Benevolence Offerings

Receipts	Dispersed
1,227.74	1,609.88

## Hunger Offerings

Receipts	Dispersed
60.00	75.00

## A New App

Keep in touch, give and participate with our new app!

We encourage you to join our church's app, Vanco Mobile. You can download the app for free at the Apple App Store or Google Play. Once downloaded, simply open the app and search for our church name.





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



**~CONTACT INFORMATION~**

Office Phone (402) 556-7030  
Email: [office@smlutheran.com](mailto:office@smlutheran.com)  
Web Site: [www.smlutheran.com](http://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

**St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
1725 S 60th Street  
Omaha, NE 68106-2149

**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!

