

# ST. MATTHEW

## EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWS

June 2022

### THE ACTS...of God's People



## SUMMER BLOCK-BUSTERS

See next page: Pastor explores super heroes, comic books, multiverses, (aka, multiple universes) and the Path of Truth.

### The Month of June

This month brings beautiful fragrant bouquets, delicious fruits and vegetables, and an urge to get out there and have picnics, share family time, and find ways to relax and enjoy the sunshine. With our well-known June holiday celebrations to look forward to (i.e., Flag Day, Juneteenth, Father's Day, etc.) and other less-known (i.e., Say Something Nice Day [6/1], National Yo-Yo Day [6/6], and Asteroid Day [6/30]), what's not to like about June? It's a wonderful

time of year. If you set your clocks to wake early on June 14th, you can see the *Strawberry Moon* (6:52 am CST)! Along with the sun and the stars, we have so many examples of the glory of God. "*God made the two great lights; the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night and the stars, and God saw that it was good.*" It is indeed.



**Worship:** Sundays, 9:30am, 1725 S. 60<sup>th</sup> Street, Omaha, NE 68106  
**Phone:** 402-556-7030  
**Email:** [office@smlutheran.com](mailto:office@smlutheran.com)

## SAVE THE DATE

Save the date June 12th for a Congregation meeting, held after Sunday service (pg 5).

## ANNUAL PICNIC!

See "May 29th" in the *Mark Your Calendars* Section (pg 4) for more info!

## **Movies based on comic books used to be much easier to understand.**

There were good guys and bad guys and it was easy to tell them apart. There was an order to things. In the beginning, the bad guys tried to do something they shouldn't (like take over the world) and in the end the good guys stopped them. Maybe the good guys have some flaws, maybe the bad guys were greedy and cunning enough to make it look like they were going to win, but there could really only be one ending because that's how the world works. It just made sense.



Evidently now, at least according to the movies like this year's Marvel blockbuster, there is more than one universe. And how are we supposed to make sense of that?

The idea of “multiverses” was actually first suggested by ancient Greek philosophers, but took shape as a modern idea in the 1950's thanks to the writings of the prominent physicist Erwin Schrödinger who suggested that in every moment, anything that could happen actually did happen, and so multiple new “universes” were constantly being created as a result of human choices. An infinite number of universes, as limitless as the choices we make every day and just as hard to understand.

Lately the world feels just like that – a maze of incomprehensible outcomes, each worse than the other.

Except it's not like that at all.

The confusion we deal with every day, the overwhelming sense that life and the world is spiraling out of our control is an illusion, a self-created mirage that is the singular result of our lack of faith. We have forsaken the promise that there is only one truth, only one universe, only the life and light that comes from the grace of God. The rest – the corruption, violence, hatred, ruin that seems to define life – is a lie, a replay of the original lie first given voice in the Garden of Eden.

There is no life for us outside of God. There is no path for us except grace. And what we see, the chaos that seems to threaten us, is of our own creation, the result of pretending that we are in charge.

We are not.

And it's time we started living like we knew that. And believed that.

It's not about choices, at least not in the way that we think about that word. It is about determination, about clinging to hope and striving daily to walk within the boundaries of grace and love. It is about the constant work of forsaking the desires of our own will and humbling ourselves to what is "more excellent." It is about refusing to earn what has already been freely given. It is about stifling our native urge for be a me and developing the skills we need to be an us.

It's about believing in the choice already made for us.

Faith is not about navigating a multitude of possibilities for life. Faith is about knowing the God who has already made the only choice for us that matters. A life of faith, a life of that faith, is a very different life indeed.

Rudyard Kipling defined life as the ability to "meet with Triumph and Disaster and treat those two impostors just the same." Sin is the fear that the random circumstances of the world have some ultimate meaning. The stock market declines and we believe the world is going to end. Our local sports team wins a championship and we're on top of the world. War breaks out in Europe and we start hoarding canned goods. We bounce back and forth based on headlines in the nightly news, we base our lives on what scares us the most or makes our endorphins flow. We act and live as if this world was our god.

It's not.

The resurrection is not merely a reward for surviving this world – it is a Word that overrides the hold that this world has on us and frees us to move through it with grace and hope. Resurrection gives us the confidence to do the right thing when we must and endure the wrongs that come our way. Resurrection is the power of truth that overrides the prison of lies in which we live.

Follow the path of truth, and it will set you free!

# Mark Your Calendars

May 29, 2022

## LET'S CELEBRATE TOGETHER MEMORIAL DAY

The annual Memorial Day Weekend Potluck Picnic is back! We will get together on Sunday, May 29, 2022, at 5:00 pm at Camp Carol Joy Holling. Campers and non-Campers are welcome. Beverages and tablewear will be provided.

May 30, 2022

**\*\*CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED\*\***

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, July 6, 2022



## JOIN PASTOR GLEN for a SUMMER ROAD TRIP

It's one of the best things about summer – getting away from the confines of home and out on the *open road*, making a journey to new and exciting places, full of adventure and possibility.

Such is the journey of faith.

Join Pastor Glen this summer on a road trip paved with important questions of faith and life. We will be working from Daniel Erlander's "It's All About Love," as a starting point for our conversations, and we'll follow where the open road takes us from there. There is a study guide that will be available or you can download a PDF of the pamphlet on the church website.

A constant refrain for the Post-pandemic Era is that we do not know what is ahead for us and for the world. That's true. But we do not have to stumble along helplessly. We have a map for the journey in the Word of God. We travel by Grace, and we do not travel alone.

Let's talk more about that!

We will meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm, beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>. for about 6 weeks. You can join in person or online via the church Facebook page or website ([www.smlutheran.com](http://www.smlutheran.com)).

June 5, 2022

## FIRST COMMUNION

On Pentecost Sunday, June 5, 2022, we will welcome Grant and Aubrey Hayak, children of Jason and Rikki Hayak, to the fellowship of Holy Communion. May God bless these young people as they take this next important step in the journey of faith.

**June 7, 2022**

**WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM MEETING**

Scheduled Tuesday, 6/5/2022, 6pm.

**June 10, 2022**

**NEBRASKA LUTHERAN GOLF SCRAMBLE**

Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry is teeing off the warm summer months ahead with a great event you won't want to miss! Enjoy a round of golf with friends while supporting the mission of our campus ministries across Nebraska! It will be held at the Holmes Golf Course, 3701 S 70th St, Lincoln, NE 68506. 4-person teams, Pin Prizes, lunch and cart included and a HOLE-in-ONE gets you \$10,000!!! To learn more and register, go to <https://events.golfstatus.com/event/7da19cde-4260-4333-94e6-5b8b73de3b9a/details/registration-details>.



**June 12, 2022**

**SPECIAL MEETING of THE CONGREGATION**

*A Special Meeting of the congregation has been called for Sunday, June 12, 2022, immediately following the morning worship service. The purpose of the meeting will be to consider the sale of the Hickory Street rental house.*

**June 14, 2022**

**LUTHERAN WOMEN OF OMAHA**

Lutheran Women of Omaha are meeting Tuesday, June 14, 2022, 12pm, at the Shepherd of the Hills, 6201 N. 60<sup>th</sup> Street. The cost is \$3/.00; and we ask that you bring your own sack lunch (drinks & dessert will be provided). Our program topic is, "Tip Top Thrift Shop" and will be presented by Sally Wigton\* President of the Board of Directors (\*or a representative). The Free Will Offering is for the "Youth Emergency Services." Note: LWO Board meeting will be held following the general meeting. For reservations, contact: Mardelle Gocek, phone: 402-292-1328.

**June 20, 2022**

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

Scheduled Monday, 6/20/2022, 7pm.

***...NEXT MONTH***

**July 16, 2022**

**HEARTLAND PRIDE PARADE**

St. Matthew will be joining our partner *Reconciling in Christ* Omaha congregations in the 2022 Heartland PRIDE parade on Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup> in the Old Market. Let's turn out in support of our LGBTQIA + siblings. We will also be sharing a booth at the Heartland PRIDE festival at the CHI Center to share information about St. Matthew and our ministry. Please let Pastor Glen know if you will be a part of either of these events.



# June 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
May 29	30	31	Jun 1 6:00pm Road Pastor Gle (Livestream) Facebook SMLutheran
5 8:00am **OZARKS - FORMS DUE** 9:30am Sunday Worship/Confirmatio 10:30am Coffee	6 9:00am Tanzania Treasures (Classroom 4 & 5)	7 9:00am Sewing for Babies (Art Room) 6:00pm Worship Ministry Team	8 6:00pm Road Pastor Gle (Livestream) Facebook SMLutheran
12 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am *SPECIAL MEETING* 11:00am Coffee Fellowship	13 9:00am Tanzania Treasures (Classroom 4 & 5)	14 8:00am **FLAG DAY** 12:00pm Lutheran Women of Omaha (Shepherd of the Hills, 6201 N. 60th	15 6:00pm Road Pastor Gle (Livestream) Facebook SMLutheran
19 8:00am **FATHER'S DAY** 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Coffee Fellowship	20 9:00am Tanzania Treasures (Classroom 4 & 5) 10:00am Lena J - Out of Office 7:00pm Church Council	21 8:00am **SUMMER BEGINS** 9:00am Sewing for Babies (Art Room)	22 6:00pm Road Pastor Gle (Livestream) Facebook SMLutheran
26 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Coffee Fellowship	27 9:00am Tanzania Treasures (Classroom 4 & 5)	28 7:00pm Phoebe Circle	29 6:00pm Road Pastor Gle (Livestream) Facebook SMLutheran

office@smlutheran.com

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

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

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	2 1:30pm Coffee & Devotion with Pastor Glen	3	4
	9	10 8:00am Nebraska Synod; NE Lutheran Campus Ministry Golf Scramble (Lincoln, Nebraska)	11 9:00am Jochebed Circle (Lounge)
	16 1:30pm Coffee & Devotion with Pastor Glen	17 10:00am Lena J. - Out of Office	18 9:00am Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry (Fellowship Hall, Lower Level classrooms)
	23	24	25 9:30am Deborah Circle
	30	Jul 1	2

05/26/2022 12:56 PM

## WORSHIP SERVANTS

**READINGS WILL BE EMAILED** on Mondays (please contact the church office if you do not receive them). If you cannot make your scheduled service, please attempt to find a substitute, and contact the church office if you cannot. Bless you for your faithful service!

### Worship Servant Schedule June 2022

Date	Lector	Communion Assistant	Usher	Camera Tech	Altar Guild
JUNE 5, 9:30 AM	Michael Waits	Chris Chubb Lorie Thomas Shane Waits	Dennis and Margie Magnuson	Derek Copenhaver	Kim Hansen Teri Lisko
JUNE 12, 9:30 AM	Glen Thomas	Marlys Hanson	Michael Lisko Dave Sherwin	Derek Copenhaver	Kim Hansen Teri Lisko
JUNE 19, 9:30 AM	Scott Albright	Nate Houfek	Terri Yeoman Nate Houfek	Derek Copenhaver	Kim Hansen Teri Lisko
JUNE 26, 9:30 AM	Lorie Thomas	Deanna Hanse	Randy and Val Cramer	Derek Copenhaver	Kim Hansen Teri Lisko

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### ~ APRIL 2022 ~

Beginning Balance: \$ 40,646.97

Receipts: \$ 11,180.50

Payments: \$ 18,256.13

Transfers: \$ N/A

Ending Balance: \$ 33,571.34

#### Benevolence Offerings:

Receipts: \$ 1,345.00

Dispersed: \$ 1,337.40

#### Hunger Offerings:

Receipts: \$ 40.00

Dispersed: \$140.00





# St. Matthew

## Family Vacation!

### Branson, MO Autumn 2022

Consider joining fellow members of St. Matthew for a long weekend in Branson, Missouri for **Autumn in the Ozarks!** Feel free to invite a friend to join your weekend full of fun and fellowship, highlighted by attending an unforgettable performance of Jesus at the amazing Sight and Sound Theatre

Transportation, housing, tickets, and breakfasts are included in the price of the trip, and an itinerary—including set activities and time for relaxation—will be provided. Of course, your mobility or dietary special needs will also be accommodated. The total cost is dependent upon the number of people participating; it will simply be a split of the actual cost.

At this point, we are just gathering interest in the trip. If you want more information, please contact **Randy or Valorie Cramer at 402.553.2149, 402.679.8460, or MegNickRach@aol.com.**

Dates we are considering: *Please check every weekend that will fit your schedule. The dates will be decided based on your input.*

- Sept. 22-25
  - Sept. 29– Oct. 2
  - Oct. 6-9
  - I am interested. Other preferred date(s):
- 

For us to secure great housing and prime show tickets, we need to make reservations by the end of June. Please complete this form (also available in your Sunday bulletins and in the Church Office) and return it to the church office by June 5<sup>th</sup>.

All who express interest will be contacted. Thank you!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



# SEWING FOR BABIES

by Dixie Fleming

Sewing for babies meets the first and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month, and they have 20 active members. They're always looking for new volunteers or donations. *"We have been servicing about 366 families these last couple of years (pre-Covid was +600 families in Omaha). We are always looking for volunteers, materials, or services."* They serve Fremont, Council Bluffs, and Offutt, as well as 13 other venues. Please sign the yellow sheet you receive in your Sunday bulletins or stop by if you'd like to join us.



Hello everyone.

We served 15 families at our Pantry in May. Our shelves are getting a little bare and we could use some help! Our greatest needs for June are as follows:



**Toilet paper and bar soap, laundry detergent, paper towels, apple sauce, canned chili, tomato sauce, Corn muffin mix, Angel hair spaghetti or any pasta and boxed cereal.**

We are also in need of volunteers to help with pantry day. If you are available on the third Saturday of any month, please sign the yellow sheet you receive in your Sunday bulletins, and let us know when you would like to help! You can also contact Mary Peters. Thank you!

~ Sue Ties

## CHURCH STAFF

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

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church  
1725 S. 60th Street  
Omaha, Nebraska 68106-2149  
402-556-7030  
office@smlutheran.com



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

**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!*



### **~CONTACT INFORMATION~**

Office (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