



St. Matthew
Evangelical Lutheran Church

THE ACTS...of God's People

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- ✚ Ash Wednesday is March 2nd
6:30 pm Worship with Imposition
of Ashes and Holy Communion
- ✚ Lent Midweek Vespers begin March 9th.
Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm

~March 2022~

Appropriate Gathering practices during the CoVid pandemic

Sharing worship together again is important to building up our community and fellowship. As we gather, we will continue to do our best to use safe practices as we wait for the CoVid virus pandemic to pass.

As the latest surge in CoVid cases passes we are relaxing restrictions and trying to enhance the experience of fellowship and community while not losing sight of our God-given responsibilities to protect and preserve the sanctity of life. We are returning to sharing the Holy Communion in a continuous manner, although we certainly respect your choice to receive the elements in your pew. We will also return to Coffee Fellowship hour after worship.

It remains our policy that **if you have not been fully vaccinated against the CoVid virus you MUST wear a mask and practice social distancing while at public gatherings at the church.** If you are vaccinated, we do still encourage you to wear a mask as you can.

As we return to in-person indoor routines, it is important that you return to your previous serving 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

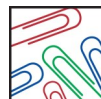
Pastor ~ Glen Thomas
Custodian ~ Jack Wiese
Music Director ~ Ric Swanson
Organist ~ Kim Hansen
JuBELLation Ringers Director ~ Ginger Britt

∞ 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
Margie Magnuson ~ Financial Secretary
Luke Compton ~ Faith Formation

∞ Church Office Information



OFFICE HOURS ~ Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 1:00 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.

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 do recycle bulletins and other printed items used at church. You may leave your Sunday bulletin in the box on the table in the narthex when the service is over.

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. Luke 9:51

A lot of stuff in the Bible happens in really unpleasant places.

Moved to an unsettled, unfamiliar land. In slavery in Egypt. Forty years in the Sinai desert. Exiled to Babylon. Under centuries a foreign oppression. In a stable in an unremarkable rural village. Cast by the Devil into the wilderness for 40 days. In the distant reaches of Galilee. In Samaria and other Gentile lands outside of Judea. On a garbage dump of a hill called Calvary.

Why is it so hard for us to deal with unpleasant places? If Jesus could handle it, why can't we?

We are creatures addicted to comfort and security. We like things the way we like things. We do not like to be in strange places or cold places or hard places. When we come to the difficult parts of our journey we want to get through them as quickly as we can. We were not made for hardship and we do not endure it well.

We think we are entitled to better. We are wrong.

Faith is not the promise that things will always be perfect. Or easy. Or even bearable sometimes. The power of grace is not to keep us from what is hard, it is the presence of God with us when things are not. Our unwillingness to do the hard things, our impulse to flee when we are challenged, is a measure of our lack of faith. We need to do better. We need to strengthen the muscles of our spiritual life so that we cannot just endure hard things but live and work and continue and even thrive in those places.

That's why we do Lent.

Lent is not about feeling bad about ourselves or sorry for ourselves or adopting a false posture of humility. Lent is about walking boldly and faithfully through the reality of this world, both that of our own

creation and that which is the necessity of our humanity. Lent is a time to make an honest acknowledgement of our plight and our neighbors as well. Lent is for honest lament, forthright confession, and rededication to our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Lent is not for the meek of heart. It is for the blessed meek who are willing to walk step by step with Jesus on the path to Calvary.

It is an inescapable truth that our unwillingness and inability to face the realities of our humanness and what we have done to our world has only made life harder and has only made the world a worse place. Avoidance is the work of the devil. He tempts Jesus with the opportunity to remake the world as he sees fit and to avoid the path that is set before him. "It doesn't have to be this bad," he offers. Jesus responds, "It's not up to us."

That is our constant temptation, to avoid suffering, to seek a better life, no matter the cost to us or to our neighbors. We yearn for power and beauty and glory and it is killing us. We need to face that impulse, and we need to change.

Hello Lent.

Lent is not about becoming better people so that we can live easier lives. Lent is about becoming better people so that we can live the lives we have better. Lent is about the transformative power of grace to aid and guide us in our journey. God is leading us to a new life, a resurrected life, an Easter life. But that life comes only as we pass along the way of the cross. The glory we seek is not our own. The life we are given is not one we will have earned or deserved. It will come only as a gift of grace, and it will come to us as we pass through this one.

We do not come into Lent seeking a different way. We come into Lent that we might better travel the way we have been given. May the grace of God guide us now as we begin the journey.

~ Pastor Glen

🌸 Calendar of Events @ St. Matthew 🌸

March 2022

TUESDAY, MARCH 1

9:00 AM - SEWING FOR BABIES
6:00 PM - WORSHIP MIINISTRY TEAM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

6:30 PM - ASH
WEDNESDAY WORSHIP



THURSDAY, MARCH 3

1:30 PM - COFFEE AND DEVOTIONS
WITH PASTOR GLEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

9:30 AM—CHURCH COUNCIL
RETREAT AT CAMP CAROL JOY
HOLLING

~SUNDAY, MARCH 6~

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

10:30 am - Coffee Fellowship

MONDAY, MARCH 7

9:00 am Tanzanian Treasures
7:00 pm - Congregational
Vitality Initiative Team

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9



6:30 PM—LENT MIDWEEK
VESPERS

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

1:30 PM - COFFEE AND DEVOTIONS
WITH PASTOR GLEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

9:00 am Jochebed Circle



~SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13~

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

10:30 am - Coffee Fellowship

MONDAY, MARCH 14

9:00 am Tanzanian Treasures

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

9:00 am—Sewing for Babies
7:00 PM CONGREGATION COUNCIL
MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16



6:30 PM LENT MIDWEEK VESPERS

THURSDAY, MARCH 17

1:30 PM - COFFEE AND DEVOTIONS
WITH PASTOR GLEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

10:00 AM LOAVES & FISHES FOOD
PANTRY

~SUNDAY, MARCH 20~

9:30 AM IN-PERSON
WORSHIP W/LIVESTREAM

10:30 am - Coffee Fellowship

MONDAY, MARCH 21

9:00 am Tanzanian Treasures

TUESDAY, MARCH 22

9:00 AM SEWING FOR BABIES

7:00 PM—PHOEBE CIRCLE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23



6:30 PM - LENT MIDWEEK VESPERS

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

1:30 PM - COFFEE AND DEVOTIONS
WITH PASTOR GLEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

9:00 AM—DEBORAH CIRCLE

SUNDAY, MARCH 27

9:30 AM IN-PERSON
WORSHIP W/LIVESTREAM

10:30 am - Coffee Fellowship

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30



6:30 PM - LENT MIDWEEK
VESPERS

THURSDAY, MARCH 31

1:30 PM - COFFEE AND DEVOTIONS
WITH PASTOR GLEN



**DAILY DEVOTIONS
WITH PASTOR GLEN
MONDAY - FRIDAY
8:00 AM
ON THE ST. MATTHEW
FACEBOOK PAGE**

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

Our February pantry was rockin and rollin! We served 17 families comprised of 38 individuals! This was by far the biggest pantry we have had in recent months. With that being said, we made a big dent in our supply! When you are out and about, here are the items we are in most need of: bottled juice, fruit snacks, apple sauce, cream of chicken soup, spaghetti or angel hair pasta, boxed potatoes, refried beans and jelly. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated! Please place them in the box in the Narthex.



Our second need at the pantry is volunteers! Even though we are still servicing our guests by having them stay in their cars and filling out a grocery list, we need help inside getting their lists filled. If you are interested in helping, please let Mary Peters know. She will need your phone number and an email address so we can contact you when the need arises. This is a time commitment of about 3-3 1/2 hours on the third Saturday of the month. There is some lifting involved and a lot of standing.

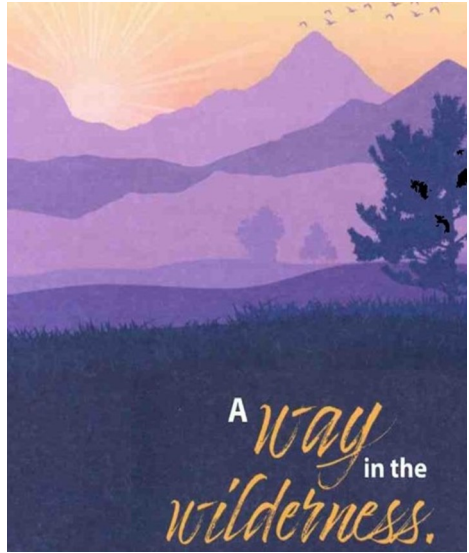
Accommodations can be arranged if necessary. You will not be volunteering every month. Mary will set up a schedule once we have a list. This may not start until May or June but keep us in thought as a way to serve our brothers and sisters in need.

Thanks again to our faithful servants Andrew and Brent, Kelli & Bill and Kent & Sue for keeping our pantry running smoothly on pantry day.

Sue

Lent 2022

The season of Lent grounds us in a time in the wilderness. In Lent, we wander with our ancestors, longing for new life in a land of promise and opportunity. We are reminded of our dependence on God and the many ways that sin separates us from one another, from God and from the future we are promised. Yet we are reminded that, even as we journey toward that promised ending, we are not alone. We cling to God’s promise: “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert” (Isaiah 43:19).



Through the Lenten season, we will reflect on the ways God’s promise sustains and challenges us and our church. We will search for signs of God at work in our world, making a way in the wilderness still.

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm for Vespers and take a few moments each week for prayer and reflection. Services will be in-person and livestream. Stay for a few minutes of fellowship following worship.

Week one: A Wandering Aramean

Week two: I Must be on my Way

Week three: Vulnerable in the Wilderness

Week four: Transformed in the Wilderness

Week five: A Way in the Wilderness

March 2022 Worship Servants



Date/time	Time	Lector	Communion Assistant	Usher
March 2	7:00 pm	Charlotte Jensen	Deanna Hansen	Nate Houfek
March 6	9:30 Am	Glen T	Chris Chubb	Curt Losee
March 13	9:30 Am	Michael W	Lorie Thomas	Dennis and Margie Magnuson
March 20	9:30 Am	Scott A	Marlys Hanson	Randy and Val Cramer
March 27	9:30 Am	Linda H	Brent Thomsen	Michael Lisko

Date/time	Time	Camera Tech	Video Tech
March 2	7:00 pm	Derek C	Lorie Thomas
March 6	9:30 Am	Derek C	Naomi K
March 13	9:30 Am	Derek C	Shane W
March 20	9:30 Am	Derek C	Lorie T
March 27	9:30 Am	Derek C	Andrew R

Readings will be emailed on Monday—please contact the church office if you do not receive them.

Communion Assistant - During the communion liturgy, after the Lord's Prayer, come to the front of the church (North side) and uncover the elements on the table. While Pastor is moving to the front of the aisle, take the lid off of the wine tray and the paten. Hand the wafers to Pastor for distribution.

Ushers - During communion, please usher the congregants forward, beginning with the South side, up the center aisle and down the north side aisle.

If you cannot make your scheduled service, please attempt to find a substitute or contact the church office if you cannot.

Bless you for your faithful service!

Financial Report



~January 2022~

General Fund Activity

Beginning				Transfers	Ending
Balance	Receipts	Payments	In (Out)		Balance
\$ 36,483.57	\$ 14,015.16	\$ 15,349.74	0.00		\$ 35,148.99

Benevolence Offerings

Hunger Offerings

Receipts	Dispersed	Receipts	Dispersed
\$ 1,537.62	\$ 0.00	69.38	0.00

Military Retirees & Spouses Healthcare (M.R.S. Healthcare)

Senior Health Awareness Fair

*Open to Senior Military Members, their spouses and Surviving Spouses
in Bellevue, LaVista and Papillion*

March 3, 2022 - 2:00 pm

Hitchcock Humanities Center

Bellevue University

1040 Bruin Blvd, Bellevue NE 68005

Don't Social Distance from Faith

Coffee Hour - Thursday, 1:30 pm (depending on the weather!)

Online Worship - Sunday, 9:30 am (or anytime after) with in-person attendance. Watch on church website 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!**



"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
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

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!

