



St. Matthew
Evangelical Lutheran Church

THE ACTS...of God's People

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- ✪ Wednesday Night Service- 11/24

~November 2021~

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 9:00 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 **third Monday of each month.** Specific date is listed in the weekly bulletins and emails.

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

In the summer of 1991 Lorie and I had a unique (to us) experience. We sublet an apartment for a few months while we were in-between times and places of our lives.

It was an interesting experience.

It was, first of all, truly helpful. We were moving between seminary, internship, CPE, a job in Lincoln and a (hoped for) eventual permanent residence there, so our options were pretty limited at the time. Through a friend-of-a-friend type of connection, we found this small but fun little apartment near downtown which served our needs quite well.

Then, the last week we were there, the bathroom in the apartment upstairs flooded and the ceiling in the apartment we were subletting caved in. Embarrassing!

Taking care of something that doesn't belong to you is hard. Taking care of the things that do belong to you is hard enough! One would hope that ownership, the intersection of desire and acquisition, would evoke a sense of joy and care that guided us to higher levels of responsibility and dedication. It doesn't always work that way.

In this disposable culture we have developed the nasty habit of using and losing, of taking what we want and then dumping it when it doesn't satisfy us anymore. Our landfills brim with the refuse of our existence. Modern products come with planned obsolescence, tech gadgets are constantly updated so that we must keep buying the new and discarding the old.

That mindset comes to dominate the culture. People are discardable, old friendships are tossed away, marriages are too easily broken, commitments to institutions are about as permanent as any brand loyalty. And the fringes of society are filled with "disposable" people – the poor and few that we cannot integrate and are simply ignored.

That we are not good stewards of the gifts we have is bad. That we

are bad stewards of people is the brokenness that is destroying our world. That we believe the world is ours to do with as we choose is sin.

True stewardship requires us to know that we are called to take care of what is not ours. As Luther taught in the catechism, “I believe that God has created me and all that exists; that he has given me and still sustains my body and soul, all my limbs and senses, my reason and all the faculties of my mind, together with food and clothing, house and home, family and property; that he provides me daily and abundantly with all the necessities of life ...” (Apostle’s Creed, Article III). We are not owners, we are caretakers, which sets a higher standard for stewardship. What does it mean for us to take care of that which belongs to God?

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus tells the parable of a Master who left his estate in the hands of his servants, two of whom tended their charges and saw their investments grow, and one who in fear hid his portion and wasted the opportunity. But we should not be so focused on the relative success or failure of three servants that we miss the foundation truth that drives the parable: whatever they have, and whatever they do with it, it all comes from and returns to God. That is the very definition of stewardship – we are caretakers of what is not ours.

Our lives are defined by possession, whether it be our material goods, or our accomplishments, or even the people in our lives. Re-defining ourselves as stewards frees us from the imprisoning power of possession and opens up the path to a life of discipleship, of service, of purpose. Our casual disregard for the world around us is a symptom of despair. We have lost sight of eternity so we devalue all things in the present. Even all people.

Life in the hope of resurrection sees the hand of the creator in everything and everyone around us, and so we take exceptional care of what has been placed in our hands.

God has given us this gift and this mission that we call St. Matthew. Shall we be found to be good and faithful stewards?

~ *Pastor Glen*



November is stewardship season!

It is time to prayerfully consider how you will support God's mission at St. Matthew by sharing in the financial support of this ministry.

Your 2022 pledge cards will be mailed out in the middle of the month.

November 21st is Consecration Sunday.

God has given us the gift of grace, a place to gather and be community, to find comfort and help in his Word and to be guided and kept on the journey of life. We have an important gift to share with our neighbors as well. Let us be good stewards of this sacred treasure!





Lutheran Women of Omaha

**Tuesday, November 9th, 2021
12:00 noon**

**Place: St. Matthew Lutheran Church
1725 S. 60th St.**

Drinks and dessert will be provided

**Program: Omaha Street School
Linda Reimer**

Tangible Offering: Omaha Street School

**RSVP by Sunday, November 7th, to
Mardelle Gocek, 402 292 1328**

Calendar of Events @ St. Matthew



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1

9:30 am Tanzanian Treasures

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

6:00 pm The Story Bible Study
7:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4

1:30 pm Coffee Hour

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7~

9:30 AM WORSHIP LIVESTREAM
W/IN-PERSON WORSHIP
10:30 AM COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP
10:45 AM CHOIR PRACTICE



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8

9:30 am Tanzanian Treasures

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

9:00 am Lutheran Women of Omaha

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

6:00 pm The Story Bible Study
7:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11

1:30 pm Coffee Hour

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12

9:00 am Hike For Hunger

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

9:00 am Jochebed Circle
9:00 am Work Day



~SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14~

9:30 AM WORSHIP LIVESTREAM
W/IN-PERSON WORSHIP
10:30 AM COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP
10:45 AM CHOIR PRACTICE



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15

9:30 am Tanzanian Treasures

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

6:00 pm The Story Bible Study
7:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18

1:30 pm Coffee Hour

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19

9:00 am Funtastic Fibers

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20

10:00 am Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry



~SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21~

**9:30 AM WORSHIP LIVESTREAM
W/IN-PERSON WORSHIP
10:30 AM COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP
10:45 AM CHOIR PRACTICE**



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22

9:00 am Tanzanian Treasures

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

1:00 pm Phoebe Circle

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

6:00 pm The Story Bible Study
7:00 pm Church Service

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Happy Thanksgiving 

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

**9:30 AM WORSHIP LIVESTREAM
W/IN-PERSON WORSHIP
10:30 AM COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP
10:45 AM CHOIR PRACTICE**



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29

9:30 am Tanzanian Treasures

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30



Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry



We are continuing to serve our guests by having them fill out a grocery list and then those are filled and returned to them. Project Hope continues to supply us with milk, eggs and cheese each month as well as a box of produce. This generous contribution gives us the opportunity to spend our donation dollars on meat and other shelf stable foods that we may be short on.

As always, your continued support of our pantry is very much appreciated.

We served 13 families and 29 individuals during our October pantry. Twelve of those families registered for a Thanksgiving Meal to be distributed on November 16th. Thanks to Andrew and Kent for their help at the pantry! Our needs for November include:

- Corn muffin mix
- Tortillas
- Salsa
- Dish soap
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Crackers (Ritz or Saltines)
- Ramen noodles (chicken and beef)

~Sue Ties



THIRD ANNUAL HIKE FOR HUNGER!

Mark your calendars for

Friday November 12th

and come **help us welcome the US Army National Guard soldiers** to St. Matthew from their **14-mile hike!** We will expect them to arrive **between 11:30 - 12:00 noon.** They will be tired after carrying 30+ pounds of food, and hungry! I'm asking for volunteers to help serve lunch, sort and count items donated, and help to restock our shelves. Last year we served about 25 soldiers and collected over 800 items for our food pantry. Each year they try to out-do themselves, so I am anticipating lots of food!! We will be serving a sloppy joe lunch with chips, veggies, fruit, and dessert. (If you help, I feed you too!). **If you would like to help in any capacity on the 12th, please call me at 402-871-9166.**



Thanks!!

Sue Ties

Hope for the Holidays



Join Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service in spreading hope to children and families in immigration detention this holiday season.

LIRS is the only national non-profit organization that has this special partnership with the family detention centers. Each year, we are given access to information about children who are being held in detention over the holiday season. With that information, we are able to hand-select gifts like books, journals, art supplies, teddy bears, and soccer balls.

**For information on how to donate,
go to [LIRS.org/hope](https://lirs.org/hope), or call 877 291 7061.**



For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. -Matthew 25:35



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Q: What did the turkey say to the hunter on Thanksgiving Day?

A: "Quack, quack!"

Q: Where does Christmas come before Thanksgiving?

A: In the dictionary

Q: What do you call the ratio of a pumpkin's circumference to its diameter?

A: Pumpkin Pi

Q: Which side of the turkey has the most feathers?

A: The outside



Q: How do you keep a turkey in suspense?

A: I'll tell you next week

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Worship Servants



~November 2021~

Date:	7	14	21	28
Lector	Glen Thomas	Michael Waits	Scott Albright	Lorie Thomas
Communion Assistant	Chris Chubb	Lorie Thomas	Marlys Hanson	Deanna Hansen
Usher	Nate Houfek	Dennis & Margie Magnuson	Randy & Val Cramer	Michael Lisko
Camera tech	Derek Copenhagen	Derek Copenhagen	Derek Copenhagen	Derek Copenhagen
Video tech	Naomi Kirkvold	Shane Waits	Kent Ties	Andrew Rouillard



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 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

~October 2021~



General Fund Activity

Beginning			Transfers	Ending
Balance	Receipts	Payments	In (Out)	Balance
30,306.20	11,293.57	15,899.27	0	25,700.50

Benevolence Offerings

Receipts	Dispersed
1,275.00	1,275.00

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
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!

