

# ST. MATTHEW

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWS

November 2022

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



Picture Day:  
Tuesday  
November 22

It's time for our  
*new directory!*

On Tuesday, 11/22/2022, 2pm-8:30pm, members of the St. Matthew community will come and have individual or family photographs taken. Everyone will receive a free copy of the church directory and a free 8x10 photograph. **You do not need to purchase anything to participate.** In addition, we will be creating a new phone app with pictures and contact information for everyone in the community, as well as other important information about ministry opportunities.

Perhaps the best part of this experience is that we will be able to **share coupons** with our friends and neighbors and invite them for a free sitting for a family photograph as well. This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to share a gift and connect with the community (coupons were sent out mid-October in the mail).

Photography session time slots have filled quickly, and currently there are minimal time slots remaining. Please schedule your session ASAP if you have not already done so, and have your friends call the church office if they would like to schedule an appointment.

**All photographs will be available by Christmas** and directories will be completed by the annual church meeting. Please watch for further information about scheduling appointments in the bulletin and weekly emails.

**Hope to see you all!**

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church  
1725 S. 60th Street  
Omaha, NE 68106-2149  
(402) 556-7030  
Email: [office@smlutheran.com](mailto:office@smlutheran.com)  
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# REFLECTIONS

*~ by Pastor Glen ~*

The other day I had a chance to take a long drive across the state on a beautiful sunny fall day, and the unmistakable signs were there to see: the season has changed. It's time for harvest.

Being a good Nebraskan I love this season as much as anyone. Lots of people love fall - the changing colors, the cooler evenings, football. But in Nebraska it's not just fall. It's harvest. It is a season of destiny, a purpose, of fulfillment. It's a season of hard work. It is the grand celebration that we have done what needed doing, and the promise of faithful labor bearing fruit. It is that time of the year that reminds the world of why this particular corner of it matters so, so, much.

Every religion, from the beginnings of the human race, has contained some celebration of the act of harvest. The bringing in of the sheaves reminds us of the abundance of God's provision and the goodness of his bounty. For three seasons of the year we proclaim that God provides. In the time of harvest that hope becomes reality.

It is truly an amazing thing to see what this earth can bring forth, what God can make of our skills and our laborers. At the end of this season we will hold in our hands everything necessary for the well-being of the entirety of humanity, if we will just but use it that way. There is a sense of well-being that only comes at harvest.

It is the most hopeful time of the year.

At our worst, of course, there is something else in the air. Fall is a time of endings. The comedian Jim Gaffigan does a bit where he reminds us that the changing foliage marks the death of the leaves on the trees, and he wonders at our joy over that phenomenon. Deep down we know that the beauty of the weather as we escape the deathly heat of summer is only temporary. The painful cold of winter is not far from us now. Despair lurks.

But harvest is not about endings. This season does not merely mark the end of planting and tending. That work was done in preparation for what lies ahead. We do not merely harvest for its own sake, that we should marvel at our abundance or rest on our laurels. We gather the fruits of the earth so that we might be equipped for the days that lie ahead.

Harvest is the season of preparation. We are not merely thankful that we have made it this far. We are turning now toward what is yet to come.

Harvest is the season of gratitude. After all, our national day of Thanksgiving comes when the harvest is done and the larders are full. This is the time (perhaps even more than any other time) that we give thanks to God for all his good gifts and the grace he showers upon us. But our gratitude serves a greater purpose - it empowers us for the days ahead and it fills us with hope.

Hope realized in the tangible reality of the harvest. Hope that serves the incarnate work of discipleship.

Yes, this is the most hopeful time of the year.

Human brokenness has a way of making us shortsighted. Maybe that's why we try to eat the entire harvest at the Thanksgiving table! But grace does not exist in a vacuum. God does not merely bless us with what we need to get by, he fills our cup to overflowing because he knows the path that lies ahead, the work that must yet be done, the challenges which must still be faced. The blessing of harvest is not merely a sigh of relief that the crops came in. It is the deep breath we take before we plunge into what is next.

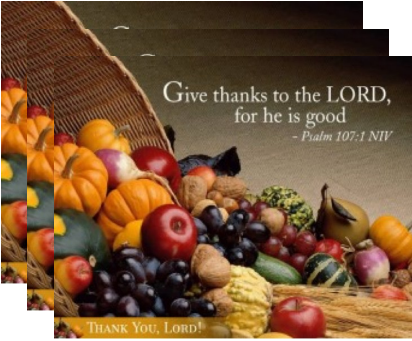
This is the great gift of grace, that we who always look back in fear may now turn in joy and hope to what lies ahead. For God has brought in his harvest. Our hearts are full.

We are ready to go.

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*As we give thanks for all of the good gifts and faithful servants who make up the community of St. Matthew, we want to be sure to say thank you to all of those who tend to the yard and gardens around our facility. We are especially grateful to **Fritz Rokahr** who mows the lawns and trims bushes and rakes leaves and performs any number of very important and unseen tasks around the church. We are also thankful to those who tend the flower beds around the church, including **Janet Sievers, Deanna Hansen, Mary Peters and Charlotte Jensen**, among others. We give thanks to **Margie Magnuson and Jen Schell** for taking care of the gardens. We apologize if your name is not listed here but please know we are grateful for all that you do.*

# JOINT THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP SERVICE



This year St. Matthew will be hosting the Joint Thanksgiving Eve Worship service with our Metro Lutheran partners. The Service will held here on Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30 pm, with coffee and fellowship in the lounge following the service. It will also be livestreamed on the Facebook page and website.

*Let us give thanks for the blessings that God has given, that we may find joy in our time and be strengthened in our faith.*

SAVE  
THE  
DATE

## ST. MATTHEW EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Event:** *WELCA - DECEMBER EVENT*

**Hosted by:** Jochebed Circle

**Date:** December 8, 2022

*See your December "ACTS" for more details!*

## ST. MATTHEWS FINANCIAL REPORT

### SEPTEMBER 2022

Beginning Balance:	\$19,685.17
Receipts:	\$19,266.57
Payments:	\$21,285.88
Transfers:	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance:	\$17,665.86

#### Benevolence Offerings

Receipts: \$1,300.00

Dispersed: \$1,311.81

#### Hunger Offerings

Receipts: \$ 50.00

Dispersed: \$ 40.00

# ***HICKORY STREET HOUSE UPDATE***

The sale of Saint Matthew's Hickory Street property is now complete. On June 26th at a Special Congregational Meeting, St. Matthew members voted 44 - 4 to sell the property at 5851 Hickory street. Several significant repairs were performed, mostly funded by insurance claims, over the course of the past summer and early fall.

The Congregation Council received a purchase offer for \$240,000 on September 7th, which was accepted (the purchasers are midtown Omaha residents). The transaction closed on Tuesday, October 18th. Sale proceeds to Saint Matthew were greater than 98.5% of the purchase price. No sales commission was paid. The Council is in the process of designing guidelines for the management of these significant funds.

Numerous members of the Saint Matthew family, including friends of the Congregation and Council members, all worked intensely to prepare the property, and conduct the sale. **Thank you to all those who contributed their time and energies to support this effort!**

- *Scott Albright, Council President*

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## **LUTHERAN WOMEN OF OMAHA**

**Tuesday, November 8, 2022  
12:00 noon\***

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

**Cost: \$3.00**

**Program: "Immanuel Communities"  
Rev. Brian Mass**

***FREE WILL OFFERING: Immanuel Communities  
Mission & Spiritual Care***

**\*LWO Board Meeting follows General Meeting**

*Reservations to Mardelle Gocek, 402-292-1328*

# November 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Oct 30	31	Nov 1 9:00am 3:00pm Sewing for Babies (Art Room)	2 6:00pm 7:00pm Bell Choir Practice (Choir Room)
6 9:30am 10:30am Sunday Worship (ALL SAINTS) 10:30am 11:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:45am 11:45am Festival Choir Practice (Sanctuary)	7 9:00am 3:00pm Tanzania Treasures (Classrooms 4 & 5)	8 8:00am 8:00pm Election Day (United States) 12:00pm 2:00pm Lutheran Women of Omaha (LWO Board Meeting Follows)	9 6:00pm 7:00pm Bell Choir Practice (Choir Room)
13 9:30am 10:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am 11:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:45am 11:45am Festival Choir Practice (Sanctuary)	14 9:00am 3:00pm Tanzania Treasures (Classroom 4 & 5) 6:00pm 7:00pm Worship Ministry Team (Zoom Meeting)	15 9:00am 3:00pm Sewing for Babies (Art Room)	16 5:30pm 6:30pm Soup Supper 6:00pm 7:00pm Bell Choir Practice (Choir Room)
20 9:30am 10:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am 11:30am SPECIAL BRUNCH 10:45am 11:45am Festival Choir Practice (Sanctuary)	21 9:00am 3:00pm Tanzania Treasures (Classroom 4 & 5) 7:00pm 8:30pm Church Council Meeting	22 1:00pm 3:00pm Phoebe Circle 2:00pm 9:00pm PICTORIAL DIRECTORY PHOTOS TAKEN (TBD)	23 10:00am 4:00pm DIRECTORIAL MEETING 6:00pm 7:00pm Bell Choir Practice (Choir Room) 6:30pm 7:30pm Dinner 7:30pm 8:30pm
27 9:30am 10:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am 11:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:45am 11:45am Festival Choir Practice (Sanctuary)	28 9:00am 3:00pm Tanzania Treasures (Classroom 4 & 5)	29	30 6:00pm 7:00pm Bell Choir Practice (Choir Room)

MATTHEW  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Worship in JubELLaTion practice (Bell Tower)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1:30pm 2:00pm Coffee &amp; Devotion with Pastor Glen</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>Worship in JubELLaTion practice (Bell Tower)</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Veterans Day (United States)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00am 11:00am Jochebed Circle (Lounge)</p>
<p>Worship in St. Matthew Sermon (TBD)</p> <p>Worship in JubELLaTion practice (Bell Tower)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>1:30pm 2:00pm Coffee &amp; Devotion with Pastor Glen</p> <p>6:30pm 9:30pm Aksarben Elmwood Neighborhood Association (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00am 12:00pm Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry (Fellowship Hall, Lower Level classrooms)</p>
<p>Worship in PICTORIAL GALLERY PHOTOS</p> <p>Worship in JubELLaTion practice (Bell Tower)</p> <p>Worship in Joint Practice</p> <p>Worship in Coffee &amp; Pie</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:00am 9:00pm Thanksgiving Day (United States)</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:30am 12:30pm Deborah Circle</p>
<p>Worship in JubELLaTion practice (Bell Tower)</p>	<p>Dec 1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>

# 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!

## NOVEMBER 2022

Date/ Time	Lector	Communion Assistant	Ushers	Camera Tech	Altar Guild
Nov 6 9:30 am	Michael Waits	Nate Houfek/ Lorie Thomas	Dennis/ Margie Magnuson	Derek Copenhaver	Mary Peters/ Janet Sievers
Nov 13 9:30 am	Lorie Thomas	Chris Chubb	Michael Lisko/ Teri Yeoman	Derek Copenhaver	Mary Peters/ Janet Sievers
Nov 20 9:30 am	Nate Houfek	Susan Hollenbeck	Dave Sherwin/ Rochelle Foy	Derek Copenhaver	Mary Peters/ Janet Sievers
<b>*WED*</b> Nov 23 7:00pm	Linda Hill	N/A	TBD	Derek Copenhaver	Mary Peters/ Janet Sievers
Nov 27 9:30 am	Scott Albright	Deanna Hansen	Randy Cramer/ Val Zentner- Cramer	Derek Copenhaver	Mary Peters/ Janet Sievers



Hello everyone,

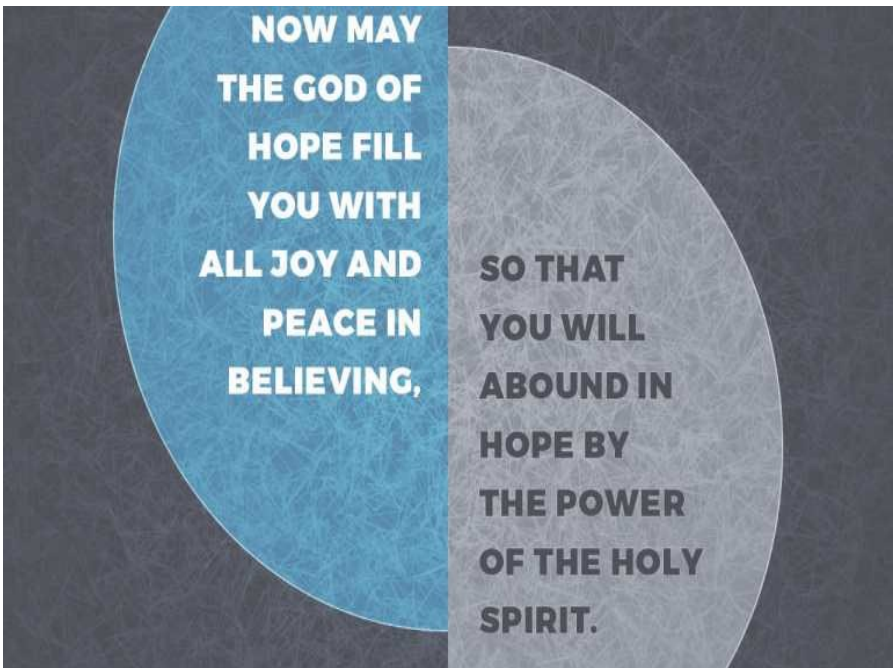
We served many families and individuals, yet, the need is rising! Food insecurity is growing among our community and most of our families come from the working poor. Being able to provide these families with food is such a blessing. And I have you all to thank for your generosity in making that happen.



**In general, our needs include:**

***Boxed potatoes, bottled juice, jelly, SPAM, toilet paper, paper towels, bar soap, Ritz crackers, pancake mix, canned potatoes, cream of mushroom soup, cream of chicken soup, hamburger helper, tuna helper, Manwich sloppy joe sauce, boxed breakfast cereals, apple sauce, saltine crackers, toothpaste, etc.***

Thanks for your continued support of this very much needed ministry!



# FALL CLEAN-UP ALERT

Please be alert to weekly contact from Saint Matthew regarding our annual Fall Clean-Up date. The Council has chosen to watch weather and falling leaves conditions to determine a date.

Thanks to the ongoing efforts of **Fritz Rohkar**; our grounds keeping condition is quite good!

(Indoor project opportunities will also be available.)

*- Scott Albright, Council President*

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## NOMINATIONS ARE NEEDED!

It is time again for us to prayerfully consider service on our Congregation Council or Trust Fund Board. Several positions on both bodies will become available early in 2023. Please contact Pastor Glen, or any Trust Fund or Congregation Council member for further information.

*- Scott Albright, Council President*

# 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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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