



St. Matthew
Evangelical Lutheran Church

THE ACTS...of God's People

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- ✪ Coffee Hour– Thursdays

~October 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, although with the rise of the Delta variant, you are encouraged to follow the CDC recommendations of wearing masks for indoor gatherings.

If you have not been vaccinated, we ask that you wear a mask and practice appropriate social distancing.

We will retain low-contact practices (such as in-pew communion) for the time being. We are hopeful that it will not be long until we can fully return to regular worship practices. There will be coffee fellowship following worship in the upstairs lounge on Sundays. Please sign up to share a turn hosting the coffee hour.

Plans for Faith Formation classes for young children are on hold at this time. Watch for more information soon.

As we return to in-person indoor routines, it is important that you return to your previous services as ushers, readers and (eventually) 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!





The inevitable has begun. The world has turned into a giant pumpkin spice flavored ... everything.

Ah, fall.

It does seem to be a little slow coming this year. Perhaps that's due to climate change, perhaps it's just a quirk of the calendar. It turns out that there is a difference between astronomical seasons and meteorological ones. Astronomical seasons follow the journey of the earth around the sun and are based on equinoxes and solstices. They are scientific in nature. Meteorological seasons follow the human calendar, so fall is September, October and November, regardless of planetary orbits or weather or any actual data. Meteorological seasons are a state of mind.

In their own way, meteorological seasons make more sense. They fit into our expectations. They are easier to plan around. They are less complicated and more amenable to our own agendas. After all, who wants to be bound up by forces of nature that can't be controlled, by powers beyond our reckoning or responsibility? No one, that's who.

Oh.

It is the most convoluted part of faith, this notion and nature of human will. Too often we get distracted from a simple and straightforward truth: we are not in charge. We get tied up in thoughts of predestination and free will and tripped up in our politics and human nature and a lot of minutiae that make it difficult, if not impossible, to keep a grip on that most important confession. We are not God. That job is already taken.

Sure, we make choices all the time. Which route to drive into work, how many M&M's to eat at one sitting, who to spend our precious time with and who to avoid. We choose to go to church, to study the Bible, to do something good for someone else. We choose where to live, we choose our political affiliation. We choose to get vaccinated. We make many choices.

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Those choices have consequence, to be sure. They affect the path of our lives, they affect the path of other lives. They make the world a better place, they make it worse. They may be godly in their nature. But they are not God.

Because we are not God.

The second worst thing about our love of choosing is that our choices become ends in themselves. We fight over them, we judge ourselves and others by them, we measure life and the world by the quality and quantity of our choices. As much as we cannot see beyond the reach of our own choices, we become prisoners to them. And so we are embattled, in a constant state of crisis born of our frantic need to manage, to direct, to dominate. Which never works out for us.

The worst is what we take for ourselves. We take for ourselves territory. We take for agency. We take for ourselves praise. Those things which belong solely to God, the Kingdom, the Power, the Glory. We are the gods of the world of our choosing, and consequently not the creatures of the God who chooses us.

But God will not be denied. This is good news! Our choices notwithstanding, our failures of discipleship and our stumbles on the path to his kingdom do not choose for God. There is always more, there is always God at work above and beyond the range of our choices bringing to fruition his own. Sometime through us, sometimes in spite of us, but always for us, the undeniable and unstoppable will of God at work in the world. God chooses. And he chooses us.

Why fight it?

In the end it does not matter when we think Fall really starts, or that we even call it fall. The planets rotate around the sun, time passes on, life happens. And by faith we survive it all, even thrive in it all, knowing that all things begin and end in God. Because he chooses for it to be.

~ Pastor Glen

Nile Lutheran Chapel Accompaniment Project



The Nebraska Synod has scheduled a weekend of accompaniment, fellowship, and projects at Nile Lutheran Chapel, 4140 N. 42nd St. in Omaha.

Nile Lutheran Chapel is a Mission Field Nebraska ministry that serves one of the Sudanese communities in Omaha, and their building and property could use some sprucing up. Please join your siblings in Christ from across our synod on Saturday, October 9th from 8 AM to 3 PM and Sunday, October 10th from 1 PM to 5 PM. On Sunday, join the members of Nile Lutheran Chapel for worship at noon and then stick around for a few projects.

Lunch will be provided on both Saturday and Sunday. Please bring a ladder and your favorite painting tools.

We hope you can join us!



Calendar of Events @ St. Matthew



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2



~SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3~

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



MONDAY, OCTOBER 4

9:30 am Tanzanian Treasures

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6

6:00 pm The Story Bible Study



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7

1:30 pm Coffee Hour

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9

9:00 am Jochebed Circle



~SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10~

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 11

9:30 am Tanzanian Treasures

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13

6:00 pm New Bible Study Online

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14

1:30 pm Coffee Hour in the lounge
6:00 pm WELCA gathering



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

10:00 am Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry



~SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17~

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



MONDAY, OCTOBER 18

9:30 am Tanzanian Treasures

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20

6:00 pm The Story Bible Study



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21

1:30 pm Coffee Hour

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22

9:00 am Funtastic Fibers

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23

9:30 pm Deborah Circle



~SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24~

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



MONDAY, OCTOBER 25

9:00 am Tanzanian Treasures

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26

7:00 pm Phoebe Circle

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27

6:00 pm The Story Bible Study



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28

1:30 pm Coffee Hour

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

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





Fall Is Officially Here!

Are you ready? Loaves and Fishes has some exciting things happening in the next two months and we would be **THRILLED** to include you in the fun!

During the month of October, we will be taking reservations for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner give-away. We will be partnering with Project Hope to provide a delicious Thanksgiving Meal with all the fixings to those who register. Your part comes in helping gather items to be included in the meal. *Listed below are the items that Project Hope has requested that St. Matthew collect for the meal:*

- Large cans of Cherry Pie Filling – 15oz
- Cream of Mushroom Soup
- Crispy Fried Onions
- Coca Cola – cans
- Cherry gelatin – large box

We have been averaging about 15 families to our pantry each month and we generally get a few more in the month of November (once the word gets out!). We don't need TONS of the items listed above, but we could use at least 20 of each item to be safe. The other ingredients to complete the meal will be provided to us by Project Hope, including the Turkey!

All donations can be placed in the box in the Narthex. I will keep you updated as to how we are doing on the collection so that we don't have an over- abundance of these items.

Our second exciting event happens on **November 12, 2021**. On this Friday in November, we will be hosting the **3rd Annual Hike for Hunger!** We are partnering with troops from the Nebraska Army National Guard. These service men and women will once again partake in a 14 -mile hike carrying 30 pounds of food on their backs! They will depart from the Aksarben area and hike out to Fort Street returning to St. Matthew where they will donate all the food that they have carried.

I invite any and all who would like to be present to welcome them to St. Matthew. We will be providing lunch to the soldiers, so will need help in serving lunch as well. I also need help with sorting, counting the items and then refilling our shelves. Please think about serving our servicemen and women who so selfishly serve us and our country. More details will follow, but I urge you to mark your calendars for this exciting and very rewarding day.

As always, your donations of items, time, money, etc. are so very much appreciated. I hope to see you at our event and I thank you in advance for your participation in any way you can help!

Sue Ties and the Food Pantry Team



FALL POTLUCK



ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!

Bring a friend and join us for our

FALL GATHERING

6 PM Potluck Supper!

Thursday, October 14th
In Fellowship Hall

Sponsored by the Women of the ELCA



Lutheran Women of Omaha Event

Program: Intercultural Senior Center

Speaker: Carolina Padilla

Luncheon cost: \$7.00

Free will offering: Monetary

RSVP to Mardelle Gocsek at 402 292 1328
by Sunday, October 10th

Autumn Recipe



Butternut Squash Soup

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 large yellow onion, chopped
- ½ teaspoon sea salt
- 1 (3-pound) butternut squash, peeled, seeded, and cubed
- 3 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh sage
- ½ tablespoon minced fresh rosemary
- 1 teaspoon grated fresh ginger
- 3 to 4 cups [vegetable broth](#)
- Freshly ground black pepper

Instructions

1. Heat the oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add the onion, salt, and several grinds of fresh pepper and sauté until soft, 5 to 8 minutes. Add the squash and cook until it begins to soften, stirring occasionally, for 8 to 10 minutes.
2. Add the garlic, sage, rosemary, and ginger. Stir and cook 30 seconds to 1 minute, until fragrant, then add 3 cups of the broth. Bring to a boil, cover, and reduce heat to a simmer. Cook until the squash is tender, 20 to 30 minutes.
3. Let cool slightly and pour the soup into a blender, working in batches if necessary, and blend until smooth. If your soup is too thick, add up to 1 cup more broth and blend. Season to taste and serve with parsley, pepitas, and crusty bread.

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. Thank you to Brent, Andrew, Bill, Kelli, Kent and Veda for your help on pantry days.

~Sue Ties

Our needs for October include

- Cream of mushroom soup
- Ramen noodles (chicken and beef flavored)
- Brown rice
- Toilet paper

Thank you to all who continue to support our pantry with your gifts of food items and money. We have been able to provide a choice pantry to all our guests without skipping a beat through this pandemic. A special shout out to Mike and Laura Pribyl, Margie and Dennis Magnuson, and Sara for helping with the Pantry in the month of September. Our regular crew were off on adventures and these people stepped in to carry out the duties of the day. THANK YOU for saying YES to help! We served 8 families which included 22 individuals.

I have a special request regarding the donation of gently used clothing. With our limited space, our pantry does not provide clothing to our guests. As such, with the clothes that are appearing in our food bin I have to find a home for them. Project Hope does accept gently used clothing and they are happy to receive your donations at their facility. They are located at 6201 N 60th Street. If you need directions to their location, they can be reached at 402-453-7649. Please only use the bin in the Narthex for food items or paper/plastic sacks. Goodwill and Salvation Army also collects gently used clothing and many business locations around town have drop off bins in their parking lots. I thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Worship Servants



~October 2021~

| Date/time | Time | Lector | Usher | Camera Tech | Video Tech |
|------------|---------|----------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| October 3 | 9:30 am | Glen Thomas | Randy and Val Cramer | Derek Copenhaver | Naomi Kirkvold |
| October 10 | 9:30 am | Mike Waits | Dennis and Margie Magnuson | Derek Copenhaver | Shane Waits |
| October 17 | 9:30 am | Scott Albright | Nate Houfek | Derek Copenhaver | Kent Ties |
| October 24 | 9:30 am | Lorie Thomas | Michael Lisko | Derek Copenhaver | Andrew Rouillard |
| October 31 | 9:30 Am | Kiley Compton | Curt Losee | 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 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!**

☞ 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

Teri Yeoman
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-4:30 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 Carrie.

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 **second or third Monday of each month.** Specific date listed on the monthly newsletter calendar page.

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.

Financial Report

~August 2021~



General Fund Activity

| Beginning | | Transfers | | Ending |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Balance | Receipts | Payments | In (Out) | Balance |
| 40,472.37 | 12,267.01 | 20,397.68 | 0 | 32,342.70 |

Benevolence Offerings

Hunger Offerings

| Receipts | Dispersed |
|----------|-----------|
| 1,057.50 | 1,057.50 |

| Receipts | Dispersed |
|----------|-----------|
| (15.00) | 0 |

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 @ 8:30 a.m.
Holy Communion Every Week
Outdoor Service 1st & 3rd Sundays

~SUNDAY COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP~

9:30 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!

