



St. Matthew  
Evangelical Lutheran Church

# THE ACTS...of God's People

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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- ✪ In-person Attendance & Livestreamed Service – Sunday mornings
- ✪ Coffee Hour– Thursdays

~August 2021~

# IMPORTANT SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION!

**IMPORTANT**

**Beginning September 5, 2021, we will be changing our Sunday morning worship schedule to one service each week at 9:30 am.**

*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!



Our kids just bought the perfect starter home.

Not that it's in perfect condition. It has needs – bathrooms to be renovated, a yard to be fenced, painting and carpet and other updates that make it an unfinished project. For now. But those simple needs are actually what make it perfect. The value lies not in what it is, but in what it can become.

It's human nature to mis-appreciate what is not immediately perfect to our eyes, to not see potential and possibility and promise, to be stuck in the day and ignorant of the horizon. Being short-sighted is all-too common flaw to be honest, and while learning to live in the moment is an important life skill, it must always be balanced by a more important spiritual gift: **hope**. We have work to do today, challenges and responsibilities right in front of our eyes. Discipleship demands our attention to them, our best effort, our faithful work. But we cannot work in the darkness of this day unless we can see them in the light of tomorrow.

Unless we have vision.

*Without vision a people turns wild, but happy is he who follows the teaching. Proverbs 29:18*

It is the hope of the future that opens our eyes to see past what is and see what is about to become. We are not merely waiting for some heavenly reward that lies at the end of this world – we are witnesses to the inbreaking promise of God in the here and now.

Discipleship requires **patience**. Patience is hard to find in the moment, especially in this moment, while troubles and trials swirl about us. Voices cry all around us and from deep within, preaching fear and doom and peril. Staying with the task at hand requires a level of trust in ourselves, to not quit too soon or when things get too hard. Everything takes longer, costs more, and requires more effort than we think. That does not mean we will not succeed, that does not mean we need to surrender. By grace, we can have patience.

*Continued on Next Page*

Discipleship requires **endurance**. There is too much to do, a never-ending list of problems that seemingly cannot be solved. But by grace we can take a larger vision that puts the day's problems into perspective, into small, resolvable tasks that need not overwhelm. If we trust that dawn is coming, then we know we can survive until then. To arise each new day and take on its challenges, to get back up when we fall short and resume our work is the very definition of faith. By grace, we can endure.

Discipleship requires **purpose**. Life is hard. The world is full of grief and pain, and there are many hard things that simply do not make sense. Surely we feel as if we were tilting at windmills, as it were. Yet we know that we are here for a reason, part of something larger and greater than ourselves. We are workers in the very Kingdom of God, and through us he is bringing his grace into the world, the light of his Word into every dark corner. Our life is not without meaning, we are who we are and where we are as part of God's grand design. By grace, we have purpose.

We're going to need all three of these things, and probably more. These next months, this next year, looks like the ultimate fixer-upper. The pandemic has taken its toll on our emotional and spiritual well-being. It has been the root of isolation and dislocation and separation and conflict. It will be easy to fall into despair over the work that we now face. It will be easy to be jealous of others who seem to be not have our challenges. It will be easy to just quit. Some already have.

But if we will lift our eyes to the horizon we will catch a glimpse of something greater, better, stronger and more lovely. It is the day of God dawning upon us. Our hope in that promise fill us with the Spirit we need for the work we must do today.

*See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ... the one who endures to the end will be saved. Mt 10:16, 22*

*Pastor Glen*



## 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.

### **Our needs include:**

Apple Sauce	Ketchup
Salsa	Salad Dressing
Bottled Juice	Knorr Rice Side Dishes
Crackers (Saltine or Ritz)	

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

## 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.



**Lutheran Women of Omaha are hosting a Youth Emergency Services (YES) event Tuesday, September 14th at noon.**

Christ the King Lutheran Church  
7308 S 42nd St, Bellevue

Bring your own lunch. Coffee and dessert will be provided. Tangible offering: socks

RSVP no later than Sunday, 9/12 to Mardell Gocek at 402 292 1328

# Calendar of Events @ St. Matthew



## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

6:00 pm The Story Bible Study



## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

1:30 pm Coffee Hour

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4



## ~SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5~

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



## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

9:30 am Tanzanian Treasures

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

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

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

6:00 pm The Story Bible Study



## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

1:30 pm Coffee Hour

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

9:00 am Jochebed Circle



## ~SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12~

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



## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

9:30 am Tanzanian Treasures

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

6:00 pm New Bible Study Online

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16



9:00 am Sewing For Babies  
1:30 pm Coffee Hour in the lounge

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

10:00 am Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry



## ~SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19~

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



GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**

9:30 am Tanzanian Treasures

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

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

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**

6:00 pm The Story Bible Study



**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

1:30 pm Coffee Hour

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

9:00 am Funtastic Fibers

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**

9:30 pm Deborah Circle



**~SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26~**

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



**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**

9:00 am Tanzanian Treasures

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**

7:00 pm Phoebe Circle

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**

6:00 pm The Story Bible Study



**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

1:30 pm Coffee Hour



The Nebraska Synod ELCA presents  
RE: Formation



After a year and half of weathering the storms of the pandemic, it is time to gather! It is time to name the hurts, disappointments and learnings of the pandemic. It is time for us to acknowledge the changes, inertia, fears and opportunities. You are invited to share your experiences, hopes and dreams **October 18-20** at RE: Formation- Nebraska Synod Leadership Summit 2021.

This is a time and place for pastors, deacons, parish ministry associates, faith formation directors, administrators, program coordinators, musicians and other key church staff to gather for learning, fellowship and renewal. The Holiday Inn in Kearney will host our in-person event. Zoom links will be provided for those choosing to participate online.

Bishop Michael Rinehart will walk with us as we pray, lament, listen and name our next faithful action steps. Bishop Brian Maas describes Bishop Mike “as a pastor at heart, yet one who always has an eye on the larger picture, has no fear of experimentation, asks lots of questions, and shares discoveries and ideas freely.” Bishop Mike serves in the TX-LA Gulf Coast Synod.

Rev. Dr. Karoline Lewis, Luther Seminary Director for M.Div., Professor and Marbury E. Anderson Chair in Biblical Preaching, will lead us into the season of Advent. How do we live into the Advent lessons from the Gospel of Luke after a year filled with disappointments, fear and wandering?

Bishop Brian Maas will share what he has heard and learned and what he sees as challenges and opportunities across the Synod.

Monday’s workshops will help us process our own feelings and experiences related to the pandemic, political unrest, cultural shifts and fears. Tuesday we lean into the future with skill building workshops. Wednesday will provide extended time for learning with longer workshop times. Pre-registration is required for the Wednesday workshops. Devotional resources, a Monday prayer service and fellowship times round out our time together. Workshop descriptions, presenter bios and schedule updates will be posted on the web site the first of October. Zoom links will be shared through the Nebraska Synod web site portal with access provided participants in October. *Continued on Next Page*



Registration closes October 1. Participants are required to be fully vaccinated OR have had a negative COVID test within 24 hours of start of event. For more information about participating in this event, contact Pastor Glen.



Evangelical  
Lutheran  
Church in America

**God's work.  
Our hands.**

God's Work. Our Hands.  
A National Day of Service for Lutherans

Sunday, September 19

There will be service projects for clients of the Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging.

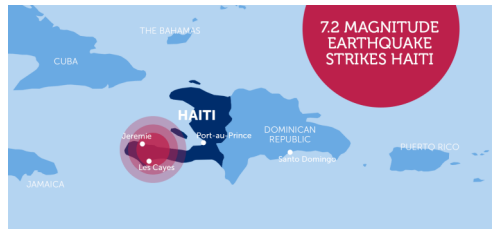
If you are going on an ENOA project, you must complete a background check EVEN IF YOU HAVE DONE ONE IN THE PAST. Forms are available in the church office.

### Donations for Haiti earthquake relief can be made to:

Lutheran Disaster Response  
P.O. Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Write "Haiti Crisis" on your check memo line. Checks can also be placed in the collection plate.

Give by phone at **800-638-3522** or online at <https://community.elca.org/>



St. Matthew Sunday  
September 19, 2021  
WE ARE STILL THE CHURCH!



We have been tried by the times, and it has been hard. But through it all, the ups and downs, one thing has never changed: we are the Church of Jesus Christ. As it has been, so it is, and so it will always be.

Perhaps in the midst of our current challenges we have lost sight of what that means. We have confused the building, the traditions, the rituals with the indisputable reality: **we are the church!** It is the working of the Holy Spirit in the community of faith that comprises the church. Us. Whenever we feel the absence of the church, we need only look in the mirror, and there it is.

This would be a good time to remember that in some tangible way.

It is part of our tradition to observe the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism on our annual celebration of St. Matthew Sunday. This year, instead of watching others affirm God's grace, we will all share in this opportunity to once again avow to be the church and live out our faith in our daily lives:

*to live among God's faithful people,  
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through  
word and deed,  
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,  
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?*

Let us renew our faith and our community and begin the journey forward toward the promised Kingdom of God.



## *A Sheepish Recovery*

A devout old shepherd lost his favorite Bible while he was out looking for a wayward lamb. Three weeks later, a sheep walked up to him carrying the Bible in its mouth. The shepherd couldn't believe his eyes. He took the precious book out of the sheep's mouth, raised his eyes heavenward and exclaimed, "It's a miracle!"



"Not really," said the sheep. "Your name is written inside the cover."



Jesus said, "Who do people say that I am?"

And his disciples answered and said, "Some say you are John the Baptist returned from the dead; others say Elijah, or one of the prophets."

And Jesus answered and said, "But who do you say that I am?"

Peter answered and said, "Thou art the Logos, existing in the Father as His rationality and then, by an act of His will, being generated, in consideration of the various functions by which God is related to his creation, but only on the fact that Scripture speaks of a Father, and a Son, and a Holy Spirit, each member of the Trinity being coequal with every other member, and each acting inseparably with and interpenetrating every other member, with only an economic subordination within God, but causing no division which would make the substance no longer simple."

And Jesus answered and said, "What?"

The St. Matthew Faith Formation team is very excited to once again offer online, video lessons to be posted each week for all children ages Pre-K through 6th grade. Activity materials can be distributed to interested families- members and non-members alike- either electronically or via print. Contact Pastor Glen or Kiley Compton [[kiley.compton@ralstonschools.org](mailto:kiley.compton@ralstonschools.org)] for more information!



## **Worship Servants**



~September 2021~

Date/time	Time	Lector	Usher	Camera Tech	Video Tech
September 5	9:30 am	Glen Thomas	Randy and Val Cramer	Derek Copenhaver	Naomi Kirkvold
September 12	9:30 am	Mike Waits	Dennis and Margie Magnuson	Derek Copenhaver	Shane Waits
September 19	9:30 am	Scott Albright	Nate Houfek	Derek Copenhaver	Kent Ties
September 26	9:30 am	Lorie Thomas	Michael Lisko	Derek Copenhaver	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](http://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

~July 2021~



## General Fund Activity

<b>Beginning</b>		<b>Transfers</b>		<b>Ending</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>In (Out)</b>	<b>Balance</b>
46,267.63	10,774.50	16,313.53	6.00	40,734.60

## Benevolence Offerings

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Dispersed</b>
1,057.50	1,322.50

## Hunger Offerings

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Dispersed</b>
(15.00)	0





"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](mailto:office@smlutheran.com)

Web Site: [www.smlutheran.com](http://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!

