



St. Matthew
Evangelical Lutheran Church

THE ACTS...of God's People

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- ✪ Belle Ryan donations due August 16th

~August 2021~



We should not have to spend much energy describing the losses we have experienced in the past year-and-a-half. Four million people have died (undoubtedly more than that), many millions more have gotten sick, some with symptoms that will remain with them for a long, long time. The whole world has been disrupted, livelihoods have been lost, vital social connections have been interrupted, routines have been disturbed. It is not unlike the recent storm that swept through Omaha; we long for the day when the debris will be all removed and normal conditions restored.

We can (and probably should) debate the use of the word “normal,” but there is something else that must come first.

We must grieve.

There will never be a next until we have put some measure of closure on the now. Getting past the now means grieving fully the experiences of the past 18 months and doing the necessary spiritual work to heal. Just as we cannot overcome the virus and all of its mutations without determined and shared action, so we cannot survive the trials of the time of pandemic without intentional reflection and personal and shared engagement.

During the month of August, our Sunday morning messages will guide this process using Elisabeth Kübler-Ross’s 5 stages of grief: Denial, Anger, Depression, Bargaining and Acceptance. Each week will explore a spiritual practice that aids us through this journey. Our Gospel readings, taken primarily from the Bread of Life discourse in John 6 will also guide us along the way.

August 1. **Denial.** Jesus says, “Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life.” Grief suppresses our vision and clouds the truth from our sight. But God calls us to come in *confession*, facing the truth of ourselves and our world with hope and grace.

☞ Pastor continued



August 8. **Anger.** Jesus says, “Do not complain among yourselves.” We are caught in the frustration and resentment of our loss. God’s Word teaches us the gift of *self-control*, that we may overcome the temptation to violence and enmity.

August 15. **Bargaining.** The crowd doubt Jesus’ teaching. “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” In grief, we find the gift of grace insufficient, and we look for something else, anything else. Faith calls us to *prayer*, to live only in faith in the promise of God.

August 22. **Depression.** Jesus’ hearers are lost at his word. “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” Losses overwhelm us emotionally and spiritually, and we believe we can go on no longer. *Lament* is a powerful tool to hand our despair over to God and have our burdens lightened.

August 29. **Acceptance.** The writer of the epistle James encourages us to “be doers of the word, and not merely hearers.” Loss focuses our attention inward and we are frozen in our need. The way forward in the path of *discipleship*, where we are turned toward our neighbor in love. We are given purpose and hope, and we are healed.

This is work we each do all the time in this life, but it is work we can and must do together. We have shared loss in community, we will find healing there as well. We got into this mess together, and we will only move through it as a community. Because that is the way God made us to be.

God’s first comment on his creation is “it is not good that the man should be alone.” No matter how desperately we assert our independence, our personal agency, it remains true. Our lives are interwoven with each other, for better or worse. That is good news! Now, as we turn to the challenges that lie ahead, we need not work through this alone. Let us join hands and hearts as we work through our grief together and find healing and hope for the journey ahead.

~Pastor Glen

☞ Welcome Deanna

Welcome

Welcome to our new Office Manager, Deanna Burkins!

Safe Worship Practices



Anyone who is fully vaccinated against the CoVid virus may attend indoor in-person worship without reservation or restriction. Masks and social distancing will not be required, though they will certainly be allowed, and we will all be respectful of anyone who prefers these basic safety measures.

If you are not vaccinated, please wear a mask and practice appropriate social distancing.

Streaming worship will continue on the Facebook page and website.

We will also hold outdoor services on the first and third Sunday (weather permitting).

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.

Support Belle Ryan



Support the Belle Ryan Teachers!

Back to School sales are just around the corner!

As students are preparing for fall, we are mindful of the high cost of school supplies and that teachers too often have to purchase with their own money. As we have done in the past, we can support the teachers at Belle Ryan Elementary by helping collect supplies that they need and do not have. We have asked the teachers to provide a list of what they need most. Tags listing the items they need are available in the church lounge – please pick a card or two and when you see school supplies on sale, pick up something to help our hard-working teachers! **Please return items to the church by August 16th!**

🌀 Hit the Sack

Sleep is a daily reminder from God that we are not God. Once a day God sends us to bed like patients with a sickness. The sickness is a chronic tendency to think we are in control and that our work is indispensable. To cure us of this disease, God turns us into helpless sacks of sand once a day.

—John Piper

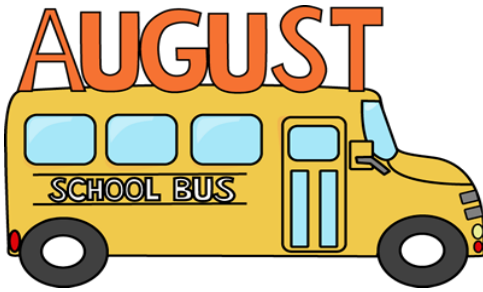


🌀 The Miracle of Summer

A team of Sunday school teachers faced boisterous youngsters on Rally Day, the start of a new education year. Because kids were reuniting after a break, they were eager to chat about vacations. To restore order, a teacher asked the children to take turns sharing a favorite Bible verse, story or miracle. One, who still had summer on the brain, exclaimed, “I like the time when everybody loafs and fishes!”



Calendar of Events @ St. Matthew



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11

6:00 pm Coffee Hour

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12

1:30 pm Coffee Hour in the lounge

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13

8:00 am Coffee Hour

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14

10:00 am Jochebed Circle

~SUNDAY, AUGUST 1~

8:30 AM WORSHIP LIVESTREAM W/
IN-PERSON WORSHIP

9:30 AM COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP

10:30 AM OUTDOOR SERVICE



~SUNDAY, AUGUST 15~

8:30 AM WORSHIP LIVESTREAM
W/ IN-PERSON WORSHIP

9:30 AM COFFEE &
FELLOWSHIP

10:30 AM OUTDOOR SERVICE



MONDAY, AUGUST 2

9:30 am-2:00 pm Tanzanian Treasures

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3

9:00 am-3:00 pm Sewing For Babies

6:00 pm Worship Ministry Team Mtg

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4

6:00 pm Coffee Hour

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5

1:30 pm Coffee Hour in the lounge

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7

~SUNDAY, AUGUST 8~

8:30 AM WORSHIP LIVESTREAM W/
IN-PERSON WORSHIP

9:30 AM COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP



MONDAY, AUGUST 9

9:30 am-2:00 pm Tanzanian Treasures

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10

MONDAY, AUGUST 16

ACTS Newsletter Articles

Due in the Office Today

9:30 am - 2:00 pm Tanzanian Treasures

7:00 pm Congregation Council Mtg

TUESDAY, AUGUST 17

9:00 am-3:00 pm Sewing For Babies

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18

6:00 pm Coffee Hour

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19

9:00 am Sewing For Babies

1:30 pm Coffee Hour in the lounge

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20



SATURDAY, AUGUST 21

10:00 am Loaves and Fishes Pantry

~SUNDAY, AUGUST 22~
8:30 AM WORSHIP LIVESTREAM
W/ IN-PERSON WORSHIP
9:30 AM COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP



MONDAY, AUGUST 23

9:00 am - 2:00 pm Tanzanian Treasures

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24

7:00 pm Phoebe Circle

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25

6:00 pm Coffee Hour

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26

1:30 pm Coffee Hour in the lounge

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27

9:00 am Funtastic Fibers

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28

9:30 am Deborah Circle

~SUNDAY, AUGUST 29~

8:30 AM WORSHIP LIVESTREAM
W/ IN-PERSON WORSHIP
9:30 AM COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP
10:30 AM OUTDOOR SERVICE



MONDAY, AUGUST 30

9:00 am - 2:00 pm Tanzanian Treasures



As vaccinations continue to increase, it is now safer for people who are fully vaccinated to gather without masks or social distancing. Beginning in June, we will be lifting restrictions currently in place during the 8:30 am service. If you are fully vaccinated you will not be required to wear a mask or keep significant social distancing.

If you are NOT vaccinated you will be expected to wear a mask and keep a proper safe distance. We ask you please to RESPECT others who will still prefer to wear a mask a keep a safe distance for themselves.

In addition to allowing people who are fully vaccinated to attend in-person indoor worship service at 8:30 am without restriction, we will also have outdoor services on the 1st and 3rd Sundays for anyone who is not yet fully comfortable in crowds. And, as always, worship services will continue to livestream on Facebook and the church website.

When to Call the Pastor or Church Office

Your church staff wants to serve you, and it is our goal to do this as effectively and efficiently as possible. Most important to us is being available to you in times of sickness or trouble. Here is a partial list of occasions when you should call the pastor or the church office.

- † IN CASE OF EMERGENCY – this includes any life-threatening situation, serious injury or illness, especially when there is a death in the family or whenever it appears that the death of a member is imminent, or any other urgent family crisis or personal trauma. Your pastor should be notified immediately when a member has died; however, it is best if the pastor can be contacted before death occurs, when possible, so that he can minister to the dying person as well as to the family. In such a case, please call the pastor immediately day or night.
- † Whenever you or someone in your family enters the hospital, or faces impending surgery.
- † When you have suffered a loss in your life; such as the death of a loved one, an impending divorce, a miscarriage, unemployment or loss of a business, or lingering illness or injury.
- † Four to six months or more before a wedding is anticipated and right away if a wedding is to be cancelled.
- † When a baby is born or adopted, and when a baptism needs to be scheduled.
- † When Holy Communion is desired by someone homebound or unable to attend Sunday worship.
- † When you are troubled, struggling with a problem, or facing a major decision.
- † When you are facing a court date in a significant trial or lawsuit.
- † When you have questions about Christian faith and life, the Bible or theology.
- † When you are aware that a member needs help or is becoming inactive.
- † When an unchurched neighbor moves into the community.
- † When you are upset with the pastor or about something in the congregation.
- † When something wonderful has happened to you!

Worship Servants



~August 2021~

Date	Time	Lector	Ushers	Camera Tech	Video Tech
Aug 4	8:30	Dennis Magnuson	Randy Cramer & Valorie Zentner Cramer	Derek C	Glen T
Aug 8	8:30	Nate Houfek	Dennis & Margie Magnuson	Derek C	Lorie T
Aug 15	8:30	Lorie Thomas	Nate Houfek	Derek C	Kent T
Aug 22	8:30	Kiley Compton	Michael Lisko	Derek C	Andrew R
Aug 29	8:30			Derek C	Shane W

Don't Social Distance from Faith



New Bible Study– Wednesday, 6:00 pm (live on Facebook)

Coffee Hour - Thursday, 1:30 pm in the lounge

Online Worship - Sunday, 8:30 am (or anytime after) with in-person attendance. Link on church website www.smlutheran.com

or on our Facebook page

Outdoor Worship– 1st and 3rd Sundays of August

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 9:00 am-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 **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

~June 2021~



General Fund Activity

Beginning			Transfers	Ending
Balance	Receipts	Payments	In (Out)	Balance
48,758.60	13,619.50	16,110.47		46,267.63

Benevolence Offerings

Receipts	Dispersed
1,322.50	1,233.33

Hunger Offerings

Receipts	Dispersed
75.00	60.00

Women of the ELCA

~Bible Study Groups~ Deborah Circle

9:30 am Saturday August 21st

Study Leader: : Donna Reinig

Hostess: Constance Hollenbeck



Jochebed Circle

10:00 am Saturday August 7th

Change: Meetings are now on the 2nd Sat. of the month at 10 am

Study Leader: : Susan Hollenbeck

Hostess: Lorie Thomas

Phoebe Circle

7:00 pm Tuesday August 24th

Study Leader: Janet Sievers

Hostess: Linda Hill

Service Project ~ Hand & Bath Soap

~Daily Devotional "Daily Grace"~

Women of the ELCA website: www.womenoftheelca.org

You can go to the free site (above) to access short daily devotions as you wish, or subscribe for daily emails.



"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!

