



St. Matthew
Evangelical Lutheran Church

THE ACTS...of God's People

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~June 2021~



It is an old, old story of kings and kingdoms, of people and prophets, of days of hopefulness and days of destruction. It moves from initial struggles to glorious triumph to devastating failure. It speaks to us across the ages of how difficult it is to build a world and be a community and keep faith with the God of our covenant.

It is the story of the Kingdom called Israel. And the ending is waiting to be written. By us.

Shall we begin?

The story begins with a King named Saul, the first to take on the previously unheld title and responsibility. Like all first efforts at something that had never been done before, it did not end well. Even though God had chosen Saul to be the King, he fell out of God's favor and God moved on.

God moved on to David, a "man after God's own heart" as we are told. He emerges from nowhere, the youngest of the nine sons of Jesse, a shepherd boy elevated by God's selection and not by his merit. He demonstrates his faithfulness (not his courage) in facing the Philistine champion Goliath, he demonstrates his tactical skill leading the Israelites in battle, he demonstrates his piety in poetry and song. And he demonstrates his brokenness with Bathsheba. In all of that he will be remembered as the greatest King of Israel, his reign will be known as its Golden Age, and generations to come will wait anxiously and expectantly for his return.

And then will come Solomon, the son of David and Bathsheba. His days will be filled with prosperity and power and peace. His palace will be the envy of every nation, and they will come from far to behold his wisdom and grace. He will build the House of God as a place of worship for generations. Yet his court will be filled with foreign wives and concubines, and his house will be tainted by the worship of other gods. The end of his reign will be the end of the United Kingdom, and his heirs will know division, war, failure and ruin.

~ Continued On Next Page

Pastor continued



In the years that followed there will be good Kings and bad Kings, faithful Kings and faithless Kings. Sometimes the Kingdom will flourish, sometimes it will fall apart. God will send his prophets to remind the Kings and the peoples of his covenant. Sometimes they will listen, sometimes they will not.

Not unlike our world today.

The stories of the Kings of Israel and the kingdoms of Israel reach to us across the generations, sometimes holding up a mirror to our own times, sometimes lighting a path for us to move forward. It is not enough to read these stories merely as history. It is not enough to know the names, the dates, the places. It is necessary for us to make these stories our own, that they might shape our life and our faith and our world. These stories are not about people who lived a long time ago. These stories are about us.

There are other characters in these stories. There are the prophets, the mouthpieces of God to the world in those days. And there are the people of the Kingdom who must discern both the needs of their world and the will of God. Living in the Kingdom of this world calls for a difficult navigation of what is true and right and good. Living in the Kingdom of this world requires us to hear the Word of God and keep it faithfully. Living in the Kingdom of this world is hard and challenging, and sometimes we fail, and sometimes by his grace we will stumble forward. Whatever may happen, the journey continues.

And we have not yet reached the end.

Perhaps that is why these stories are so important for us now. They give us help and hope as we move along, as we are writing our own. We know where God is leading us. We are still trying to figure out how to get there. And most of all, we are trying to figure out how to get there faithfully. Our calling is tied to the past, even as it stretches toward the future. And as a wise man once said, “those who do not know history are bound to repeat it.”

We are not here to repeat it. We are here to fulfill it.

So let's begin, shall we?

~Pastor Glen

In-Person Worship



New CDC guidelines will change worship procedures beginning in June.

As vaccinations continue to increase and case numbers go down, 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.

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.

Vacation Bible School



The St. Matthew VBS team is excited to offer a fully in-person vacation bible school for children ages 3-12. We will journey together through the dense rainforests seeking the hidden treasure's in God's word! We will be following updated masking and social distancing protocols to ensure safety for all participants and staff. Join us for a week of songs, crafts, games, and a free dinner each night! To register a child to attend or to be a volunteer, please complete the form on the church website.

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry



We welcomed 5 families (12 individuals) to our pantry in May. While this may seem like a small number, we have to remember that we are an emergency food pantry and serve those who are in need at the time our pantry doors are open. It seems that pantries have sprung up all over the city over this pandemic year and we are attributing that to our smaller numbers. I am grateful for those who continue to come to Loaves and Fishes each month and I know that they are so grateful to be served.

We have continued our safe practices and have not allowed anyone to enter our building. We are hopeful as more and more people become vaccinated we will be able to return to the ways of the past.

Your generous contributions over the past year have kept our shelves full and we are able to meet the needs of those visitors who come. We have emergency food bags packed for any individual or family that needs food prior to our pantry day. If you know of anyone in need, just have them give the office a call and we can arrange a time for them to come at pick it up.

I am so appreciative of the monetary donations that have also kept coming in. With that being said, our needs at this time are small. I will post again when we have a shortage of something, but for now just pray for those who experience food insecurity and help them find a way to our doors on the third Saturday of every month.

Thanks again to the faithful servants who come each month to help ... you know who you are and I hope you know how much your support is appreciated.

~Sue Ties

New Office Manager

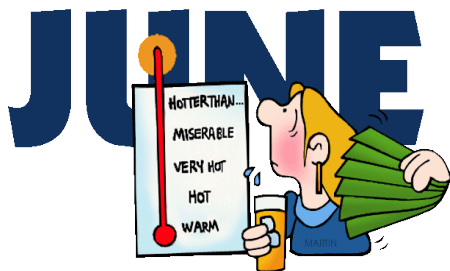


**Introducing our new
Office Manager, Diane!**

Diane will be in the office Monday through Friday,
9:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Call or stop by to say hello!

Calendar of Events @ St. Matthew



TUESDAY, JUNE 1

9:00 am-3:00 pm Sewing For Babies
6:00 pm Worship Ministry Team Mtg

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2

6:00 pm New Bible Study Online
7:30 pm Children & Youth Ministry
Team Meeting

THURSDAY, JUNE 3

1:30 pm Coffee Hour in the lounge

FRIDAY, JUNE 4

SATURDAY, JUNE 5

~SUNDAY, JUNE 6~

8:30 AM WORSHIP LIVESTREAM W/
IN-PERSON WORSHIP
10:30 AM OUTDOOR SERVICE



MONDAY, JUNE 7

Monday Morning Men
9:30 am-2:00 pm Tanzanian Treasures

TUESDAY, JUNE 8

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9

6:00 pm New Bible Study Online

THURSDAY, JUNE 10

1:30 pm Coffee Hour in the lounge

FRIDAY, JUNE 11

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

~SUNDAY, JUNE 13~

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



MONDAY, JUNE 14

Monday Morning Men
9:30 am - 2:00 pm Tanzanian Treasures

TUESDAY, JUNE 15

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16

6:00 pm New Bible Study Online

THURSDAY, JUNE 17

9:00 am - 3:00 pm Sewing for Babies
1:30 pm Coffee Hour in the lounge

FRIDAY, JUNE 18



SATURDAY, JUNE 19

10:00 am Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry



~SUNDAY, JUNE 20~

FATHER'S DAY
8:30 AM WORSHIP LIVESTREAM
W/ IN-PERSON WORSHIP
10:30 AM OUTDOOR SERVICE



MONDAY, JUNE 21

ACTS Newsletter Articles

Due in the Office Today

Monday Morning Men

9:00 am - 2:00 pm Tanzanian Treasures

7:00 pm Congregation Council Mtg

TUESDAY, JUNE 22

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

7:00 pm Phoebe Circle

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23

6:00 pm New Bible Study Online

THURSDAY, JUNE 24

1:30 pm Coffee Hour in the lounge

FRIDAY, JUNE 25

9:00 am Funtastic Fibers

SATURDAY, JUNE 26

9:30 pm Deborah Circle

~SUNDAY, JUNE 27~

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



MONDAY, JUNE 28

Monday Morning Men

9:00 am - 2:00 pm Tanzanian Treasures

TUESDAY, JUNE 29

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30

6:00 pm New Bible Study Online



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A Week of Tributes to Dad

To celebrate the special man in your life, use a quote a day the week before Father’s Day, or honor him with tributes the whole week after. Write one of these (or one of your own) on a card, make a message into a placemat, tape one to the bathroom mirror — get creative!

Every day of the week is a good day to celebrate his love and show him yours.

“The heart of a father is the masterpiece of nature.” —Antoine F. Prévost

“To the world you are a dad. To our family you are the world.” — Unknown

“The best fathers have the softest, sweetest hearts. In other words, great dads are real marshmallows.” —Richelle E. Goodrich

“Dad: a son’s first hero, a daughter’s first love.” —Unknown

“A good father is one whose only reason for putting down a laughing baby is to pick up a crying one.” —Linda Poindexter

“My father didn't do anything unusual. He only did what dads are supposed to do — be there.” —Max Lucado

“I love my father as the stars. He’s a bright shining example and a happy twinkling in my heart.” —Terri Guillemets



Worship Servants



~June 2021~

Date	Time	Ushers	Camera Tech	Video Tech
June 6	8:30	Dennis & Margie Magnuson	Derek C	Glen T
10:30 am Outdoor				
June 13	8:30	Nate Houfek	Derek C	Lorie T
June 20	8:30	Michael Lisko	Derek C	Kent T
10:30 am Outdoor				
June 27	8:30		Derek C	Shane W

Don't Social Distance from Faith



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

Bible Study - Thursday, 1:30 pm

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 June

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 ~ Diane Duran
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

~April 2021~



General Fund Activity

Beginning			Transfers	Ending
Balance	Receipts	Payments	In (Out)	Balance
75,926.58	13,022.42	35,587.64		53,361.36

Benevolence Offerings

Receipts	Dispersed
1,695.00	1,457.50

Hunger Offerings

Receipts	Dispersed
60.00	75.00

Women of the ELCA

~Bible Study Groups~
Deborah Circle

9:30 am Saturday June 26th

Study Leader: : Charlotte Jensen

Hostess: Constance Hollenbeck



Jochebed Circle

TBD

Service Project/Park

Change: Meetings will now be the 2nd Sat. of the month at 10 am

Phoebe Circle

7:00 pm Tuesday June 22nd

Study Leader: All

Hostess: Out to Eat

Service Project ~ Laundry & Dish 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!

