



St. Matthew
Evangelical Lutheran Church

THE ACTS...of God's People

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~October 2018~



Oh, it's going to be a long year for us Husker fans.

Not that we didn't see it coming. Of course we saw it coming. But we had our dis-illusions. We had our hopes. With the return of a favored son, it was easy to get carried away. To dream great dreams. To make big plans. To lose our patience and forget our place. Because we really want to be winners. Because it seems like forever since we were.

Luckily it's just football and we'll get over it.

But what about the actual losers? You know, not the losers of games, but the losers of life.

Let us confess first that we live in a world that defines all things by this one standard. Winners and losers. And not merely all things, but all persons. We despise "participation trophies" because it's most important to teach achievement and success as the one true value of humanity. This pigeonholing is wrong and dangerous in and of itself. It foments division and enmity and jealousy and injustice, just for starters. But more so, this mindset is antithetical to the vision of God's Kingdom witnessed to in the Scriptures. The law and the prophets testify to a world that does not embrace winners and reject losers. Jesus' own life and ministry was a constant service to the marginalized and oppressed.

And he died for losers.

He died for losers like you and me.

The beginning of our journey of faith is our surrender to that overwhelming truth. Any religion that produces the fruits of pride and self-righteousness is a lie in the face of the cross' inescapable conclusion: only a true loser would require such great mercy. If Jesus died for me, then I must be a sinner needful of such grace.

Go ahead, say it out loud. It's me. I'm a loser.

It's not a bad thing, despite the voices whispering in your ear. That's the essential work of faith, to embrace this overwhelming mercy and grace that is unearned and undeserved, to throw off the onerous expectation to win and submit to the reality that love, true love, comes only by promise

Pastor continued



and is received only by forfeit. To fully be the creatures of a loving creator. We cannot know, we cannot perceive what God has done until we stop doing for ourselves.

And then we can be changed.

That is the point of our journey, that we are moving in a new direction even if we do not know the end. Faith is not about achieving some final state of being, it is not a contest that we can win. It is a path that we travel, losers all, and in its passage we change. We grow. We adjust. We are challenged and we learn.

And we are not alone.

That is the heart of our calling as followers of Jesus. In a world that is so good at making losers, at pushing people to the bottom or off to the side, there is a desperate need for those who can reach out and reach down and be grace to those who bear that burden. It is not sufficient to feel bad for those who are constrained as losers while we linger safely in our own carefully constructed sanctuaries. If we would be Christ in the world, then we must do as he did.

We must die for the losers.

Can our feelings and opinions be transformed into real acts that lift up those who the world calls losers, whether for their gender or their race or their language or their biology? Can we not merely care for, but live as allies of the least in the world? Can we avoid the temptation to rise above the rest and instead follow the way of the cross and sacrifice ourselves for our fellow losers?

Then they shall be saved, and we along with them.

~Pastor Glen

Confirmation



**~Affirmation of Baptism~
Confirmed on September 23, 2018**

Kyle Nicholas Hotchkiss
Son of Scott Hotchkiss

Fall Theme



Aren't you tired of being depressed? Of being anxious about the future, of fear? Of course you are. We all are. While part of the answer to our problems lies in getting off our couches and getting to work on doing the work of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, there is another part.

We need the hope that only comes from the gospel.

The word of God carries this constant refrain within itself, this promise of the future – not some distant afterlife, but the power of the Spirit of our baptism to change our life in this very moment, in the days ahead. And to empower us to bring this same hope to the world around us.

This is our calling, to attend to this voice of hope, to let it fill us up and flow through us in all we say and do. Now is the time! The world desperately needs people of hope. This fall, we will be invited to open ourselves up to God great new work in the world. Let Hope flourish!

October 7th - Family renewed

October 14th - The Prison of Wealth

October 21st - The First shall be Last

Campus Ministry



Omaha metro Lutheran campus ministry has 3 groups that do ministry with young adults in Omaha.

God & Grads is for people in their 20's who are working or in grad school. This group loves to play trivia or table games every month.

NeMO (Nebraska Ministry Omaha) is our normal group for people 18-24 who are out of high school and/or working on their undergraduate degree. This group meets every Thursday from 7:00 - 8:30 pm at St. Timothy Lutheran Church on 93rd and Dodge for sharing, snacks, building community, and Bible study.

Our newest group is **NeMONORTH** (Nebraska Ministry Outreach North Omaha) which is a multicultural group for young adults 18-30 who live, work or attend Fort Omaha MCC in north Omaha. This new group will be part of "Halloween on the BOOlevard", sponsored by the MinneLusa neighborhood association.

All 3 of these groups can be found on Facebook with more detailed information. You may also contact Pastor Jim Holthus, the metro campus pastor, at lootr@hotmail.com with questions.

☞ Children & Youth Ministry



This year our calling to serve our children's faith journey will include several traditional ministries and some brand new experiences! There are many opportunities for you to be a part of this amazing and important work.

~WOW~

first Wednesday of each Month at 6:00 pm

We will be joining with our Metro Lutheran partners to hold a once-a-month special gathering for Elementary School students (Kindergarten through 6th grade), rotating through each of our churches. This will include a meal and other activities and learning opportunities for our students. It is our hope that by gathering in larger groups, we will be able to do more for our children and enhance their experience.

October's event will be at Bethel Lutheran on Wednesday October 3rd.

~Sunday School ~

Sunday mornings at 9:40 a.m.

We will have classes for very young children (Ages 3 through 1st Grade), Elementary School children (2nd through 6th grade), Middle School and (possibly) High School students. We will be using a new curriculum that follows the Sunday morning worship readings.

We need volunteers at every age level.

☞ Entertainment Books



The 2019 "Entertainment Books" are now available to purchase. This year, the Omaha area book is no longer printed, but is an app that you use when making a purchase. They are \$20.00 each and the funds go to the Youth Mission Trips. See Rogene to get yours

☞ Book Chat



Ready to start another season of reading and discussion? Feel free to join us on October 21st between services in the lounge.

Margie Magnuson will lead the discussion on "The Silkworm" by Robert Galbrath.

🌀 Volunteer Opportunity



Do you find that you have extra time on your hands? Do you have a desire to serve those less fortunate? Project Hope is in need of volunteers to assist their guests navigate through the food pantry. Hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. If working with the clients isn't something you would like to do, other volunteer opportunities like sorting and restocking the shelves are available on Tuesday and Thursday when food deliveries are received. If you are interested, whether it be yourself or a group, please contact Jennifer Schell by email at projecthope.jennifer@gmail.com or phone her at 402-453-7649. Project Hope is located in the basement of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church at 6201 N. 60th Street.

🌀 Ice Cream



There are 29 gallons left over from the Ice Cream Social. We are currently selling them for \$12.00. If you want to buy any please give the money to Carrie or leave in the SALT box.

Margie Magnuson
SALT treasurer

🌀 Lutheran Women of Omaha



Meeting at St. Matthew on Tuesday October 9th at 12 noon. The program and offering will be Radio Talking Books. Send reservations to Mardell Gocek at (402)292-1328 by October 7th at 5 pm.

🌀 Office Hours

Carrie's FALL Office Hours:



Monday and Wednesday 10am - 5pm
Friday 12 noon - 4pm
(or by appointment)

Worship Servants & Donations

~October 2018~



DATE	8:30 SERVICE	10:30 SERVICE
10/7	LECTOR - LINDA HILL COMMUNION ASSISTANT - KATHY COLE, CURT LOSEE VIDEO TECH - DEANNA HANSEN ACOLYTE - SHANE WAITS USHERS—JOHN GORMLEY, RANDY CRAMER, VALORIE ZENTNER	PRAISE TEAM COMMUNION ASSISTANT - BRENT THOMSEN VIDEO TECH - MELISSA CARTER ACOLYTE - MAX CARTER USHERS - David Sherwin and Andrew Rouillard
10/14	LECTOR - SCOTT ALBRIGHT COMMUNION ASSISTANT - MARLYS HANSON, CURT ENGLUND VIDEO TECH - KENT TIES ACOLYTE - ORION KUCIREK USHERS - CURT ENGLUND, BARB ENGLUND, DEANNA HANSEN	PRAISE TEAM COMMUNION ASSISTANT - SUSAN HOLLENBECK VIDEO TECH - AUDREY SCHELL ACOLYTE - ASHLEY SCHELL USHERS - John Hollenbeck and Veda Keebler
10/21	LECTOR - MICHAEL WAITS COMMUNION ASSISTANT - MICHAEL WAITS, LORIE THOMAS VIDEO TECH - CURT LOSEE ACOLYTE - SHANE WAITS USHERS - MICHAEL LISKO, DAVID LOVETT, ROGER ZEEB	PRAISE TEAM COMMUNION ASSISTANT - NATE HOUEK VIDEO TECH - ORESTES COOPER ACOLYTE - ISABELLA YEOMAN USHERS - Nancy Ehlers and Nate Houfek
10/28	LECTOR - DENNIS MAGNUSON COMMUNION ASSISTANT - DENNIS MAGNUSON, CHRIS CHUBB VIDEO TECH - LORIE THOMAS ACOLYTE - ORION KUCIREK USHERS - CHARLES COLE, CURT LOSEE, CHARLOTTE JENSEN	PRAISE TEAM COMMUNION ASSISTANT - ANDREW ROUILLARD VIDEO TECH - ANDREW ROUILLARD ACOLYTE - MAX CARTER USHERS - Richard Hollenbeck and Rochelle Foy

ALTAR GUILD: Pauline Burke and Phyllis Preuss

DATE	COFFEE HOUR HOSTS	ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS	ALTAR FLOWERS DELIVERY
10/7	Deborah Circle		Don Thomsen (10/5)
10/14		Beverley Deen	Bobbi Smith (10/12)
10/21		Michael & Laura Pribyl	Fritz Rokahr (10/19)
10/28		Darwin & Phyllis Preuss	Rogene Foy (10/26)

Calendar of Events @ St. Matthew



MONDAY, OCTOBER 1

Monday Morning Men

9:30 am - 2:00 pm Tanzanian Treasures

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2

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

6:00 pm Worship Ministry Team Mtg

6:30 pm Stephen Ministry Mtg

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3

9:30 am Wednesday Women

6:00 pm WOW Elementary Activity @ Bethel Lutheran

6:00 pm Festival Choir

6:30 pm Confirmation @ Bethel Lutheran

7:00 pm JuBELLation Ringers

7:00 pm Praise Team

7:30 pm Children & Youth Ministry Team Mtg

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4

1:30 pm Adult Study

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

11:00 am Sewing For Babies Boutique

12:00 am Sewing For Babies High Tea (reservations needed)

~SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7~

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

8:30 AM AND 10:30 AM

9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship

9:40 am Sunday School



MONDAY, OCTOBER 8

Monday Morning Men

9:30 am - 2:00 pm Tanzanian Treasures

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9

12:00 pm Lutheran Women of Omaha

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10

9:30 am Wednesday Women

6:00 pm Festival Choir

6:30 pm Confirmation @ Bethel Lutheran

7:00 pm JuBELLation Ringers

7:00 pm Praise Team

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11

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

1:30 pm Adult Study

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

8:30 am Jochebed Circle

~SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14~

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

8:30 AM AND 10:30 AM

9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship

9:30 am Blood Pressure Checks

9:40 am Sunday School



MONDAY, OCTOBER 15

ACTS Newsletter Articles

Due in the Office Today

Monday Morning Men

9:30 am - 2:00 pm Tanzanian Treasures

7:00 pm Congregation Council Mtg

🌀Calendar of Events @ St. Matthew🌀

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17

9:30 am Wednesday Women
6:00 pm Festival Choir
6:30 pm Confirmation @ Bethel Lutheran
7:00 pm JuBELLation Ringers
7:00 pm Praise Team

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18

1:30 pm Adult Study

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

10:00 am Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry



~SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21~

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

8:30 AM AND 10:30 AM

9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship
9:30 am Book Chat
9:40 am Sunday School



MONDAY, OCTOBER 22

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23

7:00 pm Phoebe Circle

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24

9:30 am Wednesday Women
6:00 pm Festival Choir
6:30 pm Confirmation @ Bethel Lutheran
7:00 pm JuBELLation Ringers
7:00 pm Praise Team

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25

1:30 pm Adult Study

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27

9:30 am Deborah Circle

~SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28~

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

8:30 AM AND 10:30 AM

Special Guest: Mikah Meyer
9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship
9:40 am Sunday School



MONDAY, OCTOBER 29

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30

7:00 pm Phoebe Circle

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31

9:30 am Wednesday Women
6:00 pm Festival Choir
6:30 pm Confirmation @ Bethel Lutheran
7:00 pm JuBELLation Ringers
7:00 pm Praise Team



Special Guest



Special Guest Mikah Meyer
Sunday, October 28th, 2018 (both services)



We are privileged to welcome Mikah Meyer to St. Matthew on Reformation Sunday to share with us his journey and his insights.

In 2005, days after his father's funeral, 19-year-old Mikah embarked on his first independent road trip. What was initially planned as a post-freshman year getaway quickly became a transformative experience that showed Mikah the healing power of road trips. Since then, he has taken one road trip a year to honor this experience, including his 260 day, 16,400 mile "Dream Road Trip" around 46 North American states/provinces at age 25, and his noted journey to all 417 NPS sites at age 30.

Mikah's expertise ranges from media partnerships with the US federal government's news agency to speaking engagements from New York to New Zealand. He is an inspirational speaker, encouraging others to follow their dreams before it's too late, be comfortable with their unique traits, and use those diverse skills to change the world.

Also an accomplished performer, Mikah has sung professionally with the Washington National Cathedral choirs, the Memphis Symphony and various international ensembles, and has created shows ranging from full-length improvised musicals to educational cabarets. He is a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar who has devoted his life to helping people find common ground, whether in his hometown of Lincoln, Nebraska or on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial completing epic road trips.

🌀 Special Guest continued



Mikah's writings on his "Dream Trips" have been featured by outlets including the National Parks Conservation Association, Outside Magazine's first piece addressing LGBT inclusion in the outdoor industry, and a piece via Huffington Post and RoadTrippers that garnered over 40,000 shares and inspired the title track for singer/songwriter Shelly Waters' album DRIVE.

With April 29, 2016, marking the 11th anniversary of his father's passing from cancer, Mikah honored his dad's love of driving by making life out of death and launching his journey to experience all 400+ units of the U.S. National Park System, attempting to become the youngest person to experience every unit and the sole person to do so in a continuous journey. The project is scheduled to be completed on April 29, 2019.

Learn more about Mikah at <https://www.mikahmeyer.com/>

🌀 Benefit Concert



Calvary Lutheran Church located at 2941 N 80th Street invites you to attend a concert on Sunday, October 21st at 6:00 pm by Mark Smeby formerly of Omaha and currently living in Nashville, TN. Mark Smeby is a Christian singer, songwriter and actor. His concerts center around the theme of HOPE. Attendees are asked to bring food donations for Project Hope, Inc. and our satellite pantries at Holy Cross Lutheran and St. Matthew Lutheran Churches to support our Thanksgiving Basket Programs.

Suggested food items needed for Thanksgiving Baskets include:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Dry Turkey Gravy Mixes | Boxed Turkey Stuffing Mixes |
| Canned Sweet Potatoes (yams) | Miniature Marshmallows |
| Canned Green Beans or Corn | Canisters of Crispy Fried Onions |
| Cornbread Muffing Mixes | Large boxes of Gelatin |
| Canned Fruit | 15 oz canned Pumpkin |
| Tubs of Cream Cheese Frosting | |

Church Staff



Pastor ~ Glen Thomas
Administrative Assistant ~ Carrie Conley
Bookkeeper ~ Veda Keebler
Custodian ~ Jack Wiese
Music Director ~ Ric Swanson
Organist ~ Kim Hansen
JuBELLation Ringers Director ~ Ginger Britt

Church Council



Glen Thomas ~ *Pastor*
Andrew Rouillard—President
Kelli Stott—Vice President
Scott Albright— Secretary
Margie Magnuson—Treasurer
Randy Cramer - Financial
Secretary

Ryan Keebler—Worship
and Music
Luke Compton— Faith Formation
Teri Lisko—Hospitality
Dave Sherwin— Community Care
John Hollenbeck— Property

Church Office Information



OFFICE HOURS ~ Monday through Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., and Friday 12 noon- 4:00 p.m. 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.

Women of the ELCA



~Bible Study Groups~ **Deborah Circle**

9:30 am Saturday October 27th

Study Leader: Constance Hollenbeck

Hostess: Pat Mandel

Jochebed Circle

8:30 am Saturday October 13th

Study Leader: Deanna Hansen

Hostess: Jen Schell

Phoebe Circle

7:00 pm Tuesday October 23rd

Study Leader: Phyllis Preuss

Hostess: Margaret Betten

Service Project ~ Deodorant

~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.

Health Ministry

~Blood Pressure Screening~ **October 14, 2018** **9:30 - 10:30 a.m.**



HAVE your blood pressure checked between services.

Special Dates

World Communion Sunday, *October 7, 2018*

Reformation Sunday, *October 28, 2018*

Reformation Day, *October 31, 2018*



Words of Wisdom

“Looking back over a lifetime,
you see that love was the answer to everything.”



—Ray Bradbury

Tella Lutheran



JAMBO! (Greetings in Swahili)

Hope you all had a great summer and are enjoying the changing colors.

Won't you consider joining Deanna and I on the 2019 Nebraska Synod Vision Trip to Tanzania? We will be leaving on February 4th and returning on the 19th. It is a life changing experience you don't want to miss! Don't delay as Airline tickets will be purchased the first part of October. Call Stephanie at the Synod Office 402- 896- 5311 or email stephanie@nebraskasynod.org for more details. The Cost is only \$4500 which covers airfare, visa, ground transportation, tours, rooms, and meals. It is a real deal!

Tanzanian Treasures, Fabric and More (our Mission Project) will have a booth at the Prairie Piecemakers Quilt & Needlework Show. The show is at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Fremont on October 12th (9 am to 7 pm) and 13th 9 am to 4 pm).

SAVE THE DATE! Our annual TANZANIAN BRUNCH is scheduled for December 2nd, the first weekend of Advent. Please mark your calendars...We hope you will join us during coffee hour as we "CELEBRATE OUR PARTNERSHIP"

with Tella Lutheran Parish on Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, East Africa.

Lovingly in Christ,
Mary Mayfield - Partner Parish Committee

Food Pantry



~Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry~ Items Needed

Canned Peas	Canned Carrots
Canned Mixed Vegetables	Canned Diced Tomatoes
Soup	Boxed Potatoes
Canned or Powdered Milk	

Financial Report

~August 2018~



General Fund Activity

Beginning Balance	Receipts	Payments	Transfers In (Out)	Ending Balance
9,231.51	16,819.86	15,681.43		10,684.94

Benevolence Offerings

Receipts	Dispersed
1,886.00	2,580.00

Hunger Offerings

Receipts	Dispersed
97.17	228.05

Coffee Mugs



ONLY \$6 each, dishwasher safe. Pick yours up from Pastor today!

Electronic Giving



~Enjoy the convenience of electronic giving!~

OUR church offers electronic giving, which allows you to make donations on a scheduled, automatic basis. It's very convenient for you and provides much-needed donation consistency for our church. You will no longer need to write out checks and prepare envelopes every week. Even when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, your electronic contributions will continue to be received on an uninterrupted basis.

To set up electronic donations, simply complete the authorization form available at church and return it to the church office. Donations can be debited automatically from either a checking or savings account.

For those members who use electronic giving to make their offerings to the church, the blue cards in the pews may be put in the offering plate allowing



"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

Fax (402) 556-1344

Email: office@smlutheran.com

Web Site: www.smlutheran.com

~WORSHIP SCHEDULE~

Sunday @ 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Holy Communion Every Week

Nursery space available to families with infants and toddlers during worship services.

~SUNDAY COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP~

9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

~SUNDAY SCHOOL~

9:40 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.

A journey for everyone from 2—102!

Adult Program for the
Developmentally Disabled

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!

