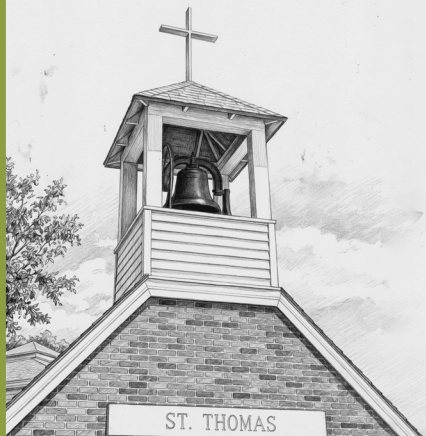




The Builder

August 2, 2026

• Engaging • Empowering • Sending • Serving
Growing as a community in Jesus Christ

St. Thomas Lutheran Church
17007 Q Street Omaha, NE 68135
402-894-2040 STLC.org



Welcome back Pastor David! Sunday August 2

Join us for a 'Welcome Back'
cake reception in the Fellowship Hall
following each service



Back-to-School Sunday August 9 During 8:30 & 10am Worship



Blessing: We will take a moment to pray for all those heading back to school- students, teachers, counselors, administrators, and support staff.

Backpack Blessing: All students are invited to bring their backpacks for the blessing.

STLC.org/BackToSchoolSunday

Youth Mission 2026

Thank you to all who contributed to make this mission possible!

Read about their trip at
STLC.org/Blog.



See photos on our [Facebook Page](#)

Join us Sunday, September 13 for the Youth Mission presentation at both worship services.



*We hope you'll
join us!*

**GOAL: 150
volunteers**

**Saturday, August 8
8:30 - 11:30 am**

Scan to
sign up!



*See event schedule
on page 5!*

All Ministry Teams Quarterly Meeting Monday, August 3 - 6:00 pm - Fellowship Hall



St. Thomas
Lutheran
Church

*Our church couldn't do what we do
without the work of our Ministry Teams!*

Each Team meets monthly and all teams join together quarterly for dinner, fellowship, and communication regarding goals and current work for our church & community.

You're invited to join a Ministry Team!

Learn more & sign up at STLC.org/Ministries.

Join our church family!
Please attend ONE session.
(in the Fellowship Hall)

- Sunday, August 9- 11:15 am
- Wednesday, August 12 - 6:00 pm

Childcare available upon request.

Details at STLC.org/Join. Email the church office at office@stlc.org to let us know when you will be attending!

[Additional details on page 4.](#)

**New Member
Orientation**



REGISTER THE KIDS!

Register your kids, age 3 - Grade 9,
for all STLC programs in one registration form!

- Nursery
- STLC Kids
- Choristers
- WAM (Worship Arts & Music)
- Christmas Program
- First Bible Class
- First Communion
- Confirmation

Learn more & register at STLC.org/KidsRegistration.

Children's Programs



STLC Kids - Age 3 - Grade 5

Sundays - 10:00 am (Room 100)

Begins September 13

Details & registration link at STLC.org/STLCKids.

WAM (Worship Arts & Music) Grades 1-5

Wednesdays **Begins September 9**

5:45 - 6:15 pm- Choristers (Children's Choir) (Room 220)

6:15 - 7:30 pm- Resonate/Chimers & Bible Activity



Nursery



The Nursery is available
8:15 am - 11:15 am each Sunday!

Located on the lower level in the
Children's Ministry area off of Room 100.

For easier check-in, register at STLC.org/KidsRegistration.

Children are always welcome in worship!

Youth Programs



Confirmation - Grades 6 - 9

September 9 & 23 - 6:45 - 8:45pm

October 2026 - April 2027:

1st & 3rd Wednesdays - 6:45 - 8:45pm

Details & registration link at STLC.org/Confirmation.

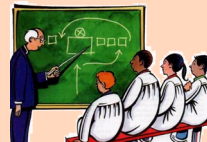
Acolyte Training for 6th grade students
& any students new to Confirmation

Sunday, August 23 - 9:00 am (CLC)

or

Wed., August 26 - 7:00 pm (CLC)

Details at STLC.org/Confirmation



High School Youth - Grades 9 - 12

September 16 & 30 - 6:45 - 8:45pm

October 2026 - April 2027:

2nd & 4th Wednesdays - 6:45 - 8:45pm

Details at STLC.org/HighSchoolYouth.

Youth Mission: Learn more at STLC.org/YouthMission.

ADULT SMALL GROUPS

Study Service Support Fellowship

All are invited!
Details on these and other small groups at STLC.org/SmallGroups

Women's Bible Study (monthly, Tues. evenings): Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm in Room 202 (upper level).
For details, please contact Kelley Miller at KMiller@stlc.org.
(Resumes August 11)

Women's Bible Study (weekly, Wednesday mornings):
9:30am - Please visit STLC.org/GracesPlace for details.
(Resumes September 9)

Men's Bible Study (weekly, Thurs. mornings):
Meets Thursday mornings during the academic year at 6:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Details at STLC.org/MensBibleStudy.
(Resumes in the fall)

DivorceCare - On-going support group. Mondays, 6:30 pm.
(Room 223) STLC.org/DivorceCare (Resumes in the fall)

Women of St. Thomas - Sewing Ministry.
2nd Mondays - 2:00pm & 4th Mondays - 7:00pm (Room 225).

O.W.L. (Older Wiser Lutherans) - Members & friends ages 55+.
"Lunch Bunch" - 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 12:00pm (Fellowship Hall).
Special events scheduled throughout the year.

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Knitting & Crocheting Ministry.
1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 1:00pm (Fellowship Hall).

Novel Ideas - Ladies' book discussion group.
4th Tuesdays, 7:00pm (Offsite).

First Friday Fixers - Facility maintenance ministry.
Meets 1st Friday of each month, 9:00am - noon (STLC).

Men Who Love Spaghetti - Men's dinner group. Meets monthly at area restaurants. STLC.org/MenWhoLoveSpaghetti



Music Ensembles

All adults and high school students are invited to join!

St. Thomas Ringers Tuesdays, 7:00pm
Resumes August 25

New Life Choir Wednesdays, 7:15pm
Resumes August 26

St. Thomas Brass Resumes in October

Learn more at [STLC.org/MusicEnsembles](https://stlc.org/MusicEnsembles).



Can you read music? Bass clef?

If so, join the St. Thomas Ringers! We're in need of a low (large) bell player for the fall of 2026.

NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY!

Anyone interested will need to be able to read bass clef and basic music notations like rhythms and dynamics. Training available on these specific bells.

If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact Jason Horner at JHorner@stlc.org or call the church office 402-894-2040.

Ringers rehearsals resume Tuesday, August 25 at 7:00 pm in the Music Room (220).

For more information about St. Thomas Ringers visit [STLC.org/Ringers](https://stlc.org/Ringers).

Summer Choir

August 12 & 16

Singers of all ages are invited to sing in this intergenerational choir! Bring the kids, grandparents, and all of your family, friends, and neighbors! Come share your gift and meet new friends who share the love of singing!

We'll sing at the 8:30 am Traditional Worship once in each of the summer months with one rehearsal before each.

Upcoming Schedule:

- Wednesday, Aug. 12, 6:30 pm - Rehearsal (Music Room)
- Sunday, Aug. 16 · 7:55 am Warm-up (Music Room)
· 8:30 am Sing during Worship (Sanctuary)

Questions? Contact Jason Horner, STLC Director of Music Ministries, at JHorner@stlc.org.



**BLOOD PRESSURE
Screening**

**Free Blood Pressure Screenings
1st Sunday of each month**

Sunday, August 2 - 9:30-10:00am
(outside the Fellowship Hall)

Stop by for a free blood pressure check offered by congregation member and Registered Nurse, Sara Randolph.

Bible Studies

Women's Bible Study (Tuesday evenings):

Resumes August 12 - Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm in Room 202 (upper level). For more information, please contact Kelley Miller at KMiller@stlc.org.

Women's Bible Study (Wednesday mornings):

Resumes September 9 - Please visit [STLC.org/GracesPlace](https://stlc.org/GracesPlace) for details on this study.

Men's Bible Study (Thursday mornings):

Resumes in the fall - Meets Thursday mornings during the academic year at 6:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Details at [STLC.org/MensBibleStudy](https://stlc.org/MensBibleStudy).



First Weekend Food Drive - August 2

Please deliver non-perishable food items (**no fresh** fruits/vegetables/bread, please) and toiletries to the Outreach Center (Room 204). Benefits Project Hope.

Details at [STLC.org/FirstWeekendFoodDrive](https://stlc.org/FirstWeekendFoodDrive)



O.W.L. Events

O.W.L. (Older Wiser Lutherans) are members & friends of St. Thomas ages 55+. Friends are welcome at all events!

"The Art of Zentangle:

A Creative Practice for Peace and Presence"

Presented by Diane Harpster-Certified Zentangle Teacher

Sunday, August 16

11:15 am, Fellowship Hall

Please RSVP at STLC.org/OWL.

(Suggested donation: \$10 per person to help cover Diane's fee's and the cost of supplies)

As a Certified Zentangle Teacher, Diane will guide participants through a simple, structured method of meditative drawing that quiets the mind and opens the heart. Diane writes: This isn't just art – it's an invitation to slow down, reconnect, and experience stillness.

OWL Lunch Bunch

*Meets the first and third Thursdays of each month
12:00 noon - 2:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
Bring a lunch and friends!*



Coffee Connection

**9:30 am each Sunday
Fellowship Hall**

You're invited to enjoy coffee, cookies,
& conversation with your STLC family!
All are welcome!

All adults are welcome to join us in
serving Kansas City residents in need
of a helping hand!

**Adult Mission Trip
September 13 -16, 2026
Kansas City, MO**



Why go on an Adult Mission Trip?

- Make a difference in the lives of others in the name of Jesus.
- Develop meaningful friendships that last.
- The joy of being together.
- Tasks are tailored to your skills.
- Accomplishing something bigger than self.
- It's just fun!

Questions? Please contact Dave or Anita deFreese or call
the church office at (402) 894-2040.

Details also at STLC.org/AdultMissionTrip. Share the page
and invite your friends to serve too!



New Member Orientation

Are you or someone you know looking for a church home? Welcome home! We
invite you to join our church family!

New Member Orientation is an informal gathering that offers an opportunity for
Pastor David and Pastor Heidi to connect with you, to hear your story, and to share
a bit more about the community of St. Thomas Lutheran Church. We'll explore what we believe, who we are as
a Lutheran community, and, for those who are interested, the process of formally joining as a full participant
in our mission. Childcare is available upon request.

Our next session will be held (need only attend one of the two New Member Orientations offered):

- **Sunday, August 9, 11:15 am**, Fellowship Hall: New Member Orientation
- **Wednesday, August 12, 6:00 pm**, Fellowship Hall: New Member Orientation
- **Sunday, August 23, during 10am Contemporary Worship**: New Members will be received into membership.
- **Sunday, August 23, 11:15 am**, Fellowship Hall- A light luncheon to welcome our New Members.

RSVP: If you are interested in attending this orientation and becoming a member of our church family, please
email the church office at office@stlc.org or simply call the church office at 402-894-2040.

Questions? Please contact Pastor Heidi Youngquist at HYoungquist@stlc.org.



The Outreach Ministry Team's monthly article for August **2026** focuses on STLC's Reading Ministry: **STLC School Book Readers** and **School Books for School Kids**.

STLC School Book Readers are volunteers who read monthly during the academic year.

We are excited to be in our 6th year of the Reading Ministry. This year we will be reading at Jackson Elementary, Benson West Elementary, and Bancroft Elementary which are all Title I OPS schools. After reading a book to a class, volunteers provide the teachers with a copy for each student to encourage reading at home & at school. Last year, 3,944 books were given to the students in the classrooms and an additional 250+ books given to the libraries at each school.

Join the STLC School Book Readers! Interested in reading to Students?

Please contact the ministry's leader, Anita deFreese, at ajdefreese76@gmail.com or call the church office at 402-894-2040. The smiles, laughter, and sometimes hugs you receive from the students are priceless and will put a smile on your face and in your heart. Please let us know if you would like to be a monthly reader or substitute reader for the 2026-2027 school year.



School Books for School Kids is our ministry for raising funds to purchase books that are given to the children. Classroom teachers request the particular books that are read and STLC purchases the books through Scholastic Books.

Contribute to School Books for School Kids! Contributions are accepted year-round to purchase the books given to students. Ways to contribute can be found at STLC.org/SchoolBooks.

With the congregation's help and prayers, we hope to give even more books than last year to more students. Thank you for supporting the STLC School Book Readers and School Books for School Kids!



Saturday, August 8

Details at STLC.org/Servabration

SCHEDULE:



8:30 am - BREAKFAST

Enjoy a meal and catch up with friends! Build-your-own breakfast burrito, pastries, coffee, juice, and water will be provided.



9:15 am - PRAYERS & SEND-OFF

We'll share the different service activities and close with a prayer before sending everyone out to their sites.



11:30 am - SERVICE CONCLUDES

All activities will wrap up by 11:30 am.



What kind of reader are you? Slow and steady, a fast reader, and do you love fiction or nonfiction?

The church Library has everything you need! Books for young and old, and puzzles! We have many books by Adam Hamilton, new books for the middle schooler, and tons of nonfiction and popular fiction books.

Stop by and check out books anytime. Check out as many as you want and bring them back when you are finished. All are welcome at the church library!



LJ COFFEE CAFÉ

Meets on the third Monday of each month - 9:00-11:00 am

Next meeting Monday, August 17
Library (upper level, Room 214)

Dana Village Meal

Monday, August 24



You're invited to help serve a meal to the residents of Dana Village in Blair, NE! Volunteers will also be engaging with the residents, talking with them about their well-being, employment, schooling, and other topics that may bring opportunity to provide guidance and support.

- 4:45 pm - Carpool from STLC
- 6:00 pm - Dinner served on the Dana Village campus in Mickelsen Hall at [2876 Angels Share Drive, Blair, NE 68008](#).

Interested in serving?

RSVP at [STLC.org/DanaVillageMeals](#).

Learn more about Dana Village at [onelfs.org/housing/dana-village/](#).

A Word from the Bishop

- ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry - July 28, 2026: [Choosing Reconciliation Over Division in a Multifaith America](#)
- NE Synod Bishop Rev. Scott Johnson - [July Reflection](#)



Read more:

- [ELCA.org/news-and-stories/all](#)
- [NebraskaSynod.org/news](#)

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Prayer Shawls are located in the Outreach Center (upper level, Room 204).

Please take a shawl if you or a loved one are in need of a tangible reminder that you are surrounded by the love of God and by the prayers of others.

Interested in joining? The Prayer Shawl Ministry team meets in the Fellowship Hall for knitting, crocheting, and fellowship at 1:00 pm on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each month.

Details at [STLC.org/PrayerShawlMinistry](#).

Outreach Center

Upper Level, Room 204

Reach out to those in need.

- **Project Hope, Inc.** - First Weekend Food Drive
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry** - Prayer Shawls for anyone in need.
- **Tip Top Thrift Shop** - New or gently-used clothing and small household items to benefit Youth Emergency Services
- **Heartland Hope Mission**
- **Lutheran Family Services**
- **Lions Recycle for Sight** - usable used eyeglasses
- **Ronald McDonald House** - pop can tabs

Learn more at [STLC.org/OutreachCenter](#)



Unless otherwise requested, all prayer requests will appear in publications for two weeks.

To add a friend or loved one to the prayers, visit STLC.org/PrayerRequest

Alex Lopez - friend of Jason & Ashlee Olson
 Wendy - friend of Kelly Pugh
 Diane Schick - sister-in-law of Allegra Sorensen
 Julie Hudson - former St. Thomas member
 Jeriann Leary - friend of Sue Chastain
 Hudson Davis - grandson of Janine McCauley
 Jamie Brenaman -
 daughter-in-law of Dale & Margie Rennerfeldt
 Tom Patterson - cousin of Whitney Patterson-Kock
 Cathy Chapman - friend of Greg & Lori Schilling
 Jenny - friend of Kelly Pugh
 Neil Larson - brother of Lori Schilling
 Dale Rennerfeldt
 Angie Ratekin
 Terry Hurlbert
 Sam McCoy
 Dave Matsumura
 Tootie Rohde
 Ava Kock
 Allegra Sorensen

Worship Servers

Sundays	August 2	August 9
Assisting Ministers		
8:30 (S)	Regina Mendenhall	Marty Oleson
10:00 (CLC)	Lisa Bartholow	Greg Salton
Acolytes & Communion Assistants		
8:30 (S)	Maya Alexander Adeline Perkins	Natalie Benson Ashleigh Hopp
10:00 (CLC) Acolytes	Jaxton Scherr Brayden Knipe	Pryor Kennedy Alex Thomson
10:00 (CLC) Comm. Asst.	Peyton Friesen Aubrey Friesen	Ean Villa Talon Frerichs
Ushers		
8:30 (S)	Dave Chastain Bob Sall	Pete Jensen Tom Schwarten
10:00 (CLC)	Dan Berlau Aaron Jacobsen Matt Riedlinger Dan Wellendorf	Gordon Harnisch Tyler Scherr TBA TBA
Welcome Hosts		
8:30 (S)	Kerri Ruth	Patty / John Pecoraro
10:00 (CLC)	Janet Voelker / Anne Loudenback	Vickie / Ralph Glock
Slide Advancers		
10:00 (CLC)	Elaine Hottovy	Elaine Hottovy
Livestream Operators		
10:00 (CLC)	Pete Thompson	Pete Thompson
Sound System Operators		
10:00 (CLC)	Chris Levine	David Carroll
Coffee Connection Servers		
9:30	Susie Chesley	Carrie Rosenberry
Coffee Connection Bread Bakers		
9:30	N/A	Darleen Farwell
CLC Set-up - Volunteers Welcome!		
9:00	Property Ministry & Volunteers	Boy Scouts

It takes a number of people to help make meaningful worship and fellowship experiences. We are very grateful for all who serve each Sunday, and we welcome all who want to serve! If interested, please contact Jason Horner, Director of Music Ministries, at JHorner@stlc.org.

**Worship
Servers**

This Week at St. Thomas...

■ Sunday, Aug 2 - First Weekend Food Drive

Welcome back Pastor David!

- 8:30a Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
- 9:00a CLC Set-up (Property Ministry & Volunteers)
- 9:30a Cake Reception (Fellowship Hall)
- 9:30a Free Blood Pressure Checks (outside Fellowship Hall)
- 10:00a Contemporary Worship (Community Life Center or Livestream)
- 11:15a Cake Reception (Fellowship Hall)

■ Monday, Aug 3

- 6:00p All-Ministry Teams Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

■ Tuesday, Aug 4

- 10:30a Staff Meeting (Room 221)
- 1:00p [Prayer Shawl Ministry](#) (Fellowship Hall)
- 2:00p [High School Hang-Out](#) (Scooters - 180th & Q)

■ Wednesday, Aug 5

■ Thursday, Aug 6

- 12:00p [O.W.L. Lunch Bunch](#) (Fellowship Hall)
- 2:00p [O.W.L. Planning Team](#) (Room 221)
- 6:30p [Praise Team Rehearsal](#) (CLC)

■ Friday, Aug 7

- 9:00a [First Friday Fixers](#) (STLC)

■ Saturday, Aug 8

8:30a Servabration



■ Sunday, Aug 9 - Back to School Sunday

- 8:30a Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
- 9:00a CLC Set-up (Boy Scouts)
- 9:30a Coffee Connection (Fellowship Hall)
- 10:00a Contemporary Worship (Community Life Center or Livestream)
- 11:15a [New Member Orientation](#) (Fellowship Hall)

Ways to give your offering



STLC.org/GiveOnline. Make one-time or recurring contributions from your checking/savings account or debit/credit card.

Venmo.com/STLCOmaha. Add a comment to designate where your contribution is to be used.

Text the amount to (877) 362-7992. Default is General Fund. Add a specific fund, such as: *Youth Mission Trip, Sabbatical, or Imagine More.* (i.e., 30 Youth Mission Trip)

Offering Box Place cash or check in the offering box.

Mail your contributions to 17007 Q St, Omaha, NE 68135

Utilize your bank's bill-pay service to set up recurring or one-time contributions.

Upcoming Events

- Aug 12 [New Member Orientation](#) - 6:00pm
- Aug 12 [Summer Choir Rehearsal](#) - 6:30pm
- Aug 16 [Summer Choir Sings](#) - 8:30am (7:55am warmup)
- Aug 23 [New Members Received](#) - during 10:00am worship
- Aug 25 [St. Thomas Ringers](#) begins - 7:00pm
- Aug 23 Acolyte Training - 7:00pm
- Aug 26 Acolyte Training - 9:00am
- Aug 26 [New Life Choir](#) begins - 7:15pm

St. Thomas
Total Offering
Year-to-Date

Through June 30, 2026

Actual	Budget
566,812	543,810

Website STLC.org

St. Thomas Lutheran Church



Facebook STLC.org/Facebook

St. Thomas Lutheran Church Omaha



YouTube STLC.org/YouTube

STLC Omaha

