

*St. Matthew Lutheran Church
of Westfield*

Messenger

January
2023

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Pastor
Rev. Dr. Ronald Bogs



Associate Pastor
Rev. Arturo Mendez



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy New Year, the year of our Lord 2023. If you are like me and probably most people, it seems not that long ago there was much fear and trembling as we approached the new year of 2000. There were many predictions of the end of the world, computers crashing, and the Lord returning. My questions in those days was why do we think God acts according to our human way of marking of

time. Certainly God gave us the 24-hour day on Day One of creation when He created the light and then on Day Four when He created the Sun and put it into the sky so that the earth would orbit with each rotation was a twenty-four hour period. The fact is God created time for us. Time is not something we have determined and expect God to act according to our will. Indeed, our good and gracious, loving and gift-giving God does all and gives all to us including our days, weeks, months and years, and 2023 is one more gift from Him, whether He shall come sometime during this year or not, or whether He may tarry or we may pass on to Him. As I continually remind you, our time on this earth is short compared to eternity. Each day then is a gift from God and most certainly our wisest usage of each day is to use it as He intended, that is, we serve Him by serving others in our vocation, and our service flows out of Him first loving us and then stirring and moving in us to live such God-pleasing lives.

God has blessed this congregation, His congregation of St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield with so many gifts and blessings. Indeed, we might rejoice as we celebrate 123 years of being His church in this place. We rejoice in that, unlike many congregations, we have no financial debts. Our buildings and land are paid for. We have now moved into opening up and sharing the Good News with those of the Hispanic community. It is wonderful to think of what other ways we as a congregation can be in service to God and our community.

As we move into this new year, we have just elected new leadership, and yet we still have many openings and opportunities for you to serve God by serving others by being and serving on a board or committee. With that said, we will be having a training seminar on Saturday, January 21st from 8 am to noon. If you have ever even wondered what the various boards and committees do or how might you use the gifts and talents God has given you to be of service, I invite you, even if you have not been elected, to come and see.

It is at the beginning of a new calendar year that we might all wonder, what great things God has in store for us this year? And how might we best give praise and glory to His Holy Name?

God's richest blessings.
In His Service,

Pastor Bogs
1 Cor. 15:3-5

Don't forget, if you miss a Sunday, you can read the sermon on my blog: <http://rabswritings.blogspot.com>.

~A Message from Pastor Mendez~

Peace and Grace in the name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

It is a great joy to all of us that we are celebrating the nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

In this time, we rejoice in our savior and also in His redeeming grace and in His sacrifice to all of us. It is a joy to share with all of you that the E.S.L. program in our Church had our first Spanish Divine Services one week before Thanksgiving Day and one week before Christmas. Thankfully we had a great response from all our E.S.L Students, remember that the purpose of the E.S.L program is to reach out to our Hispanic Community, thanks to all who have supported this program with your time and talents, thankfully we had around 50 people come to each of the Divine Services, we rejoice in that, and in Our Lord that He continues to keep touching they're hearts and souls and the seed that is planted in good soil will grow and the Lord will do His purpose in each of their lives, to God be all the Glory, please I encourage you to keep praying for all of us that the Lord strengthen us to keep working in His Service, serving God to serve our Community.

1 Corinthians 16:14

Yearly Housekeeping for 2023!!



Mailboxes in the Narthex: Your mailbox is in the narthex in the Ushers room against the back wall. The monthly newsletter, offering envelopes, schedules and any other information that the church needs to get out to you is delivered here. If you do not have a box please notify the church secretary. These boxes will be cleaned out January 26th so please take home whatever papers that you wish to keep.



Prayer Requests: Please take a look at the prayer requests list. If you have an update for someone please let Pastor know or email/call the office so that we can get the update posted.



January 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Those Serving the Lord this Month: Elders ~ Greeters ~ Ushers ~ Luke Tusing & Jordan Christy Counter ~ Altar Guild ~ Hannah Bogs & Becky Mendez Acolytes ~ Isabella Vaz, Alex Vaz						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service Happy Birthday BJ Jackson!	Office Closed Happy Birthday John Stayton!	Happy Birthday Mark LaShomb!	10am Bible Class 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	10am Bulletin Deadline Happy Birthday Aaron Bogs!	Office Closed	Happy Birthday Kristyn Christie, Guy Hardy & Jean Hinz!
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service Happy Birthday Patricia LaShomb!	Happy Birthday Sandra Pedersen!	7 pm ESL classes	10am Bible Class 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study Happy Birthday Eda Nitz!	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes	Office Closed Happy Birthday Mary Tautenhahn!	8am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10am Board of Elders Meeting
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service		7 pm ESL classes	10am Bible Class 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Class Happy Birthday Scott Christy & Joshua Montemayor!	Office Closed Happy Birthday Cody Williamson!	Training Seminar 8am-Noon Happy Birthday Jack Christy & Troy Lilley!
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service	GET YOUR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IN!!! Happy Birthday Annie Mae Byars!	7pm ESL Class	10am Bible Class 10am Deadline for Newsletter articles 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study		Office Closed	Happy Birthday Dillon Mosier!
29	30	31	Feb. 1	2	3	4
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Matins & Meal		7pm ESL Class Happy Birthday Ricky Gause!	10am Bible Class 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Class	Office Closed	

Time to Celebrate!

Holy Days & Holidays in January

January 1st New Year's Day
January 6th The Epiphany of Our Lord
January 8th The Baptism of Our Lord
January 18th The Confession of St. Peter
January 24th St. Timothy, Pastor and Confessor
January 25th The Conversion of St. Paul
January 26th St. Titus, Pastor and Confessor

Happy Birthday to You!

January 1st BJ Jackson
January 2nd John Stayton
January 3rd Mark LaShomb
January 5th Aaron Bogs
January 7th Kristyn Christie
January 7th Guy Hardy
January 7th Jean Hinz
January 8th Patricia LaShomb
January 9th Sandra Pedersen
January 11th Eda Nitz
January 13th Mary Tautenhahn
January 19th Scott Christy
January 19th Joshua Montemayor
January 20th Cody Williamson
January 21st Jack Christy
January 21st Troy Lilley
January 23rd Annie Mae Byars
January 28th Dillon Mosier
January 31st Ricky Gause

Baptismal Birthdays

January 1st Guy Hardy
January 1st BJ Jackson
January 1st Bob Langley
January 1st Jeanne Langley
January 1st Brenda Pali
January 1st Luke Tusing, Jr.
January 4th Sandra McGuire
January 5th Larry Harvey
January 7th Joel Musgrove
January 14th Aaron Bogs
January 18th Marc McIlhany
January 22nd Jack Lutsch
January 23rd Shawn Honerkamp
January 24th Jim Gibbs
January 24th Cadence Wells

Confirmation Anniversaries

January 1st Ricky Gause
January 1st James Musgrove
January 6th Janis McClure

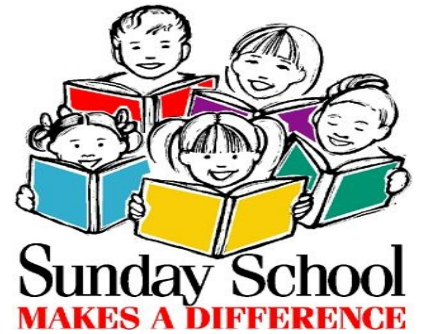
Wedding Anniversaries

January 4th Ricky & Jami Gause ~ 49 Yrs.
January 11th Kevin & Heather Hodges ~ 26 Yrs.
January 17th Mark & Anamarie LaShomb ~ 20 Yrs.
January 17th Joel & Rene Musgrove ~ 25 Yrs.

Opportunities to Study God's Word

Sunday School for All Ages

Preschool - Elementary Classes begin at 8:45 am in **Room #5**. The children are learning Biblical accounts from the Growing in Christ series. **The Sr. & Jr. High School class** is led by Pastor Mendez in **Room #3** which is now studying "For You" to prepare for their trip to Higher Things Youth Gathering.



Sunday Adult Bible Classes

All members and friends of St. Matthew Lutheran Church are invited for coffee and donuts at 8:30 am each Sunday at 8:30 am. Then our Bible Classes begin at 8:45 am. *The Pentetuch* led by Pastor Bogs meets in the **Room #2**. And *Galatians* led by Larry Harvey meets in **Room #4**. Please join us. Bring a friend!

Wednesday Mornings

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study Group will be meeting at **10:00 am in Room #2**. We invite everyone who is available to join us to study God's Word. We are studying the "What about" series. They can be downloaded at: <https://resources.lcms.org/reading-study/what-about-p-amphlets/>



Wednesday Evenings

There are two Wednesday evening Bible Classes. The study on *Word & Sacrament* led by Larry Harvey meets at **6:30 pm in Room #4**. The study on *Psalms* led by Pastor meets at **7:00 pm in Room #2**.

Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Join us for the Men's Breakfast and Bible study on the 2nd Saturday of the month, January 14th at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. The Board of Elders will meet following study at 10:00am.

