

# Messenger

*St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
of Westfield*

January  
2024

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Website  
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Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Ronald Bogs



Associate Pastor  
Rev. Arturo Mendez



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

John J. Beckley is quoted as having said, “People don’t plan to fail; they fail to plan.” I, for one, have found that adage quite true. January is the beginning of a new year, the year of our Lord, 2024. God has blessed this congregation in many ways over the past 123 years as we begin our 124<sup>th</sup> year. Unlike many congregations we have no debt, all our buildings are paid for, and we even have money in a CD.

Certainly, as with many congregations as old as St. Matthew, this congregation has gone through many changes over the years, many ups and downs, and yet God’s promise that His Word will not return void has never changed. Indeed, I believe God has many more blessings in store for His congregation and His church here in this place.

Having said all that, next year we will be celebrating a milestone of being God’s people and God’s congregation for 125 years. I believe we should “do it up right” as they say and have a great and grand celebration. So, as I have said many times during Advent, we do not just jump into celebrating Christmas, but we prepare ourselves during Advent. So this year is the year we will want to use to prepare ourselves and our congregation for a great and grand 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. To paraphrase Beckley’s quipped, we do not want to fail in our celebration, so we want to make sure we plan well.

And even while we plan for a great and grand celebration for 2025 we will continue our trek through the Church Year Calendar, marking and celebrating the various seasons of the Church Year and Holidays with the usual fanfare.

While there are some, maybe even many, who make new resolutions for the new year, my prayer is that you will be able to keep such resolutions. Also, my prayer is that, even if not a part of your resolutions, your desire will be to be where and when the gifts of God are being given out. In other words, I pray that you will make use of every opportunity to be in Divine Service, to attend Bible studies, be mindful of your Baptism, hear the greatest words of absolution, partake of the Lord’s Holy Meal, have personal and family devotions and in so doing be strengthened in your faith as we all await the great day of the Lord’s return or our passing on and going to Him. As I always remind you, that day will be sooner than we know and sooner than we might imagine.

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>.

## 125th Anniversary of St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Four years ago an attempt was started to get ready to celebrate our congregation's 120th anniversary. That attempt was thwarted by COVID. In one year an eight months we will be celebrating the 125th anniversary of St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield. In order to assure a proper celebration the congregation has authorized an Anniversary Celebration fund. Because a committee has not yet been set for this celebration there is not yet a goal as for how much we would like to collect, but please do not let that stop you from beginning the giving so that we might indeed have a grand celebration.



### St. Matthew Lutheran Church ~ 2024 Picnic Committee/Volunteers



Picnic Committee will be meeting on Sunday, January 7, 2024 immediately following church service. Anyone interested in helping should attend. If you have any questions please contact Lester Sentesi, Phillip Williamson or Melissa Sindlinger. Thank you to everyone in advance for your help in making our 2024 picnic a wonderful success.

### Church Re-pipe Fund

At the August 27 Congregational meeting of St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield, the voters voted to begin a fund to re-pipe all our facilities. The cost estimated at around \$40,000. This fund is to be funded by any member wishing to make a contribution above their normal tithe. At the same time we will pursue financing the amount over what is contributed. However, if the contributions amount to more than the cost all extra monies will then be put in the general fund.

### Church Telephone Information

Just a quick note that if you are trying to call the church during office hours (8am - 1pm) you will receive a message stating that "the person that you are trying to reach is unavailable to reach another extension press \*8 or press 0 for the receptionist." If you press 0 it will direct you back to the secretary. The voicemail is currently not working so you are unable to leave a message outside of office hours. You can also communicate with the church office by email [office.smlcw@gmail.com](mailto:office.smlcw@gmail.com). Thank you for your patience while we work to get the phones back up and running.



### FELLOWSHIP HALL CONSTRUCTION



Repairs to the fellowship hall floor will commence the first week of January 2024. Be advised the building will be unavailable for use from January 2 through February 10 or until repairs are completed. Amanda has blocked out these dates on the church calendar so please do not request to schedule any events during this time. Once repairs are completed the congregation will be notified.

### Planning for 2024

The Board of Evangelism & Fellowship will be meeting Sunday, January 14, 2024 to plan our activities for 2024. If you have an activity you would like to see us do, please see Lester Sentesi or any board member.

### ESL Classes

ESL classes are every Tuesday and Thursday at 7pm and began again on August 15th. If you need more information, please see Pastor Mendez or contact him at [pastormendez.smlcw@gmail.com](mailto:pastormendez.smlcw@gmail.com).



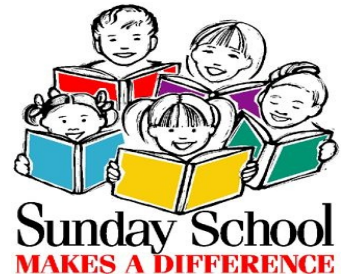
# January 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Those Serving the Lord this Month:</b> <b>Elders</b> ~ Jason Christy & Steve Roberts <b>Greeters</b> ~ <b>Ushers</b> ~ Robert Sindlinger & Jordan Christy <b>Counter</b> ~ <b>Altar Guild</b> ~ Hannah Bogs & Becky Mendez <b>Acolytes</b> ~ AJ Parsalaw, Isabel Vaz, Heston Reed & Alex Vaz						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Happy Birthday BJ Jackson!	Happy Birthday John Stayton!	10am Bible Class 5:30 Confirmation 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs Happy Birthday Mark LaShomb!	10am Bulletin Deadline	Office Closed Happy Birthday Aaron Bogs!	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service Picnic Committee Meeting after Church Service Happy Birthday Kristyn Christie & Jean Hinz!	Happy Birthday Patricia LaShomb!	Happy Birthday Sandra Pedersen!	10am Bible Class 5:30 Confirmation 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs	10am Bulletin Deadline Happy Birthday Eda Nitz!	Office Closed	8am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10am Board of Elders Meeting
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service The Board of Evangelism & Fellowship Meeting			10am Bible Class 5:30 Confirmation 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs		Office Closed Happy Birthday Scott Christy & Joshua Montemayor!	Happy Birthday Cody Williamson!
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service Happy Birthday Jack Christy & Troy Lilley!	GET YOUR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IN!!!	Happy Birthday Annie Mae Byars!	10am Bible Class 5:30 Confirmation 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs	10am Bulletin Deadline	Office Closed	
28	29	30	31	February 1	2	3
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service Happy Birthday Dillon Mosier!			10am Bible Class 5:30 Confirmation 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs Happy Birthday Ricky Gause!	10am Bulletin Deadline	Office Closed	

# 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.



## *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. *Joshua* 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 Luther's Large Catechism.



## *Wednesday Evenings*

There are two Wednesday evening Bible Classes. The study of Baptism led by Larry Harvey meets at **6:30 pm** in **Room #4**. The study of End Times led by Pastor Bogs 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 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. The Board of Elders will meet following study at 10:00am.



## Holy Days & Holidays in January

January 1<sup>st</sup> Circumcision and Name of Jesus

January 1<sup>st</sup> New Year's Day

January 6<sup>th</sup> The Epiphany of Our Lord

January 7<sup>th</sup> The Baptism of Our Lord

January 22<sup>nd</sup> Life Sunday

## Wishing You A Very Happy Birthday

January 1<sup>st</sup> BJ Jackson

January 2<sup>nd</sup> John Stayton

January 3<sup>rd</sup> Mark LaShomb

January 5<sup>th</sup> Aaron Bogs

January 7<sup>th</sup> Kristyn Christie

January 7<sup>th</sup> Jean Hinz

January 8<sup>th</sup> Patricia LaShomb

January 9<sup>th</sup> Sandra Pedersen

January 11<sup>th</sup> Eda Nitz

January 19<sup>th</sup> Scott Christy

January 19<sup>th</sup> Joshua Montemayor

January 20<sup>th</sup> Cody Williamson

January 21<sup>st</sup> Jack Christy

January 21<sup>st</sup> Troy Lilley

January 23<sup>rd</sup> Annie Mae Byars

January 28<sup>th</sup> Dillon Mosier



!!!  
**HAPPY**  
*New Year*  
**2024** ❄️

## Confirmation Anniversaries

January 1<sup>st</sup> Ricky Gause

January 1<sup>st</sup> Paul Guinn

January 1<sup>st</sup> James Musgrove

January 1<sup>st</sup> Todd Pfennig



## Wedding Anniversaries

January 4<sup>th</sup> Ricky & Jami Gause ~ 50 Yrs.

January 17<sup>th</sup> Mary & Anamarie LaShomb ~ 21 Yrs.

January 17<sup>th</sup> Joel & Rene Musgrove ~ 26 Yrs.

# Serving List for 2024

## Elder Schedule

January ~ Jason Christy & Steve Roberts  
February ~ Scott Christy & David Honerkamp  
March ~ Sonny French & BJ Jackson  
April ~ David Honerkamp & Jason Christy  
May ~ BJ Jackson & Scott Christy  
June ~ Steve Roberts & Sonny French  
July ~ Jason Christy & David Honerkamp  
August ~ Steve Roberts & BJ Jackson  
September ~ Scott Christy & Sonny French  
October ~ Jason Christy & David Honerkamp  
November ~ BJ Jackson & Scott Christy  
December ~ Steve Roberts & Sonny French

## Greeter Schedule

January ~  
February ~ Melissa Sindlinger & Lillian Hill  
March ~ Dave & Tiffany Cowger  
April ~ Daniel & Christina Cross  
May ~ Patricia LaShomb & Shirley Kuhlman  
June ~ Carolyn McCorquodale & Kristen McManus  
July ~ Sylvia Christy  
August ~ Curtis & Sharon Gace  
September ~ Dave & Tiffany Cowger  
October ~ Shawn & Amanda Goss  
November ~ Sonny & Joyce French  
December ~ Lester Sentesi & Shirley Coyle

## Usher Schedule

January ~ Robert Sindlinger/Jordan Christy  
February ~ Aaron Montemayor/Joshua Montemayor  
March ~ Dillon Mosier/Noah Montemayor  
April ~ Joshua Montemayor/Jarod Christy  
May ~ Robert Sindlinger/Aaron Montemayor  
June ~ Luke Tusing/Noah Montemayor  
July ~ Jordan Christy/Jarod Christy  
August ~ Dillon Mosier/Luke Tusing  
September ~ Joshua Montemayor/Noah Montemayor  
October ~ Robert Sindlinger/Aaron Montemayor  
November ~ Luke Tusing/Jordan Christy  
December ~ Dillon Mosier/Jarod Christy

## Altar Guild

January ~ Hannah Bogs & Becky Mendez  
February ~ Sylvia Christy & Becky Reyes  
March ~ Marie Fisher & Vita Mallory  
April ~ Rose & BJ Jackson  
May ~ Hannah Bogs & Becky Mendez  
June ~ Sylvia Christy & Becky Reyes  
July ~ Rose & BJ Jackson  
August ~ Tiffany Cowger & Carol Clark  
September ~ Melissa & Robert Sindlinger  
October ~ Marie Fisher & Vita Mallory  
November ~ Tiffany Cowger & Carol Clark  
December ~ Melissa & Robert Sindlinger

