

# St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield Messenger

January  
2025

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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,

This year St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield will be celebrating God's gift of being His people and His congregation for 125 years. Over the past 125 years this congregation has had 17 Pastors sent by God to bring the good news of salvation by Grace through faith in Jesus alone. St. Matthew has had peak years of more than one pastor. It has had years of joy in a Lutheran School. It has seen years of people moving, both coming and going. It has seen years of financial upswings, as well as, seeming struggles. And yet, through it all, God has blessed and will continue to bless . . . always . . . and I mean always providing what this congregation needs to be His congregation and His people carrying out His mission and ministry in this place. Thanks be to God and to Him alone be the glory!

As for what lies ahead for my family and me . . . as the saying goes, "Pastors do not retire, they go out to pasture." I know there are many congregations without pastors in our synod, and so I am sure I will be filling in somewhere from time to time. Also, over the years I have developed what I consider to be a Confessional Lutheran approach to witnessing, and as I hope to offer that workshop here at St. Matthew again this year before I retire, I am going to offer to "take it on the road" and offer the same or similar workshop to other parishes to be able to share the concept with other Lutherans of what I have taught you through my Bible classes and sermons over the past 22 ½ years. Also, as I have authored several books, I hope to offer them for sale at such workshops and on my new website Gayle is creating, Point2Jesus.org. Yet, even before we begin such endeavors, I plan on taking a couple trips and doing some things I have not be able to do for many years.

One more item I would like to offer over the next four and a half months, as this congregation begins the calling process for a new senior pastor, let me first and foremost with as much emphasis as possible remind you that the Texas District is ADVISORY and ADVISORY only. They cannot and should not even attempt to dictate

to you who you may call (other than the stipulation we have as members of the Missouri Synod which is to call a seminary-trained and certified man for the office). You can review the calling process yourself by going to the district web page at: <https://txlcms.org/call-process/>.

I am not retired yet, so I do look forward to the next four and a half months celebrating the 125th anniversary of this congregation and praying for many more anniversaries for this congregation, until the Lord returns (come Lord Jesus, come quickly).

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

The 125th Anniversary Committee is well underway for next year and we need your help. We have 6 subcommittees that need help.



1. Kick Off Celebration - 1/19/25
2. Banner Committee
3. Collectible or Memento Committee (work on a collectible souvenir)
4. Entertainment
5. School/Alumni Sunday
6. Reformation Celebration

Sign up sheets are in the Narthex. Please sign up. Also think and pray about a monetary donation to the Anniversary Account to help take care of the cost. "Growing Together in Christ for 125 years"



### Picnic Chairman Needed

The Anniversary Committee is in need of someone to fill the role of "Picnic Chairman". If you are interested in this position and/or know somebody that would be please see Lester Sentesi.

### New Board of Trustee Contact Information

If for any reason you need to contact the Board of Trustees and/or a board member there is a new email dedicated to these questions, concerns or inquiries. It is [smlctrustees@gmail.com](mailto:smlctrustees@gmail.com). Thank you!



### February Newsletter Deadline



If you have anything that you would like to see and/or add to the February 2025 newsletter. Please submit them to [office.smlcw@gmail.com](mailto:office.smlcw@gmail.com) by Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Board of Evangelism Monthly Meeting

The Board of Evangelism & Fellowship will be meeting every 3rd Sunday of each month after church service. If you have an activity you would like to see us do, please see Lester Sentesi or any board member.



### Extension Cords

Please do not use extension cords inside the church. The insurance adjuster has said it is a safety/fire hazard. Thank you so much for your understanding as we make some changes in trying to comply with insurance and safety regulations.

### Annual Mailbox Clean Out ~ January 30<sup>th</sup>

On January 30<sup>th</sup> all mailboxes in the Narthex will be cleaned out. If there is anything in your mailbox that you would like to keep please make sure that you have removed it from your mailbox before this date. Also if you are a current member and do not have a mailbox and would like one please contact the church secretary, [office.smlcw@gmail.com](mailto:office.smlcw@gmail.com) or by phone and we will make sure that you receive one.



# January 2025

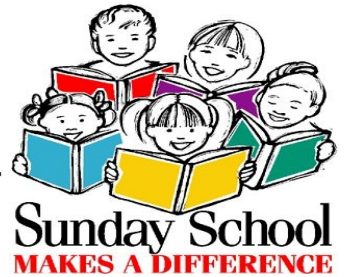
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
<b>Those Serving the Lord this Month:</b> <b>Elders</b> ~ Scott Christy & Luke Tusing <b>Greeters</b> ~ <b>Ushers</b> ~ <b>Counter</b> ~ <b>Altar Guild</b> ~ <b>Acolytes</b> ~			10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey Happy Birthday BJ Jackson!	10am Bulletin <b>Deadline</b> Happy Birthday John Stayton!	Office Closed	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service Happy Birthday Aaron Bogs!		Happy Birthday Kristyn Christie & Jean Hinz!	10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs Happy Birthday Patricia LaShomb!	10am Bulletin <b>Deadline</b> Happy Birthday Sandra Pedersen!	Office Closed	8am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10am Board of Elders Meeting
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service			10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs	10am Bulletin <b>Deadline</b>	Office Closed	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service Anniversary Kick Off Celebration!!!! Happy Birthday Joshua Montemayor!	<b>GET YOUR            NEWSLETTER            ARTICLES IN!!!</b> Happy Birthday Cody Williamson!	Happy Birthday Jack Christy & Troy Lilley!	10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs	10am Bulletin <b>Deadline</b> Happy Birthday Annie Mae Byars!	Office Closed	
26	27	28	29	30	31	February 1
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service		Happy Birthday Dillon Mosier!	10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs	10am Bulletin <b>Deadline</b>	Office Closed	

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service			10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs	10am Bulletin <b>Deadline</b>	Office Closed	8am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10am Board of Elders Meeting

# 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 to go with Sunday's Readings from "God's Hand in Our Lives" series from the Church of the Lutheran Confessions.



## *Sunday Adult Bible Classes*

All members and friends of St. Matthew Lutheran Church are invited for coffee and donuts every Sunday at 8:30 am. Then our Bible Classes begin at 8:45 am. The study of Epistles of Paul led by Pastor Bogs meets in Room #2 and Galatians led by Larry Harvey meets in Room #4. Please join us and feel free to bring a friend! PLEASE NOTE: Coming soon will be a new study on

Sunday mornings called "First Thessalonians", taught by Larry Harvey. So please make sure to keep an eye on the bulletin for when this will start so that you can make sure and attend this new class.



## *Wednesday Mornings*

The Wednesday morning Bible study group will be meeting at 10:00 am in Room #2. We invite everyone to join us to study God's Word. We are studying The Formula of Concord.



## *Wednesday Evenings*

There are two Wednesday evening Bible classes. The study on The Lord's Supper led by Larry Harvey meets at 6:30 pm in Room #4. The study of Prayer led by Pastor Bogs meets at 7pm in Room #2.

## *Men's Breakfast Bible Study*

Join us for the Men's Breakfast & Bible Study on the 2nd Saturday of every month at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Our next class is January 11<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Elders will meet immediately after 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 12<sup>th</sup> The Baptism of Our Lord
- January 18<sup>th</sup> Confession of St. Peter
- January 19<sup>th</sup> Life Sunday
- January 24<sup>th</sup> St. Timothy, Pastor and Confessor
- January 25<sup>th</sup> The Conversion of St. Paul
- January 26<sup>th</sup> St. Titus, Pastor and Confessor

### Wishing You A Very Happy Birthday

- January 1<sup>st</sup> BJ Jackson
- January 2<sup>nd</sup> John Stayton
- 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 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

### Confirmed Anniversaries

- January 1<sup>st</sup> Paul Guinn
- January 1<sup>st</sup> James Musgrove

### Baptism Anniversaries

- January 1<sup>st</sup> BJ Jackson
- January 1<sup>st</sup> Bob Langley
- January 1<sup>st</sup> Jeanne Langley
- January 1<sup>st</sup> Brenda Pali
- January 1<sup>st</sup> Luke Tusing
- January 5<sup>th</sup> Larry Harvey
- January 14<sup>th</sup> Aaron Bogs
- January 18<sup>th</sup> Marc McIlhany
- January 24<sup>th</sup> Cadence Wells



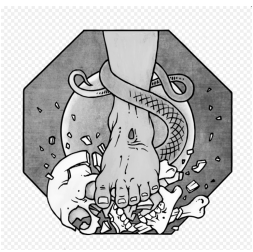
### Higher Things Youth Gathering 2025 ~ All Things New

Please consider financially supporting our youth going to Higher Things. Prayers are always appreciated, but the registration price has increased significantly. Please know we are being good stewards of what is donated and always keep costs as low as possible.

The one who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Jesus promises that just as He is risen, we will rise. The last great enemy has been destroyed. Everlasting life belongs to all who believe...one day. But for us, some days, that day feels far away. Like it'll never come... like it's been made for someone other than you.

Dear one, hear the promise for you today, too. "Behold, I am making all things new."...right now. It doesn't just mean that one day, everything will be fixed. It means that things are allowed to be broken today. Nothing can be so damaged that it can't be made new. Nothing broken will stay that way. There is a resurrection of all flesh. We can look forward with hope, even when everything falls apart around us. The promise isn't held at arm's length. When today is still broken, He who sits on the throne wants you to cling to the promise now. You are already a child of God, and so you are already a child of the resurrection. Call the sin that destroys what it is. Call death the last great enemy. It has already been defeated. Live a steadfast faith today no matter what things look like because you rest on a yesterday that was made whole on the cross. Realize that God hates the same things you war against too, but he has already won the victory... the victory that makes All Things New.

Join us July 8-11, 2025 at Concordia University Nebraska for All Things New. If you would like to attend (youth and adults), please let Gayle Bogs know ASAP as Seward will fill very quickly being the closest conference in proximity to the southern states. The cost of registration is \$565 and will need to be paid by Jan. 31.



Grace and Peace from Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to all of you Amen!

We have often heard Pastor Bogs mention that the church is not yours and as we have discussed I am discussing this not to cause controversy, contradict or negate his statement. When Pastor Bogs says, "This is not your church; it is the Church of God," it can be interpreted as a reminder that the church's ultimate authority and ownership belongs to God. However, this doesn't change the fact that we believers are co-heirs with Christ and integral members of His body. Therefore, serving in the church is both a privilege and a responsibility for each member in act of our Sanctification and in response of faith in what the Lord has given us.

**A Message  
from  
Pastor Mendez**

*Understanding our congregation: The Church of God and the Body of Christ*

In Christian theology, the Church is often referred to as both the "Church of God" and the "Body of Christ," highlighting its divine ownership and the unity of believers. This dual identity emphasizes that while the Church belongs to God, it also comprises individuals who are integral parts of Christ's body.

*The Church of God*

The term "Church of God" signifies that the church is established by God and under His sovereign authority. In 1 Corinthians 1:2, Paul addresses "the church of God is in Corinth," underscoring the divine foundation of the congregation. This designation reminds us believers that our faith and community is rooted in God's initiative and sustained by His grace.

*The Body of Christ*

Simultaneously, the church is described as the "Body of Christ," illustrating the profound connection between Christ and His believers. In 1 Corinthians 12:27, Paul writes, "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." This passage conveys that each believer is a vital part of the whole church, contributing to the church's mission and health. As members of Christ's body, we as faithful servants are called to serve, support, and love one another, reflecting Christ's presence in the world. And in our response of faith of what the Lord has given us, forgiveness, life and salvation.

*Unity and Variety in the Body*

The imagery of the body also highlights the variety of gifts and roles within the church. Romans 12:4-5 states, "For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually members one of another." This passage encourages us believers to appreciate the variety of gifts present in the congregation and to work together harmoniously for the common good to the Glory of God. As a one body in Christ, but everyone with his role and function, without this, working together simultaneously, the Church meaning the "Ekklesia" the body of Christ and His members cannot function in harmony, as one body we work together in our response in faith and in our Sanctification to serve and Glorify God.

*Implications for Our Congregation*

Understanding the church as both the Church of God and the Body of Christ has practical implications for our congregation:

*Divine Ownership:* Recognizing that the church belongs to God fosters a sense of reverence and responsibility among members. It encourages us to align our actions and decisions with God's will, seeking to honor Him in all aspects of congregational life.

*Interconnectedness:* As members of the body of Christ, we are interconnected and interdependent. This reality calls us to support one another, bearing each other's burdens and rejoicing in each other's blessings. It reminds us that our spiritual growth is linked to the word of God and in the well-being of the entire community.

*Active Participation:* Every member has a unique role to play in the church's mission. Ephesians 4:11-12 explains that Christ gave various leaders "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." This underscores the importance of active participation, where each person's gifts are utilized for the edification of the church.

*Conclusion*

Embracing the dual identity of the church as the Church of God and the body of Christ enriches our understanding of our congregation's purpose and our roles within it. It calls us to honor God's sovereignty, recognize our interconnectedness and actively contribute to the church's mission in the world. It is our privilege to serve God serving others, as Christ has been serving us in His means of Grace to God be all the Glory in Jesus Name Amen!