



St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield



February 2021

21434 East Hardy Road
Houston, Texas 77073



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Pastor
Rev. Dr. Ronald Bogs



Associate Pastor
Rev. Arturo Mendez

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The COVID battle continues. A new president was sworn into office. There continue to be wars and rumors of wars. People continue to be married and be given into marriage. Jesus' words in Matthew 28:36-44 continue to ring true, and so we would do well to take heed of His words, "Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect" (v. 44).

In the meantime while the Lord tarries, we continue to live lives of faith in this world. Here in the Church we continue, in season and out of season, to be the people God would have us to be (2 Tim. 2:4). We continue to live lives as priests in the priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:5). We continue to always be ready to give an answer for our hope and faith in Jesus to all who ask (1 Peter 3:15). We continue to do the good works which God has prepared in advance for us to do (Eph. 2:10).

And while we continue on in this world, we in the Church continue our regular trek through the Church Year, that is, as we began last December with the season of Advent, so we celebrated the birth of our Messiah on Christmas, we celebrated the visit of the Magi (wisemen) on Epiphany and now we are getting ready to move into the season of Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 17.

Lent is the season of penance. The liturgical color of the season of Lent is purple, the color of repentance. During the season of Lent we take the time to reflect on our own lives, on our own sin, and the fact that it was because of me and my sin that Jesus gave up the glory that was His in heaven, took on human flesh and blood, lived the perfect life for me in my place, took my sins, suffered, died and rose for me, personally. Indeed, God's love for me is seen in the fact that even if I were the only person in the world, on earth, Jesus still would have given His life for mine. It is this truth that reminds me of my worth, that is that Jesus gives me value because of His great love for me.

So, while this world may continue on, with many people oblivious to the fact that we are living in the last days, the fact that Jesus will return soon, the fact that there are absolutes, there is an ultimate authority and that we will all stand to give an account of our faith, yet, we continue with our hope and faith firmly established in Jesus the Author and Perfector of our faith. And thus, we are encouraged even more so to live lives of faith and to seek opportunities to give an answer, to those who ask, of the hope and faith we have in Jesus our Savior, much like Philip inviting them to "Come and see."

And as we have so many extra services during this Lenten season, what great opportunities we have to invite others to "Come and see!" And as always, then let the Holy Spirit do His work.

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>

Happy Birthday to You



02-03 Ali Lowitzer
02-04 Jim Musgrove
02-07 Curtis Gace
02-09 Yair Mendez
02-12 Clarence Baumgartner
02-16 Mackenzie Gentes
02-17 Amanda Goss

02-21 Cathy Smith
02-22 Richard Maximus LaShomb
02-23 Gary McCorquodale II
02-25 Chris Aikman
02-26 Carol Clark
02-27 Joyce French
02-28 Tess Clark & Trent Clark

Baptismal Birthdays

02-02 Amina Lessa
02-04 John Stayton
02-06 Cody Williamson
02-07 Ricky Gause
02-08 Kristyn Christie



02-11 Marilyn Holland, Jessica LaShomb, & Sandra Pederson
02-15 Isabell Pali
02-18 Jean Hinz
02-24 Troy Lilley
02-27 Annie Mae Byars & Jim Musgrove

Confirmation Anniversaries



2-19 Ashley Christy & Edna Ehrhardt

Wedding Anniversaries

2-14 Korey & Carol Clark (31 years)
 2-17 Bob & Jeanne Langley (48 years)
 2-18 Lester & Cindy Sentesi (37 years)



Holy Days and Holidays in February

February 2nd - Purification of Mary & The Presentation of Our Lord
February 7th - Super Bowl Sunday
February 14th - Valentine's Day / The Transfiguration of our Lord
February 15th - Washington's Birthday (observed) / Presidents' Day
February 17th - Ash Wednesday
February 24th - St. Matthias, Apostle



February 17th

Ash Wednesday 12:00 pm Worship & 7:30 pm w/ Lord's Supper

February 24th, March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th

12:00 pm Worship

7:15 pm Hymn Sing, 7:30 pm Service

March 28th

Palm Sunday / Confirmation Sunday 10 am w/ Lord's Supper

April 1st

Maundy Thursday 7:30 pm w/ Lord's Supper

April 2nd

Good Friday 7:30 pm at Cemetery

April 4th

Easter Sunday 7 am no Lord's Supper, 8 am Easter Breakfast, 8:45 am Sunday School, 10 am w/ Lord's Supper

2021-2022 Officer & Board Members

President: Scott Christy

Vice President: David Honerkamp

Congregational Secretary: Christina Cross

Treasurer: Dan Cross

Board of Elders: Jason Christy (Chairman), Curtis Gace, Sony French, Scott Christy, B.J. Jackson, David Honerkamp, Jarod Christy

Board of Education: Marie Fischer, Amanda Goss, Melissa Sindlinger, Nicole Poppenhusen

Board of Stewardship: Steve Nitz, Carolyn McCorquodale, Nicole Poppenhusen

Board of Trustees: Eugene Meyer (Chairman), Troy Lilley, Phillip Williamson, Karen French, Elaina Albarez, Luke Tusing, David Reese

Board of Evangelism: N/A

Elders call list

Jason Christy - A thru D

BJ Jackson - E thru H

Jarod Christy - I thru L

Sonny French - M thru P

David Honerkamp - Q thru T

Scott Christy - U thru W

Curtis Gace - X thru Z



Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at St. Matthew Lutheran Church on 3/25/2021. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. In order to register for this event, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle.

Congregational Assembly Meeting
February 14th, 2021 after Divine Service



God's Time, Man's Time

Many people have asked the question, "What happens when a person dies?" "What happens to their soul?" "To their body?" What does it mean that the body goes into the ground and where does the soul go?" "What does it mean that they fall asleep and await the resurrection?" In order to answer that question we do well to seek an answer from God and His Word. However, as we read God's Word and what He says about death and dying and about the end times, sometimes it does not make sense to us and we get even more confused and ask more questions. The problem is not with God and His Word, as usual. The problem is with us, with the language of translation, with our understanding or misunderstanding.

So, in order to better understand what God says concerning death, dying and the end times we would do well to make sure we understand the context of what God is saying each time He is speaking about death and dying. At times God is speaking from His own point of view, and at other times He is speaking from our earthly, human point of view. Thus, when and if we attempt to put the statements from these two points of view together, we get confused and lost which brings more questions. It is only when we see these two perspectives and hear His Word from each perspective that we then get a better understanding of what He is saying.

God is I AM. I am is the present. God is not "I was" nor "I will be," but I AM. Thus, God is the eternal present. For God there is no time, thus He is eternal without beginning and without end. God created time for us human beings. You may remember that it was not until the fourth day of creation that God created the Sun, Moon, Stars, Planets, the Solar System and the Galaxies. On the first day of creation God created the light and the dark, and He called the light "day" and the dark "night," and He put the light and the dark into a 24-hour period of transition, evening and morning. When He created the Sun, He put it in the correct proximity with the earth which He rotated in order to give humanity a 24-hour day, a seven-day week, a twelve-month year.

From God's perspective (point of view) when Jesus is on the cross speaking to the thief who defended Him and professed his faith in Jesus, we hear this exchange: ⁴²"And he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' ⁴³And he said to him, 'Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise'" (Luke 23:42-43). God does not live in time as we live in time. God is the eternal I AM, the eternal present. For God there is not yesterday, no tomorrow, only the eternal now, which helps us to understand how He can be all knowing with all foreknowledge, and yet not predestining, that is not predetermining what will happen even though He already knows what will happen. Thus, from God's perspective He can say to the thief on the cross, "Today you will be with me in Paradise."

As we said, God created time for humans. We live in time one second, one minute, one hour, one day, one week, one month, one year at a time. We do not move back and forth through time. We cannot go back and recover lost time nor can we go forward and see what is in the future. We are simply moving through time in a linear fashion from one moment to the next. While God is outside of time and those who have passed on from this world are outside of our time, we live in time. This understanding of time means that when someone passes away, we continue to live in this world and in the time frame set for us, living from one moment until the next. So from our point of view the body remains in the ground, and the soul is taken to heaven.

From man's perspective (point of view) when the Apostle Paul writes to the Thessalonians he is writing from the human point of view. He says, ¹³"But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). Thus, from man's perspective we will remain in this world on this earth until either we pass on or the Lord returns. At our passing on, we move from earthly time, fixed time, to the eternal presence of God's time, or when the Lord returns we move into the eternal presence of God's time. At that time for those living in this world, they will once again see their loved ones who have

passed on after what may have been days, weeks or years here on earth, but for those who have already passed on it will be simply a twinkling of the eye since they have been in the eternal presence with their loved ones.

Because of this time perspective difference and because heaven is a place of complete joy and perfection, please know that those in heaven do not see or hear, what is happening to their loved ones on earth. If they did, then heaven would not be a place of complete joy and perfection, and besides, as was just stated, from the time they enter into heaven until they are joined by their loved ones, it is just a twinkling of the eye anyway. Also, for those who remain in this world, the closest we can get to our loved ones who are in heaven is at the Lord's Table. It is at the Lord's Supper wherein we gather with all the saints as God promises. No, we do not see them and they do not see us, but we know they are there because Christ is there as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and they are there with Him in His heavenly kingdom. We are there with all the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven lauding and magnifying His glorious name ever more praising Him and saying, "Hosanna!"

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us" (Romans 8:18). Paul's words of encouragement might remind us of our words in the Lord's Prayer, "Thy kingdom come," wherein we pray that God's Kingdom on earth might be extended through the sharing of the Gospel and that God would indeed return to gather us and all the saints and take us to be with Himself in heaven for eternity, which is a far better thing than the sufferings of this present time. And as John says at the end of his Revelation, "Come Lord Jesus, come quickly."

***If anyone is interested in the Pfizer COVID vaccine it is being offered in Cleveland at Texas Emergency Hospital located at 300 E. Crockett St. Phone numbers are 281-806-7370 or 281-806-7380. They receive shipments of the vaccine every 3 days. ***

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St. Matthew Lutheran Church
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 10am-Bible Class 5:30pm-Confirmation 7pm-Evening Bible Class	4 10am - Bulletin Cutoff	5 Church Office Closed	6
7 8:45am – Sunday School & Bible Class 10am - Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper	8	9	10 10am-Bible Class 5:30pm-Confirmation 7pm-Evening Bible Class	11 10am - Bulletin Cutoff	12 Church Office Closed	13 8am- Men's Breakfast 10am- Elder's Meeting
14 8:45am – Sunday School & Bible Class 10am - Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper	15 President's Day	16	17 Ash Wednesday 10am – Bible Class 12pm- Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper 5:30pm – Confirmation Class 7:15pm – Hymn Sing 7:30pm- Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper	18 10am - Bulletin Cutoff	19 Church Office Closed	20 10am- Trustee's Meeting
21 8:45am – Sunday School & Bible Class 10am - Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper	22	23	24 10am – Bible Class 12pm- Service of prayer & preachings 5:30pm – Confirmation Class 7:15pm – Hymn Sing 7:30pm- Lenten Vespers	25 10am - Bulletin Cutoff	26 Church Office Closed	27
28 8:45am – Sunday School & Bible Class 10am - Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper						