

Messenger

*St. Matthew Lutheran Church
of Westfield*

February
2023

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Pastor
Rev. Dr. Ronald Bogs



Associate Pastor
Rev. Arturo Mendez



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

About the middle of the month of February we will be concluding our Epiphany Season of the Church Year. On Sunday, February 19 we will celebrate the last Sunday after the Epiphany which is Transfiguration Sunday, the day we remember Jesus on the mountain with His disciples and conferring with Moses and Elijah. The next Wednesday, Feb. 22 is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.

The first Sunday in February, Feb. 5, Pastor Mendez will begin Spanish services at noon. While our desire is that those in the ESL will soon join our English service, we believe this Spanish service will help them transition from Spanish to English and many are taking the ESL classes in order to be better at speaking English. If you have the desire and time to offer any help to Pastor Mendez with this service, please let him know. And of course, we will all want to pray God's blessings on these services as God, through His Word, works to extend His Kingdom here at St. Matthew and in our community.

Thank you to all who attended the Congregational Leadership Workshop and all the work you have already done especially in planning for the year ahead. On behalf of the various boards I would encourage everyone to reevaluate your gifts, talents and abilities, and if you are not serving at this time, pray about where you can use the gifts, talents and abilities the Lord has give you to serve Him through your service to others. As the saying goes, "Many hands make light work," and so all our boards welcome people not only to take part in the activities and programs they have planned, but to be a part of helping make it all possible.

Finally, and I am sure I have not encouraged this as much lately as I should and could, but if you are not presently in a Bible Study here at St. Matthew, please take the time to check out the classes we have to offer or make a suggestion for a topic you would like to study. As I always say, the more I learn about God the more I realize there is so much I still do not know and so I am in a constant need to learn and grow in my faith. I encourage you to come, be in His Word, and grow in your faith.

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~

Greetings in the name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As some of you know and had been heard about what is going on our E.S.L. Program (English as a Second Language), we had been working in this community since Feb 2019 reaching out our Hispanic community and not only them all nations as well, so as you see we had a large community of Hispanic people in our surrounding areas around Church. So for some that may have some doubts or questions regarding what is E.S.L. ? as I said before E.S.L. is a program we offer through the Church for the community to help them learn English as a second language, our focus is to help them learn the language, but the most important Main Focus is to share with them the Gospel of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and to be able to bring them into the Church and be part of our Congregation, so we are Planting a New Hispanic Church, and St. Matthew is Nesting this Mission Plant. So yes, we have a Mission Church Planting since 2019 working to reaching out the Lost and bringing to Christ, as we are working together Pastor Bogs and Myself with the Elders and the Members who Willingly are helping to teach the English Class to our Hispanic Community, we are looking to offered to the community our services regarding to Open our First Spanish Speaking Divine Services. Starting in Feb. 5 th , 2023, at 12:00 pm so you are more than welcome to joining us to support and make them Welcome to our Church, it is a great opportunity to participate in this Divine Service. All your prayers and support are great, remember we are one in Christ, one Body one Church, one Christ. So, all believers can be reunited one day in Heaven with our Heavenly Father, and we can rejoice together when the time of Our Master Said Matthew 25:23 His master Said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant, you have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of Your Master. To God be all the Honor and Glory in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior Amen.



February 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
Those Serving the Lord this Month: Elders ~ Jarod Christy & Scott Christy Greeters ~ Melissa Sindlinger & Lillian Hill Ushers ~ Aaron Montemayor & Joshua Montemayor Counter ~ Becky Reyes Altar Guild ~ Sylvia Christy & Angie Mendez Acolytes ~ Ruby Montemayor, AJ Parsalaw, Aaron Montemayor, Logan Reed & Kaitlyn Christie			10am Bible Class 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study Happy Birthday Susie Wells!	10am Bulletin Deadline	Office Closed Happy Birthday Alexandra Lowitzer!	Happy Birthday Harleigh Gentes & James Musgrove!
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service	Office Closed	7 pm ESL classes Happy Birthday Curtis Gace!	10am Bible Class 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	10am Bulletin Deadline 7 pm ESL classes Happy Birthday Yair Mendez!	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	Happy Birthday Jess Clark!	7 pm ESL classes Happy Birthday Brock Tautenhahn!	10am Bible Class 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes Happy Birthday Mackenzie Gentes!	Office Closed Happy Birthday Amanda Goss!	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service Happy Birthday Jake McIlhany & Troy Wells!	GET YOUR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IN!!!	7 pm ESL classes Happy Birthday Cathy Smith!	10am Bible Class 10am Deadline for Newsletter 12pm Ash Wed. 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:30pm carry-in dinner 7:15pm Hymn Sing 7:30pm Ash Wed Happy Birthday Werner Hartl & Richard LaShomb!	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Class Happy Birthday Gary McCorquodale!	Office Closed Happy	Happy Birthday Chris Aikman!
26	27	28	March 1	2	3	4
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service Happy Birthday Carol Clark!	Happy Birthday Joyce French!	7pm ESL Class Happy Birthday Tess & Trent Clark!	10am Bible Class 12pm Services 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:30pm Bible Study 7pm Hymn Sing 7:30pm Service	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Class	Office Closed	

Time to Celebrate!

Holy Days & Holidays in February

February 2nd The Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord

February 12th Super Bowl Sunday

February 14th Valentine's Day

February 19th The Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 20th Washington's Birthday, President's Day

February 22nd Ash Wednesday

February 24th St. Matthias, Apostle

Happy Birthday to You!

February 1st Susie Wells

February 3rd Alexandra Lowitzer

February 4th Harleigh Gentes

February 4th James Musgrove

February 7th Curtis Gace

February 9th Yair Mendez

February 13th Jess Clark

February 14th Brock Tautenhahn

February 16th Mackenzie Gentes

February 17th Amanda Goss

February 19th Jake McIlhany

February 19th Troy Wells

February 21st Cathy Smith

February 22nd Werner Hartl

February 22nd Richard Maximus LaShomb

February 23rd Gary McCorquodale

February 25th Chris Aikman

February 26th Carol Clark

February 27th Joyce French

February 28th Tess Clark

February 28th Trent Clark

Baptismal Birthdays

February 1st Diann Newbould-Hawkins

February 2nd Amina Lesso

February 4th Joshua Montemayor

February 4th John Stayton

February 6th Cody Williamson

February 7th Ricky Gause

February 8th Kristyn Christie

February 8th Matthew Pali

February 11th Jessica LaShomb

February 11th Sandra Pedersen

February 13th Brittney Herrington

February 18th Jean Hinz

February 24th Troy Lilley

February 27th Annie Mae Byars

February 27th James Musgrove

February 28th Susie Wells

February 29th Janie McClure

Confirmation Anniversaries

February 19th Ashley Christy

February 19th Edna Ehrhardt

Wedding Anniversaries

February 12th Gordon & Peg Munson ~ 68 Yrs.

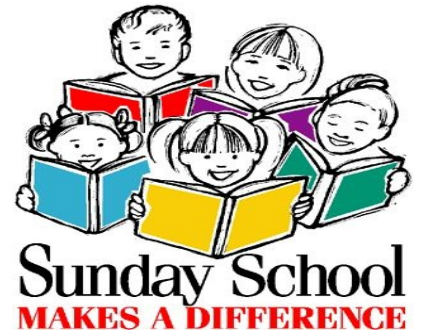
February 14th Korey & Carol Clark ~ 33 Yrs.

February 17th Bob & Jeanne Langley ~ 50 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 Book of Hebrews.



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, February 11th at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. The Board of Elders will meet following study at 10:00am.



St. Matthew News!

Helping Hands Fund

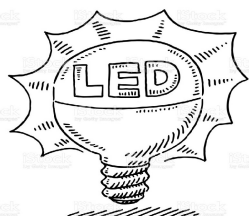
Our Helping Hands Fund is designated to help members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield and from time to time we do have members who have a need for some financial assistance. Because God reminds us that we help those in need when we are able so that others might help us when we are in need (2 Cor. 8:13-15), if you are so moved, the Helping Hands fund could use any donations you wish to give. Please mark your offering as "Helping Hands Fund."



ESL Classes

ESL Classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday at 7pm here at St. Matthew. Pray for this mission that God will bless it to continue strongly in reaching out to our community not only teaching English but also sharing the Gospel of the Lord. If you need more information, please see Pastor Mendez.

ENGLISH
as a
SECOND LANGUAGE



LED Light Improvement Fund

A fund for a gradual upgrade of all building lights to LEDs exists to help reduce our utility cost in the future. Any dedicated donations towards this fund please specify "LED Light Improvement Fund." Each light cost about \$80. Please consider "adopting" a light or two. We are also in need of volunteers to install lights. So if you would like to donate your time to help install lights please contact the trustees.

Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening will be here at St. Matthew on Thursday, March 30th. They will be performing advanced ultrasound to detect peripheral arterial disease and other vascular conditions. Pre-registration is required so please call 1-800-772-8260 or register online at www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle.



**Let Us
Know!**

If there is anything that you think you or your fellow parishioners would like to see in our monthly newsletter please email the church secretary at office.smlcw@gmail.com.