

Messenger

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
of Westfield

February
2024

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Pastor
Rev. Dr. Ronald Bogs



Associate Pastor
Rev. Arturo Mendez



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The month of February has been known as the “month of love,” probably because the secular holiday of Valentine’s Day is celebrated on February 14. This year, not only is February a leap year, meaning that we will have one more day in February, but Valentine’s Day, February 14 is also Ash Wednesday and the beginning of our Lenten Season. Jesus tells us, “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13). Indeed, what more fitting way to begin the Season of Lent, our journey to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter than to celebrate the greatest love, that of our Savior for us in His living the perfect life for us, taking our sins, dying the death of hell for us and rising for us and to do so on Ash Wednesday, Valentine’s Day, a day our secular society has set aside as a day to celebrate love.

As is our custom, I will be dispensing ashes on Ash Wednesday, but no, I will not put ashes in the shape of a heart on your forehead. If you would like to come by the office anytime from 8 am to noon for ashes on your way to work, I will have them available.

Continuing with the theme of love, John writes, “Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another” (1 John 4:11). I would thus encourage you, during this month of love, to love one another. I would encourage you to love yourself and do that by making use of all the extra services that will be provided during the Lenten Season. Furthermore, I would also encourage you to join one of our many Bible Study opportunities as well as have personal and family devotion. And as you are so loved by God through His means of grace I would encourage your response of loving others by inviting them to “Come and see” Jesus in the Divine Service. It is only as we are filled with the good gifts of God that we will then overflow and share those gifts with others as God uses what we have learned and gives us the courage and the opportunity to share with others and His promise to be with us. And after we have invited others, we leave His work in His hands knowing that He works when and where He pleases.

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



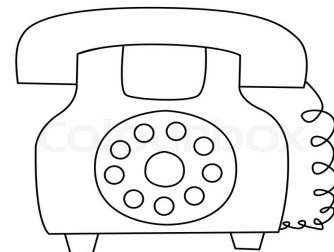
If you have any questions please contact Lester Sentesi, Phillip Williamson or Melissa Sindlinger. Thank you to everyone in advance for your help in making our 2024 picnic a wonderful success.

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. 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.

Board of Evangelism Monthly Meeting

The Board of Evangelism & Fellowship will be meeting every 3rd Sunday of each month after church service. The next meeting will be Sunday, February 18th. So mark your calendars and plan to attend. 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 begin again on August 15th. If you need more information, please see Pastor Mendez or contact him at pastormendez.smlcw@gmail.com.



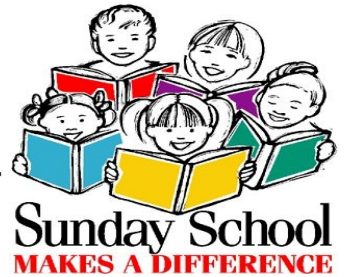
February 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
Those Serving the Lord this Month: Elders ~ Scott Christy & David Honerkamp Greeters ~ Melissa Sindlinger & Lillian Hill Ushers ~ Aaron & Joshua Montemayor Counter ~ Altar Guild ~ Sylvia Christy & Becky Reyes Acolytes ~ Aaron Montemayor, Isabel Vaz, Logan Reed, Ruby Montemayor, Heston Reed, Alex Vaz & Logan Reed				Church Mailbox Cleanout Happy Birthday Susie Wells!		Happy Birthday Alexandra Lowitzer!
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service Happy Birthday James Musgrove!			10am Bible Class 5:30 Confirmation 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs Happy Birthday Curtis Gace!	10am Bulletin Deadline	Office Closed Happy Birthday Yair Mendez!	8am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10am Board of Elders Meeting
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service		Happy Birthday Jess Clark!	ASH WEDNESDAY 10am Bible Class 5:30 Confirmation 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7:30pm Service w/Lord's Supper	10am Bulletin Deadline	Office Closed Happy Birthday Mackenzie Gentes!	Happy Birthday Amanda Goss!
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service Board of Evangelism Meeting	GET YOUR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IN!!! Happy Birthday Jake McIlhany & Troy Wells!		10am Bible Class 12pm Service 5:30 Confirmation 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7:15pm Hymn Sing 7:30pm Worship Happy Birthday Cathy Smith!	10am Bulletin Deadline Happy Birthday Werner Hartl & Richard Maximus LaShomb!	Office Closed Happy Birthday Gary McCorquodale & Jackson McCorquodale!	
25	26	27	28	29	March 1	2
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service Happy Birthday Chris Aikman!	Happy Birthday Carol Clark!	Happy Birthday Joyce French & Megan Williamson!	10am Bible Class 12pm Service 5:30 Confirmation 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7:15pm Hymn Sing 7:30pm Worship Happy Birthday Tess Clark & Trent Clark!	10am Bulletin Deadline	Office Closed	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service			10am Bible Class 12pm Service 5:30 Confirmation 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7:15 Hymn Sing 7:30pm Worship	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 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 at 8:30 am each Sunday at 8:30 am. Then our Bible Classes begin at 8:45 am. The Study of *Judges* 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, February 10th at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. The Board of Elders will meet following study at 10:00am.

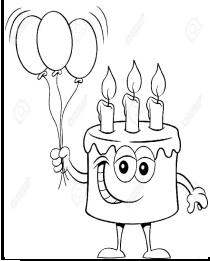
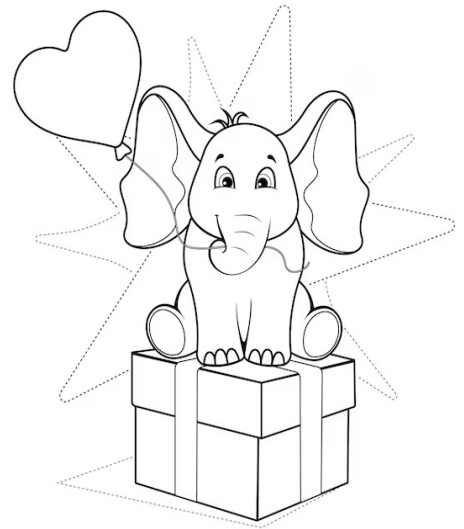


Holy Days & Holidays in January

- February 2nd The Purification of Mary and the Presentation of our Lord
February 11th The Transfiguration of our Lord
February 14th Ash Wednesday
February 14th Valentine's Day
February 19th Presidents' Day
February 24th St. Matthias, Apostle

Wishing You A Very Happy Birthday

- February 1st Susie Wells
February 3rd Alexandra Lowitzer
February 4th James Musgrove
February 7th Curtis Gace
February 9th Yair Mendez
February 13th Jess Clark
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 23rd Jackson McCorquodale
February 25th Chris Aikman
February 26th Carol Clark
February 27th Joyce French
February 27th Megan Williamson
February 28th Tess Clark
February 28th Trent Clark



Confirmation Anniversaries

- February 19th Ashley Christy
February 19th Edna Ehrhardt



Wedding Anniversaries

- February 12th Gordon & Peg Munson ~69 Yrs.
February 14th Korey & Carol Clark ~34 Yrs.
February 17th Bod & Jeanne Langley ~51 Yrs.

Michael Held is Retiring

Michael Held has announced his retirement as organist of St. Matthew. His multiple health issues have made it too difficult for him to continue. Here are his thoughts to all of you:



"It has been an honor and a joy to serve as your organist and to help lead you in worship for the past 23 years. I greatly appreciate your faithful singing each Sunday. We have shared many great hymns and liturgy together in praise to the Lord. Serving in ministry together with Pastor Bogs, Pastor Mendez, and John Lisius has been such a blessing. Gayle Bogs and David Honerkamp have also supported me in so many ways the past several months. I thank you all for your prayers, as well as for your patience and concern for me during my illness. May God continue to bless the ministry here at St. Matthew."

"Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD all the earth. Sing to the LORD, praise His name; proclaim His salvation day after day." Psalm 96:1-2

Hymn Sing Requests for the Lenten Services

Your favorite hymn, that hymn that we never get to sing, can be requested now to be sung at our Hymn Sing at 7:15 pm on Lenten Wednesdays before Vespers. Put the hymn number and title on the sheet in the Narthex, and it will be played at Hymn Sing. "First come, first sung!"



Hymn Sing!



Attn: Senior Congregation Members!

Fellowship wants to re-establish our 55+ Seniors Ministry. We are looking for an excited 55+ person and/or couple to head up the program. If interested please see Lester. This is a Fellowship Group for our 55+ member

Yearly Housekeeping for 2024!!

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 February 1st, 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.

March Newsletter Deadline

If you have anything that you would like to see and/or add to the March 2024 newsletter. Please submit them to office.smlcw@gmail.com by Monday, February 19th.

