

*St. Matthew Lutheran Church
of Westfield*

Messenger

March
2023

21434 East Hardy Road
Houston, Texas 77073



Church Office
281-443-2304



E-Mail
office.smlcw@gmail.com



Website
www.stmatthewlcmw.com



Pastor
Rev. Dr. Ronald Bogs



Associate Pastor
Rev. Arturo Mendez



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It was exciting back in January as so many were in attendance at our Board Training Workshop, and all seemed pretty eager to serve. As each board begins planning for this year and even further into the future, there seems to be a bit of a new sense of urgency, kind of like Jesus talks about when He reminds us that the end is near and now is the time to get the message of salvation out for all to hear. The fields are white for harvest, and God has so many opportunities and so many people here in our own neighborhood who need to hear the Good News. It is my hope (and prodding here) that each board will make an effort to keep you informed especially through newsletter articles and bulletin announcements.

One question which was asked, and perhaps you have had this thought as well, is, "Why should I desire to be a Lutheran Christian?" What is the difference between our church and other Lutheran churches or other denominational churches in general? Although I have addressed these types of questions many times in Bible Class, even from the pulpit, at our Higher Things gatherings, and whenever I can, I will be addressing this subject in the next few months in a separate article in this newsletter, as well, as posting these articles on my blog. It is my hope and prayer that you will read these articles so that you will be ready to give an answer for the hope you have in Jesus and to give an answer to the question of why we do what we do.

In a short, summary statement I would suggest the reason to attend church here at St. Matthew is: St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield offers Divine Service every Sunday. The Divine Service is a service that transcends time, culture and genre. The Divine Service connects the church given by God to the Children of Israel with the early Christian Church of the Apostles, and now in a fulfilled form, with the church today.

For a more detailed explanation of our church sanctuary and Divine Service please check the article on my blog from July 2021:

<https://rabswritings.blogspot.com/2021/07/the-chancel-and-divine-service-explained.html>

This article is also on our church website under Divine Services.

I believe it is important we know why we do what we do and are able to explain to others because simply to suggest that "we do what we do because we have always done it that way" really does not give a good answer. And there are reasons, strong, Biblical reasons, why we do what we do, and these reasons include giving an answer for the hope we have in Jesus. I pray these articles will be both instructive and helpful.

God's richest blessings.
In His Service,

Pastor Bogs
1 Cor. 15:3-5

The Lutheran Way - It Makes A Difference?

(An Introduction, part 1)

Practice what you preach. If you're gonna talk the talk, then walk the walk. Why do we worship the way we worship? Why is our church building built the way it is? How do doctrine and practice reflect each other? Can you separate style and substance, and what does that mean? Is there such a thing as doing things in a "Lutheran" way, and what does that mean? Does it really matter what we believe and/or how we practice what we believe? Questions, questions, questions. Why do we have disagreements over these issues, and are they really important, at least in the eternal perspective?

Over the years the above questions have been asked and attempts have been made from different perspectives to answer them, and yet these questions remain and continue today. Perhaps you have heard certain answers and later heard other answers, and perhaps you have your own opinion, as we all do. Maybe you are one who simply wants to "get along," "not make waves," and simply avoid any such discussion concerning these issues. So, are these issues important and why might they be important? Peter tells us, ". . . always be[ing] prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15).

It has been asked, "What is the difference between apathy and empathy?" And someone answered, "I don't know, and I don't care." How true this statement is. Why should we care about what others think, and why should we care about the "why" of what we do?

As a pastor, I believe that it is important not only to teach the faith but to teach the "why" of the faith. If you do not know the "why" of faith, then you might believe a wrong faith, and God has given me the responsibility and says He will hold me accountable for what I teach. Therefore I teach because:

- I believe it is most important that not only do we believe, but that we know "why" we believe.
- I have heard too many not be able to express the "why" of what we believe.
- Too many people have an inability to express the "why" of what we believe.
- Because too many are unable to give an answer, a defense of our faith (and thus may even be susceptible to believing someone who can articulate some other belief)
- Not caring may be seen as a low level of either acceptance of something false or misleading or seen as no faith.
- God tells us, "So everyone who acknowledges Me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies Me before men, I also will deny before My Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32-33)


In the next few articles I will attempt to address, explain and teach so that one can give an answer to the issues above, as well as, others which have been brought to my attention.

Over the past few years I have been privileged to present a sectional at our Higher Things youth gathering which I titled, "Why Am I Lutheran?" I have presented much of that material here at St. Matthew in Bible class and on other occasions, and I believe it is important to be able to articulate why we are Lutheran especially when we are asked by those who have a desire to know, and if they ask, we know they will want to listen. I am presenting this material here and will be posting it on my blog so that you will have it and it will be available to others and other churches to use. As I have prefaced my presentations, if people do not ask, it means they do not want to know. So no matter what you say, they are not listening. But if they do ask, they are interested. You not only have the opportunity but also permission to give an answer, and that is the best time to answer and to give a witness. So be ready!



March 2023



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
Those Serving the Lord this Month: Elders ~ BJ Jackson & David Honerkamp Greeters ~ Dave & Tiffany Cowger! Ushers ~ Dillon Mosier & Noah Montemayor Counter ~ Nancy Baeza Altar Guild ~ Nancy Baeza & Marie Fisher Acolytes ~ Heston Reed, Alex Vaz, AJ Parsalaw, Ruby Montemayor, Logan Reed, Lilly Williamson, Heston Reed, Ruby Montemayor & Logan Reed			10am Bible Class 12pm Services 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:30pm Bible Study 7pm Hymn Sing 7:30pm Service	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes	Office Closed Happy Birthday Brenda Paulsel!	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service Happy Birthday Aileen Mercer & Jarrod Musgrove!		7 pm ESL classes	10am Bible Class 12pm Services 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:30pm Bible Study 7pm Hymn Sing 7:30pm Service	10am Bulletin Deadline 7 pm ESL classes	Office Closed	8am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10am Board of Elders Meeting Happy Birthday Shirley Coyle!
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service		7 pm ESL classes	10am Bible Class 12pm Services 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:30pm Bible Study 7pm Hymn Sing 7:30pm Service Happy Birthday Marie Fisher!	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes	Office Closed Happy Birthday Noah Montemayor 	Happy Birthday Marilyn Kron!
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service Happy Birthday Jeanne Langley!	GET YOUR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IN!!!	7 pm ESL classes	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 Happy Birthday Bryce Koslan!	Office Closed	Happy Birthday Barbara Newbould!
26	27	28	29	30	31	April
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service	Happy Birthday Aurora Franks!	7pm ESL Class Happy Birthday Dave Cowger!	10am Bible Class 12pm Services 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:30pm Bible Study 7pm Hymn Sing 7:30pm Service Happy Birthday Tiffany Cowger & Pamela Lilley!	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Class	Office Closed	

Time to Celebrate!

Holy Days & Holidays in March

March 12th Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 17th St. Patrick's Day
March 20th Spring Begins
March 25th The Annunciation of our Lord

Happy Birthday to You!

March 3rd Brenda Paulsel
March 5th Aileen Mercer
March 5th Jarrod Musgrove
March 11th Shirley Coyle
March 15th Marie Fischer
March 17th Noah Montemayor
March 18th Marilyn Kron
March 19th Jeanne Langley
March 23rd Bryce Koslan
March 25th Barbara Newbould
March 27th Aurora Franks
March 28th David Cowger
March 29th Tiffany Cowger
March 29th Pamela Lilley

Baptismal Birthdays

March 12th Curtis Gace
March 14th Dillon Mosier
March 20th Amanda Goss
March 21st Nathan Cross
March 22nd Joyce French
March 23rd Brenda Paulsel
March 24th Brandy McCorquodale
March 26th Jarrod Musgrove

Confirmation Anniversaries

March 1st Nadine Reed
March 2nd Patricia LaShomb
March 7th Kim Christy
March 12th Gary Lawrence
March 13th Richard LaShomb
March 20th Jason Christy
March 20th Kenneth Lilley
March 21st Jean Hinz
March 22nd Curtis Gace
March 22nd Paul Nitz
March 24th Chris Aikman
March 24th Kelly Gentes
March 24th Brandy McCorquodale
March 26th Jeanne Held
March 26th Steve Nitz
March 28th Aaron Bogs
March 28th Mackenzie Gentes
March 29th Junah Arimond
March 29th Joshua Bogs
March 29th Shirley Kuhlman
March 30th Michael Held
March 30th Marilyn Kron

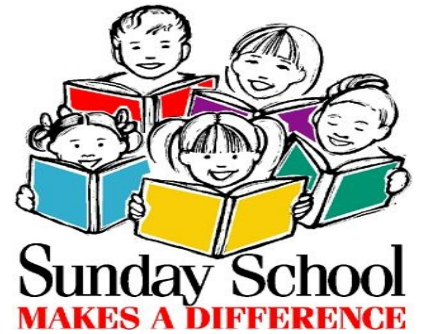
Wedding Anniversaries

March 12th Christian & Brenda Paulsel ~ 29 Yrs.
March 13th Scott and Kelly Gentes ~ 24 Yrs.
March 23rd Phillip & Holly Williamson ~ 21 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**. **Wednesday Evening Bible**

Class Important Announcement - Due to the Lenten Services the study on Psalms led by Pastor Bogs will resume meeting the Wednesday *after* Easter, April 12 at 7:00 pm. However, the study on Word & Sacrament led by Larry Harvey will continue to meet at the regular time and place: **6:30 pm** in Room #4.

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!

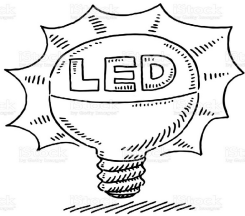
Helping Hands Fund

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.



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.

**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.

Greetings in the name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As you know we start our First Divine Service on Feb 5th of 2023 and thankfully we have a great response from some E.S.L. students, I'm still working on them to teach the Catechism and teaching about the Lord's Supper, Praying that soon they will be able to partake the Table of the Lord, during this time, of Lenten I pray to God our Father, that some more people be touched to Word Proclaimed, and be able to plant the seed in their hearts, and to be saved by the Power of the Word, we are living very hard times, where humanity is increasingly separated from the Word of God, it is important that people know that the Church and the word that is Proclaimed for them, is an opportunity of Hope and Eternal Life, let us pray to God, to continue using us as His instruments, and that whenever we have the opportunity we can share what Christ has done and continues to do for us, let us thank God for his beloved Son Jesus who has saved us from the damnation of Eternal Death, let us all rejoice so that together let us walk in this Lenten, with the Hope that Christ will rise for the promise that has us together with the Father of Eternal Life.



2023 - 25 Officers & Committees

President	Scott Christy	832-428-4349
Vice President	David Honerkamp	713-702-5301
Treasurer	Dan Cross	281-639-5043
Secretary	Elaina Alvarez	806-300-9768
Financial Secretary	Nicole Poppenhusen	281-682-7045

Elders

*Jarod Christy	832-928-4365	David Honerkamp	713-702-5301
Jason Christy	832-515-4054	B.J. Jackson	936-661-3606
Scott Christy	832-428-4349	Steve Roberts	281-324-1680
Sonny French	281-732-9413		

Education

Amanda Goss	832-257-7131
Rose Jackson	832-517-2411
*Kathleen Montemayor	832-515-9416
Susie Wells	281-636-3453

Trustees

Shawn Goss	936-647-5560
Troy Lilley	713-829-4036
*Eugene Meyer	281-748-4246

Stewardship

Scott Christy	832-428-4349
Dan Cross	281-639-5043
*Nicole Poppenhusen	281-682-7045
Robert Sindlinger	832-934-2260
Melissa Sindlinger	832-515-2843

Evangelism

Sylvia Christy	832-721-6320
Carol Clark	281-610-4862
Jess Clark	832-823-1641
Tiffany Cowger	815-719-1435
*Lester Sentesi	346-382-0688

*denotes chairman