

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield Messenger

March
2025

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Pastor
Rev. Dr. Ronald Bogs



Associate Pastor
Rev. Arturo Mendez



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the saying goes, Easter is late this year. I wonder when it is ever on time? Do you know why Easter is "early" or "late"? It all has to do with the timing of Passover. Jesus rose from the dead on the first Sunday following the feast of Passover.

The date of the Passover should be the 14th of the Jewish month of Nisan, and it should correspond to a full moon. However, it did not always work out that way. For the Jewish community, the month-moon cycles got out of sync, and sometimes feasts would be held on a "liturgical" full moon even when it was not an astronomical full moon. As a result, rabbis periodically had to announce when Passover would be celebrated.

Christians did not like being dependent on the pronouncements of rabbis for how to celebrate Christian feasts, so they came up with another way of determining the date. They decided that Easter would be celebrated on the first Sunday after (never on) the Paschal full moon.

Normally, the Paschal full moon is the first full moon occurring on or after the spring equinox. However, this day can be reckoned in different ways. One way is by looking at the sky, which yields the astronomical spring equinox. But since this shifts from year to year, most people follow the calendrical spring equinox, which is reckoned as March 21.

On the Gregorian calendar (the one that we use), Easter is the first Sunday after the Paschal full moon, which is the first full moon on or after March 21. Easter therefore always falls between March 22 and April 25. Thus, you get the idea of Easter being either early (in March) or late (in April).

Now, to find Palm Sunday (the sixth Sunday of Lent) you start with the date of Easter and back up one week: It is the Sunday before Easter Sunday. To find Ash Wednesday, you start with the date of Easter Sunday, back up six weeks (that gives you the first Sunday of Lent), and then back up four more days: Ash Wednesday is the Wednesday before the first Sunday of Lent.

With all that said, we give thanks because during the season of Lent we are given so many more opportunities, seventeen to be exact, to be in Divine Service to be given the gifts God has to give through His Means of Grace. Those opportunities include the noon and evening mid-week services, as well as, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunrise. My hope and prayer

is that you will make the most of these extra opportunities to be given the gifts God has to give.

God's richest blessings.
In His Service,

Pastor Bogs
1 Cor. 15:3-5

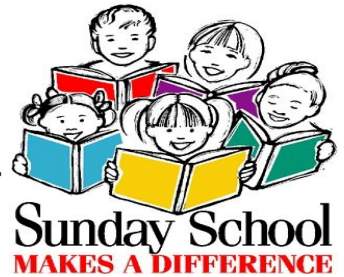
March 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
Those Serving the Lord this Month: Elders ~ Jordan Christy & Steve Roberts Ushers ~ Dillon Mosier/Noah Montemayor/Logan Reed & Heston Reed (2 nd & 4 th Weeks Only) Altar Guild ~ Rose & BJ Jackson Acolytes ~ Aurora Franks, Isabel Vaz, Alex Vaz, Dalton Reed, Abi Hernandez, Alex Vaz, Aurora Franks, Isabel Vaz & Dalton Reed			10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs	10am Bulletin Deadline	Office Closed	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service			Ash Wednesday 10am Bible Class Noon Service 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7:30pm w/Lord's Supper Happy Birthday Aileen Mercer & Jarrod Musgrove!	10am Bulletin Deadline	Office Closed	8am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10am Board of Elders Meeting
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service Happy Birthday Arlene Schultz!		Happy Birthday Shirley Coyle!	10am Bible Class Noon Service 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7:15pm Hymn Sing 7:30pm Worship	10am Bulletin Deadline	Office Closed	Happy Birthday Marie Fischer!
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service Board of Evangelism Meeting	Happy Birthday Noah Montemayor!	Happy Birthday Marilyn Kron!	10am Bible Class Noon Service 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7:15pm Hymn Sing 7:30pm Worship Happy Birthday Jeanne Langley!	10am Bulletin Deadline	Office Closed	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service Senior Group Meeting Happy Birthday Bryce Koslan!	GET YOUR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IN!!!	Happy Birthday Barbara Newbould!	10am Bible Class Noon Service 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7:15pm Hymn Sing 7:30pm Worship	10am Bulletin Deadline Happy Birthday Aurora Franks!	Office Closed	Happy Birthday Pamela Lilley!
30	31	April 1	2	3	4	5
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School **MATINS** 10am Divine Service	Happy Birthday Paul Menz!		10am Bible Class Noon Service 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7:15pm 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 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 First Thessalonians led by Larry Harvey meets in Room #4. Please join us and feel free to bring a friend!



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. Pastor Bogs Wednesday night Bible classes suspended until after Easter.

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 March 8th. The Board of Elders will meet immediately after at 10:00am.



Holy Days & Holidays in March

March 2nd The Transfiguration of our Lord

March 5th Ash Wednesday

March 19th St. Joseph, Guardian of Jesus

March 25th The Annunciation of Our Lord

Confirmed 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 Kelly Gentes
March 24th Brandy McCorquodale
March 26th Jeanne Held
March 26th Steve Nitz
March 28th Aaron Bogs
March 28th Mackenzie Gentes
March 29th Joshua Bogs
March 29th Shirley Kuhlman
March 30th Marilyn Kron
March 30th Kristen McManus
March 30th Bill Pali

Wishing You A Very Happy Birthday

March 5th Aileen Mercer
March 5th Jarrod Musgrove
March 9th Arlene Schultz
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 29th Pamela Lilley
March 31st Paul Menz

Baptism Anniversaries

March 12th Curtis Gace
March 14th Dillon Mosier
March 20th Amanda Goss
March 21st Nathan Cross
March 22nd Joyce French
March 24th Brandy McCorquodale
March 26th Jarrod Musgrove
March 28th Arlene Schultz

Wedding Anniversaries

March 13th Scott & Kelly Gentes ~ 26 Yrs.
March 23rd Phillip & Holly Williamson ~ 23 Yrs



Adopt A Brisket

The 125th Picnic is coming up in May. Plus Pastor Bogs will be preaching his last sermon as Sr. Pastor here at St. Matthew. With the budget situation we are initiating an Adopt A Brisket campaign.

There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex. Please write your name, phone number and number of briskets you will provide. Let's "Make our Picnic Great Again!" Thanks so much!!

Church Choir

We are wanting to put together a choir and/or a handbell choir for Easter, Pastors retirement service & the rest of the Anniversary celebrations. YOU DO NOT NEED TO READ MUSIC! If you are interested there is a sign up sheet in the Narthex. We will need to practice either on Sunday after church or another week night so figure that into your decisions. See Lester with any questions.

