

*St. Matthew Lutheran Church
of Westfield*

Messenger

April
2023

21434 East Hardy Road
Houston, Texas 77073



Church Office
281-443-2304



E-Mail
office.smlcw@gmail.com



Website
www.stmatthewlcmms.com



Pastor
Rev. Dr. Ronald Bogs



Associate Pastor
Rev. Arturo Mendez



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As April begins so quickly we celebrate Palm Sunday and our Rite of Confirmation (Apr. 2) followed by Holy Week with opportunities to worship on Maundy Thursday, the night in which Jesus was betrayed and during His celebration of the Passover gives us His Holy Supper. The next day, Good Friday we have another opportunity to come and be given the gifts of God as we commemorate His suffering and death. Holy Saturday is a day of waiting (of course everyone is invited to come to church to get things ready for our Easter morning celebrations). Easter morning gives us the opportunity to hear the Good News of the resurrection at the Sunrise service, a chance to eat a nice breakfast, study God's Word and then hear again the Good News of the Resurrection and partake of our Lord's Body and Blood in the regular Divine Service. My hope and prayer is that you will take advantage of these opportunities (at the noon or evening services on Thursday and Friday and both on Easter) to be given the gifts the Lord has to give.

Understanding that God's usual way of giving us the gifts He has to give is through means, namely the Means of Grace (His Word (which is the power in all His means), Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, and His Holy Supper) helps keep us in check lest we fall for the thoughts of human reason and the heresies of the world. One such heresy is that of Enthusiasm. Enthusiasm is the belief that one's emotions and heart, not head, attest to what one thinks and believes; churches promoting Enthusiasm may make these statements: I know it in my heart; I can feel God doing this or that; I want to feel something when I go to worship. Another such heresy is that of Experientialism. Experientialism is the belief that experience is the source of faith, not the objective Word of God and the Means of Grace. They may make statements such as: Come to our church and experience Jesus; Our worship is a great experience.

We believe, teach and confess that God comes to us through the Objective Means of His Word and Sacraments. God comes to us from outside of us, not inside of us. Both Enthusiasm and Experientialism have their roots in that with which we cannot depend, ourselves. As Ebenezer Scrooge so noted in The Christmas Carol one cannot trust one's senses for the simple reason that one's senses may be wrong, "It may have been something I ate." Indeed, I would encourage and warn you, listen to how people talk. What is important? How do they believe God is real to them or comes to them? Do they talk of self, of emotions, of feelings, or do they speak of the Objective Word of God which come to them from outside of themselves to give to them the gifts God has to give. While I cannot trust myself, my emotions, my thoughts and feelings, I can completely trust God in His Word, which is efficacious, giving or effecting the gifts He says He gives.

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>.

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod 2023 Convention News

Official Notice: 2023 President and Vice-President Nominations Results

The 2023 nominations process for the offices of President, First Vice-President, and regional vice-presidents of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod closed on February 28, 2023, with 1,826 congregations having participated in Internet balloting facilitated by election contractor *YesElections* (formerly, *Election-America*) on behalf of the Office of the Secretary.

PRESIDENT

The following five candidates received the highest number of nominating votes for the office of President and consented to serve if elected: Matthew C. Harrison, 1,193; Patrick T. Ferry, 511; Richard L. Snow, 228; Peter K. Lange, 119; Benjamin T. Ball, 113

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Of those receiving the highest number of nominating votes for the office of First Vice-President, the following 20 candidates have consented to serve if elected (ties being fully included where they occurred): Peter K. Lange, 958; Richard L. Snow, 137; Scott C. Sailer, 98; Jon M. Braunersreuther, 95; Patrick T. Ferry, 72; Scott R. Murray, 50; Christopher S. Esgert, 42; Waldemar R. Vinovskis, 35; John C. Wohlrabe, Jr., 31; Nabil S. Nour, 24; Allan R. Buss, 22; Timothy P. Ahlman, 14; John A. Nunes, 8; Victor J. Belton, 7; Jeffrey J. Kloha, 7; Yohannes A. Mengsteab, 7; Jamison J. Hardy, 6; Jason M. Braaten, 5; Paul A. Linnemann, 4; Deric A. Taylor, 4

Of those receiving the highest number of nominating votes for the offices of regional vice-president (second through sixth vice-presidents, as will be ranked by the convention), the following have consented to serve if elected (ties being fully included where they occurred):

EAST-SOUTHEAST REGION VICE-PRESIDENT

Christopher S. Esgert, 121; Jeffrey J. Kloha, 27; Luke T. Zimmerman, 20; Victor J. Belton, 13; Deric A. Taylor, 12

CENTRAL REGION VICE-PRESIDENT

Benjamin T. Ball, 239; Jason M. Braaten, 54; Randy K. Asburry, 8; Lawrence R. Rast, Jr., 6; William R. Marler, 5; William W. Schumacher, 5

GREAT LAKES REGION VICE-PRESIDENT

John C. Wohlrabe, Jr., 196; David P. E. Maier, 64; David P. Ramirez, 39; Steven G. Kline, 10; Peter C. Bender, 5

GREAT PLAINS REGION VICE-PRESIDENT

Nabil S. Nour, 245; David C. Mumme, 58; Robert R. Lessing, 15; Byrene Keith Haney, 11; Russell L. Sommerfeld, 11

WEST-SOUTHWEST REGION VICE-PRESIDENT

Scott R. Murray, 134; Timothy M. Klinkenberg, 80; Yohannes A. Mengsteab, 48; Alfonso O. Espinosa, 36; Jeffery T. Schrank, 36

Except in the case of President and First Vice-President, these names will constitute the ballots for elections during the July 29–Aug. 3, 2023, 68th Regular Convention of the Synod.

In the case of the President of the Synod, the election will take place, according to Bylaw 3.12.2.4, starting June 17 (six weeks prior to the convention) via Internet balloting. The five candidates listed above constitute the ballot for election, which must be by majority vote (runoffs are possible).

Pastoral and lay voters validly registered by the congregations and parishes of the Synod (Bylaw 3.12.2.3) before the deadline (electronic registration by March 19, 2023) or their substitutes (as validly submitted before June 9, 2023) will serve as the voters for this election. Results are to be announced at least two weeks prior to the convention.

In the case of the election of the First Vice-President, the President-elect will select from the list of 20 nominees (listed above) the five candidates (at least two of which must be among the top five nominees) who will comprise the ballot for the election, which will take place early in the convention (Bylaw 3.12.2.6). Regional vice-president elections and ranking will follow the order and process required by the Bylaws of the Synod (Bylaw 3.12.2.7).

In each of the above elections, no opportunity will be provided to add names to the slate of candidates listed above, although in the event of the death, declination, or unavailability of a candidate, the nominee(s) having the next highest number of votes shall become candidate(s).

In Christ Jesus,
Rev. Dr. John W. Sias
Secretary, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



Palm Sunday/Confirmation April 2nd ~ 10am w/Lord's Supper
Maundy Thursday April 6th ~ 12pm & 7:30pm w/Lord's Supper
Good Friday April 7th ~ 12pm & 7:30pm/Cemetery
Easter Sunday April 9th ~ 7:00am No Lord's Supper

Easter Schedule

8:45am Sunday School
10:00am w/Lord's Supper

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield Confirmation Class of 2023

- † Kaitlyn Christie
- † Aaron Montemayor
- † Ruby Montemayor
- † Arrip Parsalaw, Jr.
- † Lilly Williamson



April 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
Those Serving the Lord this Month: Elders ~ Sonny French & Jason Christy Greeters ~ Daniel & Christina Cross Ushers ~ Joshua Montemayor & Aaron Bogs Counter ~ Carolyn McCorquodale Altar Guild ~ BJ & Rose Jackson Acolytes ~ Isabella Vaz, Heston Reed, Logan Reed, Kaitlyn Christie, AJ Parsalaw, Heston Reed & Aaron Montemayor						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Palm Sunday/Confirmation ESL Service	Happy Birthday April Harvey!	7pm ESL Class	10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey Happy Birthday Rachel Pause!	10am Bulletin Deadline 7 pm ESL classes Maundy Thursday 12pm & 7:30pm w/Lord's Supper	Office Closed Good Friday 12pm & 7:30pm/ Cemetery Happy Birthday Daniel Cross, Scott Gentes & Dalhardt Goebel!	8am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10am Board of Elders Meeting *Set up & food preparation for Easter Breakfast
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Easter Sunday 7am Service @ Cemetery 8am Breakfast 8:45am Sunday School 10am Service w/Lord's Supper ESL Service Happy Birthday Katie Clark!	Happy Birthday Barbara Ellis & Mary Garrett!	7pm ESL Class	10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes	Office Closed	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service Happy Birthday Jonathan LaShomb	Happy Birthday Connor Lilley!	7pm ESL Class	10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs Happy Birthday Mary Davis, Trisha Hodges & Ashley Massuda!	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Class	Office Closed Happy Birthday Palmer Reese!	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service Happy Birthday David Christie & Robert Sindlinger!	GET YOUR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IN!!!	7pm ESL Class	10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Class Happy Birthday George Gentes & Dwayne Lilley!	Office Closed Happy Birthday Arrip Parsalaw!	

Time to Celebrate!

Holy Days & Holidays in April

April 2nd Palm Sunday (Confirmation)
April 5th Passover
April 6th Maundy Thursday
April 7th Good Friday
April 8th Holy Saturday
April 9th Easter
April 18th Tax Day
April 22nd Earth Day
April 25th St. Mark, Evangelist
April 26th Administrative Professionals Day

Happy Birthday to You!

April 3rd April Harvey
April 5th Rachel Paulsel
April 7th Daniel Cross
April 7th Scott Gentes
April 7th Dalhardt Goebel
April 9th Katie Clark
April 10th Barbara Ellis
April 10th Mary Garrett
April 16th Jonathan LaShomb
April 17th Conner Lilley
April 19th Mary Davis
April 19th Trisha Hodges
April 19th Ashley Massuda
April 21st Palmer Reese
April 23rd David Christie
April 23rd Robert Sindlinger
April 27th George Gentes
April 27th Dwayne Lilley
April 28th Arrip Parsalaw

Baptismal Birthdays

April 3rd Carol Clark
April 3rd Rose Goebel
April 3rd Jake McIlhany
April 3rd Kate McIlhany
April 8th Patricia LaShomb
April 9th Marilyn Kron
April 9th Aileen Mercer
April 13th Rachel Paulsel
April 14th Kelly Gentes
April 15th Peg Munson
April 18th Jack Christy
April 19th Shirley Coyle
April 21st Bryce Koslan
April 22nd Aurora Franks
April 25th Jennifer Cornman
April 27th Tess Clark
April 27th Trent Clark

Confirmation Anniversaries

April 1st Jonathan LaShomb
April 2nd David Cowger
April 3rd Mary Garrett
April 5th Caleb Bogs
April 5th Tiffany Cowger
April 5th Shawn Honerkamp
April 6th Eda Nitz
April 7th Joyce French
April 7th Janis Stayton
April 9th Hannah Bogs
April 9th Jordan Christy
April 9th Nathan Cross
April 9th William Gentes
April 9th Aaron Lilley
April 9th Rebecca Mendez
April 9th Dillon Mosier
April 11th Larry Harvey
April 14th Barbara Ellis
April 14th Barbara Newbould
April 14th Cody Williamson
April 15th Ronald Bogs
April 16th Gary McCorquodale
April 18th Devon Cowger
April 18th Dixie Garrett
April 25th Cathy Smith
April 28th Robert Sindlinger
April 30th David Christie

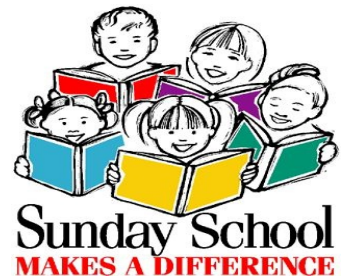
Wedding Anniversaries

April 6th Joe & Shirley Michka ~ 55 Yrs.
April 17th Andy & Kathleen Montemayor ~ 24 Yrs.
April 23rd Robert & Melissa Sindlinger ~ 17 Yrs.
April 24th Randy & Kathy Bogs ~ 35 Yrs.
April 24th Kenneth & Joyce French ~ 69 Yrs.
April 25th David & Mikaela Reese ~ 3 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, April 8th at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. The Board of Elders will meet following study at 10:00am.



St. Matthew News!

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.

Easter Breakfast Help

Our Youth will once again be preparing and serving Easter Breakfast for the church this year. All of the money donated will go to our kids trip to Higher Things. This year the kids will need as much help as we can give them since we only have 2 families with kids going to Higher Things. So they are asking the congregation for assistance.



We will need help on **Saturday, April 8th** setting up and preparing the food. As well as **Sunday, April 9th** with final preparation, serving and clean up. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex. Please sign up if you are able to help on Saturday and/or Sunday along with your phone number. We are also asking for donation sign up on that list as well. If you have any questions please contact Lester Sentesi. Let's show our youth that we love and support them!



St. Matthew Education Board

The St. Matthew Education Board wishes to announce that we will actively begin Sunday School classes on April 16, 2023. The Sunday School children will be singing on Matins Sunday, April 30, 2023. Our goal is to have the children sing every Matins Sunday.

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 with the understanding that following the celebration any funds remaining will be put into the general 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.

