

# St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield Messenger

April  
2025

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Website  
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Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Ronald Bogs



Associate Pastor  
Rev. Arturo Mendez



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As King of Dad Jokes, perhaps you have or perhaps you may not have heard the old adage: March winds bring April showers, April showers bring May flowers. So, what do May flowers bring . . . Pilgrims. Groan, groan.

It is April, and this year April brings our Lenten season to its conclusion which is our highest Holy-day of Easter and our celebration of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God! With that reminder I would continue to encourage you to make use of the extra opportunities to be in Divine Service to be given the gifts God has to give, especially during Holy Week as we have the opportunity on Maundy Thursday to once again celebrate the Lord's gifts of His Holy Supper wherein, while He was celebrating the Passover of the angel of death in Egypt. He gives us a new Supper of His body and blood to eat and drink so the angel of Eternal Death will pass over us. The evening service then concludes with the stripping of the altar so the church sanctuary is bare on Good Friday.

On Good Friday evening we will once again remember Jesus' death for us on the cross as we follow the Tenebrae Service, that is the Service of Darkness, and conclude the service by processing to the cemetery with the cross.

On Saturday morning we will gather to clean the church chancel and altar and prepare the church sanctuary and the cemetery for our Easter SONrise and Easter morning services. I would encourage you to attend both services for two reasons; first, the Sonrise service does not offer the Lord's Supper and second, each service is different with a different (yet the same) message celebrating Jesus' resurrection.

Finally, on Sunday we will begin our celebration of Jesus' resurrection at 7 am at the cemetery followed by an Easter Breakfast. Bible class will begin at 8:45 am followed by our regular Divine Service with the Lord's Supper at 10 am. I would encourage you to use these opportunities as well as all the opportunities every week (Bible classes on Wednesday, Bible Class and Divine Service on Sunday) to come and be lavished with the gifts God has to give.

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>.

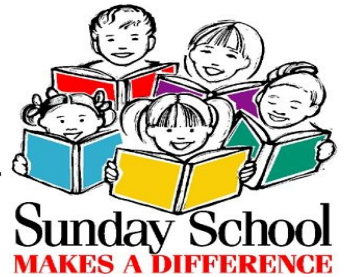
# April 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Those Serving the Lord this Month:</b> <b>Elders</b> ~ Scott Christy & BJ Jackson <b>Ushers</b> ~ Joshua Montemayor & Yair Mendez <b>Altar Guild</b> ~ Carol Clark <b>Acolytes</b> ~Aurora Franks, Abi Hernandez, Dalton Reed, Alex Vaz, Abi Hernandez, Isabel Vaz, Alex Vaz & Dalton Reed			10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs	10am Bulletin Deadline	Office Closed	
		1	2	3	4	5
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service			10am Bible Class Noon Service 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7:30pm w/Lord's Supper	10am Bulletin Deadline Happy Birthday April Harvey!	Office Closed	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service	Happy Birthday Daniel Cross & Scott Gentes!		10am Bible Class Noon Service 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7:15pm Hymn Sing 7:30pm Worship Happy Birthday Katie Clark!	10am Bulletin Deadline Happy Birthday Barbara Ellis & Mary Garrett!	Office Closed	8am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10am Board of Elders Meeting
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service Last Day to Sign Up For Easter Lillies			10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> Noon Service 7:30pm Service 10am Bulletin Deadline	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> Noon Service 7:30pm/Cemetery Office Closed	Happy Birthday Mary Davis & Ashley Massuda!
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<b>EASTER</b> 7:00am Sunrise Easter Breakfast 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service Senior Group Meeting Board of Evangelism Meeting	<b>GET YOUR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IN!!!</b>		10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs Happy Birthday David Christie!	10am Bulletin Deadline	Office Closed	
27	28	29	30	May 1	2	3
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service Last Day to Order T-Shirts Happy Birthday Dwayne Lilley!			10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs	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. The study of How We Got the Bible led by Pastor Bogs meets at 7pm in Room #2. Pastor

Bogs will not be having his Wednesday evening class during Lent and will resume the Wednesday after Easter, 4/23.

## *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 April 12th. The Board of Elders will meet immediately after at 10:00am.



## Holy Days & Holidays in April

April 13<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday  
April 17<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday  
April 18<sup>th</sup> Good Friday  
April 20<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday

### Confirmed Anniversaries

April 3<sup>rd</sup> Mary Garrett  
April 5<sup>th</sup> Caleb Bogs  
April 7<sup>th</sup> Joyce French  
April 7<sup>th</sup> Janis Stayton  
April 9<sup>th</sup> Hannah Bogs  
April 9<sup>th</sup> Jordan Christy  
April 9<sup>th</sup> Nathan Cross  
April 9<sup>th</sup> William Gentes  
April 9<sup>th</sup> Aaron Lilley  
April 9<sup>th</sup> Rebecca Mendez  
April 9<sup>th</sup> Dillon Mosier  
April 11<sup>th</sup> Larry Harvey  
April 14<sup>th</sup> Barbara Ellis  
April 14<sup>th</sup> Barbara Newbould



April 14<sup>th</sup> Cody Williamson  
April 15<sup>th</sup> Ronald Bogs  
April 15<sup>th</sup> Arlene Schultz  
April 16<sup>th</sup> Gary McCorquodale  
April 25<sup>th</sup> Cathy Smith  
April 30<sup>th</sup> David Christie

### Wishing You A Very Happy Birthday

April 3<sup>rd</sup> April Harvey  
April 7<sup>th</sup> Daniel Cross  
April 7<sup>th</sup> Scott Gentes  
April 9<sup>th</sup> Katie Clark  
April 10<sup>th</sup> Barbara Ellis  
April 10<sup>th</sup> Mary Garrett  
April 19<sup>th</sup> Mary Davis  
April 19<sup>th</sup> Ashley Massuda  
April 23<sup>rd</sup> David Christie  
April 27<sup>th</sup> Dwayne Lilley

### Baptism Anniversaries

April 1<sup>st</sup> Paul Menz  
April 3<sup>rd</sup> Carol Clark  
April 3<sup>rd</sup> Jake McIlhany  
April 3<sup>rd</sup> Kate McIlhany  
April 8<sup>th</sup> Patricia LaShomb  
April 9<sup>th</sup> Marilyn Kron  
April 9<sup>th</sup> Aileen Mercer  
April 14<sup>th</sup> Kelly Gentes  
April 14<sup>th</sup> Karen Hartl  
April 15<sup>th</sup> Peg Munson  
April 18<sup>th</sup> Jack Christy  
April 19<sup>th</sup> Shirley Coyle  
April 21<sup>st</sup> Bryce Koslan  
April 22<sup>nd</sup> Aurora Franks  
April 23<sup>rd</sup> Megan Williamson  
April 25<sup>th</sup> Jennifer Cornman  
April 27<sup>th</sup> Tess Clark  
April 27<sup>th</sup> Trent Clark

### Wedding Anniversaries

April 6<sup>th</sup> Joe & Shirley Michka ~ 57 Years  
April 17<sup>th</sup> Andy & Kathleen Montemayor ~ 26 Yrs.  
April 24<sup>th</sup> Randy Bogs & ~37 Years  
April 24<sup>th</sup> Kenneth & Joyce French ~ 71 Yrs.



### Adopt A Brisket

The 125<sup>th</sup> 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.



### St. Matthew Senior Group "Saved Silvers"



Last Sunday the Saved Seniors had their 1st monthly lunch and get together. We had 18 people there and PLENTY food. This will now be a monthly event, the 3rd Sunday each month so all those 50 and up mark your calendars. And remember your cards or dominoes. We are also looking for someone or a couple who would like to coordinate the group. Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to step up and serve see Lester.

### VBS 2025

Plans are being discussed for bringing back Vacation Bible School this July. Volunteers will definitely be needed so if you would like to help in any way, please see Rose Jackson.



### Board of Evangelism



The Board of Evangelisms next meeting will be on April 20th immediately following Divine Service. We will be meeting regularly now on the 3rd Sunday of each month. We have a lot to discuss so please plan to be there.

### Easter Lilies

The Easter Lily Sign-Up sheet is in the narthex. Lilies are \$10 a plant. Please state if you would like them in honor or in memory of someone. The lilies are \$10 each. Please make checks payable to St. Matthew and place your payment in the envelope provided. The last Sunday to sign up is Palm Sunday, April 13. Thank you!



### 125th Anniversary T-Shirts



Another order will be made for Picnic Sunday of the special t-shirts designed celebrating St. Matthew's 125th Anniversary. We look forward to everyone wearing theirs at all the celebrations throughout the year. A sample shirt is in the narthex along with a signup sheet. Please write your name, phone number, and what size(s) you would like and place your payment made to "St. Matthew Lutheran Church" in the envelope provided. Shirts are now \$12 each. Please add \$1 for every "X" in size. (XL=\$13, 2XL=\$14, etc. up to 5XL.) The last day to be a part of this order and to get yours by the week before the picnic will be the last Sunday in April, 4/27.

### Easter Breakfast

This year the youth group will again be offering breakfast on Easter morning right after the Sunrise service. Although they will not be attending a Higher Things Youth Gathering this year they are beginning to fund raise for next year. If you would like to attend the breakfast (to make sure we have enough food), please sign up on the Easter Breakfast Sign Up sheet in the narthex. If you would like to help by donating some of the ingredients for the breakfast, please sign up on the Donation Sign Up sheet. Thank you.



### May Newsletter Deadline



If you have anything that you would like to see and/or add to the May 2025 newsletter. Please submit it to [office.smlcw@gmail.com](mailto:office.smlcw@gmail.com) by Monday, April 21st.



EVANGELISM  
BURN OUT AND HOW IT AFFECTS EACH OF US

When I say the word “BURNOUT” what comes to your mind? Now, I know you are saying, “What does burnout have to do with Evangelism?” Fair question and I hope you will understand the answer I give. It doesn’t matter if it is a church, a business, a sports team or any situation where you have a group of like minded people together and they want to move forward, it takes a concerted effort. It takes EVERYONE working together to achieve the goals of that organization.

When you have a small group of people doing all the work for the larger group it leads to burnout. It also leads to dangerous thinking. If people see 1 or 2 or even a small group of people doing all the work they think, “Well, they do it all the time so I don’t have to.” That is dangerous thinking. When asked for volunteers the larger group says to itself, “It doesn’t matter. Someone always steps up and takes care of it.” That is dangerous thinking. When an activity is presented to the group for training, participation and/or fellowship the thought becomes, “Well, I don’t really need to do that. Someone else will do it.” That is dangerous thinking. And dangerous thinking leads to the silent minority who do all the work getting tired and burnt out. And they quit. Now who’s going to do it.

Think about it this way: If a baseball team has its sights on a Championship they have to work together to make it happen. What if the star pitcher decides one day that he doesn’t have to show up for practice? He’s, “burnt out.” Practicing everyday gets old and besides there are others that can pitch. Or a football team is eyeing the Super Bowl. If the first string quarterback decides he’s just going to go out with friends and not practice because there are others that will do it, then what are the teams’ chances?

So what does this have to do with Evangelism? In the church it takes the whole team reaching out as a unit to show the community the fellowship that we enjoy, the activities that we participate in and, especially, the message of God’s saving grace that we have to share. But we can’t do that if we are not all on the same page, working in concert. Only then can we show the community that we are there for them in any and all situations. Physical and Spiritual. We have to all be excited and involved. We all have to be doing our part to make sure that our Church and its associated events and activities are worked and well attended. Because, right or wrong, people look at us and judge us based on what is happening in and around the church.

Back to burnout and its correlation with Evangelism. If the same small group of people have to constantly step up because they want things to happen while others stand by and watch then eventually those people will BURNOUT. They will have enough and then they too will stop stepping up. Regardless of how high their energy level and excitement is to serve, if they don’t get help then they will just quit.

Let me ask you something. If that star pitcher decides they aren’t going to practice or show up for the Championship game are the teams’ chances of winning good? And if he does it enough times then the team will just quit. “If he doesn’t have to practice then I don’t either.” After all, why should I put in all this effort if no one else is going to help? Yes folks. Burnout has a lot to do with Evangelism and Evangelism has way more involved with it than just knocking on doors. Evangelism starts at home. And if our own house is not working together as one then our Evangelism efforts are dead before they even start.

So go to God in prayer and thank him for the ones who do serve and ask how you can be a part. :Dear God, how can I use the awesome talents you have given me in service to my fellow believers? Amen” And then get ready for the answer.

Eyes Always On The Lord,

Lester Sentesi - Chairman  
Fellowship and Evangelism