

*St. Matthew Lutheran Church
of Westfield*

Messenger

May
2023

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Pastor
Rev. Dr. Ronald Bogs



Associate Pastor
Rev. Arturo Mendez



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This month I would like to continue the conversation about “What is the church?” and “What is worship (Divine Service)?” Please understand I am presenting this material not to bash other churches but to help us understand what church and Divine Service are about and how our Lord comes to us to give us all the good gifts and blessings He has to give, in other words, to best understand the Objective Means of Grace.

Paging through some of the reviews online you might read about churches, you may see some of the following comments. My cautionary comments follow each quote. “The message is always relatable, and I always get something out of it.” Notice it is believed by some that the church should have a “relatable” message. Sometimes the word “relative” is used, as if to suggest the Bible may not always be relative or relatable so someone must help God out and make it so.

“Plenty of parking. Comfortable seating. Friendly folks.” What can I say? What is more important than parking, comfortable seating and friendly folks is the Gospel being preached in all its purity and the Sacraments being rightly administered.

“Church service was motivational and the book store has reasonably priced items. Excellent visit!” What does it mean that the service was “motivational”? Certainly it is the Holy Spirit working through the very Word of God itself which stirs in us and moves us to live as priests in the priesthood of all believers, not the motivational speech of someone.

“The service was touching and inspirational!! Music was terrific!! Checked out the gift shop and purchased a couple of books. Overall, it was a nice experience” and “Touching and inspirational” “nice experience,” are words directed toward myself and not toward God and His Word. These are subjective words because everyone is “touched” or “inspired” and “experience” things differently. It is the Objective Word of God which does and gives what God says it does and gives.

“If you’re looking to grow in your faith and relationship with Christ, and form meaningful relationships with a diverse, loving, and caring community then I recommend you visit . . .” “It’s about family,” and no this was not a quote from Vin Diesel (for those of you who get that reference). Certainly we should desire to grow in our faith and in our “relationship” with Christ and others; however, it is not we who initiate such growth, and it is not our “relationship” with Christ which brings us forgiveness and salvation.

It is the Objective Word of God which gives the gifts God has to give, and His Objective Word is given to us through Holy Baptism when water and God's name are put on us. It is the Objective Word of God spoken to us by the Pastor when he pronounces that our sins are forgiven in Holy Absolution. It is the Objective Word of God which is read and proclaimed to us from the pulpit. It is the Objective Word of God in the Holy Supper connected with the bread and wine through which we are given Christ's true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. So, when someone is "looking" for a church, the church one should look for is not one that feeds into the subjectivity of oneself, a church which teaches what one wants to hear and believe. Rather one should look for a church which preaches the Gospel in all its truth and purity, Law and Gospel, and one which rightly administers and understands the Sacraments which God gives, a church which rightly understand the truth and power of the Objective Word of God whether or not one might feel, experience, relate to, be inspired by, or find their own meaning. In other words, good confessional Lutheran Church, like St. Matthew, in other words!

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>.

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The Lutheran Way - It Makes A Difference?

(Worship or Divine Service)

The very word "worship" is defined in the following ways: a religious ceremony, the feeling or expression of reverence and adoration for a deity, a show of reverence and adoration for a deity, to honor or show reverence, to bend over or bow down in a gesture of respect or submission. Some have suggested that worship comes from "worth ship" meaning that we worship someone or something, a deity who is worthy of being worshiped. When we look at the above definitions of worship we might well note that they are all pointing in one direction. They all define worship as something people are doing for something or someone, perhaps a deity, a god. The definition of worship is from a lower to a higher.

There are those who describe worship as such: God is the audience, the congregation are the actors, and the organist, choir, praise band, etc., are the prompters. Thus, worship is our show of praise and exaltation before our God, and so worship is something we are doing for God because He deserves our worship. And most certainly God does deserve our worship and praise, but the question we might ask is, "Does God need our worship and praise?" or as some have asked, "Does God need us to build up His self-esteem through our praise songs?" Actually, we might simply ask, "What does God need from us? Does He not already have everything He needs? It is not He who is the one who gives everything to us in the first place? And if He is the One who gives us everything in the first place, then what we are giving to Him is simply some of what He has already first given to us, which is His in the first place.

This understanding brings us to what we do on Sunday mornings which is that we come to "Divine Service." Divine Service is just that. It is divine because it is God's service. God is the actor. God is the One giving. We are the audience or better said, we are the ones who are given to. We come to Divine Service, not because God needs us to come, but because of our need. We come because of our need to be strengthened in faith. We come because of our need to confess our sins and be given His most beautiful words of absolution. We come to hear His Word read and proclaimed, that Word which works faith, strengthens faith, forgives sins, and gives eternal life. We come to Divine Service to bring our prayers and petitions, not that God does not already know even before we ask, but because of our need to express and acknowledge our needs. We come to sing praises, again, not because God needs to hear our praises, but because of our need, our overflow of faith, which He first gives to us. We come to present our offerings, preferably our first fruits and tithes, not because God needs our money, but because of our need to respond in faith, that is, to respond to the fact that He has given us life, faith,

vocation, talents and abilities to work to earn a living and our need to respond in thanks and faith. Indeed, our offerings are a response of faith. To not give in response is to deny God as the prime mover and the giver of all the gifts. To not respond is a lack of faith for indeed, our giving of our first fruits and tithes acknowledges and thanks God for our vocations, our work, and for our wages. It expresses our faith that He will continue to provide. Thus, we might summarize “Divine Service” as our focus on God and what He gives.

So, what is that thing we do on Sunday mornings? Is it “worship” or is it “Divine Service?” Because we believe we get it right when we point to Jesus, because we understand it is the Law, not the Gospel, which points us to ourselves (showing our sin, etc.), because we believe we are born with nothing and will leave this earth with nothing, and everything we have while we are here on this earth has been loaned to us by God of which we are to be good stewards and because we believe God needs nothing from us but rather we need to be given to by Him, we come to “Divine Service” to be given all the good gifts and blessings our Lord has to give. We come to be given to in the way in which He has given to us to come to us.

Next time, why and how does “worship” “practice” match and have to match “Divine Service” and “doctrine”? And what does the design of the church building have to do with anything?

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia! The Board of Elders hopes that everyone had a blessed Easter as we recently celebrated Christ’s resurrection. We would like to remind everyone and invite you all to several opportunities throughout the week to study and be in God’s Word, and not just on Sunday mornings! Come, bring a friend, if it’s an evening bible study, bring your dinner with you.....just don’t miss out! We encourage each and every one of you to join us in fellowship and look forward to seeing you there. Below, is the schedule for the current bible studies being offered:



Board of Elders

Sunday Mornings:	8:45AM, led by Pastor Bogs
	8:45AM, led by Mr. Larry Harvey - currently studying Galatians
Wednesday Mornings:	10AM, led by Pastor Bogs
Wednesday Evenings:	6:30PM, led by Mr. Larry Harvey – currently studying Lutheran dogmatics
	7:00PM, led by Pastor Bogs
2 nd Saturday of every month:	8:00AM, Men’s Breakfast Bible Study, led by Pastor Bogs – currently studying Psalms
4 th Saturday of every month:	10AM, PRISM Women’s Group

*****If there is another subject that you would like to study, let Pastor Bogs, Pastor Mendez, or your Elder know!**

Lastly, here is the 2023 Elder’s List. If you have any questions, thoughts, or prayer requests, please feel free to reach out to your Elder.

Jason Christy: Aikman-Christy

Sonny French: Clark-Garrett

Scott Christy: Gentes-Koslan

David Honerkamp: Kuhlman-McCorquodale

B.J. Jackson: McElroy-Newbould

Steve Roberts: Nitz-Reyes

Jarod Christy: Roberts-Williamson

Blessings,
The Board of Elders

May 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Those Serving the Lord this Month: Elders ~ Jarod Christy & BJ Jackson Greeters ~ Patricia LaShomb & Shirley Kuhlman Ushers ~ Robert Sindlinger & Aaron Montemayor Counter ~ Becky Reyes Altar Guild ~ Rose & BJ Jackson Acolytes ~ Lily Williamson, Kaitlyn Christie, Isabella Vaz & Alex Vaz						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		7pm ESL Class	10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey	10am Bulletin Deadline 7 pm ESL classes National Day of Prayer	Office Closed	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service	Happy Birthday Janis Stayton & Phillip Williamson!	7pm ESL Class Happy Birthday Caleb Bogs!	10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs Happy Birthday Chris Lawrence!	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes	Office Closed	8am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10am Board of Elders Meeting Happy Birthday Karen French!
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Happy Mother's Day 8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service Happy Birthday Maria Musgrove!		7pm ESL Class Happy Birthday Melissa Sindlinger!	10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Class	Office Closed	Happy Armed Forces Day!
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service Annual Church Picnic	GET YOUR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IN!!! Happy Birthday Pastor Mendez!	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 Kenneth French!	Office Closed Happy Birthday Eugene Meyer!	
28	29	30	31	June 1	2	3
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service Happy Birthday Kelly Gentes!	Happy Memorial Day! Office Closed Happy Birthday Shawn Goss & Jeanne Held!	7pm ESL Class Happy Birthday Larry Harvey, Amina Lesso & Paul Nitz!	10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs Happy Birthday Nicole Poppenhusen!	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Class	Office Closed	

Holy Days & Holidays in May

May 1st St. Phillip & St. James, Apostles
May 4th National Day of Prayer
May 14th Mother's Day
May 18th The Ascension of Our Lord
May 20th Armed Forces Day
May 21st Annual Church Picnic
May 28th The Day of Pentecost
May 29th Memorial Day
May 31st The Visitation

Happy Birthday to You!

May 8th Janis Stayton
May 8th Phillip Williamson
May 9th Caleb Bogs
May 10th Christopher Lawrence
May 13th Karen French
May 14th Marie Musgrove
May 16th Melissa Sindlinger
May 22nd Arturo Mendez
May 25th Kenneth French
May 26th Eugene Meyer
May 28th Kelly Gentes
May 29th Shawn Goss
May 29th Jeanne Held
May 30th Larry Harvey
May 30th Amina Lesso
May 30th Paul Nitz
May 31st Nicole Poppenhusen

Baptismal Birthdays

May 1st Mary Tautenhahn
May 3rd Gary McCorquodale
May 9th David Cowger
May 14th Caleb Bogs
May 14th Yair Mendez
May 14th Barbara Newbould
May 15th Don Cornman
May 19th Mark LaShomb
May 21st Conner Lilley
May 21st Justin Parsalaw
May 24th Barbara Ellis
May 24th Dwayne Lilley
May 25th Scott Gentes
May 29th Mary Garrett
May 30th Melissa Sindlinger
May 31st Karen French

Wedding Anniversaries

May 9th Shawn & Amanda Goss ~ 9 Yrs.
May 11th David & Kathy Honerkamp ~ 31 Yrs.
May 12th Jarrod & Maria Musgrove ~ 11 Yrs.
May 27th Ronald & Gayle Bogs ~ 34 Yrs

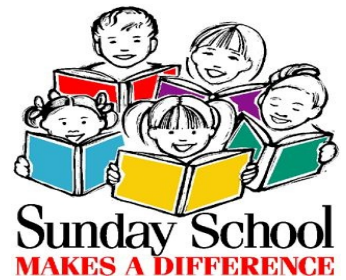
Confirmation Anniversaries

May 1st Sharol Aikman
May 1st Tess Clark
May 1st Trent Clark
May 1st Dale Haude
May 1st Mark LaShomb
May 1st Troy Lilley
May 1st Brenda Paulsel
May 1st Mary Tautenhahn
May 2nd Christopher Lawrence
May 2nd Chad Lilley
May 2nd Holly Williamson
May 3rd Trey Hodges
May 3rd Jarrod Musgrove
May 3rd Joel Musgrove
May 3rd Lester Sentesi
May 4th Amanda Goss
May 5th Marcia Carr
May 5th Trisha Hodges
May 6th Jess Clark
May 6th Clay Lilley
May 6th Kathleen Montemayor
May 7th Scott Gentes
May 9th Mikaela Reese
May 14th Melissa Sindlinger
May 14th John Tautenhahn
May 15th Marie Fischer
May 15th Luke Tusing
May 16th Sandra Pedersen
May 16th John Stayton
May 17th Virginia Lawrence
May 18th Jennifer Cornman
May 20th Anne McIlhany
May 21st Kristyn Christie
May 21st Brent Harvey
May 21st John Lisius
May 21st Eugene Meyer
May 22nd Rose Goebel
May 23rd Rachel Paulsel
May 23rd Rebecca Paulsel
May 25th Carolyn McCorquodale
May 28th Sharon Gace
May 29th Carol Gentes
May 29th George Gentes
May 30th Frances Bell

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, May 13th 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.

St. Matthew Education Board

The St. Matthew Education Board wishes to announce that we will actively begin Sunday School classes on April 16, 2023.



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.

Helping Hands Fund

Our Helping Hands Fund is designated to help members of St. Matthew 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. Please mark your offering as "Helping Hands Fund."



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.

~ A Message from Pastor Mendez ~

Greetings in the name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As we know Christ is Risen!! and we are so thankful for His promises to us. We spent a fantastic weekend on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and of course Easter Day, we had three Divine Services on Easter Sunrise Service in our cemetery, and our regular Divine services at 10:00 am and Noon, and thanks be to God for His love to all of us and of course to the people of the E.S.L. here in our Church, by the grace of God we have on Easter day one Baptism, and 11 Confirmands, so thankful with the Lord for his Grace upon us, so please keep praying that the Lord continues to work in their hearts and with the people that the Lord is going to bring to our E.S.L. season in August 2023, that they may be touched with the word and Spirit of God, and be moved to repentance, to be able to be participants of the gifts and Grace that God has for all. Thanks to all who are willing to give the gifts and talents that God has given to all of you, and serving God by serving others in the community and in the E.S.L. I'm so blessed to serve you. Thank you for your commitment to serve.

Also April 29 had a Family Workshop with our Hispanic and E.S.L. group and also we had the Hispanic Church Community from Trinity Klein Pastor Luis Martinez and Deaconess Rosaura Martinez was here with us, for the Family workshop, so two Hispanic Congregations joined to participate. Professor Mark Kempff came from St. Louis Missouri to provide this workshop and also was our Guest Speaker in both Congregations to hear his message. Thanks be to God for all His Promises to His Children

To God all the Glory in Jesus Name Amen!

Our new confirmands & Baptism

Grismaldo Castillo
Eyilde Garcia
Ayme Chapa
Ana de Paz de Hernandez
Reynaldo Campos Martinez
Azareth Aglae Campos Chapa

Gabriela Isabel Atilas (Baptism & confirmation)
Alba Carina Cubias Leticia Navarro A.
Oscar Hernandez
Yoraldi Esperanza Cruz Cruz
Leticia Navarro

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield
123rd Annual
Picnic Sunday
May 21, 2023

Bring your favorite side dish and/or dessert to share.
We will have hamburgers & hot dogs and lots of fun & fellowship!
Sign up in the Narthex today!

A freewill offering will available to support our S.M.A.R.T. Youth Group
going to the Higher Things Youth Gathering in San Antonio.