

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield Messenger

May
2025

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Pastor
Rev. Dr. Ronald Bogs



Associate Pastor
Rev. Arturo Mendez



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I conclude my 23 years of service here at St. Matthew I would like to use this last newsletter article to highlight the top ten lessons I hope and pray you have learned over all these years.

10. I have sought to continually inform and instruct you as to the business of our Synod, that is our national church body as well as our District. I have done so with the goal that you should know what is being proposed and accomplished within the church body with which this congregation has agreed to walk together (which is what synod means, walking together).

9. I have encouraged you to understand that caring for one another in a congregation is not simply one person's responsibility, but it is the joy and privilege of being a member of a church family to speak well of one another, as well as the congregation as a whole, and to share in what we call the mutual consolation of our brothers and sisters in Christ by building each other up and caring for one another. As I have said, if you see some in need, seek to be God's helper; do not simply think that someone else might do it.

8. I have encouraged you in your life of witness and evangelism reminding you that "as you are going," that is as you are living your life in your various vocations, you have God's authority to speak His Word, so that as you are asked, you can give an answer for your faith and hope in Christ Jesus, knowing you have God's promise that He will give you not only the courage, but also the words to speak.

7. I have encouraged you in your faith life and stewardship reminding you that God is the Author and Perfecter of our faith. God gives first, and He gives us His best. Our response of faith is just that, a response of faith. As we learn the joy of first fruits giving and especially of tithing, we will see that we cannot out give God. We will also begin to understand that our response of faith in our giving is just that, a response of faith. We first acknowledge that all we have has been first given to us by God, so our offerings (of our time, talent, and treasures) are simply our thankful response to God's giving and a step in faith believing God will continue to bless us.

6. I have sought to teach you and encourage you in understanding the importance of making regular and diligent use of the Means of Grace, meaning every Sunday and every

day. I have encouraged you to be not only in Divine Service on Sunday mornings but also to be in one or more of the weekly Bible Studies that are offered. I have reminded you that the more you learn about God, the more you realize there is so much more you do not know. And I have warned you that lack of regular and diligent use of the Means of Grace makes us weak and a target of Satan and his lies.

5. I have taught and encouraged you to have a clear understanding that our doctrine (what we believe, teach and, confess) is seen as it should be in our practice (how we act out what we believe) and in particular in our practice of the Divine Service. We also understand that our practice informs our doctrine so that what our worship (noun) demonstrates is what we believe. Thus, on Sunday morning we do not worship (verb) as some others do believing that we are there to do something for God as if He is the audience and as if He needs us to do something for Him. Rather, we worship (verb) by

coming to Divine Service to be given the gifts God has to give through His called and ordained servant, the pastor, and the response as laity is to offer hymns, prayers, and first fruits.

4. I have reminded you that, as Lutherans, we have the clearest understanding that God's usual way of dealing with us, of giving us the gifts He has to give is mediately, that is through means and in particular through the Means of Grace. This understanding does not negate the fact that God can come to us immediately, in a dream, in a voice, etc., but that is not His usual way. God gives us faith through His Word and Holy Baptism. God forgives our sins in Holy Baptism, through Holy Absolution, and in His Holy Supper. God strengthens and keeps us in faith through His Holy Word, through our remembering our Baptism, and through His Holy Supper.

3. I have reminded you that, as Lutherans, we have the clearest understanding of Law and Gospel. The Law points us to ourselves showing our sins (mirror), keeping us on the straight and narrow (curb), and instructing us in holy living (guide). The Gospel points us to Jesus and tells us everything that Jesus has done and continues to do for us. The fullness of the Gospel is the fact that God created us to love us and that love is seen in the fact that Jesus lived for us, the perfect life demanded of us, in our place.

2. I have encouraged and reminded you that we as Lutherans have the clearest understanding of Justification and Sanctification. We are justified in God's eyes, by His Grace through the faith He has given us, in Jesus. We are Sanctified in that we are made holy and lead holy lives as the Holy Spirit stirs in us and moves in us, and as we live lives as priests as living sacrifices, always being ready to give an answer for the hope that we have in Jesus, we do so to the glory of God.

1. I have continually sought to remind you that we get it right when we point to Jesus. When we point to ourselves, we are talking "Law talk," and the Law does not save us. When we point to Jesus, we are talking Gospel. We are saved, we are justified, and we are made right before God by Grace. God's Grace is a gift given to us first in our Baptism as God's Name is put on us. We are forgiven through Holy Absolution. We are strengthened through our making regular and diligent use of the Means of Grace. We have Jesus put into us in His Holy Supper. God gives, and we are given to!

Let me encourage you as I have encouraged every congregation I have served when concluding my service: the Lord will provide a replacement for me (probably even better than me). Here at St. Matthew I would remind you that you are in a position of not many congregations. You have a history of God's blessings of over 125 years. You have all your buildings paid for (albeit, some repairs not withstanding), and you have no debt. This congregation has members which possess all the gifts, talents, and abilities you need in this church family, and God will give you all that you need to continue to be His people and His congregation in this place to be a beacon to the community and beyond.

Having served the Lord at St. Matthew for 23 years (the longest tenured pastor of 125), I am reminded of how quickly time passes. We arrived with two children and have added two more the youngest of whom is eighteen. And yet those 23 years have been but a blink of the eye reminding us that our lives on this earth are short indeed as Job says, "Man who is born of a woman is few of days and full of trouble" (Job 14:1) compared to our eternity in heaven. So, again I would encourage you to live a life with a priority of making sure that your real forever life in heaven is a certainty. With that, I will continue to pray for you as I ask that you continue to pray for me and my family.

As many of you know, pastors never retire, or as the bad dad joke goes, pastors do not retire they are put out to pasture. As of this writing I have already been ask to fill in and preach twice in the coming months. I hope to take the Witness Workshop to other churches and publish the books I have written. Hopefully they will soon be available on my webpage for purchase. And You can keep up with what is happening by checking my blog: <http://rabswritings.blogspot.com> and by visiting my webpage: Point2Jesus.org.

God's richest blessings.
In His Service,

Pastor Bogs
1 Cor. 15:3-5

St. Matthew Senior Group "Saved Silvers"

This will now be a monthly meet up, 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. 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

Monthly Meeting



The Board of Evangelisms next meeting will be on May 18th 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.

June Newsletter Deadline

If you have anything that you would like to see and/or add to the June 2025 newsletter. Please submit it to office.smlcw@gmail.com by Monday, May 27th.



Fellowship Hall AC Fund

The fund to repair the Fellowship Hall AC still needs \$12, 650. If you would to donate to the repair so that we may continue to use and hold events comfortably in the Fellowship Hall please make sure when you are donating to put "For Fellowship Hall AC Repair" on your check and/or envelope. Thank you so much!

125th Annual Picnic Donations & Volunteers

Volunteer and donation lists for our 125th Annual Picnic are in the Narthex. We are still in need of a Cooking Team Chair as well as a Kitchen Supervisor. Please contact Lester if you would like to lend a hand and fill either of these positions. Sign up for a shift to volunteer your time and/or donate. Let's make our picnic great again!

**HELP
NEEDED**

A BIG
Thank
YOU

A Big Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped with and donated for our Easter breakfast. Special thanks to Joshua Bogs for coordinating everything. We had 55 people attend and we raised \$155 towards the Youth Group trip to Higher Things in 2026.

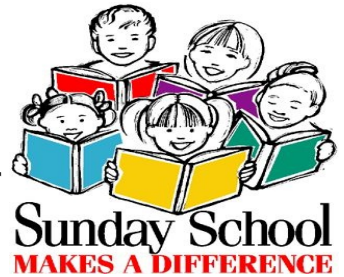
May 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
Those Serving the Lord this Month: Elders ~ Luke Tusing & BJ Jackson Ushers ~ Aaron Montemayor & Jarod Christy Altar Guild ~ Sylvia Christy & Becky Reyes Acolytes ~ Abi Hernandez, Isabel Vaz, Aurora Franks & Dalton Reed				10am Bulletin Deadline	Office Closed	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service			10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study	10am Bulletin Deadline Happy Birthday Janis Stayton & Phillip Williamson	Office Closed Happy Birthday Caleb Bogs!	8am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10am Board of Elders Meeting Happy Birthday Joseph Christy!
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service Happy Mothers Day!!			10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study	10am Bulletin Deadline	Office Closed	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Picnic Sunday 8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service Board of Evangelism Meeting Saved Silvers Meeting			10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study	10am Bulletin Deadline Happy Birthday Pastor Mendez!	Office Closed	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service Happy Birthday Kenneth French!	Happy Memorial Day!! Church Office is Closed Happy Birthday Eugene Meyer!	GET YOUR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IN!!	10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study Happy Birthday Kelly Gentes!	10am Bulletin Deadline Happy Birthday Shawn Goss!	Office Closed Happy Birthday Larry Harvey, Amina Lesso & Paul Nitz!	Happy Birthday Nicole Poppenhusen!
June 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service			10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study	10am Bulletin Deadline	Office Closed	

Opportunities to Study God's Word

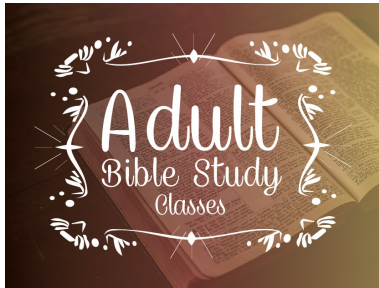
Sunday School for All Ages

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.



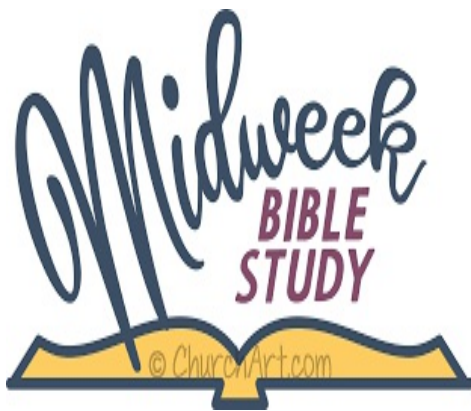
Sunday Adult Bible Classes

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 1 & 2 Timothy & Titus, especially studying the qualifications of a Pastor meets at 7pm in Room #2.

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



Holy Days & Holidays in May

May 1st St. Philip and St. James, Apostles

May 11th Mother's Day

May 18th Picnic Sunday

May 26th Memorial Day

May 29th The Ascension of our Lord

May 31st The Visitation

Confirmed Anniversaries

May 1st Sharol Aikman
May 1st Tess Clark
May 1st Trent Clark
May 1st Troy Lilley
May 2nd Chad Lilley
May 2nd Holly Williamson
May 3rd Jarrod Musgrove
May 3rd Lester Sentesi
May 3rd Megan Williamson
May 4th Amanda Goss
May 6th Jess Clark
May 6th Clay Lilley
May 6th Kathleen Montemayor
May 7th Scott Gentes
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 18th Nicole Poppenhusen
May 20th Anne McIlhany
May 20th Victor Schultz
May 21st Kristyn Christie
May 21st Brent Harvey
May 21st John Lisius
May 21st Eugene Meyer
May 25th Carolyn McCorquodale
May 28th Sharon Gace
May 30th Frances Bell

Wishing You A Very Happy Birthday

May 8th Janis Stayton
May 8th Phillip Williamson
May 9th Caleb Bogs
May 10th Joseph Christy
May 22nd Arturo Mendez
May 25th Kenneth French
May 26th Eugene Meyers
May 28th Kelly Gentes
May 29th Shawn Goss
May 30th Larry Harvey
May 30th Paul Nitz
May 30th Amina Lesso
May 31st Nicole Poppenhusen

Baptism Anniversaries

May 3rd Gary McCorquodale
May 14th Caleb Bogs
May 14th Yair Mendez
May 14th Barbara Newbould
May 15th Don Cornman
May 24th Barbara Ellis
May 24th Dwayne Lilley
May 25th Scott Gentes
May 29th Mary Garrett

Wedding Anniversaries

May 9th Shawn & Amanda Goss ~ 11 Yrs.
May 11th David & Kathy Honerkamp ~ 33 Yrs.
May 12th Jarrod & Maria Musgrove ~ 13 Yrs.
May 27th Ronald & Gayle Bogs ~ 36 Yrs.

Disposal of Communion Elements

Q: Following a Communion service, what are the prescribed means for the disposal of the consecrated wine and wafers?

A: To begin with, care should be taken that inordinate amounts of bread and wine are not consecrated at each service, but rather just what is needed for that service.

While Scripture does not tell us whether Christ's body and blood are still present in the bread and wine after Communion, we should still treat what remains with greatest reverence. The point here is to recognize the fact that these elements were used in the service to deliver our Lord's very body and blood to us. How we treat them after the service should never lose sight of that great mystery of faith.

There are two places to find helpful information on this topic. One is Section B.2.c. of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations' 1983 document titled, *Theology and Practice of the Lord's Supper*.

B.2.c. Post Communion Reverence

The consecrated elements which remain after all have communed should be treated with reverence. This reverence has been expressed by Lutherans in various ways. Some have followed the ancient practice of burning the bread and pouring the wine upon the earth. Others have established a basin and drain-piscina-specifically for disposal for the wine. The elders or altar guild may also return the consecrated bread and wine to specific containers for future sacramental use, or the elders and pastor can consume the remaining elements. All of these practices should be understood properly. The church is not, thereby, conferring upon the elements some abiding status apart from their use in the Lord's Supper itself.

The other point of reference is page 89 of *The Altar Guild Manual: Lutheran Service book Edition*, by Dr. Lee Maxwell that says:

"If any of the Lord's body and blood remains, they can be disposed of in a number of ways. The best way is to consume the remaining elements, since the Lord said, "Take and eat ... Take and drink," and did not provide for anything that was left over. There is historic precedent for reserving the remaining elements against the next communion. The hosts can be stored in a pyx or ciborium (apart from unconsecrated hosts), the blood of the Lord in a suitable cruet or flagon (apart from unconsecrated wine). What remains in the chalice, however, should either be consumed or poured into the piscine or onto the ground, since there may be crumbs or other foreign matter in it. The reserved elements may then be kept in the sacristy or placed on the altar or credence and covered with a white veil. It is un-Lutheran and irreverent to place unused elements in the trash or to pour the remainder of what is in the chalice or flagon into the common drain. "

As noted in the manual, the general practice of the Lutheran Church has been NOT to mix consecrated and unconsecrated elements. If the elements are saved for future use, it is best they are kept separate. The practice of consuming the remaining elements also has a long history in the Lutheran Church.