

*St. Matthew Lutheran Church
of Westfield*

Messenger

June
2023

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Pastor
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Associate Pastor
Rev. Arturo Mendez



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I mentioned in Bible Class and in the Divine Service, it was a great interest and encouragement at the District Theological Convocation listening to the stories of people who have come out of other church traditions talk about the joy of hearing the Gospel in the Lutheran Church. What joy we have as Lutherans (Missouri Synod) to have the fullness of the Gospel! Many other traditions proclaim salvation by grace through faith in Jesus and yet then drive their members back to the Law with all the rules and regulations, imposing the necessity of making a decision for Jesus, being obedient to God's Word, dedicating and living their life for Jesus. Perhaps as lifelong Lutherans we take for granted the joy we have in the Gospel that Jesus chose us, accepted us, lived for us, was obedient for us, so much so that we sit on our grace. We fail to revel in our privilege to come and hear that our sins are forgiven and to hear the blessings of the good news of salvation by not making regular (as often as offered) and diligent (continually being in the Word) use of these opportunities.

My hope and prayer for many of those who have come out of the other traditions into the Lutheran Church is that they will continue to move even more in the teachings of the Lutheran Church, including and especially in our practice of Divine Service. Hopefully and prayerfully they will move to even more appreciate our church building and our Divine Service and how both our facility and service also reflect our faith, that is that what we believe, our doctrine, determines how we practice, how our building is structured to point to the Means of Grace, and how our Divine Service teaches our confession.

So, why is there a difference between we Lutherans and these other traditions? Several reasons and probably the main reason is the fact that many other traditions elevate human reason (failed, sin tainted human reason) over God's Word, such that when there is something difficult in God's Word that does not make reasonable sense, they will elevate their own reasoning over God's Word instead of simply letting God's Word be God's word.

Perhaps we might understand the difference between Lutherans and other traditions by understanding where we agree and where we do not agree, at least as far as God's Word. We certainly agree with our Evangelical (Reformed, Anabaptist, Calvinist, etc.) friends on the issues of: Inspiration, Inerrancy, and Infallibility, that is that the Bible is inspired by God, does not contain errors, and does not fail. But, as Lutherans we go on to confess the: Sufficiency, Clarity, Efficacy, and Power of the Bible, that is we believe we do not need human reason to understand God's Word because it is sufficient in itself in Law and Gospel, and it is clear in its teachings. We believe the Word of God has power and is effective such that it does and gives what it says it does and gives. Thus, when we hear the

Word of Holy Absolution, we believe that our sins are forgiven. When we hear God's name put on us with water put on us in Holy Baptism, we believe we are saved, given faith, forgiveness and life. When we hear God's given and shed for you in the Holy Supper, we believe we are given Jesus' body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. Indeed, it is the very Word of God which is the power to do such things and give such gifts. And for that we rejoice and say, Thanks be to God!

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 Way - It Makes A Difference? (*Excursus, Contemporary and Building*)

We define "contemporary" as "con" (with) and "temporary" (time) or, "with time" belonging to today, here today and gone tomorrow. The usage of contemporary worship entails using whatever style or form reflects a particular place, time, culture and the like. To truly present contemporary in its broadest conception would mean having more types of services than one would have time for, such as 80s worship, rock worship, hip hop worship, jazz worship, country worship, easy listening worship, heavy metal worship, etc., etc., etc. More often than not, any attempt at such contemporary worship is an attempt to appease those who have such a preference for what is offered.

When we study the history of the Divine Service, we see it is a service which is not German as some would claim. Rather it is a service that transcends time, generations and cultures. The Divine Service which is in use today is very similar to the Divine Service which has been in usage around the world since the time of the Apostles, certainly not always in the exact form, but using all the parts of the service. As we look at the heart of the Divine Service, we can see how it reflects much of the Ceremonial Laws God gave the Children of Israel, except in its fulfilled form in Christ. In other words, the Divine Service does not seek to cater after what people think they want or need. Rather it gives the people exactly what God desires to give. When it come to the genre of the Divine Service, it does not fit any which we have mentioned above. For a short time on Sunday morning, we give up our favorite genre and attend a Divine Service with its own genre.

Another important aspect of the Divine Service is that as one grows older and perhaps forgetful, the liturgy is what comes to mind because it has been spoken time and time again. To constantly change the worship service with no continuity takes away the learning aspect of the service. We might imagine that, while we would never sit down and memorize the lyrics of any particular television commercial, we do know many by heart, for the simple fact that we have heard them over and over again which is the purpose for hearing them over and over again. Such is the learning of the parts of the Divine Service, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and so forth.

We have also posed the question concerning the church building itself, "Is there such a thing as a 'Lutheran Church Building?'" And if so, what would it be? What does our doctrine say or does it say anything about how we should build a church building? Another way to ask that question is "What is the "rhetoric" of the building, including the inside?" In other words, when you see a building, first from the outside, can you tell what is the function and usage of that building? Can you distinguish between an office building, an education building, a retail store, a gas station and a church building? And what does it say about your building and the function and usage of your church building if you cannot tell that it is a church building?

And what does the inside of your building say about its function and usage? Does your building contain multiple rooms conducive to teaching, or cubbies conducive to an office space, or shelves full of merchandise for sale, or seats and a screen conducive to watching a movie, or even a stage with band instruments conducive to a concert? Or does your building have a cross, an altar, a pulpit, a Baptismal font, a communion rail, etc., conducive to a Divine Service? Next time we will address why and how does "worship" and "practice" match and why does "worship" and "practice" have to match "Divine Service" and "doctrine" as well as the design and furnishings of the church building and the liturgy or order of the Divine Service?

~ A Message from Pastor Mendez ~

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We have been so grateful for all the support to our Church and its people. On April 29th we had a workshop for families and most of our E.S.L. group came to this workshop given by one of my Seminary Professors, Mark Kempff. Mr. Kempff came all the way from St Louis MO to participate in this workshop with us. We had around 70 people attend, along with Pastor Luis Martinez and some members of his congregation at Trinity Klein. Together we participated in this workshop all about family and on Sunday we rejoiced in the message of Professor Mark Kempff. Please keep praying for all of us, remember that we all need to be lifted up in prayers.



Maybe we talk different, but all of us are one in Christ. All of us are united in Christ, One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism to the Glory of God Our Lord and in His Son Jesus Christ Our Lord and Savior Amen!

In Christ,

Rev. Pastor Mendez

Matt:11:28



Lifeline ~ Baby Bottle Boomerang

It's Baby Bottle Boomerang Season Again!!! Lifeline is gearing up for our 3rd ANNUAL BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG. DON'T FORGET WE STILL HAVE BOTTLES AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP to take home and fill with your loose change and cash. Bottle Bank collection day will be on Father's Day (June 18). Want to know more about Lifeline? Check out their webpage: <https://www.lifelinepcc.net/>

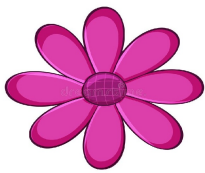
Movie Nights at St. Matthew

The Board of Evangelism & Education will begin sponsoring movie nights here at St. Matthew beginning in June. The board would love to have the congregations feedback and input on what movies you would like to see and whether Friday or Saturday night works best for you. There is a sheet placed in the Narthex were you can submit your vote/opinion.

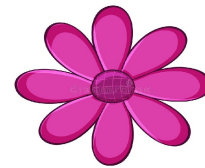


Higher Things Pre-Gathering Bible Study

On Sunday, June 11th we will meet at Pastor Bogs' house at 1510 Anvil Drive, right after church around noon, for pizza and study. Please bring your Bible and \$5 for pizza.



June 2023



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
Those Serving the Lord this Month: Elders ~ Scott Christy & David Honerkamp Greeters ~ Carolyn McCorquodale & Kristen McManus Ushers ~ Luke Tusing & Noah Montemayor Counter ~ Robert & Melissa Sindlinger Altar Guild ~ Sylvia Christy & Angie Mendez Acolytes ~ Ruby Montemayor, AJ Parsalaw, Aaron Montemayor & Isabella Vaz				Happy Birthday Lily Williamson!	Happy Birthday Devon Cowger!	Happy Birthday Kaitlyn Christie & Dixie Garrett!
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service	Happy Birthday Brandy McCorquodale!	7pm ESL Class	10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs	10am Bulletin Deadline 7 pm ESL classes Happy Birthday Joe Michka!	Office Closed	8am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10am Board of Elders Meeting
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service		7pm ESL Class Happy Birthday Rebecca Pause!	10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs Happy Birthday John Tautenhahn!	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes Happy Birthday Daniel Pedersen & Steve Roberts!	Office Closed	Happy Birthday Brent Harvey & Gordon Munson!
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Happy Father's Day! 8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service **Baby Bottle Turn In Today**	GET YOUR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IN!!!	7pm ESL Class Happy Birthday Bob Langley!	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 Birthday Justin LaShomb!
25	26	27	28	29	30	July 1
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service	Happy Birthday Clay Lilley!	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	Office Closed	

Holy Days & Holidays in June

June 4th Holy Trinity Sunday
June 11th Barnabas, Apostle
June 14th Flag Day
June 18th Father's Day
June 24th Nativity of St. John the Baptist
June 29th St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles

Happy Birthday to You!

June 1st Lily Williamson
June 2nd Devon Cowger
June 3rd Kaitlyn Christie
June 3rd Dixie Garrett
June 5th Brandy McCorquodale
June 8th Joe Michka
June 13th Rebecca Paulsel
June 14th John Tautenhahn
June 15th Daniel Pedersen
June 15th Steve Roberts
June 17th Brent Harvey
June 17th Gordon Munson
June 20th Bob Langely
June 24th Justin LaShomb
June 26th Clay Lilley

Baptismal Birthdays

June 1st Marie Fischer
June 1st April Harvey
June 1st Leon Lilley
June 3rd Eda Nitz
June 5th Dalhardt Goebel
June 5th Renita Haude
June 9th Hanah Hailey
June 12th Robert Sindlinger
June 13th Jess Clark
June 13th Lily Williamson
June 14th Christopher Lawrence
June 14th Anne McIlhany
June 14th Janis Stayton
June 19th Trisha Hodges
June 29th Jeanne Held
June 30th Gordon Munson

Wedding Anniversaries

June 1st George & Carol Gentes ~ 55 Yrs.
June 4th Jason & Kim Christy ~ 2 Yrs.
June 5th Rick & Nancy Arimond ~ 53 Yrs.
June 10th Chris & Sisilie Lawrence ~ 6 Yrs.
June 10th Troy & Pamela Lilley ~ 34 Yrs.
June 10th Ray & Nadine Reed ~ 46 Yrs.
June 11th Dale & Renita Haude ~ 40 Yrs.
June 12th Larry & April Harvey ~ 52 Yrs.
June 24th Paul & Jane Nitz ~ 6 Yrs.

Confirmation Anniversaries

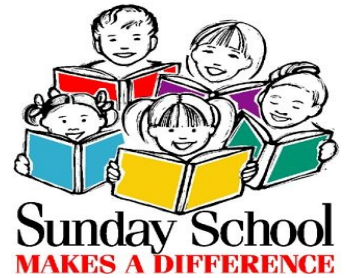
June 1st April Harvey
June 1st Leon Lilley
June 1st Andy Montemayor
June 1st Becky Reyes
June 3rd Gayle Bogs
June 5th Shirley Coyle
June 5th Renita Haude
June 5th Shirley Michka
June 6th Dalhardt Goebel
June 9th Shawn Goss
June 14th Nancy Baeza
June 21st Steve Roberts
June 22nd Aileen Mercer
June 22nd Lorna Sentesi
June 24th Annie Mae Byars
June 24th Lillian Hill
June 30th Susie Wells



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 James.



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 *Matthew* 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, June 10th 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 starting again on August 15th 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.

ENGLISH
as a
SECOND LANGUAGE



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.



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.