



St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield



July 2021

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Pastor
Rev. Dr. Ronald Bogs



Associate Pastor
Rev. Arturo Mendez

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year, July 4, the United States of America will be celebrating 245 years as a Democratic Republic. As was declared in 1776, so it continues today that we still maintain, "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." And so we celebrate our freedoms; freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from illegal search and seizure, freedom of a fair trial, freedom or right to own arms, and more.

Many denominations have debated whether or not Christians should be involved in the political process or not. If you studied the Reformation, you might remember there was a great struggle in Luther's Day between the church and the state as to who was above who? Martin Luther helped us get a better understanding of this struggle by reminding us that we live in two kingdoms, the Kingdom of the Left, which is the world (wherein Satan seems to have the rule of the day) and the Kingdom of the Right, which is the Church. And although God is the ruler of both Kingdoms, He does allow for humanity to rule in the Kingdom of the Left, even at times using those in the secular world for His own purposes, as we have seen throughout the Bible. This understanding of the two kingdoms helps us to understand we can vote, support candidates and serve in the offices of our government, and perhaps we should seek such services in order to bring about a Christian influence in this Kingdom of the Left.

Yet, as we rejoice in the freedoms we continue to enjoy especially as Christians, we must be constantly aware there are many Christians around the world who suffer from persecution, simply for the fact that they are Christians. And while we may be constantly attacked as Christians here in our own country, as legislation continually is brought forward to curtail our own freedom (thankfully it is more often than not struck down by the Supreme Court), our struggles are nothing compared to the true physical, emotional, and mental persecution of others around the world. Knowing of the persecution of others and our own attacks should move us to be more involved and hopefully will move us to pray. Indeed, God desires we pray for those in authority, that He would move them to serve and lead according to His good and gracious will. God also desires we pray for those who are being persecuted and attacked, that God would help them bear up and keep the faith, and even more, be witnesses to their enemies.

As we celebrate our freedoms once again, may we give thanks for our freedoms and not take them for granted because we may quickly lose what God has given. After all, look at the history of the Children of Israel.

Perhaps the best way we can celebrate our freedom is to be about the Lord's business; make regular and diligent use of the means of grace; being

in Divine Service and Bible Class; living lives as priests in the priesthood of all believers, always being ready to give and answer for the hope we have in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Living thankful, Godly lives is the best way to celebrate the gifts of God and the freedoms He has so graciously given to us.

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>.

Happy Birthday to You!



| | |
|-------|----------------------------------|
| 07-01 | Jessica Nelson |
| 07-03 | Shirley Kuhlman |
| 07-09 | Caroline Christy |
| 07-11 | Andy Montemayor |
| 07-15 | Jason Christy & Jennifer Cornman |
| 07-16 | Carolyn McCorquodale |
| 07-24 | Jordan Christy & Mikaela Reese |
| 07-27 | Randy Bogs & Ean Cowger |
| 07-28 | Addison Christie & Dale Haude |
| 07-30 | William Gentes & Aaron Lilley |

Baptismal Birthdays

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|-------|------------------|
| 07-03 | Devon Cowger |
| 07-05 | Kaitlyn Christie |
| 07-08 | Paul Nitz |
| 07-14 | Clay Lilley |
| 07-19 | Jessica Nelson |
| 07-25 | AJ Parsalaw |



Confirmation Anniversaries



| | |
|-------|-------------|
| 07-01 | Brenda Pali |
| 07-05 | Ean Cowger |

Wedding Anniversaries

07-02 Steve & JoAnn Roberts 50 Years
 07-05 Marc & Anne McIlhany 25 Years
 07-21 Scott & Sylvia Christy 42 Years



Holy Days and Holidays in July

July 4th - Independence Day
July 22nd - St. Mary Magdalene
July 25th - St. James the Elder, Apostle

Texas Confessional Lutherans

Fellow Lutherans,
 Please save the following dates for TCL events:

- **July 22nd at 10 AM:** The next TCL quarterly meeting at Grace Lutheran Church in Brenham. The actions taken at the District Convention will likely be discussed along with planning activities for our next Free Conference. A program committee chairman is still need if anyone would like to volunteer for that position.
- **September 10th and 11th:** The next TCL Free Conference will be held at Grace Lutheran Church in Brenham. Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Austin will be the speaker. His topic will be *Has American Christianity Failed?* If you would like to have a catered meal on Saturday at noon, please email me at robertlangeinc@msn.com and let me know so that proper arrangements can be made.

TCL has been inactive due to the Covid pandemic, but every effort to return to normal is being made. Please try to attend these upcoming events if possible.

One Day Conference in Brenham



Grace Lutheran Church, 1212 West Jefferson, Brenham, TX is hosting Pastor Alfonso Espinosa (former pastor of Living Word Lutheran Church, The Woodlands) for a one day conference on his new book, *Faith that Engages the Culture*, on Saturday, July 31 from 9 am - 3:15 pm. This is a free conference. Lunch (Chicken salad and soup) will be available for \$8. His book will be available for \$10. Please RSVP at: judy@glcsbren.org.

Pastor Bogs ☎ 832-515-4830
 Pastor Mendez ☎ 832-883-1705
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| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---------------------------|----------|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| | | | | 1 10am - Bulletin Cutoff | 2 Church Office Closed | 3 |
| 4 Independence Day 8:45am - Bible Class & Sunday School 10am - Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper | 5 Church Office Closed | 6 | 7 10am - Bible Class 7pm - Evening Bible Class | 8 10am - Bulletin Cutoff | 9 Church Office Closed | 10 8am - Men's Breakfast 10am - Elder's Mtg |
| 11 8:45am - Bible Class & Sunday School 10am - Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper | 12 | 13 | 14 10am - Bible Class 7pm - Evening Bible Class | 15 10am - Bulletin Cutoff | 16 Church Office Closed | 17 10am - Trustee's Mtg |
| 18 8:45am - Bible Class & Sunday School 10am - Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper | 19 | 20 | 21 10am - Bible Class 7pm - Evening Bible Class | 22 10am - Bulletin Cutoff | 23 Church Office Closed | 24 |
| 25 8:45am - Bible Class & Sunday School 10am - Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper | 26 | 27 YOUTH | 28 AT 10am - No Bible Class 7pm - No Evening Bible Class | 29 HIGHER 10am - Bulletin Cutoff | 30 THINGS Church Office Closed | 31 |