

*St. Matthew Lutheran Church
of Westfield*

Messenger

July
2023

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Pastor
Rev. Dr. Ronald Bogs



Associate Pastor
Rev. Arturo Mendez



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The month of July brings with it two important happenings. First there is the Higher Things Youth Gathering, July 25-28, at Trinity University, San Antonio, TX. This year we have ten youth, five adults attending. We also have two of our college students attending as CCVs meaning College Conference Volunteers. The

Gathering theme is "Beyond Reasonable Doubt." We will be leaving on Tuesday morning and returning on Friday afternoon. If you want more information, you can access the conference portal through the HigherThings.org website. I would encourage you to visit the Higher Things website and check out all the wonderful information that is available there. And I would ask for and encourage your prayers for the youth and adults who will be attending.

The second big event in July is our triennial Synod (national) church convention. This year the convention is in Milwaukee, WI from July 29 - Aug. 3. One of the big topics at the convention will be our church university system and how it should be governed. If you do not know, our colleges, now universities began as a way to educate the pastors and teachers of our synod for work in our schools and congregations. Over the years a lot of changes have taken place due to costs of college, competition, donations to our colleges and so on. You can access all the information concerning the convention at the LCMS website: lcms.org/convention. You can find and download the convention workbook which is 471 pages of reports, memorials (which will be made into resolutions), and the like. You will also be able to find the resolutions as well as each day the minutes of the day will be posted from the previous day. In years past the synod was available to live stream and watch from home, and I am sure that will be the case again this year. I would encourage you to visit the website, check into what is happening in our church body, watch the convention, and especially pray for our delegates as well as the decisions that are made that will affect our church body.

The third, but not so big event will be Thursday, July 20, when the Texas Confessional Lutherans' group meets for our quarterly meeting at Grace Lutheran, Brenham. We meet at 10:30 am for devotions followed by our topic. This month we will be discussing the Memorials and Resolutions which will be discussed and voted on at the Synod Convention the next week. I would encourage you to attend this meeting as well. And as a teaser, make plans for our Free Conference Aug. 25-26 under the theme: "By the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)." Rev. Dr. Carl Beckwith will be our speaker.

Let me continue to encourage you, especially during the summer and when away on

vacation, God does not take vacation! Be in the Word. Bible classes are still going on during the Summer. God loves you so much, and He created you to love you. He has so many gifts and blessings He desires to give to you, through His means of grace. Take advantage and grow.

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?

(Building and Liturgy, part 1)

What do we mean when we say our doctrine should determine our practice and our practice should flow out of our doctrine? What does that look like, shall we say?

As Lutherans we believe, teach and confess that God comes to us to give us the good gifts and blessings He has to give through Word and Sacrament. In particular we confess that the Word of God is the foundation of the Means of Grace. Indeed, in the beginning was the Word, the creative Word of God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) as John so well reminds us. This Word of God was handed down for many centuries through oral communication. Later God gave His Word to Moses to write down in the first five books of the Bible. In the New Testament, in the Gospels we are told how that Word (oral and written promises) became flesh in Jesus. And now through the Means of Grace that Word comes to us with the authority and power to give the gifts of which it speaks.



The Word speaks through and gives power to the water in Holy Baptism to give us faith. That same Word is spoken by our pastor to forgive our sins through Holy Absolution. And that same Word gives power through bread and wine giving us Jesus' body and blood in His Holy Supper for the forgiveness of sins.

When we walk into our church, our Lutheran church building, our focus is drawn to the cross. The cross is the focal point as all history and all Scripture focus on the cross of Christ for our forgiveness. Thus, the building focuses our attention on our faith in Jesus. And here we might make note that nothing gets in the way of our focus of the cross.

When we look down from the cross to the right of the chancel we see the Baptismal font reminding us that Jesus comes to us through Holy Baptism. At the same time in our Divine Service we begin with the Invocation, "In the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit," reminding us of our own entrance into God's Kingdom through the waters of Holy Baptism. Thus, our building and our Divine Service teach us that the Means of Holy Baptism is important because it is through this very means that God gives us faith, forgiveness and life.

Looking further down one sees the communion rail. This rail separates the chancel area from the nave. We might imagine that the nave, the main area of the church is the holy place and the chancel is the Holy of Holies as described of the temple in Jerusalem (of course there are no restrictions now in the New Testament). Our pastor kneels at this rail during Confession, as kneeling for the congregation in repentance before our forgiving God. He then rises and speaks God's Word of Absolution and his Word is God's Word which effects what it says, that is our sins are forgiven. Thus, we are taught that Holy Absolution is important and is the means through which God forgives our sins. And with forgiveness is life and salvation. This forgiveness is immediately following the invocation, inviting our Lord to come to us to give us the good gifts and blessings He has to give so that once we are forgiven we might move into His presence, much like the sacrifices in the Ceremonial Law (now fulfilled in Christ). Thus again, we see we are practicing what we believe, and what we believe is

being taught in what we are doing.

After we have been forgiven we chant the Introit or entrance hymn, and our pastor moves to the altar. This Introit is usually a Psalm or part of a Psalm and includes a verse as an antiphon or introduction. Notice that this is a verse from Holy Scripture, not something made up by our pastor. We are simply speaking back to God the very words He has given us to say. Yet, not only is the Introit the very Word of God, but as we look at the entire Liturgy, we see it is permeated with the Word of God. Indeed, we worship best when we say back to God the very Words He has given us to speak. Thus, we see that we practice what we believe, that the Word of God is what effects and gives the gifts we are given, and we are taught that same truth through our practice in the Divine Service and in the layout of the Church building itself.

Next time we will continue to rejoice in how our building and Divine Service reflect what we believe and how we are taught what we believe through our Divine Service and the layout of our building.

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. 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.



St. Matthew Lutheran Church ~ 2024 Picnic Committee/Volunteers

We at St. Matthew are looking forward to our 125th Anniversary Celebration in 2025. We want to re-launch our Annual May BBQ starting in May 2024 to ensure that it is up & running smoothly for that big celebration we would like to start planning now.

With that in mind we will be needing lots of volunteers. What we are needing right now is a volunteer to be "Kitchen Chairperson." This person will be available to supervise both on Saturday and Sunday of Picnic Weekend for setup, supervision of all aspects of the serving on that Sunday, to just generally make sure everything runs smoothly and clean-up.



We are also getting our Picnic Planning Committee together to plan, set-up & get everything ready to go. If you would like to serve as we plan for the re-launch of this iconic event see Lester Sentesi.

4TH FRIDAYS!!!!

The Board of Evangelism and Fellowship is excited to announce the beginning of our "4th FRIDAYS." Beginning with Friday 06/30 at 8 pm we will be hosting a monthly movie night in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a fun evening of fellowship and movie watching. We will be providing popcorn, snacks and drinks. All we are asking is that you come out and enjoy the fun and bring a friend!

We will be announcing the 1st movie in the next week or 2. So far we have only received 1 request and that is for the Harry Potter series. If you have a suggestion for a movie that you would like to see let Lester know. Just keep in mind that they need to be family friendly so all of us can enjoy. We are so excited!!! Can't wait to see you all (and your invited friends).





July 2023

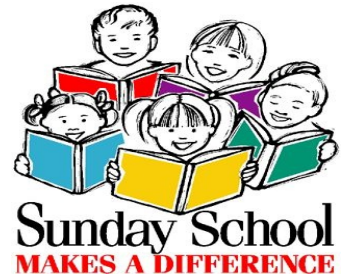


SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
Those Serving the Lord this Month: Elders ~ Sonny French & Steve Roberts Greeters ~ Sylvia Christy Ushers ~ Jordan Christy & Aaron Bogs Counter ~ Nancy Baeza Altar Guild ~ Rose & BJ Jackson Acolytes ~ Logan Reed, Alex Vaz, Heston Reed, Ruby Montemayor & Aaron Montemayor						Happy Birthday Jessica Nelson!
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service	Happy Birthday Shirley Kuhlman!	Office Closed Happy Independence Day!	10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs	10am Bulletin Deadline	Office Closed	8am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10am Board of Elders Meeting
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service Happy Birthday Caroline Christy!		Happy Birthday Andy Montemayor!	10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs	10am Bulletin Deadline	Office Closed	Happy Birthday Jason Christy & Jennifer Cornman!
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service Happy Birthday Carolyn McCorquodale!			10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs	10am Bulletin Deadline	Office Closed	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service	GET YOUR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IN!!! Happy Birthday Jordan Christy & Mikaela Reese!		10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs	10am Bulletin Deadline Happy Birthday Randy Bogs, Ean Cowger & Austin Paulsel!	Office Closed Happy Birthday Addison Christie & Dale Haude! MOVIE NIGHT	
30	31	August 1	2	3	4	5
MATINS 8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service Happy Birthday William Gentes & Aaron 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 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 Minor Prophets.



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, July 8th 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.



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.



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.

Prayer Request Updates

If you have submitted a prayer request for the church bulletin please update the church secretary on the condition and/or whether the prayer recipient has recovered and may be removed from the list. Thank you!



WE WANT
TO HEAR
FROM
YOU!

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.



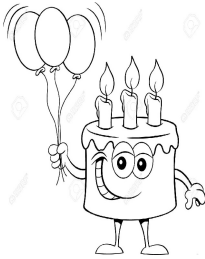
Holy Days & Holidays in July

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



Wishing You A Very Happy Birthday

July 1st Jessica Nelson
July 3rd Shirley Kuhlman
July 9th Caroline Christy
July 11th Andy Montemayor
July 15th Jason Christy
July 15th Jennifer Cornman
July 16th Carolyn McCorquodale
July 24th Jordan Christy
July 24th Mikaela Reese
July 27th Randy Bogs
July 27th Ean Cowger
July 27th Austin Paulsel
July 28th Addison Christie
July 28th Dale Haude
July 30th William Gentes
July 30th Aaron Lilley



Confirmation Anniversaries

July 1st Brenda Pali
July 5th Ean Cowger

Wedding Anniversaries

July 2nd Steve & JoAnn Roberts ~ 52 Yrs.
July 5th Marc & Anne McIlhany ~ 27 Yrs.
July 12th Aaron & Sandra Pedersen ~ 12 Yrs.
July 21st Scott & Sylvia Christy ~ 44 Yrs.

