

*St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
of Westfield*

# Messenger

August  
2023

21434 East Hardy Road  
Houston, Texas 77073



Church Office  
281-443-2304



E-Mail  
[office.smlcw@gmail.com](mailto:office.smlcw@gmail.com)



Website  
[www.stmatthewlcms.com](http://www.stmatthewlcms.com)



Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Ronald Bogs



Associate Pastor  
Rev. Arturo Mendez



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The month of August brings us to the beginning of the end of the Summer and close to the beginning of a new school year and the start of many new activities. Confirmation will, as usual, begin as well. If you have children or grandchildren who are not in Sunday School, I would encourage you to begin to bring them, and if you are not doing so, I would encourage you to attend a Bible Class as well. I have found over the years that when our children enter confirmation, they are lacking in much of the basic Biblical knowledge they need for confirmation, including people and places of the Bible.

I would again remind and encourage you to attend the Texas Confessional Lutheran Free Conference at Grace Lutheran Church, 1212 W. Jefferson St., Brenham, TX, August 25-26 to hear Rev. Dr. Carl Beckwith speak on the topic of the Holy Trinity. Please refer to the bulletin announcements and other newsletter articles, as well as, the flyer in the Narthex for more specific information.

Following up from the July Newsletter, I would encourage you to visit the Synod webpage: [lcms.org](http://lcms.org) in order to educate yourself on the events of the Synod Convention now passed. Check out the resolutions that passed and those that failed. Get to know your synod and what is going on. We are a part of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, so it is important that we know and understand that of which we are a part.

Finally, as Peter encouraged, so I encourage, "13Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? 14But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 15but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, 16having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. 17For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil"(1 Peter 3:13-17). And the means by which we are made ready is by our regular (all the time) and diligent (earnest) use of the Means of Grace: study the Word, remember our Baptism, hear the words of Absolution, partaking of Jesus' body and blood in His Holy Supper.

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 2)*

So far, we have entered the church building, and we have looked and seen the cross. We are taught that the cross of Christ is the focal point of our Divine Service. We have been reminded of our *Baptism* and have confession of our sins and heard the most beautiful words we can ever hear, "Your sins are forgiven." We know that, as the called and ordained pastor speaks those words, it is as if God Himself is speaking. We know God's Word effects, that is, it does what it says. We know that through that *Absolution* our sins are forgiven, and with forgiveness is life and salvation.

We have chanted God's Word back to Him through the *Introit*, and after greeting us, the pastor offers a prayer, the *Collect for the Day*, a prayer which "collects" the thoughts of the Scripture readings we will hear into one or two sentences.

Now the pastor moves to the pulpit which is a symbol of the Word of God being read, preached and taught in our midst. He proceeds to read an *Old Testament Lesson*, an *Epistle Lesson* and a *Gospel Reading*. These readings come from a Lectionary which is a book containing a series of readings so that over a three-year span, we are able to hear a lot of God's Word. Here again, we are taught the Word of God is prominent and most important in the Divine Service because it is through the Word that God comes to us to give us the good gifts and blessings He has to give. And so we practice this belief by having the Word of God read.

After reading God's Word, depending on the order of service, either the pastor preaches a message in his *Sermon* or we confess our faith through one of the three universal *Creeeds* (Apostles', Nicene, or Athanasian). Our confession of the creed is our confession of faith and encompasses and summarizes what we believe, teach and confess especially according to the trinity of our God. After the creed or after the readings, again depending on the service, we rejoice and sing a hymn as a response to the gift of God's Word. Our *Hymns* also, then, reflect our faith as they have their roots in God's Word.

Following the sermon we respond once more to the gifts we have been given to by God. We respond with our first fruits, tithes and offerings by singing an *Offertory* verse and then by offering our prayers and petitions to the Lord. Our response of first fruits is not a collection for the poor. It is not our bringing our left overs. It is our privilege and response of faith and thanksgiving to God who has first given everything to us. Our *Offerings* are a response of faith showing we believe everything we have has been first given to us by God, including our gifts, talents and abilities to work, as well as, a job to work. They are also a way of expressing our faith that as the Lord has blessed us and we are returning our first fruits, He will continue to bless us.

The *Prayers* we offer are prayers for those who have requested our prayers. They are also a response to God's desire to hear our prayers and His promise to answer. Of course, we do understand God already knows our needs. Our prayers flow from our need to express our needs to Him. Also, we know He will answer our prayers according to what He knows is best for us and according His good and gracious will.

So once again we are being taught the importance of the Word of God, that is, God comes to us through His Word to give us the gifts He has to give. We are taught our response of faith is important and is just that, a response because God is the one who first gives to us. So our worship in Divine Service flows out of our belief of the importance and authority of God's Word. And the building itself, with the pulpit prominent in the chancel, teaches us of the importance of God's Word being read and preached.

Next time we move to the final Means of Grace and Gods giving us His gifts through His Holy Supper, the Sacrament of the Altar.

## 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 125<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 4<sup>TH</sup> FRIDAYS!!!!

The Board of Evangelism and Fellowship is excited about the initial turn out for our "4th FRIDAYS." We will be hosting a monthly movie night in the Fellowship Hall. Our August movie night will be held Friday 08/25. 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!



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. We are so excited!!! Can't wait to see you all (and your invited friends).

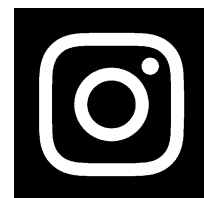
### A Big Thank You from the Youth



Thanks to all who supported the 17 participants in going to Higher Things - Beyond Reasonable Doubt in San Antonio. Ten youth, five adults, and two college volunteers were blessed with four days of being given the gifts in Divine Services throughout the day and were encouraged to believe in the Objective Word of God with NO DOUBT. Being with hundreds of other Lutheran youth has helped us know there are more out there like us. We look forward to living out the things we learned and to sharing Christ's love with others here in our congregation and our community.



Remember to follow us on Facebook AND Instagram



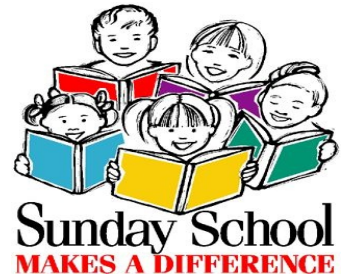
# August 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Those Serving the Lord this Month:</b> <b>Elders</b> ~ Jason Christy & BJ Jackson <b>Greeters</b> ~ Curtis & Sharon Gace <b>Ushers</b> ~ Dillon Mosier & Noah Montemayor <b>Counter</b> ~ Carolyn McCorquodale <b>Altar Guild</b> ~ Tiffany Cowger & Becky Reyes <b>Acolytes</b> ~ Isabella Vaz, Logan Reed, Alex Vaz & AJ Parsalaw						
		1	2	3	4	5
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service			10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs	10am Bulletin Deadline Happy Birthday Ray Reed!	Office Closed	Happy Birthday Sylvia Christy!
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service	Happy Birthday Gayle Bogs, Hannah Bogs & Anne McIlhany!		10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs Happy Birthday Lillian Hill!	10am Bulletin Deadline Happy Birthday Karen Hartl & Jessica LaShomb!	Office Closed Happy Birthday Bill Pali!	8am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10am Board of Elders Meeting Happy Birthday Lorna Sentesi!
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service	Happy Birthday Angelica Mendez & David Reese!	7pm ESL Classes	10am Bible Class 5:30pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs Happy Birthday Christian Paulsel!	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes	Office Closed	Happy Birthday Rebecca Mendez!
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service	GET YOUR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IN!!! 7pm ESL Classes		10am Bible Class 5:30pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes Happy Birthday Kim Christy!	Office Closed TCL Free Conference in Brenham <b>MOVIE NIGHT</b>	
27	28	29	30	31	September 1	2
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service		7pm ESL Classes	10am Bible Class 5:30pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes Happy Birthday Joshua Bogs!	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.



## *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, August 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. The Board of Elders will meet following study at 10:00am.





### Holy Days & Holidays in August

August 15<sup>th</sup> St. Mary, Mother of Our Lord

August 24<sup>th</sup> St. Bartholomew, Apostle

August 29<sup>th</sup> Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist

### Wishing You A Very Happy Birthday

August 3<sup>rd</sup> Ray Reed

August 5<sup>th</sup> Sylvia Christy

August 7<sup>th</sup> Gayle Bogs

August 7<sup>th</sup> Hannah Bogs

August 7<sup>th</sup> Anne McIlhany

August 9<sup>th</sup> Lillian Hill

August 10<sup>th</sup> Karen Hartl

August 10<sup>th</sup> Jessica LaShomb

August 11<sup>th</sup> Bill Pali

August 12<sup>th</sup> Lorna Sentesi

August 14<sup>th</sup> Angelica Mendez

August 14<sup>th</sup> David Reese

August 16<sup>th</sup> Christian Paulsel

August 19<sup>th</sup> Rebecca Mendez

August 24<sup>th</sup> Kim Christy

August 31<sup>st</sup> Joshua Bogs



### Confirmation Anniversaries

August 7<sup>th</sup> Jarod Christy

August 11<sup>th</sup> Elaina Alvarez-Christy

August 11<sup>th</sup> David Reese

August 25<sup>th</sup> Don Cornman



### Wedding Anniversaries

August 5<sup>th</sup> Dan & Carine Pierce ~ 24Yrs.

August 6<sup>th</sup> John & Mary Tautenhahn ~ 46 Yrs.

August 13<sup>th</sup> Richard & Patricia LaShomb ~ 63 Yrs.

August 17<sup>th</sup> Dalhardt & Rose Goebel ~ 38 Yrs.

August 20<sup>th</sup> Carolyn & Gary McCorquodale ~ 46 Yrs.

## ~ A Message from Pastor Mendez ~

Greetings Grace and Peace from Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be to all of you,

I would like to start by asking all of you to please pray for me and my Family, the enemy wants to put me down in my ministry, with discouragement and doubts. Planting a new church is not easy at all, it is a lot of work and planning. I was called and ordain here at St. Matthew in 2018 and have been here since 2015. Planning to be called and ordain into the Holy Ministry, at the beginning wasn't easy, the Texas District came to interview myself and see if I was the perfect candidate to be a Church Planter here at St. Matthew. They sent me a test or assessment that at that time I failed according to them and their expectations. So they didn't support the planting of a church here. They said that I wasn't the right person, the right plan, the right place, so unfortunately I was rejected. Of course I felt so bad, I had recently graduated from The Seminary with all the energy and dreams to be a Pastor and that was not going to happen at that time. But the Lord had a different plan for my life and of course I was like, well the District doesn't know my heart, but the Lord knows me, and I was praying Lord why did you call me? Why Here? Did you truly call me to be a Pastor? etc. Doubts and more doubts, came to my mind, but inside of me was a deep desire to pursue my calling and be faithful to the Lord. So I started serving here at the church as much possible, learning from Pastor Bogs, as much as I can. So when I was ordained in 2018 I started the E.S.L. (English as a second language ) program to reach out to the hispanic community in the surrounding area. I have been in this area for about 20 years, so I know this particular area very well and I have been seeing that the Hispanic population has been growing more and more. So it is a perfect place to start planting a church in Spanish and step by step invite them to be part of the English Divine Services.

We started the E.S.L. Program in 2019 with around 60 to 70 students and with the help of the volunteers here at St. Matthew I was able to share with them the good news of salvation. We bought bilingual Bibles and Catechism's, to provide to them and teach them what we believe and invite them to be a part of Our Church. Unfortunately COVID hit the around world and we had to put our outreach mission on hold for about 2 years. We started the program again and I was sharing with them our faith and what it means to be a confessional Lutheran. By the grace of God we had 11 confirmands and one baptism take place on Easter Sunday this year. What a great joy that was to see the grace of God upon His children. This year we are hoping to be able to reach more people here in this area and invite them to be a part of this congregation. But I am just the one that plants the seed in their hearts, the lord is the one that makes it grow. My prayer has always been for the seed that I plant to produce fruit and have faith that the Lord will help that seed grow.

It is not easy growing a planting a church but it is my desire to be a full time pastor and spend as much personal time as possible with them growing them into the word of God. Many of you may not know this but I am a working Priest or bivocational pastor. This means that I have a different job as a photographer/videographer outside of my work here at the church so that I may provide for my family. In the beginning St. Matthew wasn't giving me honorarium's, for my services here and I agreed to work like that because it is my desire to become a full time priest and work for the Lord. Later St. Matthew started giving me honorariums monthly so as to help me pay some of my expenses, but I am still working as a photographer/videographer. As the time passed I was learning more and more and I was talking to the Texas District and asking them again to support the Hispanic mission of planting a church here. I had to do the assessment, and my doubts came up again about was I answering the questions well enough according to what they expected in order for them to support planting a church. Thankfully I did pass the test! I continued to seek support from them and finally they have approved the grant for 2 years, \$25,000 per year for a total of 50,000. That support is part of my salary every month, which is \$2,083.00 plus other amounts that St. Matthew is willing to honor me with monthly.

I'm asking you fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, to pray for me and my Family, that the Lord will provide the sufficient funds for the Hispanic ministry to continue for the Lord and His people. We need at least \$50,000 each year for the next five years in order to be a self sufficient church or self-sustainable church. That \$50,000 would be a blessing to me, it would allow me to become a full time Pastor here at St. Matthew and be able to focus on the planting of the church. Being bivocational is not easy but I take the challenge that the Lord has given me and I trust in His providence. Please keep praying for my family and for me so that those discouragements, and doubts are silenced. I ask you my brothers and sisters to support us with your time, talents, and treasures. And all together we praise God in His Kingdom Amen! To God be all Honor and Glory in Jesus Name Amen!!

1 Timothy: 5: 17-18 ~ <sup>17</sup> Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. <sup>18</sup> For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages."

Galatians: 6:6-7 ~ <sup>6</sup> Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. <sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

Philippians: 4:15-16 ~ <sup>15</sup> And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. <sup>16</sup> Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again.

Romans: 15:26-27 ~ <sup>26</sup> For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. <sup>27</sup> For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings.

Proverbs: 3:9-10 ~ <sup>9</sup> Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; <sup>10</sup> then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

In Christ: Rev. Arturo Mendez.



October 14 🍁 9 am to 4 pm

St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
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21434 E. Hardy Rd. 🍁 Houston, TX 77073

Visit [stmatthewlcms.com](http://stmatthewlcms.com) &  
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**Attention all Crafters and Vendors:** We would love to have you be a part of our day. If you are interested in having a booth at our event, please go to [www.stmatthewlcms.com/vendors-registration.html](http://www.stmatthewlcms.com/vendors-registration.html). The registration fee is only \$30! You will have one 8 ft. table and two chairs provided, and if you are in need of electricity, please just let us know.