

St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
of Westfield

# Messenger

January  
2022

21434 East Hardy Road  
Houston, Texas 77073



Church Office  
281-443-2304



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



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



Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Ronald Bogs



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
January 2022 is upon us. A new year. A new start. What will this year bring? Will it be a good year? Will it be a bad year? Will this year bring birth and new life into our families or the passing on of family members and death? What will happen socially, politically, economically, meteorologically, pandemically, etc.? Or perhaps the real question we should ask ourselves and perhaps the question we really never ask ourselves is this question: "Will the Lord return this year or will we return to Him? And if either of those happens, are we ready?"

As we look back on the past year, even the past few years, and as we look forward to a new year, perhaps we would do well to think about what are our priorities and maybe what should be our priorities. As I have said many times, we live our priorities. In other words, we make time for those things which are truly important to us. For example, if our health and exercise is important, we make sure we take time to exercise and keep healthy. If our education, our career, our social status are important, we make sure we take the time for such endeavors. If our family is important, we make sure we take the time to be with our family. If our faith life and relationship with Jesus is important, we make sure we take the time to be in Divine Service and Bible Class, to have personal and family devotions, to read our Bible, to remember our Baptism.

Although I do not have the exact quote, Luther is attested to saying something like: "If I knew God would return tomorrow, I would plant a tree today." Of course, Luther knew that he was prepared and ready for the Lord's return. If on the other hand you were asked, "If you knew the Lord would return tomorrow, would you do anything differently, would you change anything in your life?" And if you answered "Yes" my question is, "Then why aren't you?" The point of the matter is that we do not know how much time our Lord will give us on this earth and our time on this earth is short, especially compared to our forever time in heaven. So, what is truly most important is being ready to meet our Lord, because to not be ready would mean the unthinkable of eternal death in hell, total separation from God and His love.

So, is what is most important in 2022 going to be our career, our social status, our education, our involvement in extra curricular activities, our favorite sports team winning the championship? Because none of these things will be important in heaven, and since heaven is a place of perfect joy, we probably will not remember any of the disappointments, heart aches or failures of this world, you know, all those things we tend to invest in with way too much time and energy.

God loves you. As He says in Jeremiah, “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope” (Jeremiah 29:11). God created you to love you. God gave you life at conception. He gave you new life, even eternal life when He wrote His name on you at baptism. God forgives you through Holy Absolution. God feeds you and strengthens you through His Holy Word. God gives you His body and blood to eat and drink in His Holy Supper so that He can be a part of you. His desire is to love you even more and to pour out even more of His gifts and blessings on you. And He does this giving best especially in His Divine Service.

I would encourage you to make sure 2022 is a time to rejoice in the Lord. If you do not think you are ready to meet the Lord, then now more than ever is the time to get ready because every day of life brings us one day closer to our returning to the Lord or His returning to us. If you are ready, great, wonderful, continue to be given His gifts and help and encourage your brothers and sisters in Christ to get ready. So, as John concludes his Revelation, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

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>

## **Lutherans For Life 2022 Texas State Essay Contest Sponsored by the Council of Federation Presidents**

For Students in Grades 6 through 12

Any Lutheran student in a Lutheran school or church is eligible. Lutheran students may also enter through a home school or congregation, e.g. confirmation class or youth group, when validated by a pastor or teacher.



### Contest Guidelines

Students will write a life-affirming essay based on the theme: Blessed For Life with the Bible verse: "... the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies." Psalm 41:2.1. Not incorporating the theme and verse in the essay will disqualify the entry.

2. Examples of topics the essay could deal with are, but are not limited to abortion, the handicapped, adoption or foster care, infanticide, cloning, stem cell research, physician assisted suicide or euthanasia etc.
3. Essays should include student's name, grade (school or church), and email address. This information should be submitted on the rubric page used in grading the essay.
4. All sources for references, statistics and quotes should be incorporated within the essay and then included in a bibliography at the end.

Grades 6 - 8 should submit essays up to 400 words

Grades 9 - 12 should submit essays up to 750 words

Entries should be submitted digitally using Microsoft Word or Google Docs to [bgeistfeld@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:bgeistfeld@lutheransforlife.org) by April 1, 2022.

5. There will be a \$100 first place award and \$50 second place award for each of the two categories. The two first place category winners will advance to the national contest. Email [bgeistfeld@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:bgeistfeld@lutheransforlife.org) with any questions.

6. Grand prize for the national winning entry at each level: \$250 plus free conference registration to the 2022 Lutherans For Life National conference and one night stay at the conference hotel.

7. All entries become the property of Lutherans For Life.

8. For questions or resources on the sanctity of life, see [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

# January 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
<i>Those Serving the Lord this Month:</i> <b>Elders</b> ~ Steve Roberts & Curtis Gace <b>Greeters</b> ~ <b>Ushers</b> ~ Luke Tusing & Jordan Christy <b>Counter</b> ~ <b>Altar Guild</b> ~ <b>Acolytes</b> ~ 1/2 Ruby Montemayor, 1/9 Isabella Vaz, 1/16 Lilly Williamson, 1/23 AJ Parsalaw, 1/30 Aaron Montemayor						New Year's Day!
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>8:30am</b> Fellowship <b>8:45am</b> Sunday School <b>10am</b> Divine Service		<b>7pm</b> ESL Classes	<b>10am</b> Corinthians Bible Class 5:30 Confirmation Class 7pm Bible Class	<b>10am</b> Bulletin Deadline <b>7pm</b> ESL Classes	Office Closed	<b>8am</b> Men's Breakfast & Bible Study <b>10am</b> Board of Elders Meeting
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>8:30am</b> Fellowship <b>8:45am</b> Sunday School <b>10am</b> Divine Service		<b>7pm</b> ESL Classes	<b>10am</b> Corinthians Bible Class 5:30 Confirmation Class 7pm Bible Class	<b>10am</b> Bulletin Deadline <b>7pm</b> ESL Classes	Office Closed	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<b>8:30am</b> Fellowship <b>8:45am</b> Sunday School <b>10am</b> Divine Service		<b>7pm</b> ESL Classes	<b>10am</b> Corinthians Bible Class 5:30 Confirmation Class 7pm Bible Class	<b>10am</b> Bulletin Deadline <b>7pm</b> ESL Classes	Office Closed	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<b>8:30am</b> Fellowship <b>8:45am</b> Sunday School <b>10am</b> Divine Service		<b>7pm</b> ESL Classes	<b>10am</b> Corinthians Bible Class 5:30pm Confirmation Class 7pm Bible Class	<b>10am</b> Bulletin Deadline <b>7pm</b> ESL Classes	Office Closed	
30	31					
<b>8:30am</b> Fellowship <b>8:45am</b> Sunday School <b>10am</b> Divine Service						

# Holy Days & Holidays in January

**January 1** - The Circumcision and Name of Jesus

**January 1** - New Year's Day

**January 6** - The Epiphany of our Lord

## Happy Birthday to You!

Jan. 2 John Stayton  
Jan. 3 Mark LaShomb  
Jan. 5 Aaron Bogs  
Jan. 7 Kristyn Christie  
Jan. 7 Jean Hinz  
Jan. 8 Patricia LaShomb  
Jan. 9 Sandra Pedersen  
Jan. 11 Eda Nitz  
Jan. 19 Scott Christy  
Jan. 19 Joshua Montemayor  
Jan. 20 Cody Williamson  
Jan. 21 Jack Christy  
Jan. 21 Troy Lilley  
Jan. 23 Annie Mae Byars  
Jan. 28 Dillon Mosier  
Jan. 31 Ricky Gause

## Baptismal Birthdays

Jan. 1 Bob Langley  
Jan. 1 Jeanne Langley  
Jan. 1 Brenda Pali  
Jan. 1 Louise Simmons  
Jan. 1 Luke Tusing  
Jan. 5 Larry Harvey  
Jan. 7 Joel Musgrove  
Jan. 14 Aaron Bogs  
Jan. 18 Marc McIlhany  
Jan. 22 Jack Lutsch  
Jan. 24 Jim Gibbs

## Confirmation Anniversaries

Jan. 1 Ricky Gause  
Jan. 1 James Musgrove

## Wedding Anniversaries

Jan. 4 Ricky & Jami Gause ~ 48 Years  
Jan. 17 Mark & Anamarie LaShomb ~ 19 Years  
Jan. 17 Joel & Rene Musgrove ~ 24 Years

## Usher's Schedule 2022

January ~ Luke Tusing & Jordan Christy  
February ~ Randy Bogs & Nathan Cross  
March ~ Dillon Mosier & Noah Montemayor  
April ~ Joshua Montemayor & Cody Williamson  
May ~ Robert Sindlinger & Nathan Cross  
June ~ Luke Tusing & Noah Montemayor  
July ~ Jordan Christy & Cody Williamson  
August ~ Dillon Mosier & Robert Sindlinger  
September ~ Joshua & Noah Montemayor  
October ~ Robert Sindlinger & Nathan Cross  
November ~ Luke Tusing & Jordan Christy  
December ~ Dillon Mosier & Cody Williamson

## Elder's Schedule 2022

January ~ Steve Roberts & Curtis Gace  
February ~ Scott Christy & Jason Christy  
March ~ David Honerkamp & Jarod Christy  
April ~ Sonny French & BJ Jackson  
May ~ Curtis Gace & Steve Roberts  
June ~ David Honerkamp & Scott Christy  
July ~ Jarod Christy & BJ Jackson  
August ~ Jason Christy & Curtis Gace  
September ~ Steve Roberts & Sonny French  
October ~ Scott Christy & David Honerkamp  
November ~ Jarod Christy & Jason Christy  
December ~ BJ Jackson & Sonny French

# Opportunities to Study God's Word

## Sunday School for All Ages

**Preschool - Elementary Classes** begin at 8:45 am in **Room #2**. They 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 "Angels."



## Sunday Adult Bible Classes

All members and friends of St. Matthew Lutheran Church are invited to attend the Adult Bible Classes each Sunday at 8:45 am. **Revelation** led by Pastor Bogs meets in the Fellowship Hall (gym). 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 resume classes on January 5th at **10:00 am** in **Room #2**. We invite everyone who is available to join us to study God's Word. We are studying **Corinthians**.

## Wednesday Evenings

Wednesday evening Bible Class meets at **7 pm** in **Room #2**. We are studying the **Psalms**. Bring a friend for an enjoyable evening!

## Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Join us for the Men's Breakfast and Bible study on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday** of the month at **8:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall. Our next class is January 9th. The Board of Elders will meet following study at 10:00am.



## PRISM — Precious Rubies In St Matthew

Ladies' PRISM meetings usually take place the **4<sup>th</sup> Saturday** of the month where we begin with Breakfast and a Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 am. However, since the Covid break we have not met. If you are interested in starting to meet again, please let Tiffany Cowger, Melissa Sindlinger or Gayle Bogs know and watch here for more information.

## Trustees' Report

### LED Light Improvement Fund

There is also a fund for a gradual upgrade of all building lights to LEDs to help in reducing our utility cost in the future. Any dedicated donations towards this fund please specify "LED Light Improvement Fund."

### PAYPAL Payments

"When COVID hit in early 2020, many of us began utilizing our PayPal service for tithing as we were unable to meet in person for a period of time. Since then, many of you have continued to utilize this service. Please be aware that PayPal does charge SMLC a transaction fee ranging from 2.99% to 7.80%. If you are able to remit checks in lieu of PayPal, please prayerfully consider this as an alternative. SMLC is currently on track to exceed 1,000 in PayPal fee's for 2021. Many thanks for your continued support! Thank you Dan Cross ~ Treasurer