

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
of Westfield**

Messenger

October
2022

21434 East Hardy Road
Houston, Texas 77073



Church Office
281-443-2304



E-Mail
office.smlcw@gmail.com



Website
www.stmatthewlcms.com



Pastor
Rev. Dr. Ronald Bogs



Associate Pastor
Rev. Arturo Mendez



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At our circuit meetings, the pastors of our circuit are studying a book titled *Built on the Rock, The Healthy Congregation*, by Ted Kober (Published by Concordia Publishing House ©2017). In addressing the issue of what is or what makes a congregation healthy, Kober emphasizes time and again what I would say is the purpose of the congregation, to be about the business of God, being in the Word, being reminded of our Baptism, hearing the words of Absolution as often as possible, and being given Jesus' Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins. Indeed, as many of you have heard me say time and again, we are a congregation in this place to be loved by God and to be given to, and we are given to and loved through the Means of Grace. It is through these means that our Lord strengthens us in faith so that we might always be ready to give an answer for the hope and certainty we have in our Lord Jesus Christ. It is through these means that we grow in our faith. It is through these means that we take the Gospel out into our neighborhood, country and the world. And it is through these means that we give glory to God.

Kober does an exercise to help explain the importance of being a spiritually healthy congregation. In working especially with the leaders of the congregation, he asks that the group lists "situations that frustrate them as church leaders." Then he discusses "whether they tend to address these issues from a spiritual perspective or a human organizational point of view." He suggests that 90-95 percent of all congregational struggles involve a major spiritual component.

Our purpose as children of God, as disciples (learners), is to be loved by God, and we are loved by God through the means He has given to love us, the Means of Grace. When we absent ourselves from these means, we are refusing and rejecting the gifts of God (to be loved by Him). Thus, it is so very important and I would encourage you and encourage you again, be in Divine Service and Bible Class as often as offered so that you might be strengthened in your own personal faith and faith life and so that this strengthening might show through so that as a congregation we might be strengthened in our struggles as a spiritually healthy congregation.

Certainly I would congratulate those of you who do attend Divine Service and Bible Class. As a matter of fact, and I have said this before, of all the congregations I have served, this congregation has the highest percentage of Bible Class attendance, but it could be better. Again, as I have said before, you get what you expect and often less, so every Sunday I expect every member of this congregation to be in Divine Service and Bible

Class. And, if you want to appreciate your pastors and make your pastor happy, be in Divine Service and Bible Class.

My encouragement to YOU is not for me, not so I can brag about how many people attend, but my encouragement is for YOU. God loves you. He has so many gifts and blessings to give TO YOU, and He gives those gifts through the means He has given, His means of grace. Come and be given to by God and see how much more He has to give TO YOU, even lavishing you with all the gifts and blessings He has to give.

God's richest blessings.

In His Service,

Pastor Bogs
1 Cor. 15:3-5

Don't forget you can read the sermon on my blog: <http://rabswritings.blogspot.com>.

A Quote from: *Built on the Rock, The Healthy Congregation*, (Ted Kober, CPH ©2017

Prioritizing many activities, especially leisure, over the study of God's Word is sin.

I became aware of how much our Western society values leisure over God's Word when I visited India. Christians in India often sacrifice basic needs to make time for God. Many take an entire Sunday just to attend worship. Most walk to church because they don't own cars. It may take one, two, or three hours to walk one way. The average worship service lasts several hours. I was told that if a sermon lasted fewer than forty-five minutes, people were offended.


For some, basic needs require working every day. If they don't work on any particular day, they don't eat that day. They don't have money to buy food. But in India, I've seen these people give up a full day of working—and, as a result, eating—to be in church. They aren't sacrificing leisure for worship—they're sacrificing basic necessities of life. Worshiping God is a priority.

When we had developed a close-enough relationship where we could be honest with each other without feeling like we would offend, I asked my Indian pastor friend what surprised him most about the time he spend as a student in America. He shared many positive observations. But one of his thoughts hit me cold. He was disturbed that in America people have only one hour per week to spend in worship with God. And if a worship service extends much beyond that time, even fifteen minutes, people gripe and complain.

I felt ashamed for my culture. Americans are among the wealthiest people in the world. Yet, we find it difficult to spend much more than one hour a week in worship. And as mentioned earlier, many believe that attending worship two times a month is regular worship!



OCTOBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						I
Those Serving the Lord this Month: Elders ~ Scott Christy & David Honerkamp Greeters ~ Shawn & Amanda Goss Ushers ~ Robert Sindlinger & Nathan Cross Counter ~ Marie Fischer Altar Guild ~ Nancy Baeza & Marie Fischer Acolytes ~ Ruby Montemayor, Kaitlyn Christie, Isabella Vaz, Alex Vaz, Lily Williamson & Dillon Mosier (crucifer)						Happy Birthday Nancy Arimond & Brenda Pali!
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service Happy Birthday Korey Clark!	Office Closed! Happy Birthday Peg Munson!	7 pm ESL classes	10am Bible Class 5:30pm Confirmation class 6:30pm & 7 pm Evening Bible Class	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes	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		7 pm ESL classes	10am Bible Class 5:30pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm & 7pm Evening Bible Class	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes	Office Closed Happy Birthday Becky Reyes!	Happy Birthday Kathleen Montemayor!
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service Happy Birthday Marc McIlhany!		7 pm ESL classes	10am Bible Class 5:30pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm & 7pm Evening Bible Class	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Class TX Confessional Lutherans Conference (See St. Matthew News for Details)	Office Closed	9 am Prism Meeting Happy Birthday Shirley Michka!
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service Happy Birthday Sharol Aikman!	GET YOUR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IN!!!	7pm ESL Class	10am Bible Class 10 am Newsletter Deadline 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:30pm & 7pm Evening Bible Class	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Class Happy Birthday Gary Lawrence!	Office Closed	Happy Birthday Nancy Baeza!
30	31	Nov. 1	2	3	4	5
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Matins & Meal Festivities to Follow		7pm ESL Class	10am Bible Class 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:30pm & 7pm Bible Class	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Class	Office Closed	

Holy Days & Holidays in October

October 10th Columbus Day
October 18th St. Luke, Evangelist
October 23rd St. James, Brother of Jesus and Martyr
October 28th St. Simon & St. Jude, Apostles
October 31st Reformation Day

Happy Birthday to You!

October 1st Nancy Arimond
October 1st Brenda Pali
October 2nd Korey Clark
October 3rd Peg Munson
October 14th Becky Reyes
October 15th Kathleen Montemayor
October 16th Marc McIlhany
October 22nd Shirley Michka
October 23rd Sharol Aikman
October 27th Gary Lawrence
October 29th Nancy Baeza

Baptismal Birthdays

October 1st Sharon Gace
October 7th Phillip Williamson
October 12th Eugene Meyer
October 12th Steve Nitz
October 14th Virginia Lawrence
October 15th James Pierce
October 15th Mary Pierce
October 21st Edna Ehrhardt
October 22nd Pamela Lilley
October 22nd Noah Montemayor
October 24th Becky Reyes
October 27th Junah Arimond

Confirmation Anniversaries

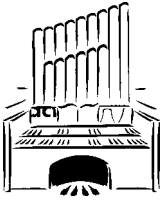
October 11th James Pierce
October 11th Mary Pierce
October 14th David Honerkamp
October 15th Vanessa Rivera
October 26th Jane McElroy
October 27th Jack Lutsch
October 29th Pamela Lilley

Wedding Anniversaries

October 2nd John & Janis Stayton ~ 51Yrs.
October 13th Daniel & Christina Cross ~ 21Yrs.
October 21st Bill & Brenda Pali ~ 44Yrs.
October 22nd Jordan & Ashley Christy ~ 7Yrs.
October 27th Nicole & Bryan Poppenhusen ~ 15Yrs.



St. Matthew News!



Organ Music Operators Needed

Due to the extended absence of Michael Held we are in need of volunteers to play the computerized program which is playing our organ during Divine Service. No special skills are needed, just plug and play. If you are interested, please see Dave Cowger or Gayle Bogs for further information.

Helping Hands Fund

Our Helping Hands Fund is designated to help members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield 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 you wish to give. Please mark your offering as "Helping Hands Fund."



ESL Classes

ESL classes are resuming on Tuesday, August 16th. Classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday at 7pm 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



Texas Confessional Lutherans

Join us for our next quarterly meeting at Grace Lutheran Church, Brenham on Thursday, Oct. 20 at 10:30 am. Our speaker will be Rev. Carl Roth on the topic "That's Queer: LGBTQ Ideology as a Postmodern Religion." The topic concludes at 12:30 pm after which we dine at one of the local place and have our business meeting. We are usually concluded by 2 pm.

**Let Us
Know!**

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. Thank you!

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 "What about" series. They can be downloaded at: <https://resources.lcms.org/reading-study/what-about-pamphlets/>

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 *Psalms* 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 at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. The class will be held on the 3rd Saturday, which is October 8th at 8:00 am. The Board of Elders will meet following study at 10:00am.



PRISM – Precious Rubies In St Matthew

PRISM is going to meet on October 22nd at 9 a.m. Ladies of all ages are invited to enjoy breakfast, fellowship, and Bible study. We will be diving into "Living a Chocolate Life" by Deb Burma. "Living a Chocolate Life" invites women to savor God's rich and endless supply of grace in Christ.



Join us for a Potluck Lunch,
Bingo, and Pumpkin Painting!

Matins & Meal: Fall Edition!

Sunday October 30th
at 10 am with festivities
to follow in the
Fellowship Hall

Volunteer Sign-up Sheet is
in the Entry. Please
Contact Tiffany Cowger
with questions.