

*St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
of Westfield*

# Messenger

October  
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,

It's that time again, it's that month again, October, it's pastor saying the same old thing again. How often do we skip things in the bulletin because "we've read that last week and week before?" Yet, even as we read and reread our Bibles which I hope and pray we are reading and doing and how often in Bible Class do I hear and even say myself, "I don't remember reading that before". Indeed, some would suggest that every Sunday we hear that same old thing. Why do we have to hear the same old thing and why is it that the "same old thing" is repeated?

Do you remember the Children of Israel? God brought them out of Egypt with His might and power, raining down the plagues on the Egyptians, and it did not take long for them to forget and fall into their sinful ways, even worshiping a golden calf. We are really no different as sinful human beings. Indeed, we need to hear over and over again, each and every Sunday, each and every day, the good news of Jesus. We need to be reminded of our sins and the reason Jesus came because of His great love for us, lest we too forget and fall back into our sinful ways. It has been suggested that while it takes three weeks to develop a good habit, it takes only three days to lose that good habit.

With that said, it is again October, and once again we get to celebrate the Reformation of the Christian Church and the work of Dr. Martin Luther. As I say each year, Reformation Day is one of my favorite holidays because it is the day we celebrate Luther's work of bringing us back to the fullness of the Gospel, our undeserved love of God in our justification by God grace through faith in Jesus alone given to us through the means of grace His Holy Word, Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution and His Holy Supper. Indeed, as Luther so declared the Word of Scripture, "the just shall live by faith" means that we are made just and right, declared forgiven and holy in God's eyes by the faith He gives to us so that now the Holy Spirit works in us to live and do as He would have us live and do according to His good and gracious will. And as you hear me say time and again, we get it right when we point to Jesus.

I would hope and pray that instead of celebrating the secular holiday which has become known as "Halloween" from All Hallows Eve or the Eve of All Saints Day you would celebrate Reformation Day so that when you are asked what it is that you are celebrating, you will have the opportunity to share the good news, the best and greatest news of that day, the gift of salvation, by grace, through faith in Jesus alone.

If there is anything we need to hear and have the greatest desire to hear, it is the great good news of God's love for us in Jesus living for us, taking our sins, dying for us, rising for us, and giving us all the gifts and blessings He has earned and paid for: faith, forgiveness, life and eternal salvation. I pray we will never tire of hearing that Good News.

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 4*)

We have practiced what we have preached, and our preaching has informed our practice. What else is there? Again, going back to our entrance into the church building, the sanctuary as it is often called, the first thing we see is the cross of Christ, the focal point of our Divine Service. We see the focus of the Means of Grace as we see the Baptismal font, the altar, the pulpit and the communion rail. We see the separation of the nave, the main body of the church, with the chancel area, the place where the Means of Grace are most present.

What we do not see is anything that might confuse us as to what is happens in our Divine Service. We do not see anything in front of the altar, or Baptism font, or pulpit. We do not see anything in front of the cross. We do not see anything that draws our attention away from the Means of Grace and the cross of Christ. We do not see anything that might make us think we have come to be entertained or that there is any other purpose for our being in this place except to come and be given the gifts of God through the means that He has given to us to be given those gifts.

We may have even notice our pastor covers himself with either an alb or a cassock and surplis so that he himself is not the focus of attention. As we listen to the music, we have noticed it does not get in the way of the great depth of the hymns themselves. We may have noticed the accompaniments are just that: they are there to enhance and not draw attention to themselves. Nothing draws our attention away from our purpose for being in this place at this time, to come and be given the gifts of God so we may be or are strengthened in our faith so that we may be or are able to go out into the mission field and share what we have learned and what we believe to the rest of the world in the mission field.

When the Children of Israel were rescued from their bondage of slavery in Egypt, even before they entered the promised land and while they were wandering in the wilderness, the Lord gave them instructions in how to be about being His people. His instructions were often given, not to be a burden, but to distinguish His people from the pagan nations that surrounded them, as well as, how they were to inflict His righteous judgement. His instructions were often given to live and do the opposite of those around them so there would be no doubt that they were His people. Now, while we would not say Christians in other denominations are unbelievers or non-believers or even pagan, we would understand that very often what we as Lutheran Christians do, how we practice what we preach does set us off as being different, and well it should because there are many differences in our belief that do set us apart as is seen in our practice of the Divine Service. It is these differences which are seen in how other denominations practice their own beliefs. Indeed, if we were to adopt their practices, our beliefs would be seen to be the same as theirs, and often, while they may not be condemned for such, their beliefs are not necessarily completely in line with what we believe and with what God tells us in His Word.

Next time we will look at how this comes together in our daily lives, especially in how we speak to others, how we invite them to be a part of our confession of faith, in other words, the practical application of our faith.



## 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 10/27. 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).

### Church Re-pipe Fund

At the August 27 Congregational meeting of St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield, the voters voted to begin a fund to re-pipe all our facilities. The cost estimated at around \$40,000. This fund is to be funded by any member wishing to make a contribution above their normal tithe. At the same time we will pursue financing the amount over what is contributed. However, if the contributions amount to more than the cost all extra monies will then be put in the general fund.

### Church Telephone Information

Just a quick note that if you are trying to call the church during office hours (8am - 1pm) you will receive a message stating that "the person that you are trying to reach is unavailable to reach another extension press \*8 or press 0 for the receptionist." If you press 0 it will direct you back to the secretary. The voicemail is currently not working so you are unable to leave a message outside of office hours. Thank you for your patience while we work to get the phones back up and running.

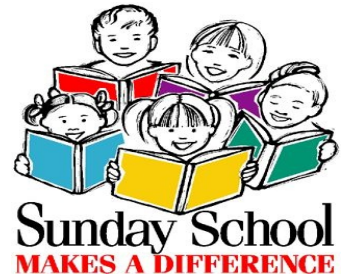
# October 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Those Serving the Lord this Month:</b> <b>Elders</b> ~ Sonny French & Scott Christy <b>Greeters</b> ~ Shawn & Amanda Goss <b>Ushers</b> ~ Robert Sindlinger & Aaron Montemayor <b>Counter</b> ~ Becky Reyes <b>Altar Guild</b> ~ Marie Fischer <b>Acolytes</b> ~ Ruby Montemayor, AJ Parsalaw, Aaron Montemayor, Isabella Vaz & Logan Reed						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service Happy Birthday Nancy Arimond & Brenda Pail!	Happy Birthday Korey Clark!	7pm ESL Classes Happy Birthday Peg Munson!	10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes	Office Closed	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service		7pm ESL Classes	10am Bible Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Bible Study w/Pastor Bogs	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes	Office Closed Dead or Alive 4 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference (See article below for details)	8am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10am Board of Elders Meeting Happy Birthday Becky Reyes!
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service Happy Birthday Kathleen Montemayor!	Happy Birthday Marc McIlhany!	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	Office Closed Happy Birthday Sherry Betz!	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service Happy Birthday Shirley Michka!	<b>GET YOUR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IN!!!</b> 7pm ESL Classes Happy Birthday Sharol Aikman & Michael Held!	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	Office Closed Happy Birthday Gary Lawrence!  <b>Movie Night</b>	
29	30	31	November 1	2	3	4
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service Happy Birthday Nancy Baeza & Todd Pfennig!		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	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.



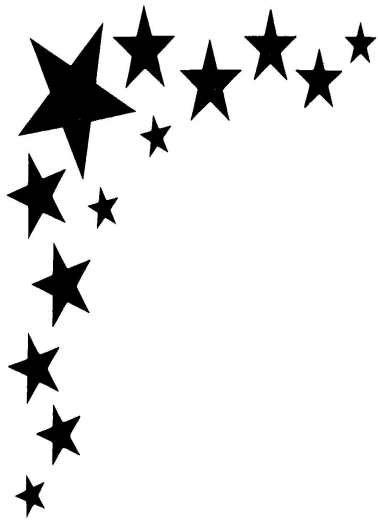
## *Wednesday Evenings*

There are two Wednesday evening Bible Classes. The study of Baptism 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, October 14<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 October**

October 9<sup>th</sup> Columbus Day

October 18<sup>th</sup> St. Luke, Evangelist

October 23<sup>rd</sup> St. James, Brother of Jesus and Martyr

October 28<sup>th</sup> St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles

October 31<sup>st</sup> Reformation Day

### **Wishing You A Very Happy Birthday**

October 1<sup>st</sup> Nancy Arimond

October 1<sup>st</sup> Brenda Pali

October 2<sup>nd</sup> Korey Clark

October 3<sup>rd</sup> Peg Munson

October 14<sup>th</sup> Becky Reyes

October 15<sup>th</sup> Kathleen Montemayor

October 16<sup>th</sup> Marc McIlhany

October 20<sup>th</sup> Sherry Betz

October 22<sup>nd</sup> Shirley Michka

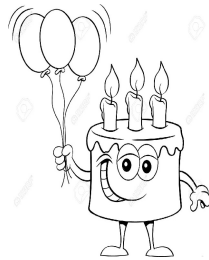
October 23<sup>rd</sup> Sharol Aikman

October 23<sup>rd</sup> Michael Held

October 27<sup>th</sup> Gary Lawrence

October 29<sup>th</sup> Nancy Baeza

October 29<sup>th</sup> Todd Pfennig



### **Confirmation Anniversaries**

October 11<sup>th</sup> James Pierce

October 11<sup>th</sup> Mary Pierce

October 14<sup>th</sup> David Honerkamp

October 15<sup>th</sup> Vanessa Rivera

October 26<sup>th</sup> Jane McElroy

October 29<sup>th</sup> Pamela Lilley

### **Wedding Anniversaries**

October 2<sup>nd</sup> John & Janis Stayton ~ 52 Yrs.

October 13<sup>th</sup> Daniel & Christina Cross ~ 22 Yrs.

October 21<sup>st</sup> Bill & Brneda Pali ~ 45 Yrs.

October 22<sup>nd</sup> Jordan & Ashley Christy ~ 8 Yrs.



WANTED: Conscience - Dead or Alive 4th Annual Conference

Saturday, October 14, 2023 - 10 AM - 5 PM

St. Paul Lutheran (LCMS) 3501 Red River St, Austin, TX 78705 -- Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller is the main teacher for college students and young adults ages 18 - 35ish. Teaching, preaching, singing, worship, games, food. Pre- and post conference social events for Friday and Saturday nights. The conference does not provide housing. The 2023 conference schedule will be emailed to you after the registration deadline.

Please register now, the conference registration deadline is Sunday, October 8, 2023. Thank you. Please contact Vera Sweet for questions: [txlutheranya@gmail.com](mailto:txlutheranya@gmail.com)

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/aQXZb7taBnjLkxVH9>



The Concordia Symphony Orchestra

The Concordia Symphony Orchestra, from Concordia University Irvine, will be making appearances in Texas under the direction of Dr. Jeff Held (son of our organist, Michael Held). The CSO plays music of the professional orchestra repertoire, tailored for excellent church acoustics. Following the symphony pieces, the musicians will be supplemented by a local high school ensemble in a hymn setting of "Splendor and Honor" for 2 orchestras, organ, soprano, and congregation. Please join us live in Cypress, and Houston. The CSO is featured on annual PBS Christmas broadcasts across the nation, and is one of the most engaging collegiate ensembles in Southern California. Admission to each concert is free.

Saturday, Oct. 14 4:00 PM - St. John Lutheran Church, Cypress

Sunday, Oct. 15 2:30 PM - Trinity Lutheran Church, Downtown Houston

Reformation Festival

Be sure to sign up in the Narthex if you're coming to the Reformation Festival. There is a place for you to place a checkmark if you are entering the chili cookoff OR want to be a judge. Also, if you want to have a booth for crafts (which will be \$15 -- all proceeds from the registrations go to our Hispanic Ministry), please place your phone number in the appropriate spot so the coordinator can call you. ONLY put the phone number there if you want a booth. This shall be a wonderful time for our congregation so BRING A FRIEND!

St. Matthew  
Lutheran Church  
of Westfield



# Reformation Festival

Sunday, October 29, 2023 @ Noon

Chili Cookoff

Craft Market

Games

Food

Fun

Fellowship

Sign up in the Narthex, bring a dish & a dessert,  
and BRING a FRIEND!